

# Figueroa slams FSU to victory

By David Whitley  
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Bien Figueroa hasn't learned how to handle the English language with the same ease he turns a double play just yet, but the Florida State shortstop probably won't have any trouble remembering a phrase he learned on Friday:

Grand slam.

Figueroa, a native of the Dominican Republic, hit the first grand slam of his life on Friday to key a 10-run fifth inning as FSU pounded Samford 18-10. The win was FSU's eighth straight against no losses and nicely set up today's 1 p.m. doubleheader against Southern Mississippi.

Perhaps the Golden Eagles will bring their pitchers along. All evidence indicates that Samford left its pitching staff in Birmingham, Ala. Friday's blowout was the second straight for the Seminoles over the 0-2 Bulldogs. In two days, FSU abused Samford pitchers for 31 hits and 32 runs.

"I guess when you average 16 runs a game, you ought to win," said FSU Coach Mike Martin.

That kind of run production overwhelm a lot of other deficiencies. As it was in Thursday's 14-7 blowout, FSU's pitching was eons behind its hitting. Starter Paul Thomas was touched for seven hits before leaving in the fifth with FSU down 4-2. Thanks in no small part to third baseman's Jose Marzan's error, the bases were loaded with no out.

Kevin Smith relieved Thomas and got the first two batters out on a pop-up and a strikeout. But the crowd of 512 breathed its sigh of relief too fast as two more runs scored without a hit being struck.

"We had our chance to get out of the inning with no major damage and we hit a guy and then throw a wild pitch," said Martin. "They were gifts, literally gifts. It's a crying shame, but it happens sometimes. We're not going to be able to do that against other clubs."

But they could against Samford, which had its 6-3

From 1D

lead blasted out from under it in FSU's half of the fifth. The Seminoles sent 15 batters to the plate during their 10-run uprising. Figueroa's blast made it 9-6, and FSU was far from through.

By the time Samford Coach J.T. Haywood showed a little mercy and relieved starter Joey Sims, the Seminoles had a 12-6 lead. After Jeff Boyd put in his 1 1/2 innings of relief, the score was 18-8.

Figueroa's shot over the left-field wall was the shock. At 5-foot-10, 160-pounds, the junior-college transfer was recruited for his defense, not his power.

"I never had in my mind that I would hit a home run," he said. "I hit it good."

"That was one of the biggest surprises of the season," Martin said. "I've only seen him hit two balls out since he's been here, and that was one of them."

Smith pitched adequately enough in his two innings to pick up the win, his second in two days.

Pete Brown and Richie Lewis did the mopping up, with Lewis striking out the side in the ninth. By that time, it was a game only vultures and the truest of baseball fans had stuck around to watch in the cold night air.

"I don't think we can afford to play like we did today against Southern Mississippi," Martin said, obviously referring to FSU's pitching and fielding, not its hitting. "Although we seem to play to the level of our competition. The guys on the mound are just lacking concentration at this point."

That, and Figueroa's grand slam, of course, have to be the only surprises in a season that, so far at least, is living up to its lofty billing.

"This club likes the feeling of winning, and it's contagious," said Martin. "We're playing a lot of people and everybody's pulling for each other."

"I love this team," said Figueroa, who was also involved in another oddity on Friday — neither he nor any of other of FSU's shortstops or second basemen had a put-out or an assist. "I think we have the power to go all the way to Omaha."

Samford					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Parker,cf	3	4	2	0	Alicea,2b	6	0	0	0
Garrison,2b	5	2	2	1	Pacetti,2b	0	0	0	0
Cooper,ss	5	2	3	4	Marzan,3b	5	3	3	0
Banks,1b	4	0	0	0	Fazzini,lf	5	3	2	2
Scott,lf	5	0	1	2	Sorrento,rf	4	2	2	2
Phillips,3b	4	0	0	0	Saxner,c	2	1	1	1
Durrett,3b	1	0	0	0	Jones,1b	2	3	1	1
Vaughn,rf	4	0	1	1	Zoeller,1b	2	1	1	1
Burnett,dh	3	0	0	0	Calandra,dh	4	2	3	3
Mitchell,dh	2	0	0	0	Eppley,ph	1	0	0	0
Payne,c	4	2	2	1	Figueroa,ss	4	1	1	4
Totals	40	10	11	9	Abshier,ss	0	0	0	0
					Blackwell,c	2	0	1	1
					Kosco,rf	2	1	1	0
					Mangham,cf	3	1	0	1
					Kidd,cf	2	0	1	0
					Totals	44	18	17	16

Samford 200 0 42 020 — 10-11 5  
 Florida State 021 0105 00x — 18 17 3

E—Marzan 2, Banks, Garribon, Phillips  
 2, Smith, Cooper, LOB—Samford 7, FSU 10.  
 2B—Marzan, Parker, Kosco, Fazzini 2,  
 Zoeller, Payne. 3B—Cooper, HR—Jones (3),  
 Payne (1), Figueroa (1), Cooper (1). SB—  
 Fazzini, Parker, Mangham. SH—Figueroa.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>Samford</b>						
Sims, L(0-1)	4 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	8	12	8	4	1
Boyd	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	8	6	6	1	0
J. Baker	2	1	0	0	2	0
<b>Florida State</b>						
Thomas	4	7	6	2	2	5
Smith, W(2-0)	2	2	2	2	0	2
Brown	2	2	2	2	1	1
Lewis	1	0	0	0	0	3

WP—Boyd, Brown, Baker. PB—Payne.  
 BK—Boyd. HBP—Vaughn (Smith). T—3:10.  
 A—512.