

Dolphins Hand Seminoles Third Straight Loss 4-3

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JACKSONVILLE — It took a little longer, and it wasn't nearly as embarrassing, but nevertheless defeat came for the third straight day for the Florida State Seminole baseball team here Saturday afternoon.

The sting was tempered just slightly for Coach Jack Stallings, who juggled his starting lineup somewhat and imposed a curfew in an effort to snap his club out of the doldrums of the losing streak.

It took Jacksonville 10 innings to deal the death blow in handing the Seminoles a 4-3 setback that extended the Tribe's losing streak to three in this third game on a five-game road trip.

"It was some better," Stallings offered, "or it wasn't as bad as it has been . . . but we're still not playing as aggressively as we need to be."

The Seminoles immediately departed, just ahead of a heavy rain storm, for Georgia Southern and single games this afternoon and Monday.

Stallings was eyeing a sweep at Statesboro in hopes of salvaging the road trip and keeping the record, now 21-9, from getting completely out of hand.

Dave Fernald is to toe the mound this afternoon, but Stallings said he was unsure about Monday's starting

pitcher after making a sudden change in using both Dave Price and Marty Rice here in Saturday's game.

The defeat was tagged on Rice, his first in nine decisions. He had been scheduled to start, but Stallings said he changed his mind, and used him instead out of the bullpen.

It worked fine until two were out in the 10th.

That's when JU shortstop speedster Tommy McMillan reached base for the first time all afternoon. After six pickoff attempts in an effort to hold him tight to first, McMillan stole his 23rd base of the season anyway and Rice came unnerved enough to walk the next man.

Then Rick Shannon, who had already doubled twice in the game, looped a single to short center — just out of the reach of the charging Rick Snyder —

and McMillan whipped home with the winning run.

It was a climax to a tense struggle played swiftly and professionally — a tribute to a pair of the Southland's better independents battling for a post-season spot in the NCAA tournament.

The Seminoles had come from behind twice to tie the game, the last time in the eighth on Denny Williams' double that scored John Li-Brandi, who had walked as a pinchhitter and moved to second on a wild pitch.

JU had scored first, pushing over a run in the third when Shannon opened with his first double and scored on center-fielder Stu Pikula's single two

outs later.

Florida State, which had gotten only one hit off starting and winning JU pitcher Larry Bryant (now 7-0), went ahead 2-1 in the fifth and missed a big chance to break the game open.

Randy Gailey led the inning off with a home run. A walk to Dan Roatche and back-to-back singles by Tom Rosa and Roger Smith produced two more runs before an unusual double play took the steam out of the rally.

With Rosa on third and Smith on first, Price missed a squeeze bunt, resulting in Rosa being caught in a run down and tagged out while Smith

streaked toward third, but he arrived a split second later than the throw.

JU, now 25-2 on the season, came right back in its half of the fifth to retake the lead with two unearned runs.

Shannon again started it with a double, moved to third on a passed ball and scored the deadlocking run on a throwing error by first baseman Herb Sikes who was going to second in hopes of starting an inning-ending double play. The temporary go ahead run for JU came two batters later, after Rice relieved Price — on a single by Billy Weber.

It only set the stage for Williams' eighth-inning double that left it deadlocked at 3-3 and turned up the pressure.

Both teams missed scoring chances in their next two times up, mainly because of fine fielding plays.

FSU, with one out in the ninth, got back-to-back singles from Sikes and Gailey before Guy Ezzell made a running catch in foul territory to retire the side.

Williams made the same kind of a catch, only going a way, in the bottom of the ninth after a single and walk put runners at first and second for JU with one out.

Then McMillian made an over-the-shoulder running catch on Jeff Bankston's

loopster to left after Rice singled in the 10th.

And, Snyder almost came up with Shannon's sinking liner in center that won the game.

Stallings was the first to acknowledge that Snyder "made one heck of an effort . . . that's the kind of effort we're looking for."

Jacksonville			Florida State		
	ab	r h		ab	r h
McMillian ss	6	1 1	Williams 3b	5	0 1
Torelli 2b	4	0 0	Bankston lf	5	0 0
Shannon 3b	6	2 3	Snyder cf	4	0 0
Ezzell 1b	4	1 1	Sikes 3b	4	0 1
Katz rf	4	0 2	Colzie pr	0	0 0
Nally lf	3	0 0	Doria 1b	0	0 0
Pikula	4	0 2	Gailey rf	4	1 2
McLanahan			Nichols rf	0	0 0
ph	1	0 0	Roatche c	3	1 0
Daniels cf	0	0 0	Rosa 2b	4	0 2
Weber c	4	0 2	Smith ph	2	0 1
Bryant p	3	0 0	LiBrandt ph	0	1 0
			Price p	2	0 0
			Rice p	2	0 1
TOTALS	40	4 11	TOTALS	35	3 8
Florida State	000	020 010 0—3			
Jacksonville	001	020 000 1—4			
E — Sikes, Smith, Nally, Pikula. LOB FSU 5, JU 15.					
2B — Williams, Shannon 2. HR — Gailey, S — Bryant 2.					
	IP	H	R	ER	BB SO
Price	5 1-3	5	3	1	5 2
Rice (L 8-1)	5 2-3	6	1	1	2 5
Bryant (W, 7-0)	10 3	2	8	2	5
WP — Bryant, PB — Roatche, T — 2:15.					