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**Jones strong in short stint; FSU splits with Mercer**

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Democrat Sports Writer

Florida State found a ray of sunshine toward the end of a rather drab afternoon Saturday at Seminole Field.

The Seminoles were on their way to a split of a doubleheader with Mercer University when ace righthander Larry Jones walked to the mound for the first time in 23 days and immediately showed signs of a full recovery from a knee injury.

After dropping the first game 14-12 in 10 innings, the third-ranked Tribe retaliated behind Dan Owen and the surprise visit by Jones to take the nightcap 8-2.

Florida State, now 25-7 on the season and trying to shake off a mild midseason slump, will play a doubleheader this afternoon against South Florida at Seminole Field. Game time is 1:30.

Jones, a junior from Seminole, suffered a freak knee injury while pitching against Howard University three weeks ago. Placed immediately into a cast, doctors expected the 6-2 hurler, who won 15 games in 1975, would require up to six weeks of recuperation.

He looked in top form, however, as he allowed only one hit and struck out four Mercer batters in working the last two innings.

But the second-game victory was only a small consolation for the Seminoles, who dropped their fifth game in eight outings in the wild first-game fiasco.

Interrupted at one point by a bench-emptying brawl, the game saw the two clubs bang out 29 hits and head into extra innings knotted at 12-12.

The winning blow came in the top of the 10th inning when Mercer shortstop

Joe Pettini blasted a two-run ground-rule double to right-center. That hit came off FSU reliever Brooks Carey who saw his record dip to 3-2 on the year.

The brawl started in the sixth inning when FSU's John Nicholas came on to relieve Jim Miller. While Nicholas was warming up, he sailed a pitch just over Mercer's Tim Clifton's head as he was waiting near home plate.

Clifton threw his bat at Nicholas, rolling it just to the left of the mound and FSU catcher Joe Griffin grabbed him from behind. At that point the benches emptied and several small scuffles broke out between the mound and home plate.

No one was hurt in the incident and Florida State security had things back

in order in a couple of minutes.

The loss also overshadowed a four-home run performance by the Seminoles, two by designated hitter Joe Hicks, who also drove in six runs in the game.

The Tribe also got homers from

Griffin, his first of the year, and Mark Coulter, who added another homer in the second game.

It was Coulter's homer, a three-run blast in the second game, that got the Seminoles winging toward the nightcap victory.

Owen limited the visitors to just three hits in his five innings and also got

some offensive help from a 400-foot solo homer by Jeff Hardy. It was Hardy's ninth of the season and the Seminoles' sixth of the day.

Mercer leaves Tallahassee with a 19-15 record with still two more games with Florida State scheduled for April 30 in Macon.

# Mercer 14 FSU 12

## First Game

Mercer	ab	r	h	Fla. State	ab	r	h
Burke,3b	4	2	1	Bifano,2b	6	1	2
Pettini,ss	6	0	2	Huff,rf	4	1	0
Elgin,c	3	2	2	Bonilla,3b	6	2	1
Patrsn,cf	4	3	2	Kennedy,dh	3	3	2
Engel,dh	6	1	2	Hardy,ss	4	0	0
Ashby,lf	4	2	2	Coulter,1b	1	1	1
Turner,rf	6	2	2	Hicks,1b	3	2	2
Clifton,2b	2	1	1	Lezcano,cf	6	0	1
Discher,ph	0	0	0	McArdle,lf	4	1	1
Sterritt,ph	1	0	0	Griffin,c	5	1	3
Hollan,2b	4	0	1	McLeod,p	0	0	0
Roland,2b	2	1	1	Miller,p	0	0	0
McCabe,p	0	0	0	Nicholas,p	0	0	0
Rollins,p	0	0	0	Carey,p	0	0	0
TOTAL	42	14	16	TOTAL	42	12	13

Mercer 112 212 300 2-14  
Fla. State 031 502 100 0-12

E—Pettini, Hardy, McArdle, Miller.  
DP—Mercer 1. LOB—Mercer 14, FSU 10. RBI—Pettini 2, Elgin, Patterson, Engel 4, Ashby, Turner, Clifton, Bonilla, Coulter 2, Hicks 6, Griffin 2. 2B—Pettini, Turner, Kennedy. 3B—Turner. HR—Engel (3), Coulter (4), Hicks 2 (4), Griffin (1). S—Hardy. SF—Elgin, Patterson, Clifton. SB—Bifano.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
McCabe	3	7	7	6	4	5
Rollins,w(5-4)	7	6	5	5	5	3
McLeod	4	7	6	4	3	1
Miller	1½	2	3	3	3	1
Nicholas	¾	2	3	3	3	0
Carey,l(3-2)	4	5	2	2	2	3

HBP—by McLeod (Burke). PB—Griffin. U—Jackson, Davis. T—3:17.

# FSU 8 Mercer 2

## Second Game

Mercer	ab	r	h	Fla. State	ab	r	h
Burke,3b	3	0	0	Bifano,2b	3	0	1
Pettini,ss	3	0	0	G.Jones,2b	1	1	1
Elgin,c	3	0	1	McArdle,lf	4	0	0
Patrsn,cf	3	0	1	Bonilla,3b	3	1	2
Engel,dh	3	0	0	Kennedy,rf	3	2	2
Ashby,lf	1	1	0	Huff,pr	0	0	0
Turner,rf	1	0	0	Hardy,ss	4	2	2
Maddox,rf	2	0	0	Givens,ss	0	0	0
Sterritt,3b	3	1	1	Coulter,dh	3	1	1
Hallam,1b	3	0	1	Hicks,1b	3	1	2
Brannen,p	0	0	0	Lezcano,cf	3	0	0
Davis,p	0	0	0	McGlone,c	2	0	0
Green,p	0	0	0	Owen,p	0	0	0
TOTAL	25	2	4	L.Jones,p	0	0	0
				TOTAL	29	8	11

Mercer 000 020 0-2  
Fla. State 042 011 x-8

E—Pettini. LOB—Mercer 4, FSU 6. RBI—Sterritt, Hallam, Bifano, Bonilla, Coulter 3, Hicks. 2B—Patterson, Sterritt, Kennedy. HR—Hardy (9), Coulter (5). SB—Bifano.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Brannen,l(2-2)	2	5	5	5	1	0
Davis	3½	6	3	2	2	2
Green	¾	0	0	0	0	0
Owen,w(5-1)	5	3	2	2	1	4
L.Jones	2	1	0	0	1	4

HBP—by Green (Kennedy). WP—Brannen, Davis, Jones. U—Davis, Jackson. T—1:48. ATT—1,568.