

Grambling stuns FSU

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

There was dismay and considerable shock in the Florida State dug-out when it was over. In the world of college baseball, this one was almost Twilight Zone weird.

Beaten and barely recording a pulse after losing by nine and by 14 runs here the past two days, Grambling turned around and beat the Seminoles 3-1 Friday afternoon with a gathering of 675 watching at Seminole Stadium.

FSU coach Mike Martin admitted that he never thought it could happen. Neither did anyone else in the park.

"I told our players after the game that it just goes to show you what can happen if you go out there thinking there's no way you can get beat," said Martin, whose 2-1 team plays a doubleheader today with Southern Mississippi at 1 p.m. "I went out there thinking there was no way we could lose after seeing what happened the last two days. That's the only team on our schedule I'd feel that way about."

What happened was that Grambling got some solid pitching out of Gerald Williams and Juan Watkins, played good defense, took advantage of FSU mistakes and won a game it never expected to.

"It felt like the College World Series championship," said Watkins, who came in from left field to bail out Williams in the eighth and ninth innings.

Williams and FSU left-hander Chris Pollock were matched in a nice little scoreless game after five innings, most refreshing after the previous two games. Pollock, who worked 7½ strong innings, allowed only six hits and one earned run. He walked one and struck out 10. He didn't get much help this day from gloves or bats.

The Seminoles didn't get their first baserunner until the fifth, on a single by Ed Fulton.

Grambling scratched out a run in the sixth on a single, sacrifice and double by Palfrey Polk. A 1-0 deficit did not cause much consternation in the stands. Surely, the Seminoles were about to make a charge.

FSU put two on with one out in the seventh. But Williams, who got 15 of his 22 outs on fly balls and pops, got out of the jam on two outfield flies.

In the eighth with two out, Pollock got in trouble when Williams and Polk singled. Williams came around to score and Polk went to third when Paul Sorrento overran the ball. Tim Hookfin beat out a roller to short for a single, and the game was 3-0 in the eighth. Shocking.

The Seminoles made a charge in

the eighth. Singles by Keith Kidd and Jose Marzan and a walk to Luis Alicea loaded the bases with one out. But the left-handed Watkins entered and struck out Fulton with sweeping curveballs, walked Bien Figueroa to force in a run but got Sorrento on an infield pop.

There was still the ninth. Watkins walked Barry Blackwell with one out. Pinch-runner Chad McClellan was frozen on Watkins' move to first and was picked off. Martin argued furiously about a balk but got no satisfaction from the umpires.

Pinch-hitter Craig Saxner walked, but Watkins got Deion Sanders with a curveball to end it.

Grambling is used to winning — it has won the last four Southwest Athletic Conference championships and lost to Texas 4-3 in 12 innings in the NCAA playoffs in 1985 — but this team has no starters returning from last year.

Grambling celebrated as if it had just pulled one out in Omaha.

"We celebrated because we beat the No. 2 team in the country," said Watkins.

Martin found little solace in any lessons his team may have learned.

"I never like much about losing," he said. "I would have much rather won in the ninth and said to the team, 'Look what can happen.'"

GRAMBLING					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Parker,2b	4	1	2	0	Sanders,cf	4	0	0	0
Watkins,p	3	0	0	0	Marzan,1b	4	0	1	0
Williams,lf	4	1	1	0	Alicea,ss	3	0	0	0
Polk,1b	3	1	2	1	Fulton,c	4	0	1	0
Hookfin,3b	4	0	1	1	Figueroa,2b	2	0	0	1
Lofton,ss	4	0	0	0	Sorrento,rf	3	0	1	0
Jackson,rf	4	0	0	0	Zoeller,dh	2	0	0	0
Coleman,cf	4	0	1	0	Blackwell,3b	3	0	0	0
Jones,c	4	0	0	0	Kidd,lf	2	1	1	0
					Taddeo,ph	1	0	0	0
					Mangham,ph	1	0	0	0
					McClellan,pr	0	0	0	0
					Saxner,ph	0	0	0	0
					Clayborne,pr	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	3	7	2	Totals	29	1	4	1

Grambling State 000 001 020—3

Florida State 000 000 010—1

E—Alicea, Figueroa, Lofton, Sorrento.
 DP—Grambling 1, FSU 1. LOB—Grambling
 6, FSU 9. 2B—Polk. SB—Parker, Kidd,
 Sanders. S—Watkins.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Grambling St.						
Williams (W 1-0)	7½	4	1	1	5	2
Watkins (S 1)	1½	0	0	0	3	1
Florida State						
Pollack (L 0-1)	7½	6	3	1	1	10
Lee	½	1	0	0	0	0
Thomas	1	0	0	0	0	1

T—2:41. A—675.