

Sorrento's homer in bottom of ninth gives FSU 6-4 win

Florida State's dream season continues.

The first rain in months? No problem. It stops a convenient two hours before game time. A late LSU rally? Walk-on Ed Porcelli does an early Bruce Sutter impression. Need some drama to end a 3½-hour game? Paul Sorrento delivers.

Sorrento lined a two-run, two-out home run in the ninth inning as top-ranked Florida State beat second-ranked LSU 6-4 Monday night with a national television audience watching and a packed house rocking Seminole Stadium.

"I just feel this is the year for us," said Porcelli, who was cut by South Florida before walking on at FSU. "It's been just incredible for the team. For me, it's been a dream season."

Monday night fit with the way the season has gone for rolling Florida State, 54-11. Earlier in the day it was announced that the Seminoles would host a four-team regional tournament, just what Coach Mike Martin wanted.

But in the more immediate realm, what the 4,364 fans (incidentally, dreamily, setting a school record for season attendance at 106,221) who turned out wanted to see was a good Seminole show for the nation.

The problem was, that there were cross purposes from the start of this dream match, setup by ESPN. Strategy dictated a tuneup for the playoffs that begin Thursday and lead to the College World Series. But a big home crowd, the

rankings and a national television audience called for a play-to-the-death approach.

The Seminoles stayed with their plan to give their top five pitchers — not including Porcelli — work and it almost cost them. Steve Kovensky was hammered for a two-run homer by Greg Faulkner in the top of the ninth to tie the game. Porcelli, who figured as nothing but a mop-up man this season, retired all three men he faced with two on to save the 4-4 tie.

"Coach (pitching coach Mike) McLeod told us that we were all going to get to pitch and I called my parents and friends back home and told them," said Porcelli. "Then I found out I wasn't going to pitch and was pretty disappointed. Even when Coach Mac told me to warm-up in the ninth, I didn't think I'd get in."

Following Mike Loynd, Doug Little, Chris Pollack and Richie Lewis to the mound, Porcelli wound up in the spotlight and with the victory. He is now 3-0.

Sorrento made it all possible with his 20th homer against LSU relief ace Barry Manuel, who had not allowed a home run in 63 innings this season. It was a missile shot that barely screamed over the 30-foot screen in right.

"I knew he was a power hitter and I said to myself keep it low or outside," said Manuel, 9-2. "I had it low. He just muscled it out."

"I thought I hit it off the screen," said Sorrento. "It wasn't that high. That's why I jumped out

