

FSU rallies back to its winning ways

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

Two days after a bitter baseball loss that will be remembered for years in these parts, the Florida State Seminoles got back to business Tuesday.

Winning.
It wasn't easy, this 5-4 victory over an always-difficult Georgia Southern team. A lack of clutch hitting and relief pitching turned things so dangerous that FSU had to come up with two runs in the bottom of the eighth to win.

Luis Alicea, a little second baseman who has been hitting very big lately, boomed a two-out homer in the eighth

for the winning run. Freshman pitcher Richie Lewis, something of a phenom so far, had to come out of the bullpen to save the day.

FSU, 13-2, and Georgia Southern, 3-2, play again today at 3:30. Doug Little will go for his fifth straight victory for the Seminoles.

"This was a very big win for us today because of what happened Sunday," said FSU Coach Mike Martin, whose team blew a 5-1 lead Sunday in Miami to lose 6-5 and drop out of consideration, at least for a while, for a No. 1 national ranking. "We executed late, and now we're on a positive note again."

Besides the dramatic Alicea home

run, the pitching of Ray Revak and the infield defense made it work.

Revak, the losing pitcher Sunday, worked 7½ strong innings. There was little justice in the fact that he didn't earn his first victory of the year. He weakened in the seventh, but was saved by his infield.

While holding a 3-1 lead, he allowed a single to Greg McMullen — who had rapped a solo homer in the fourth — to open the seventh. Then third baseman Jose Marzan and Alicea combined on an impressive double play. That usually kills an inning, but Southern still scored in the inning on a single and a double by Robbie Harranda.

When Revak walked Luis Ramos with one out in the eighth, he was gone. Martin called on senior Kevin Smith, whose wildness was a key factor in the Sunday loss. Smith got one out, but a single and walk later, he was gone.

Martin reached into his bullpen for Lewis, who pitched nearly a complete game Sunday only to watch the relievers who followed him lose the game. This time he was put in late charge.

He started with the bases loaded. Juan Cunningham rammed a two-run single to give the Eagles a 4-3 lead.

See BASEBALL, 3D

Lewis, however, retired the next four batters he faced. When the Seminoles rallied for two in the bottom of the eighth, he got the victory he should have had Sunday. He is 3-0.

"He's just a little rooster," said Martin. "He enjoys competition. When the game is close, he wants it."

Martin said the fact that Lewis threw 115 pitches Sunday did not deter him from calling on the freshman again.

"He's so young," Martin said. "We probably won't give him the ball again until the opening of the Ball State series Friday when he starts."

FSU scored only once in the third, even though it had an Ed Fulton single, an error, a Jose Marzan double and a walk to work with. The bases were left loaded, just as they were in the fourth.

A run-scoring single by Paul Sorrento and a double steal with Jimmy Jones taking home with two outs broke a 1-1 tie in the fifth.

The Seminoles were helped by three sparkling plays by shortstop Bien Figueroa in the third and

from the vocal crowd of 831. Effective reliever Ken Roberts was pulled after walking leadoff man Figueroa. Marty Murphy promptly wild-pitched him to second. Vince Calandra bunted him perfectly to third, and Murphy wild-pitched him home.

Then, to save extra innings, Alicea went high and deep over the trees in right, a Ledbetter-like blow.

Ga. Southern					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Ramas, 2b	3	1	0	0	Alicea, 2b	5	1	2	1
Shireman, lf	4	0	0	0	Marzan, 3b	5	0	1	1
Shepherd, rf	4	1	2	0	Fazzini, lf	3	1	1	0
McMullen, c	3	1	2	1	Jones, 1b	3	1	1	0
Cnnnghm, 3b	4	0	1	2	Sorrento, rf	4	0	2	1
Cooper, 1b	4	1	1	0	Kosco, dh	4	0	1	0
Harranda, dh	4	0	1	1	Figueroa, ss	3	1	1	0
Meicomb, ss	2	0	0	0	Fulton, c	3	1	1	0
Aiken, ph	1	0	0	0	Calandra, ph	0	0	0	0
Supinski, cf	3	0	0	0	Blackwell, c	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	4	7	3	Mangham, cf	4	0	1	0
					Totals	34	5	11	3

Ga. Southern	000	100	120	—	4	7	1
Florida St.	001	020	02x	—	5	11	1

E—Meicomb, Fazzini, DP—FSU 1.
LOB—FSU 9. 2B—Marzan, Fazzini,
Harranda. HR—McMullen (4), Alicea (4).
SB—Jones, Fulton. SH—Calandra.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ga. Southern						
Dale	4	8	3	3	2	0
Roberts	3	2	1	1	1	1
Murphy, L(0-1)	1	1	1	1	0	0
Florida State						
Revak	7½	5	3	3	2	7
Smith	½	1	1	1	1	0
Lewis, W(3-0)	1½	1	0	0	0	1

WP—Murphy 2. T—2:25. A—851.

fourth. Alicea, not to be outdone, ranged well behind second to make another ooh-aah play in the sixth. Alicea also made what may have been the play of the game, ending a Southern uprising in the eighth by throwing out McMullen trying to take home on a double steal.

Then in the eighth, FSU took the game back with much help