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No. 2 man steps in to pitch FSU's win over Grambling

By David Lee Simmons

Pitcher Mike Loynd was all set to go for Florida State today in the second game of the season. He even threw batting practice on Tuesday to keep his arm warm.

But Doug Little, the expected starter for Wednesday's opener against Grambling, steadily got worse with a case of the flu. So Loynd was called on Wednesday afternoon to start for FSU.

When was he called?

"Oh, at about 2:30 this afternoon," said Loynd. He responded by throwing five innings of no-hit ball in FSU's 10-1 victory against Grambling on Wednesday afternoon before 1,075 at Seminole Stadium.

It took Loynd an inning to adjust to the changed schedule. After walking two batters in the first inning and giving up a run on a double-play grounder, Loynd settled down

and struck out 10 batters to put Grambling away early.

"Doug showed up on Tuesday with the flu, but they said he was going to pitch anyway. So I threw batting practice and rode the (exercise) bike," Loynd said. "I just said to myself, 'Get your game together and go out there and pitch."

Which he did, picking up where he left off from last season, when he compiled a 13-4

record in 19 starts.

"He pitched out of order," said Florida State head coach Mike Martin. "But it worked out OK. He only threw about 75 pitches or so, which is how many we wanted out of him. He was obviously cooking with 10 strikeouts."

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that FSU thumped soundly last season, 13-7 and 9-4. Actually, it was a totally different Tiger team that FSU faced Wednesday, since all eight defensive players were new, as was a lot of the pitching staff.

Grambling's Mike Foley, who picked up his first loss of the season last year against the Seminoles, followed suit this time by giving up five runs and walking seven in only two-thirds of the first inning.

Rain and sleet in Grambling didn't help the Tigers prepare for the opener with PSU, ranked second in one pre-season poll.

"This is a very young ball club," Grambling coach Wilbert Ellis said. "We made a lot of mistakes out there, but as the weather clears up for us, we'll get better. We're a long ways from where we've been in the past." The game was highlighted by the debuts of football phenom Deion Sanders in center field and Seminole Stadium's new addition, a screened fence, in right field.

The screen was erected in the off-season to take away some of the cheap homers that hitters often had nabbed in the past.

Both of the season's newcomers seemed to work out nicely.

Sanders, following with Martin's plan to build speed into the lineup, stole three bases from his leadoff position, advancing to third

twice on throwing errors from Grambling catcher Darren Martin.

Sanders finished his first game by going 2 for 3 with a run batted in

"I was really excited out there today," said Sanders, a defensive back on the football team who also runs back punts. "I was a little nervous at the start of the game. But that crowd, I really love the crowd. They gave me a lot of support."

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The fence also did its job, taking a homer from FSU catcher Ed Fulton, a lefthander who smacked a solid shot to right in the second inning that smashed high against the screen and dropped to the ground for a single.

The game also featured the switch of Luis Alicea and Bien Figueroa to shortstop and second base, respectively. The change seemed to work well, as Alicea made several nice throws while turning two double plays.

The Seminoles got their runs exactly the way Martin had hoped they'd avoid getting them this season: By having the big inning. After spotting Grambling its lone run in the top of the first, FSU ran up five in the bottom of the inning when starter Foley walked batter after batter.

PSU picked up four more runs in the third. Tommy Zoeller led off with a double, but was later picked off on a rundown between third and home on Eric Mangham's infield grounder.

Mangham advanced to third on the fielder's choice, then scored on a single by Sanders. Jose Marzan

walked, followed by a two-run single by Alicea. A double by Fulton brought Alicea home to finish the inning.

The Seminoles picked up another run in the fifth when Sanders scored on a balk by Sherman Catalon after Sanders stole second and advanced to third on a bad throw by Martin.

FSU will start junior-college transfer Steve Kovensky in today's game against Grambling which will start at 3:30 p.m. The Tigers will go with freshman Cedric Shaw.

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