

FSU uses its arsenal in victory

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

Just past the halfway mark of the season, Florida State's baseball Seminoles have proven many things. They can alternately beat you with speed, power, pitching or their home crowd. And Thursday night they proved they will stay at it all night if necessary.

Polishing off a four-hour jewel, FSU outlasted South Alabama 13-9 with 2,612 watching at Seminole Stadium. Even down to the last pitch, 28 hits, seven errors, seven pitchers, 17 walks and 237 minutes later, the Jaguars had the tying run at the plate just after the clock had tolled 11.

The Seminoles, 31-4, took three of the four-game series from South Alabama, 18-10. The Jaguars proved a few things in the series, among them 1) They can hit, 2) They don't have quite enough gloves or arms to hang with the Seminoles.

The Jaguars banged out 16 hits and didn't stop hacking until Richie Lewis, coming out of the bullpen, struck out the last two hitters. But the Jaguars died with defense.

After the visitors grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first inning, two errors by former Seminole Danny Griffin proved damaging. Also damaging was Seminole speed — an infield single by Deion Sanders and a hit-and-run single by Jose Marzan set off a three-run inning.

South Alabama had three critical junctions, and it wrecked at all three. The Jaguars knocked out FSU starter Chris Pollack in the fourth inning and took a 5-4 lead. They had the bases loaded with none out when Steve Kovensky entered from the bullpen. After his first pitch, Kovensky leaped to pull down a high bouncer and began a pitcher-to-catcher-to-first double play. One out later, Kovensky had staved off the threat.

Let off the hook, the Seminoles came back with four runs in the bottom of the inning to go up 8-5. It was highlighted by a blazing speed show by Eric Mangham and Sanders, who bunted their way on base and forced another Jaguar error. Luis Alicea capped it with a two-run homer to right.

Wreck No. 2 for South Alabama: In the top of the seventh, trailing 8-5, the Jaguars began hammering at Kovensky. They had three runs in to tie the game and had the bases loaded with one out.

Reliever Mike Lee, the eventual winner, got tough and escaped without further damage.

South Alabama was finally done in by Wreck No. 3. With one out and two on in the seventh, FSU's Steve Taddeo hit a room-service double-play ball to second baseman Jody Levens, who booted it. Given that break, Barry Blackwell and Eric Mangham got clutch hits and the Seminoles scored five runs.

South Alabama coach Steve Kittrell, for one, was impressed. "I wouldn't be surprised to see them host a (NCAA) regional," he said, "and make it to the (College) World Series."

SOUTH ALABAMA					FLORIDA STATE				
ab r h bi					ab r h bi				
Becker,ss	7	3	4	2	Sanders,lf	4	2	2	0
Gonzales,lb	5	0	2	1	Marzan,lb	3	1	1	0
T.Ward,lf	4	1	2	3	Alicea,2b	5	2	2	5
Dull,3b	5	0	2	1	Sorrento,rf	4	1	1	2
Jones,dh	2	0	0	0	Figueroa,ss	5	1	1	0
W.Ward,rf	2	0	0	0	Fulton,c	4	1	1	1
Griffin,2b	2	0	0	0	Taddeo,dh	4	1	1	0
Farmer,c	4	1	2	0	Blackwell,3b	2	2	1	1
Hutching,cf	5	2	2	0	Mangham,cf	4	2	2	2
Cote,dh	1	0	0	0	Clayborne,lf	1	0	0	0
Leja,ph	0	0	0	0	Saxner,ph	1	0	0	0
Crivellone,dh	1	1	1	0					
Franklin,ph	1	0	0	0					
Levens,2b	2	0	0	0					
Raley,pr	0	1	0	0					
Neveau,c	1	0	1	1					
Totals	42	9	16	8	Totals	37	13	12	11
South Alabama	101	300	301	— 9 16 4					
Florida State	201	400	50x	— 13 12 3					

E—Griffin 2, Figueroa 2, Dull, Blackwell, Levens. DP—FSU 2. LOB—South Ala. 19, FSU 6. 2B—Becker, Hutching, T. Ward, Sorrento, Fulton, Gonzales, Farmer. HR—Alicea (3). S—Griffin.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
South Alabama						
Rogers	6	8	8	7	4	1
Wilson L. 2-2	2	4	5	2	2	1
Florida State						
Pollack	3	8	5	5	4	5
Kovensky	3½	5	3	2	2	0
Thomas	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lee W. 2-0	¾	0	0	0	1	1
Lewis	2	3	1	1	4	3