

Fuentes' 10th-inning homer lifts FSU to 9-8 win

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Mike Fuentes poled a home run to lead off the bottom of the 10th inning, giving Florida State a hard-fought 9-8 victory over South Carolina Friday night at Seminole Field.

The victory, FSU's ninth in a row, lifted the Seminoles to 19-8. The Gamecocks, who saw an eight-game win

streak end, are 12-4. The two teams meet again tonight at 7:30.

"It was a fast ball," said Fuentes of the 3-1 pitch he hammered over the right-center field wall. "It came inside and I didn't hit it real good. But with the thin air it just carried."

For Fuentes, the homer was his 15th of the season as he pursues his

school-record mark of 21 set last season.

As thrilling, back-and-forth baseball games go, this one certainly was.

South Carolina, which has been ranked as high as 11th in the nation this year, took a 3-0 lead in the second inning. The lead then changed hands four times before the dramatic finish.

FSU came back to score two runs in the third and two more in the fifth to take a 4-3 lead. South Carolina, helped by first baseman Jeff Ledbetter's two-run error, took a 5-4 lead in the sixth.

FSU came back with two runs in the seventh, thanks to a wild pitch and an error. South Carolina tied the game in the eighth on center fielder

Robby Vollmer's first home run of the season.

A two-out pinch double by Ken Huff lifted FSU back into the lead in the bottom of the eighth, with Mike Yastrzemski adding what seemed to be an insurance run with a single to drive in Huff.

But South Carolina knocked starter Rick Hatcher out of the game in the ninth with a leadoff single by Paul Hollins. With left-hander Jamie Shouppe on in relief, South Carolina struck for another single and a pinch-hit double by Art Finley to tie the game once more.

Shouppe, who went to right field after the double, returned to the mound after Jay Keeler retired Harvey Heise on a fly to Fuentes. Facing two left-handers, Shouppe induced two fly balls to close off South Carolina's scoring.

FSU went down in order in the bottom of the ninth; South Carolina stranded a runner at first in the first half of the 10th. Five pitches later, FSU was a winner.

"The whole series is going to be like this," said South Carolina coach June Raines. "The key was to get Hatcher out of there early. But we didn't, and he settled down and got tough."

Though the victory went to Shouppe, 1-1, Hatcher pitched a determined, if hit-filled game.

"I'm not an overpowering pitcher. If I go seven-eight innings, I'm going to give up a pile of hits," said Hatcher who allowed 11 hits. "But they're one of the best hitting teams in college baseball. There's not a slouch in the lineup."

Equally important was Huff, who scored one run as a pinch-runner, drove in a go-ahead run with a double, and scored on Yastrzemski's single. He later played right where he fielded a fly ball.

"This was a great game," said Fuentes. "But the credit should go to guys like Huff. He comes off the bench on a cold night and gets a tough double."

Huff, a senior who has seen little playing time until this season, appeared unimpressed with his performance.

"I just wanted to do the job," said Huff, who hit his first two collegiate home runs this week. "I've been able to get in a groove, relax and play ball."

SOUTH CAROLINA					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
McCarthy lf	6	0	1	1	Martinez 2b	6	1	1	0
Thaw 2b	5	0	0	0	DeLoach ss	5	2	4	0
Carroway sss	6	0	2	0	Fuentes cf	5	3	3	1
Curl 1b	6	1	1	0	Ledbetter 1b	4	0	1	1
Fox c	0	0	0	0	Lacy dh	2	0	1	2
Hollins rf	6	2	3	0	Huff dh	1	2	1	1
Lowery c	5	2	4	0	Licata lf	2	0	0	0
Boyle dh	4	1	2	4	Ystrzmski rf	4	1	1	1
Heise 3b	5	1	1	0	Shouppe rf	0	0	0	0
Vollmer cf	2	1	1	2	Figueredo 3b	5	0	0	0
Williams ph	1	0	0	0	Ramsey c	5	0	2	0
Totals	46	8	15	7	Totals	39	9	14	6

South Carolina 030 002 012 0 — 8

Florida State 002 020 220 1 — 9

E — Thaw, Heise, Vollmer, Martinez, Ledbetter 2, Figueredo. DP — Florida State. LOB — South Carolina 12, Florida State 12. 2B — McCarthy, Boyle, Huff. 3B — Hollins. HR — Vollmer (1), Fuentes (15). S — Vollmer. SF — Vollmer, Lacy.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
South Carolina						
Gordon	4 ² / ₃	8	4	3	1	2
Small	1 ² / ₃	1	2	1	3	2
Leopard	1	1	1	1	1	0
Babel	1 ² / ₃	3	1	1	1	1
Kucharsky (L,2-2)	0	1	1	1	0	0
Florida State						
Hatcher	8	11	7	6	2	2
x-Shouppe	0	2	1	1	0	0
Keeler	1 ¹ / ₃	0	0	0	0	0
Shouppe (W,1-1)	1 ² / ₃	2	0	0	0	1

x-Shouppe faced two batters in the ninth, was replaced by Keeler, then returned with one out in the ninth.

WP — Gordon 2, Shouppe 1. HBP — by Gordon (Fuentes, Licata). T — 3:36. A — 957.