

# Samford humbles Seminoles

By George Maselli  
Democrat staff writer

Good gosh! What will the New York Yankees do to them?

That was the prevailing question after the sixth-ranked Florida State Seminoles lost to Samford Bulldogs 5-2 Wednesday night at Seminole Stadium.

FSU, 22-8, plays the Yankees in an exhibition game today at 1 p.m. Florida State officials may want to reconsider after losing to Samford, a 4,000-student Baptist school from Birmingham, Ala. The Bulldogs, now 9-12, have had a baseball program for just three years.

In the past 11 days, the Seminoles have lost games to Ball State, Central Florida, South Florida, Western Kentucky and Samford, better teams than expected but not exactly the Fab Five. It certainly makes FSU's No. 6 ranking in the ESPN-Collegiate Baseball poll, ah, suspect.

"No. 6? We're about 106 right now," said FSU's Frank Fazzini.

The Seminoles did not play particularly inspired baseball, though did not cop the excuse of having Yankees on their minds. "That had nothing to do with it. We just (deleted)," said Fazzini.

Instead, Samford played a near-perfect game. Pitcher Joey Sims went the distance, making nice pitches when he needed them and getting a few breaks when he needed them.

What Sims needed most was the three-run homer by Samford lead-off man Robbie Parker in the seventh inning off reliever Pete Brown. The Seminoles couldn't come back against Sims, a right-hander who allowed only seven hits, walked three and struck out four.

The breaks he had to have came in the eighth. Trailing 5-2, Eric Mangham led off the inning with a single. Luis Alicea followed with a long drive to center that Parker hauled in over his shoulder on the warning track for the first out. Sims then walked Figueroa as the 978 fans smelled the typical Seminole comeback with Fazzini stepping to the plate.

"He'd already hit the ball hard three times off me," said Sims, one of the many Samford pitchers roughed up last month in 14-7 and 18-10 losses to FSU. "I didn't want to give him anything inside he could jerk. I'm a Christian, and I have to admit that I said 'Lord help me right here.' I believe that's what won for me was the strength of the Holy Spirit."

Whether it was a religious experience or not we will never know, but Fazzini cracked a line drive that was speared by Samford first baseman Ed Banks who turned into a double play.

Given that break, Sims wavered slightly but got through the ninth for the victory.

"It was the greatest win we've ever had," said Samford Coach J.T. Haywood. "When you beat somebody nobody knows about, who cares? But when you beat Florida State, it's great."

"We played as well as we can play, and Joey pitched the game of his lifetime."

FSU fell behind 2-0 in the third

with two Ray Revak walks, two singles and a sacrifice fly. The Seminoles tied it with one run in the fourth and one in the sixth on a run-scoring single by Fazzini.

After Revak put two on with one out in the seventh, FSU Coach Mike Martin reached into his troubled bullpen for Brown. His first batter, Parker, took him downtown for three runs.

"The guy was throwing hard, so I choked up a little trying to punch it more and not swing hard," said Parker.

He hit it hard enough to get it out in right-center.

Sims said it best: "It was one of those nights when everything went right."

Samford					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Parker,cf	4	2	2	3	Alicea,2b	4	0	0	0

Garrison,2b	3	0	1	0	Figueroa,ss	1	2	1	0
Phillips,3b	5	0	2	1	Fazzini lf	4	0	2	1
Banks,1b	4	0	0	1	Zoeller,1b	2	0	0	1
Cooper,ss	4	0	1	0	Calandra,3b	3	0	2	0
Scott,dh	4	0	1	0	Sorrento,dh	4	0	1	0
Cowart,lf	3	1	2	0	Kidd,rf	4	0	0	0
Payne,c	3	0	0	0	Blackwell,c	3	0	0	0
Vaughn,rf	2	2	0	0	Mangham,cf	3	0	1	0
Totals	32	5	9	5	Jones,1b	1	0	0	0
					Marzan,3b	1	0	0	0
					Fulton,c	0	0	0	0
					Totals	30	2	7	2

Samford	002	000	300	-	5	9	2
Florida State	000	101	000	-	2	7	1

E—Garrison, Banks, Marzan. DP—Samford 3, FSU 2. LOB—Samford 8, FSU 5.  
2B—Phillips, Fazzini, Scott. HR—Parker.  
SB—Figueroa. S—Payne. SF—Banks, Zoeller.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Samford						
Sims, W(5-2)	9	7	2	2	3	4
Florida State						
Revak, L(0-2)	6 1/3	6	4	4	4	3
Brown	0	1	1	1	0	0
Gelmine	2 2/3	2	0	0	1	1

WP—Revak, Gelmine. HBP—Cowart (by Gelmine). T—2:25. A—978.