

Seminoles salvage a split

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

When they turned out the lights Saturday at Seminole Stadium, Florida State baseball coach Mike Martin was slumped exhausted on the bench. The Seminoles had just come back to win the second game of a doubleheader 12-10 after losing the opener 12-11.

In the parking lot, the Ball State Cardinals were angry as they boarding their bus because they did not sweep the fifth-ranked Seminoles.

Now that's a switch. Ball State, a snowbird school from Muncie, Ind., is supposed to be four big W's for a national power like Florida State, just as the Cardinals were last year.

"Good God, I went through six packs of bubblegum, two packs of chewing tobacco and lost five dozen baseballs. That's \$200," said Martin, whose team had to come back from an 8-2 deficit to avoid a Ball State sweep. "That was like two heavyweights slugging it out."

The Cardinals, who swung bats as aggressively as a New York gang with tire irons, ripped their way to a 12-11 victory in the opener. By the time they finished Game Two, the doubleheader that began in the sunshine at 1 ended just short of 8. It seemed like some sort of time warp after 45 runs, 56 hits and 12 home runs.

FSU, 16-3, hosts the Cardinals, 6-3, again today at 2. If it's anything like Saturday, it should be good.

The Cardinals beat the Seminoles within an inch of their very lives. In the process, they pretty well trashed FSU's heralded freshman pitching recruits Richie Lewis and Al Ashmont and others.

In his only ineffective outing of the season, Lewis lasted only one out into the fourth inning. He left after allowing nine runs (just four earned) and three home runs. The way the line drives were showering the park, it's a wonder someone — especially an FSU infielder — wasn't hurt.

The Cardinals — with superb-looking prospect Tom Howard providing a three-run homer in the third inning — led 9-3 by the time they were through in the fourth with Lewis and Steve Gelmine.

"They were crushers," said FSU's Paul Sorrento. "They surprised us because they were so much improved from last year. We didn't think they could score 12 runs on us. And we still almost won."

To their credit, the Seminoles didn't sit around and feel sorry for themselves, though the shock in them was visible. "This is Ball State?" they were asking.

With the crowd of 2,097 helping them along, the Seminoles scrounged out four in the fourth though they were not booming the ball like Ball State. With a walk, a bloop single, a bunt single, an error, a double by Frank Fazzini and a single by Sorrento, they scored four times to make it 9-6.

Gelmine survived only into the sixth when he was crushed for back-to-back homers by Howard and Mark Davis. Martin then came in with his No. 1 pitcher, Doug Little to try to salvage the game, but it was gone. Little, who won't start until Tuesday against Jacksonville, won't be seen again this series.

The Seminole couldn't get all the way back. They had the winning runs on base in the ninth, but reliever Ron Shrock held them off.

As if the opening loss was not enough, the Cardinals came out hammering again in Game 2. And, who else, Howard was doing the heaviest clubbing. He clubbed his third homer of the day for a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Randy Dudek, hitting eighth in the Ball State lineup, belted his second of the day in the second inning for a 4-0 lead.

The Seminoles, in this home-run derby, got two back in the bottom of the inning on a two-run blast by Tommy Zoeller. Then in

the third, a walk, a double to the 400-foot sign in center by Mike Lehrman knocked out Ashmont. Kevin Smith entered and gave up a single and a home run to Dave Harris.

It was 8-2, and the smell of a massive upset sweep was in the air.

But the Seminoles usually find a way to win at home, often when the other team gets rattled. They scored four in the fourth with a walk, a hit-and-run single, an error and a three-run homer by Sorrento.

Smith began holding down the Cardinals, but not without great effort.

"I felt I had really good stuff, but I had to fight them every pitch," said Smith. "Last year we swept them, but they don't have any easy outs in the whole lineup. I opened a guy up with a slider and he hit a seed (line drive) up the middle. I was a little shocked at the way they played."

Smith, 3-0, got the victory by holding Ball State to one more run in the fifth and one in the seventh. The game-winning hit turned out to be a single in the sixth by freshman catcher Barry Blackwell, who also doubled in two in the second.

"We never got ahead today until the sixth inning of the second game. I was pleased with the fight in the club," said Martin. "I was also glad to see Kevin Smith regain some confidence."

But on the other side: "We had them 8-2. We can't give up ballgames like that no matter who it is we're playing," said Ball State's Howard. "We look forward to coming down here every year. And every year we're getting better."

First game

Ball State					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Setser,cf	4	0	2	0	Alicea,2b	5	3	3	0
Laumann,cf	2	1	1	0	Fazzini,lf	3	3	3	3
McCormick,2b	5	1	1	0	Jones,lb	4	0	1	1
Howard,lf	4	4	2	5	Sorrento,rf	5	0	2	2
Davis,3b	4	1	1	1	Calandra,3b	4	0	1	1
Lehrman,dh	5	2	2	3	Zoeller,ph	0	1	0	0
Dunham,lb	5	0	1	0	Kosco,dh	4	1	2	1
Harris,rf	5	1	1	0	Kidd,pr	0	0	0	0
Dudek,ss	4	2	3	2	Figueroa,ss	3	0	0	0
Kilgore,c	5	0	1	0	Saxner,ph	1	0	1	1
Totals	43	12	15	11	Fulton,c	2	1	0	0
					Marzan,3b	1	0	0	0
					Mangham,cf	5	2	1	0

Blackwell,c 0 0 0 0
Totals 37 11 14 9

Ball State 142 202 100 — 12 15 2
Florida State 102 411 011 — 11 14 2

E—Fazzini, Roesler, Alicea, Kilgore.
DP—Ball St. 4. LOB—Ball St. 11, FSU 7.
2B—McCormick, Setser, Fazzini. 3B—
Alicea. HR—Howard 2 (4), Dudek (1),
Lehrman (3), Kosco (2), Davis (1). SB—
Lehrman, Mangham.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ball State						
Roesler, W(2-0)	6	11	9	7	5	1
Sigler	2 1/3	2	2	2	3	0
Schrock	2 2/3	1	0	0	0	1
Florida State						
Lewis, L(3-1)	3 1/3	8	9	4	4	5
Gelmine	2 1/3	5	2	2	1	3
Little	3 2/3	2	1	0	2	4

WP—Lewis. PB—Fulton. T—3:22.

Second game

Ball State					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Laumann,ss	5	0	0	0	Alicea,2b	4	0	0	0
McCrack,2b	4	1	0	0	Marzan,3b	5	1	2	0
Howard,lf	4	1	1	2	Fazzini,lf	4	2	0	1
Davis,3b	3	2	1	0	Sorrento,rf	5	2	2	3
Lehrman,dh	5	1	1	0	Zoeller,1b	4	3	2	2
Dunham,1b	5	2	3	1	Kosco,dh	5	0	1	0
Harris,rf	4	2	3	5	Figueras,ss	4	2	4	1
Dudeck,ss	5	1	2	2	Blackwell,c	5	0	3	3
Kligore,c	3	0	0	0	Kidd,cf	2	2	1	1
Totals	38	10	11	10	Mangham,cf	1	0	1	1
					Totals	39	12	16	12

Ball State 224 010 100 — 10 11 2
 Florida State 022 412 01x — 12 16 2

E—Dudeck 2, Figueras 2. DP—Ball St. 2, FSU 1. LOB—Ball St. 6, FSU 11. 2B—Blackwell, Lehrman, Sorrento, Harris, Dunham. HR—Howard (5), Dudeck (2), Harris (1), Zoeller (3), Sorrento (4), Kidd (2). SB—Marzan, Blackwell. SF—Figueras.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ball State						
Murphy	4 ² / ₃	10	9	8	5	1
O'Reilly, L(0-1)	3	6	3	3	1	3
Schrock	1	0	0	0	0	0
Florida State						
Ashmont	2 ¹ / ₃	3	6	6	5	2
Smith, W(3-0)	6 ² / ₃	8	4	4	1	5

WP—O'Reilly. HBP—Alicea (by Schrock). T—3:02. A—2,097.