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FSU downs Miami 14-10 in slugfest

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Democrat sports writer

Florida State couldn't beat Miami with the long ball Tuesday night, so the Seminoles tried a bunch of singles and came away the winner in an action-packed free-for-all at Seminole Field.

When the dust cleared, the Seminoles were on top 14-10, but not before the Hurricanes made a gallant comeback in a game that featured 33 hits and a Seminole Field record six home runs.

FSU jumped out to an 8-0 lead on the strength of four home runs, but the Hurricanes scrapped back to a 9-9 tie in the sixth inning. Then in the Florida State half of the sixth, the Seminoles put together seven singles to score five times and put the game away for good.

The two independent rivals square off again tonight at 7:30, with senior righthander Larry Jones (6-2 record and 2.57 earned run average) on the mound for the Seminoles. Miami will counter with Randy Guerra, a sophomore lefthander with a 4-0 record and 2.74 ERA.

FLORIDA State now leads the all-important series between the schools 1-0, with tonight's game and three games next week in Miami left to go. FSU is 27-8 on the season; Miami is now 33-10.

FSU Coach Woody Woodward had to pull out all the stops to get Tuesday's win, going to the bullpen twice and using a starting pitcher each time. Brooks Carey came on in the fourth to relieve starter Mike Bretz, then Mike McLeod came on in the seventh and finished up.

"It's that time of year," laughed Woodward, when asked about those two moves. "I did what I thought it would take to win. Under the circumstances, I thought those were the two best pitchers I could go to.

"I used Carey because it was still early in the game and I thought he could last longer than one of our relievers. Then I went with McLeod because he's a righthander, and they had a lot of righthanded batters in the lineup."

McLeod came out the winner,

working the final three innings and allowing the Hurricanes one run in the ninth. He's now 5-1 on the season.

THE HURRICANES used four pitchers, with Steve Lerner being tagged for the loss, dropping his record to 5-3. Miami Coach Ron Fraser followed Woodward's thinking, bringing in ace righthander Mike Batten after Lerner had let things get out of control in the sixth.

"I'm just happy to win this one," said Woodward. "It's a big one — anytime we play Miami it's a big one.

"I expected a close game — but nothing like this. I wasn't really surprised at the number of runs scored. You've got to rely on good pitching and defense to win for you, but when you play as many games as these teams do there are just going to be some bad games — and that's when your hitting has to carry you."

THE SEMINOLES looked like they were going to make a rout of it in the early going, with those four long home runs driving the partisan crowd of 1,907 into a near-frenzy.

Centerfielder Carlos Lezcano started the fireworks with a solo shot to right field in the first inning. Then in the second the Seminoles jumped on Miami starter Gavin Long for three homers and seven runs.

Dave Mobley drilled a two-run shot for the first two runs, and after Lezcano singled in a run Joe Hicks belted a three-run blast over the right field wall.

Fraser then yanked Long and brought in Lerner, who was greeted with a solo shot by Terry Kennedy.

For the record, that's seven homers each for Lezcano and Hicks, and five each for Mobley and Kennedy. The Seminoles have now belted 44 homers in 35 games, and have a good shot at the all-time record of 52 hit by the 1966 Seminoles in 52 games.

The Hurricanes then began chipping away at that big lead, scoring two runs in the third and three more in the fourth to make it 8-5. FSU made it 9-5 before Miami ripped Carey in the top of the sixth.

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