

Southern sweep ruins FSU's party

By MARK RODGERS
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It was just the right atmosphere for opening a baseball season.

The weather was perfect: blue skies, warm temperatures and a comfortable breeze. A large crowd gathered, some with picnic baskets and ice chests. Even Dick Howser and Carl Yastrzemski showed up.

Everything at Seminole Field Saturday was just the way Florida State coach Mike Martin had hoped it would be.

Well, almost.

Somebody forgot to tell the Georgia Southern Eagles that this was Florida State's party — not theirs.

Showing little regard for a Seminole baseball team that entered Day One of the 1981 season ranked No. 3 in the nation, Georgia Southern swept a doubleheader from Florida State, 3-2 and 5-2.

A crowd of 2,317 watched as Georgia Southern rode the superb pitching of Chuck Lusted in the first game and Roger Godwin in the second.

Lusted handcuffed the Seminoles, pitching a two-hitter. Godwin limited

FSU to four hits before getting relief help in the last inning.

"We're certainly disappointed," Martin said, "but we can't get down. We still have 68 games to play."

The Seminoles are no strangers to early-season woes. Last season, they dropped their first two games against the University of Miami before rallying to win the third.

"I don't know if losing these two games is a good omen or not," said Martin, whose 1980 team went on to finish 51-12. "But I do know that we're going to be in a lot of close games this season, and we can't let these get us down."

The Seminoles will have an opportunity to salvage something from the three-game series when the two teams meet today at 2 p.m. FSU will start junior left-hander Clem Freeman; Georgia Southern will counter with right-hander Paul Kilomonis.

"We have a good ball club and we'll have our uniforms back on and be back at it again tomorrow," Martin said. "It would sure be nice if we
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can get that first win."

Lusted almost singlehandedly made sure that Florida State's first win did not come in its first game. The 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior right-hander raised his career record against the Seminoles to 3-0.

"That's one of the best games I've ever seen pitched against a Florida State team," Martin said.

The Eagles gave Lusted the only runs he needed in the first and third innings.

Darrell Baker tagged FSU starter and loser Ken Fischer for a two-run homer to left-center in the first. Georgia Southern added a run in the third when Marty Pevey singled and later scored on a single by Barry Lloyd.

Unfazed by a breeze that was blowing toward right field — a breeze that normally would cater to FSU's power-laden lineup — Lusted retired the first nine hitters and didn't allow a ball out of the infield.

But FSU's bats came to life in the fourth inning during a short-lived display of offense. With one out, Don DeLoach slapped a single to left and Mike Fuentes drove a Lusted slider over the right-field wall to close the gap to 3-2.

But it was the only rally Florida State could muster. After stranding two runners in the fourth and one in the fifth, the Seminoles were retired in order in the sixth and seventh.

"I just had to keep my concentration," said Lusted. "My slider was working real well and I was able to spot my fastball."

The Seminoles didn't fare much better in the second game.

Georgia Southern jumped on Florida State for three runs in the top of the third on two errors and just one hit.

Alan Balcomb drew a walk from FSU starter and loser Jay Keeler to lead off the inning and stole second. Jeff Petzoldt reached first on a throwing error by shortstop DeLoach, and Keeler loaded the bases by walking Marty Pevey.

Baker, who finished the day with three hits, two walks and three RBIs, drove home the Eagles' first run with

a single to right.

Lloyd followed with a slow grounder to second baseman Lionel Martinez, who let the ball roll under his glove, allowing Petzoldt and Pevey to score.

Florida State scored in the fifth when Rick Figueredo drove in Mike Yastrzmski, who had singled and moved to third on a double by Joe Licata.

The Eagles added two runs in the sixth off Tim Phillips, who relieved Keeler in the fifth. Mickey Lezcano and Balcomb scored as FSU committed three errors, including two by Phillips while attempting to pick off runners.

Florida State mounted its most serious rally in the seventh inning, loading the bases with one out. Pinch hitter Ken Huff flied out to deep right field to score Yastrzmski. But Martinez grounded out to second off reliever Carlos Colon to end the game with two FSU runners stranded.

The Georgia Southern performance was encouraging to coach Jack Stallings, the former Florida State coach (1969-74) who last season led a young Eagle squad to a 38-21 record and a berth in the NCAA Atlantic Regional.

"If we play the rest of the season the way we played today," Stallings said, "it will be a very nice spring in Statesboro."

First game

GA. SOUTHERN					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Balcomb cf	4	0	0	0	Martinez 2b	3	0	1	0
Petzoldt 2b	4	1	2	0	DeLoach ss	3	1	1	0
Pevey c	4	1	2	0	Fuentes cf	3	1	1	2
Baker 3b	2	1	2	2	Ledbetter 1b	2	0	0	0
Lloyd 1b	3	9	2	1	Cawthon dh	2	0	0	0
Peruso rf	2	0	0	0	Yastrzmski rf	3	0	0	0
Nieporte dh	3	0	1	0	Licata lf	3	0	0	0
Lezcano ss	3	0	0	0	Ramsey c	3	0	0	0
Dennis	3	0	0	0	Figueredo 3b	2	0	0	0
Totals	28	3	9	3	Totals	24	2	3	2

Georgia Southern 201 000 0-3
Florida State 000 200 0-2

LOB — Georgia Southern 6, Florida State 2. DP — Florida State 1. HR — Baker (1), Fuentes (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Georgia Southern						
Lusted (W, 1-0)	7	3	2	2	2	3
Florida State						
Fisher (L, 0-1)	5	8	3	3	2	2
Hatcher	2	1	0	0	0	2
WP — Lusted. T — 1:55.						

Second game

GA. SOUTHERN					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Balcomb cf	1	2	0	0	Martinez 2b	4	0	0	0
Petzoldt 2b	4	1	0	1	DeLoach ss	2	0	0	0
Pevey dh	2	1	0	0	Fuentes cf	2	0	1	0
Baker 3b	3	0	1	1	Ledbetter dh	3	0	0	0
Lloyd 1b	4	0	0	1	Cawthon 1b	3	0	0	0
Peruso rf	4	0	0	0	Yastrzmski rf	2	2	2	0
Nieporte c	3	0	0	0	Licata lf	3	0	1	0
Lezcano ss	2	1	1	0	Figueredo 3b	2	0	0	1
Jordan lf	1	0	0	0	Dowell c	2	0	0	0
					Huff ph	0	0	0	1
Totals	24	5	2	3					

Georgia Southern 003 002 0-5
Florida State 000 010 1-2

E — Martinez, DeLoach, Keeler, Licata, Phillips 2, Lezcano, Baker. DP — Georgia Southern 3, Florida State 1. LOB — Georgia Southern 7, Florida State 5. 2B — Licata. S — Jordan. SF — Huff, Petzoldt. SB — Balcomb 2.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Georgia Southern						
Godwin (W, 1-0)	6 $\frac{2}{3}$	4	2	1	5	3
Colon	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	0	0	0	0
Florida State						
Keeler (L, 0-1)	3 $\frac{2}{3}$	1	3	1	6	1
Phillips	2 $\frac{1}{3}$	1	2	1	1	1
Hatcher	1	0	0	0	0	0
HBP — by Keeler (Lezcano). WP — Phillips. T — 2:20. A — 2,317.						