

Hot Seminoles derailed by Georgia Southern

By BOB COHN
Democrat sports writer

Just when it appeared that the Seminole Express was going to steam into the Metro Tournament, plowing through any obstacle that dared cross its path, a flock of Eagles from Georgia Southern descended. The express derailed.

Cracking two homers off Jim Riley, and receiving stingy pitching from Chuck Lusted, the visitors from Statesboro, Ga., beat FSU 8-3 Saturday at Seminole Field. It was just the fourth loss in 36 games at home for FSU, the first after 11 straight wins.

Rain dampened both the field and the Seminoles' spirits. The game started a half-hour late, and was halted for 15 minutes in the bottom of the fourth.

GSC led 4-3 at that point, but the 'Noles had a man on second and catcher Craig Ramsey at the plate with two out. After the deluge, Ramsey stepped back into the batter's box and was fanned by Lusted.

FSU Coach Dick Howser, who just 24 hours earlier had witnessed his team's 20-run attack on Florida, did not quite blame the soggy conditions, but said it may have thrown things a little out of whack.

"That rain and stuff kind of messed us up a little," he said. "We didn't have a chance to take infield, and everyone was worried about the tarps. Things like that.

"But I don't want to make any excuses. You've got to give credit to that pitcher. He's one of the best I've seen."

Lusted, a sophomore righthander, surrendered Don Milner's sixth homer of the year in the second inning, and two more runs in the third, then assumed control of the game. After Craig Patterson singled with two out in the fifth, Lusted allowed no hits the rest of the way.

Lusted struck out seven, though he was not overpowering. Control is his

mainstay. He nibbled at the corners, getting the slugging 'Noles to hit weak grounders and pop-ups.

He walked no one until the ninth inning, as he posted his ninth win of the year against no losses.

"It's no magic," said Jack Stallings, the Eagles' coach, who used to pilot the Seminoles. "He just throws strikes and stays ahead of the hitters."

Stallings was fired from FSU after the 1974 season. He does well against his old team — last year, the Eagles swept a doubleheader from the Seminoles — but swears he gets no special kick when he wins in Tallahassee.

"It's just always nice to win," he said. "But the players I coached, the students who went here are all gone. It's not anything special."

Okay, Jack.

For Riley, it was also nothing special. In fact, it was another effort he would like to forget. On April 11, Riley beat Miami and had an earned run average of 1.83. Since then, he has pitched 30 innings and been touched for 31 runs.

"I don't know. I'm still throwing the ball good," the senior righthander said. "I've been throwing good pitches with good velocity. The trouble is location. I've been throwing the ball up in the (uniform) letters and against the good teams, you can't get away with it.

"I'm throwing the ball well. I'm not walking people. Maybe that's the thing, my control is too good. The hitters are just waiting for a good pitch to hit. Maybe I should throw a couple of wild pitches or brush them back."

Against the Eagles (42-13), who also beat Riley in Statesboro, he got a pitch up into Mark Strucher's letters, and the first baseman airmailed it out for his 24th homer of the year.

That made it 2-0 in the first. The Eagles added two more in the second, and in the fifth, catcher Carmello Aguayo ripped into a high one for a three-run shot and a 7-3 lead.

Overall, Riley lasted six innings, giving up seven runs and 11 hits. Rick Hatcher and Ken Fischer finished.

With the tournament starting Thursday, Riley will be counted on heavily to regain his past form.

"I'll just keep working hard," he said. "I'm too good a pitcher to be getting hit like this."

Howser, the same after defeat as he is following a win, was calm. "I'm not going to panic on him," he said.

Today, the Seminoles (41-12) conclude their regular season with a 2 p.m. rematch with the Eagles. Rick Holloway (5-3), a winner last time out against Georgia Tech, pitches for FSU against Paul Kilimonis (7-2).

Georgia Southern					Florida State				
	AB	R	H	BI		AB	R	H	BI
Fletcher ss	4	1	3	1	B.Huff rf	4	0	0	0
Grego 2b	5	1	0	0	DeLoach ss	4	1	1	0
Gray lf	5	0	1	0	Patterson 2b	4	1	2	1
Strucher 1b	5	2	2	2	Milner 1b	3	1	1	2
Aguayo c	5	1	1	3	Fuentes cf	4	0	0	0
Laurie 3b	5	2	2	0	Ledbetter dh	4	0	2	0
Metts rf	4	0	1	0	Traylor lf	3	0	1	0
Howard cf	3	1	2	1	Mobley 3b	4	0	0	0
Lezcano dh	4	0	2	0	Ramsey c	4	0	0	0
Totals	40	8	14	7	Totals	34	3	7	3

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E — Gray, Fletcher, Laurie, Hatcher, Ramsey. LOB — GSC 5, FSU 6. 2B — Laurie, Fletcher, Patterson. HR — Strucher, Aguayo, Milner (6). SF — Milner.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Lusted (9-0)	9	7	3	2	1	7
Riley (L, 8-3)	6	11	7	7	1	1
Hatcher	2	2	1	0	1	1
Fischer	1	1	0	0	0	0

WP — Lusted. U — Bickle, Davis. T — 2:25. A — 589.