FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: March 15, 2002

CONTACT: Elliott Finebloom (850) 321-7096

NO. 22 FSU SOFTBALL FALLS TO NO. 9 CAL STATE FULLERTON 8-1

Seminoles finish pool play in second place and will face No. 14 DePaul tonight at 7:00 p.m. PST.

Fullerton. CA — The 22nd-ranked Florida State softball team met up with host and ninth-ranked Cal State Fullerton at the Kia Classic Tournament Friday with first place in pool A on the line. Both teams came in with 2-0 records but the Tribe was unable to keep up with Fullerton's offensive punch as FSU fell 8-1. The Seminoles still finished pool play in second place and advanced to face 14th-ranked DePaul (11-4) who finished third in pool C with a 1-2 record. The loss dropped Florida State to 23-10 on the season while Fullerton improved FSU to 23-9 on the year.

"We lost to a very good team this afternoon but finishing second in a pool with two top 10 teams is still an accomplishment," said head coach JoAnne Graf. "We have put ourselves in position to make a run in championship play and we'll get started on that tonight."

The ninth-ranked Titans took a 2-0 lead after just a half of an inning. Cal State Fullerton recorded three hits off of starter Jessica van der Linden (7-2) and broke in front early on. Florida State attempted to cut into the Titan lead in the bottom of the first as Bryttani Lindheim singled and was moved over to second by van der Linden. Florida State was unable to cash in though as Fullerton starter Christy Robitaille (4-3) got out of the inning leaving Lindheim sitting on second.

Van der Linden came back strong in the second as she retired the side in order including two strikeouts. The Tribe led off the bottom of the second with Kimmy Carter's single to left field. After Elisa Velasco sacrificed her to second, Carter moved to third on Monique Marier's ground out. Robitaille once again got out of the jam as FSU stranded a base runner in scoring position for the second consecutive inning.

Fullerton extended its lead to 3-0 in the top of the third when a hard grounder scored Jennifer Holt who was pinch-running for designated player Jenny Topping. The Titans added another run on left fielder Yasmin Mossadeghi's RBI putting Fullerton up 4-0 as the game moved into the bottom of inning number three.

Florida State stranded its third runner of the game in scoring position in the third as the Garnet and Gold were unable to score Tatiana George from second as the game moved into the fourth. Fullerton added to its lead in the top of the inning as a walk and an infield hit scored Robitaille with the Titans fifth run.

The Seminoles got on the board in the bottom of the fourth as Brandi Stuart singled and then moved into scoring position as she stole her 29th base of the season. Elisa Velasco then sent a shot through the left side of the infield scoring Stuart and giving Velasco her 8th RBI of the season. The Seminoles were unable to shave any more runs off of the Fullerton lead and the game entered the top of the fifth with the Titans still leading 5-1. Fullerton added three more runs in the top of the seventh for the 8-1 final.

Florida State finished pool play with a 2-1 record including a win over No. 6 Oklahoma. They will play No. 14 DePaul Friday night at 10:00 p.m. EST. For more information, please visit our official athletic website at www.seminoles.com.

--FSU Sports Information--

No. 22 Florida State Softball Cal State Fullerton vs Florida State Mar 15, 2002 at Fullerton, CA (Fullerton Softball)

Cal State Fullerton 8 (23-9)

Florida State 1 (23-10)

(u	AB									Player				RBI					
Oaks, Gina 3b	5	1	3	1	0	1	1	4	(Tatiana George of	. 3	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Topping, Jenny dp	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	(Bryttani Lindheim ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0
LaRocque, Amy pr/dp	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	(Jess van der Linden p	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	3
Lucatero, Monica 1b	1	0	0	2	2	0	8	1	•	Brandi Stuart 2b	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	1
Saltarelli, Heather pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(Kinway Carter rf	3	Q	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mossadeghi, Yasmin lf	5	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	4	Elisa Velasco 1b	2	0	1	1	0	0	10	0	0
Ziegler, Brittany pr	0	1	Đ	0	0	0	0	0	0	Monique Marier 1f	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Hockett, Amanda ss	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	Julie Jordan c	2	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	2
Cox, Jodie rf	4	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	C	Shundra Colzie ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robinson, Shawna 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	3	Becky Brock 3b	2	0	Ð	0	a	0	2	0	0
Robitaille, Christy p	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	Beth Wade ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Evans, Jocelyn ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	Q	0	(Leslie Malerich dp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watson, Julie cf	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	C										
Holt, Jennifer c/pr	0	1	0	0	Ò	0	6	0	C										
Totals	32	8	13	6	5	5	21	10	11	Totals	27	1	7	1	2	4	21	10	8
Score by Innings				H	R														
Cal State Fullerton. 202				13	0														
Florida State 000	100	0 -	- 1	7	3														
*																			

E - George(12); Lindheim(5); Marier(3). LOB - Titans 11; Seminoles 8. 2B - Topping; Robinson; George(3). HR - Cox. SH Wetson; Velasco(6). SF - Lucatero 2. SB - Stuart(29).

Cal State Fullerton IP H R ER BB SO AB BF NP Florida State IP H R ER BB SO AB BF NP Robitaille, Christy. 7.0 7 1 1 2 4 27 30 103 Jess van der Linden. 7.0 13 8 6 5 5 32 40 128

Win - Robitaille (5-3). Loss - van der Lind (7-3). Save - None.

PB - Jordan (4). Inherited runners/scored: None.

Umpires -

Start: 4:07 pm Time: 2:21 Attendance:

Game: 3152002A Game notes:

Final game of Pool A play at Kia Classic Tournament. Winner gets No. 1 seed in Pool A. Looser is No. 2 seed.