FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: February 27, 2002

CONTACT: Elliott Finebloom (850) 644-5656

FLORIDA STATE SOFTBALL GETS THREE RUNS IN THE FIFTH TO DOWN FAMU 7-3 Seniors Leslie Malerich and Monique Marier carry Seminoles to win No. 14

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The 18th-ranked FSU softball team took advantage of nine Rattlerette walks, two wild pitches that scored runs and two runs forced home when Seminole batters were hit by a pitch to down cross-town rival Florida A&M (4-9) 7-3. Although the Seminoles (14-6) committed as many errors as they had hits (four), Leslie Malerich didn't allow an earned run and improved her record to 6-5 on the season in the win. This marked the sixth game in a row that FSU pitchers haven't allowed an earned run.

Florida State seemed to be on a roll in the first when FAMU starter Javetta Dryer retired just one batter, threw a wild pitch, walked four Seminoles and allowed three runs as the Seminoles broke on top 3-0 without even getting a hit. The Rattlerettes jumped right back into the game in the bottom of the first when two infield singles and a walk loaded the bases. After a walk forced home a run and Monique Mattingly was hit by a pitch, FAMU only trailed the Seminoles 3-2.

The Rattlerettes remained within a run until the bottom of the third when another FSU error and hit batter once again loaded the bases. After a fielder's choice and a Malerich strikeout, FSU's fourth error of the game allowed Florida A&M to even the game at 3-3.

Florida State and Malerich took control of the game after that and broke on top in the fifth. After two walks and an error loaded the bases, FAMU reliever Tenyse Tasby hit Kimmy Carter to drive in the Tribe's fourth run of the game. Monique Marier then recorded the Seminoles first hit of the game when she singled up the middle bringing home two runs and extending FSU's lead to 6-3. The RBIs were Marier's IIth and I2th of the year and moved her into a tie for second on the team.

Florida State finished FAMU off in the sixth when Tasby hit another batter, allowed a couple of singles and then walked Jessica van der Linden to force in Becky Brock and put FSU up 7-3. Malerich then closed the game out in recording her team-leading eighth complete game and her eight K's moved her into the team lead with 67 strikeouts. After FAMU tied the game at 3-3, Malerich allowed just four hits the rest of the way as she shutout the Rattlerettes the rest of the way.

The Seminoles return to action this weekend when they host the Sunshine Classic Tournament featuring No. 22 Mississippi State, Texas and Kansas. There is no admission charge for regular season games played at the Seminole Softball Complex and Sunshine Classic games will be played all weekend. For more information on Seminole softball, please visit the official website of the Florida State Athletic Department at www.seminoles.com.

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NO. 18 FLORIDA STATE'S GAME WITH FAMU MOVED TO 4:00 PM TODAY Seminoles look to build on strong weekend on the mound and at the plate versus the Rattlerettes.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The 18th-ranked Seminole softball team makes the short trip across town Wednesday to face Florida A&M at 4:00 p.m. in the first of four games scheduled between the two teams this season. The game, originally scheduled for 6:00 p.m., was moved up due to the cold front moving through Tallahassee today. Florida State is coming off a first place tie in last weekend's Troy Cox Classic at New Mexico State in which the team's bats and pitching staff had their best collective weekend of the season.

"It was nice to see our bats really come alive this weekend," said head coach Dr. JoAnne Graf. "The pitching staff was also a real strength for us but we need to play soundly in all three phases of the game and that wasn't the case. Our defense made too many errors and that really hurt us in a couple of close games."

In six games at the Troy Cox Classic, FSU hit .311, which was 63 percentage points higher than their .248 team batting average coming into the tournament. The Seminoles posted a slugging percentage of .439 compared to .323 coming into the tournament and they recorded 72 total bases in the six games compared to 104 in the previous 13 games.

The pitching staff was even more impressive last weekend. Jessica van der Linden, Leslie Malerich and Casey Hunter combined to post an amazing 0.17 ERA. The staff allowed just one earned run in 42 1/3 innings and opponents hit just .122 against the Seminoles. With last weekend's performance, the Seminole staff lowered its ERA from 1.65 to 1.17 for the season.

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No. 18 Florida State Softball Florida State at Florida A&M

Feb 27, 2002 at Tallahassee, FL (Rattlerette Softball)

Florida State 7 (14-6)

Florida A&M 3 (4-9)

	AB	R	H	RBI	ВВ	so	PO	A	LOE	Player				RBI					LO
Shandra Colzie dh	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	WILLIAMS rf							0		
Tatiana George ss	3	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	MITCHELL 1b	. 3	0	0	0	0	2	9	0	
Jess van der Linden cf	1	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	WASHINGTON ph	. 1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Brandi Stuart 2b	2	2	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	NUGENT C	. 4	1	3	0	0	1	7	0	
Kimmy Carter rf	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	MOBLEY ss	. 3	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	
Monique Marier lf	4	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	DRYER p	. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Shundra Colzie pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HINES dh	. 4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Elisa Velasco c	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	3	CAMPBELL 1f	. 3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	
Becky Brock 3b	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	MATTINGLY 3b	. 1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	
Beth Wade 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	MATHEWS 2b	. 4	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	
Skyla Cox pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	REED cf	. 3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	
Bryttani Lindheim 3b	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	TASBY p	. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Julie Jordan c	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0										
Leslie Malerich p	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0										
Totals	25	7	4	5	9	4	21	6	9	Totals	. 30	3	7	2	2	8	21	10	1
Score by Innings				H															
Florida State 300 0																			
Florida A&M 201 0	00	0 ~	3	7	2														

E - T George(8); B Stuart(5); Beth Wade(2); L Malerich(1); MATTINGLY; TASBY. DP - Seminoles 1. LOB - Seminoles 9;

Ryant erettes 11. HBP - Kimmy Carter; Becky Brock; MATTINGLY 3. SH - Julie Jordan(2). SB - WILLIAMS 3; NUGENT 3.

Florida State	IP	 	 	 	 Florida A&M	IP	H	R	ER	BB	so	λВ	BF
Leslie Malerich					DRYER	0.1	0	3	3	4	0	1	5
					TASBY	6.2	4	4	1	5	4	24	32

Win - L Malerich (6-5). Loss - TASBY (2-4). Save - None. WP - DRYER; TASBY 2. HB - L Malerich 3; TASBY 2. PB - NUGENT 2.

Umpires - Home:Roh Graham 2nd:Todd Stupsky Start: 4:00 pm Time: 2:24 Attendance: 107

Game: 2272002