

Seminoles stop South Alabama 14-4

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

Somewhere along the line, Doug Little says he got the idea that he was going to blow people away with fastballs. When Plan A failed, he had the sense to find another one.

"I don't know where I got off track, but I'm a finesse pitcher," said Little after he and Florida State shut down the South Alabama Jaguars 14-4 Wednesday night at Seminole Stadium.

FSU, 30-4, plays South Alabama, 18-9, again tonight. The crowd of 2,298 gave it a big-game atmosphere.

"I thought Doug pitched his best game of the year," said FSU coach Mike

Martin. "He looked like the old Doug Little."

That is significant when you are talking about a Seminole team that has managed to climb to a No. 1 national ranking while the winningest pitcher in school history tried to battle out of a pitching funk. Little still managed to win most of his starts and is now 6-1, but he came into the game with an uncharacteristic 3.35 earned run average and was often getting hit hard. He was a remarkable 16.2, 2.31 last year.

But Little said he won't make the sole difference to this team. "I think it's going to take all of us," he said.

He got much help Wednesday night

when the Seminoles came back from an early 3-0 deficit. "Sometimes we forget what really ignited us," said Martin. "Harry Blackwell ignited us."

Yes, he did. Trailing by three in the fourth inning and having a tough time solving South Alabama left-hander Andy Penry, Blackwell was up with one on and two out. He got behind in the count and fouled off five two-strike pitches, mostly nasty curveballs breaking down and in. Finally, he got on he wanted and hammered it into the top of a pine tree in left-center.

From there on, there was no stopping the Seminole offense. FSU took a 5-3 lead with three in the fifth inning, and

again all runs scored with two outs. Penry lost the strike zone, walking three straight after Luis Alicea doubled with two out. Craig Saxner followed with a two-run single and the Seminoles were off and history.

Jose Marzan singled in a run in the sixth and Paul Sorrento highlighted an eight-run eighth with a grand slam, a rocket over the 400-foot center field fence.

Little, who limited a strong-hitting Jaguar team to six hits, got sturdy assistance all game from his defense.

See FSU, 3D

SOUTH ALABAMA					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Becker,ss	4	1	1	0	Marzan,1b	4	1	2	2
Gonzales,1b	1	0	0	0	Alicea,2b	4	2	2	
T.Ward,lf	4	1	1	0	Figueroa,ss	4	2	2	1
Dull,3b	3	1	2	0	Fulton,c	3	3	1	1
Cote,dh	4	0	1	1	Sorrento,rf	4	1	1	5
W.Ward,rf	3	0	0	0	Saxner,dh	4	0	1	2
Griffin,2b	3	0	0	0	Blackwell,3b	2	2	1	2
Franklin,cf	3	0	0	0	Clayborne,lf	2	0	1	0
Farmer,c	1	0	0	0	Mangham,cf	2	1	1	1
Oldham,pr	0	1	0	0	Zoeller,ph	1	0	0	0
Jones,ph	1	0	0	0	McClellan,3b	1	0	0	0
Crivellone,ph	1	0	1	1	Sanders,lf	3	2	1	0
Levens,ph	1	0	0	0					
Neveau,c	0	0	0	0					
Leja,ph	1	0	0	0					
Totals	30	4	6	3	Totals	34	14	13	14
South Alabama					100	200	001	—	4
Florida State					000	231	08x	—	14

E—Fulton, Figueroa, Neveau, Griffin.
DP—South Ala. 1, FSU 2. LOB—South Ala.
4, FSU 5. 2B—Alicia, Sanders, Marzan,
Crivellone. HR—Blackwell (2), Sorrento (8).
SB—Becker, Dull, Cote, Mingham,
Blackwell. S—Farmer. SF—Gonzales.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
South Alabama						
Penry L, 2-2	4 $\frac{2}{3}$	4	5	5	6	2
Kangas	2 $\frac{2}{3}$	6	4	4	0	1
Raley	0	3	5	4	1	0
Fisher	$\frac{2}{3}$	0	0	0	0	1
Florida State						
Little W, 6-1	9	6	4	4	4	4
WP—Penry.	HBP—Mangham					
Kangas, Blackwell by Kangas. T—2:45. A—2:29.						