

JU's Seminole Field Hex Snapped by 3-1 Victory

By BOB BLANKENSHIP
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If a frog had wings . . . well, you know the story.

If the bat hadn't broken . . . if he hadn't misjudged a fly ball . . . if the hit had fell in . . . if . . .

Those were just a few things the Florida State Seminoles and Coach Jack Stallings could mull over today while waiting for the concluding game of a two-game series with Jacksonville University.

The Dolphins had more pleasant things to think about, mainly last night's 3-1 victory fashioned behind the brilliant pitching of Larry Bryant.

FSU has one last chance tonight at 7:30 to salvage something from the young upstarts from Jacksonville who have blossomed into perhaps the best of the southern independents, jumping to the head of the class in the chase for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

Bill Fuller, a lefty with a 7-3 record, has been assigned the task of cooling the Dolphins, who have taken the first three of the four-game season series from the Seminoles while compiling a 33-6 record that also includes their first victory ever at Seminole Field.

"We've got to win this one!" Coach Stallings said after the Seminoles' record slipped a little to 33-14. "We've got to bounce back."

There wasn't much bounce last night, and most of the Seminoles' lack of success could be traced to the right-handed Bryant, who pumped his record to 10-1 with a four-hit, seven-strikeout performance that didn't come anywhere near telling the story of how he dominated the Seminoles.

He retired 17 batters in a row over one stretch and didn't allow a hit over the last six innings. For the evening he permitting only seven Seminoles to reach base.

"That's the way he's pitched all year," JU Coach Barry Myers said. "I just can't say enough about him. He hasn't had a bad game yet and he's like a bulldog out there. If you don't get to him early you're not going to get to him at all."

The Seminoles did get to him early, but not nearly enough as it turned out. He was touched for the lone run in the second inning when Dave Nichols singled and scored on Dan Roatch's triple.

He gave up a leadoff single to Denny Williams in the third

and from then on he was untouchable.

He didn't allow another baserunner until Williams, who had

opened the game with his first of two singles, walked with two out in the eighth.

He walked John LiBrandi

leading off the ninth as the Seminoles mounted their most serious threat since the second inning. But Bryant survived the tense finish even though Randy Gailey backed the centerfielder against the fence with a drive off a broken bat that surely would have escaped the joint with a good piece of timber.

Meanwhile, Bryant's strong finish was matched by an equally strong start by Seminole ace Marty Rice, who wound up suffering his third defeat in 14 decisions.

Rice retired 12 of the first 13 men he faced and hadn't given up a hit until Mike Nally singled with two out in the fourth.

But disaster struck an inning later.

Rick Katz opened with a double, and one out later Li-Brandi got a late start on a fly ball that sailed over his head for a run-producing triple by catcher Billy Weber. The eventual winning run followed

immediately on Jim Garland's single.

JU added an unearned insurance run in the eighth when Tom McMillen opened with a single and scored from first when Rick Snyder mishandled Nally's double in right.

"You can say 'IF' this and 'if' that," Stallings said. "But you've got to give a lot of credit to their pitcher. He did an outstanding job and we didn't swing the bat very well ... that's a deadly combination."

JACKSONVILLE		FLA STATE	
	ab r h		ab r h
McMillen ss	3 1 1	Williams 3b	3 0 2
Shannon 3b	4 0 0	Rosa ss	4 0 0
Nally lf	4 0 2	LiBrandi cf	4 0 0
Ezzell 1b	4 0 0	Sikes 1b	4 0 0
Katz rf	3 1 1	Bankston pr	0 0 0
Pikula cf	4 0 0	Gailey lf	4 0 0
Weber c	3 1 1	Nichols 2b	4 1 1
Garland 2b	4 0 2	Roatche c	3 0 1
Bryant p	2 0 0	Snyder rf	3 0 0
		Rice p	2 0 0
		Guemple p	0 0 0
		Sherrill ph	1 0 0
		Scarce p	0 0 0
Totals	31 3 7	Totals	32 1 4
Jacksonville		000 020 010—3	
Florida State		010 000 000—1	
E — Snyder. DP — FSU 1. LOB —			
JU 5. FSU 5. 2b — Katz. Nally. 3b —			
Weber. Roatche. RBI — Weber 1. Gar-			
land 1. Roatche 1. SB — Snyder. S —			
Bryant.			
	IP	H	R ER BB SO
Bryant (W, 10-1)	9	4	1 1 2 7
Rice (L, 11-3)	7	6	3 2 2 6
Guemple	1	1	0 0 0 1
Scarce	1	0	0 0 0 1
WP — Rice. U — Wood. Hopkins. T —			
2:10. Att. — 1,000.			