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Seminoles rout Pittsburgh 22-1

By George Maselli Democrat staff writer

Is there no depth to man's inhumanity to man?

The latest evidence was Florida State's 22-1 hammering of the hapless Pittsburgh Panthers on Wednesday night at Seminole Stadium with 1,471 watching. Former Pitt football coach Foge Fazio never took a licking any worse than this.

Except maybe for their hard hearts, there was nothing wrong with the top-ranked Seminoles, now 25-2. Pitt is 1-5. Mercifully, tonight will be the finale of

their four-game series.

There was certainly nothing wrong with sophomore right-hander Richie Lewis, whose overpowering stuff produced a nasty mismatch. Lewis, 6-0, threw six one-hit innings and struck out 13, giving him 76 strikeouts in 47 innings this season.

Unless you consider Pitt's gallant struggle for a run in the ninth inning, there was nothing resembling drama here. The Seminoles ran and hit the Panthers right out of the park in the first inning with three stolen bases and a three-run homer by catcher Ed Fulton, who fattened up with a 3 for 3 and four RBIs.

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The second inning? Twice as bad for the Panthers, whose pitchers walked an alarming 18 batters. The Seminoles used a hit batsman, a few bloop hits and three more stolen bases to make it 9-0. The most notable hit of the inning was a bloop single to right that extended Bien Figueroa's hitting streak to 21 games.

You get the idea. Luis Alicea, 3 for 3 and five RBIs, rammed a three-run homer in the seven-run fifth. For sheer grins, however, you had to be one of the few who stuck around until the eighth inning.

Jose Marzan, who had walked four times and singled in two in the fifth, was one of the many who were bored. The right-handed hitter who messes around left-handed at times in batting practice decided it was time to switch-hit.

Marzan said he did not have the nerve to ask head coach Mike Martin if he could swing from the other side. So he sent a spokesman. "Luis asked 11 (Martin)," said Marzan. "I didn't dare."

Well, Martin said yes, and Marzan cranked one well out of the park to right-center, over the screen for his sixth homer of the season. So it went, 15 hits for FSU, four for Pitt. Frankly, it put some fun into a less-than-charming game.

The only debate until the Seminoles leave Friday for a string of 10 road games (all of them count toward Metro Conference standings), is are the Seminoles No. 1 as ESPN-Collegiate Baseball has them rated?

"I honestly believe we are," said Lewis. "We play a lot of patsies, and I'm the first to admit it. But I've seen a lot of other college teams on TV the past two years. With our team, we put 10 runs on the board every night."

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