

## FSU Uses Its Formula, Nips Valdosta State 3-2

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The Florida State baseball team seems bound and determined to prove the point "that it matters not how you finish if you start strong enough".

The Seminoles reached the zenith of that theory last night in outlasting Valdosta State 3-2 at Seminole Field.

"We'll take it," Coach Jack Stallings noted afterwards. "It was a win, wasn't it."

It was, and it came in what has become rather routine fashion for the Seminoles this

season. However, last night's performance was a pure classic.

Tim Sherrill hit a towering three-run homer in the first inning to start and close out the Seminole scoring, while Marty Rice pitched a perfect no-hit game for six innings.

And, about the time it was determined for sure that the Seminole bats had gone dead, Valdosta's suddenly came alive.

Among other things Rice wasn't around at the finish to

pick up his 12th victory in 15 decisions, saved by Randy Guemple's ninth inning work.

It left the Seminoles with a precious victory, pushing their record to 37-15 with the key three-game series with Miami starting today.

Coach Stallings nominated Bill Fuller to pitch this afternoon's game and Dave Fernald to work tonight's second game, which starts at 7:30.

Rice was never better in retiring the first 18 batters he faced last night before tiring

and finally being chased in the ninth after giving up his sixth hit of the night.

In the first six innings, however, he had sit the Rebels down with considerable ease, having only one ball really hit hard and it was chased down in centerfield by John LiBrandi.

However, Frank Sumner, leading off the seventh sent a shot back up the middle that scooted under shortstop Roger Smith's glove to spoil it all.

A second single by Bobby Tripp followed immediately, then an out later Rice lost the shutout when Sumner scored on Craig Courtney's groundout.

It got tighter in the eighth when three singles loaded the bases to set the stage for Steve Rominger to score when Sumner hit into a force play.

And, suddenly what had started out as a masterpiece turned into a routine six-hitter for Rice, who gave way after Gene Felts singled leading off the ninth.

Guemple came on to sit the side down in order by inticing the Rebels to hit two popups and fly out to left field to make sure Sherrill's homer had been enough.

His sixth roundtripper of the season scored LiBrandi, who had hit into a force out following Denny Williams' game-opening single, and Herb Sikes, who had walked.

Sherrill's blast landed high up in the pine trees in right, some 375 feet from home.

It was almost the entire offensive show by the Seminoles, who could get only two more hits — both by Tom Rosa — off lefty LeRoy Purdy, whose record dipped to 5-3.

Purdy pitched almost as effectively as Rice had in the first six innings. He retired 10 straight Seminoles over one stretch and allowed only two base runners from the second through the eighth.

The Seminoles did threaten seriously in the ninth when Dave Nichols, running for Rosa, who had singled, was thrown out at the plate as the Tribe left two stranded following the fielders' choice and a walk.

The defeat left Valdosta with a 23-12 record and a split with the Seminoles, who lost a 14-2 decision earlier.

Miami was to go into this afternoon's game with a 28-16 record, and, like the Seminoles, a flickering hope of landing a spot in the NCAA post-season tournament.

Valdosta	ab	r	h	Florida State	ab	r	h
Sumner rf	4	1	1	Williams 3b	4	0	1
Tripp 2b	4	0	1	Rosa 2b	4	0	2
Felts cf	4	0	1	Nichols pr-2b	0	0	0
Courtney 1b	4	0	0	LiBrandi cf	2	1	0
Cowart lf	4	0	0	Carroll cf	2	0	0
Rominger c	4	1	1	Sikes 1b	2	1	0
White 3b	3	0	0	Bankston pr-lf	0	0	0
Fields ss	3	0	1	Sherrill lf	4	1	1
Purdy p	3	0	1	Doria 1b	0	0	0
				Roatche c	3	0	0
				Snyder rf	3	0	0
				Smith ss	2	0	0
				Rice p	3	0	0
				Guemple p	0	0	0
Totals	33	2	6	Totals	29	3	4

Valdosta 000 000 110—2  
 Florida State 300 000 00x—3  
 E—Tripp, Rominger, Fields. LOB—  
 Valdosta 4, FSU 5. RBI—Sumner, Court-  
 ney, Sherrill 3. HR—Sherrill (6). SB—  
 Nichols, Carroll, Smith.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Purdy (L, 5-3)	8	4	3	3	3	4
Rice (W, 12-3)	8	6	2	2	0	4
Guemple	1	0	0	0	0	0

PB—Rominger. U—Wood, Hopkins. T—  
 2:01. A—300.