

Wolfer, Patterson pace Seminole win

By BOB COHN
Democrat sports writer

As this 1979 baseball season unfolded, certain facts were known about Florida State. One was that second baseman Craig Patterson would hit. But one of the enigmas was the pitching, and that included a junior college transfer named John Wolfer.

Wednesday night at Seminole Field, the certainties were reinforced and a question mark became a period.

Patterson can hit. And John Wolfer can pitch.

In the Seminoles' 9-1 victory over Florida A&M, Patterson, the senior second baseman, drove in four runs and collected three singles to tie the FSU record for hits in a year. He will get a chance to surpass the mark of 83, originally set by Randy Davidson in

1974, Friday afternoon when FSU (40-11) hosts the Florida Gators.

If you want to bet on that happening, feel secure. Patterson has now hit safely in 13 straight games and is the owner of a .413 batting average.

Ron Traylor also had three hits, Jeff Ledbetter smacked a two-run double and Don Milner hit a two-run homer, his fifth roundtripper of the year.

But Wolfer's performance this evening was no less dazzling. He held the Rattlers (22-12) to one run — Larry Aaron's first-ever college homer — on four hits in seven innings, striking out five. His record is 8-0.

"I just hope when the Metro Tournament comes up I throw like that,"

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Wolfer said. His work this year makes the Seminole pitching staff a formidable weapon for the other six conference teams to deal with when the tournament starts here next week.

Wolfer went through the first five innings facing the minimum fifteen batters. The only hit he had allowed, an infield single to Tony Gresham in the fourth, was rendered meaningless when Danny Pendleton lined into a doubleplay to rightfielder Bruce Huff.

That resulted in a baseball oddity for Huff: An unassisted twin-killing by an outfielder. After he caught Pendleton's hard-hit shot, Huff simply trotted in to an unattended second base. Gresham, thinking base hit, had already departed for third base and was an easy victim.

Pendleton's liner was one of the few solid pokes off Wolfer, who had impeccable control. He went the seven innings without surrendering a base on balls.

"A couple of starts ago, I was having trouble getting behind the hitters," Wolfer said. "They'd get me to a full count and fight me off and I'd end up walking them."

"But now, if I go to 2 (balls)-and-0 (strikes), I can get two quick strikes and then make them hit my best pitch."

The only mistake Wolfer made was to sophomore Aaron, the son of Hammerin' Hank, who was also known to hit a home run or two.

"I just took a little off my fastball put it right down the middle," Wolfer said.

Aaron hit it about 340-feet, beyond the rightfield wall, a luxury he doesn't enjoy at cavernous Rattler Field. There, the foul lines stretch 375-feet to the fence.

"I used to be a power hitter in high school," a smiling Aaron said. "But our fence is so long, we just try to hit line drives and grounders."

Aaron's momentary joy was needed. Earlier, he had learned that his uncle, Bill Lucas, was felled by a brain hemorrhage early Wednesday morning, and was in critical condition in an Atlanta hospital.

Lucas is a FAMU grad, and the vice-president and director of player personnel for the Atlanta Braves.

His son, Bill, Jr. is the Rattlers' starting shortstop. FAMU Coach Costa Kittles was awakened at 2:30 Wednesday morning with the news from Robert Lucas, the brother of Bill Lucas, Sr.

"It was really a shock," Kittles said before the game. "Should I inform Bill now, or wait until the morning? I debated that until 6:30. Then I made a reservation for a 7:30 flight. We barely made it."

Said Kittles, who had been up since the phone rang, "I guess that's part of coaching."

Florida A&M

	AB	R	H	BI
Gresham cf	4	0	1	0
Aaron rf	3	1	1	1
Pendleton 3b	3	0	0	0
J.LeCount c	3	0	1	0
Tyson lf	3	0	0	0
Goode dh	2	0	0	0
Gaffney ph	1	0	0	0
Reeves 1b	3	0	0	0
Sanchez ss	3	0	0	0
N.Smith 2b	2	0	1	0
Walters ph	0	0	0	0
Coleman pr	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	1	4	1

Florida State

	AB	R	H	BI
B.Huff rf	2	2	0	0
DeLoach ss	5	2	2	1
Patterson 2b	3	1	3	4
Milner 1b	4	1	1	2
Fuentes cf	3	1	1	0
Ledbetter dh	4	0	1	2
Mobley 3b	4	0	0	0
Traylor	4	1	3	0
Emerick c	3	1	0	0
Totals	32	9	11	9

Florida A&M

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Florida State

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E — DeLoach. LOB — FAMU 2, FSU 6.
 DP — FSU 2. 2B — Traylor 2, Ledbetter. HR
 — Aaron (1), Milner (5). S — Aaron. SF —
 Patterson. SB — N.Smith, Fuentes 2, De-
 Loach.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Christie (L, 4-3)	6	9	7	7	4	3
Gilliam	2	1	2	2	2	2
Wolfer (W, 8-0)	7	4	1	1	0	5
Hatcher	1	0	0	0	0	0
K.Smith	1	0	0	0	0	0

PB — J.LeCount 3. HBP — Walters (by
 K.Smith). T — 2:24. A — 1,085.