

FSU rally topples Carolina

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Swoosh! That's how Florida State's baseball team overtook South Carolina Sunday at Seminole Field.

Trailing 5-0 after five innings, the Seminoles exploded for six runs in the sixth en route to a 12-6 victory.

The victory lifted FSU's record to 20-9, and it was the 91st straight game in which the Seminoles had avoided a shutout, setting a school record.

South Carolina, which lost two of three in the weekend series, is 13-5.

Today, the Seminoles play host to Jackson State, 16-5-1, at 3:30 p.m.

Sunday's game appeared in danger of being rained out, but the skies cleared about two hours before game time and the teams took the field before a crowd of 1,038.

Things were going badly for the Seminoles until they broke loose in the sixth. The Gamecocks' ace pitcher, Dennis Lubert (2-1), had baffled FSU batters with a variety of pitches, and it looked as if it would be an easy afternoon for the visitors.

But the Seminoles finally got to Lubert, banging five hits and scoring six runs in the sixth.

FSU added five runs in the seventh, sending Lubert to the sidelines.

"You have got to give Lubert a lot of credit," said FSU coach Mike Martin. "But in the sixth, he walked a couple and we had the middle of our lineup coming up. A lot of pitchers can get in trouble like that."

The Seminoles quickly took advantage of a weakening Lubert. A pair of homers in the sixth got FSU going: Mike Fuentes hit a two-run shot to cut South Carolina's lead to 5-2, and Rick Figueredo added a grand slam — his first as a Seminole — to give FSU the lead at 6-5.

"This team is just so explosive," said Martin. "Fuentes came and got us going and then Figueredo comes up with a grand slam homer. We were a little concerned, but those guys came up with some super effort."

The Seminoles' rally spilled over into the seventh. FSU's lead climbed to 11-5 in the inning, with the biggest hit Mark Lacy's two-run homer. It was his first of the year.

The Seminoles also got support from Jeff Ledbetter, Joe Licata and Mike Yastrzemski, who had two hits each.

Clem Freeman started for FSU and was tagged for five runs before being lifted after the fourth inning.

"Freeman would have started the fifth inning for us," said Martin, "but he was complaining about numbness

in two of his fingers. He said he threw a curveball in the second and his arm just popped."

Freeman's injury did not appear serious, but Martin said he would have it examined by a doctor.

Jay Keeler (3-2) came in for Freeman and pitched well. He scattered three hits over the final five innings, giving up just one run.

"I was just trying to stay ahead of their hitters," said Keeler, a starter at the beginning of the season. "I'd rather be starting, but we weren't getting much out of our pitching and coach Martin figured maybe I could come out of the bullpen and give us two or three strong innings."

Figueredo's grand slam in the sixth came off a slider.

"For some reason, I felt I was on to it at the start," said Figueredo. "It was the only slider (Lubert) threw all day."

Figueredo said of the Seminoles' sixth- and seventh-inning rallies: "It's always nice to know you can get 12 runs in the last four or five innings."

Fuentes' homer in the sixth was his 16th of the year.

"We knew their pitcher was losing it," he said. "He just didn't have the

same stuff he had in the first couple of innings."

Prior to the series with South Carolina, FSU had clobbered a string of lesser teams while building a 10-game winning streak. "We feel like those games were confidence builders," said Fuentes. "I think now we could be ready to roll."

SOUTH CAROLINA					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Williams lf	5	2	3	0	Martinez lb	3	0	0	1
Vollmer cf	4	0	0	0	DeLoach ss	5	1	1	0
Harroway ss	4	0	1	3	Fuentes cf	4	3	2	2
Curl lb	4	0	0	0	Lacy dh	5	1	3	2
Hollins rf	4	1	1	0	Barineau pr	0	0	0	0
Boyle dh	4	0	1	0	Ledbetter lb	4	2	2	0
Lowery c	3	1	1	1	Licata lf	3	2	2	1
Thaw 2b	3	1	2	1	Yaz'ski rf	3	2	1	0
Sullivan 3b	3	1	1	1	Figueredo 3b	3	1	2	5
					Dowell c	3	0	1	0
Totals	34	6	10	6	Totals	33	12	14	11
South Carolina					102	200	010	—	6
Florida State					000	006	51x	—	12

E — Vollmer, Hollins, Martinez. 2B — Williams, Hollins, Lowery, Ledbetter, Licata. HR — Fuentes (15), Lacy (1), Figueredo (3). S — Vollmer. SF — Harroway, Boyle, Licata 2. SB — Martinez, Figueredo.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
South Carolina						
Lubert (L, 2-1)	6 ¹ / ₃	11	10	10	5	2
Small	1 ² / ₃	3	2	1	1	0
Florida State						
Freeman	4	7	5	4	1	1
Keeler (W, 3-2)	5	3	1	1	1	2

HBP—by Small (Fuentes). WP—Lubert. Balk—Keeler. T—2:38. A—1,038.