

FSU pitching throws one away

Jason Varitek's three-run home run rallies Georgia Tech to a 7-5 ACC victory over the Seminoles.

By Steve Ellis
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Pitching, goes the popular local belief, is what will get Florida State in the College World Series.

Against No. 3 Georgia Tech on Sunday, pitching only got No. 2

FSU into trouble as the Seminoles blew a 5-1 lead.

Catcher Jason Varitek was the predictable hero for Georgia Tech when he hammered his 10th home run of the season, good for three runs, to give the Yellow Jackets a 7-5 victory.

The FSU defeat allowed Georgia Tech (35-10, 15-6 in the ACC) to take the series for the first time since the Seminoles joined the league.

Despite the loss, the Seminoles remain in second-place behind Clemson with a 10-4 league mark.

FSU is 40-12 overall.

Both teams' starting pitchers were watching from the dugout before the fourth inning was over. FSU starter Phil Olson departed after just 3½ innings, having already given up five walks and four hits.

Reliever Steve Butler fared only slightly better as he walked in one Georgia Tech run in the fourth. He then loaded the bases with two straight walks in the sixth before David Yocum struck out Jay Payton with an inside fastball to stop another Georgia Tech threat.

Olson, especially, can't blame

his teammates for lack of support as Scott Schroeffel keyed a 5-3 lead early with a two-run homer in the third. The Seminoles, displaying their best offensive effort of the series, produced seven hits in the first three innings.

Yet defense also had an impact on the early innings.

There was FSU's Schroeffel from center field throwing out Nomar Garciaparra at home plate to end the Yellow Jackets' threat in the first inning.

Garciaparra then aided FSU's three-run second inning when he

allowed Jack Niles' grounder to bounce between his legs into center field to score Randy Hodges from third. Mickey Lopez's RBI double that inning also helped FSU to a 3-0 lead.

Olson committed two throwing errors, including an errant pitchout to second base, to fuel Georgia Tech's productive fourth inning.

Varitek's three-run blast against David Yocum over the left field wall was easily the biggest of Georgia Tech's 10 hits. It came in the eighth inning.

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Page 24

Georgia Tech 7, FSU 5

GA. TECH	ab r h bi	FSU	ab r h bi
Grcpwa ss	3 2 2 0	Lopez 2b	5 0 2 1
Mcntyre 2b	2 0 0 2	Jrfft ss	5 0 1 0
Varitk c	3 1 2 3	Mntkwcz 1b	4 0 1 0
Payton cf	5 0 2 0	Martin c	5 1 1 0
Byers 1b	5 1 2 0	Hodges rf	4 1 1 0
Hensley 3b	5 1 0 0	Schrff cf	3 2 3 2
Sorrow dh	5 0 1 1	Niles 3b	4 1 1 0
Smith lf	5 2 1 1	Zech lf	3 0 0 1
Saier rf	3 0 0 0	Morris lf	0 0 0 0
		Sheffer pr	0 0 0 0
		Btry lf	0 0 0 0
		Bell dh	4 0 1 0
		Hndry pr	0 0 0 0
Totals	36 7 10 7	Totals	35 5 11 4

Georgia Tech	001	300	030	— 7
FSU	032	000	000	— 5

E—Garciparra, Olson 2, Varitek 2. DP—FSU 1, Georgia Tech 1. LOB—Georgia Tech 10, FSU 8. 2B—Varitek, Smith, Payton, Lopez 2, Martin, Schroeffel. HR—Varitek, Schroeffel. SB—Garciparra 2.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ga. Tech						
McGill	2½	7	5	3	0	1
Myers, W 2-1	4½	3	0	0	0	3
Barr	2	1	0	0	2	0
FSU						
Olson	3½	4	4	2	5	3
Butler	2½	2	0	0	3	3
Yocum	3½	4	3	3	0	5

T—2:52. A—2,912.