

Seminoles in 10 innings

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

For more than three hours, Florida State and Miami went at each other with everything. The pressure and level of play kept rising. Something had to give. This time, the Seminoles did.

With the help of two errors in the 10th inning, the Hurricanes beat FSU 8-5 Sunday at Seminole Stadium. As Miami broke it open in the 10th, the all-afternoon mist turned — almost symbolically — into rain that chased most of the crowd of 3,160 to the parking lot.

FSU is 40-17; second-ranked Miami is 44-9. The victory meant that the Hurricanes won the season series four games to two. That could have a serious impact as the NCAA shops around for regional tournament sites next month.

"We choked," said Richie Lewis, who came out of the FSU bullpen to pitch four rugged innings of relief before Miami got to him in the 10th. "If you lose a game, you have to make the other team beat you. We gave it away."

The Seminoles left the field heads down and angry about the way they lost. Miami's Chris Hart led off the 10th with a single to right that eluded right fielder Paul Sorrento for an error. Hart advanced from second to third on a passed ball by catcher Ed Fulton. Disaster was just ahead.

Hurricane designated hitter John Noce, who came into the game hitting .136, did his bit to get the runner home when he hit a fly ball to center. Eric Mangham got under the ball easily, but at the last second shrank away from it as it dropped. Hart scored and Noce wound up at third. Mangham, who has played spectacularly defensively in recent weeks, was unavailable for comment.

"I've never seen it (before). It's one that I don't even know what to say. It's a can of corn," said FSU Coach Mike Martin of the relative ease of the play.

From there, Miami got a run-scoring single by Don Rowland, who was thrown out trying to stretch it into a double. Light-hitting Miami shortstop Rusty DeBold sank in the final knife with a solo homer to make it 8-5.

The three runs were more than enough for Miami reliever Rick Raether, whose earned run average rose — that's right, *rose* — to 1.34 when he allowed one run in four innings of relief work. He earned his second victory of the season to go with 14 saves, one of which he earned with three scoreless innings Friday night in a 3-2 victory here.

"The way they hit the ball, it's a job to pitch here," said Raether, a 6-foot-3 sophomore who predicted the two teams would meet again in a regional. "This reminded me a lot of Friday night's game. It makes you bear down. You could feel the intensity."

Placing blame for the loss on Fulton's passed ball or the errors by Mangham or Sorrento would be wrong. The Seminoles had chances to win. Miami took better advantage of its chances — and got some breaks.

Sorrento broke out of a long power drought — he hit his last homer March 2 — with an RBI ground-out in the first inning and solo homers in the third and fifth innings. The Seminoles led after

five innings, 4-1. But FSU starter Kevin Smith, who had pitched five strong innings, was hit by a bolt in the sixth.

With two on, Smith made a mistake pitch to Calvin James, who had hit two homers all year. James dropped his third across Chieftain Way in right to tie the game.

Both coaches went with their big bullpen guys, Lewis for FSU and Raether for Miami. The Hurricanes scratched out one run in the seventh to go up 5-4. FSU got some tough pitching by Lewis to escape without more damage.

The Seminoles tied it against Raether in the seventh on a two-out double by Jimmy Jones and a single by Sorrento, who was surprisingly pitched to with first base open.

Lewis stranded two Hurricanes in the eighth and two more in the ninth as each team frantically scratched for a run. The Seminoles threatened in the bottom of the ninth. With runners on first and second and one out, Tommy Zoeller hit a line shot to left. Playing shallow and toward the line, Miami left fielder Mike Fiore caught the ball and doubled Bien Figueroa off second.

"I knew we were in trouble when he hit it," said Raether. "The kid hit the ball hard. We got a break."

Miami					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
James,rf	4	1	1	3	Alicea,2b	4	1	2	0
Richardl,cf	5	0	0	0	Figueroa,ss	5	1	1	0
Leake,3b	5	0	2	0	Fazzini,lf	5	0	2	1
Hart,1b	5	2	2	1	Jones,1b	4	0	1	0
Ellena,dh	3	0	0	0	Kidd,pr	0	1	0	0
Malizia,pr	0	0	0	0	Zoeller,1b	1	0	0	0
Noce,dh	0	1	0	1	Sorrento,rf	5	2	4	4
Rowland,2b	5	1	3	1	Kosco,dh	2	0	0	0
DeBold,ss	5	1	2	1	Eppley,dh	3	0	0	0
Fiore,lf	3	1	0	1	Fulton,c	4	0	0	0
Solis,c	3	1	1	0	Calandra,3b	5	0	1	0
Magno,c	1	0	0	0	Mangham,cf	3	0	1	0

Totals 39 8 11 8 Totals 41 5 12 5

Miami 010 003 100 3 — 8 11 1
 Florida St. 201 010 100 0 — 5 12 4

E—DeBold, Alicea, Figueroa, Sorrento, Mangham. DP—Miami 2, FSU 1. LOB—Miami 8, FSU 9. 2B—DeBold, Jones, Leake, Sorrento. HR—Hart (4), Sorrento 2 (6), James (3), DeBold (1). SB—Calandra, Richardi. SF—Fiore, Noce.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Miami						
O'Brien	6	7	4	4	2	5
Raether, W(2-1)	4	5	1	1	0	2
Florida St.						
Smith	5	4	4	3	0	1
Lewis, L(7-4)	4½	7	4	3	4	5
Revak	¾	0	0	0	0	0

WP—Raether. PB—Fulton. HBP—James (Lewis), Fulton (Raether). T—3:26. A—3,160.