

Opening was grand for 'Noles

By BOB COHN
Democrat sports writer

Opening Day '79 at Seminole Field Wednesday provided these phenomena on a sparkling February afternoon:

Florida State Pitcher Rick Holloway, who in another life was the Pittsburgh Wild Man, walked only one batter in a 6-4 complete game win over Troy State.

Mike Fuentes, who appeared six times at the plate last season, hit two homers in the 6-4 win. One of them was last seen flying over his home town of Coral Gables.

Dick Wiggins, who at this time last year was pitching for Valencia Junior College, hurled five innings of two-hit ball for FSU in the Seminoles' 12-0 second-game sack of Troy.

And Dick Howser is now a better college coach than he was a major league manager. The new FSU mentor was 0-1 as manager-for-a-day with the Yankees in 1978.

"I'm glad it's over," the ex-Yank third base coach said after the double win. "I enjoy playing, but it's the same thing at the big league level: Everyone's tense the first few games. We've been practicing six weeks this spring and we were anxious to get going."

IN THE FIRST GAME, Troy State's Steve Romine hit Holloway's second pitch for a single. Then John Griffin hit Holloway's fourth pitch for a single. Then Buster Bergstrom hit Holloway's sixth pitch for a single.

Six pitches into a new season, Holloway had the bases loaded. Rather than start throwing the ball over the backstop, as he might have done last year, Holloway got Ronnie Wood and Stan McCauley on ground balls — two runs scoring — and Joe Allen on a line-drive.

The two runs held up for the upstart visitors until the third, when FSU woke up and got cranky at Troy starter Rick Harrison.

Held hitless the first two innings, the Seminoles used four hits and a sacrifice to create five runs.

Ronnie Traylor led off with a single, and freshman Jeff Ledbetter walked. Ken Schimchak laid down a neat bunt, moving the runners to second and third, and Don DeLoach scored both with a crashing double to left field.

A rattled Harrison wild-pitched DeLoach to third but got Craig Patterson to ground to short. That scored DeLoach and made the score 3-2, FSU, with two out. But Don "Meatloaf" Milner singled, and Fuentes lined his first homer to right-center-field for a 5-2 lead.

Troy retaliated in the fourth on Gary Bruckner's two-out, two-run single off Schimchak's glove. The rightfielder atoned, however, by

throwing out the Trojan at second base to kill the inning.

Holloway cruised through the final three innings, allowing just one hit. Fuentes, meanwhile, provided insurance in the sixth when he leaned into a 3-1 Andy Giannini pitch and sent it over the hedge in centerfield, about 430-feet from home.

"Did it go over the bushes?" Fuentes wanted to know. "I didn't watch it come down. I just made sure it went over the fence."

Fuentes, a lean sophomore, said it was a fastball he put into orbit.

"I was looking for it," he said. "I knew he was behind. When the pitcher gets behind, he's got to throw it in. I swung pretty hard at it."

This wasn't bad for a guy who didn't know if he would survive pregame batting practice.

"I was scared," he said. "I just didn't feel good at the plate."

So much for the value of batting practice.

HOLLOWAY, who was touched for nine hits and had to frequently pitch out of trouble, said concentration was the key.

"I realized a couple of weeks ago that I've just got to concentrate more," the senior righthander said. "Today, I threw to spots. I thought it out more and kept the ball down low. They had some solid hits, but some chinkers, too."

Holloway, who was 3-1 last year, but terribly ineffective (5.72 earned run average), called the victory, "my first real win at FSU. Last year, I would throw the ball and pray."

TROY STATE didn't have a prayer in the second game, when FSU scored three times in the first and toyed with the Trojans the rest of the game.

Troy starter Donnie Elsberry lasted one-third of an inning, and was followed by three other pitchers.

Wiggins went five innings for the Seminoles, allowing just two hits. Marianna's Rick Hatcher, a transfer from George Wallace Community College, pitched the final two frames and kept Troy off the board.

Senior rightfielder Bruce Huff reached base five times in the second game, on two hits and three walks. He stole a base and scored three runs.

Patterson had three hits, including a double, and drove in three runs, displaying his customary hitting form after managing just a bloop single in the first game.

David Mobley, held without a hit in the opener, ripped two hits and knocked in a pair of runs in the finale. Ledbetter and Fuentes also drove in two runs apiece though Fuentes was hitless.

First game

Troy State					Florida State				
	AB	R	H	BI		AB	R	H	BI
Romine lf	4	1	1	0	Schimchak rf	2	0	0	0
Griffin cf	4	1	1	0	DeLoach ss	3	1	1	2
Bergstrom c	3	0	2	0	Patterson 2b	3	0	1	1
Wood lb	3	0	0	1	Milner lb	3	1	1	0
McCauley 3b	2	1	1	1	Fuentes cf	2	2	2	3
Allen dh	3	1	1	0	Emerick c	3	0	0	0
Morrell cf	2	0	1	0	Mobley 3b	3	0	0	0
Tinkler ss	3	0	1	0	Traylor lf	3	1	1	0
Bruckner 2b	3	0	1	2	Ledbetter dh	1	1	0	0
Totals	27	4	9	4	Totals	23	6	6	6

Troy State 200 200 0 — 4
 Florida State 005 001 x — 6
 2B — Bergstrom, DeLoach. HR —
 Fuentes, 2. S — Schimchak, Morrell. SB —
 Fuentes. LOB — Troy 4, FSU 2. DP — FSU 1.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Harrison (L, 0-1)	2 2/3	4	5	5	2	1
Giannini	3 1/3	2	1	1	0	3
Holloway (W, 1-0)	7	9	4	4	1	2

WP — Harrison.

Second game

Troy State					Florida State				
	AB	R	H	BI		AB	R	H	BI
Romine lf	3	0	1	0	B.Huff rf	2	3	2	0
Griffin rf	3	0	1	0	DeLoach ss	4	2	1	0
Bergstrom c	3	0	1	0	Culpepper ss	1	0	0	0
Lee c	0	0	0	0	Patterson 2b	4	2	3	2
Wood 1b	3	0	0	0	Milner 1b	1	2	0	1
McCauley 3b	3	0	0	0	Parker 1b	0	0	0	0
Pelliccione dh	3	0	1	0	Fuentes cf	2	2	0	2
Jackson pr	0	0	0	0	K.Huff lf	0	0	0	0
Morrell cf	2	0	0	0	Mobley 3b	3	1	2	2
Murphy ph	1	0	0	0	Casey 3b	1	0	0	0
Tinkler ss	3	0	0	0	Traylor lf	3	0	1	2
Bruckner 2b	3	0	0	0	Gagnon lf-cf	1	0	1	0
Totals	21	0	4	0	Ledbetter dh	3	0	1	2
					Tice ph	1	0	0	0
					Bartlett c	3	0	0	0
					Ramsey c	1	0	0	0
					Totals	29	12	11	11

Troy State 000 000 0 — 0

Florida State 302 520 x — 12

E — McCauley, Casey, Parker. 2B — Romine, Patterson, Gagnon. 3B — Ledbetter. SF — Milner. SB — B.Huff. LOB — Troy 6, FSU 8. DP — Troy 1, FSU 2.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Elsberry (L, 0-1)	1/3	3	3	3	2	0
Masters	3	5	4	4	2	2
Hollowell	2 2/3	3	5	5	5	3
Tolbert	1/3	0	0	0	0	0
Wiggins (W, 1-0)	5	2	0	0	1	2
Hatcher	2	2	0	0	0	2

PB — Bergstrom, Lee. Balk — Masters.

A — 1390r