

Homers power Seminoles to 14-5 victory

By ROBERT MASHBURN

Democrat sportswriter

The bats are smoking, the pitching is — well, better — and Florida State's baseball team is primed for a stretch run.

The Seminoles slammed four home runs and got adequate though unspectacular pitching Sunday to bury South Florida 14-5 before 515 fans at Seminole Field.

The victory was Florida State's 40th — supposedly the magic number come NCAA selection time — against 18 defeats. It left Seminole coach Mike Martin in an optimistic mood as his team enters the final two weeks of a long, difficult schedule.

"We're playing good, solid baseball," Martin said. "Now we've just got to continue to improve."

"Today was a big win for us. Getting No. 40, especially against a schedule like ours, is an accomplishment."

The schedule gets even tougher. The Seminoles have 10 regular-season games left, including one against Valdosta State tonight at 7:30 at Seminole Field. Also ahead are four games against Auburn, three against second-ranked Miami and two against always-tough Georgia Southern in Statesboro, Ga.

As Martin said, "Hey, we've still got plenty of time to get bad."

The Seminoles showed no signs of getting bad Sunday. Though out-hit 13-12, they jumped on top early and had South Florida coach Robin Roberts in and out of the dugout all day. The Brahms used seven pitchers.

"When you get out-hit but still score nine

more runs than the other guy, that's getting some key hits," said Martin. "Licata's grand salami was probably the biggest — it got us started."

Joe Licata's "salami" — a bases-loaded blast down the left-field line — gave the Seminoles a 5-1 lead in the first inning. They never looked back.

FSU got three more runs in the second, all off USF starter Randy Wilson. He shut out the Seminoles on four hits last Wednesday in Tampa.

"The club wanted to do well against him," said Martin. "The guy shut us out for the first time in 114 games, and we just felt we had something to prove."

Another big blast for the Seminoles was Mike Fuentes' solo homer to lead off the sixth

inning. It was his 22nd of the season, topping the school record he set last year and shared with Terry Kennedy.

"I changed my swing a little," said Fuentes, who last week set an NCAA record with his 57th career homer and admits he feels less pressure at the plate with that record in the books.

"I'm striding toward the plate more, trying to get out in front and hit outside pitches the other way."

Sunday's home run bounced off the top of the wall at the 375-foot mark in right-center field and brought Fuentes one step closer to feeling the pressure of another record chase. The NCAA counts all postseason games in its record-keeping, so Fuentes has plenty of time to shoot for the record of 29 homers in a season.

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"Hey, that's a long way to go," he laughed. "Really, it's too soon to say."

The Seminoles also got home runs from Lionel Martinez (a two-run shot in the third) and Chris Cawthon, who hit a line-drive blast that was still rising when it cleared the right-center field wall in the sixth inning.

And the pitching was good, considering how badly the Seminoles pitched.

All four FSU pitchers continually fell behind hitters and got into trouble — but they also continually got out of trouble. The Brahms stranded 16 runners.

"Our pitching staff threw 209 pitches," said Martin, "and still gave up only three earned runs. They got behind hitters, but they hung in there."

Starter Ed Schneider, pitching for the first time in three weeks, lasted three innings and gave up four runs. David Smalley gave up one run over the next four innings and picked up the victory, his fourth without a loss.

| SOUTH FLORIDA | | | | | FLORIDA STATE | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| | ab | r | h | bi | | ab | r | h | bi |
| Cox cf | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Martinez 2b | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| West lf | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | DeLch 2b-ss | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clement rf | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Barineau ss | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Grasso c | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Howser 2b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wilson dh-3b | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Fuentes cf | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Roberts 1b | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | Ledbetter 1b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cook 3b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Ystrzmski rf | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Walters p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Cullen rf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tanner p | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Huff dh | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Collins p | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Lacy dh | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Saslowski p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Licata 3b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Proodian p | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Figueredo 3b | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Deptulski p | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Cawthon lf | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Carr ss | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Dowell c | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Erickson 2b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Ramsey c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 40 | 5 | 13 | 3 | Totals | 37 | 14 | 12 | 13 |

South Florida 103 000 100— 5
 Florida State 532 004 00x—14

E—Carr 2, Ledbetter, Figueredo, Cullen.
 DP—South Florida 1, Florida State 1. LOB—
 South Florida 16, Florida State 7. 2B—Clem-
 ent, Roberts, Figueredo. 3B—Grasso. HR—
 Licata (10), Martinez (4), Fuentes (22),
 Cawthon (8). SB—Barineau, Erickson.

| | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|----|----|----|
| South Florida | | | | | | |
| Wilson (L,5-3) | 12 ² / ₃ | 7 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Walters | 1 ¹ / ₃ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tanner | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Collins | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Saslowski | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Proodian | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Deptulski | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Florida State | | | | | | |
| Schneider | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Smalley (W,4-0) | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Ferraro | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Shouppe | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

WP—Walters, Saslawski, Ferraro.
 Balk—Ferraro. T—3:03. A—515.