

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY **SPORTS INFORMATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLORIDA STATE TOPS MERCER 10-5 IN COLLEGE BASEBALL

TALLAHASSEE, FL--No. 13 Florida State (9-4) took the first game of a two-game series with Mercer University (11-6), by the score of 10-5, snapping a two-game losing streak for the Seminoles.

Sophomore left-hander Randy Choate (5-1) spotted the Bears two runs in the top of the first inning in front of 877 fans at Dick Howser Stadium, but went on to shut down Mercer over the next six innings, giving up six hits, one walk and striking out seven.

The Seminoles pounded out 14 hits as junior second baseman Scott Zech turned in a 2-for-4 performance including his third homerun of the season, a double and two RBIs.

Leftfielder Jeremy Morris added three hits and three RBIs, including two doubles, improving on his 13-game hitting streak. Shortstop Brooks Badeaux, who extended his hitting streak to 15 games, contributed three hits to the offensive attack.

The Mercer Bears were led by Aric Burkhardt who blasted a two-run homerun in eighth inning. Mercer right-hander Neal Hannah (0-4) gave up 10 hits and eight runs over five innings in the losing effort.

Florida State will host Mercer tomorrow, March 6th, at 3:30 p.m., for the conclusion of the two-game series.

Mercer	201	000	020	5	8	2
FSU	102	304	00X	10	14	3

E: Campbell, Hanson, Badeaux, Faurot 2.

DP: Mercer-1, FSU 2. LOB: Mercer 3, FSU 7.

2B: Hannah, Hanson, Badeaux, Brown, Morris 2, Zech.

HR: Burkhardt (5), Zech (3).

Winner: Randy Choate 5-1. Loser: Neal Hannah 0-4. Save: None.

Batteries: Hannah, Campbell (6), Hudgins (8) and Burkhardt. Choate and Klosterman. Choate, Proctor (8), M. Davis (9) and Klosterman (7).

Seminoles missing pizzazz in victory against Mercer

After losing two to Florida, Florida State struggles past Mercer.

By Michelle Jew
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Something was missing for the Florida State baseball team Tuesday at Howser Stadium.

After playing in front of two huge home crowds this weekend against Florida, the Seminoles found the excitement lacking in their game against Mercer, winning 10-5 in front of 855 fans.

"I think when you're playing a day game in the middle of the week and you don't have 5,000 people in the stands, it's only logical that you will not have that same enthusiasm as you had on Saturday and Sunday," FSU coach Mike Martin said.

"I'm not the least bit disappointed in the way we played. I wasn't as excited today, either."

No. 16 FSU (9-4) will play Mercer (11-6) again today at 3:30 p.m. at Howser Stadium. FSU snapped a two-game losing streak with the victory.

"We came out a little flat," said

Brooks Badeaux, who went 3 for 5 to extend his hitting streak to 15 games. "We're not using this as an excuse, but we just came off a couple of tough losses to the University of Florida. We've got to put past ballgames behind us and start concentrating on what's going on today."

The Seminoles fell behind in the first inning when the Bears got two runs on three hits against Randy Choate (5-1).

"It kind of woke us up," said FSU second baseman Scott Zech, who went 2 for 4 with two RBIs, including a home run in the sixth inning. "We needed to wake up and start scoring some runs, or it was going to be a long day. We were surprised that they hit the ball as hard as they did."

Martin visited Choate two times in the first three innings as Mercer took a 3-1 lead. College coaches are allowed three visits to the mound before a pitcher must be removed.

"I didn't give these guys enough credit. They're a much better ball club than I anticipated," said Choate, who gave up three runs on six hits in seven innings. "At first, I didn't think they could swing the

bat and left the ball over the plate."

■ Saturday's game against Coastal Carolina has been moved to 1 p.m.

MERCER (11-6)					FLORIDA ST. (9-4)						
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		
Izenhauer ss	3	1	0	0	Badeaux ss	5	2	3	0		
Hanson cf/lf	4	2	3	0	Faurot 3b	4	2	1	1		
Hannah p/cf	4	1	2	2	Drew cf	4	0	1	0		
Burkhart c	4	1	2	2	Morris lf	5	2	3	3		
Florio 3b	3	0	0	1	Morgan dh	1	1	1	1		
Campbell 1b/p4	0	0	0	0	Brown dh	2	0	2	2		
Buckley 2b	3	0	0	0	Zech 2b	4	2	2	2		
Scott 2b	1	0	0	0	Sprague 1b	2	0	0	0		
Kersey rf/lf	3	0	1	0	Woodward 1b	0	0	0	0		
Nelson dh	1	0	0	0	Salazar c	4	0	1	0		
Magistro lf	3	0	0	0	Klosterman c	0	0	0	0		
Hudgins p	0	0	0	0	Zabala rf	1	1	0	0		
					Nedeau rf	0	0	0	0		
					Senior rf	1	0	0	0		
					Choate p	0	0	0	0		
					Proctor p	0	0	0	0		
					Davis p	0	0	0	0		
Totals	33	5	8	5	Totals	33	10	14	9		
Mercer					201	000	020	—	5	8	2
Florida St.					102	304	00x	—	10	14	3

E—Campbell, Hanson, Badeaux, Faurot 2. DP—Mercer 1, FSU 2. LOB—Mercer 3, FSU 7. 2B—Hannah, Hanson, Badeaux, Brown, Morris 2, Zech. HR—Burkhart (5), Zech (3). SB—Faurot, Morgan, Sprague, Zech. CS—Hanson, Drew. SH—Florio.

Mercer

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Hannah	5	10	8	7	6	2
Campbell	2	3	2	2	2	2
Hudgins	1	1	0	0	0	0
Florida St.						
Choate	7	6	3	2	1	7
Proctor	1	2	2	2	0	2
Davis	0	0	0	0	0	1

Winner—Choate 5-1. Loser—Hannah 0-4. Save—None. WP—Hannah, Choate. Umpires—Davis, Correia, McNeil. Start—3:30. Time—2:19. A—877.