

FSU's Fazzini takes it out on Pitt

By David Whitley
Democrat staff writer

Being 10 minutes late had cost Frank Fazzini a shot at an impending milestone. So Fazzini took aim at another on Tuesday night and came within one hit of tying the Florida State record for most hits in a game.

Fazzini had a five hits and five RBIs Tuesday night as Florida State bombed Pittsburgh 18-2 before 797 chilly fans at Seminole Field. The win improved FSU's record to 25-10. The Panthers dropped to 0-2 after losing to FSU 6-5 on Monday night.

Tuesday night's game never ap-

proached the previous one for suspense. The verdict was pretty much in by the third inning when FSU had a 9-1 lead. One thing that kept a few fans in their seats after that was Fazzini.

The junior outfielder was back in the lineup after having his string of 153 consecutive games broken on Monday night, when he and three teammates served one-game suspensions for missing curfew on Sunday night. Fazzini said he checked in 10 minutes past the deadline imposed by Coach Mike Martin. He had been only 14 games shy of the school record for consecutive appearances.

"Coach Martin did what he had to

do," said Fazzini, who promptly went out and did what he had to do. He had five hits in his first five at-bats, including a three-run home run in the seventh inning that coasted over the shallow right-field fence. His second RBI, which came on a single in the second inning, gave him 200 for his career. He later stole home in that inning.

"I was pretty embarrassed about what happened last night. I was embarrassed for the ballclub and I was embarrassed for myself," said Fazzini. "I had to re-establish myself as a team leader. I think I did that tonight."

In the eighth inning, Fazzini had a chance to tie second baseman Luis Ali-

cea's school record of six hits in a game. He popped out to the first baseman on a 3-2 count, though. "It was just one of those things," he said. "I had a good pitch to hit."

It was just about the only disappointment FSU fans had to endure all night as the Seminoles abused two Pittsburgh pitchers for 17 hits. After spotting the Panthers a 1-0 lead on a home run by shortstop Paul Westwood in the first inning, FSU scored five in the bottom of the first and five more over the next three innings to give freshman pitcher Al Ashmont more support

See FSU, 3D

than he needed.

Ashmont, 2-0, was shaky but powerful, striking out eight and walking six in five innings work. He made life a lot easier for himself by working out of bases-loaded jams in the third and fifth with only one run against him.

FSU got some strong relief work from freshman Paul Thomas, who didn't allow a hit while striking out three in two innings. Martin played almost everyone he could but it didn't matter. The Seminoles added three runs in the seventh and five more in the eighth to turn the game into a mini-marathon. It got so bad that Thomas actually hit for himself in the eighth — and lined a single to left.

The two teams meet again tonight at 7 p.m. Doug Little, 6-1, will start for FSU.

Perhaps Tuesday's game was all part of a turnaround for FSU. The game marked the halfway point in a season that got off to a rousing 12-0 start, then began crawling uphill with unnerving losses at Miami and two one-run losses to Ball State at home.

"I don't think there's any question about it. Our guys got a little complacent after the quick start. Then things went wrong and we couldn't make the adjustment," said Martin.

Among the problems was a shortage of confidence and relaxing too much during some games, he said. None of that was evident Tuesday night.

"We played like we're capable of playing and like we're going to play for the rest of the year," said Martin. "We played very hard. There's not going to be another let-up."

Pittsburgh					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Bodnar, 2b	3	0	0	0	Alicea, 2b	3	4	2	1
Fausnght, 2b	1	0	0	0	Figueroa, ss	3	3	2	1
D. Westwd, lb	4	0	0	0	Mangham, ph	0	1	0	0
Secoli, lb	1	0	0	0	Thomas, p	1	1	1	0
P. Westwd, ss	2	1	1	1	Fazzini, lf	6	3	5	5
Galle, 3b	3	0	1	0	Zoeller, lb	2	0	0	0
Jelic, c	2	1	0	0	Jones, lb	3	0	1	2
Horew, rf	5	0	3	0	Calandra, dh	1	2	0	0
DiBucci, lf	4	0	0	0	Kosco, dh	3	0	0	0
Leitera, lf	0	0	0	0	Marzan, 3b	4	2	2	2
Lohman, cf	4	0	2	0	Sorrento, rf	3	0	0	0
Nowicki, dh	2	0	0	1	Eppley, rf	1	0	0	0
Murray, ss	2	0	0	0	Blackwell, c	3	0	1	1
Lamanti, ss	1	0	0	0	Fulton, c	2	1	1	1

Totals	23	2	7	2	Kidd, cf	3	0	1	0
					Saxner, ph	1	0	0	0
					Pacetti, 2b	1	1	1	1
					Totals	40	18	17	14

Pittsburgh	100	010	000	—	2	7	4
Florida State	522	100	35x	—	18	17	1

E—P. Westwood, Lohman, Marzan, Jelic, Leitera. DP—Pittsburgh 1. LOB—Pittsburgh 14, FSU 8. 2B—Fazzini, Figueroa, Fulton. 3B—Marzan, Pacetti. HR—P. Westwood (1), Fazzini (11). SB—Fazzini. SF—Marzan.

IP H R ER BB SO

Pittsburgh							
Seebacher, L(0-1)	2	5	7	5	4	3	
Shannon	6	12	11	10	4	2	
Florida State							
Ashmont, W(2-0)	5	4	2	2	6	8	
Ledbetter	1	1	0	0	1	0	
Thomas	2	0	0	0	0	3	
Lewis	1	2	0	0	1	1	

WP—Ashmont. PB—Jelic. BK—Seebacher. HBP—Murray (by Ashmont); Mangham (by Shannon). T—3:10. A—797.