

Florida State downs Florida in Tampa tournament final

TAMPA — The Florida Gators, the two-time defending champions of the Florida Eight volleyball tournament, lost to Florida State in the finals Saturday at the University of South Florida gymnasium.

Florida junior Lenée Hill and senior Roni Armeda were named to the all-tournament team, Armeda for the second straight year. The Gators (7-3) lost to the Seminoles (7-2) on Tuesday night in Tallahassee in a thrilling five-game match. On Saturday, FSU defeated the Gators in three games: 15-12, 15-5 and 15-4. The Gators totaled more offensive errors (34) than kills (32). Florida received a bye in the first round after Jacksonville dropped out of the tournament.

The Gators reached the finals by defeating Central Florida 15-12, 15-5, 13-15 and 15-8. Armeda led the Gators statistically with 22 kills and 13 digs versus Central Florida, and 8 kills and 11 digs against FSU.

FLORIDA 8
at USF Gymnasium
Saturday's Championship Results
FSU def. Florida 15-12, 15-5, 15-4
Semifinals: FSU def. USF 15-13, 15-8, 7-15,
10-15, 15-13
Florida def. UCF 15-12, 15-5, 13-15, 15-8
Third-place game: USF def. UCF 15-8, 15-8,
16-14
Fifth-place game: Stetson def. FIU 15-11,
7-15, 15-5, 13-15, 15-12

No. 9 Lady Seminoles power to Florida 8 Tournament title

By CARY WALDMAN
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TAMPA — Florida State University, sparked by junior outside-hitter Maggie Philgence and the dominating play of its front line, defeated Florida's volleyball team for the second time in five days.

But the Lady Seminoles' Florida 8 Tournament championship win Saturday over the Lady Gators at the South Florida gym proved much more important than Tuesday's five-game, dual-match victory in Tallahassee.

Volleyball

FSU easily powered over Florida with a 15-12, 15-5, 15-4, triumph that left the Lady Seminoles (7-2) smiling and the stunned Lady Gators (7-3) wondering what went wrong — again.

"We thought Florida was going to give us a rougher time today (Saturday), especially after beating them in a great match Tuesday," FSU coach Cecile Reynaud said.

"We were also very tired. South

Florida gave us a battle in the semifinals. I thought that could have been a factor in our match with Florida, but it wasn't."

South Florida bounced back from its semifinal loss to FSU to place third. The Lady Bulls (7-3) defeated fourth-place Central Florida in three games. Stetson finished fifth, Florida International was sixth and Florida A&M was seventh.

Jacksonville, which would have completed the eight-team field, withdrew from the tournament last week because injuries had depleted its roster to five players.

The FSU-Florida championship matchup certainly came as no surprise.

Both teams had won twice in the previous four tournaments. Florida is ranked sixth and FSU ninth in this past week's Division I South region poll. South Florida is No. 11.

However, FSU seems to have Florida's number this season, or at least, during the last five days.

The Lady Seminoles, who won this tournament in 1985 and 1986 when it was called the Florida 4, dethroned the former two-time defending champion Lady Gators in

easy fashion after a surprisingly slow start.

The Lady Gators jumped out to a 9-2 lead in the first game. FSU finally awakened, taking over by using its superior front-line play led by Philgence, the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

The Lady Seminoles, also paced by outside-hitter Amy Bronson and middle-hitters Vicki Zinkil and Gabrielle Reece, put together a 13-3 run to win the pivotal game.

It was all FSU from there.

"That first game was a big win

for us," Reynaud said. "Everything just seemed to steamroll in our favor after that. The girls displayed a lot of confidence in the last two games."

FSU also placed Zinkil, a freshman, and senior setter Nancy Gaspadarek, on the all-tournament team. Florida senior outside-hitter Roni Armeda and junior outside-hitter/setter Lenée Hill, South Florida sophomore outside-hitter Crystal Maracle and senior outside-hitter Belinda Spivey and Central Florida sophomore setter Linda Santiago round out the all-tournament team.