

FSU downs Bulls

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

The problem at this point doesn't appear to be defense, pitching or hitting. Right now, for the hottest little college baseball team around, the biggest problem would appear to be runaway optimism.

Who could blame local fans for hot flashes that are the college equivalent of pennant fever. Winning their fourth straight game of the 1985 season in most impressive fashion, the Seminoles outpitched, outhit and outfielded South Florida's Bulls 8-2 Sunday with 2,393 happy fans watching at Seminole Stadium.

The Seminoles host Grambling today at 3:30 if predicted rain stays away.

Right-hander Doug Little, 2-0, held the Bulls to four hits and one run in eight innings. In fact, this marks the fourth straight strong pitching performance by FSU from Little, Mike Loynd, Richie Lewis and Little again.

The defense handled everything, with the exception of a lone throwing error by Little. The infield of Jimmy Jones, Luis Alicea, Bien Figueroa and third basemen Jose Marzan and Vince Calandra continued to make every play, tough and routine.

And the hitters — FSU's baseball trademark? They, too, have started clubbing at mid-season form. Against South Florida's No. 1 starter Jerry Comellas and reliever Marty Valentine, the Seminoles produced 12 hits, three of them booming home runs.

Calandra, with his Hollywood-producer father looking on, bombed a towering three-run homer in the first inning for a 3-0 lead. He took an oh-so-close, 1-2 curve for a ball as the crowd groaned, worked the count full and then unloaded.

"After a while, you go out and start playing well and every sentence about us has 'Omaha-bound.' I'd like for us to be playing this well at the end of the season," Calandra said. "The defense has been great, the pitching has been phenomenal and the hitters are coming around."

The Seminoles scored one more in the second on singles by Barry Blackwell, Luis Alicea and Jose Marzan. Two unearned runs put it out of reach in the fourth inning. Jimmy Jones and Frank Fazzini

provided the run-scoring hits.

That was time for Little to order a lemonade and stretch out on a hammock. He was coasting and kept throwing strikes, not walking a batter. He said he did not have his best stuff, but he didn't need it.

"I had a tough act to follow," said Little, talking about freshman Lewis' dominating relief victory Saturday. "It was a learning experience how to pitch these guys watching him. The problem for me was that I wasn't consistent with my breaking ball."

Little may not have been happy with the way he won — the winning ugly syndrome — but he was overjoyed by the support he received. "The way the guys were hitting the ball makes my job 100 percent easier," he said.

More slugging was exhibited in the seventh inning. Blackwell hit one of those home runs that doesn't get more than 15 feet off the ground and cruises like a missile. It was his first in college, and he was predictably thrilled.

"I hit it hard, and you can tell," said Blackwell, impressive as a freshman both behind the plate and with the bat so far. "It just feels good."

Blackwell sprinted around first before first-base coach Rod Delmonico slowed him down to home-run speed. "If I was a senior, I would have known to go into a trot," he said with a grin.

Before the players got situated back on the bench, sophomore Dru Kosco crunched one around 420 feet to center.

"We're much better than that," said South Florida Coach Robin Roberts. "I think we're about the same as Florida State and Miami. We're all about the same. They just had a good weekend."

FSU Coach Mike Martin, trying to tone down the raging, early optimism, wasn't about to argue. "I agree with that assessment," he said.

"I think people are going to expect a lot after we scored 19 runs in two games against South Florida," said junior slugger Frank Fazzini, a team leader. "They're going to expect a lot, and I hope we can give it to them."

South Florida					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Alfonso,ss	4	0	0	0	Alicea,2b	5	0	2	0
Bullard,2b	4	1	1	0	Marzan,3b	4	1	1	1
Mainini,cf	3	1	1	1	Fazzini,lf	5	2	2	1
Hemond,c	4	0	1	1	Jones,1b	4	1	1	1
Swabek,lf	4	0	0	0	Calandra,dh	4	1	1	3
Waggoner,1b	4	0	0	0	Sorrento,rf	4	0	1	0
Gali,3b	3	0	1	0	Figueroa,ss	4	0	1	0
Hornnik,dh	3	0	1	0	Blackwell,c	3	1	2	1
Kreibel,rf	3	0	0	0	Mangham,cf	3	1	0	0
					Zoeller,ph	1	0	0	0
					Kidd,cf	0	0	0	0
					Saxner,c	0	0	0	0
					Kosco,rf	1	1	1	1
South Florida	000	001	001	—	2	5	3		
Florida State	310	200	20x	—	8	12	1		

E—Gali (2), Alfonso, Little. DP—South Florida. LOB—South Florida 4, Florida State 9. HR—Calandra (2), Blackwell (1), Kosco (1), Mainini (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
South Florida						
Comellas, L(1-1)	2	5	4	4	1	1
Valentine	5	7	4	2	1	2
Nickel	1	0	0	0	0	0
Florida State						
Little, W(2-0)	8	4	1	1	0	5
Brown	1	1	1	1	0	2

WP—Comellas, Valentine (2). HBP—Blackwell (Valentine), Mainini (Little). T—2:10. A—2393.