

Three-hitter helps FSU blast Miami

By David Lee Simmons
Democrat staff writer

Gar Finnvoid threw a three-hitter and Brad Parker slammed a two-run homer as Florida State shut down Miami 7-3 Friday evening.

The game, played before 5,385 at Dick Howser Stadium, had the fifth-largest crowd in the stadium's history and was the first of a three-game series between the old rivals.

FSU, ranked No. 5 by Collegiate Baseball-ESPN and No. 6 by Baseball America, improved its record to 36-7 in winning its sixth straight. Miami, ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, dropped to 36-6.

The two teams continue the series tonight at 7.

Finnvoid, a senior righthander from Boca Raton, pitched a no-hitter through 7½ innings before giving up an eighth-inning double to pinch hitter Greg Coleman. He also gave up a two-run homer in the ninth, but was otherwise unstoppable.

With FSU scoring seven runs on nine hits, Finnvoid didn't need much, but still struck out seven and walked only one. He also had a perfect game for 5½

innings before Allen Bevis' fielding error.

While Finnvoid danced with perfection, Miami starter Greg Knowles flirted with history in becoming what has to be the worst Hurricane pitcher to con-

tinually face FSU.

Knowles, who has a lifetime earned-run average of 22.23 against FSU over four appearances, was true to form with a fourth-inning exit. The Seminoles went easy on him in the third with Buddy

Cribb's run-scoring single off the right-field screen.

The fourth wasn't so pleasant for Knowles. Leon High's Brad Parker led

off with a double, and went to third one out later on Pete Grifol's single to left.

Chris Roberts drilled a double to the gap in right-center to score Parker, followed one out later by Florida High's Bevis' RBI double down the left-field line.

That was it for Knowles, who actually lowered his lifetime ERA against FSU to 18.79 in 9¼ innings pitched.

Reliever Jeff Alkire didn't help any by coming in and giving up a two-run single to Cribb to give FSU a 5-0 lead, with all runs going to Knowles.

Miami kept picking on second baseman Bevis until he finally gave up a two-out error fielding a routine grounder in the sixth to break up the perfect game for Finnvoid.

Bevis had fielded seven balls before that, including five grounders in a row at one point.

But Finnvoid kept plugging at his no-hitter, surviving a scare in the top of the seventh. Frank Mora tried to reach on a bunt, but Pete Grifol threw him out to end the inning.

He picked up more support in a weird seventh. Alkire walked the first two batters, then threw a wild pitch to Rob Bargas.

But Juan Flores retrieved the ball and was able to catch Kenny Felder off balance trying to get back to the third-base bag. On the next pitch, Flores threw out Marc Ronan trying to steal third.

Alkire walked Bargas, setting up Parker's two-run blast over the left-center wall for a 7-0 FSU lead.

Finnvoid saw his no-hitter die in the eighth. He walked leadoff pinch hitter Maurice Crum and struck out Donald Robinson before serving up a soft, run-scoring double to pinch hitter Coleman.

Finnvoid then retired the next two batters as FSU held a 7-1 lead.

But Finnvoid appeared to tire a little in the later innings, giving up a double to Greg Erickson before Jorge Fabregas' homer in the ninth. That cut FSU's win down to 7-3.

