

# Choate mows down Wolfpack

*The Seminole pitcher snares 14 strikeouts as FSU beats N.C. State and advances to the ACC Tournament quarterfinals.*

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There's a new look to Florida State, and just in time for the postseason.

It's not Randy Choate's recently shaven head but his strong left arm that created a buzz among 4,839 FSU fans at Al Lang Stadium on Thursday.

The junior demonstrated his early-season dominance as No. 2

## TODAY'S GAME

■ Florida State vs. Clemson,  
7:30 p.m. Sunshine (cable 23)

seed FSU defeated North Carolina State 5-3 in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament.

The left-hander bounced back from giving up three runs early to shut out the Wolfpack's mostly left-handed hitting lineup in five of the last six innings. The junior struck out every Wolfpack player at least once and finished with 14 strikeouts, two shy of his career high. The Wolfpack's leading hitter, Tom Sergio, went hitless.

"After I gave up those three runs, I went back in the locker room and told myself I had to focus more. That wouldn't do," Choate

said. "(In the late innings) that's as much as a zone as I've ever been in my life."

Choate's new haircut was more a mistake than a message. Apparently, the team's strength coach got a little happy with the scissors and Drew told him to go ahead and shave it off. FSU coach Mike Martin was just glad to see his ace pitch so well.

"No question, it was one of the best games Randy Choate has pitched," Martin said. "That was a very good win against a very good team."

"The only thing I did when I went to the mound (in the fourth inning) was to tell him he was quit-

**Please see FSU, 5C**

ting on his fast ball. I just told him to be Randy Choate."

The Seminoles (43-15) face No. 4 seed Clemson, a 7-4 winner over Georgia Tech, in today's quarterfinal action. Randy Niles (5-4, 4.46) will start against the Tigers, losers of two to FSU in the regular season. The game will be televised live by the Sunshine Network.

Thanks again to pitching, FSU learned it can win without J.D. Drew's usual help. After edging No. 3 N.C. State (40-7), the next obvious question is can the Seminoles continue to win in the ACC Tournament with Drew walking more than he's hitting.

Drew, with just one hit in his past 17 plate appearances, hopes FSU doesn't have to find out. He walked twice, popped up, grounded out and hit a single on Thursday. It didn't go any better for FSU's hottest hitter of late, Jeremy Morris. He went hitless for the first time in six games after entering the game with a .611 average during his hit streak.

"I'm not worried in the least about J.D.," Martin said. "He's getting a lot of walks."

Thanks to a surging pitching staff, lackluster hitting once again hasn't mattered for FSU in this tournament.

Choate became the latest FSU pitcher to offset the Seminoles' mediocre offensive output by holding

the Wolfpack to six hits in his fourth complete game of the season and second consecutive by the staff.

FSU jumped on N.C. State 2-0 with RBI singles by Geoff Sprague and Scott Zech in the first inning. The Seminoles added two more runs in the second with the help of Jeremy Salazar's double and a Wolfpack error.

N.C. State then chipped at the Seminoles' lead on two RBI singles in the third inning. The Wolfpack scored in the fourth on another RBI single to cut FSU's margin to one run before Choate strung together three hitless innings.

## Notes

■ Brooks Badeaux would like this to be his last ACC Tournament. The junior shortstop missed 23 games because of a broken fibula this season but still hopes he will be selected in next month's major-league draft.

Badeaux is hitting .382.

"That was a real hard thing to handle when I broke my leg, because I'd like to pro baseball this summer," Badeaux said. "It's always my dream to play pro baseball."

"I've done all I can do. If (scouts) like me, they do. If they don't, they don't. I'm trying not to think about it right now."

■ For the second consecutive night, the crowd for FSU's game was larger than any single game when the tournament was held in Durham, N.C. last year.

■ Drew tied the ACC single-season record for runs scored with 97. He scored after walking in the first inning.

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Florida State 5, N.C. State 3													
N.C. STATE					FLORIDA ST.								
ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Smith 2b	4	0	1	1	Drew cf	3	1	1	0				
Weber f	3	0	1	1	Morris lf	3	0	0	0				
Lawler dh	4	0	0	0	Sprague 3b	5	0	1	1				
Piercy c	4	0	0	0	Zach 2b	3	0	1	1				
Combs 1b	4	1	2	0	Mayfield dh	1	0	0	0				
Slaughter lf	3	0	0	0	Salazar c	3	1	1	0				
Postell 3b	2	1	1	1	McCorkel rf	3	1	0	0				
Ballard ss	2	1	0	0	Zabala 3b	4	1	1	1				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>				
North Carolina State					002 100 000—3								
Florida State					220 000 01x—5								
E—Dorn 2, Zach, DP—N.C. State 1, FSU 1, LOB—N.C. State 4, FSU 11. 2B—Salazar. SB—Backeuz, Drew 2, Mayfield. S—Slaughter, McCorkel.													
N.C. State		IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO						
Dorn L, 1-2		4.1	4	4	3	8	0						
Baker		3.2	2	1	1	2	3						
Florida State		IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO						
Choate W, 1-3		9	5	3	3	3	14						
WP—Dorn, BK—Baker. HBP—Backeuz (by Baker).													
T—2:25, A—4:39P													