Ole Miss 'Strolls' Past FSU 8-3

By BOB BLANKENSHIP

GASTONIA, N.C. — Ole Miss took a stroll around Sims Legion Park here yesterday and the Florida State Seminoles took a 497-mile bus ride after they woke up from their afternoon nap.

Their hope for a comeback in the District III college baseball tournament shattered by righthander Barry Gaddis and Ole Miss by 8-3, the Seminoles packed away their bats and became the third team eliminated from the original field of

tournament.

"Everything we did today," mused Coach Jack Stallings, was a day late and a dollar short."

That could be interpreted best as a failure by the Semi-nole pitching staff to get the ball over the plate, and the inability to hit with runners in

scoring position.

Ole Miss took advantage of both shortcomings, mixing nine hits, two errors and four mental lapses with 11 free passes down the 90-foot first base line for their eight runs, six in this double-elimination while the Seminoles left 11

runners stranded and wasted most of their 11 hits.

IN SHORT, it sent the Seminoles home with a season records of 45-23 and a bitter taste in their collective mouth.

Ole Miss went on to gain the finals against South Alabama by eliminating Virginia 9-0 in Saturday's final game behind a brilliant pitching performance by 18-year-old freshman Mike Parks.

Parks, who had been used exclusively as a relief pitcher this season, was pressed into

service and responded with a route-going 6-hitter against the Cavaliers, who earlier in the day had lost to South Alabama, 6-1

Virginia, which scored 27 runs in its first two games here, could manage only one in the doubleheader loss Satur-

South Alabama will take a 3-0 record into today's 2 o'-clock championship game against the Rebels, who must win twice to get the trip to

The Seminoles, who came here bidding for a sixth trip to

the College World Series, ran out of effective pitching quicker than most everyone

expected.
Dave Fernald, the starter and loser who wound up with a 9-6 record, was rocky from the start in giving up seven walks, four hits and four runs in the first three innings.

Ed Frank, Randy Guemple and Mike Scarce followed Fernald to the mound in that order and with graduated success --each one hurt more by mental lapses than by their arms.
But by the time Scarce

hurled the final two shutout

innings, the damage had been done, and the Seminoles, leaving seven stranded in the last four innings, could not make up the difference.

* *

"GIVE THEIR pitcher credit," said Stallings. "He did a good job . . . We have him on the ropes a couple of times, but we couldn't do anything about it."

Gaddis, who was in the hospital with a kidney stone ail-ment when the Revels left Oxford, Miss., and missed his

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regular turn in rotation here Friday, showed no real effects in running his record to 7-2. "It didn't bother him at all,"

"It didn't bother him at all," said Coach Jake Gibbs. "As a matter of fact, this many have been his best game of the season."

He shut the Seminoles out on four hits through the first five innings while the Reds took advantage of every FSU shortcoming for a 5-0 lead.

And just as soon as the Seminoles got back into the game with two runs in the sixth, everything completely fell apart with Ole Miss suddenly going ahead 8-2 and the Seminoles only flighting with catching up.

only flirting with catching up.
But the handwiriting was on
the scoreboard in the first inning, when Ole Miss used three
singles and two walks to score
one run. However, Fernald
was saved from further initial
embarrassment when Rich
Snyder caught the Rebs' Kevin
McMahon napping off second
and threw him out following a
single to right.

Soyder, who was to rap three hits and score two of the Seminoles' runs, starred again in the field when he threw a runner out at the plate in the third after the Rebs scored their second run on two walks, an

error and a single.

But, the Rebs, shaking off a second runner thrown out at the plate, scored three times in the fourth and that proved enough.

IN THE REBS' big fourth, Fernald had walked the first two batters before being relieved by Frank, who promptly lo a d e d the bases when he threw late to third on an attempted force on a hopper back to the mound. Then Frank walked one run home and Paul Husband followed with a two-run double.

FSU got its two in the sixth when Jeff Bankston's bases loaded single scored Snyder, who had singled, and John LiBrandi, who had walked.

The Rebs suddenly in their only danger of the afternoon, struck back in the bottom of the sixth for three more runs on four hits off Guemple just to make sure.

Guemple, however, had deserved a better fate. The Seminoles missed a big force play and a double play when Tom Rosa, on back to back plays, failed to cover second.

But, it didn't make much difference when the only other run the Seminoles could muster off Gaddis came in the eigth when Bankston's sacrifice fly plated Snyder, who had singled just ahead of base knocks by LiBrandi and Sherrill to load the bases with one out.

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