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FSU wins 13-7

Democrat staff writer

The setting was all wrong for a Florida State win.

Its best pitcher struggled, its infielders spent much of the evening playing footsie with the ball and there was letdown in the air.

So what happened? The Seminoles ripped North Carolina anyway on Friday night, 13-7 before 1,521 at Seminole Stadium.

The win was a significant one. It improved FSU's record to 56-20 and tied the school record for wins in a season. The Tar Heels, who have played three games since the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament last month, fell to 39-16-1.

"The guys have a tremendous desire to be remembered as the best team Florida State has ever fielded," said Coach Mike Martin. "They want to be remembered that way."

They will be remembered Friday night for overcoming themselves. Coming off an emotional Metro tournament win last weekend, the Seminoles committed six errors on the concrete-like infield. Early on, Doug Little looked like anything but the 15-2 pitcher he ended the night as.

"I didn't have anything," he said. "That's why baseball's such a funny game. I couldn't have broken a window pane tonight but I was getting guys out with my off-speed stuff."

Maybe Little couldn't have broken a window, but he did tie the record for most wins in a season and career (39). Both records were set by Larry Jones, who pitched from 1974-77.

Frank Fazzini, no stranger to the record books himself, did most of the damage offensively. The junior slammed two home runs, numbers 31 and 32 on the year, and a double and ended the night with four RBIs. Ed Fulton and Bien Figueroa also hit home runs for FSU, with Fulton's giving the Seminoles a 4-0 lead in the first inning.

North Carolina responded with three runs in the second inning on three hits and a hit batter. The Tar Heels tied it in the fourth inning when Brian Chandler walked and eventually scored on an error by second baseman Luis Alicea.

Friday night was not a good

night for Alicea and his friends in the infield, notably Figueroa and third baseman Barry Blackwell, who contributed two errors apiece on an infield that was whipped to a diamond-hardness by Friday's high winds.

"The errors have to concern you," said Martin. "I lon't want to make excuses, but we have very good infielders. The infield was very hard and it needs to be spiked."

Just when it looked as if the Metro letdown might be materializing, Little's off-speed pitching began to stun the Tar Heels, and the infamously short rightfield fence took care of the rest.

"The first few innings we were lackadaisical," said Fulton. "We came to our senses later on."

FSU scored three runs in the fourth off loser Steve McGuire (3-2). It added two more in the fifth on Fazzini's home run, which creeped over the cozy fence. He came back with a monster shot to left-center in the seventh, which made it 11-4. Figueroa added a line-drive home run to right in the eighth to make it 13-4.

North Carolina scored three runs in the ninth, which at least made the night a little bit easier to take for Coach Bill Roberts.

"I was pleased. FSU's a heckuva

club and tonight they were able to take advantage of the short porch," said Roberts. "Overall, considering we haven't played but three games in the past four weeks, we played well." The two teams play again to-night at 7 p.m.

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