



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEMINOLES DOWN UAB 5-3 TO SWEEP THURSDAY'S DOUBLEHEADER

Van der Linden gets 12th win, hits two triples and knocks in two RBIs.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Although it was a little closer than the 9-0, five-inning first game, the 21st-ranked Seminole softball team completed a sweep of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (27-15) Thursday night with a 5-3 win and improved their record to 36-13 on the year. Jessica van der Linden had a monster evening at the plate with a career-high two triples, two RBIs and a run scored while also picking up her 12th win of the season inside the circle. The reigning ACC Rookie of the Year is now 12-4 and just one win shy of equaling her victory total from the 2000 season.

Senior Leslie Malerich, who pitched a three-hit gem in game one of the twin bill, worked 1.1 innings in relief and picked up her second save of the season. Junior All-American candidate Brandi Stuart had another perfect game at the plate as she went 2-for-2 with a triple, a run scored and an RBI. She is now tied for the team lead with 34 RBIs on the season.

After a brief start to the second game, both teams cleared the field and waited out a 14-minute rain delay. As soon as the game resumed, UAB broke on top of the Seminoles and starter Jessica van der Linden (12-4) in the top of the first. The Blazers used a hit by pitch with the bases loaded to take an early 1-0 lead but Van der Linden worked her way out of the jam and held the Blazers to the lone run.

The Seminoles weren't down for long though as they scored three runs in the bottom of the first to move out to a 3-1 lead. Tatiana George extended her hitting streak to seven games as she led off by singling to right center. She advanced to second on a wild pitch and was then advanced to third on a sacrifice by Shundra Colzie. Van der Linden then came up and helped out her own cause by launching an RBI triple to left center scoring George. Van der Linden had barely put on her jacket to keep warm before Stuart tripled, driving in the Seminoles' second run and then scoring herself after she was hit in the helmet as UAB tried to gun her down at third base.

The Blazers threatened to get back into the game in the fourth when they opened the inning with back-to-back singles. After third baseman Aimee Vaughn moved to third on a failed pick off attempt, UAB was unable to get a run across as van der Linden recorded her fourth strikeout and induced two ground outs to end the threat.

The score remained 3-1 until the bottom of the fifth when Shundra Colzie smacked a one-out triple down the right field line. She was followed by van der Linden who followed Colzie's triple with one of her own triple down the right field line. The back-to-back triples put FSU up 4-1 and marked the second time in the game that the Tribe had recorded back-to-back triples. The two triples in the fifth gave the Garnet and Gold six for the day which was just one shy of the seven they had hit in the entire season entering Thursday night.

The game tightened in the top of the sixth as UAB moved within a run at 4-3 after Vaughn launched a two-out, two-run home run. Senior Leslie Malerich came in to the game to relieve van der Linden and struck out shortstop Candice Hithe to limit the damage.



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A costly UAB error in the bottom of the inning allowed FSU to gain a little bit of breathing room. Beth Wade led off with a single to center and was sacrificed to second by Malerich. After pitcher Kerri Foster (10-6) recorded the second out of the inning, UAB looked like they were out of the inning on a routine grounder to third. Vaughn, who hit a two-run home run just a half an inning earlier, had the wet ball slip out of her hands and sail over first allowing pinch runner Skyla Cox to score from second and put the Seminoles up 5-3.

Malerich recorded three strikeouts in the top of the seventh to close the door on the Blazers and send the Seminoles to their fifth straight win. The Garnet and Gold have won their last five by a combined score of 38-7 and seem to be getting hot just as they open conference play Saturday with the surprising Yellow Jackets who are 39-11 and perfect in ACC play.

Florida State opens ACC play Saturday, April 13 when they welcome Georgia Tech to the Seminole Softball Complex at 1:30 p.m. The Yellow Jackets come to Tallahassee with a perfect 6-0 record in conference play and will look to finish up a perfect regular season in conference. The doubleheader will be broadcast by the Sunshine Network at 6:00 p.m. that evening. There is no admission charge for all regular season games at the Seminole Softball Complex. For more information on Seminole softball, please visit our official athletic website at www.seminoles.com.

--FSU Sports Information--

Alabama-Birmingham at Florida State (Game 2)
Apr 11, 2002 at Tallahassee, FL (Seminole Softball)

Alabama-Birmingham 3 (27-15)

Florida State 5 (36-13)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Candice Hithe ss.....	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Cliffanie Ingram lf.....	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Beth Mullins 2b.....	3	0	0	0	0	3	4	2	0
Kelli Thompson dp.....	4	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Aimee Vaughn 3b.....	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	0
Kerri Foster p.....	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	2
Kris Lara 1b.....	3	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	3
Amanda Ellis c.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0
Kristin Stanfill rf.....	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Emily Scarbrough cf.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Totals..... 30 3 9 3 1 9 18 8 9

Score by Innings R H E

Alabama-Birmingham.. 100 002 0 - 3 9 4
Florida State..... 300 011 X - 5 7 1

E - Hithe; Mullins; Vaughn; Ellis; Velasco(7). LOB - Blazers 9; Seminoles 6. 2B - Thompson. 3B - Shu Colzie(2); van der Lind 2(4); Stuart(5). HR - Vaughn. HBP - Mullins; Foster. SH - Shu Colzie(4); Malerich(1). SB - George(4); Stuart(41).

Alabama-Birmingham	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF	NP
Kerri Foster.....	6.0	7	5	3	2	4	25	29	115

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Tatiana George cf.....	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Shandra Colzie dp.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shundra Colzie dp.....	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2
Jess van der Linden p....	3	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	0
Brandi Stuart 2b.....	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	0
Kimmy Carter rf.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0
Monique Marier lf.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Beth Wade 1b.....	3	0	1	0	0	1	5	1	1
Skyla Cox pr.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elisa Velasco c.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Leslie Malerich p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Becky Brock 3b.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Bryttani Lindheim ss.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Totals.....	25	5	7	3	2	4	21	7	6

Florida State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF	NP
Jess van der Linden.	5.2	8	3	3	0	5	25	27	109
Leslie Malerich.....	1.1	1	0	0	1	4	5	6	19

Win - van der Lind (12-4). Loss - Foster (10-6). Save - Malerich (2).
WP - Foster. HB - van der Lind 2. Inherited runners/scored: Malerich 2/0.
Umpires - Home:Ken Hayes 2nd:Duane Henry
Start: 7:13 pm Time: 2:23 Attendance: 54
Game: livegame