

Morning News

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NCAA D2 BASEBALL SOUTHEAST REGIONAL

SE REGION CHAMPS!



Francis Marion poses after winning the NCAA D2 Southeast Regional.

FMU

Next up for FMU is Super Regional

FMU ATHLETICS

TIGERVILLE — Junior two-way player Ethan McAnally delivered on the mound and at the plate on Saturday night as fifth-seeded and 11th-ranked Francis Marion University outslugged North Greenville University by an 11-8 margin in the championship game of the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Baseball Tournament.

The Patriots improve to 45-12 and advance to the Southeast Super Regional for the first-time in program history, where FMU will face second-seeded and fifth-ranked Catawba College, in a best-of-three series in Salisbury, N.C. The Super Regional will take place May 21-23 (Thursday-Saturday) with the Patriots looking to return to the NCAA Division II College World Series for the first time since 2006.

McAnally took the ball in Game 3 of Tigerville Regional for his first career start with the Patriots after pitching just 2.0 innings of relief all season. He produced a stellar 5.0-inning performance (70 pitches), allowing three earned runs on six hits with three strikeouts and zero walks. He also delivered at the plate, going

3-for-5 with two runs batted in, one run scored, and one stolen base.

The trio of right-handed pitcher Jafet Martinez Delgado and southpaws sophomore Jackson Madden and freshman Garrett Long pitched effectively to close out the final four innings of the game. Long secured his first collegiate save after tossing 1.1 innings and striking out three.

Senior left fielder Will Dorrell finished 3-for-4 with a homer, three RBIs, two runs scored, and one stolen base. Senior second baseman Jimmy Koza also went 3-for-4 with two runs batted in and one run scored. Redshirt junior right fielder Charlie Bussey III finished 2-for-4 with a homer, one RBI, and three runs scored.

In the bottom of the first, redshirt junior catcher Zander Buchan and Bussey III both reached base via a walk and a single, respectively. McAnally came through in the next at-bat after lacing an RBI single up the middle to take a 1-0 edge. Dorrell followed with a sacrifice fly to center field before sixth-year center fielder Daniel Hussey hit an RBI single through the left side, 3-0.

Bussey III added to the lead in the third

frame with a solo homer to center field, his 20th of the year, 4-0. The Patriots loaded the bases later in the inning, and Koza produced a clutch two-run single up the middle to take a 6-0 advantage.

In the bottom of the fourth, Buchan launched a no-doubt solo homer to right field, his fourth of the year, to claim a 7-0 lead.

The Trailblazers rallied in the top of the sixth, scoring three runs on five hits to trail by a 7-3 margin. North Greenville continued to chip away at the deficit in the seventh with two more runs, highlighted by a leadoff solo homer, 7-5.

FMU responded in the bottom half of the seventh as Dorrell belted a solo home run to right-center, his seventh of the season, to regain a three-run lead.

After NGU scored a run in the top of the eighth, the Patriots countered with back-to-back RBI singles from McAnally and Dorrell to extend the lead to 11-6.

Despite a two-run homer by the Trailblazers in the ninth inning, Francis Marion closed the door to seal the 11-8 win.

Oliver Adams (4-1) of North Greenville suffered the loss.



SETH HERALD, REUTERS

People participate in a worship service on the day of Rededicate 250: A National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving at the National Mall on Sunday in Washington.

Trump, aides rally Christian faithful at nation's capital

Hegseth urges Americans to 'pray without ceasing'

PHAEDRA TRETHAN, MIKE STUNSON AND JAY STAHL
USA Today

WASHINGTON — Faith leaders from various Christian denominations — and one rabbi — gathered Sunday on the National Mall to pray, sing and speak about America's religious foundation in an event critics said favored one faith at the expense of others.

Rededicate 250 brought together religious and political leaders including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, House Speaker Mike Johnson and Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, as well as Franklin Graham, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Rabbi Meir

Soloveichik.

President Donald Trump read a passage in a video greeting from 1 Kings Chapter 9, in which God warns King Solomon against turning away from him as Solomon consecrates the temple in Jerusalem.

Hegseth in pre-recorded remarks invoked George Washington, the nation's first president: "Let us pray as he did. Let us pray without ceasing. Let us pray for our nation on bended knee," Hegseth told the crowd.

The event in the nation's capital, a "National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise, and Thanksgiving," was billed as a call to "gather a broad assembly of voices united by a love of God and country," tied to the nation's 250th birthday.

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