



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 23, 2002

CONTACT: Elliott Finebloom (850) 321-7096

SEMINOLE SOFTBALL LOOSES II-INNING PITCHERS DUEL TO OHIO STATE 2-1 No. 20 FSU falls to Buckeyes on two-out RBI single in the bottom of the 11th.

Atlanta, GA — It was just one strike away. The 20th-ranked Seminole softball team was up 1-0 in the ninth inning and was just a strike away from locking up a first round bye and the No. 1 seed in the 2002 Buzz Classic but it just wasn't to be. The Garnet and Gold finished pool play by losing an unbelievable 11-inning game to the Ohio State Buckeyes (23-5-0) 2-1 Saturday. Florida State will now have to make it to championship Sunday by playing a play-in game Saturday evening for the right to advance to the quarterfinals.

Senior pitcher Leslie Malerich (18-9) was masterful for 11 innings as she threw over 180 pitches, allowed just six hits and struck out a season-high 10 batters in a hard-luck loss to the Buckeyes. The senior didn't allow a single earned run as both of OSU's runs were the result of a runner placed on second base due to international tiebreaker rules.

Florida State stranded 10 runners on base as Buckeye starter Katie Chain limited the Tribe to just five hits. The Garnet and Gold stranded three base runners at third and had a player thrown out at home in extra innings as both teams failed to capitalize on opportunities and neither squad was able to breakthrough against the two hurlers.

The game was a classic pitchers duel between Malerich and Chain. The teams combined for just five hits through the first four innings and nine hits through eight with neither squad scoring a run until the ninth. Leslie Malerich kept Ohio State in check through four as she allowed just three hits while striking out four batters.

Florida State had the game's first serious threat way back in the top of the fifth as Elisa Velasco took the first pitch she saw and sent it into center field to give FSU its third opportunity to score when the lead-off batter reached safely. Monique Marier sacrificed Velasco to second and the sophomore moved over to third on Bryttani Lindheim's ground out. The Tribe was unable to capitalize though as Chain retired Becky Brock to end the threat.

The Seminoles once again threatened to end the scoreless tie in the top of the seventh. Kimmy Carter reached on a passed ball after striking out and was sacrificed over to second by Velasco. It seemed the Seminole rally ended as Carter was thrown out when trying to steal third. Moinque Marier then reached on an error before Bryttani Lindheim singled through the right side but Chain got Brock to end the inning.

Ohio State mounted its own threat in the bottom of the seventh after a lead-off single of their own. But the Buckeye threat came to end when Carter atoned for when she was caught stealing at third by throwing out Ohio State's West on her attempt to swipe third for the third out of the inning.

As the game entered extra innings, the Seminoles took their first lead of the game in the ninth. Velasco's fielder's choice scored Jessica van der Linden, who had been placed on second, giving FSU the first run of the game. The Tribe seemed to have the tournament's No. 1 seed in hand in the bottom of the ninth when the Buckeyes were unable to move their runner from second and Malerich retired the first two batters. The senior then went up 0-2 on first baseman Sarah West before her clutch single to right scored Wendy Allen to even the game.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



con't

As the game entered the 11th, FSU looked like it once again had a chance to take the lead when van der Linden sacrificed Shundra Colzie over to third. Brandi Stuart then fouled out down the right field line as Colzie tagged up and headed for home. The Buckeye right fielder gunned a perfect strike to the plate to nail Colzie and end the FSU threat. The Buckeyes ended the game with a one-out RBI single in the bottom of the 11th in moving to 3-0 in pool play.

The Seminoles will now have to wait until pool play is completed late Saturday evening before they learn who their next opponent will be. If FSU is able to win Saturday night, the team will advance to the quarterfinals, which are scheduled for Sunday, March 24. For more information on Seminole softball, please visit our official athletic website at www.seminoles.com.

--FSU Sports Information--

No. 20 Florida State Softball
 Florida State vs Ohio State
 Mar 23, 2002 at Marietta, GA (Al Bishop Softball)

Florida State 1 (30-12)

Ohio State 2 (23-5)

/er	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Tatiana George lf.....	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Shundra Colzie rf.....	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Jess van der Linden cf...	4	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	1
Brandi Stuart 2b.....	5	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1
Kimmy Carter c.....	4	0	0	0	0	2	11	2	0
Elisa Velasco 1b.....	2	0	1	1	0	0	10	1	0
Monique Marier dh.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Shandra Colzie pr/dh....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bryttani Lindheim ss.....	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	3	0
Becky Brock 3b.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	3
Skyla Cox pr.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leslie Malerich p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Totals.....	35	1	5	1	0	6	31	14	10

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Link 2b.....	5	0	2	0	0	2	8	2	1
Smith lf/dh.....	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Allen dh/rf.....	4	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	2
Roth c.....	3	0	1	1	2	0	7	2	1
Fowler rf/lf.....	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
West 1b.....	4	0	2	1	0	0	10	1	1
Himes 3b.....	3	0	0	0	0	3	4	8	1
Rowlands pr.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson ss.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Evans pr.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hottinger cf.....	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Kacsanek ph.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeVries ph/cf.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Chain p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Totals.....	33	2	6	2	3	10	33	18	11

Score by Innings						R	H	E

Florida State.....	000	000	001	00	-	1	5	2
Ohio State.....	000	000	001	01	-	2	6	3

Note: 1 out, 1 runner LOB when the game ended.

Kimmy Carter(2); B Lindheim(6); Himes 2; Johnson. DP - Buckeyes 1. LOB - Seminoles 10; Buckeyes 11. SH - van der Lind(5); E Velasco 2(9); M Marier(3); Becky Brock(3); Smith; Allen; Rowlands; Johnson. SB - Link. CS - Kimmy Carter(1); Fowler; West.

Florida State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Leslie Malerich.....	10.1	6	2	0	3	10	33	40

Ohio State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Chain.....	11.0	5	1	0	0	6	35	40

Win - Chain. Loss - L Malerich. Save - None.
 PB - Kimmy Carter(4); Roth 2.
 Umpires -
 Start: 1:02 pm Time: 2:51 Attendance: 276
 Game: 3232002C