

FSU edges Tulane thanks to unsung players

By David Lee Simmons
Democrat correspondent

On a night of unlikely heroes, Chad McClellan fit right in.

The walk-on third baseman for Florida State, a former Tallahasseean who returned to play for the team he once retrieved bats for, has undergone his share of pain in his first season as a Seminole. But after 14 at bats that had produced nothing, and a tricky grounder that produced a busted lip earlier in the season, Chad McClellan finally got his payoff.

It was McClellan who came in for an injured Barry Blackwell and hit a one-out double in the seventh inning to score Paul Sorrento and give FSU the go-ahead run as the Seminoles got past Tulane 7-5 Satur-

day evening before 2,612 fans at Seminole Stadium. FSU improved to 37-6, while Tulane fell to 31-7. The two play again today at Seminole Stadium at 2 p.m.

McClellan couldn't have asked for a better opportunity for his first and best of the season. The reserve third baseman had been sent into the game after starter Blackwell got hit on the left arm by a pitch. (Blackwell's status was unknown at press time.) With the score tied 5-5 in the seventh with one out, Sorrento drew his second walk of the game. That forced Tulane coach Joe Brockhoff to pull Don Herry in favor of his ace reliever, Tommy Little, who brought with him into the game a 6-2 record with a 2.27 earned-run average, five saves and 43 strikeouts.

That's enough to make anyone gulp a few times.

especially the 5-foot-7 McClellan, who spent his childhood in Tallahassee being a batboy for the Seminole's summer team, the Commonwealth Doorknockers. But, after an ominous discussion with teammate Craig Saxner in the dugout, McClellan stepped to the plate and delivered a shot down the right-field line that got past Green Wave first baseman Tookie Spann and scored Sorrento.

"I was all fed up," McClellan said of his first-year troubles, which included a busted lip that required stitches earlier in the season. "I told Craig in the dugout that tonight would be my big night to get a hit. I've been 0 for 14 and had a busted lip, so yeah, it was a good time for my first hit."

See FSU, 7F

* "I used to pick (McClellan) up when he was 10 and bring him over to the (Doorknocker) games," said FSU coach Mike Martin, who was beaming like a proud father after McClellan's heroics. "I'm very happy for Chad. He watched our program since he was a young boy. He makes me feel old."

But McClellan had his company, most importantly starter Chris Pollack, a junior-college transfer.

After giving up four runs in the first inning — not the best of ways for a pitcher to begin a game — Pollack settled down, gave up only one other run, and pitched his second complete game of the season, moving his record to 6-1.

"I was afraid the same thing would happen to me that happened against South Florida earlier in the year. I got tattooed then and this time I thought, 'Great, here we go again,'" Pollack said. "It kinda gets you mad. I just said to myself I'm gonna go out there and get after somebody. You can't just go out and throw stuff to the batters. You have to make the batters realize that you own the plate, too."

TULANE					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Mahoney,cf	4	1	3	0	Marzan,1b	4	1	0	0
Rapp,rf	4	0	0	0	Alicea,2b	3	3	2	1
Wagner,lf	3	1	0	0	Figueroa,ss	5	0	1	3
Smith,3b	4	1	2	1	Sorrento,rf	2	1	2	0
Marigny,2b	3	1	1	0	Saxner,dh	2	0	0	0
DesJardins,c	3	1	1	4	Taddeo,pr	0	0	0	0
Rivette,dh	3	0	0	0	Blackwell,3b	0	0	0	1
Deiley,dh	1	0	0	0	McClellan,3b	1	0	1	1
Spann,1b	4	0	0	0	Fulton,c	3	0	0	0
Mitchell,ss	4	0	1	0	Clayborne,lf	3	1	1	1
					Mangham,cf	3	1	0	0
Totals	33	5	8	5	Totals	26	7	7	7

E—Figueroa. DP—Tulane 4. LOB—Tulane 4, FSU 8. 2B—Mahoney, Figueroa, McClellan. HR—DesJardins (5), Clayborne (3), Alicea (5). SB—Alicea, Mahoney, Manoham 2. Marzan. SF—DesJardins.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tulane						
MMahaf	1½	3	4	4	5	2
Harris	¾	0	0	0	0	0
Herry L. 0-1	4½	2	2	2	6	3
Little	1¾	2	1	1	1	1
Florida State						
Pollack W, 6-1	9	8	5	5	2	12
WP—MMahaf,			Pollack.			PB—
DesJardins. HBP—Blackwell by Harris. T—						
3-01. A—2.612.						