

Seminoles ice Grambling 9-4 with 8-run rally

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

The biggest cheer of the day from the huddled crowd came in the sixth inning of Florida State's 9-4 baseball victory Tuesday afternoon over Grambling. In reality, the game had been decided when FSU scored eight times in the first inning.

The cheer followed this announcement: "By the mutual consent of both teams, this game will be shortened to seven innings."

The only reason the ovation was not standing was because most of the crowd of 350 still around in the sixth inning had frozen feet. The general idea — on a windy day with temperatures in the 40s and 50s — was, "Let's get it over with."

The problem for FSU was that pitcher Mike Loynd had only a vague idea about the location of the plate. He barely survived the five full innings he needed to get his second victory of the season. He walked eight in those five innings and gave up four hits.

"I don't think Michael is a cold-weather pitcher," said pitching coach Mike McLeod. "I'm just glad to get out of here with my skin not frozen."

Grambling, 0-2, will stay in town to play Florida A&M today and Thursday. The Seminoles, 6-0, host Samford on Thursday.

Maybe because of the biting wind that felt like it was straight out of Siberia, there were any number of big-time dumb plays. That's not including the more typical errors, two of which paved the way for FSU's big first inning.

In that first, Jose Marzan reached on shortstop Orlando Watkins' error. Frank Fazzini then rode an outside fastball up into the gale blowing to right for his third homer in two days.

"I didn't hit it very good. It was the wind," said Fazzini.

Two walks and another error later, FSU shortstop Bien Figueroa tripled to right-center for three more runs. Figueroa scored on a single by Eric Mangham. Mangham stole second and scored on a single by Marzan. Luis Alicea, who had walked, scored when Marzan was purposely trapped in a rundown, ending the inning.

The silly play of the day came in the third inning

when FSU's Jimmy Jones hit a foul pop that appeared to be going well into the seats. Instead, it blew back into play and landed inches fair inside the third base line. A stunned Jones was still standing at the plate as the ball thudded in the dirt. He was relieved of his first base duties the next inning.

But despite some other worthy candidates, the dumb play of the game was made on the basepaths by Grambling second baseman Kelvin Crandall. In the fourth, with the bases loaded, two runs in (on two hits and three straight walks) and one out, Crandall was picked off second base. That killed the Tigers' chance for a very big inning.

Martin wasn't complaining about the weather or anything else

on his 41st birthday. It takes some pretty extreme weather to get baseball games postponed at FSU, especially games the Seminoles are supposed to win. It was another victory — so important when totaled at the end of the year for regional berths.

"Michael (Loynd) just really struggled," Martin said. "I think the weather really affected him. He was like the rest of the team; there was a letdown after the first inning when we got that big lead."

But how cold was it?

"I don't remember ever playing in temperatures this cold," Martin said.

"Don't even ask how cold it was," said a Grambling player rushing toward the team bus.

"I remember about six years ago," said Grambling Coach Wilbert Ellis, "we were supposed to play Centenary and it was this cold. We didn't play that one. I was surprised we played (today), but

that's why we came here: to play. I'm glad we did."

| Grambling | | | | | Florida State | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|----|---------------|----|---|---|----|
| | ab | r | h | bi | | ab | r | h | bi |
| J. Watkins,cf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Alicea,2b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Crandell,2b | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Marzan,3b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Taylor,1b | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Fazzini,lf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Webster,dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Jones,1b | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tieule,c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Calandra,dh | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| O. Watkins,ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Sorrento,rf | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Vallery,rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Figueroa,ss | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| McWilliams,3b | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Blackwell,c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Young,rf | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | Mangham,cf | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Polk,cf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Zoeller,1b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 24 | 4 | 4 | 3 | Kosco,ph | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | | Saxner,c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Kidd,cf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Totals | 25 | 9 | 7 | 8 |

Grambling 010 200 1 — 4 4 2
Florida State 801 000 x — 9 7 1

E—O. Watkins, McWilliams, Mangham.
DP—None. LOB—FSU 1, Grambling 10.
2B—Figueroa 2, Young, Mangham. HR—
Fazzini (3). SB—Crandell, Mangham, Kidd.

| | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|----------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Grambling | | | | | | |
| Eaves, L(0-1) | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Washington | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Florida State | | | | | | |
| Loynd, W(2-0) | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 5 |
| Lewis | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |

WP—Lewis. HBP—Taylor (Lewis). T—
2:21. A—350.