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FSU breezes past USF

By BOB COHN

When a team is hitting .324, as Florida State is, it might be excusable to overlook some of the other ingredients that help make a successful team.

Not Robin Roberts. The Hall of Famer squarely touched all the bases following the Seminoles' 10-1 win over South Florida Sunday, the fourth straight time FSU had beaten the Brahmans this year.

Brahmans this year. "They're solid," said the third-year USF coach. "They get the outs. They really make the plays. That defense really helps them."

That defense helped create four double-plays, one short of the NCAA record, as Dick Wiggins again went the distance to gain his ninth win.

Craig Patterson, the senior second baseman, went 2-for-4 with three runs batted in, but Roberts was aglow at his work with the glove rather than the bat.

"That little second baseman is a pain in the neck," Roberts chuckled. "Boy, he's a fine fielder."

Patterson had a hand in two of the twin-killings, and also made a splendid diving stop to turn an intended hit into a force out.

Despite his performance at the plate, and the fact he is hitting .376, Patterson said he doesn't feel comfortable at bat — which, he added, may be making him a better fielder.

"When you're not feeling that good at the plate, you have to bear down in the field," Patterson said. "That's what Coach (Woody) Woodward told me last year."

Wiggins, meanwhile, sailed through his second straight 90-pitch, sub-two hour game in typical Wiggins fashion: nine scattered hits allowed, one insignificant run.

He did it with a new receiver. Jack Emerick usually catches Wiggins, but was out with a sore hand that came when he was hit by a pitch Saturday night. So Craig Ramsey stepped in. "There wasn't too much of a difference," Wiggins said. "They may set up certain pitches a little differently. Like Rámsey might want to set up an inside pitch when the batter has two strikes, and Jack may want to go outside. But that's about it."

Said Ramsey, who hit a two-run homer in the second to give Wiggins all the support he would need, "It's a pleasure to catch him."

Roberts may have thought it was a pleasure to watch Wiggins if it wasn't his team (23-19) that was being shackled. The ex-pitcher, who won 286 games in an 18-year big league career, gave Wiggins rave reviews.

"He's a strike pitcher. He's really got control of the breaking ball," Roberts said. "He stays ahead of the hitter. Fundamentally, he does an awful lot of things right on the mound."

While Wiggins notched his eighth complete game of the year, and the Seminoles threw up a concrete-wall defense, the FSU bats were in their usual active state.

The Seminoles (36-10) knocked out Brahman starter Glen James in the sixth. The sophomore lefthander had come into the game with a 4-1 record, but a five-run burst in the fifth, followed by three more runs the next inning sent him packing.

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