

Loss to Jacksonville keeps FSU in reverse

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

Over the span of one month, the Florida State baseball team has lost: a) its national ranking; b) its confidence; and c) a lot of ballgames.

FSU lost 7-5 Wednesday night to a Jacksonville team that was taken apart 12-0 and 25-6 by the Seminoles four weeks ago. Since those two games, the FSU record is 13-11, part of the reason why only 547 quiet patrons watched this one at Seminole Stadium.

The Seminoles, 32-15, will try to break a four-game losing streak when they play Jacksonville again today at 3:30. The Dolphins are 25-16.

No one was more surprised by Wednesday's turn of events than the Dolphins, who have been bolstered by the return of some key players from injuries.

"After that series at our place, I told Mike (Martin) he had an awesome club. I'm surprised they're struggling," said Dolphin Coach Tom Bradley. "They hit everything we threw up there at our place. They looked like the '27 Yankees."

"They were ranked second in

the country then. They're on a low now," said Pete Palermo, who threw four superb innings of relief to get the victory.

He was one of the victims of the FSU bat attack last month and said he had something to prove. He did that, allowing five hits, walking none and striking out six.

FSU's only lead came when Ed Fulton bloomed in a run single in the fourth. But Jacksonville struck for five runs in the fifth. All the damage came against Seminole starter Steve Gelmine, who allowed long home runs to Jim Pruett and Jeff Kennedy.

FSU came back to tie it at 5 with one in the fifth and three in the sixth. Back-to-back homers by Fulton and Eric Mangham were the big hits.

But the bullpen, FSU's biggest weakness in recent weeks, let it get away in the seventh. Pete Brown was tagged for three straight singles for one run. Another scored on an error, the only one of the night for FSU.

The Seminoles wasted a chance in the seventh when they had runners at first and third and none

See FSU, 6D

out. Craig Saxner struck out as Keith Kidd broke for second. As the throw went toward second, Paul Sorrento broke for the plate. He was out on the return throw despite crushing Dolphin catcher Rob Godfrey in the collision.

"They made 11 errors last time we played. We were trying to put pressure on them," said Sorrento, who had four hits. "We're just going to keep playing hard and keep the faith."

"Things like that are just happening to us," said Martin. "But it's going to end tomorrow."

They also had two on and one out in the ninth. But Jose Marzan flied out. And Saxner struck out after just missing a three-run game-winning homer on a shot that curved foul down the left-field line.

Jacksonville					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Meucci,lf	2	2	1	0	Alicea,2b	5	0	0	0
Carr,2b	4	1	1	2	Figueroa,ss	5	0	2	0
Kennedy,lb	5	1	1	3	Fazzini,lf	4	1	2	0
Marabell,cf	5	0	0	0	Jones,lb	5	0	1	0
Ballard,rf	4	0	1	0	Sorrento,rf	5	1	4	0
Pruett,3b	3	1	2	1	Pacetti,pr	0	0	0	0
Palermo,dh	4	1	2	0	Calandra,3b	4	0	1	0
Hennessy,ss	4	0	0	0	Kidd,pr	0	0	0	0
Godfrey,c	4	1	2	0	Marzan,3b	1	0	0	0
					Saxner,dh	4	1	1	0
					Fulton,c	4	1	2	3
					Mangham,cf	3	1	1	1
Totals	35	7	10	6	Totals	40	5	14	4

Jacksonville 000 050 200 — 7 10 1
 Florida State 000 113 000 — 5 14 1

E—Hennessy, Calandra. DP—
 Jacksonville 2. LOB—Jacksonville 6, FSU 11.
 2B—Figueroa, Ballard, Sorrento. HR—
 Pruett (8), Kennedy (6), Fulton (4),
 Mangham (10). SB—Fazzini 2, Fulton,
 Meucci, Carr. S—Pruett.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Jacksonville						
Shanteau	5	9	5	4	3	1
Palmero, W(5-1)	4	5	0	0	0	6
Florida State						
Gelmine	4 ² / ₃	5	5	5	3	4
Brown, L(0-2)	1 ¹ / ₃	4	2	1	0	0
Lewis	3	1	0	0	0	3

T—3:03. A—547.