

Seminoles Rally To Nip USF 2-1

By BOB BLANKENSHIP

Executive Sports Editor

Diminutive Marty Maier made South Florida pay for its mistakes and took the Florida State Seminoles off the hook for a last stand 2-1 victory Saturday night at Seminole Field.

The little shortstop was the right man for the right job at the right time.

With two away in the home half of the ninth and runners on first and third following a single and a South Florida error, he drilled losing pitcher Steve Ruling's first pitch to center.

"It was a fast ball right here," he said, waving his hand across the letters. "It was the first one he'd thrown (over the plate) to me all night."

It scored Jose Lugo, who had opened the inning with a single and moved to third on third baseman Ton Rizzo's throwing error off John Drews' two-out ground ball.

It was the third game-winning hit of the season, more than any other team member, for Maier who has

made his 16 season hits count for 14 runs batted in. He came into the game batting only .188.

The victory went to Larry Jones, who went the nine-inning route with a four hitter, striking out nine and was generally in control all the way.

The Seminoles boosted their record to 27-20 and left South Florida at 19-13-1 for today's second game of the series. Coach Jack Stallings was to send out Danny O'Brien to pitch the 1:30 game for the Seminoles. "said Stallings after the game, "but we hung in there and battled...we didn't give up like we did against Valdosta... and you've got to be happy about that."

The Seminoles, guilty of some base running sins, took themselves out of a couple of scoring opportunities.

"I think we were a little timid," Stalling said, doing a little foot shuffling to demonstrate his point. "That's the way it is when things are not going well...you're a little hesitant in getting started."

Four times Seminole base runners were cut down either attempting to steal, attempting to stretch base hits or getting picked off.

South Florida drew first blood in the top of the fifth, the run scoring when the Seminoles missed a potential inning-ending double play with the bases loaded.

Two singles and a walk had loaded the bases when first baseman Windle Higginbotham opted for the DP instead of a throw to the plate.

The Seminoles got the run back in their half of the fifth when Guillermo Bonilla singled off the pitchers' glove and wound up on third when the third baseman threw wildly to first and scored on Lugo's single to left-center.

It stayed that way until the dramatic ninth and had all the trappings of a game headed for a long extra-inning stand.

Fla. State	ab	r	h	S. Florida	ab	r	h
Maier ss	3	0	1	Alvarez 2b	4	0	0
Davidson 2b	4	0	1	Ciccarello lf	3	0	0
Busby cf	3	0	0	Stenholm rf	4	0	1
Foxwell dh	4	0	0	Berkes dh	3	0	0
Bonilla 3b	3	1	1	Beardon c	4	0	1
Lugo lf	4	1	2	Guess 1b	3	0	0
Lezcano rf	4	0	0	Reynolds cf	3	0	0
H botham 1b	4	0	2	Adams ss	3	1	1
Drews c	2	0	0	Rizzo 3b	3	0	1
Jones p	0	0	0	Ruling p	0	0	0
TOTALS	31	2	7	TOTALS	30	1	4

S. Florida 000 010 000—1

Fla. State 000 010 001—2

E—Alvarez, Adams, Rizzo 2, Maier,
 DP—FSU. LOB—USF 6, FSU7, RBI—
 Lugo, Maier. SB—Davidson.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ruline (L 4-3)	8 2-3	7	2	0	4	4
Jones (W 4-3)	9	4	1	1	4	9

HBP — Drews (by Ruling), Ciccarello
 (by Jones) WP—Ruling, Jones 2. U—
 Mauck, Pauly. T—215. A—209.