

'Noles top Valdosta 10-7

By BOB COHN

Democrat sports writer

Florida State coach Woody Woodward had just seen his comeback kids pull out yet another one, a 10-7 victory over Valdosta State Monday night at Seminole Field, but his demeanor wasn't that of a happy person.

"Our pitching is disastrous," said Woodward, a man who chooses his words carefully and means what he says. "We've played 41 games, and there are two or three fellows doing a good job. The rest are just struggling along."

It was hardly a surprise that Woodward subsequently singled out pitchers Brooks Carey and Jim Riley as his only two reliable starters.

Between them, the two have a 14-3 record, 14 complete games in 18

starts and an earned run average somewhere around two.

But those two pitched over the weekend and Valdosta pounded starter Ray Fox and reliever Joe Nichols for four homers, the most ever hit by an FSU opponent.

HOWEVER, KEVIN Brooks, the senior righthander, solved the Blazers by pitching the Seminoles out of an eighth inning jam and holding the visitors in the ninth to win his third of the year without a loss.

Woodward indicated that Brooks, too, has given him one of the few reasons to be happy with his mound staff.

"Kevin did a good job out there," Woodward said. "As long as he keeps the ball down, he's going to be effective."

But at this point, no one else can be counted on, Woodward said:

"It (pitching) is still our biggest concern as we get ready for the (Metro 7) tournament. Someone has got to come to the front and say, 'Hey, I can do the job.' If not, we're going to struggle the rest of the way."

The Seminoles (34-7) struggled against Valdosta, but relied on their usual rally act to cop their 27th straight win at Seminole Field.

With FSU trailing 7-6 going into the bottom of the eighth, Seminole first baseman David Mobley led off with his 11th homer of the season to tie it up. Bruce Huff walked and stole second, and went to third on Blane McDonald's single.

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Designated hitter Don Milner then stroked a single between first and second to score Huff with the deciding run, and the Seminoles piled on two more in the frame to ice it.

BROOKS, WHO had come on in the top of the eighth, was the recipient of the splurge, and he deserved it. Woodward called on him after Nichols gave up two singles to put runners on first and second with just one out.

Brooks, keeping the ball down, got the next two hitters to ground out and held Valdosta's lead at 7-6.

Fox started for FSU and lasted four and two-thirds innings. The Blazers roughed him up pretty well, but rightfielder Craig Viers had a particularly enjoyable time, hitting back-to-back homers off Fox in the fourth and fifth innings. The second one reportedly landed somewhere in Monticello.

Nichols followed Fox to the mound but hardly fared better. He also allowed two homers, and gave up a total of seven hits in two and two-thirds innings.

The Seminoles' bats were characteristically alive, also. In addition to Mobley's blast, Bob Benda and Craig Patterson found the home run touch. The seven homers by both teams had never been done before at Seminole Field.

Patterson, incidentally, made the fielding play of the game. With two down and a runner on first in the ninth, he made a diving stop on a ground ball to end the game and keep the tying run from coming to bat.

Valdosta (26-16) which hurt itself with five errors, will see if it can pull together today as the Blazers again play the Seminoles. Rick Holloway (2-1) will start for FSU in the 3 p.m. game at Valdosta.

Florida St					Valdosta St				
AB	R	H	BI		AB	R	H	BI	
Gilbert cf	5	0	1	2	Maini cf	4	1	3	0
Benda ss	6	1	2	1	Gonzalez 2b	5	0	2	0
Pat'son 2b	4	1	2	1	Amadeo cf	5	1	1	1
Mobley 1b	4	2	3	1	Whitehead c	4	1	1	1
Traylor lf	4	0	0	0	Viers rf	5	3	3	3
B.Huff lf	0	1	0	0	Smith 1b	5	1	2	2
Milner dh	5	0	3	2	Griffin dh	5	0	0	0
Tice rf	3	1	0	0	Alvarez lf	4	0	2	0
DeLoach 3b	2	1	0	1	Shuman ss	4	0	1	0
Rigby ph	1	1	0	1					
Jones 3b	0	0	0	0					
Totals	38	10	12	9	Totals	41	7	15	7

Valdosta St 100 130 200 — 7

Florida St 000 231 04x — 10

E — Mitchell, Whitehead, Gonzalez, Maini (2). LOB — Val St 11, FSU 12. 2B — Patterson, Maini, Alvarez. HR — Patterson, Benda, Mobley, Smith, Amadeo, Viers (2). SB — Milner, Mobley, Rigby, Alvarez. SF — DeLoach. S — Tice.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Mitchell	5	7	6	3	3	4
Clarrington (L,1-1)	2	5	3	3	3	1
Kelley	1	0	1	0	1	0
Fox	4 $\frac{2}{3}$	8	5	5	2	2
Nichols	2 $\frac{2}{3}$	7	2	2	0	2
Brooks (W,3-0)	1 $\frac{2}{3}$	1	0	0	0	0

WP — Mitchell, Kelley. PB — Whitehead.
A — 540.