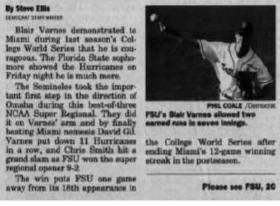
From the Tallahassee Democrat June 3, 2000 Page 17

Smith provides power; Varnes shuts down 'Canes

By Steve Ellis



FSU

From page 1C

"We played very well as a team," said FSU coach Miko Martin, who secured his 19th 50-win sesson. "We got to play just as well if not better to achieve our goal. Minni will come out loaded for bear."

onded for bear." Varnes (11-2) was 1-2 in three previous starts against Miami that included six innings on a ruptured ACL in the chamruptured ACL in the cham-pionship game of the CW3 last season. Not including Mike and Javier Redriguez, Miami (40-18-1) was just 2 of 27 against FSU pitchers. Varnes escaped a basei-loaded, no-out situation in the first with just one run. After that, he was mostly in centrol.

He retired 14 of 15 hat-He retired 14 of 15 hat-ters before giving up an infield single to open the eighth. In what was the game's critical point, fresh-man reliever Robby Read made Martin look smart with his quick hook of Var-nes. Chris Ginn helped put runners on first and second with the twing run at the runners on first and second with the tying run at the plate and one out when Bead came in and struck out two Hurricanes. Read, who two-hit Cen-tral Florida with a 6-1 win on Sunday to put FSU (50-

160 in the super regional, anuffed Miami's threat before 5,374 fans, the most at Dick Howser Stadium

"Confidence was defi-nitely there," Read said.
"When the team is hitting the ball like they are, it's so much easier."
FSU followed Read's

effort by putting it away in the bottom of the eighth on the grand slam by Smith.

The right fielder collected a season-high six RBIs, and FSU has two chances to get to Omaha.

to Omaha.
Jon McDonald (11-4, 3.93
ERA) will face Brian
Walker (11-2, 3.00 ERA) at
7 pm. tonight if FSU loses,
the teams will meet at 1
p.m. Sunday.
"I think it is going to be
tough in this ballpark,"
Miami right fielder Manny
Crespo said. "This team has
hattled back all year. It's
going to be tough in this
hallpark the way these guys
are playing."
Gil (11-3) brought a 3-0
record and a respectable

Gil (11-3) brought a 3-0 record and a respectable 3.28 ERA against FSU into Hower Stadium. But FSU countered with a rekindled confidence at the plate that had its roots in the last three games of the regional. Gil gave up a season-high 10 hits and six corned runs and hit three butters before

Gil gave up a season-high 10 hits and six earned runs and hit three batters before being pulled in the eighth. I just got beat tonight—simple as that," Gil said. They came out swinging the bat more aggressively than they usually do."

Miami grabbed its only lead when Javy Rodriguez dropped an RRI-single into left field for a 1-0 lead. PSU needed a had bounce to tist in the second, but luck had nothing to de with the way PSU manhandled Gil the remainder of his fifth start against FSU. Ryan Harthelemy was out at home after third base coach Chip Baker sent him on Pichi Balet's single intoright field. But a wird bounce in front of home plate allowed PSU to tie it. Haker wasn't as fortunate with a hase-running decision two innings later when McCaleb was thrown out easily at home on a Jehn-Ford Griffin and FSU came up empty in the fourth inning. up empty in the fourth

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