

Seminoles stop Central Florida

By David Whitley
Democrat staff writer

Steve Gelmine walked into Seminole Stadium on Monday night with a pretty good record but not much respect. When he walked out, the respect was catching up to the record.

Gelmine ran his record to 3-0 as he pitched Florida State to a 6-3 win over Central Florida before a crowd of 1,049. The Seminoles' fifth straight win improved their record to 37-15. Central Florida, which split two games with FSU last month, dropped to 44-22-1.

"That club's fighting for a bid," said FSU Coach Mike Martin. "They know that if they come in here and win two games they can say they took three of five from Florida State. They've got it all mapped out."

Any map probably didn't include getting shut down by Gelmine. His undefeated record was a bit deceptive, as witnessed by his 6.62 ERA going into the game. There was nothing cheap about Monday night's win.

The senior from New Providence, N.J., limited the Knights to seven hits while striking out 10. The performance

was tarnished a tad — but not much — by a two-run homer in the ninth by Central Florida's Dave Cable.

"Even the pitch they hit out was a good pitch," said Martin. "Steve's pitching with a lot of confidence now. He's getting into the rhythm. When he gets his breaking stuff over, he's tough."

Central Florida's Tommy Novak (7-3) was almost as tough through the first six innings, holding the Seminoles to four hits and one run. But then, FSU made things a little easier for Novak in the fifth.

With Ed Fulton on second and Luis

Alicea on first, Bien Figueroa slapped a grounder that shortstop Odie Koehnke let slip by him into centerfield. Fulton chugged around third and looked destined for home when Martin held him up. Problem was, Alicea kept coming and both of them ended up on third. Fulton was tagged out and the inning died when Frank Fazzini struck out.

Martin said he's the coach so he'll take the rap for the baserunning error. "It's just one of those things that happens," he said.

See FSU, 4D

As things turned out, it didn't matter whose fault it was. Novak slacked off in the sixth and FSU first baseman Jimmy Jones was ready, as he belted his 12th home run of the year over the right field wall to give FSU a 2-1 lead.

FSU scored twice more in the inning on a bases-loaded sacrifice fly by Eric Mangham and a bunt single by Alicea. It added two more in the eighth when Alicea tripled and was singled in by Figueroa. Two batters later, Tommy Zoeller was hit by a pitch to make it 6-1.

What looked like icing turned out to be insurance when Cable poked his homer in the ninth to make it 6-3. Gelmine then put in a plea for help.

"I was calling up to heaven to a relative of mine for a little help," he said.

The relative, his grandfather, died six years ago. Gelmine said it's the first time he's ever thought of him in a time of need. Whatever it was, it worked as Gelmine struck out the final batter to end the game.

"We were tentative at the plate, but you've got to give Gelmine credit," said Central Florida Coach Jay Bergman. "This was probably the best game he's pitched."

Gelmine wouldn't argue with that.

"I'm pitching now, I'm not throwing. I'm working on location," he said. "I was struggling the first couple of innings, but then I started getting my curve ball over."

The same two teams meet tonight at 7 at Seminole Stadium, with Mike Loynd (6-3) pitching for FSU.

Central Florida					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Cangelosi,cf	3	1	0	0	Alicea,2b	4	1	3	1
Cable,c	4	1	1	2	Figueroa,ss	4	1	1	1
Barker,rf	5	1	1	0	Fazzini,lf	5	0	2	0
Zawaski,lb	5	0	3	0	Jones,lb	4	1	1	1
Maloney,dh	4	0	0	0	Zoeller,dh	3	1	1	1
McHugh,3b	4	0	2	0	Sorrento,rf	3	1	1	0
Reese,lf	4	0	0	0	Blackwell,3b	4	1	2	1
Schulz,2b	2	0	0	0	Fulton,c	3	0	1	0
Koehnke,ss	2	0	0	0	Mnghm,cf	2	0	0	1
Yochern,ph	1	0	0	0	Calandra,dh	1	0	0	0
					Kidd,rf	1	0	0	0
Totals	34	3	7	2	Totals	34	6	12	6

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 Florida St. 010 003 02x — 6 12 4

E—Figueroa 2, Koehnke, Blackwell, Gelmine. DP—FSU 1. 2B—Fazzini, Zawaski, Sorrento, Barker, Fulton, Blackwell. 3B—Alicea. HR—Jones (12), Cable (4). SB—Zawaski, Barker, Fazzini. SH—Figueroa. SF—Figueroa.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cent. Florida						
Novak, L(7-3)	7 ² / ₃	12	6	6	4	5
Manion	1 ¹ / ₂	0	0	0	1	1
Florida St.						
Gelmine, W(3-0)	9	7	3	2	6	10

HBP—Zoeller (Manion). T—2:54. A—1,049.