

Seminoles race past Mercer for shutout

*Despite Tuesday's rain,
coach Mike Martin insists
on giving his team a
game to help FSU
rebound from losses to
Miami last weekend.*

By Steve Ellis
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

There was no mystery why coach Mike Martin wanted to play through Tallahassee's showers Tuesday night.

Florida State's baseball program was 41-8 against Mercer.

Make that 42 wins following a rain-shortened game that FSU dominated 11-0 before a season-low 335 fans at Dick Howser Stadium.

Because of heavy rains the game was moved back two hours to a 7:30 p.m. start, and then called in the eighth inning.

"I had 10 people wanting me to call this game off at 2:30," Martin said. "It was important to play another game after a tough loss on Sunday (to Miami).

"We knew we have a good team and we can't dwell on the past. We played very well — no errors. It was the first so-called laughter we've had in three weeks."

No. 2 FSU (34-9) found Mercer to be the perfect remedy for a two-game losing streak against Miami last weekend. Mercer also proved to be just what starter Scooby Morgan (6-1) needed.

After giving up seven earned runs against North Carolina State in just 1½ innings, Morgan limited Mercer to four hits in seven innings while earning five strikeouts. Three of Mercer's five hits came

from shortstop Gary Isenhower who also had a single against reliever Charlie Cruz.

"In my last outing I wasn't aggressive with every batter," Morgan said. "I was a little intimidated at first because N.C. State was still in the back of the mind.

"My fastball was working for me tonight. They are not a strong ballclub but they are a good club."

Morgan was not the only one to take advantage of overmatched Mercer. FSU, with 11 hits, gathered more than half of the 21 hits it had in three games against No. 5 Miami. FSU also matched the total number of runs it scored over the weekend.

The Seminoles jumped to an early 2-0 lead on RBI singles by Mickey Lopez and Link Jarrett.

FSU was silenced by Rick Miller (9-2) until the sixth inning when by Randy Hodges looped a two-run double into centerfield for a 4-0 lead. Hodges then stole home on a 1-0 count to make it 5-0.

The Seminoles added three runs in the seventh, including two on Lopez's single to make it 8-0. The Seminoles' final three runs came in the eighth before the game was called due to rain.

Mike Bell (4-1, 3.27) will start for FSU at 5:30 today.

Notes

■ With his team's disappointing 2-1 loss to Miami on Sunday still fresh, Martin called a team meeting.

"He said we have to stop getting caught up in the umpires' calls and focus on winning," Jarrett said. "We've had a few of these kind of meetings in my four years here and I think it was real good we had it."

■ Steve Nedeau was rewarded

for his play against Miami with his first start since March 17 against Maryland. Nedeau started in right field Tuesday after going 3 of 4 with two doubles in the weekend series.

Nedeau entered the game with seven hits in 16 at-bats in five starts.

■ First baseman Doug Mientkiewicz and pitcher Jonathan Johnson have been invited to try out for the USA Baseball team in June. Forty collegiate players will attend the tryouts in Millington, Tenn.

The team will be narrowed to a 24-man traveling squad that will participate in several international series this summer.

■ FSU's grounds crew used two tons (80 bags) of Quick Dry — a clay-based water absorbent — to get the field ready for play Tuesday night.

Mercer						Florida State					
	ab	r	h	bi			ab	r	h	bi	
Hanson cf	3	0	1	0	Jarrett ss		3	0	2	1	
Isenhower ss	3	0	3	0	Zech ph		1	1	1	0	
McElroy 2b	3	0	0	0	Martin c		5	0	0	0	
Phillips 1b	3	0	0	0	M'kwicz 1b		3	2	2	0	
Goff 3b	3	0	0	0	Weaver c		4	0	1	1	
Smith dh	3	0	0	0	Hendry pr		0	1	0	0	
Magistro lf	3	0	1	0	Niles 3b		1	1	1	1	
Smith c	3	0	0	0	Buttery dh		3	2	1	1	
Prince rf	3	0	0	0	Morris lf		4	1	0	0	
					Nedeau ph		1	0	0	0	
					Schroeffel cf		0	0	0	0	
					Hodges rf		4	2	2	2	
					Lopez 2b		4	1	2	3	
Totals					Totals						
Mercer					000	000	00—	0	5	2	
Florida State					020	003	33—	11	12	0	

E—Magistro, McElroy. DP—FSU 1. LOB—Mercer 6, FSU 8. 2B—Buttery, Hodges, Mientkiewicz, Weaver, Niles. SB—Jarrett (8), Hodges (14). CS—Nedeau. S—Isenhower, Schroeffel.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Mercer						
Miller L 9-2	6	9	7	6	3	1
Hanson	1½	3	4	3	3	1
Florida State						
Morgan	7	4	0	0	0	5
Cruz	1	1	0	0	0	1

HBP—McElroy by Morgan, Buttery by Miller, Hanson by Morgan. U—Funderburke (HP), Davis (1B), Ravan (3B). T—2:30. A—335.