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FSU streak ends — and how!

By BOB COHN

There was the usual doubleheader sweep Sunday at Seminole Field.

The winning team got a fine pitching effort from its ace to win the first game, and then rallied in the last innings to take the second game.

The winning team took advantage of its opponents mistakes, hustled on the bases and demonstrated true grit throughout. By doing all this, it put itself into contention for an NCAA tournament bid.

This may give the appearance of an all too familiar account of another Florida State baseball triumph. But, surprise, the 'winning team' in question is not the Seminoles, but Georgia Southern.

Before another sparse crowd, on an overcast afternoon, FSU saw its home win streak end at 32 by losing the first game 4-2.

The Seminoles then created a new, and different kind of streak with their 7-4, come from ahead loss to the charged-up Eagles in the nightcap.

Thus, the Seminoles had somehow managed to finish such a productive and pleasing regular season on an altogether sour note. The timing is made worse by the presence of the Metro 7 tournament which comes up Thursday. This is not how a squad gears up for post-season play.

All year, FSU, 40-14 overall, had been practically invincible in its backyard. Prior to Sunday, the Seminoles had lost there just once — on opening day to Tulane. That, perhaps more than anything, gave the Seminore

noles cause for optimism in the upcoming tourney.

It will take more than optimism now. The home-field magic spell has been broken, and only time will tell how, or if, the Seminoles can rebound. Tune in Thursday.

The first of the seven-inning games was your basic, hard-nosed battle between two pretty good pitchers. Jim Riley started for FSU, went the distance and pitched a nice ballgame.

Gary Givens took the hill for the Eagles, also went the distance and pitched an even better game, allowing just two runs on five Seminole hits to raise his record to an impressive 11-2. Riley was touched for four runs, but only two of them were earned. His hard luck story continues.

Taking a 2.79 earned run average into the game, Riley last won on April 12 when he beat Jacksonville 11-6. That made his record 5-2. Since that time, the junior righthander has lost three and had a few no-decisions.

He pitched well enough to beat Georgia Southern but was hurt by a couple of Seminole errors, and some key Eagle hits.

Staked to a 2-0 lead, Riley in the fourth loaded the bases on two singles and third baseman David Mobley's throwing error, before giving up a game-tying, two-run single to Carme-

lo Aguavo.

In the fifth, second baseman Craig Patterson, usually the rock of the infield, bobbled a doubleplay grounder to put runners on first and second. A sacrifice moved the runners up, and

Riley threw a wild pitch, allowing the third run to score. Jimmy Mathews then hit a single for a 4-2 Eagles lead.

Givens, meanwhile, had settled down following two Seminole runs in the second, and limited FSU to just two hits the rest of the way.

The second game saw the Seminoles victimized by the same late-inning lightning they had used on their opponents all year.

Smelling a possible at-large invitation to the NCAA tournament, the Eagles (33-13) scored two in the seventh inning to tie, and three more in the eighth to win it.

The Seminoles, paced by shortstop Bob Benda's second homer in two days, led 4-2 with just three outs to go when everything crumbled.

Pitcher Kevin Brooks was nearing completion of an outstanding relief performance for starter Rick Holloway, when with one out, Bob Laurie doubled and Chip Gray singled to cut the Seminole lead to 4-3.

Ken Fischer came in for Brooks, and promptly heaved a wild pitch, sending Gray to second. The lefty then got Randy Childress on a grounder to Benda for out number two, but Mathews, on a 3-2 pitch, hit a looping fly to short right that fell in and Gray scored the tying run.

The Seminoles had their chance to win in the bottom of the seventh when they loaded the bases. But Brooks Carey, pinch-hitting for defensive replacement Ken Schimchak hit a hard grounder to second with two out to end the threat.

In the eighth, the Eagles struck with one out, and scored three times off loser Fischer (3-2), Joe Nichols and Ray Fox. Steve Rum's single off Fox scored Mark Strucker with the go-ahead run, and Gray's two-run double added insurance.

The bottom of the inning saw the Seminoles load the bases once again

with one down. Bruce Huff, however, fouled out and Mark Gilbert grounded to second to make the Eagles' ride back to Statesboro a happy one.

TRIBE TIDBITS: Eagles, under helm of former FSU mentor Jack Stallings (248 wins here, 1969-74), won season series, 3-2 . . . The Metro seedings may come out today. Expect Memphis St. to be number one and FSU second.

Fla St					Gi	3	Sou	uthe	ern		
AB	R	1	41	BI					AB	RH	BI
Gilbert cf	3	0	0	0	G	ra	yr	f		3 1	0 0
Benda ss	3	0	1	0	Ch	ıil	dre	255	cf	2 1	1 0
Patterson 2b	3	0	1	0	M	a	the	WS	3b	4 1	11
Mobley 3b					M	ix	on	SS		3 0	1 0
Traylor If					A	gL	Jay	0 2	b	3 0	2 2
McDonald c					St	rı	Jck	er 1	lb	3 0	1 0
Milner 1b					M	e	nde	zd	h	20	1 0
Rigby dh					R	JI	n If			3 0	0 0
B.Huff rf						U2	t'ck	i c		3 1	1 0
	24				To	ot	als		2	6 4	7 3
Ga Southern	-	_	-					00	0 22	0 0	- 4
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E - Mo	ble	v.	F	att	ers	0	n,	Str	ucke	er, A	Ma-
thews. LOB	_	Ġ	S	5.	FS	Ü	6.	DF	-	GSI	J 1,
FSU 1. 2B -	St	ru	ck	er.	s.	_	M	Ine	r, CI	hildr	ess
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	Seco	and Ga	me				
Fla St		Ga	Sou	uthe	rn		
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Patterson 2b	402	0 Ma	the	WS :	3b	3 0	11
Traylor If	300	0 Mix	con	55		2 1	1 1
Sch'chk rf	000	0 Age	Jay	0 2t)-C	30	0 1
Carey ph	100	0 Stru	uck	er 1	b	21	0 0
Fuentes If	000					30	
McDonald c	412	0 Rur				4 1	
Mobley 3b	301	0 Kuz				3 0	
Milner 1b	413	1 Lau	rie	pr-	2b	12	11
Rigby dh	301	1 Tot	als		3	17	9 7
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Totals 3	3 4 13	4					
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Fla St E — none FSU 1. 28 —	e. LOB Kuzni	acki, G	U 7	003 F5	001 SU 8	DF Mile	ner.
Fla St E — none FSU 1. 2B — HR — Bend	e. LOB Kuzni da, Mi	acki, G xon. Si	U 7	003 F5 . 3E	001 SU 8 B -	OO Mile	ner.
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