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Lewis pitches 2-hitter

By George Maselli Democrat staff writer

Richie Lewis has pitched short and long relief and has been a starting pitcher for Florida State. He says he doesn't care which one he does.

Two days after earning a save at South Florida, the freshman righthander fired a complete-game twohitter at Western Kentucky as the Seminoles won 11-5 Monday night at Seminole Stadium.

"I'll just want to do whatever I can do to get us to Omaha," said Lewis, who struck out 11, walked five and ran his record to 6-1.

There's that Omaha talk again. The Seminoles, 22-6, are ranked No. 6 in the ESPN-Collegiate Baseball poll released Monday. Western Kentucky's Hilltoppers, 8-3, will be in town for another game tonight and won't be ranked anytime soon.

"Our ballclub is getting better each game," said FSU Coach Mike Martin. "We're getting better in all areas."

Martin was particularly pleased by the depth of his team. There are fights being waged for first base, right field, third base, catcher and designated hitter.

But some of the players without any job worries did the job Monday in the first home night game of the year. Second baseman Luis Alicea, whom Martin calls the best at his position in college baseball, had two triples and an important eighth-inning single when the Seminoles broke open a 6-5 game with five runs.

Shortstop Bien Figueroa had three of FSU's 15 hits, three RBIs and knocked in an important insurance run in the eighth with a sacrifice fly. Frank Fazzini, who extended his hitting streak to nine games, hit a solo homer in the eighth that broke open the game. Jimmy Jones, battling to regain his firstbase job from Tommy Zoeller, pinch-hit for Zoeller in the eighth and followed Fazzini's blast with a

longer one over the center-field fence.

At the present, Lewis has no competition. He can do what he wants to. He began breaking his deadly curve ball over the plate early, and that was the ball game.

"I felt great tonight," said Lewis. "I got the breaking ball over and established it early. I think that was the key to the game, setting them up for the heat."

The Hilltoppers ran four pitchers into the game, each with goodlooking stuff. But starter Mike Spearnock got behind nearly every hitter. He walked three in less than two innings and was hit hard when he came in with fastballs.

FSU scored two in the first and three in the second. Western had its only hit in the first seven innings in the second, a booming solo

homer by Mike Roy.

The Hilltoppers scored one in the fifth with a hit batsman, a walk, a sacrifice and a sacrifice fly. Lewis got into trouble in the seventh when Western scored three times with just one hit. Lewis walked two in the inning and committed an error on a pickoff play that led to the three runs.

The score was 6-5. And it was a little shaky. But Western Kentucky got rattled in the eighth. Besides four FSU hits, the Hilltoppers made three errors in the inning, and the game was over.

"Our kids played a good game to a point," said Western Kentucky Coach Joel Murrie. "We've got a good hitting ballclub, and any time a pitcher holds us to two hits he's done a good job.

"But he's still a freshman. We had a couple of turning points early and we didn't get the big hits and put the pressure on him. We'll try to give the fans here a better show tomorrow night."

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