

Seminoles rally twice and win 8-3

Special to the Democrat

VALDOSTA — There's always a first time for Florida State's baseball team and Valdosta State was the culprit Sunday.

The Trailblazers didn't win, but they were the first team to lead the Seminoles all season before falling 8-3.

And FSU was forced to come back not once, but twice, before running its record to 9-0 on the season with five victories in the last four days.

"It's a good win for us," FSU head coach Woody Woodward said. "It shows we can come from behind...in fact, it shows we can do it a couple of times."

Valdosta's Darrell Branam got Valdosta off to a quick start with a two-run homer in the first inning off Seminole starter Dan Owen. FSU's Windle Higginbotham got one run back in the second with a double that scored Guillermo Bonilla who had reached on a single to center.

Steve Tebbett's double and a single by Terry Kennedy tied the score in the third before Valdosta's Jeff Greenhalgh blasted a homer from here to Thomasville to send the Blazers back on top.

But Owen settled down after the

third, pitching to just 13 men in the next four innings. And while Larry Rothschild was preserving the victory for Owen, the Seminole bats came to life in the late innings.

Two walks, two wild pitches and a Wayne Mears single to left produced the second tying run for FSU in the fifth. Another Mears single, a sacrifice by Windle Higginbotham and a Carlos Lezcano single sent FSU ahead to stay in the eighth 4-3.

For good measure, FSU added four more in the ninth before thinking about Mercer this Wednesday night at 8 on the Seminole diamond.

Kennedy led off the final frame with a single and was removed for pinch runner Bob Kellogg. It really didn't matter as Bill Daniel followed with a homer to rightfield. Mears then doubled, went to third on a fielder's choice and was wild pitched home. One pitch later, Lezcano drilled a home run to left.

FSU'S 16 hits was the biggest offensive output of the season. "We came through the weekend well with our pitching," Woodward offered. "And our bats are obviously well. We're real pleased with things thus far."

FSU 8 Valdosta 3

| fsu | ab | r | h | Valdosta | b | r | h |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Davdsn,2b | 6 | 0 | 1 | Darden,lf | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Busby,cf | 5 | 0 | 1 | Viers,cf | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| Tebbetts,rf | 4 | 1 | 2 | Branam,c | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Kennedy,hp | 3 | 0 | 2 | Greenhalph,1b | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Kellogg,pr | 0 | 1 | 0 | Foran,rf | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Daniel,1b | 4 | 2 | 1 | Sumner,3b | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Conilla,3b | 5 | 1 | 2 | Balboni,hp | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Mears,c | 5 | 2 | 3 | Petty,ph | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Higginbotham,ss | 4 | 0 | 1 | Taylor,ss | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| Lezcano,lf | 4 | 1 | 3 | Musashie,2b | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Owen,p | 0 | 0 | 0 | McDiffitt,p | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nichols,p | 0 | 0 | 0 | Parsons,p | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nicholas,p | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| R'schild | 0 | 0 | 0 | TOTALS | 30 | 3 | 6 |
| TOTALS | 40 | 8 | 16 | | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| FSU | 011 | 010 | 014—8 |
| Valdosta | 201 | 000 | 000—3 |

E—Mears DP—Valdosta—1. LOB—FSU—11; Valdosta 8. 2B—Tebbetts, Higginbotham. RBI—Branan 2, Greenhalph, Higginbotham Kennedy, Mears, Lezcano 2, Daniel2. HR—Branan(1) Greenhalph(1), Lezcano (2), Daniel 2. HR—Branan(1) Greenhalph 1) Daniel (1), Lezcano (2). SB—Tebbetts, Busby, S—Higginbotham, Mears.

| | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|------------|-------|---|---|----|----|----|
| Owen W (1) | 7 1-3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Nichols | 0 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Rothschild | 1 2-3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Parsons | 1-3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

HBP—bv Owen 2 (Foran 2); bv Rothschild (Sumner) WP—McDiffitt 3, Rothschild Int.—Means. Save—Rothschild. U—Stokes, Arnaro, Castro. T—2:21. A—400.