Seminoles Waste Hits, Then Lose 10th Gameby 7-6

Special to The Democrat

STATESBORO, Ga. — Florida State wasted a bundle of hits in the early innings, then lost a baseball game, 7-6, here Monday afternoon when Georgia Southern made the most of a "Texas Leaguer."

Seminole centerfielder Rick Snyder missed on an attempted shoe string catch while Southern's Lenny Kirkland scored from first with the winning run in the eighth inning.

The defeat left the Seminoles with a 22-10 record, that included four losses on this five-game road trip. FSU swings back into action Thursday night against Florida A&M at Seminole Field.

The latest defeat was charged to Bill Fuller (4-3). fourth Seminole pitcher to see a ction in what was for the most part a slugging match.

The Seminoles pounded 12 hits to score only five runs while leaving seven baseruners stranded in the first four inning. After that they got only two more hits, none off winning pitcher Norman Sapp (5-0) over the last three innings.

Georgia Southern also carried the big stick in the early innings, scoring five runs on eight of its 13 hits in the first two innings against Ed Frank and Bill Oppenheim.

FSU, itself, couldn't have started much better. Denny Williams opened the game with a triple then immediately scored on Snyder's single. But two more singles — by John LiBrandi and Herb Sikes — went for nothing after Snyder was picked off second and Randy Gailey hit into a double play.

Georgia Southern came right back to score three in its turn, getting a single from Jorge Perez, who was later to be the hero with the "Texas Leaguer," a one-run double from Rolando DeArmas and two-run double from Jimmy Wilkes.

Southern added two more in the second on Kirkland's double and DeArmas' sacrifice fly.

FSU pecked away at the four-run deficit by scoring two in the second and two more in the fourth to tie it 5-5.

In the comeback. Snyder and LiBrandi singled in the third —

one run scoring on an error and another on Gailey's sacrifice fly. In the fourth, Williams and Snyder ledoff with back-to-back doubles for one run, and, after LiBrandi singled. Sikes got the deadlocking run home on a sacrifice fly.

FSU took a brief lead in the sixth when LiBrandi opened with a triple and scored on Sikes' second sacrifice fly of the afternoon.

The lead was short lived. Southern tallied with Kirkland leading off with a single and scoring on Perez' triple.

That set the stage for Kirkland to work Fuller for a walk with one out in the eighth and scored when Perez sinking liner alluded the onrushing Snyder.

The victory pushed Southern to 20-9 for the season and gave it a split of the two-game series with FSU.

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