Windy weather doesn't bother Seminole batters

By George Maselli Democrat sportswriter

The Auburn Tigers expect Bo Jackson to join their baseball team in a week or two. The Heisman Trophy candidate and one-man athletic department is now running indoor track.

The Tigers could have used him Wednesday afternoon as they absorbed a 12-2 beating from the Florida State Seminoles. Two long touchdown runs and they would have been all set.

With their third straight victory, the Seminoles are 14-5. The Tigers, 10-4 losers here Tuesday, are 4-2. FSU hosts Ball State, which swept a doubleheader Tuesday from Clemson, today at 3:30.

The game was attended by a few hundred fans, most of whom were bundled up as if they were watching 90-meter ski jumping in Sarajevo. With temperatures in the mid-40s, the whipping wind dropped the wind chill well into the teens.

The conditions didn't bother the Seminoles, particularly three members of the team's Yankee contingent — pitcher Mike Loynd, left fielder Frank Fazzini and designated hitter Drew Kosco.

Loynd, a sophomore from afflu-

ent Short Hill, N.J., threw 4^{2/3} perfect innings. While raising his record to 3-0, Loynd allowed only four hits and two runs in seven solid innings of work.

Fazzini, a sophomore from Belleville, N.J., blasted a three-run homer that broke the game open in the second inning.

Kosco, a freshman from Youngstown, Ohio, is the son of former big leaguer Andy Kosco. He came into the game hitting .000 and had struck out five of his six atbats. He went 5-for-5 Wednesday. This one was over by the second inning, and the spectators had to be pleased. Many hustled to their car heaters, confident of the outcome.

Third baseman David Garrison started the finish with a routine fly to right. When the ball got up in the gusting wind, it blew all the way to the warning track. Auburn right fielder Kevin Jordan wound up face down in the gravel, and Garrison wound up on third. Paul Sorrento brought in the run with a sacrifice fly.

Jeff Ledbetter then hit a routine pop that blew and fell for a hit behind first. Two singles, a walk and a Jody Reed double later, FSU led 3-0.

Then Fazzini did what he does best — bust it open.

Fazzini has homered in each of FSU's last three games. Sunday in Miami, he bombed one through a crosswind more than 400 feet to center. Tuesday, he blasted a three-run shot through the wind to left.

Wednesday, Fazzini used all of his 5-foot-9, 195-pound frame to drive a mammoth three-run shot over the right-field fence and across Chieftan Way.

"It was clutch," he said. "I liked it.

"Hitting in the clutch is what I like to see. I'm hitting in the No. 3 slot, and the No. 3 hitter is supposed to be the best on the team. I stranded some runners in Miami. I didn't like that. This is a good feeling."

Loynd, not overpowering, had no trouble with Auburn hitters. He breezed through six and didn't have any problem until the seventh when his control began escaping him.

"I thought I threw real well," Loynd said. "I was a little upset I didn't finish. But I did the major thing, keeping it low and hitting the mitt."

David Hanselman and Loren Levy pitched the final two innings for the Seminoles.

Loynd threw only four innings for FSU last year. He has claimed a spot in the starting rotation, though he will have to keep pitching well to hold it.

"He's not getting cute out there. He's throwing strikes," FSU Coach Mike Martin said. "He's gained a lot of poise and confidence."

"They kept telling me they needed me, and I kept working," Loynd said. "Everything is working out."

Same for Kosco. Two of his five hits were hit solidly. Three of the others were pops that fell in Auburn's shaky outfield. Ten years from now, when he's bouncing a child on his knee, they'll all be line drives.

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