

Mangham stays on a tear

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

Eric Mangham was down there in the low-rent batting neighborhood of baseball. In the big leagues, the deep of the .200 mark is known as the Mendoza Line for infamous banjo biter Mario Mendoza.

Mangham, continuing to slug his way out of a Mendoza February, had two homers and five RBIs to lead Florida State past the Richmond Spiders 12-4 on Wednesday night at Seminole Stadium with 1,720 watching.

The Seminoles, 19-2, will play the Spiders, 2-6, again tonight, Friday night and Saturday. It could be a long series.

The 3-for-3 performance lifted Mangham's batting average all the way uptown. "It's .340," he said, smiling. "I keep that in mind."

Mangham, a junior outfielder, said he worked through his hitting woes with Coach Mike Martin and teammate Bien Figueroa. A hitter calling on Figueroa for advice makes some sense these days.

Figueroa, the senior shortstop, keyed a two-run first inning with hit-and-run single. He was in the middle of a five-run sixth with another hit and doubled in the eighth. The 3-for-5 night put him just under .450 for the season and just under .530 for his last seven games.

The Seminoles, running at will, ran their lead to 5-0 in the second

inning when Mangham lined a two-run homer to left. After the Spiders battled back with four runs in the sixth, the Seminoles put them away with five more in the sixth, three coming on another Mangham blast to left.

Richmond was rattled somewhat by the FSU running game that yielded five stolen bases and two balks. The Spiders also had a tough time getting balls through the Seminole infield, keyed by third baseman Barry Blackwell. The defense helped FSU starter Ed Porcelli, who made himself a strong case for getting more work.

Porcelli, a transfer from South Florida, had a no-hitter working into the sixth inning. But after working only six innings in the Seminoles' previous 20 games, he understandably tired in the sixth when he was touched for a hit batsman, two singles and a booming home run by Greg Harding.

It rather messed up his earned run average that was at 0.00 after his first 12 innings of 1986. Steve Kovenasky worked three strong innings to finish. Mangham's stats were going in a different direction.

"I had a mechanical flaw," said Mangham, who also switched from a 33- to a 34-ounce bat to help prevent his hitting more home runs just foul to left. "I was crouching down too low. Now I'm standing straighter up."

"I almost lost faith, but I thank God I didn't. I just kept working hard, and that always pays off."

Richmond					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Paris,2b	4	1	1	0	Marzan,1b	4	0	1	
Zenbo,ss	3	0	1	0	Alices,2b	4	2	2	0
Sickinger,dh	4	0	0	0	Figueroa,ss	5	3	3	1
Malloy,1b	4	1	1	2	Fulton,c	3	0	0	1
Harding,lf	4	1	1	2	Sorrento,rf	5	0	0	1
Jordan,cf	2	0	0	0	Taddeo,dh	4	1	1	0
Blanton,rf	4	0	0	0	Kidd,cf	2	2	0	0
Krivak,3b	2	0	0	0	Blackwell,3b	3	2	1	1
Anderson,c	2	1	0	0	Mangham,cf	3	2	3	5
					Saxner,ph	1	0	0	0
					Clayborne,lf	0	0	0	0
Totals	29	4	4	4	Totals	34	12	11	10
Richmond					000	004	000	—	4
Florida State					220	005	11x	—	12

E—Harding, Paris. DP—none. LOB—Richmond 3, FSU 8. 2B—Alicia, Figueroa. HR—Mangham (2), Harding. SB—Figueroa, Taddeo, Kidd, Mangham, Alicia. CS—Jorda. SH—Zanbo. SF—Blackwell.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Richmond						
Walker (L. 0-1)	14½	5	5	5	1	1
Merritt	3½	2	4	4	5	2
Dipp	2½	4	3	2	2	1
Florida State						
Porcelli (W 1-0)	6	3	4	4	3	2
Kovensky	3	1	0	0	0	4

T—2:45. A—1720.