



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 26, 2002

CONTACT: Elliott Finebloom (850) 321-7096

SEMINOLE SOFTBALL TAKES ARIZONA TO 11 INNINGS BEFORE FALLING AT WCWS FSU softball finishes most-successful postseason run ever in the semifinals of the World Series.

Oklahoma City, OK – Florida State went further than most expected at the 2002 Women's College World Series. While perennial powers like UCLA, Arizona State, Michigan, Oklahoma and Nebraska were sitting at home, FSU was in a tie game in the 11th-inning versus the defending National Champions. But Arizona was just a little too much in the end as the Wildcats (55-11) used four runs in the top of the 11th inning to end the Seminoles magical run to the semi-finals of the 2002 Women's College World Series. The loss left FSU at 55-20 on the year as they tied a record for the farthest advancement into the World Series in program history.

"I think this was a phenomenal run for us," said head coach Dr. JoAnne Graf. "We played about as well as we played all year and these kids really pulled together and did a great job.

"To come out here and go head-to-head with these teams they earned the respect of people around the country. We've always known how good these kids are and they really proved it here. They came and battled every single inning of every game. They were warriors."

The Seminoles gave the Wildcats everything they could handle as they lead the game at one point and then came back to tie the game just a half-inning UA took the lead. Florida State became just the second team to extend the Wildcats to 11 innings this year and the first team in five College World Series games to score two runs against Arizona.

"This was a great experience and there is no group of people I would have rather done it with," said Brandi Stuart. "We surprised some people but we never shocked ourselves. I am really not surprised. We should have done well in the World Series because this is a great team with a lot of talent.

"We were never intimidated. Coming in as an underdog was the worst thing that could have happened to the teams we faced because we had nothing to lose and all the other teams had the pressure on them. We have fun. We play our game. We had a good time and really enjoyed our experience here."

Sophomore Jessica van der Linden got the start in favor of Leslie Malerich (35-14) who had started every College World Series game and thrown 704 pitches in the last seven days. The Cerritos, CA native got off to little bit of a rough start as Wildcat lead-off hitter Lovieanne Jung singled the second pitch of the game into left field. Jung ended up on third with two down in the inning after a sacrifice and Jennie Finch ground out. Van der Linden next walked Leneah Manuma giving the Cats two on with two out. She issued her second walk of the inning to Mackenzie Vandergeest to load the bases and put Arizona in business. The sophomore got the next hitter to pop out to short ending the threat and sending the game to the bottom of the frame.

Two-time first team All-American Finch (34-5) retired Shundra Colzie on an attempted bunt before senior Kimmy Carter worked the count full and drew a walk. After getting van der linden swinging, first team All-American Brandi Stuart came up to the plate. The junior who came into the game hitting .400 in the World Series couldn't get around on a Finch fast ball as the hurler recorded her second K of the inning to retire the side.

The Florida State hurler seemed to get over the jitters that come along with a first-ever College World Series start and settled down in the second. She retired the first two hitters she faced on ground



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



CON'T

outs before Lisha Ribellia slapped a single to short and stole second. Van der Linden rebounded and induced her third ground out of the frame to retire the defending National Champions.

After Finch struck out the side in the bottom of the second, van der Linden got back to work. She retired the first batter she faced on a fly out to Skyla Cox who was making the first start of her career in the field playing in right. She then got Finch to foul out and then retired Manuma to set down Arizona's No 2, 3 and 4 hitters in order in the third.

The Seminoles finally broke through against the reigning national player of the year in the third as designated player Elisa Velasco smashed an infield single to short. After pinch runner Shandra Colzie replaced her at second, Finch retired Brock bringing up Shundra Colzie. The junior college transfer, who registered two hits versus UCLA's Keira Gorel, sent a soft liner into left for FSU's second hit of the inning and placing runners on the corners with just one out. Last night's hero, Carter then came up and recorded her third RBI in two games sending another single to left putting the Tribe up 1-0. The run was the first scored off of Finch in four games in the World Series dating back to the 2001 National Championship game when she shutout UCLA and covered 27 scoreless innings.

Arizona looked to get the run back in the fourth as the Cats led-off the frame with a hard hit double to center. Van der Linden then went to battle with freshman Jackie Coburn. The sophomore hurler took a 0-2 lead before eight pitches were fouled off with two balls mixed in before she got a pop to second base to get the first out of the inning. Vandergeest moved over to third on a ground out as van der Linden looked like she was going to get out of the inning without the lead-off double hurting her. But on the next pitch she threw one in the dirt that got away from Carter allowing Vandergeest to score from third to tie the game. Van der Linden walked the next two batters she faced before getting a fly out to end the inning but not before the tying run came across.

Marier drew the second walk of the day after seeing 12 pitches from Finch, fouling off six of those pitches. That brought up Beth Wade with one down and one on base. Finch got Wade on the All-American's eighth strike out of the game bringing up Velasco who got the first hit of the game off Finch in the third. The sophomore sent a shot deep into center but Crystal Farley, who seemed to be playing very shallow, made up ground and hauled in the fly ball for the third out of the fourth inning.

The Wildcats looked like they were in business in the top of the fifth as Courtney Fossatti started the inning off by smashing a 3-2 pitch right back at van der Linden. The pitcher batted the liner down but was unable to throw her out in time on the single. The Seminoles erased the base runner though as Fossatti got caught too far of the bag. Carter threw a snap throw to Stuart who put up a wall in front of the bag and picked off the Wildcat. Finch flew out to left before the Cats threatened to take the lead for the first time on the day. Manuma singled up the middle and went to second on an error in the FSU infield. Jackie Coburn then sent a hard shot to short that Tatiana George couldn't handle, which scored an Arizona pinch runner putting UA up 2-1 as the game moved to the bottom of the fifth.

As quickly as Arizona took the lead, Florida State tied things up. After Brock was retired leading off the inning, Shundra Colzie came to the plate. The outfielder hadn't hit a homer since April 13th, a stretch that covered 25 games. Colzie took a 3-2 pitch and sent it out of the park clearing the fence in left field 210-feet away. It was her fifth homer of the season and the first in 25 games since she lead-off game one versus Georgia Tech April 13th by going deep. The bomb was also just the 12th given up by Finch all season long and the first since May 10th when the NCAA's career homerun leader Stacey Nuveman took her yard.

Neither team mounted a serious threat in the sixth as the game headed to the seventh. Florida State ace and World Series star Malerich came into the game for FSU to try to send the game to the



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



CON'T

bottom of the inning with the score still tied. The first batter she saw got on base on the first error of the World Series by third baseman Brock. Manuma came up to sacrifice the runner over but FSU was unable to cut down the lead runner as the Wildcats now had runners on first and second with nobody out. The Seminoles did cut down the lead runner on the next play for the first out of the inning. Malerich got Coburn to pop out for the second out of the frame as Jenny Gladding came to the plate to try and put Arizona in front. The senior hurler got her looking at a called third strike as FSU moved to the last inning with a chance to win the game.

Finch was perfect though in the bottom of the seventh. She retired the side in order for the third time in seven innings and recorded her 11th strikeout of the game. Malerich was equally as good as she got the Cats 1-2-3 on a pop out to first, a ground out to third and a fly out to center.

The game moved into the top of the ninth with neither team threatening seriously in the eighth. The Wildcats started off the top of the ninth with a lead-off walk and the heart of the UA order waiting on deck. After Malerich struck out Finch looking, Manuma sent a slow roller to short that went through the legs of George, putting runners on first and second with just one out. Malerich got Vandergeest looking at a called third strike as she moved within one out of ending the Wildcat threat. She did just that as she notched her third K of the inning and fourth of the game.

The Seminoles looked like they would get something going in the bottom of the ninth as George started the bottom of the inning off with a single to left. Marier tried to bunt her to second but the Wildcats made a great defensive play not only gunning down the lead runner but turning the double play by getting Marier, which ended the FSU rally before it even got started.

The Florida State hurler set the Cats down in order in the 10th as she got a ground out, a fly out and her fifth strikeout of the game. The game moved into the bottom of the frame as FSU once again looked to end the game and force a second game on the day. After Velasco drew a one-out walk, she advanced to second on a Finch wild pitch moving her into scoring position with still just one out on the board. Finch though rebounded and showed why she is one of the nation's best by striking out the next two batters she faced for her 13th and 14th of the game.

The Seminoles seemed to be ready to move into the bottom of the 11th after Malerich got the first two hitters she faced bringing up Finch. The senior had been 0-for-5 on the day but she took an 0-1 pitch and deposited her 16th homerun of the year over the fence down the left field line. After a walk and a batter put on due to a hit by pitch, the Wildcats put the game away on a three-run shot by Coburn over the fence in left center extending the Wildcat lead to a 6-2 advantage. The four-run 11th was just too much for FSU to overcome in the bottom of the inning.

The Seminoles will lose five seniors off this year's team, which finished third in the nation in the national tournament. Starters Carter, Brock, Marier and Malerich played their last game as Seminoles Sunday along with Jackie Hirschfeld and this senior class had a big part in returning FSU softball to national prominence. The Tribe hadn't been to a College World Series since 1993 or a Regional Championship since 1996. This class went to three straight regional championships and a College World Series.

Feel like you were with FSU in Oklahoma City by logging on to the university's official athletic website, which has a 2002 College World Series webpage that contains World Series photo galleries and diaries, press conference transcripts, game stories, quotes and so much more.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



CONT

Florida State vs. Arizona Postgame Notes:
Game #12 of the Women's College World Series
May 27, 2002; First Pitch 2:35 pm CT

Sophomore right fielder Skylia Cox made her first collegiate start out in the field for Florida State versus Arizona in the semifinals of the Women's College World Series. Cox made her first ever start for the Seminoles this year against Pittsburgh as the designated player. Florida State also made a change in the line-up when they started Jessica van der Linden as the pitcher for the first time in the College World Series. In the first three games, Leslie Malerich had been the pitcher of record going 2-1 for the Seminoles. Malerich worked 23 innings allowing only five runs, while striking out nine.

The Arizona/Florida State game marked another first for the Seminoles in the College World Series. This was the first time that catcher Kimmy Carter was behind the plate in a game that Jessica van der Linden started. When van der Linden usually starts in the circle, it is Elisa Vasques or Julie Jordan with the honors behind the plate.

Yet another first for the Seminoles in the 2002 WCWS, when Florida State became the first team to score a run off Arizona pitcher Jennie Finch in 18 innings of work. Dating back to last year's College World Series, Finch had not allowed a run in three games. The run also broke Finch's string of three consecutive 1-0 victories in the WCWS. With the run in the third, it also marked the first time that Arizona had trailed all tournament.

Coming into today's game, Arizona pitcher Jennie Finch had allowed only four hits in two games through 15 innings of work. In the third inning against the Seminoles, she gave up three hits leading to the first run of the game for Florida State. Then in the fifth inning, the Seminoles picked up another hit, a Colzie homerun, matching the most Finch has given up all tournament long. Florida State's five hits are the most Finch has allowed the entire series. Tatiana George got that hit in the ninth inning with a single to left field, her first of the College World Series. Finch also set a tournament high in walks against the Seminoles with five. In the two previous games combined, Finch allowed only three free passes to Nebraska and Arizona State.

The day of first's continued for the Seminoles, when Elisa Vasques collected her first hit of tournament in the third inning when she bloomed a single over the drawn in third baseman and then advanced to second on an errand throw by the Wildcat shortstop. Shundra Colzie followed that up with a single to left for her third hit of the College World Series. Kimmy Carter then drove in her third RBI of the tournament with a single through the left side of the field plating the first run of the game for Florida State.

You what more firsts, well here you go... Shundra Colzie's homerun in the fifth inning was her first of the Women's College World Series. It was also the first extra base hit given up by Arizona pitcher Jennie Finch in this year's tournament. It was the first homerun given up by Finch since May 10th at UCLA in a 4-2 loss to the Bruins. Colzie's homerun was her fifth of the season and first since April 13th against ACC rival Georgia Tech.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



CON'T

How impressive is this? In two games versus No.1 UCLA and No. 2 Arizona, Florida State accumulated four hits off Bruins ace Keira Goerl in a 2-1 victory and then five hits off Wildcats ace Jennie Finch. The Seminoles had a total of 17 hits this tournament in four games.

For the first time this season, Florida State's Brandi Stuart struck out four times in one game. It is only the second time Stuart has struck out more than once in a ball game in 2002.

The Colzie twins are making it happen in Oklahoma City for the Seminoles. In the semifinal game against the Wildcats, Shandra Colzie came in as a pinch runner for Elisa Vasques in the third inning to score the games first run. Shundra Colzie went 2-for-5 against Jennie Finch, hitting the game tying homerun in the fifth inning. In the WCWS, Shundra Colzie has gone 4-for-9 against the nations best pitchers in Keira Goerl and Jennie Finch.

In a relieve appearance against Arizona, Leslie Malerich continued to pitch very well bailing the Seminoles out of two Wildcat scoring threats in the seventh and ninth innings. In five innings, she has struck out five with three Wildcat batters watching a called strike three. Malerich struck out the side in the top of the ninth.

--FSU SPORTS INFORMATION--

Florida State Softball Final Stats
Arizona vs Florida State
May 26, 2002 at Oklahoma City, OK (ASA Hall of Fame)

Arizona 6 (55-11)

Florida State 2 (55-20)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Jung ss.....	6	0	2	0	0	0	4	3	3
Fossatti lf.....	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Finch p.....	6	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	0
Quiroz pr.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manuma 1b.....	3	1	1	0	2	0	6	1	0
Hagen pr.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vandergeest c.....	4	2	1	0	1	1	18	0	0
Coburn 3b.....	6	1	2	4	0	1	2	1	5
Gladding dp.....	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Finnerty rf.....	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Farley cf.....	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Ribellia 2b.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Totals.....	43	6	9	5	6	5	33	8	13

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Shundra Colzie cf/rf.....	5	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
Kimmy Carter c.....	4	0	1	1	1	1	6	1	1
Jess van der Linden p/cf.	4	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	0
Brandi Stuart 2b.....	5	0	0	0	0	4	3	3	4
Tatiana George ss.....	4	0	1	0	1	2	3	6	0
Monique Marier lf.....	4	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1
Beth Wade 1b.....	4	0	0	0	0	3	12	0	0
Elisa Velasco dp.....	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shandra Colzie pr.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Becky Brock 3b.....	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0
Jackie Hirschfeld ph....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Skyla Cox rf.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Leslie Malerich p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals.....	37	2	5	2	5	17	33	14	7

Score by Innings

	R	H	E
Arizona.....	000	110	000
Florida State.....	001	010	000

E - Jung(12); B Stuart(16); T George(22); Becky Brock(10). DP - Wildcats 1. LOB - Wildcats 13; Seminoles 7. 2B - Vandergeest(14). HR - Finch(16); Coburn(14); Shu Colzie(5). HBP - Vandergeest. SH - Fossatti(5); Manuma(3). SB - Farley(2).

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Finch.....	11.0	5	2	1	5	17	37	42

Florida State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Jess van der Linden.	6.0	7	2	1	4	0	24	29
Leslie Malerich.....	5.0	2	4	4	2	5	19	23

Win - Finch (34-5). Loss - L Malerich (35-14). Save - None.

WP - Finch(11); van der Lind(8). HBP - by L Malerich (Vandergeest). Inherited runners/scored: None.

Umpires - HP: Harley Anderson 1B: Bryan Smith 3B: Marty Makar

Start: 2:30 pm Time: 2:25 Attendance: 4465

Game notes:

Florida State advances to the semi-finals for just the second time ever.

The two runs scored against Arizona were the most against the cats in their last five games at the WCWS.

Game: WCWS4

Florida State Softball Final Stats
Arizona vs Florida State - Play-by-Play
May 26, 2002 at Oklahoma City, OK (ASA Hall of Fame)

Score by Innings	R H E			
Arizona.....	000	110	000	04 - 6 9 1
Florida State.....	001	010	000	00 - 2 5 3

Arizona starters: 3/ss Jung; 22/lf Fossatti; 27/p Finch; 9/1b Manuma; 52/c Vandergeest; 77/3b Coburn; 15/dp Gladding; 21/rf Finnerty; 5/cf Farley; 8/2b Ribellia;

Florida State starters: 19/cf Shu Colzie; 8/c Kimmy Carter; 99/p van der Lind; 29/2b B Stuart; 33/ss T George; 4/lf M Marier; 11/1b Beth Wade; 9/dp E Velasco; 2/3b Becky Brock; 6/rf Skyla Cox;

Arizona - inning 1

Jung singled to left field. Fossatti grounded out to 3b, SAC, bunt; Jung advanced to second. Finch grounded out to p; Jung advanced to third. Manuma walked. Vandergeest walked; Manuma advanced to second. Coburn popped up to ss. 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors, 3 LOB.

Florida State - inning 1

Shu Colzie grounded out to 3b. Kimmy Carter walked. van der Lind struck out swinging. B Stuart struck out swinging. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Arizona - inning 2

Gladding grounded out to 2b. Finnerty grounded out to ss. Farley singled to shortstop. Farley stole second. Jung grounded out to ss. 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Florida State - inning 2

T George struck out swinging. M Marier struck out swinging. Beth Wade struck out swinging. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Arizona - inning 3

Fossatti flied out to rf. Finch fouled out to 3b. Manuma grounded out to 2b. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Florida State - inning 3

E Velasco singled, advanced to second on an error by ss. Sha Colzie pinch ran for E Velasco. Becky Brock fouled out to 1b. Shu Colzie singled to left field; Sha Colzie advanced to third. Kimmy Carter singled to left field, RBI; Shu Colzie advanced to second; Sha Colzie scored, unearned. van der Lind reached on a fielder's choice; Kimmy Carter out at second 1b to ss; Shu Colzie advanced to third. B Stuart struck out looking. 1 run, 3 hits, 1 error, 2 LOB.

Arizona - inning 4

Vandergeest doubled to center field. Coburn popped up to 2b. Gladding grounded

Florida State Softball Final Stats
Arizona vs Florida State - Play-by-Play
May 26, 2002 at Oklahoma City, OK (ASA Hall of Fame)

out to 2b; Vandergeest advanced to third. Vandergeest scored on a wild pitch. Finnerty walked. Farley walked; Finnerty advanced to second. Jung flied out to cf. 1 run, 1 hit, 0 errors, 2 LOB.

Florida State - inning 4

T George struck out swinging. M Marier walked. Beth Wade struck out looking. E Velasco to dp for Sha Colzie. E Velasco flied out to cf. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Arizona - inning 5

Fossatti singled to pitcher. Fossatti out at second c to 2b, picked off. Finch flied out to lf. Manuma singled up the middle. Vandergeest reached on a throwing error by 2b; Manuma advanced to second. Hagen pinch ran for Manuma. Coburn singled to shortstop, RBI; Vandergeest advanced to second; Hagen scored, unearned. Gladding reached on a fielder's choice; Coburn advanced to second; Vandergeest out at third ss to 3b. 1 run, 3 hits, 1 error, 2 LOB.

Florida State - inning 5

Manuma to 1b for Hagen. Becky Brock popped up to 2b. Shu Colzie homered to center field, RBI. Kimmy Carter grounded out to ss. van der Lind grounded out to p. 1 run, 1 hit, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Arizona - inning 6

Finnerty grounded out to ss. Farley grounded out to ss. Jung singled through the left side. Fossatti reached on a fielder's choice; Jung out at second 2b unassisted. 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Florida State - inning 6

B Stuart struck out looking. T George grounded out to ss. M Marier struck out swinging. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Arizona - inning 7

Shu Colzie to rf. van der Lind to cf. L Malerich to p for Skylar Cox. Finch reached on an error by 3b. Quiroz pinch ran for Finch. Manuma reached on a fielder's choice, SAC; Quiroz advanced to second. Vandergeest reached on a fielder's choice; Manuma advanced to second; Quiroz out at second 3b to ss. Coburn popped up to p. Gladding struck out looking. 0 runs, 0 hits, 1 error, 2 LOB.

Florida State - inning 7

Finch to p for Quiroz. Beth Wade lined out to ss. E Velasco popped up to ss. J Hirschfeld pinch hit for Becky Brock. J Hirschfeld struck out swinging. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Arizona - inning 8

Becky Brock to 3b for J Hirschfeld. Finnerty popped up to 1b. Farley grounded out to 3b. Jung flied out to cf. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Florida State Softball Final Stats
Arizona vs Florida State - Play-by-Play
May 26, 2002 at Oklahoma City, OK (ASA Hall of Fame)

Florida State - inning 8

Shu Colzie fouled out to c. Kimmy Carter grounded out to p. van der Lind walked.
B Stuart popped up to 3b. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Arizona - inning 9

Fossatti walked. Finch struck out looking. Manuma reached on an error by ss;
Fossatti advanced to second. Vandergeest struck out looking. Coburn struck out
swinging. 0 runs, 0 hits, 1 error, 2 LOB.

Florida State - inning 9

T George singled to left field. M Marier hit into double play p to ss to 2b,
bunt; T George out on the play. Beth Wade struck out swinging. 0 runs, 1 hit, 0
errors, 0 LOB.

Arizona - inning 10

Gladding flied out to lf. Finnerty struck out swinging. Farley grounded out to
ss. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Florida State - inning 10

E Velasco fouled out to 3b. Becky Brock walked. Becky Brock advanced to second on
a wild pitch. Shu Colzie struck out swinging. Kimmy Carter struck out swinging. 0
runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Arizona - inning 11

Jung lined out to ss. Fossatti fouled out to c. Finch homered to left field, RBI.
Manuma walked. Vandergeest hit by pitch; Manuma advanced to second. Coburn
homered to left center, 3 RBI; Vandergeest scored; Manuma scored. Gladding flied
out to cf. 4 runs, 2 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Florida State - inning 11

van der Lind struck out swinging. B Stuart struck out swinging. T George walked.
M Marier struck out swinging. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.