

Miami holds off FSU to win series

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Seminoles again fall prey to Hurricanes' 'Spider Man'

By George Maselli

Democrat staff writer

MIAMI — Beating the Miami Hurricanes on their own artificial turf is tough enough. But add in the pitching of the "Spider Man," and you can forget it.

Relief ace Rich Raether tied an NCAA record with his 32nd career save to lead the Hurricanes past Florida State 7-5 on a drizzly Sunday at Mark Light Stadium.

The win, with 3,858 watching (a Miami-record 16,802 for the three games), gave Miami the series two games to one. It left the season series with each team holding three victories.

Look for a reason why, and look no further than the gangly, 6-foot-5 side-arming Raether who accounted for two of the wins and a save.

"We call him the "Spider Man" because he's all long and wiry like a spider," said Miami outfielder Greg Vaughn. "He's our stopper. He's the Goose Gossage of college baseball."

Well, not quite. But he has managed to tie Cal State-Fullerton's Scott Wright for the all-time save record. Admirably, however, the Seminoles made Raether pitch

it to the last out.

"We played against the best pitcher in college baseball and we scratched and scrambled," said FSU pitching coach Mike MacLeod. "I like our ballclub. We're ready for postseason."

Third-ranked Miami is 39-12 the top-ranked Seminoles are 49-10. FSU does not play again until Friday, the second day of the Metro Tournament. The Seminoles expect that losing the series will cost them the No. 1 position in the polls.

"But we're not thinking about that now," said FSU coach Mike Martin. "Now we go on to the second season."

The end of the regular season was tough, especially the way the Hurricanes weaseled their way to a 2-0 lead in the third. A hit, stolen base, walk, a Barry Blackwell error and then a bizarre play that saw Jose Trujillo score from second base without a pitch or play made by FSU.

With time seemingly called, Trujillo charged into uncovered third base and then kept cruising home as that, too, was left unguarded. A Rick Richardi single then

made it 2-0 against FSU starter Chris Pollack.

But if this Seminole team has proven anything this year, it has proven resilience. It came back to score three times in the fourth to go up 3-2. Run-scoring singles by Eric Mangham and Ed Fulton were the big hits.

Too bad for FSU that rally brought in lefty Dan Davies from the Miami bullpen in the fourth. He gave up the single to Fulton and was then untouched until he handed Raether a 6-3 lead to start the eighth.

Miami, also playing scrappy, came right back in the bottom of the fourth for three runs that knocked out Pollack. It started on a high-bouncing turf single, but then line-drives started finding gaps. After an RBI Chris Howard triple and run-scoring hits by Rusty DeBold and Trujillo, Miami was back up 5-3.

The Hurricanes scratched out a single run in the seventh against reliever Doug Little that proved important. Mike Fiore scored from second when Luis Alicea made a diving stop but threw past first base.

Three runs down against Raether with two innings to go is a chore, but the Seminoles went to work. Paul Sorrento was hardly intimidated. He homered to dead center, almost the exact spot he took Raether on his only look at him Friday night.

Miami came back with a run in the bottom of the eighth on back-to-back doubles by Trujillo and Vaughn but FSU had three outs left.

Mangham started the ninth with a nice bunt that Raether could not handle.

One out and a surprising stolen base later, Fulton lined a double to left for a run. But the "Spider Man" retired Greg Clayborne on a pop and fanned Keith Kidd looking to end it.

"Florida State has a really good

team," said Vaughn. "I hope they feel the same about us. I hope we see them in Omaha."

Strange play may have cost FSU the game

By George Maselli

Democrat staff writer

MIAMI — Watch baseball for 20 years and you may never again see anything like it. At least not in college or pro baseball.

"I felt like I was back in T-ball," said FSU pitcher Chris Pollack.

In a scoreless game, Pollack had two out in the bottom of third inning.

But then things started getting weird in FSU's 7-5 loss to Miami.

Hurricane second baseman Jose Trujillo walked and then Greg Vaughn bounced to third. Moving to his left, Barry Blackwell made a fine pickup but his throw for a force drew second baseman Luis Alicea off the bag. Blackwell turned toward the outfield in disgust and both Alicea and shortstop Bien Figueroa were near second.

Catcher Ed Fulton headed out toward the mound, thinking he had called time. But with third base open, Trujillo charged into the base as Pollack held the ball without someone to throw to.

As the Seminoles looked around

confused and ready to argue that time had been called, Trujillo bolted toward home.

A stunned Fulton could not retreat fast enough to prevent Trujillo from scoring.

Pollack was stung again when Rick Richardi singled home Vaughn to make the game 2-0. The two runs were the final margin of Miami's victory.

"Ed called timeout, but the ump

didn't call it," said FSU coach Mike Martin. "We made the mistake of assuming time was out when it wasn't. It cost us two runs."

Coincidentally or not, after the fiasco Pollack was rocked for three runs in the fourth inning before being relieved in the fifth. He said that it did not bother him. It was just that Miami began to swing the bats.

"I've never seen it before. I couldn't believe what was going on," said Pollack. "I looked at it a second and said 'Wait a second. What's going on here.'"

Florida State					Miami				
	ab	r	h	bl		ab	r	h	bl
Marzan,1b	4	0	0	0	Vaughn,rf	5	1	2	2
Sorrento,rf	3	2	2	1	Richardi,cf	5	0	1	1
Alicea,2b	3	1	0	0	Flore,lf	4	1	1	0
Figueroa,ss	3	1	0	0	Dulom,dh	3	1	2	0
Mangham,cf	4	1	1	2	Heward,1b	3	1	2	1
Taddeo,dh	2	0	0	0	DeBoid,3b	4	0	1	1
Fulton,c	4	0	2	2	Nelson,ss	3	0	1	0
Blackwell,3b	2	0	0	0	Magno,c	3	1	0	0
Kidd,lf	4	0	0	0	Truillo,2b	3	2	2	0
McClellan,3b	1	0	0	0					
Saxner,ph-dh2	0	0	0	0					
Clayborne,ph	1	0	0	0					
Totals	33	5	5	5	Totals	38	7	12	5
Florida State					000	300	011	-	5
Miami					002	300	11x	-	7