

Seminoles win wacky game 9-3

By ROBERT MASHBURN

Democrat sports writer

Florida State's Carlos Lezcano chased down the ball as it caromed off the centerfield wall, grabbed it to fire back into the infield . . . and somehow managed to let the ball slip out of his hand and over the centerfield fence — some 30 feet behind him.

The next inning he sent another ball over the wall. But this one was with his bat, and he later admitted he'd felt like he just had to do something about the bizarre throw.

Those were some of the strange happenings at Seminole Field Tuesday night. For the record, the Seminoles ripped Valdosta State 9-3 despite Lezcano's shenanigans, and between them the two clubs provided plenty of laughs for the 1,283 fans seeing the Seminoles play for the first time since an eight-day stay in Hawaii.

One Seminole wasn't laughing too much, though. Ace righthander Larry Jones was within one out of earning his seventh victory of the season (a starting pitcher must go five innings for a win) before falling apart and losing the victory in the fifth.

OBVIOUSLY unnerved by the play in centerfield, which came with two outs, Jones proceeded to give up a single and two straight walks before coach Woody Woodward yanked him.

Reliever Jackie Smith got credit for the win, despite the fact that he pitched one-third of an inning less than Jones.

Smith added to the comedy in the seventh inning, when he made just the second plate appearance by a Seminole pitcher all season. Spurred on by the catcalls from the FSU dugout and fans, he worked up a 3-2 count before going down swinging on a fastball.

Fittingly, the game ended on a rare interference call against the Blazers. With a runner on first and one out, Skip Fite hit a grounder to second, and after the force at second baserunner Mark Shuman barreled into shortstop Steve Turko to prevent a throw on to first.

Home plate umpire Phil Shaw ruled interference, and after a half-hearted argument the Blazers had a good laugh with the Seminoles and headed home.

The game was never in doubt after the third inning, when the Seminoles erupted for five runs on six hits to take a 7-0 lead. Terry Kennedy and Mark Coulter both had RBI doubles in the inning.

The victory left the Seminoles with a 23-7 record, with a big weekend series coming up. FSU travels to St. Leo for a doubleheader Friday before moving on to Gainesville for a rematch with the fourth-ranked Gators.

Florida beat the Seminoles twice earlier this season at FSU.

VALDOSTA ST. FLORIDA STATE

	ab r h bi		ab r h bi
Fite,2b	4 0 0 0	Bifano,rf	3 1 1 1
Viers,rf	3 1 1 1	Schmch,k,rf	0 0 0 0
Fowler,rf	1 0 0 0	Lezcano,cf	5 1 1 1
DeM'an,dh	4 1 2 0	Bonilla,2b	5 2 1 0
Whitehead,c3	0 1 0	G.Jones,2b	0 0 0 0
Fortnbry,lf	2 0 0 0	Kendy,dh-c	3 2 1 1
Amadeo,cf	1 0 0 0	Coulter,1b	3 1 3 3
Purley,cf	2 0 0 0	Curry,1b	2 0 0 0
Leach,1b	4 0 0 0	Mobley,3b	4 0 0 0
Griffin,3b	3 1 1 0	Hicks,3b	1 0 0 0
Shuman,ss	3 0 0 0	Benda,ss	4 1 1 1
Ranne,p	0 0 0 0	Turko,ss	0 0 0 0
McDiffitt,p	0 0 0 0	Huff,lf	2 1 1 1
Tyler,p	0 0 0 0	Cooper,lf	1 0 0 0
		McGlore,c	2 0 0 0
		Smith,p	1 0 0 0
		L.Pones,p	0 0 0 0

TOTALS 30 3 5 1 TOTALS 36 9 9 8

Valdosta State 000 120 000-3

Florida State 205 020 00x-9

E - Shuman 2, Purley, Tyler, Leach, L. Jones, McGlore, Lezcano. LOB - Valdosta St. 9, FSU 7. 2B - Viers, Whitehead, Kennedy, Coulter 2, Benda. HR - Lezcano (6). SB - Huff, Bifano.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ranne(L,0-1)	2	4	5	3	3	0
McDiffitt	1/3	3	2	2	1	0
Tyler	5 2/3	2	2	2	2	4
L.Jones	4 2/3	4	3	2	6	4
Smith(W,2-1)	4 1/3	1	0	0	0	3

WP - Ranne, McDiffitt 2, L. Jones. HBP - By Shith (Griffen). Int. - Shuman. T - 2:47. A - 1,283.