

FSU beats St. Leo 5-2; busy schedule ahead

By BOB COHN
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Florida State is a baseball team searching for identity, a squad that in its first ten games has given performances ranging from hot to cold with a healthy splash of lukewarm.

The Seminoles extended their record to 7-3 Sunday, struggling past St. Leo 5-2 to complete a two-game sweep at home. The Monarchs had lost 18-2 to FSU the night before.

The Seminoles so far have beaten two NCAA Division I teams, Florida and Mercer, while the other five wins have come at the expense of lesser, Division II lights — Troy State, Valdosta State and St. Leo.

Valdosta dealt FSU two losses, and the Gators provided the other.

After Sunday's victory, Coach Dick Howser said he was giving his team Monday off, partly because it plays ten games in the next five days, but also to cool off what Howser believes is an over-abundance of intensity that may be psyching the players out.

"I think they're pressing just a bit," Howser said. "They're a little too concerned about their record.

They should just go out and play. Right now, they're playing every game like it was the seventh game of the World Series."

One symptom related to pressure might be the wasteful manner in which the Seminoles have left men on base. Against St. Leo Sunday, FSU had the bases loaded with one out in the fourth, leading 2-1. The pitchers' battle between Seminole John Wolfer and St. Leo's Steve Cushing could have ended there, but the 'Noles blew the chance.

"I'm thinking in terms of the end of the season (and the Metro playoffs)," Howser said. "We've got to get into the right frame of mind. It's not a lack of hustle, but the opposite. It's hurt us a little, and shown in our inconsistency."

Inconsistency, however, has not been the hallmark of Wolfer, who won his second straight complete game. A junior transfer from Miami Dade-North, Wolfer escaped trouble more than once.

The righthander surrendered single runs in the third and eighth, but in (Please see BASEBALL, page 5B)

both frames left two runners aboard base to avoid further damage. His closest call came in the seventh, when St. Leo loaded the bases with none out.

Wolfer escaped by catching John Ricciardi looking at a curve for strike-three, then by getting Wayne Bovaird to hit a double-play ball to third baseman David Mobley.

Wolfer had been staked to a 2-0 lead in the first inning, on center-fielder Mike Fuentes' opposite-field home run with Ken Schimchak on base. It was Fuentes' fourth homer of the still-young season.

Paul Lesieur's RBI single in the third made the score 2-1, and it stayed that way until the seventh, when Seminoles Craig Patterson and Don DeLoach worked a perfect double-steal, DeLoach scoring.

St. Leo (4-5) pushed across a run in the eighth, but Wolfer struck out Jim Finnochio with two on to end the threat.

The Seminoles insured the win with a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning.

FLORIDA STATE					ST. LEO				
	AB	R	H	BI		AB	R	H	BI
Schimchak rf	4	1	1	0	D'Aloia	4	1	0	0
DeLoach ss	3	1	1	0	Kiernan dh	4	0	1	0
Patterson 2b	4	0	1	0	Lesieur lf	4	1	2	1
Fuentes cf	4	1	1	2	Farmer lb	4	0	1	0
Emerick dh	4	0	0	0	Blauch rf	3	0	2	1
Mobley 3b	3	0	0	0	Finnocchio 3b	4	0	0	0
B.Huff pr	0	1	0	0	Linberg cf	3	0	0	0
Casey 3b	0	0	0	0	Ricciardi 3b	4	0	1	0
Ramsey c	4	0	1	0	Bovaird	4	0	0	0
Gagnon lf	3	0	0	0	Totals	34	2	7	2
Totals	30	5	5	2					

St. Leo 001 000 010 — 2
 Florida State 200 000 12x — 5

E — D'Aloia, Finnocchio, Bovaird, Wolfer,
 DeLoach. 2B — DeLoach. HR — Fuentes. SB
 — Patterson, DeLoach, Milner. LOB — St.
 Leo 8, FSU 8. DP — St. Leo 1, FSU 1.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cushing (L, 1-1)	8	5	5	4	7	7
Wolfer (W, 2-0)	9	7	2	2	1	6

WP — Cushing. Balk — Cushing 2. A —
 768.