FSU sets school record for victories

By George Maselli Democrat staff writer

The fans practiced their a capella versions of the national anthem, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," and their best cheers. The players tried to groove their home-run trots.

Florida State's 9-5 win Saturday night over North Carolina set a school record for victories, a fact that seemed

to be overshadowed by the anticipation of tonight's game that will be televised by ESPN.

"It's only natural that (the telecast) was in the back of everybody's minds," said FSU's Tommy Zoeller.

But FSU Coach Mike Martin would have popped his buttons with pride – if his uniform had buttons. He wanted the record, one that can't be broken because of the NCAA-enforced limit of 60 games per season that begins next year.

"The guys went out there and didn't make an error, hit four home runs and played excellent baseball," he said. "That doesn't sound to me like a ball-

club thinking about anything but a school record."

Much to their credit, the Seminoles did play a stout game. Now 57-20, they played the Seminole Stadium version of baseball to perfection – hitting the hall in the air to short-porch territory in right field.

The home team got home runs from

Jimmy Jones, Vince Calandra and Zoeller in a four-run fourth inning. Then Jones helped ice things with a two-run homer (his 19th) in the seventh.

Zoeller's seventh home run of the season was especially fitting: He had received an award before the game for being the team's best in the classroom. The crowd of 2,762 gave him a warm ovation in a brief pre-game presentation.

"I enjoyed the homer more," said Zoeller, a junior from Wisconsin who has a 3.8 grade-point average in accounting. "School has always come more easily to me; that's why I'd rather have the homer."

North Carolina, 39-17-1, probably saw its chance for an NCAA atlarge tournament bid disappear. The Tar Heels, however, nearly survived in this game because they seemed to be about ready to figure out this ballpark.

Shortatop Walt Weiss hit a solo homer in the second inning. Catcher B.J. Surhoff, who the pro scouts say will be a very early draft pick in June, hit a three-run homer in the fifth.

Surhoff's shot cost FSU starter Steve Gelmine dearly. Gelmine, the forgotten man on the pitching staff during the Metro tournament, couldn't survive the fifth to get the victory.

Pete Brown, 1-2, didn't miss his chance. He came out of the bullpen to get his first college victory, working 2½ solid innings. "It's incredible right now, this

"It's incredible right now, this win and everything" said Brown, a freshman from Horseheads, N.Y.

Ray Revak went the final two innings to pick up his fifth save of the season.

FSU's Kevin Smith, 8-1, will start tonight's game against Tar Heel ace Roger Williams, 8-1.

"We set a record for wins," said Martin of his eighth-ranked team,

"and now we want to show the nation how good a ballclub we have."

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