

## South Florida calls a halt to FSU's late-inning heroics

By George Maselli  
Democrat staff writer

TAMPA — This time there was no comeback, no ninth-inning heroics. In college baseball, even No.-1 teams lose sometimes.

For the first time since Feb. 13, Florida State lost a baseball game. South Florida ended the Seminoles' 12-game winning streak 6-3 Wednesday with 1,102 fans and a few platoons of pro scouts watching at Red McEwen Field.

FSU, ranked No. 1 in the Collegiate Baseball-ESPN poll, is 14-2. South Florida, bouncing back from three straight

losses to FSU, is 12-5.

South Florida coach Eddie Cardieri's team is ranked No. 7 in the same poll. He said he had seen enough of the Seminoles to think they belong on top of the poll.

"There are a lot of teams in the country I haven't seen, but I doubt there are many with that many dimensions" said Cardieri, whose team has swept three games from New Orleans and split four games with Miami. "They can run, play defense, hit, hit for some power and they can pitch.

"Miami is the defending national champ and I thought they should be No. 1 until somebody beats them. So far, it's close, but I'd give the nod to Florida

State."

The Seminoles may remain No. 1 despite the loss.

"We just won three of four from the No. 7 club," said FSU coach Mike Martin. "I would vote us No. 1 if I had a vote."

Unlike Tuesday night when the Bulls had five errors, three wild pitches and a passed ball, they gave FSU little. This time, the Bulls came up with the big hits and the big pitches.

Even at that, the Seminoles put two on with none out in the ninth inning before falling short. They started this one in a hole and never quite escaped as they have in other dramatic victories during their

streak.

As they have in all four road games this season, the Seminoles got behind early. In victories at Florida, the Seminoles trailed 4-0 and 3-1 after one inning, and Tuesday night they were down 1-0 after an inning.

This time it was 3-0 after two-out doubles by Ward Hemond and Tony Taylor in the first. FSU starter Mike Loynd flirted with disaster much as Richie Lewis did in FSU's 9-8 victory Tuesday night.

The Bulls stranded 11 runners in the first six innings. As Lewis did Tuesday night when he walked 10 but struck out 14 in 6½ innings, Loynd, 3-1, seemed to hold back his special stuff for when he absolute-

ly had to have it.

Loynd struck out Bulls' catcher Scott Hemond — who according to pro scouts will be among the top five players drafted in June — with the bases loaded to get out of the second inning.

The Bulls loaded the bases in the third with no one out on a walk, an infield hit and a throwing error by Loynd. He got nailed for a run when he balked on a pick-off move to second, but all that did was make Loynd madder. He simply started breaking off the nastiest curveballs this

See BULLS, 4D

side of the cross-town Cincinnati Reds spring training camp and struck out the side.

It was all crucial. The Seminoles scratched back into it with three runs in the fourth. Hita by Bien Figueroa, Tommy Zoeller and Eric Mangham, two walks and an infield out made it 4-3.

Loynd continued playing brinksmanship. But he stranded two baserunners in both the fourth and fifth.

In the seventh, a double steal set South Florida up at second and third with one out. But Loynd escaped — again. He threw a slider past Mark Pike and got out of the inning on a routine grounder.

South Florida starter David Eiland, who came into the game 0-1 with a 5.74 earned run average, pitched well but was lifted after a Paul Sorrento single led off the eighth. Reliever Randy Wilson struck out Zoeller and got Steve Taddeo to bounce into a double play.

With a stiff wind blowing out and month's worth of big innings dodged, Loynd finally got touched in the eighth. He walked the lead-off man, his fifth walk of the game. Then he gave up his 11th hit, and it was a big one, a line-drive homer to left-center by Scott Hemond.

Mike Lee entered and got the Seminoles into the ninth down 6-3. For this team, that is hardly insurmountable.

FSU has lived on such comebacks this season. There was the four-run eighth and a five-run ninth to beat Florida 10-6. There was the two-out, three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth by Luis Alicea that beat South Florida 8-7 Sunday.

With a similar rally in mind, FSU got scrappy Barry Blackwell to first on a walk, and pinch-hitter Craig Saxner followed with a single. But Wilson settled down and got Mangham on a fly ball, Jose Marzan on a strikeout and just when the Bulls were fearing an Alicea encore, he popped out to end it.

For Wilson, it was his third save. For FSU it was a strange taste — defeat.

"We certainly played with a lot of fight," said Martin, obviously enamored of this team's temperament at this early stage of the season. "All I ask is for our guys to fight. They did that."

Florida State					South Florida				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Marzan,1b	5	0	0	0	Pike,cf	3	1	1	0
Alicea,2b	5	0	0	0	Rush,ss	5	0	1	0
Figueroa,ss	4	1	2	0	Waggoner,lf	4	1	1	0
Sorrento,rf	4	0	1	0	S.Hemond,c	5	1	2	2
Zoeller,dh	4	1	1	1	W.Wemond,1	4	2	2	1
Fulton,3b	2	0	0	0	Taylor,dh	5	0	2	2
Blackwell,c	2	1	0	0	Munoz,3b	4	0	0	0
Kidd,lf	3	0	0	1	Trumbull,rf	4	0	1	0
Mangham,cf	4	0	3	1	Bullard,2b	3	0	1	0
Clayborne,rf	0	0	0	0	Werner,pr	0	1	0	0
Taddeo,ph	1	0	0	0	Swabek,rf	0	0	0	0
McClellan,3b	0	0	0	0					
Saxner,ph	1	0	1	0					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>

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E—Loynd (2), Rush, Alicea. DP—USF 1. LOB—FSU 8, USF 13. 2B—W.Hemond, Taylor, Figueroa. HR—S.Hemond. SB—Bullard (3), W.Hemond, Trumbull. SG—Munoz.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida State						
Loynd (L 3-1)	7	11	6	6	5	9
Lee	1	0	0	0	0	0
South Florida						
Elland (W 1-1)	7	7	3	3	2	6
Wilson	2	1	0	0	1	2

T—3:02. A—1,102.