## FSU pitching turns off Georgia Tech's power

Coach Mike Martin gets a look at the future of his pitching staff.

> By Steve Ellis DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Florida State hitters don't pretend to be the equal of Georgia Tech's power crew which leads the

nation in scoring.

Jonathan Johnson does not claim to be as good Paul Wilson, at least not yet.

But against No. 3 Georgia Tech Friday night, second-ranked FSU flexed some offensive might and Johnson looked like the Seminoles' ace pitcher long enough for FSU to defeat the Yellow Jackets 64.

## **TODAY'S GAME**

Georgia Tech (Al Gogolin 8-2) at Florida State (Paul Wilson, 10-2), 7 p.m., Dick Howser Stadium.

Johnson, working at the No. 1 spot in the rotation, breezed

through Georgia Tech's usually explosive lineup. Then he and his teammates put a scare into the 4,053 people at Dick Howser Stadium by finding trouble in the sixth inning.

But Johnson picked up splendid support from reliever Steve Butler (4 saves) and enough runs from his teammates to cherish the effort. "This gives me a look for next year (when he replaces Wilson as the ace)," said Johnson. "A lot of times I'm going against the team's No. 2 pitcher. Going against their big dog adds to it and tonight was a great experience.

"My curve ball was really work-

Please see FSU, 3C

ing for me tonight. But they swing the bat and we made a couple of mental mistakes (in the sixth). We were just happy to come out with just four runs scored."

Johnson (8-1) gave up eight hits while striking out 11 before leaving

with 119 pitches thrown.

FSU, in a fight with Clemson for the Atlantic Coast Conference lead, remained in second with a 10-2 mark. For Georgia Tech, a third loss in its last four league games dropped the Yellow Jackets to 13-6. Georgia Tech (34-10) has lost to FSU 10 of the last 13 games.

The Seminoles (40-11) will start Wilson (10-2, 1.93) tonight against Al Gogolin (8-2, 3.33). Tickets remain for the 7 p.m. game.

FSU made the most of limited opportunities in the first four innings to take a 4-0 lead on just three hits.

"We know we can hit the ball," designated hitter Colby Weaver said. "We may not have the power they've got but we can hit the ball and we have so much speed.

"It was not so much that we wanted to send a message but we do want people to know we can hit with best of them."

Link Jarrett and Mike Martin Jr. combined for three RBI on a pair of singles to put FSU ahead 3-0 in the third inning. Jack Niles' double made it 4-0 an inning later.

But it was Weaver who appeared to give FSU an unsurmountable 6-0 lead with a 2-run homer off starter Brad Rigby (9-4) in the fifth inning.

Rigby, with the aid of 10 runs,

was the only Georgia Tech pitcher in four attempts to defeat FSU. He almost repeated the feat thanks to the Yellow Jackets' sixth inning rally that produced four runs.

Scott Byers smashed a two-run triple off the base of the centerfield wall before Brandon Hensley added two more runs on a homer.

After that, Butler came in to pitch 21/3 innings, giving up no hits and no runs. The performance especially pleased FSU coach Mike Martin.

"We have a lot of confidence in his ability," Martin said. "It was good to see him react under these conditions. I was just very impressed with the young man.

"This ballclub is playing with a lot of confidence. We played a very sound baseball game with the exception of a couple of mental mistakes in the sixth inning."

Maclay graduate Tucker Barr gave up no hits and no runs in 1% innings of relief for Rigby. He had one strikeout.

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