

Florida State flexes its muscle in a 15-3 victory against FAU

Home runs help the Seminoles with their 14th straight game, 15-3 over Florida Atlantic.

By Steve Ellis

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Life at Dick Howser Stadium without J.D. Drew and Jeremy Morris was expected to be dull for those who like power in their baseball.

Lots of singles, walks and sacrifice bunts. Seminole baseball at its boring best. The walkway beyond the right-field screen would be safe for pedestrian use again and opposing pitchers would smile again.

Well, maybe not. Florida Atlantic's Todd Moser, or any pitcher who has faced FSU lately, will recount stories of FSU's awesome power. That's right, power.

FSU used three homers, including Jeremy Salazar's seventh, to defeat Florida Atlantic 15-3 on Tuesday night. It was the 14th straight victory for the Seminoles.

"Everybody in the lineup is swinging the bat pretty well," Salazar said. "Things are happening. It's fun."

The Seminoles (25-7) have produced 12 homers in the past four games. Tallahassee resident Woody Lewis would insist that no homer during that surge has been bigger than Salazar's in the fifth inning. It won Lewis \$825 as part of WNLS' home run inning. It was the most ever awarded during the promotion, which has been running for at least 18 years.

By the time Salazar hit that homer, FSU (No. 8 in Collegiate Baseball) was already in control. Salazar put FSU ahead 6-1 with his home run and Brian Cox immediately followed with a homer.

Another homer, a three-run shot to deep center by Matt Diaz, gave FSU a 5-0 lead in the second inning. It was Diaz's eighth of the season.

"I think a lot of the home run output is because some guys have been selling out to the weights," FSU coach Mike Martin said. "They've really been working hard."

The Seminoles also produced their share of singles as they ripped five FAU pitchers for 16 hits, including five in a six-run eighth inning. The offensive barrage, which dropped FAU to 23-11, included a rare big night at the plate for second baseman Brooks Badeaux, who had three hits. Cox had three hits for three RBIs.

"Big night for Brooksie," Martin said. "To see him get that does nothing but lift everybody up, because he's worked so hard."

FSU starter Chris Chavez, who dropped out of the weekend rotation after throwing a no-hitter earlier this season, survived a rocky start that resulted in no damage as FAU stranded five runners in the first two innings. After that, Chavez (4-2) settled down. FSU turned four double plays to help Chavez, who allowed nine hits in six innings.

