

# Fulton clears Screened Porch in FSU win

By George Maselli  
Democrat staff writer

The biggest news of the day from Seminole Stadium was that Ed Fulton became the first hitter to clear the 30-foot high screen in right field.

Florida State did the expected and completed a three-game sweep of Southern Mississippi 14-6 Sunday with 2,103 fans enjoying the sun and fun. Fulton's three-run homer in the fourth inning broke open a 5-4 game.

The Seminoles, 5-1, get a day off today before Samford comes to town Tuesday. Southern Miss, not one of the powers of the Metro Conference, starts its season 0-4. Former FSU coach Dick Howser was honored before the game.

It was an interesting, if long, afternoon for those still debating the new addition to the stadium. Erected to prevent some of the cheap home runs of past years, the Screened Porch in right has gotten mixed reviews. In five games, the Seminoles have hit the screen four times. Opponents have yet to hit it.

Fulton said that a combination of trying to be a power-hitting clean-up hitter and wanting

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— Ed Fulton

to lift the ball over the screen had gotten him in some bad habits at the plate.

“I was dropping my back shoulder and taking a long stride like Reggie Jackson,” said Fulton, who was in the No. 6 spot in the order Sunday. “That's not good for any hitter.”

Except maybe for Reggie. Fulton had no problem this day.

The Seminoles jumped in front 2-0 in the first inning on a two-run double to right by Tommy Zoeller. The ball went off the bottom of the screen, costing Zoeller a homer.

Southern Miss responded with four runs off FSU starter Mike Loynd in the third inning. In fairness, Loynd, 2-0, should have gotten out of the inning unharmed. But with two outs and

two on, second baseman Luis Alicea (the early season experiment of Alicea at short has been put aside) got a bad hop between the eyes and a run scored. Official scorer Dan Pearson ruled it a hit, a ruling that FSU pitching coach Mike McLeod challenged after the game.

Loynd then left a curve hanging to Greg Conner, who hit a massive three-run homer to left to give Southern Miss a 4-2 lead. But the Seminoles scored three times in the bottom of the inning with three walks, a hit batter and big hits by Alicea and Bien Figueroa to make it 5-4.

Fulton ended any suspense in the four-run Seminole fourth. After that it was just a continuing procession of new pitchers and departing fans, few of whom remained until the end of this long (3:15) game.

“It makes it a little more dramatic,” said Fulton, who celebrated his first homer of the year with some high-fives and Jim McMahon-style head butts at home plate. “The screen cost me a homer a few days ago. But if that one went out, people would have said it was a Seminole Stadium home run.”

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See FSU, 7D

But Fulton had not changed his mind from earlier when he said he liked the change in the stadium. It didn't hurt lefty slugger Paul Sorrento, who lined one over the fence in left-center in the seventh inning.

“I'm glad it's there,” Fulton said. “It makes our pitching staff better, and it's good for our left-handed hitters not to try to pull everything. Look at Sorrento. He

Graves,3b	3 0 0 0	Blackwell,3b	3 0 0 1
Cronk,1b	3 1 0 0	Mangham,lf	4 1 2 0
Coleman,2b	3 0 0 0	Kidd,rf	3 0 0 0
Bourgeois,ph	1 0 0 0	Taddeo,dh	1 1 1 1
Mann,3b	0 0 0 0	Clayborne,rf	0 0 0 0
Duncan,ph	1 0 0 0	McClellan,3b	1 0 0 0
Miller,2b	0 0 0 0	Saxner,c	1 0 0 0
		Sorrento,rf	2 1 1 2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36 6 8 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>37 14 14 13</b>

Southern Miss 004 010 010— 6  
FSU 203 400 50x— 14

E—Graves, Alicea, Figueroa. DP—Southern Mississippi (3), FSU (1). LOB—Southern Miss 6, FSU 8. 2B—Zoeller, Alicia, Mangham. HR—Conner, Fulton, Sorrento, Nixon. SB—Sanders, Marzan, Love, Taddeo, Mangham.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Southern Miss						
Wagner (L 0-1)	2 1/3	5	5	5	1	0
Magee	1	2	3	3	3	0
McGrath	2 2/3	4	3	3	2	0
Corliss	0	0	2	2	2	0
Cessner	3	3	1	1	0	0
FSU						
Loynd (W 2-0)	5	6	5	5	3	2
Lee	3	2	1	1	0	2
Porcelli	1	0	0	0	0	1

T—3:15 A—2,103

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	ab	r	h	bi	FSU	ab	r	h	bi
Love,lf	5	1	2	0	Sanders,cf	4	3	2	0
O'Ravez,ss	4	1	1	0	Marzan,1b	3	3	0	0
Burnett,cf	5	1	1	1	Figueroa,ss	5	3	3	1
Conner,rf	3	1	1	3	Zoeller,dh	3	1	1	2
Nixon,dh	4	1	1	1	Alicea,2b	4	0	2	2
Smith,c	4	0	2	0	Fulton,c	3	1	2	4