

FSU edges Auburn

Special to The Democrat

AUBURN, Ala. — Kenny Huff drove in the winning run with a two-out, pinch-hit single in the eighth inning Wednesday afternoon, giving Florida State's baseball team a 4-3 victory over Auburn.

Jeff Ledbetter doubled with one out in the eighth and moved to third on Mike Yastrzemski's grounder to short.

Huff, hitting for Chris Cawthon, poked a single through the infield to drive in the winning run.

The victory, Florida State's eighth in a row, boosted the Seminoles' record to 43-18.

Auburn fell to 23-22.

David Smalley pitched 5½ innings of shutout relief to pick up the victory, his fifth of the season without a loss.

Jay Keeler came on and got the final five outs to earn a save.

Florida State took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Mike Fuentes hit his 24th home run of the season, a 390-foot shot to left-center field. The solo blast left Fuentes five homers short of the NCAA single season record.

Auburn scored two runs off FSU starter Ken Fischer in the bottom of the first. The Tigers took the lead when John Tutt homered, John Metasavage doubled and David Mogentale had a run-scoring single.

Bob Berry added a solo homer in the second inning to give Auburn a 3-1 lead.

Florida State tied it in the third. Lionel Martinez reached on a fielder's choice and scored on a double by Fuentes, who later scored on a single by Joe Licata.

Keeler came on with one out in the eighth and runners on first and third. The junior right-hander got Rodney Dollar to line into a double play to end the threat.

In the bottom of the ninth, Auburn's Rick Swain led off with a single, but Keeler induced Tutt to hit into a double play that ended the game.

The Seminoles are off until this weekend's big series against the University of Miami.

The second-ranked Hurricanes come to Seminole Field for single games Saturday night, Sunday afternoon and Monday night.

Florida State then hosts Auburn next Monday and Tuesday before closing the season with a two-game trip to Georgia Southern and a make-up game May 10 at Valdosta State.

The Metro Conference tournament opens May 13 at Florida State.