

Lacy leads FSU past Cleveland State

By PAUL C. SMITH
Democrat sportswriter

Designated hitter Mark Lacy interrupted the Fuentes Countdown to proceed with his own hot-hitting spree Tuesday and guide Florida State to a 10-3 win over Cleveland State.

While the fans gathered at Seminole Field to see if Mike Fuentes could tie or break the collegiate career-home run mark, Lacy hit safely in his ninth straight game and Ed Schneider pitched a four-hitter as FSU won for the 13th time in its last 14 games.

Fuentes, challenging Bob Horner's record of 56 career home runs, blasted his 54th, and 17th of the year, in the

fifth inning but was hitless in four other trips.

Lacy, a junior transfer from Birmingham Southern, hit his second home run this year, added a pair of doubles and scored three times. Since becoming eligible early last week, Lacy is 18-for-31 (.580), has scored 13 runs and collected 11 runs batted in.

"Mark has done just what we wanted," FSU coach Mike Martin said. "His performance has gotten people moving. He's got starters who are struggling in a position where they know they have to come through if they want to keep their jobs."

Lacy followed a double by Don DeLoach in the first inning with a noble two-run shot that rebounded off the top

of the light pole in right-center field. FSU went ahead 4-0 when Jeff Ledbetter walked and Joe Licata drilled a one-two pitch just to the left of where Lacy's landed. It was Licata's eighth homer this year.

In the third inning, Schneider gave up a double and an RBI single and a second run scored on a wild pitch, but he was nearly flawless until the ninth.

In the third through eighth innings, the senior from Cincinnati struck out seven, allowed only the two hits in the third and let only four balls be hit past the infield.

In the ninth, Schneider, 4-2, gave up a pair of singles but the Vikings' run was unearned.

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"Ed did an excellent job for us today," Martin said. "Maybe he's what we're looking for — that third man in the rotation who can be a stopper after the first couple days of a series."

Martin said that even though FSU's defense was porous again (the Seminoles committed five errors Tuesday after making four Monday), there is no cause for alarm.

"When we can commit five errors and still beat a good Division I team like Cleveland State, it can't be too bad," Martin said. "I'm just more concerned with the positive things that we've been doing."

"Obviously, we've swung the bat well and beaten some good teams. And I realize we're still not making the routine plays like we should, but I don't want to dwell on that. It'll come around."

The miscues didn't bother Schneider as he let only one batter past first base between the third and ninth innings.

With two out in the fifth, first baseman Jeff Ledbetter dove to his right to snare a grounder, but he threw wide of second and Jim Van Dyke, who had walked, advanced to third.

Ledbetter also had a fielding error in the sixth but he didn't falter at the plate. He smacked a pair of line-drive doubles, scored a run and increased his team-leading RBI total to 48.

He may lose some playing time during FSU's upcoming road trip, though, because he twisted his ankle after his double in the bottom of the seventh. Ledbetter stroked a fastball over the center fielder's head and after rounding second and then returning to the bag, he got tied up with the second baseman.

"It's a severe sprain. He may have to take some time off," Martin said. "This is one of those times when you put ice on it and just wait and see."

If Ledbetter has to sit out, Fuentes and Lacy will be asked to help take up the slack. Fuentes, despite the countdown to Horner's record, has only one hit in his last 10 at-bats.

"I just haven't been watching the ball like I should," Fuentes said. "The home run (Tuesday) was a changeup, high and inside and easy to see."

The Seminoles play their next six games in six days in Georgia and Fuentes may launch the record-breaker over an opposing team's fence.

"I'd much rather get the record at home," Fuentes said. "But right now I'm interested in breaking the record and getting out of this slump."

FSU, 22-9, plays Georgia in Athens today at 4 p.m.

CLEVELAND ST.					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Miller ss	4	1	0	0	Martinez 2b	3	0	1	1
Maire 2b	4	0	1	1	DeLoach ss	5	1	1	0
Vanek lf	4	0	0	0	Barineau ss	0	0	0	0
DeMarko c	4	0	1	0	Fuentes cf	5	1	1	1
Papp lb	4	1	0	0	Lacy dh	4	3	3	2
Deskins dh	4	0	1	0	Ledbetter lb	3	1	2	1
Worth cf	4	1	1	0	Cawthon lb	0	0	0	0
Van Dyke rf	2	0	0	0	Licata lf	4	2	2	2
Pngerchr 3b	4	0	0	0	Ystrzmski rf	4	0	1	0
					Figueredo 3b	3	1	0	0
					Dowell c	4	1	1	1
Totals	34	3	4	1	Totals	35	10	11	8

Cleveland State 002 000 001 — 3

Florida State 401 011 12x — 10

E — DeLoach, Ledbetter 2, Licata, Barineau, Papp. DP — Florida State. LOB — Cleveland State 4, Florida State 5, 2B — DeLoach, Lacy 2, Ledbetter, Worth. HR — Lacy (2), Licata (8), Fuentes (17). SF — Martinez.

IP H R ER BB SO

Cleveland State

Farone (L,1-1) 7 11 8 8 2 2

Jayjock 1 0 2 0 1 0

Florida State

Schneider (W,4-2) 9 4 3 2 8

WP — Schneider 2, Farone. T — 2:24. A — 560.