

FSU survives again, moves to Metro final

By GEORGE MASELLI
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Such theater. Such dramatics.

After three straight thrillers at Seminole Field, not even the most hardened baseball critic among the 4,387 witnesses could give the Metro Tournament anything but boffo reviews.

It was most enjoyable for the home crowd because Florida State, facing elimination, pulled out two critical victories to almost surely win a spot in the NCAA regionals.

In the opening act of Saturday's drama, the unheralded, fourth-seeded Tulane Green Wave battled from behind to defeat second-seeded Memphis State 10-9 in the winner's bracket.

In Act II, the Seminoles, with reliever Jamey Shouppe starting because of a strange premonition that came over

coach Mike Martin, went toe-to-toe with Virginia Tech for nine breathless innings before coming out on top 2-1. That victory eliminated the 12th-ranked and top-seeded Hokies and sent Florida State back onto the field for another duel with Memphis State.

In Act III, the baseball became a bit more ragged with two tired teams fighting for their lives, but Florida State hung on for a 7-6 victory that eliminated the Tigers and sent the Seminoles into the finals with Tulane.

With the Wave undefeated, FSU will have to sweep two from Tulane today to defend the Metro title it has won the past two years.

"I'm a happy, happy man," said Martin after the Memphis State game. "Our team would have won over 50 games (FSU is now 55-14-1) and been sitting home. That

(Please see BASEBALL, page 5F)

was the biggest baseball game I've been in in three years. I know we're going to the regional now."

The struggle was enormous. Martin had to use four pitchers to subdue Memphis State in a game that resembled a mountain feud. Senior Tim Phillips, who lost to the Tigers Friday, worked the last two innings for the victory.

The bad blood between the two teams, an outgrowth of Friday's game, was apparent. The taunting from the benches was non-stop. Tiger second baseman Eric Kinnaman was ejected from the game for deliberately spiking FSU first baseman Jimmy Jones.

"They run their mouths a lot," said FSU shortstop Mark Barnineau. "Maybe they're all fighters, but they were making cocky gestures. Everyone wanted them bad."

The Seminoles needed them bad, too. A Memphis State victory would have given the Tigers a 4-1 edge in the season series and an obvious boost when it comes down to an at-large NCAA bid. Only two teams from a conference can go to the regional. Tulane can ensure itself a spot in the playoffs by beating Florida State once today.

FSU led Memphis State 6-2 after six innings, but the Tigers came back with two runs in the seventh and two more in the eighth to tie it.

The Seminoles broke the tie in the bottom of the eighth on two singles and a sacrifice fly by Mike Yastrzemski.

The opening win over Virginia Tech was, if possible, even more dramatic. Martin had planned to start Jeff Gray but changed his mind.

"I woke up at 6:30 this morning. I couldn't sleep," said Martin. "Something told me to start Shouppe. It's the first time in my life I've changed pitchers like that. Jamey did what I figured he do. He fought them for nine innings."

Shouppe, a senior who was named to the All-Metro team as a reliever, was brilliant in only his third start of the season. The Seminoles scratched out two runs on sacrifice flies to counter Franklin Stubbs' sole homer. Holding a 2-1 lead going into the ninth, the Hokies rallied.

Mark Krynitsky singled with one out. Jay Phillips followed with a double to the gap in right-center field. As pinch-runner Mark Worley circled the bases, FSU centerfielder Yastrzemski fielded quickly and fired a strike to relay man Danny Griffin.

Griffin, starting only because of an injury to regular Matt Robinson, whirled and rifled a strike to home to nail the sliding Worley.

For Shouppe, it was his first complete game at Florida State.

"I just went out and had some fun," said Shouppe. "That last inning got a little scary."

VA.TECH

	ab	r	h	bi
Phillips, 2b	5	0	2	0
Rupe, cf	4	0	0	0
Stewart, 3b	2	0	1	0
Stubbs, 1b	4	1	1	1
Foit, ss	3	0	1	0
Helgeson, dh	3	0	0	0
Sullivan, rf	3	0	0	0
Mitchell, lf	4	0	0	0
Krynitski, c	4	0	3	0
King, ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	33	1	8	1

FLORIDA STATE

	ab	r	h	bi
Barineau, ss	3	1	1	0
Y'zanski, cf	4	0	1	0
Ledbetter, lf	3	0	0	0
Lacy, dh	3	0	1	0
Cawthon, rf	2	1	1	1
Figueredo, 3b4	0	2	0	0
Jones, 1b	3	0	1	1
Dowell, c	4	0	1	0
Griffin, 2b	3	0	0	0
Totals	29	2	8	2

Florida State 100 001 00x — 280

Virginia Tech 000 100 000 — 180

DP—VT 1. 2B—Phillips (2), Foit, Jones.

HR—Stubbs (17). SB—Cawthon, Barineau.

SF—Cawthon, Jones.

IP H R ER BB SO

Florida State

Shouppe W, (7-2) 9 8 1 1 5 10

Virginia Tech

Perkins L, (11-2) 8 8 2 2 5 2

HBP—Ledbetter (by Perkins). Time—3:00. Attendance—2,376.

MEMPHIS STATE

	ab	r	h	bi
Gour'ot, 3b	5	2	2	1
Kinnaman, 2b3	1	2	0	0
Hernandez, lf	5	0	2	3
Dulin, ss	4	0	0	0
Young, dh	5	0	1	0
Dodson, 1b	4	1	1	0
Campbell, rf	2	0	0	0
Dunn, c	3	0	0	0
Ham, lf	4	1	1	1
Ganong, 2b	2	0	1	0
Belote, pr	0	1	0	0
Totals	38	6	10	5

FLORIDA STATE

	ab	r	h	bi
Barineau, ss	4	2	1	0
Y'zanski, cf	3	2	1	3
Ledbetter, lf	3	0	2	1
Lacy, dh	4	1	0	0
Cawthon, rf	5	0	1	2
Figueredo, 3b4	0	0	0	0
Jones, 1b	2	0	0	0
Dowell, c	4	1	2	0
Griffin, 2b	3	1	2	0
Totals	32	7	9	6

Florida State 003 300 01x — 796

Memphis State 200 000 220 — 6104

E—Gourgeot, Dulin 3, Barineau, Figueredo, Jones 2, Griffin 2. DP—FSU 3, MSU 1.

LOB—FSU 10, MSU 9. 2B—Cawthon, Kinnaman, Dodson, Ham. 3B—Ledbetter. SB—

Kinnaman, Dulin, Barineau, Griffin. SH—

Dulin, Griffin. SF—Yastrzemski.

IP H R ER BB SO

Florida State

Gray 5 1/3 6 2 1 0 2

Smalley 2 3 3 2 1 0 1

Morgan 1 0 2 2 3 1

Phillips W, (11-3) 2 1 0 0 0 0

Memphis State

Litano 3 2/3 4 6 3 4 1

Williams 1 1/3 1 0 0 1 0

Goldstein L, (8-2) 3 4 1 1 2 0

WP—Litano. Time—3:30. Attendance—4,387.