

Wes Crawford pitches a three-hitter as FSU defeats N.C. State 9-0 in its ACC opener.

By David Lee Simmons
DEMOCRAT WRITER

Wes Crawford flirted with what would have been Florida State's second no-hitter of the season as the Seminoles broke open a close game late in their Atlantic Coast Conference opener against North Carolina State on Friday night.

Crawford, bucking for No. 1 honors in the pitching rotation, scattered three late-inning hits for his first complete game of the season in FSU's 9-0 win over the Wolfpack in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams before 2,127 at Dick Howser Stadium.

The Seminoles (14-7) scored five runs in the eighth to turn the game into a mini-rout against the Wolfpack (10-5) to open this three-game series, which continues tonight at 7.

Crawford (3-0) struck out four and walked three, inducing the Wolfpack into one ground out after another until the seventh inning.

"This was the first time all season I had all my pitches," said Crawford. "I usually throw them all

halfway decent but one might not be working. But Coach (Mike) Martin did a nice job of keeping their batters off balance by mixing up the pitches with his calls."

Crawford was sailing along through the first 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, and had an 0-2 count on Wolfpack second baseman Brad Piercy before Piercy looped a soft single to shallow right field. The crowd groaned and Crawford walked pinch-hitter Aaron Maher before striking out another pinch-hitter, Matt Postell, to end the inning.

Crawford received a standing ovation from the crowd, which was looking for FSU's second no-hitter after Chris Chavez's 13-0 no-hitter against Charleston Southern on Feb. 18.

"We're supposed to bounce (the pitch) off the plate on 0-2," Crawford explained. "I looked in the dugout and saw (pitching coach) Jamey Shouppe motioning for me to keep it down, but I tried to over-throw it."

FSU gradually built a 4-0 lead against Wolfpack starter Bubba Scarce (3-1), keyed by Matt Diaz's team-leading fifth homer of the season in the second inning. Still, down 4-0 after five innings, Scarce looked good.

Until N.C. State broke up the

no-hitter that is. In the bottom of the eighth, FSU unloaded for five runs — including consecutive two-run doubles by Terry Henderson and Brett Groves — to chase Scarce. Jeremy Salazar used the rally to extend his hitting streak to 13 games with a single.

FSU will start Chavez (2-2, 5.46 ERA), a right-hander, tonight against Wolfpack right-hander Dustin Baker (2-1, 2.84).

NCS (10-5, 0-1)					FSU (14-7, 1-0)				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Ballard 3b	3	0	0	0	Badeaux 2b	5	0	1	1
Weber rf	3	0	0	0	Zabala 3b	0	0	0	0
Ward 2b	4	0	0	0	Jernigan lf	3	1	1	0
Manley dh	3	0	0	0	Salazar c	4	0	1	1
Conrad dh	1	0	1	0	Cox cf	4	0	1	0
Piercy c	4	0	1	0	Cash 1b	4	0	1	0
Acevedo lf	2	0	0	0	Woodward 1b	3	0	1	0
Maher lf	0	0	0	0	Diaz rf	4	0	0	0
DeMikes 1b	2	0	0	0	Henderson dh	3	1	1	0
Postell 1b	1	0	0	0	Otero pr	4	0	0	0
Slaughter cf	3	0	1	0	Groves ss	3	0	2	3
Smith ss	2	0	0	0	Crawford p	0	0	0	0
Figuerola 1b	1	0	0	0					
Scarce p	0	0	0	0					
Ormond p	0	0	0	0					
Hughes p	0	0	0	0					
Totals	29	0	3	0	Totals	32	9	9	6
NC State					000	000	000	0	0
FSU					110	110	05X	9	9

E—Ballard, Postell, J. Smith, Crawford.
DP—NCST 1, FSU 2. LOB—NCST 5, FSU 5. 2B—Cox, Cash, Henderson, Groves. HR—Diaz (5).
SB—Weber, ZXabla. CS—Jernigan, Groves

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
NC State						
Scarce L (3-1)	7	5	4	2	5	4
Ormond	$\frac{1}{3}$	4	5	4	1	0
Hughes	$\frac{2}{3}$	0	0	0	0	0
FSU						
Crawford W (3-0)	9	3	0	0	3	4
WP—Scarce.					U—Thompson,	Couch,
Manders.					T—2:19.	A—2127.