

Heaton, Hurricanes humble Florida State 10-0

By JIM MARTZ
Knight-Ridder news service

MIAMI — Perhaps Neal Heaton really could pitch with his eyes closed. He didn't do too badly Friday night with only one eye.

Heaton, a sophomore lefthander with a fastball that's anything but sophomoric, overcame fuzzy vision and a migraine headache to fire a one-hitter that propelled the University of Miami to a 10-0 rout over Florida State before 3,227 Mark Light Stadium fans.

Heaton walked the second batter he faced, then gave up a single to Coral Gables High product Mike Fuentes. There was immediate concern whether Heaton would have leave the game because he couldn't read the signals from catcher Frank Castro and the batters looked like a big blur.

"I get a migraine once every two months and it just so happened to be tonight," said Heaton after improving his record to 3-0. "I couldn't see

the signals out of my left eye the first four innings.

"I had that happen once in a football game in high school and the coach took me right out. I usually go to bed and sleep."

Miami Coach Ron Fraser met with Heaton at the mound and started Bob Bastian warming up in the bullpen. But Heaton insisted on staying in the game. He wanted to avenge his only regular-season loss last year, a 3-2 decision in Tallahassee in 10 innings.

"I said 'Coach, give me a try. I've

waited a long time for this,'" Heaton said.

He got the next batter, Tony Barquin, to hit into a double play that ended the inning. After that, the Seminoles managed only three walks off Heaton, who retired 15 batters in a row between the third and eighth innings.

Rob Blagini pitched the ninth inning.

"In the first inning, I really didn't know what I was doing," said Heaton. "I'm glad it finally went away. I've

been pitching so long that I can get into a rhythm. I guess I could pitch with my eyes closed."

FSU Coach Mike Martin hopes he never has to see a two-eyed Heaton. "We faced a premier pitcher tonight," Martin said after losing his coaching debut since replacing new New York Yankee Manager Dick Howser.

"He's as good as any we'll face all year. And we'll face another good one tonight in Bastian."

(Please see BASEBALL, page 3C)

The Hurricanes (8-1) pounded 14 hits off four FSU pitchers. Leigh Gullette and Ross Jones spearheaded the attack as Gullette slammed a two-run triple and a single and Jones knocked in two runs with two singles and a triple.

Jones, who entered the game with a .452 average, has batted safely in every game this season.

"I was worried a little at the beginning," said Fraser. "We changed the signs for Neal and used hand movements instead of fingers because they were easier to see."

"This was a big game for us. It gives us confidence when we beat a veteran club like the Seminoles."

Martin, who will pitch righthander Ken Smith in tonight's 7:30 contest, figures things can't get much worse. "I hope we're able to play better for our fans' sake. We made some mistakes that are not indicative of our club, such as the two-run error at the end and all the walks."

The Hurricanes struck quickly as leadoff batter Paul Hundhammer doubled in the first inning, stole third and scored on Barquin's ground out to first.

In the third, Castro singled, Hundhammer reached safely on an error by shortstop Don DeLoach, then Gullette tripled in both runners with a drive that caromed off the wall in right-center field. Gullette tried for

an inside-the-park homer but was thrown out at the plate on a good relay throw from second baseman Lionel Martinez.

Miami chased Seminole starting pitcher Dick Wiggins in the sixth inning when Jones tripled and scored on a single by Mike Pagliarulo.

FSU reliever Keith Parenteau ran into a wild streak in the seventh and gave up four runs on three walks and singles by Gullette, Jones and Dave

Ferguson.

In the eighth, Seminole reliever Tim Phillips threw wildly to first base on a routine grounder that would have ended the inning. Instead, it allowed Miami to score its ninth and 10th runs.

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Wiggins, Parentau (6), Fisher (8), Phillips (8) and Emerick; Heaton, Biagini (9) and Castro. WP — Heaton (3-0). LP — Wiggins (0-1). Att. — 3,227.