

Seminoles' power play beats Virginia Tech

Special to the Democrat

SALEM, Va. — Florida State used the long ball to defeat Virginia Tech 6-4 in a Metro Conference baseball game Tuesday, moving into sole possession of first place in the conference.

FSU raised its overall record to 43-12 and its Metro record to 12-4. Second-place Tech fell to 33-15 and 9-4.

Marc Ronan, Rob Bargas and Pete Grifol each homered for FSU, which had more than two home runs for only the

second game this season.

Bargas' pinch-hit two-run homer to center gave FSU a 5-4 lead in the eighth. His 390-foot line drive to left-center scored Ronan, who had doubled.

"I was just looking for a hit," Bargas said of his fourth homer of the season. "I didn't know it was going out, it just kept going."

Bargas' homer made a winner of FSU reliever John Nedeau (1-0). He relieved Gary Painter in the seventh with one out and FSU trailing 4-3, then got one out in

the eighth before giving way to Ricky Kimball.

Kimball picked up his fourth save, and third in as many games, after entering with runners on first and second and one out. The junior struck out the next two batters.

Grifol's fourth homer of the season led off the ninth, giving Kimball a two-run cushion. Then Kimball, a preseason All-America reliever, allowed only a two-out hit by Les Jennette.

"When I threw three warm-up pitches,

I knew I had great stuff," Kimball said. "My arm responded great and I felt like I had my stuff so I just reared back and brought it."

Virginia Tech scored a run in the first on a double by Len Wentz, but Rod Emmons hit into a double play to end the threat.

In the third, Tech extended its lead to 3-0 on a pair of hits, an error and a groundout.

The Seminoles got one back in the fourth on Ronan's leadoff home run to

right. The homer was Ronan's fifth of the season, giving him the team lead.

An inning later, with two outs, FSU's Eddie Perez walked and scored on a triple by Rau.

FSU made it 3-3 in the seventh on back-to-back doubles by Grifol and John Marc Tamayo, still subbing for an ill Rob Bargas.

Tech regained the lead in the seventh. Shaun Thomas and David Dallas singled to

Please see FSU, 3B

FSU/ Nedeau and Kimball close the door

From 1B

put runners on first and third with no outs. Wentz then hit a fly ball to right which

bounced off the glove of Chris Brock just inside the foul line. Thomas scored, but Dallas was caught going to third.

Painter was then replaced by John Nedeau, who had pitched only 5½ innings all year. Nedeau retired the next two batters, and FSU got out of the inning trailing 4-3.

Virginia Tech left 10 men on base.

Thomas led Tech with three hits and three runs scored. Wentz drove in three runs on two hits.

The series continues today at 3 p.m. in Blacksburg. Virginia Tech sends starter Greg Margheim (4-3) against FSU's Gar Finnvoid (11-3).

FLORIDA STATE					VIRGINIA TECH				
ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi	
Bevis, 2b	5	0	0	0	Thomas, cf	5	3	3	0
Ronan, lf	3	2	2	1	Dallas, 2b	5	0	1	0
Cribb, dh	3	0	0	0	Wentz, 3b	5	0	2	3
Bargas, ph	1	1	1	2	Jennette, 1b	5	0	1	1
Roberts, cf	4	0	1	0	Emmons, rf	5	0	0	0
Parker, rf	3	0	0	0	Hawkins, dh	3	0	0	0
Brock, rf	1	0	0	0	Hatfield, ph	0	0	0	0
Grifol, c	4	2	2	1	Haggas, ss	3	0	1	0
Tamayo, 3b	4	0	2	1	Render, lf	2	0	0	0
Perez, 1b	2	1	0	0	Creed, c	4	1	2	1
Rau, ss	3	0	1	1					
Gilliland, 1	0	0	0	0					
Totals	34	4	9	6	Totals	37	4	10	4

Florida State	000	110	121	6
Virginia Tech	102	000	100	4

E—Rau, Tamayo, Brock, DP—Florida State 1. Left—Virginia Tech 10, Florida State 4, 2B—Grifol, Tamayo, Ronan, Wentz, 3B—Rau, HR—Ronan (5), Bargas (4), Grifol (4), SB—Thomas, SH—Perez, Haggas.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida State						
Painter	6½	9	4	3	0	7
Nedeau, W (1-0)	1	0	0	0	2	0
Kimball, S (4)	1½	1	0	0	0	3
Virginia Tech						
Williams, L (10-2)	9	9	6	6	2	7

WP—Painter, HBP—Render (by Painter). T—3:00, A—5,000.