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FSU crushes Gators 11-3 for a sweep

By WAYNE HOGAN Democrat Sports Writer

GAINESVILLE—Florida State's baseball team, beginning its stretch drive toward a second straight NCAA playoff spot, destroyed the University of Florida 11-3 here Wednesday afternoon giving it a sweep of the four game series.

The second-ranked Seminoles, now with the Gators behind them, return to Seminole field Saturday to begin their most important series to date, hosting South Alabama for single games Saturday and Sunday.

Florida State came out swinging against the Gators, exploding for six runs in the first inning and then relied on righthander Craig Eaton who allowed only four hits through eight innings.

Lefthander Mike McCarthy, who started the game for Florida, lasted only one-third of an inning before falling victim to the FSU onslaught. The Seminoles banged out six hits in the marathon first including a pair of doubles and a triple.

Three of the runs scored on a pair of costly UF errors, but Guillermo Bonilla drove home a pair of runs and Bruce Huff had a run-scoring single to spark the rally.

Before McCarthy could get the second out of the inning. Florida Coach Jay Bergman had already gone to his bullpen for reliever Dave Ricketts. Ricketts was able to work his way out the first-inning jam but eventually fell victim to much the same treatment as the Seminoles scored five runs off of him while pounding out 12 hits over the final eight innings.

Eaton's performance was masterful. The senior, who raised his record to 4-3 on the year, made only one mistake in his eight innings — that was on a fast ball that third baseman Lynn Givens hit over the rightfield fence for a two-run homer in the third inning.

Only two runners reached base after that blow until the ninth inning when Brooks Carey came on to finish the game.

Rick McGlone drove in Florida State's seventh run in the second inning and Chip Bifano's sacrifice fly in the third pushed across the eighth tally of the afternoon.

The Seminoles, who jumped their record to 35-9 with the victory, finally were able to lower the boom on Ricketts in the ninth when they drilled four straight singles to tack three more runs on the board.

Florida State now braces for South Alabama, which took two of three games from FSU last weekend in Mohile. The Seminoles need a sweep of this series in order to grab an edge over the Jaguars in the all-important season series.

A game that was previously scheduled between Tampa University and Florida State on Friday has been cancelled and will not be made up.

FSU 11 Florida 3

FSU abrh Florida abrh Bifano, 2b 4 2 2 Shulock, c 4 0 0 Griffin, c 1 0 0 Holt, ss 4 1 2 McArdle, H 5 1 0 Caldwell, 1b 2 0 0 Cooper, If 0 0 0 Revnolds, rf 2 0 0 Bonilla, 3b 5 2 3 F'gerald, rf 4 0 0 Kennedy, c 5 2 3 Belmonte, If 4 0 2 G. Jones, 2b 0 1 0 Cortese, 2b 4 0 0 Hicks, Ib 3 1 2 Joiner, dh 3 0 0 McGione, dh 5 0 2 T. Jones, cf 3 1 1 Hardy, ss 511 Givens, 3b 311 Lezcano, cf 4 1 1 McCarthy, p 0 0 0 Huff, rf 502 Ricketts, p 000 Eaton, p 000 Carev, p 000 42 11 16 TOTAL Total 33 3 6 FSU 611 000 030-11 Florida 002 000 001- 3 E-Caldwell 2, Givens. DP - UF 2. LOB - FSU 8, UF 1 RBI - Bonilla 2, Kennedv 2, Hicks, McGlone 2, Huff, Belmonte, Givens 2, 2B - Bonilla, Kennedy, Hardy, Lezcano, Holt, Belmonte. 3B - Kennedy. HR - Givens (2). SB - Bifano, Hardy, Belmonte 2. SF - Bilano. IP H R ER BB SO Eaton, W(4-3) 8 4 2 2 0 8 Carev 1 2 1 1 0 2 McCarthy, L(2-3) 13 4 6 4 1 0 Ricketts 8 12 12 5 4 2 3 WP-Ricketts. PB - Shulock. Balk - Ricketts. U - Batts, Davis. T -2:23. ATT - 1,000.