

Seminoles notch fifth in a row

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

For the Florida State Seminoles, it was a day to add another victory and to fatten up some statistics. For Grambling State's Tigers, it was just a treat to play baseball despite losing to FSU 13-7 Monday afternoon at Seminole Stadium.

"Our guys were so glad to see dirt, they wanted to smell it," said Grambling Coach Wilbert Ellis. "We've only been outside (to practice) four times. There's been ice and snow in Northern Louisiana."



Fazzini

Cold temperatures are expected.

Though it was the Tigers' opener after weeks practicing in a gym, it was FSU's fifth straight victory of the season. The teams play again today at 3:30, if the weather will again allow it.

The MVP of this day for the Seminoles was either the university's ground crew or Frank Fazzini. The ground crew managed to make the surface workable after a heavy rain made it look like an unplayable lie.

Fazzini homered twice to lead the FSU offense. It was he, said Seminole Coach Mike Martin, who suggested covering the infield with the tarp after Sunday's 8-2 victory over South Florida. The sun was shining and the birds were chirping at the time.

In the past, FSU baseball players ranked dragging out the tarp in roughly the same class as a root canal. That move was probably what allowed Fazzini to hit his first two long balls of the year and for senior left-hander Steve Gelmine to record his first victory. Luis Alieca ended any drama for the day with a grand slam in the fourth in FSU's seven-run inning.

Jimmy Jones also slugged a homer.

"Frank Fazzini is the one who got this ball game in," said Martin. "He was the one saying 'let's get the tarp on.' That's very unusual for a Florida State baseball player."

"He must have known something."

But the defensive play and pitching was not sharp on either side, with a few exceptions. Seminole shortstop Bien Figueroa continued to get to everything around his position and to make every play. In the fifth and sixth innings, he was in the middle of double plays that ended Grambling threats. In the eighth, he cut short another rally with a wide-ranging play up the middle.

Fittingly, he threw out the final batter to end the game.

With the outcome not in doubt from early on, there may have been more interest in weather watching.

Despite some ragged defense, including a error that paved the way to a three-run Seminole second and another that began the fatal fourth, Ellis said he was pleased.

"We were just happy to be able to play," he said.

Fazzini, too, was happy. The tarp move proved sweet for him.

"This is a different ballclub from last year's," he said. "This is a great bunch of guys. We don't have any complainers."

Grambling					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Watkins,cf	3	2	0	0	Alicea,2b	4	1	2	4
Crandall,2b	2	0	0	0	Marzan,3b	5	1	1	0
Taylor,1b	4	0	3	2	Fazzini,lf	5	2	2	3
Webster,c	3	1	1	0	Jones,1b	2	2	2	1
Tieuel,dh	5	1	2	1	Calandra,dh	1	2	0	0
McWilliams,3b	5	0	0	0	Sorrento,rf	3	0	1	1
Vallery,rf	5	2	2	0	Figueroa,ss	4	2	0	1
Watkins,ss	5	1	3	1	Blackwell,c	3	2	1	0
Young,lf	4	0	0	0	Mangham,cf	3	1	1	0
Lee,2b	0	0	0	0	Pacetti,2b	1	0	0	0
Blank,lf	1	0	0	0	Eppley,rf	0	0	0	0
Totals	37	2	11	4	Zoeller,1b	1	0	0	0
					Saxner,c	1	0	0	0
					Kidd,cf	1	0	0	0
					Smith,p	1	0	0	0
					Kosco,rflf	2	0	1	0
					Totals	37	13	11	10

Grambling 001 003 030 — 7 11 2
 Florida State 030 701 20x — 13 11 4

E—McWilliams (2), Alicea, Thomas, Saxner, Calandra. DP—FSU 2. LOB—Grambling 11, FSU 9. 2B—Taylor, Tieule, Marzan. HR—Alicea (1), Fazzini (2), Jones (2). SB—Jones. SF—Taylor.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Grambling						
Foley, L(0-1)	3.1	6	8	4	3	3
Ferguson	3	5	5	4	4	0
Samples	2.2	0	0	0	2	3
Florida State						
Gelmine, W(1-0)	5.1	7	4	3	3	1
Thomas	2	4	3	0	1	0
Smith	1.2	0	0	0	1	0

WP—Foley, Samples. BK—Foley.
 HBP—Webster (Gelmine). T—2:52. A—475.