

Records fall as Seminoles rip Gators 20-7

By BOB COHN

Democrat sports writer

Dick Howser at last revealed the secret to stopping his SWAT team, disguised as a college baseball club. Rival coaches, take note.

"As long as I don't see Ron Guidry on the mound, I think we can beat any team," Howser said. "If I saw Guidry out there, I'd be a little afraid."

There it is. The only trouble with the idea is that Guidry belongs to the

New York Yankees, the same team that employed Dick Howser before he left to become the head baseball coach at Florida State.

It is games like the one played Friday afternoon at Seminole Field that cause Howser to smile — both inwardly and for all the world to see — at his shrewd move.

His Seminoles assaulted the team record book and murdered the Florida Gators. The score was 20-7. In the

process, second baseman Craig Patterson got his 84th hit, an FSU record; centerfielder Mike Fuentes drove in his 65th run, an FSU record, and the club hit five homers, right, an FSU record while surpassing the mark for homers hit in an entire season.

The 'Noles blasted four Florida pitchers with 23 hits, to tie a mark, and the two teams combined for 36 hits in the game, to set one.

It was the third time in four games that the Seminoles had whipped the Gators, a fact that the lively bleacher bums behind the first-base dugout did not let go unnoticed. While they were at it, they also mentioned recent FSU successes against Florida in football and basketball.

But there was no need for them to rub the Gators' noses into the ground. Fuentes and his band of merry assassins saw to that. The sophomore cen-

terfielder had the most fun — four hits, two homers including a grand slam, four runs scored and six runs batted in.

He entered the game with 61 RBI, three short of Terry Kennedy's 1976 record. Facing him would be Gator ace Pete Teixeira, the best of the Gainesville crew. Fuentes did not expect to see his name etched in FSU annals so soon.

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"I was just looking for a few hits, maybe one or two runs batted in," he said. But then he hit a solo homer in the fourth off Teixeira, "and after that, when I got up with the bases loaded (in the sixth), I knew I just had to knock in three."

He knocked in four. Victimizing Gator reliever Mike Grant now, Fuentes popped his 14th homer of the year to highlight a nine-run Seminole inning that saw 13 hitters eagerly come to the plate.

Fuentes later singled home Don DeLoach in the seventh off Joe Majer, the third Gator pitcher. In three other trips up, Fuentes singled, walked and reached on an error, making it six straight times on base.

Earlier, Patterson broke Randy Davidson's 1974 record of 83 hits in a season. That, too, came in the big sixth inning, and the line drive poke to rightfield was more than just one for the books. It sent Jack Emerick across the plate with the tying run, though it would be only a matter of time before the Seminoles were out of reach.

Patterson, starting the game with a .413 average, had gone hitless in his

first three trips against Teixeira, and wound up with an uncharacteristic 1-for-6 afternoon.

Patterson was irked about that, though he said getting the hit was a relief. "I was just so weak at the plate, I didn't have my (quick) hands," he said. "I went up and said to myself that I was going to hit the first pitch. I wasn't going to let him work me like the other times."

The spunky senior received a standing ovation from the partisans. As ornery as they were to the Gators, they showered nothing but love on the Seminoles.

Before the records and the Gators started falling, the Seminoles appeared to be in trouble.

Starter Dick Wiggins was raked for three runs in both the second and third innings. The husky junior contributed to his problems by committing a third-inning throwing error that hurt.

The Seminoles had gotten three back in the second on the first of David Mobley's three hits, and two infield outs. They made it 6-4 on Fuentes' homer in the fourth.

Wiggins settled down to retire the Gators easily in the fourth, fifth and sixth, while the Seminoles were collecting their weapons and planning the sixth-inning offensive.

Every man in the lineup scored in the frame, starting with Ronnie Traylor, who hit his fifth homer of the season with one out. Don Milner added an RBI single to go with Patterson's. Fuentes hit his second grand slam of the year and Jeff Ledbetter belted the third homer of the inning, number 11 for him, right after that. Emerick, who later homered in the eighth for the fifth FSU circuit blast of the game, drove in the ninth run of the inning with a single.

Emerick, with four runs batted in, joined Mobley, DeLoach and Milner in the three-hit club. Ledbetter also sent four runs across.

For the Gators, shortstop Ronnie Deans had four hits, and third baseman Randy Morris four RBI.

Wiggins lasted until the seventh, when Ken Smith came on with two out, two on and a run in, to fan pinch-

hitter Alan Emerson. Smith pitched the final two frames and held the Gators scoreless.

Though shaky in victory, it was victory nevertheless for Wiggins, his 10th of the year.

Howser seemed least impressed by the fireworks, maintaining that he knew what his team is capable of doing.

"Just look at that lineup," he said. "We've got guys who can hit the ball. I've said that all along. They've all been good hitters before."

Now that Florida (34-16), the winners of the Eastern Division of the Southeastern Conference, have been disposed of, the Seminoles (41-11) today play host to Georgia Southern at 5 p.m.

Jim Riley (8-2) gets the starting call against the Eagles, 41-13. They are led by first baseman Mark Strucher, who has hit 23 homers, two short of the NCAA record, and has driven in 80 runs, which leads the country.

In Statesboro, Ga., last month, FSU won two of three games from GSC, piloted by former-Seminoles' coach Jack Stallings.

Florida					Florida State				
	AB	R	H	BI		AB	R	H	BI
Watkins cf	4	0	1	0	B. Huff rf	6	2	2	0
Hall ss	5	0	1	0	DeLoach ss	6	2	3	0
Teegarden rf	5	0	0	0	Patterson 2b	6	2	1	1
Sandberg 1b	4	2	2	0	Milner 1b	6	2	3	2
Stevens dh	3	2	0	0	Fuentes cf	5	4	4	6
Adamson ph	1	0	0	0	Ledbetter dh	5	2	2	4
Banes lf	5	2	3	1	Mobley 3b	6	1	3	1
Deans 2b	5	1	4	1	Traylor lf	4	2	2	2
Morris 3b	5	0	2	4	Emerick c	5	2	3	4
Worley c	2	0	0	0					
Emerson ph	1	0	0	0					
Maniotis c	0	0	0	0					
Totals	41	7	13	6	Totals	49	20	23	20

Florida 033 000 100 — 0

Florida State 030 019 16x — 20

E — Hall 2, Teegarden, Emerick, Wiggins. LOB — UF 9, FSU 8. DP — FSU 1. 2B — Morris, Banes, Deans, Ledbetter, Traylor. HR — Fuentes 2 (14), Traylor (5), Ledbetter (11), Emerick (4). SB — Watkins, Deans, Emerick.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Teixeira (L, 7-4)	5 1/3	11	9	9	1	1
Grant	0	3	3	3	0	0
Majer	2 1/3	8	6	7	1	0
Perkins	1/3	1	0	0	0	0
Wiggins (W, 10-3)	6 2/3	12	7	7	2	5
Smith	2 1/3	1	0	0	0	3

WP — Majer. HBP — Stevens (by Wiggins). U — Rosa, Davis. T — 2:51. A — 1,372.