

By LARRY AMISON

Democrat Assistant Sports Editor

The University of Florida jumped out to a 4-1 lead, then hung on for its third straight baseball victory over the nationally ranked Florida State Seminoles 4-3 Friday night.

The Gators took two games from the Tribe last week when FSU was ranked No. 1 in the country. The Seminoles, now 40-7, were rated No. 3 going into the game Friday night.

The teams clash in a day-night doubleheader today which closes the Gators schedule. They are 27-15. Florida State's season continues next week when it travels to Gastonia, N.C. for the District 3 playoffs. The winner there goes on to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

This afternoon's game with begin at 1:30, with the night game set for 7:30.

The Gators didn't let Florida State's press clippings bother them in the least, pounding out nine hits to seven for the usually hard-hitting Seminoles. FSU had just three hits after six innings, while UF has seven at that stage.

Florida State jumped on top in the first inning, scoring a run when Greg Schnute walked and John Grubb followed him with an opposite-field double, just fair down the left field line.

The score held up until the third when the Gators knotted it with an unearned run. UF shortstop Tommy Blankenship opened the frame with a single to center. Pickren, squaring around to bunt, took a ball which catcher Harry Saferight couldn't handle and Blankenship scooted to second on a passed ball.

Pickren moved Blankenship to third with an infield groundout, and the Gators scored when Leon Bloodworth's grounder to shortstop Greg Gromek was bobbled and there was no play at the plate on Blankenship.

The Tribe went down in order for the second straight inning in the third and Florida roared on top with two runs in the fourth.

Will Harmon opened the inning with a single to center off FSU starter Mike Slade. Tony Dobies followed with another base hit, this one to rightfield, and Harmon took third.

Rick Scarborough flied to left and Dobies moved to second when the throw was to the plate.

Then the play that broke the Seminoles' back.

With Slade working against first baseman Lauris Vidal, Dobies — at second — broke for third on the pitch, but the

runner at third, Harmon, wasn't moving on the play. But Vidal prevented the Seminoles from making something out of the mixup by lashing a base hit just out of shortstop Grojek's reach into centerfield. Both runners scored easily, making it 3-1 Gators.

Florida added what turned out to be the winning run in the fifth . . . another unearned run.

Pickren hit a slow roller down the first base line that Slade raced over and fielded. The Seminole hurler tried to tag the runner, but missed. He then whirled and threw to first, but wide of the mark and Pickren raced to second on the error.

After Bloodworth sacrificed

Pickren to third, DeVirgilis then lined a triple over Cocks' head in left center, bouncing it off the wall on one hop.

John Ferguson was called out of the bullpen to relieve Slade and got the Seminoles out of the inning by getting Harmon to pop to second, and then Scarborough, to pop to first.

The Gators threatened again in the sixth when Vidal and Jim Gruber opened the inning with back-to-back singles, but a pair of brilliant defensive plays got the tribe out of trouble.

Florida State finally got to Pickren in the seventh. Leftfielder Larry Cocks, who had turned in two fine defensive plays in the first inning (making a diving catch for one out and racing to the base of the fence to catch

another one), opened with a single to right.

Saferight, a lefty, singled to left, but Cocks had to stop at second. Greg Gromek drew a base on balls on a full-count pitch and Kasimier followed with another walk to force in FSU's second run of the game.

Dave Grimes pinch hit for pitcher Tom Henson who had relieved Ferguson in the sixth. Florida Coach Dave Fuller then made a change himself, however, moving Pickren to center field and bringing in Larry Sheffield to pitch. Jim Scheller then pinch hit for Grimes, who never made it to the plate, but struck out.

Sheffield got Dick Nichols to ground to third, forcing Greg Gromek at second, but scoring Saferight. Schnute grounded to second to end the inning.

Florida again threatened in the eighth as Bloodworth walked, but was forced at second by DeVirgilis. Harmon flew out to right to make it two away.

In the eighth another big defensive play got the Tribe out of trouble again. After one out, Blankenship walked and Rod Wright, who had replaced Pickren, rapped a double over Cocks' head in left. Blandenship tried to score from first but Cocks fired to shortstop Gromek, who relayed to catcher Saferight to nail the runner. Carl Gromek, the third pitcher for FSU, then got Bloodworth to pop out.

FSU put a man on second with one out in the eighth on Ron Cash's single and a wild pitch, but an infield popup and an infield groundout ended the action.

Then in the bottom of the ninth, Greg Gromek opened with a single to left, was sacrificed to second by pinch hitter Greg Zera, but Sheffield got pinch hitter Dan Roatche and Nichols to both ground out to second.

Slade was the losing pitcher, his first loss in seven decisions.

FLORIDA STATE				FLORIDA			
	ab	r	h		ab	r	h
Nichols 2b	5	0	0	Bloodworth 2b	4	0	0
Schnute cf	3	1	0	DeVirgilis lf	5	0	1
Grubb rf	4	0	1	Harmon c	5	1	2
Cash 3b	4	0	2	Dobies' cf	3	1	1
Cocks lf	3	1	1	Scarborough 3b	3	0	0
Saferight c	3	1	2	Vidal lb	4	0	2
Keith ph-c	1	0	0	Gruber rf	3	0	1
G. Gromek ss	3	0	1	Sheffield p	1	0	0
Kasimier lb	2	0	0	Blankenship ss	3	1	1
Zera ph	0	0	0	Pickren p-rf	3	1	0
Slade p	1	0	0	Wright rf	1	0	1
Ferguson p	0	0	0				
Porter ph	1	0	0				
Henson p	0	0	0				
Scheller ph	1	0	0				
C. Gromek p	0	0	0				
Roatche ph	1	0	0				
Totals	31	3	7	Totals	35	4	9

Florida 001 210 000—4

Fla. State 100 000 200—3

E — Cash, Slade, G. Gromek; PO—A—UF 27-13, FSU 27-14, DP — UF 1, FSU 1. RBI — Grubb, Kasimier, Nichols, Bloodworth, Vidal 2, DeVirgilis. LOB — UF 7, FSU 7.

2B — Grubb, Wright, 3B — DeVirgilis. S — Zera, Bloodworth.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Slade (L 6-1)	4 1/3	5	4	2	0	2
Ferguson	2-3	0	0	0	1	0
Henson	2	2	0	0	3	1
C. Gromek	2	2	0	0	1	0
Pickren (W 4-3)	6	5	3	3	3	0
Sheffield	3	2	0	0	0	2

WP — Sheffield, PB — Saferight, U—Mauch, Martin. T — 2:15. A — 3,300.