

Come ACC tournament time, Seminoles count on Chavez

Chris Chavez proves his worth again, allowing one run for a complete-game win against Virginia.

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Chris Chavez can almost always be counted on to add mystery and intrigue to a baseball game.

You are never quite sure which pitcher will show up — the one capable of a no-hitter or the one who contributes to the graying of coach Mike Martin.

TODAY'S GAME

■ FSU vs. Wake Forest, 5 p.m. **Radio:** WNLS (1270 AM).

The exception to Chavez's unpredictability happens every May in the ACC Tournament. That's when Chavez is predictably good. Very good.

Just as he did in the tournament last season and the year before, Chavez led Florida State to victory in impressive fashion on Wednesday. The Seminoles' hard-fought 4-1 victory over Virginia advances No. 1 seed FSU (46-16) to the winners' bracket of the second

round against Wake Forest at 5 p.m. today.

"We don't think it is a gamble," Martin said of starting Chavez against Virginia. "Chris has had some inconsistency but no one is successful every time. He's a gutsy guy who has certainly responded at this tournament."

The junior right-hander retired 23 of the last 25 batters, and at one point he sat down 13 in a row. In going the distance for the second consecutive year, Chavez (7-3) allowed just five hits while striking out eight. That helped send No. 9 seed Virginia (27-25-1) into the los-

Please see FSU, 6B

FSU:

*Wake Forest next up
for Seminoles*

From 18

ers' bracket.

Chavez has given up 10 hits and two earned runs in 24 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings in three ACC Tournaments.

"I think I'm more relaxed here," Chavez said. "This was important. We need a victory to get it started."

Chavez survived a scare in the first inning when Brian Sherlock narrowly missed a home run. His shot over the right-field wall bounced off a rail and back onto the field. The rail is considered in play and Sherlock settled for a double. Virginia stranded Sherlock and another runner.

The Cavaliers' run came in the second inning.

"Any time you play really good teams, you have to get a really big base hit," Virginia coach Dennis Wornack said. "We just never got that base hit. It was hard to get a

lot of good swings off of (Chavez). He has a good breaking pitch."

In support of Chavez, the Seminoles seemingly produced more singles than the Beetles. Ten of FSU's 12 hits were singles. Three were by Kevin Cash, who also had two RBIs. Jose Zabala's two-out RBI double, which provided FSU its final margin, and a double by Matt Diaz were the only extra-base hits for FSU.

Senior catcher Jeremy Salazar returned after missing the Virginia series with a strained hamstring. He wasted no time shaking a seven-game hitting slump, during which he went 1-for-22. He had two singles.

FSU trailed 1-0 before Salazar opened the second with a single and then scored on Brett Groves' single to tie it. FSU added a run in the fourth to go ahead for good, and added its final two runs in the seventh inning.

"I'm not a hundred percent but I'm a hundred percent better than when it first happened," Salazar said. "It was important to get that first hit and break the ice for me."

Salazar's next opportunity to

get ready for the NCAA postseason comes today against Wake Forest. FSU scored 31 runs in sweeping the Demon Deacons during the regular season. But with the exception of one game, the games were close.

If the Demon Deacons did not already have the Seminoles' attention, they likely earned it Wednesday with a 9-1 victory over North Carolina State.

FSU will start Wes Crawford (7-3, 3.28) against Mike MacDougal (6-4, 3.81) today.

UVA (27-25-1)		FSU (46-16)	
	ab r h bi		ab r h bi
Lopez dh	4 0 0 0	Badeaux 2b	3 0 0 0
Kemmerer cf	4 0 0 0	Zabala 3b	4 0 1 1
Sherlock 3b	4 0 1 0	Cox cf	4 0 0 0
Anderson if	3 0 0 0	Solazar c	4 1 2 0
Gillespie 2b	4 0 1 0	Henderson dh	3 1 1 0
LeVigne ss	2 1 1 0	Diaz rf	4 0 2 0
Bowling 1b	3 0 0 0	Cash 1b	4 1 3 2
Gonzalez rf	3 0 0 0	Jennison if	3 0 0 0
Ruehl c	3 0 2 1	Groves ss	3 0 0 0
Totals	32 1 5 1	Totals	33 4 12

UVA	010	000	000	1
FSU	010	100	200	4

E—Kennedy (3), Salazar (9), DP—UVA 1, LOB—UVA 6, PSU 8, 28—Sherlock (19), LaVigne (9), Zebala (14), Diaz (10), 58—Ruedert (3), CS—Cox (3).

UVA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kennedy L. (5-7)	8	12	4	3	3	5
FSU						
Chavez W. (7-2)	9	5	1	1	2	8
WP—Chavez,	U—Manders,					
Thompson, Kramer,	T—2.05, A—1.384					
					Devis,	