

Seminoles pull away to beat A&M 13-1

By BOB COHN
Democrat sports writer

For three innings, Florida A&M showed that it had a rightful place on the field with Florida State. But baseball games usually are scheduled for nine innings. This proved to be the Rattlers' stumbling block as FSU eased to a 13-1 win Thursday night at Seminole Field.

The score was tied 1-1 in the bottom of the fourth when the Seminoles' Ronnie Traylor dumped a three-run homer over the rightfield wall to break the game apart.

Traylor's victim was lefty pitcher Melvin Gilliam, who had just come on in relief after Rattler starter Craig Thorpe walked Mike Fuentes and gave up a single to Jeff Ledbetter with one out.

Thorpe hadn't pitched that poorly, allowing one hit,

Fuentes' 11th homer in the bottom of the second that gave FSU a 1-0 lead.

FAMU Coach Costa Kittles, however, thought Thorpe had exerted himself a bit much. He also wanted to play the percentages.

"Craig had thrown about 78 pitches," Kittles said. "And I wanted the lefthanded pitcher to face the lefthanded hitter (Traylor). Boom, out of the park. That was a gamble."

Traylor, who boomed his third homer of the year on an 0-2 pitch, would not have been at bat had Gilliam started the game. The senior from Dothan, Ala., is platooned with righthanded-swinging John Gagnon.

"I don't make out the lineup," Traylor said. "But I can hit lefthanders. I've hit them before."

Gilliam said he goofed by throwing a fastball when he was ahead of the hitter. "I thought about throwing the curve," he said. "But the catcher called the fastball and I went with it. That was my mistake."

Traylor admitted surprise at seeing the fastball coming to him, but was glad to see it, especially when his goal was just to hit the ball and get a run home.

Instead, he got three runs home. "I choked up and tried to guard the plate," he said. "When I first hit it, I didn't think it was going out. But thanks to that short fence..."

After that, FSU (28-8) added a single run in the fifth, four in the sixth and four more in the eighth. The FAMU pitchers made things easier by walking 13 Seminole batters. Four free passes went to rightfielder Ken Schimchak, who played his lead-off role to perfection, adding two

singles for a 6-for-6 on-base evening.

Gilliam lasted until the sixth, before coming out for Kenny Christie, who mopped up. The Rattler hurlers did manage to strike out 11 Seminoles, with Gilliam and Christie whiffing nine over the last 4½ innings.

Seminole pitcher Jim Riley pitched the first six innings, gaining his sixth win against one defeat. He was touched for seven hits and a third-inning run (unearned) and admittedly was not as sharp as he was last Saturday, when he lost to Miami but threw well enough to win.

Riley now has as many wins as he did all last year, when the only luck he had was hard. His teammates, it seemed, usually gave their bats the day off. Things have changed this season.

"My boys are scoring more runs for me," Riley grinned. "They're swinging the bat like grown men."

In addition to Traylor's output, sophomore centerfielder Fuentes added to his team-leading runs batted in total. His solo homer — a 420-footer to centerfield — a sacrifice fly and a two-run double give him 44 RBI for the year.

The lone Rattler run came when leftfielder Tony Gresham singled with one out in the third, went to second on shortstop Don DeLoach's throwing error, moved to third base on a fielder's choice, and scored on designated hitter Michael Reeves' single.

Riley, however, fanned James LeCount with two runners on base to escape further trouble in the inning.

The Rattlers threatened again in the fourth, when they got three hits. But no runs. The big play was when leftfielder Traylor threw out Larry Aaron at the plate. Aaron was trying to score from second on Gresham's two-out single. The score was still 1-1 then.

After Riley left following the sixth inning, Rick Hatcher, Ken Fischer and Ken Smith each pitched a scoreless inning of relief. Smith struck out the side in the ninth.

The Seminoles are off until Sunday, when they play the Florida Gators at home. The Rattlers (11-9) have a 1 p.m. doubleheader today at their home field against Savannah State.

Florida A&M

	AB	R	H	BI
Gresham lf	4	1	2	0
Lucas ss	5	0	0	0
Pendleton 2b	4	0	0	0
Sanchez 2b	0	0	0	0
Reeves dh	4	0	1	1
LeCount cf	4	0	1	0
Goode c	4	0	2	0
Aaron rf	2	0	2	0
Gaffney 3b	3	0	0	0
Walters 1b	3	0	0	0
Randolph ph	1	0	0	0

Totals 35 1 8 1

Florida A&M**Florida State**

E — Pendleton, Casey, DeLoach. 2B — Aaron, Fuentes. HR — Fuentes, Traylor. SF — Fuentes. SB — Milner, Schimchak, Patterson. LOB — FAMU 9, FSU 11.

Florida State

	AB	R	H	BI
Schimchak rf	2	3	2	2
DeLoach ss	3	1	1	0
Patterson 2b	5	1	2	1
Milner 1b	3	1	1	1
Fuentes cf	3	2	2	4
B.Huff lf	0	0	0	0
Ledbetter dh	2	2	1	0
Traylor lf	4	1	1	3
Gagnon lf-cf	1	0	0	0
Casey 3b	2	0	0	0
Mobley ph-3b3	1	1	1	0
Ramsey c	3	0	0	0
Bartlett c	0	1	0	0

Totals 31 13 10 11

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IP H R ER BB SO

Thorpe (L, 2-3)	3 1/3	2	3	3	4	2
Gilliam	2 1/3	5	6	6	5	5
Christie	2 1/3	3	4	2	4	4
Riley (W, 6-1)	6	7	1	0	2	5
Hatcher	1	0	0	0	1	2
Fischer	1	1	0	0	0	1
Smith	1	0	0	0	0	3

WP — Gilliam. PB — Goode. HBP — Ledbetter (by Gilliam). U — Bickle, Davis. T — 3:05. A — 1,891.