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Tribe Fumbles To 12-4 Victory Over Rattlers

Democrat Sports Writer

If a hangover comes from making errors in a baseb a 11 game, then the Florida State and Florida A&M players could have had trouble figuring out which side of their head hurt the most this morning.

In a three hour and 12 minutes episode in which 13 errors were committed, Florida State exploded for five runs in the ninth inning to secure a 12-4 victory over A&M's Rattlers yesterday afternoon on the A&M field.

Thirty-one players saw action as the Seminoles pushed their record to 32-13 with their six straight wins. The Rattlers dropped to an even 11-11 record for the season. The two teams were to go at it again today at 2 p.m. at A&M.

Dave Fernald picked up the pieces from a shaky first inning, and before being relieved in the eighth. the 6-3 righthander retired 12 of 13 batters in a four-inning span. The victory was his seventh in 10 decisions.

Florida State, mistake-prone as it's been most of the season, sprinkled five errors over a like number of innings, and Coach Jack Stallings could only shake his head in disbelief.

"We weren't alert and we weren't concentrating in the first part of the ball game," he said afterwards. "We hustled fairly well, but we went for bad pitches and there were too many mistakes on defense."

A&M made its share of the mistakes too, and compounded its trouble by bunching them. Florida State's first seven runs were unearned as A&M sandwiched eight errors between the second and eighth innings. It all began in the third with the Seminoles down 1-0. Denny Williams and Herb Sikes reached first on infield errors. John LiBrandi walked and all three scored for the Seminoles first runs.

Two more runs were added in the fifth after two errors. Another two scores came in the eighth, accompanied by a couple more errors.

In between A&M managed two runs in the sixth and another in the seventh, narrowing the score at one time to 5-4. But there never really was a threat.

A h e a d 74 going into the ninth inning, the Seminoles broke loose with two triples, one a two-run job by relief pitcher M i k e Scarce. Dan Roatche, who added the other triple, Ken Doria, Dave Nichols, Williams and LiBrandi all scored as Florida State battered the Rattlers' third and fourth pitchers of the day.

A&M ended with six hits, two coming by David Robinson. The centerfielder also drove in two runs. Starter Tom Holt (4-3) took the loss.

Dave Price (4-1) was to toe the Rubber for the Seminoles in today's match-up before District III foe Jacksonville comes to town. Florida State m e e t s the Dolphins in 7:30 p.m. single games 'Thursday and Friday.

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