

'Noles defeat defending CWS champs, advance to Omaha

By Steve Ellis

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Mike Martin didn't grimace or cover his eyes as the human dog pile in front of the Florida State dugout grew two or three Seminoles at a time.

At the bottom of the pile, winning pitcher Mike Ziegler's eyes may have widened when big John Halliday jumped on, but Martin's did not. And Martin did nothing when Blair Varnes, who said he was injured in such a celebration after last season's super regional, flew by him to join the fun.

Series-bound after wiggling out of a first-inning jam to dominate the Hurricanes the remainder of the game for a 6-1 victory.

The defending champions head home, a loser to FSU six times in nine meetings this season. The Seminoles (51-17) go back to Omaha for the eighth time in 10 years and as one of just two returning teams from last season's national tournament.

The Seminole contributions in the super regional final were as deep as the festive pileup. Marshall McDougall hit a home run and a triple and scooped Blair McCaleb's throw to second to catch Kevin Howard stealing for a critical first out that prevented Miami from putting runners on second and third in the first inning. Miami coach Jim

Morris called it the game's turning point.

Miami still grabbed a 1-0 lead in that inning, but Ziegler responded by striking out nine and keeping the Hurricanes off second base until the final two innings. During one span he threw 32 strikes to seven balls.

McCaleb, hitting .151 in 35 games before the super regional, had three hits to go 7 for 10 in the past three games. He also caught his 26th consecutive game under the season's worst conditions as temperatures soared above 105 degrees on the field.

Martin's favorite words — "See you in Omaha" — sounded as sweet as when he spoke them in 1980 when he made the first of what will be 12 appearances in the CWS.

But his attention will quickly turn to the place where steaks are rare and so are the wins for FSU. Martin's teams were 4-12 in six previous trips to Omaha prior to last season's run to the championship game. Martin is 15-22 in 11 CWS appearances,

and his teams have received the hook in three or fewer games six of their past seven appearances. The Seminoles face Southern California (43-18) on either Friday or Saturday in a rematch of a 1995 CWS meeting in which J.D. Drew hit three home runs. The best guess is that either the USC-FSU or Texas-LSU game will be picked up by CBS for its national telecast on Saturday. The decision will be made today.

At least one coach likes FSU's chances. The Seminoles impressed Morris with their starting pitching and bullpen.

"I think they've got a chance," Morris said. "If they play solid defense like today, they are going to score a few runs. I think they've got a very good ballclub."

"You've got to get hot when you get out there. That's the secret to winning — not necessarily the best club but the team that gets hot."

The power is back in FSU baseball, and the pitching never left. After hitting four

FSU 6, Miami 1

Miami(41-19-1)	FSU(51-17)		
ab r h bi	ab r h bi	ab r h bi	
Rodriguez cf	4 1 1 1	Smith rf	3 1 2 1
Howard 3b	4 0 1 0	Griffin dh	3 1 0 0
Rodriguez ss	3 0 1 1	McDougal 2b	5 1 2 2
Mattenco dh	4 0 1 0	Barthelemy 1b	4 0 0 0
Crespo if	4 0 2 0	Jernigan cf	4 1 1 0
Brown 1b	3 0 1 0	Balel 3b	3 1 2 0
Morris if	3 0 1 0	Futrell if	2 0 0 1
Cute 2b	3 0 1 0	Groves ss	2 1 0 0
DiRosa c	2 0 0 0	McCaleb c	4 0 3 2
Nietges ph	1 0 0 0		
Lowmeyer c	0 0 0 0		
Totals	31 1 9 1	Totals	30 6 10 6

Miami 100 000 000-1
Florida State 012 110 01x-6

E—Brown, LOB—UM 4, FSU 9. 2B—Jernigan, McCaleb. 3B—McDougal. HR—Smith, McDougal. SB—Rodriguez, Groves. CS—Howard. SH—Groves.

IP H R ER BB SO

Miami					
Rengoches, L 5-1	3.0	7	4	4	1 1
Phares	1.1	1	1	1	0 0
Ziegler	3.2	2	1	1	5 3

Florida State					
Ziegler	9.0	9	1	1	0 9

HRF—by Rengoches (Futrell).
T—2:28. A—4876.

home runs in the 11 games leading into the NCAA post-season, FSU scored 10 of its 20 runs off six home runs in the super regional.

Ziegler resembled the ace he had been much of the season. He held the Hurricanes to four hits in seven innings before the Hurricanes got to him late. Martin said Varnes will pitch the CWS opener, and Ziegler will get the nod in the second game.

"This is disappointing right now that we didn't finish better than we did because the standard's set to go to Omaha," Morris said. "We played hard ... but Florida State deserves to go to Omaha over us."

For this College World Series appearance to be different than most, FSU must play defense as it did on Sunday. The Seminoles extended regional and super regional play because of shoddy defense that included six errors in a 7-5 loss on Saturday. FSU committed no errors in putting away Miami on Sunday.