

# Slumping Tribe Dropped by 7-4

Special to the Democrat

JACKSONVILLE — A couple of wind-aided home runs did the bulk of the damage Friday as Florida State's slumping baseball team dropped a crucial 7-4 game to Jacksonville University.

The two teams were scheduled to clash again today at 1:30, and even at this early stage, the outcome could go a long way in determining if the Seminoles are to get a shot at the District III playoffs next month.

Jacksonville stands 24-2 this year following the win, while Florida State is 21-8 and has won just nine of 17 games after getting off the a 12-0 start. Both teams are independents and are competing for the hard-to-come-by playoffs berth.

Both JU homers came in the fifth inning when the Dolphins

overcame a 2-1 Florida State lead.

Jim Torelli started the trou-

ble by lofting a high fly to left center that was carried right out of the park by the strong wind that was blowing from home to left field.

JU's leading hitter, Rick Shannon, followed with a grounder to third that went through Seminole Herb Sikes' legs but was ruled a base hit. Guy Ezzell then lifted another long fly that carried over the centerfield fence to make it 4-2 Jacksonville.

Stu Pikula doubled home two more runs for the Dolphins in the seventh inning against relief pitcher Steve Oppenheim, and Ezzell rapped a two-bagger in the eighth against FSU's third hurler, Mike Scarce, to bring in another run.

Ezzell finished with three hits as the Dolphins rang up a total of 15 in the game — six of them going for extra bases. They were also helped by three Florida State errors.

Bill Fuller was the starter and loser for the Seminoles. Steve Nichols went the distance for JU and picked up his eighth victory without a loss.

Sikes was the only effective Seminole at the plate, ripping three of Florida State's seven hits. One of them was a 400-foot homer across the wind to right centerfield in the second inning that tied the score 1-1.

Dick Nichols drove in Rick Snyder in the second with a sacrifice fly to lift FSU on top. Snyder was a courtesy runner for pitcher Fuller who had reached base on a fielder's choice.

Sikes also drove in the Tribe's final two runs in the eighth with a double that bounced off the right centerfield wall. Nichols and John LiBrandi, who both had drawn walks, scored on the drive.

Fla. State	ab	r	h	Jackville	ab	r	h
Williams lf-3b	5	0	1	McMillan ss	5	1	2
D.Nichols cf	2	1	0	Torelli 2b	5	1	2
LiBrandt rf	3	1	0	Shannon 3b	4	2	2
Sikes 3b	4	1	3	Ezzell 1b	5	2	3
Roatche c	3	0	1	Katz rf	4	1	2
Rosa 2b	4	0	1	Nally lf	5	0	1
Doria 1b	4	0	0	Pikula cf	5	0	3
Smith ss	3	0	1	Weber c	4	0	0
Fuller p	1	0	0	S.Nichols p	3	0	0
Snyder cr	0	1	0				
Huff ph	1	0	0				
Oppenheim p	0	0	0				
Scarce p	0	0	0				
Sherrill ph	1	0	0				

TOTALS 31 4 7 TOTALS 40 7 15

Florida State 011 000 020—4

Jacksonville 100 030 21x—7

E—Sikes, Rosa, Fuller, Ezzell, DP—

JU 1, LOB—FSU 6, JU 12.

2B—Ezzell, Nally, Pikula 2, Sikes, HR

Sikes, Torelli, Ezzell, RBI—Sikes 3, D.

Nichols, Torelli, Ezzell 3, Pikula 2, SB—

Shannon, S—Fuller, SF—Nichols.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Fuller (L,4-2)	6	11	4	3	0	5
Oppenheim	2-3	2	2	2	2	0
Scarce	1-3	2	1	1	1	1
S. Nichols (W,8-0)	9	7	4	3	4	8
U—Gaines, Lindsey, T—2:15, A—200.						