

Youngsters keep 'Noles on hot streak

By George Maselli
Democrat sportswriter

The boys of Ball State, known as the Cardinals, lost their awe Friday. But they lost the ball game anyway.

Getting the basic ingredients of pitching, defense and big hits, Florida State topped the Cardinals 5-1 Friday afternoon. No matter how you looked at it, the crisp game was a large improvement on the 13-2 beating Thursday.

The two teams play again at 1 p.m. today and conclude the four-game series at 2 Sunday afternoon. FSU, on a five-game winning streak, is 16-5.

"You people down here take it for granted, but the aura of being at Florida State kept us in awe (Thursday)," said Ball State Coach Pat Quinn. "Coming down here with the tradition Florida State has and all the players they have who are pro prospects. . . .

"For the first three or four innings, we were looking around in amazement. We stayed in there today."

The Cardinals, 4-5, did that against FSU's top starting pitcher this season, freshman Ray Revak. Ball State led 1-0 after three innings on a home run by catcher Brent Bleh.

Using the formula that has been working lately — waiting for the freshmen to do something — the Seminoles tied it at 1 in the fourth on a home run by Paul Sorrento.

"I think it's great," said Sorrento of the freshmen contributions of players such as himself, Revak, Jose Marzan, Luis Alicea and Drew Kosco. "We're getting a chance to play and proving we can."

Sorrento, a Peabody, Mass., native, has been making a loud case for himself with his bat. The homer was his fifth of the season. He also drove the Ball State center fielder to the wall to haul in his drive in the second inning and singled and scored in the sixth. He was robbed of a hit in the eighth on a great stab by Cardinal first baseman Scott Goss.

Sorrento now leads the team with a .343 average and with 20 RBIs. "I like the way things are going," he said with a smile.

So does Ray Revak, now 5-0. Without his best assortment of pitches, he still went eight innings, allowed six hits, just one run, walked one and struck out five. He twice stranded runners with strikeouts and induced two double-play balls to get out of possible trouble in the first and third.

"I didn't have my best stuff today. They hit my fastball good. It didn't have any jump to it," said Revak, who sat down after eight innings when his pitching arm tightened. "The slider's always working for me."

FSU charged ahead with two runs on a walk, a Sorrento hit, a wild pitch, an infield out and a Marzan single.

"It was all freshmen, wasn't it?" said FSU Coach Mike Martin. "They're still freshmen, but they're not playing like it."

Junior Jimmy Jones made sure the upperclassmen were heard from. He iced the game with a towering two-run homer in the seventh.

"They made us earn everything we got," Martin said.

Cardinal pitchers walked only three and were well supported defensively.

"I thought we played them pretty even," Quinn said. "We don't have the depth they have. This is a spring training type situation for us."

BALL STATE

	ab	r	h	bi
Laumann, rf	4	0	0	0
McCrack, 2b	4	0	2	0
Brown, lf	3	0	0	0
Goss, lb	4	0	0	0
Lehrman, dh	4	0	1	0
Howard, cf	4	0	1	0
Campbell, ss	3	0	1	0
Davis, 3b	3	0	0	0
Bleh, c	3	1	1	1
Lee, ph	1	0	0	0

Totals	33	1	6	1
--------	----	---	---	---

FLORIDA STATE

	ab	r	h	bi
Reed, ss	3	0	0	0
Alicea, 2b	4	0	1	0
Fazzini, lf	3	1	0	0
Sorrento, rf	4	2	2	1
Garrison, 3b	3	0	0	1
Marzan, c	3	0	2	1
Kosco, dh	3	0	2	0
Jones, lb	3	1	2	2
Calandra, cf	2	0	0	0
Dennis, 3b	1	0	1	0
Insogna, c	1	0	0	0
Mitchell, pr	0	1	0	0
Gentry, cf	0	0	0	0

Totals	30	5	10	5
--------	----	---	----	---

Ball State	001 000 000 — 1 6 1
------------	---------------------

Florida State	000 102 20x — 5 10 2
---------------	----------------------

E—Murphy, Revak, Dennis. DP—Florida State 2, Ball State 2. LOB—Ball State 6, Florida State 4. HR—Bleh (1), Sorrento (5), Jones (4). SB—Howard, Lehrman.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
--	----	---	---	----	----	----

BALL STATE

Murphy, L (1-1)	6	7	3	3	2	0
Schrock	2	3	2	2	1	0

FLORIDA STATE

Revak, W (5-0)	8	6	1	1	1	5
Threadway	1	0	0	0	0	0

WP—Murphy 2. PB—Marzan. T—2:06.

A—537.