

Ledbetter's bat sparks FSU

By BOB COHN
Democrat sports writer

The essence of baseball is the battle between pitcher and hitter. Jeff Ledbetter has turned the conflict inward and is fighting a civil war against himself.

So far, the hitter is winning.

Ledbetter drove in eight runs Wednesday as Florida State beat Oakland State 13-4 and 13-6. The freshman from Clearwater homered and drove in four runs in the first game, then matched the trick in the second.

But he was also the starting pitcher in the nightcap. Lasting an inning, Ledbetter was tagged for three runs as the Seminoles quickly fell behind.

He got himself off the hook, with help from Ronnie Traylor, who drove in three runs. Joe Nichols pitched from the second to the sixth to get his third win of the year, with bullpen aid in the final two frames from Ken Smith.

The stats for Ledbetter are either magnificent or hor-

rible, depending on whether he is standing in the batter's box or on the mound.

AS A HITTER, his average is .362, with seven homers and 29 runs batted in through the club's first 31 games. Nice.

As a pitcher, Ledbetter holds an 0-1 record, with an earned run average of 13.50. Ouch.

After the doubleheader, which put the FSU record at 26-5, Ledbetter made it clear how he felt about his dual role.

"I'm not pitching anymore," he said. Then, after returning from a team meeting, he said, "You better change that. I don't want to pitch anymore because sooner or later I'm going to hurt the team. Tonight, I was just lucky to make up for it."

Seminole Coach Dick Howser met with Ledbetter a bit later. The result of the conference?

"He is going to pitch," Howser said, without any uncertainty. "He's got too good an arm. He's just going through freshmanitis, but now he knows what you have to do in college baseball."

"I'M NOT GOING to give up on him. You don't see a lot of arms like his around. Sure it's discouraging . . . He's not getting the high school strike and the batters aren't chasing the strikes like they did in high school. But I'm going to be very surprised if he doesn't become an outstanding college pitcher."

Ledbetter already is an outstanding college batsman. The 200-pounder, who has been the designated hitter against righthanded pitching, is making the transformation from high school — as a hitter — look laughably easy.

"The pitchers aren't as tough as I thought they would be," said Ledbetter, nicknamed "Treetops" by the fans for his tendency to hit baseballs into the foliage past the outfield wall.

"They have good control and command of the breaking pitch, but if you learn to just wait on the pitches, you can hit."

Ledbetter's seven homers rank him second on the team, behind centerfielder Mike Fuentes, who has 10.

"Fuentes had better look out," Ledbetter said. "I'm gonna catch him. The more he gets ahead of me, the harder I work."

The first game was settled quickly, as the Seminoles built an 11-1 lead after three innings off Oakland starter Greg Smith.

Shortstop Don DeLoach added a homer in support of FSU starter John Wolfer, who pitched the first four innings to gain his fourth win of the year without a loss.

Rick Holloway pitched the fifth and sixth, giving up two runs, and Rick Hatcher hurled a scoreless seventh.

In the second game, it was Oakland, now 1-5, which broke out on top, scoring three in the first off Ledbetter.

The visitors from Michigan added another run in the second off Nichols, but the 'Noles tied the game in the bottom of the inning, scoring four times. Craig Ramsey's homer was the crowning blow, following Traylor's RBI double and David Mobley's run-scoring infield out.

Oakland went out in front with a run in the third, but that was the last time. Ledbetter hit a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the third to score Fuentes and make the game 5-5. In the fourth, Ken Schimchak lined a home

run to break the deadlock, and Ledbetter belted a two-run homer in the fifth to highlight a three-run outburst.

Traylor hit the fourth Seminole homer in the sixth. It was a two-run job, and it came after Oakland third baseman Brian Cunningham dropped an easy foul pop-up, which would have sent Traylor back to the bench.

The 'Noles have today off, traveling to Miami for the big two-game set with the Hurricanes. The games are scheduled for Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

FIRST GAME

Oakland State					Florida State				
AB	R	H	B	I	AB	R	H	B	I
Cun'ham 3b	3	1	0	0	B.Huff rf	3	1	0	0
Krych 2b	3	2	1	1	DeLoach ss	4	2	1	1
Lackey 2b	0	0	0	0	Patterson 2b	4	1	2	1
Bielski cf	3	0	1	1	Fuentes cf	2	2	1	0
Robinson 1b	3	0	1	1	Gagnon cf	1	0	0	0
Mancini ss	3	0	0	0	Emerick c	4	3	2	0
Traver rf	2	0	0	0	Bartlett c	1	0	1	0
Voytush lf	3	0	0	0	Ledbetter dh	2	1	2	4
McArthur c	3	0	0	0	Sch'chak dh	2	0	0	0
Lentz dh	2	1	1	0	Casey 3b	4	2	2	2
					Traylor lf	3	0	2	1
					K.Huff lf	0	1	0	0
					Mobley 1b	4	0	1	0
					Totals	34	13	14	9
Totals	25	4	4	3					

Oakland State 001 030 0 — 4
 Florida State 533 110 x — 13

E — Cunningham 3, Krych. 2B — Emerick, Ledbetter. HR — DeLoach, Ledbetter. SF — Ledbetter. SB — B.Huff 2. LOB — OS 6, FSU 11. DP — FSU 1

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Smith (L, 0-1)	3	12	11	8	3	1
Trax	4	2	2	1	4	3
Wolfer (W, 4-0)	4	2	1	1	4	5
Holloway	2	2	3	3	3	0
Hatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1

WP — Smith 2, Holloway.

SECOND GAME

Oakland State					Florida State				
AB	R	H	B	I	AB	R	H	B	I
Cun'ham 3b	4	1	2	1	Schimchak rf	5	1	2	2
Krych 2b	4	0	2	0	DeLoach ss	3	0	0	0
Bielski cf	4	1	1	1	Patterson 2b	3	1	2	0
Robinson 1b	2	1	0	0	Fuentes cf	4	2	2	0
Foell c	3	1	0	0	Casey 3b	3	3	2	1
McArthur dh	4	0	3	1	Ledbetter dh	1	2	1	4
Lackey pr	0	1	0	0	Traylor lf	3	2	3	3
Mancini ss	4	0	2	2	Mobley 1b	4	1	0	1
Traver rf	3	0	0	0	Ramsey c	2	1	1	1
Lentz lf	3	1	1	0					
Totals	31	6	11	5	Totals	28	13	13	12
Oakland State						311	000	1	— 6
Florida State						041	134	x	— 13

E — Foell, Seagraves, Cunningham. 2B — Casey, Traylor. 3B — Mancini. HR — Ramsey, Schimchak, Ledbetter, Traylor. SF — Ledbetter. SB — Cunningham, Lentz, Patterson, Fuentes. LOB — OS 8, FSU 6.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Seagraves (L, 0-1)	4	7	8	8	5	2
McQuade	1 1/3	6	5	4	1	0
Libby	2 2/3	0	0	0	1	0
Ledbetter	1	3	3	3	1	1
Nichols (W, 3-0)	4	5	2	2	3	3
Smith	2	2	2	2	0	1

WP — Seagraves, McQuade. A — 1,043.