

Miami recovers to edge FSU

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

MIAMI — In the beginning there was the first-inning disaster. In the middle there was the heroic comeback.

But in the end there was just more disappointment for Florida State in the place that has so often served as its graveyard, the University of Miami's Mark Light Stadium. It was third-ranked Miami over top-ranked Florida State 11-10 Friday night with a buzzing crowd of 6,378 watching.

"It was typical Miami-Florida State baseball; anything goes," said Hurricane shortstop Joe Nelson, whose error keyed FSU's five-run sixth inning but whose double started Miami's two-run eighth that won it.

The comeback, and then the Hurricane turnaround, left both teams drained after the three-hour and 32-minute spectacle.

"It was a great college baseball game," said FSU

Coach Mike Martin. "If we had won it would have been the best regular-season game in my 12 years at Florida State."

As it was it was almost the best. That alone is remarkable considering the fact that the Seminoles stumbled through a first inning that could only be termed embarrassing and left them down 8-0. But with the help of Nelson's error and Luis Alicea's dramatic three-run homer, FSU shockingly tied the game at 9 in the sixth inning.

Then in the top of the eighth, Paul Sorrento crashed a home run to center against relief pitcher Rick Raether that gave the Seminoles a 10-9 lead. The noisy contingent of FSU celebrated what looked like an astonishing reversal of its team's fortunes here. But the game did not end there.

In its own inimitable way, Miami scratched out two runs in the bottom of the eighth to win on a Joe Nelson double, a walk, a two-out single by Mike Fiore and an artificial turf infield single by Will Vespe.

Granted his reprieve, Raether struck out the side in

the ninth. He is 6-1, two of the wins coming over FSU.

"I thought the game was incredible, to tell you the truth," said FSU's Ed Porcelli, who pitched extremely well after relieving embattled Richie Lewis in the first. "It was a privilege just to be in a game like this."

He allowed only three hits until he was lifted in the eighth. But Porcelli, a mop-up man most of the year, had nothing but the respect of his team to show when it was all over.

Steve Kovensky became the loser when he was touched for the hits of Fiore and Vespe.

The three-game series continues tonight. The Seminoles came to town having won only four of 23 games in this stadium over the past 10 years. They showed in the first inning why.

If you had never seen the Seminoles play in Mark Light Stadium before, the first inning would have shocked you. The No. 1 team in the country? The Seminoles should have been wearing crash helmets the

See MIAMI, 3D

Miami

From 1D

way they were careening around Miami's artificial turf. These sorts of FSU disasters, however, have been fairly standard down here.

Lewis started it all by walking Greg Vaughn, who used an FSU intimidation tactic of stealing on the first pitch. One out later, Fiore singled to right. Sorrento charged and fired home for an expected play at the plate. But Vaughn held at third, and by missing the cutoff man, Fiore advanced to third. It was the first in an incredible series of mistakes. Lewis then walked Greg Ellena to load the bases.

Chris Magno then bounced to second basemen Luis Alicea's left. His throw for a force at second was slightly off line and all hands were safe. But it was still only 1-0, that is until right-handed hitting Chris Howard bounced a double just inside the first-base line for a two-run double.

Then things actually got worse for the Seminoles. Rusty DeBold hit an artificial turf hopper towards third. As Magno was scoring, Lewis raced over and fielded. Then he tossed the ball to third baseman Chad McClellan for a force that did

not exist. Painful, in a Mark Light sort of way. It was 4-0 and runners were at first and second.

Yet the madness was not over. Lewis struck out Jose Trujillo, but Joe Nelson followed with a smash off Lewis' leg that then rolled down the right-field line for a two-run double. Vaughn lifted a routine pop to shallow center that Alicea, Bien Figueroa and Eric Mangham surrounded and watched drop for another run. Vaughn then scored from second on a line-drive single by Rick Richardi. It was 8-0 and Lewis was mercifully lifted.

"I don't care if we scored 50 runs in the first inning, it wouldn't have been enough. They would have kept coming," said Nelson.

With two on and two out in the fifth, reliever Al Pacheco, who had previously thrown a grand total of 10 innings all season, stranded two more Seminoles.

What was important for FSU was that it kept coming and coming until Miami cracked. In the sixth, Steve Taddeo singled and stole second with one out. The steal was also a statement being five runs down. But after Clayborne fanned, Pacheco walked No. 9 hitter McClellan and Jose Marzan to load the bases. Pacheco did his job. He got Sorrento to ground to short, whereupon Nelson let it roll through him

for two runs. Pacheco then got the hook in favor of Chris Sarmiento, whose second pitch was dramatically crushed over the right-field wall by Alicea to tie the game at 9.

| FLORIDA STATE | | | | | | MIAMI | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----|--|
| | ab | r | h | bi | | | ab | r | h | bi | |
| Marzan, 1b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Vaughn, rf | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Sorrento, rf | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Richardi, cf | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | |
| Alicea, 2b | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | Fiore, lf | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Figueroa, ss | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | Ellena, dh | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Mangham, cf | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Magno, c | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Blackwell, c | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Howard, 1b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Saxner, dh | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | DeBold, 3b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Clayborne, lf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Trujillo, 2b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| McClellan, 3b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Nelson, ss | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | |
| Fulton, c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Vespe, dh | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Taddeo, dh | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Dominguez, ph | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Kidd, lf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Perez, pr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | | | | | Noce, 1b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Totals | 38 | 10 | 10 | 8 | Totals | 35 | 11 | 11 | 11 | | |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Florida State | 020 | 205 | 010—10 |
| Miami | 801 | 000 | 02x—11 |

E—Sorrento, Alicea, Vaughn, Nelson, Magno. LOB—FSU 5, Miami 6. 2B—Vaughn, Howard, Nelson 2, Alicea, Mangham. HR—Saxner (5), Alicea (6), Sorrento (16). SB—Vaughn, DeBold, Richardi, Howard, Taddeo. CS—DeBold.

| | | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Florida State | | | | | | | |
| Lewis | 4 1/2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 2 | |
| Porcelli | 6 1/2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| Kovensky L, 4-1 | 4 1/2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Miami | | | | | | | |
| Davies | 4 1/2 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | |
| Pacheco | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | |
| Sarmiento | 1 1/2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Raether W, 6-1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | |
| WP—Davies, Porcelli. T—3:32. A—6,378. | | | | | | | |