

Pitching sparks Seminole sweep

By MARK RODGERS
Democrat sports writer

Days like Saturday, it's easy to understand how the Florida State baseball team has won 39 games, but almost impossible to believe the same team has lost 18.

Playing perhaps as well as they have this season, the Seminoles thumped South Florida 8-2 and 8-0 Saturday to sweep a doubleheader at Seminole Field. Rick Hatcher and Allen Swindle pitched back-to-back complete games — a team first this season — to highlight an impressive day of baseball for Florida State.

Swindle's five-hit shutout was a gem — he didn't allow a runner past second base and retired the last 11 batters he faced — and was only the team's second shutout of the season.

The Seminoles were not awesome in any one area Saturday, but adequate in all. It was the kind of textbook baseball that coaches wish they could bottle and save for the next day and the next and so on.

"It was a delight to see two excellently pitched games, two games that were played so well," Florida State coach Mike Martin said.

"We're playing much more relaxed than we were playing earlier. That's what we have to do."

The pair of victories gave Martin the opportunity to emphasize a point he has echoed much of the season.

"A lot of people don't believe that this team is having a good year," Martin said. "They're not having a bad year. We're playing almost .700 ball (actually .684). That means we're getting to right where we want to be."

"Forty is a big number. That's how many victories we're after. When it comes to bid time, that's the number

Jeff Ledbetter slammed a three-run homer — No. 15 this season — in that first inning outburst to give Hatcher all the breathing room he needed.

Hatcher, a senior right-hander, improved his record to 5-3 by scattering six hits and striking out four. Both

runs against Hatcher were unearned.

The second game was Swindle's from start to finish. The left-handed junior had exceptional control and mixed his pitches well. Especially effective seemed to be his change-up which kept South Florida batters guessing.

"I can't explain how good it feels to pitch like that," said Swindle, who improved to 4-1. "I was really hitting my spots. My control seemed to be getting better as the game went on."

Swindle's performance strengthened his place on the Seminole pitching ladder. Used sparingly in the first half of the season, Swindle has come on and, with the exception of a poor outing at South Carolina, has made a strong bid to be included in the starting rotation.

"I feel like I'm doing just fine and have earned my spot in the rotation," Swindle said.

The Seminoles supported Swindle's pitching by scoring runs in each of the first five innings.

Mike Yastrzemski contributed a two-run homer — his seventh home run of the season — and shortstop Mark Barineau a run scoring triple to lead FSU.

you need. And that's right where we are."

With 11 regular season games and the Metro Conference Tournament remaining, 40 victories seem a lock. Victory No. 40 could well come today when the same two teams play at Seminole Field at 2 p.m. If the Seminoles play today like they did Saturday, it will.

Saturday's first game never was in doubt as Florida State struck for four runs in the first inning and cruised from there.

Mike Fuentes tied his own school record for home runs in a season — a record he shares with Terry Kennedy — when he blasted No. 21 beyond the right-center field wall to send Florida State ahead 1-0. The home run leaves Fuentes eight shy of the NCAA single-season mark of 29 set by UCLA's Jim Autin in 1979.

First game

SOUTH FLORIDA					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Cox cf	4	0	2	0	Martinez 2b	4	0	2	0
West lf	3	2	2	0	DeLoach ss	3	1	0	0
Clement dh	3	0	1	0	Fuentes cf	3	1	1	1
Hiltner 2b	3	0	1	0	Lacy dh	3	1	2	0
Wilson 3b	3	0	0	0	Licata lf	3	1	1	1
Roberts 1b	3	0	0	0	Ledbetter 1b	3	2	2	3
Grasso c	2	0	1	0	Ystrzmski rf	3	0	0	0
Cook rf	2	0	0	0	Figueredo 3b	3	1	1	1
Carr ss	3	0	0	0	Dowell c	2	1	0	0
Totals	26	2	7	0	Totals	27	8	9	6

South Florida 100 001 0 - 2
Florida State 401 102 x - 8
E—Dowell, DeLoach, West 2; DP—Florida State 3. LOB—South Florida 5, Florida State 3. 2B—Martinez, Ledbetter, Figueroa. 3B—Martinez. HR—Fuentes (21), Ledbetter (15). SB—Hiltner.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
South Florida						
Ditner L, 1-4	1	4	4	4	0	0
Grubbs	4 ² / ₃	5	4	2	2	2
Tanner	1 ¹ / ₃	0	0	0	0	0
Florida State						
Hatcher W, 5-3	7	7	2	0	2	4

WP—Hatcher, Grubbs 2. T—1:58.

Second game

SOUTH FLORIDA					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Carr ss	2	0	0	0	Martinez 2b	0	1	0	0
West lf	2	0	0	0	Howser 2b	1	0	0	0
Clement dh	3	0	0	0	Barineau ss	3	2	1	1
Hiltner 2b	3	0	1	0	Fuentes cf	4	0	0	0
Wilson 3b	3	0	2	0	Ledbetter 1b	1	0	0	0
Roberts 1b	2	0	2	0	Lacy 1b	2	1	1	0
Maust ph	1	0	0	0	Ystrzmski rf	3	1	2	2
Cox cf	2	0	0	0	Cullen rf	1	0	0	0
Proodian ph	1	0	0	0	Licata 3b	3	1	1	0
Brown c	2	0	0	0	Huff dh	2	2	1	0
Del Greco rf	1	0	0	0	Cawthon lf	3	0	0	0
					Ramsey c	3	0	1	1
Totals	22	0	5	0	Totals	26	8	7	4

South Florida 000 000 0-0
Florida State 112 220 x-8
E—Hiltner 2, Wilson 2. LOB—South Florida 5, Florida State 7. 2B—Lacy. 3B—Barineau. HR—Yastrzemski (7). S—Del Greco. SB—Barineau.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
South Florida						
Deptulski L, 0-3	2 1/3	3	4	2	4	0
Senisey	1 2/3	3	4	1	2	2
Walters	1	0	0	0	0	0
Collins	1	1	0	0	0	1
Florida State						
Swindle W, 4-1	7	5	0	0	2	6

WP—Deptulski, Walters, Collins. HBP—
by Swindle (Brown). T—2:10. A—800.