

Sweeps doubleheader 6-4, 9-1

FSU strolls past Mercer

By BOB BLANKENSHIP

Executive sports editor

Florida State's baseball team picked up two victories and some pitching encouragement Wednesday night and Coach Woody Woodward figures both are going to come in handy before this season is over.

Proving once again that they don't need any hitting encouragement, the Seminoles unloaded 18 base knocks in 12 turns at bat and swept Mercer of Macon 6-4 and 9-1 on a soggy Seminole Field in a pair of games that were delayed in starting for an hour and a half because of a sudden rain storm.

The double-dip success lifted the Seminoles' season record to 31-12 and their mark against Division I teams to 16-12. The latter is the more important of the two. That's the criteria the Metro Conference will use in seeding teams for its tournament that will probably qualify the winner for the post-season NCAA championships.

"That's our only hope for a tournament bid," Woodward offered after the sweep. "The (Metro) tournament is it and that's all."

The Metro Conference bash comes off next weekend in Memphis after FSU finishes its regular season against Georgia Southern in Saturday and Sunday games at Seminole Field.

Woodward wished out loud Wednesday for a strong finish against Southern and said he saw some en-

couraging things in the sweep over Mercer.

"If we play good again against Southern," he said, "then we're going to be all right for the tournament."

Woodward said the most pleasing thing he saw on Wednesday was the pitching of Mike Bretz, who improved his record to 6-3 with a three-hitter for six innings in the nightcap.

He worked himself out of two tight jams while surrendering only one unearned run before sitting down nine of the last 10 Mercer batters he faced.

"He quit trying to muscle the ball up there," explained Woodward in noting his late success. "He eased up and got his rhythm and was throwing as good there at the end as he has in some time now."

Woodward said he'd like to see more of the same from him and the rest of the staff down the stretch.

"We need him at his best for the tournament," Woodward noted. "We need all of our pitchers at their best."

The Seminole pitching staff has been a much-maligned group this season, particularly of late with the apparent missing out on an at-large independent bid to the NCAA South Region.

Larry Jones, who figured in pre-season plans to be the ace of the staff, has been on particularly hard times of late, but went the seven-inning distance against Mercer in the first game to hike his season record to 8-3. It was his first start since being relegated to the bullpen as a reliever.

He struggled some against the Bears, but was effective at times as the benefactor of an 11-hit Seminole attack, that was diminished somewhat by a shaky three-error defense.

The Seminole long bats, however, stole the spotlight. They were booming from the beginning of the afternoon when the home side opened with a two-homer, five-hit barrage in the first inning against Mercer.

It was never to grow any louder, even through the Seminoles had hit their 51st season home run by the time the doubleheader was over.

Joe Hicks got two of them. The first a 400-foot, two-run job over the centerfield wall in the first inning and a 415-foot solo job in the fourth for his eight and ninth of the season.

Mark Coulter unloaded his sixth of the season in the first. Terry Kennedy hit his 14th double of the season in the first game and added two singles in the nightcap. Carlos Lezcano went four-for-six in the twin bill and stole three bases.

The Seminoles put the victory away in the first game with three runs in the fourth inning, two of them scoring on a wild pitch that broke a 3-3 tie. The second game was put out of reach in the first inning when Seminoles scored twice—on a wild pitch and a single by Hicks. Coulter had a two-run double to highlight a five-run third inning in the nightcap.

FSU 6 Mercer 4

First game

Florida State	ab	r	h	bi	Mercer	ab	r	h	bi
Bifano 2b	4	1	2	0	Selph cf	4	0	2	0
Lezcano cf	4	1	2	0	Copeland 2b	4	1	2	1
Hicks 3b	3	2	2	3	Pettini ss	4	1	1	0
Kennedy rf	4	0	1	0	Engle dh	2	1	1	2
Coulter dh	2	1	2	1	Discher c	4	0	1	1
Curry 1b	4	0	1	0	Hallam 1b	4	0	0	0
Benda ss	3	0	1	0	Ashby rf	3	0	0	0
Huff lf	3	0	0	0	Burke 3b	1	1	1	0
McGlone c	1	1	0	0	Maddox lf	1	0	0	0
L. Jones p	0	0	0	0	Turner ph	1	0	0	0
					Green p	0	0	0	0
					Fitzsim' p	0	0	0	0
					Nix p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	24	6	11	4	TOTALS	28	4	8	4

Mercer 102 001 0-4
Florida St. 300 300 X-6

E—Discher, Maddox, Lezcano, Hicks, Huff. DP—Mercer. LOB—Mercer 9, FSU 8. 2b—Selph, Copeland, Lezcano, Kennedy. HR—Hicks 2 (9), Coulter (6). SB—Hallam, Lezcano. S—Turner.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Green (L, 7-4)	1	5	3	3	0	0
Fitzsimmons	4 1/3	6	3	3	4	2
Nix	2/3	0	0	0	0	0
L. Jones (W, 8-3)	7	8	4	4	3	7

WP—Fitzsimmons, Jones. T—2:12.

FSU 9 Mercer 1

Second game

Florida State	ab	r	h	bi	Mercer	ab	r	h	bi
Bifano 2b	4	1	0	0	Selph cf	3	0	0	0
Lezcano cf	2	3	2	0	Copeland 2b	4	0	0	0
Huff cf	0	0	0	0	Pettini ss	3	0	0	0
Hicks dh	2	1	1	1	Engle ph	2	1	0	0
G. Jones ph	1	0	0	0	Diser c	3	0	2	0
Kennedy c	3	2	2	1	Hallam 1b	2	0	1	0
Harris c	0	0	0	0	Ashby rf	3	0	0	0
Coulter 1b	0	0	0	0	Burke 3b	2	0	0	0
McGlone 1b	0	0	0	0	Strerritt 3b	1	0	0	0
Mobley 3b	3	0	0	0	Turner lf	2	0	0	0
Turko ss	0	0	0	0	McCabe p	0	0	0	0
Schimchak rf	3	0	0	0	Nix p	0	0	0	0
Bretz p	0	0	0	0					
Smith p	0	0	0	0					
TOTALS	26	9	7	5	TOTALS	25	1	3	0

Mercer 010 000 0-1
Florida State 205 200 0-9

E—Selph, Pettini, Discher, McCabe, Harris. LOB—Mercer 6, FSU 3. 2b—Coulter. SB—Lezcano 2, Bifano 1, Coulter, Benda.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
McCabe (L, 5-4)	2 1/3	5	7	7	4	3
Nix	2 2/3	2	2	1	0	0
Bretz (W, 6-3)	6	3	1	0	4	5
Smith	1	0	0	0	0	2

WP—McCabe, Bretz. 2PB—Kennedy. T—2:04. A—561.