

FSU BASEBALL

Seminoles walk past Jacksonville

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Not that Florida State's baseball team needs a lot of help, but Jacksonville University provided it Wednesday night.

Outlit 9-3 by Jacksonville, the Seminoles (34-9) nonetheless came away with a 6-3 victory — their first win at Brest Field in the past three seasons.

The Dolphins (31-13) helped out by walking nine FSU batters and hitting one. Five of them scored.

Plus, two Jacksonville errors also were critical in helping FSU score.

Still, it took ace Seminoles relief pitcher Phil Olson to get the final two outs in the ninth inning — the last a strikeout of Brandt Mathers with the bases loaded.

Also critical: The relief pitching of FSU sophomore righthander Chuck Howell, the former Leon High star.

He shut out the Dolphins on one hit over 2½ innings, and left only when two consecutive FSU errors in the ninth inning gave Jacksonville a chance.

"That's what we have Phil for," said Howell, "so I didn't mind turning the ball over to him in that situation."

Olson earned his seventh save and held the victory for starter Mike Bell (7-2), who beat Jacksonville for the third time in two years.

Howell's role wasn't as exciting as last Friday's pitching and hitting heroics in the 9-6, 14-inning victory at Miami, but his strikeout of Ryan Diggs — with the potential tying run at third — that ended the sixth inning was the key moment of the game.

"I came in and Coach (Mike)

Martin told me to get ahead with the breaking balls and spot the fastball, and I did," Howell said. "I threw him a good two-strike slider down and away."

FSU scored three of its runs without a hit; three of the runs came off leadoff walks. Stolen bases by Mickey Lopez and Brooks Badeaux also helped set up the runs.

In fact, two of the Seminoles' three hits drove in runs — a two-out single by Jeremy Morris in the first inning and a line-shot double by Jeremy Salazar in the second.

Those came off Jacksonville starter John Brockwell (1-6), who set up the runs by walking five of the nine men he faced.

"We took advantage of our opportunities well," said Martin. "We did the little things, we did a lot of little things right. We bunted people over, we got some key hits, we ran the bases well. I think our speed this year is something we've been lacking in the past. We're able to steal some bases and get some people in scoring position when we needed to."

FSU looked like it might cruise, building a 4-0 lead after 2½ innings. But Bell wasn't as sharp as his previous outings against Jacksonville and the Dolphins got to him with a four-hit, three-run barrage in the fifth. When he gave up a two-out triple in the sixth, Martin called for Howell.

FSU, third-ranked nationally and preparing for a crucial Atlantic Coast Conference series at home against Clemson this weekend, became the first team to beat Jacksonville twice in a row this season. The Seminoles won 11-1 in Tallahassee two weeks ago.

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FSU 6, Jacksonville 3									
FSU		J'VILLE				FSU		J'VILLE	
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Lopez 2b	2	1	0	0	Diggs cf	5	1	1	1
Hodges rf	4	0	0	1	Diddell rf	5	1	2	1
Mintez 1b	3	2	0	0	Hamilton rf	3	0	1	0
Zech 3b	2	0	0	0	Roney c	5	0	1	1
Morris lf	3	0	1	1	Hayes 3b	3	0	1	0
Martin c	4	0	0	1	Mathes 2b	5	0	0	0
Nedeauf cf	0	1	0	0	Wilkins 1b	4	0	1	0
Drew cf	2	0	1	0	Wood dh	3	0	0	0
Salzr dh	2	1	1	1	Marrila ss	4	1	2	0
Zabala dh	2	1	1	1					
Adeeb dh	1	0	0	0					
Badoux ss	2	1	0	0					
Totals	26	6	3	4	Totals	37	3	9	3
FSU		121		000		101		— 6	
Jacksonville		000		030		000		— 3	

E—Badeaux, Zech, Mathers. DP—FSU 1, Jacksonville 2. LOB—FSU 6, Jacksonville 12. 2B—Salazar, Diddell 2. 3B—Diggs, Marrilla. SB—Badeaux, Drew, Lopez, Mientewicz. S—Lopez, Morris, Hamilton. SF—Hodges.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida St.						
Bell W.7-2	5½	8	3	3	1	3
Howell	2½	1	0	0	0	3
Olson	½	0	0	0	0	2
Jacksonville						
Brockwell L,1-6	1	2	3	2	4	0
McKinney	4	0	1	1	2	2
Braun	2½	1	1	0	2	4
Scheer	1½	0	1	1	1	0

HBP—by McKinney (Zech), by Bell (Hayes), by Howell (Wood), by Olson (Hayes).

T—2-54. A—2954.