A dropped third strike by catcher Randy Brown and two subsequent throwing errors opened the door for three Tennessee runs in the ninth inning as the Volunteers handed FSU its first loss of the season, 8-7.

The Seminoles had stormed from behind to tie the game, 5-5, in the seventh on singles by Jim Lyttle and Randy Brown, then went ahead by one in the eighth when Dick Fernandez doubled off the left center field fence to chase home Mike Martin. However, victory was snatched away at the last possible moment.

Eddie Howell had relieved starter Marty Brooks in the fifth and set down the Volunteers in good fashion for three innings. A fielding miscue in short center field gave Tennessee right fielder Bob Lannon a looping single to begin the ninth.

FSU Coach Fred Hatfield called on his ace, lefty Marvin Stringfeliow, as much for his fielding ability as anything. Other defensive maneuvers moved Maury Hopins from third to first and installed Gary Lawrence at the hot corner. Hopkins scooped up Jack Ervin's grounder and forced Lannom at second, but Dan Neff drew a walk. Ervin moved to third on John Burpo's grounder which Hopkins fielded, forcing Neff. With shortstop Tom Giles at the plate, Burpo went to second and was safe on a throwing error by Brown.

Giles swung at three Stringfellow curves, but the iast one eluded Brown. He threw to first in plenty of time, but a low throw got away from Hopkins, and Giles was safe. Ervin headed home with the tying run and upset Brown as Hopkins threw wild. Vol third baseman Darryl Lowe, a hard man for the Seminoles to handle all afternoon, punched a single through the hole between third and short driving in the tie-breaking and cushion run.

The cushion was needed as Lyttle led off the home half of the ninth with a home run to right center, but Brown grounded to second for one out. Lawrence drew a walk, and Dean Duchak came up to pinch hit. The hit and run was on with Lawrence headed for second but shortstop Giles speared Duchak's line drive and doubled the FSU runner off at first to end the threat. Lowe got three singles in live times at bat and drove in four of the Volunteer runs. Brown had three for four and two rbis for the Seminoles. Tom Thomas also drove in two FSU runs.

The two meet again this afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

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