Big performances by a pair of hometown players spurred Florida State to a 9-4 baseball victory over South Alabama here yesterday afternoon.

The Seminoles now take a 29-13 record into tonight's 7:30 game here against University of South Florida.

Marty Rice and Herb Sikes, each a graduate of Tallahassee Leon High, led the Sunday triumph over the Alabamans with strong pitching and hitting.

A freshman righthander, Rice pitched a strong eight innings to pick up his seventh victory of the season. The biggest winner among the Seminole hurlers, he has suffered just two setbacks.

Sikes came up with two hits in four appearances, including his sixth home run of the season.

The homer, a three-run shot in the sixth, broke open a close contest.

After a shaky third inning in which he spotted the Jaguars a two-run lead, Rice settled down and did not allow another tally until he tired in the eighth. Mac Scarce replaced him in the ninth and registered his 10th save of the year. With two outs in the third, Rice let up just slightly and walked his mound opponent, Larry Aubel. Steve Kittrell then doubled Aubel home. A pitch got away from catcher Harry Saferight. When he did not bounce right out to get the ball, Kittrell came to third.

Saferight's hurried throw was lost by third baseman Sikes in the play there. With Sikes searching frantically for the ball which rolled into foul territory, Kittrell sneaked home.

The Seminoles got those two runs back plus one more in the fifth. Four straight hits and an outfield error produced the runs.

A double by Ron Cash and Saferight's singles got the Tribe's fourth run in the sixth. Ken Doria followed with a single which set the stage for Sikes' blast over the right-field fence.

A walk, a double error by third baseman Dennis Whitehead and Mike Leber's single produced still another run in the inning.

The Seminoles added an unearned run in the seventh and the Jaguars had two unearned tallies in the eighth.

"This was a big series for us

to come out on top," said Tribe Coach Jack Stallings. "Every game will be big from here on out, and I hope we can begin to build a little momentum."

Stallings named Dave Fernald as starter of tonight's game, while Dave Price gets the call for Tuesday afternoon's 3 p.m. game.

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