

# Seminoles split doubleheader

By BOB COHN

Democrat sports writer

Florida State ventured from the ridiculous to the sublime Tuesday night at Seminole Field, losing the first game of a doubleheader to Valdosta State by the football score of 14-12, then beating the Blazers 6-0 in the second game behind John Wolfer's four-hitter.

The opener was an entertaining, score-the-runs-in-bunches brawl that had Seminole players and fans screaming highway robbery at the finish.

FSU had battled back from a 14-5 hole entering the bottom of the sixth. Four runs in the inning made it 14-9 and three more in the last of the seventh put the score at 14-12.

With two out, and the tying runs on base, David Mobley watched a 2-2 pitch thrown by Rick Mitchell, the Blazers' third pitcher of the inning.

"Strike three," plate umpire Jeff Bickle intoned.

The pitch appeared high to Mobley.

Batters with two strikes and two out usually protect the plate and swing at anything close.

"It was nowhere bleeping close," Mobley said, looking off into space, while his teammates were still beefing about the call. "It was up. I didn't think it was a strike. The catcher was starting to throw the ball back to the bleeping pitcher."

The catcher, Tim Harris, played it cute, refusing to say whether he was preparing to throw the ball back, or if indeed the ball was a strike.

"Uh, I don't want to comment," Harris said. "I can't say it was there and I can't say it wasn't there. But the ump missed a couple on us earlier, when (Ronnie) Londell was pitching (in the seventh). I don't want to say, it was the ump's call. I think that says enough."

The Seminoles, who last year made a habit of the late-inning comeback, almost did it again, this time finding  
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that they were the ones who blew the lead.

FSU jumped out to a quick 5-0 margin after two innings, as if bent on avenging Sunday's 2-0 loss to the Blazers. But sophomore Rick Hatcher, in his first start, squandered his five-run gift.

Hatcher gave up two singles and a walk to open the top of the third. Then Valdosta leftfielder Terry Reynolds lofted a fly to right-center. It started as a routine out, but cleared the wall and ended as a grand-slam homer.

Shaken now, Hatcher gave up a single to Sal Amadeo, who stole second. Second baseman Frank Gonzalez worked Hatcher to a 3-0 count, then pulled the trigger and sent a rocket over the wall in left for a two-run homer.

Valdosta led 6-5, and Hatcher exited for freshman Rich Bombard. He escaped additional trouble by retiring Ken Smith and Andy Micacchione on fly balls.

But the young righthander came undone in the fourth. Loading the bases, Bombard wild pitched Mark Brown home, and walked Pepe Sanchez and Reynolds for another run.

FSU Coach Dick Howser thought that was enough for Bombard, and summoned sophomore lefty Ken Fischer from the bullpen. A line-drive single by Sal Amadeo scored the ninth run, and Gonzalez cleared the bases again with his second homer and the Blazers' second grand slam of the game. Valdosta led 13-5.

Ken Smith, the junior walk-on, came on to prevent further damage, and pitched a total of three innings, giving up a run in the sixth.

Senior Joe Nichols pitched a scoreless seventh for the Seminoles.

FSU, meanwhile was doing nothing against Kelly Scott, after almost knocking the Blazers' starter out of the game with the five early runs.

In the sixth, however, freshman Jeff Ledbetter's lead-off single keyed a four-run outburst, highlighted by Craig Patterson's rbi single, a double error by Valdosta rightfielder Sanchez that permitted two runs to score, and Mike Fuentes' run-scoring infield out.

The Seminoles entered the seventh and final inning trailing 14-9. Ledbetter and Ken Schimchak worked walks off Valdosta reliever Tim Carroll leading off the seventh.

Mike Raines came in to pitch, walked Don DeLoach, and got a two-ball count on Patterson. That was it for Raines. Londell came in, and finished the job, walking Patterson with the bases full, scoring Ledbetter.

The score was 14-10 now, and Don Milner popped to short for the first out. With Fuentes up, Schimchak came in from third on a passed ball to make it 14-11. Fuentes then walked — the fifth free pass of the inning — re-loading the bases.

Mitchell relieved Londell, and got Jack Emerick on a fly to right that scored DeLoach and cut the gap to 14-12. Then it was Mobley, and the disputed third strike, with Fuentes and Patterson on the corners.

Howser managed to see some good

in the defeat, noting that his team played errorless baseball. But he was disturbed at the shaky pitching.

"It was a lack of concentration," Howser said. "We got ahead of their hitters, but we couldn't finish them off. We were looking for that line drive or ground ball out but didn't get it."

Schimchak, who alternates with Bruce Huff in right, scored four times in the game. DeLoach scored twice, had two hits and drove in two runs.

The second game was all Wolfer, the transfer from Miami Dade-North Community College.

Demonstrating a zippy fastball and precise curve, the junior righthander gave up just four hits as the Seminoles finally beat the Blazers.

DeLoach ripped two doubles to drive in a pair of runs, and Ledbetter hit his first homer, a long blast to right-center in the fourth.

The 'Noles scored two runs in the first on a passed ball and a wild pitch from Blazers' starter and loser Pat Kelley.

Ledbetter's homer made it 3-0, and FSU padded its lead with two runs in the fifth and one in the sixth.

The Seminoles (4-2) are off today before travelling to Gainesville for a Thursday night game and Friday afternoon contest with the Florida Gators.

Valdosta, out of FSU's hair now until late April, returned to Georgia with a 5-3 record.

# First game

VALDOSTA STATE					FLORIDA STATE				
AB	R	H	B	I	AB	R	H	B	I
Sanchez rf	4	2	2	0	Schimchak rf	3	4	2	0
Reynolds lf	4	2	1	4	DeLoach ss	4	2	2	2
Amadeo cf	4	2	2	1	Patterson 2b	4	1	2	1
Gonzalez 2b	4	2	2	6	Milner 1b	4	1	2	1
Smith dh	4	1	2	0	Fuentes cf	3	1	0	1
Mic'one 3b	2	0	0	0	Emerick c	2	1	0	1
Brown 1b	4	2	3	1	Mobley 3b	4	0	1	0
Harris c	3	2	1	0	Traylor lf	2	0	1	2
Shuman ss	2	1	0	0	Ledbetter dh	3	2	1	0
Totals	31	14	13	12	Totals	29	12	11	8

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E — Scott, Sanchez 2. 2B — Brown, Schimchak 2, DeLoach. HR — Reynolds, Gonzalez 2. SF — Milner, Emerick. SB — Amadeo, Smith, Fuentes. LOB — Valdosta 3, FSU 9.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Scott (W, 1-0)	5 1/3	11	9	6	4	6
Carroll	2 2/3	0	2	2	4	0
Raines	0	0	1	1	2	0
Londell	1 1/3	0	0	0	1	0
Mitchell	2 2/3	0	0	0	0	1
Hatcher (L, 0-1)	2 1/3	5	6	6	1	1
Bombard	2 2/3	2	5	5	2	0
Fischer	0	2	2	2	0	0
Smith	3	4	1	1	1	3
Nichols	1	0	0	0	1	1

Save — Mitchell. WP — Bombard. PB — Harris.

# Second game

VALDOSTA STATE					FLORIDA STATE				
AB	R	H	B	I	AB	R	H	B	I
Sanchez rf	3	0	1	0	Huff rf	3	1	0	0
Reynolds lf	3	0	1	0	DeLoach ss	4	1	2	2
Amadeo cf	3	0	1	0	Patterson 2b	4	1	1	1
Gonzalez 2b	2	0	0	0	Milner 1b	3	1	3	0
Smith dh	3	0	0	0	Fuentes cf	2	0	0	0
Brown 1b	3	0	0	0	Mobley 3b	3	0	0	0
Rogers 3b	3	0	1	0	Traylor lf	3	0	0	0
Owen c	2	0	0	0	Ledbetter dh	3	1	1	1
Shuman ss	2	0	0	0	Ramsey c	3	1	2	0
Totals	24	0	4	0	Totals	28	6	9	4

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E — Gonzalez. 2B — DeLoach 2, Rogers. HR — Ledbetter. SB — Huff, Ramsey. LOB — Valdosta 6, FSU 6.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kelly (L, 1-2)	6	9	6	4	2	2
Wolfer (W, 1-0)	7	4	0	0	2	4

WP — Wolfer, Kelly. PB — Owen. A — 1,420.