

Fazzini's message hits home

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

This game was a little different for Frank Fazzini, who has had plenty of big days in his three years as a slugging outfielder at Florida State.

He starred again Wednesday as the Seminoles roughed up Georgia Southern 12-6 at Seminole Stadium. But this time the man was seriously motivated.

"I hit 'em for my girlfriend," said Fazzini of his two home runs and diving catch in left that made him the star of the day. "I'm sort of in hot water with her, and this is our four-year-and-one-month anniversary."

If Leslie Aiello, who lives in Fazzini's hometown of Belleville, N.J., had a comment on the honor, it will go unrecorded here. But Florida State Coach Mike Martin, whose 14-2 Seminoles will play St. Leo today at 3:30, loved the Fazzini power show.

"I don't care who he hits them for," said Martin, laughing.

"I wish he was in trouble with his girlfriend a little more often," said designated hitter Tommy Zoeller, who was also involved in FSU's five-homer barrage against the Southern pitching staff of former FSU head coach Jack Stallings.

With the Seminoles trailing 3-1 with two out in the bottom of the third, Fazzini hammered one that bounced off the top of the center field wall and went over. Jones, who loves few things in life better than fastballs, got one and lined it over the right field wall to temporarily keep pace with Fazzini for the team lead with five homers.

Then dazed Southern starter Steve Stringer got behind 3-0 in the count to Zoeller. Zoeller was given the hit sign and took another fat fastball deep to left.

After that offensive jump-start, the Seminoles got six more runs in the fourth. They got a big break when the Eagles botched a sure double play and got just a force. Catcher Ed Fulton followed with a two-run homer to right, his first in college.

A walk, a Luis Alicea double, three stolen bases, two more walks and a Vince Calandra triple — which could have been caught at the wall in right-center — finished the assault on reliever Billy Brooks.

The offensive support was a great gift for Little, who won his fifth straight start of the season. But this wasn't the Little who came into the game with an 0.56 ERA. This pitcher was struggling for every out.

"This was probably the worst game for Doug, yet he pitched well enough to win," said Martin.

Little allowed five runs in seven innings. He walked only two and let his defense show off.

The double-play combination of Alicea and Bien Figueroa — with help from third baseman Calandra and first baseman Jones — tied a school record by turning four double plays. One in each of the second, third and fourth innings got Little out of lots of trouble. Fazzini also made his tumbling catch to close the fourth.

Leading off the sixth, Fazzini apparently had not done enough to

smooth things over with Leslie. He belted a homer to left, breaking a little branch off a pine tree.

"I would never hang anything to Frank. He's incredible. He doesn't miss them," said Zoeller.

Fazzini, in his friendly New Jersey manner, shrugged off his fine day's work.

"They hung me a curveball and they hung me a changeup," he said. "You probably could have hit them out."

Doubtful. Leslie, those two were for you.

Georgia Southern					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Ramos,ss	4	1	1	0	Alicea,2b	5	1	1	1
Snireman,2b	4	0	0	0	Fazzini,lf	3	3	2	2
Smith,ph	0	0	0	0	Jones,1b	4	2	1	1
Shepherd,rf	5	1	1	0	Zoeller,dh	2	2	1	2
McMullen,dh	4	2	2	2	Calandra,3b	4	0	1	2
Cunnghm,3b	4	0	2	1	Kosco,rf	2	0	0	0
Cooper,1b	3	1	1	0	Sorrento,rf	1	0	0	0
Aiken,lf	3	0	1	1	Figueroa,ss	4	2	2	1
Haranda,c	3	1	3	2	Fulton,c	4	1	2	3
Supinski,cf	2	0	0	0	Mangham,cf	1	1	0	0
Gealy,ph	0	0	0	0	Kidd,cf	1	0	0	0
Totals	32	6	11	6	Totals	31	12	10	12

Georgia Southern 201 002 010 — 6 11 2
Florida State 013 601 10x — 12 10 1

E—Mangham, Stringer, Cooper. DP—Georgia Southern 2, FSU 4. LOB—Georgia Southern 7, FSU 3. 2B—Alicea. 3B—Calandra, Cooper. HR—Fazzini 2 (6), Jones (5), Zoeller (2), Fulton (1), Harandra (1). SB—Shepherd, Mangham, Alicea. S—Supinski. SF—Zoeller, Aiken.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Georgia Southern						
Stringer, L(0-1)	3	4	5	5	2	1
Brooks	2 ² / ₃	3	5	5	3	0
Luman	4 ¹ / ₃	3	2	1	2	1
Florida State						
Little, W(5-0)	7	10	5	4	2	2
Ashmont	1	1	1	1	4	1
Brown	1	0	0	0	0	0

WP—Ashmont. T—2:39. A—903.