

FSU shuts out Pittsburgh and moves back to No. 1

By Elgin White
Democrat correspondent

Florida State celebrated its move back to the top of the nation's baseball mountain by feasting on yet another visitor from the Snowbelt as they defeated Pittsburgh 7-0 to run its season record to 23-2.

ESPN announced after the game had started that Florida State had moved back into the No. 1 slot ahead of Texas, with Miami moving into second place. Texas lost two since last week and is now in third place with a 23-4 record. Miami is 18-3.

Baseball America's poll has Florida State ranked No. 2 behind Texas.

The Panthers, on their annual spring swing, found the same welcome mat that was laid out for them last year when the Seminoles slashed them in four straight, but this time the slashing was not as devastating.

But it was easy to see the handwriting spread all over the Seminoles' ad-decorated fences when Jose Marzan led off the first inning by hitting a 2-1 pitch from Panther starter Keith Shuster far over the center-field wall for a homer.

Luis Alicea followed with a double and stole third. Bien Figueroa grounded out to short, scoring Alicea, and then Ed Fulton, coming out of a mild batting slump, hit one over the trees in right center.

Greg Clayborne, not noted for his power hitting, joined the act in the fifth with his second homer of the year, a two-run hit over the left-center-field barrier that scored Craig Saxner in front of him.

Saxner had doubled, and Clayborne's shot moved the score to 7-0 after the Seminoles had picked up two more in the fourth on doubles by Marzan and Figueroa and singles by Alicea and Barry Blackwell.

While all this offense was most satisfying to the crowd of 1,877, left-hander Chris Pollack was having his best outing of the season on the mound.

Pollack's breaking ball and change-up was in mid-season form, and it set up his fast ball just right, giving the left-hander 10 strikeouts on the night. Pollack is not quite in the chase for strikeouts being carried on by Richie Lewis and Mike Loynd, but the 10

See FSU, 6D

in this game give him 37 on the year. Lewis has 63 and Loynd is one behind at 62.

"When I was getting the change-up over for strikes," Pollack said, "it made my fast ball much more effective. My off-speed pitch has to be on to set up the stinger. I feel real good now, kind of like I wanted to feel by mid-season, which is just where we are."

FSU coach Mike Martin agreed with those sentiments. "No doubt it was Chris' best outing of the year. He had good control, and his change up and breaking stuff got his fast ball going that much quicker.

"We sent Ed (Porcelli) in the eighth to get in some work because Ed and Chris are both in the rotation for the upcoming games with Southern Mississippi."

Martin said the Seminoles won this one with the bat instead of speed, and he hoped that was a sign of things to come the rest of the way.

Figueroa's hot bat was almost silenced by Shuster. He got the Seminole shortstop on a grounder in the first and a liner in the second, but Figueroa hit a double in the fourth that drove in Alicea.

Marzan was the big gun for

FSU, going four for five, including the home run and double.

FSU and Pittsburgh play again tonight at 7.

Pittsburgh					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Stennett,cf	4	0	1	0	Marzan,1b	5	1	4	1
Westwood,1b	3	0	0	0	Alicea,2b	4	2	2	1
Lohman,lf	3	0	1	0	Figueroa,ss	5	0	1	2
Kartsonas,dh	3	0	0	0	Fulton,c	3	1	1	1
Osborn,3b	4	0	0	0	Sorrento,rf	4	0	0	0
Fausnught,2b	4	0	2	0	Saxner,dh	1	1	1	0
Lamanti,ss	3	0	0	0	Clayborne,cf	4	1	1	2
Brush,c	3	0	1	0	Blackwell,3b	4	1	3	0
Hackett,ph	1	0	0	0	Mangham,cf	3	0	0	0
Lietera,rf	4	0	0	0	Zoeller,ph	1	0	0	0
Duderstf,pr	0	0	0	0	Taddeo,lf	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	0	5	0	Totals	34	7	13	7
Pittsburgh					000	000	000	—	0
Florida State					300	220	00x	—	7

E—Lamanti, Pollack, Blackwell. DP—Pittsburgh 1, FSU 2. LOB—Pittsburgh 9, FSU 9. 2B—Alicea, Saxner, Marzan, Lohman, Figueroa, Fausnaught. HR—Marzan, Fulton, Clayborne. SB—Alicea, Marzan (2). CS—Saxner.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pittsburgh						
Schuster (L)	7	13	7	7	4	4
Merigliano	1	0	0	0	0	0
Florida State						
Pollack (W 3-1)	7	2	0	0	3	10
Porcelli	2	3	0	0	1	3

T—2:41. A—1,877.