

Seminoles leave Southern Miss shell-shocked

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

OK, guys, but what happens when you get to Miami next weekend and have to play some real baseball?

That was the only pertinent question left to answer Sunday after Florida State devastated Southern Mississippi's Golden Eagles 24-3 at Seminole Stadium. Including the two seven-inning games Saturday, FSU outscored Southern Miss 54-8 in the three-game series.

For box-score fans, check out the line for switch-hitting second baseman Luis Alicea: 6 3 6 9. No, that is not a typo.

In the Seminoles' 23-hit attack, Alicea doubled twice in the eight-run first inning, doubled again in the third, singled in two runs in the eight-run fourth,

walked in the fifth, tripled in two runs in the sixth and hit a three-run homer in the eighth.

That is the cycle plus two doubles. The sophomore from Puerto Rico set a school record with the six hits in one game and tied a Mike Fuentes record with nine RBIs. That is three short of the NCAA single-game RBI record of 12 held by John McBroom of Air Force since 1967.

"We keep asking ourselves, 'Are we this good?' I've never seen a team hit line drives like this," said FSU assistant coach Chip Baker.

Part of the answer for the 11-0 Seminoles awaits in Miami, where FSU has fallen apart in recent years when facing the Hurricanes.

"We can't wait to play them," said Alicea. "We're thinking of sweeping them. As well as we're hitting the ball, there's no way they are going to beat us. We're

not thinking about how good they are. We're thinking about how good we are."

By the end of the day Sunday, there was a great deal of doubt whether Southern Miss were any good at all. The Seminoles scored eight in the first, but unlike Saturday, it wasn't through a comedy of Eagle errors. They just came out hitting shots everywhere off Greg Breal, who looked as if he had a pretty fair arm.

Alicea and Marzan led off with doubles. One out later, Jimmy Jones lined the first of three FSU homers to right. Vince Calandra, Paul Sorrento (whose drive nearly maimed umpire Bruce Ravan), and Bien Figueroa followed with line-drive hits. Even a change of pitchers didn't matter as some of the crowd of 2,237 shouted "warm up the bus."

See FSU, 4D

Run-scoring hits by Eric Mangham and Alicea closed out the first-inning scoring.

"We've really got our confidence up right now for Miami," said assistant coach Rod Delmonico, who was filling in as head coach. Mike Martin was away at his parents' 50th wedding anniversary celebration, missing his first game in 11 years on the FSU coaching staff. "The way the guys are swinging the bats, we feel we can win."

Besides Alicea, there were plenty of other hitting stars. Mangham drove in three runs and Jones, Sorrento, Ed Fulton, and Marzan drove in two each.

FSU starter Mike Loynd (3-0) was not particularly sharp, but he didn't have to be. He allowed three hits and walked four in five innings, but stranded two runners in each of the first and fourth innings. Ray Revak and Kevin Smith finished.

The crowd, pumped up on the sunny day in the first inning, deflated from the lack of drama. When the Seminoles scored eight more times in the fifth inning, most — including Kansas City Royals manager Dick Howser — left to find other entertainment.

The rest of the crowd had only Alicea's brilliant day to watch. After he tripled in the sixth, there was a question of whether he'd get a chance to set the school record with his sixth hit. But with two outs in the eighth with Alicea on deck, reserve outfielder Keith Kidd legged out an infield hit. Alicea waited for a fat fastball and drove it over the right-field fence.

The strange part of it was that Alicea had been slumping at the bat. While the Seminoles had been piling on the runs, he had gone 2 for 13 his last three games.

"I was trying to rush everything... but I had a talk with Coach Martin," said Alicea after his first time at completing the rare cycle. "I wasn't thinking about a home run. I just wanted to get a hit to get the record. Keith was going to get hit by the ball to give me a chance to get it."

But by next weekend, such unimportant things as number of hits will be meaningless.

"I've never felt better," said FSU pitching coach Mike McLeod, "going into a series down there."

Southern Miss.					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Burnett,cf	3	0	0	0	Alicea,2b	6	3	6	9
Migliore,cf	1	1	1	0	Pacetti,2b	0	0	0	0
Nixon,dh	1	0	0	0	Marzan,3b	4	1	1	2
Vasquel,c	5	0	3	2	Gelmine,cf	1	0	0	0
Sims,rf	3	1	1	1	Fazzini,lf	5	1	1	1
Conner,1b	4	0	0	0	Epplev,rf	1	0	0	0
Kozlowski,lf	4	0	1	0	Jones,1b	3	2	1	2
Garcia,ss	4	0	1	0	Zoeller,1b	2	1	2	0
Palecios,2b	4	1	0	0	Calandra,dh	3	3	2	1
Seroka,3b	4	0	0	0	Ledbatter,ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	33	3	7	3	Sorrento,rf	3	2	2	2
					Kosco,rf-lf	1	0	0	0
					Figueroa,ss	5	2	2	1
					Abshier,ss	1	0	0	0
					Blackwell,c	2	2	1	1
					Saxner,c	1	0	0	0
					Fulton,c	1	2	1	2
					Mangham,cf	3	2	2	3
					Kidd,cf	3	3	2	0
					Totals	46	24	23	24

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 Florida State 800 814 03x — 24 23 1

E—Garcia, Kidd. DP—FSU 2, So. Miss. 1. LOB—FSU 8, So. Miss. 11. 2B—Alicea 3, Marzan, Figueroa, Kidd. 3B—Alicea. HR—

Jones (4), Calandra (3), Sims (1), Alicea. SB—Alicea. SF—Marzan.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
So. Miss.						
Breal, L(0-1)	1/3	6	6	6	1	1
Jordan	2 2/3	4	4	4	2	3
Nettles	1/3	5	6	6	1	0
Rhymer	3 2/3	6	5	5	2	5
Hankins	1	2	3	3	1	2
Florida State						
Loynd, W(3-0)	5	3	0	0	4	5
Revak	3	2	1	1	2	2
Smith	1	2	2	0	2	1

WP—Nettles 2, Rhymer 2. PB—Vasquez. HBP—Calandra (Jones), Calandra (Rhymer). T—3:27. A—2237.