

FSU slips by Gators

By George Maselli
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GAINESVILLE — How is the view from the top? Perilous and strange so far, if you ask the Seminoles.

FSU celebrated its rise to the No. 1 position in a college-baseball poll for the first time in 11 years with one of its more improbable victories.

Rallying from a 6-0 deficit, the Seminoles scored nine runs in the last two innings to beat the generous Florida Gators 10-6 on a cold Tuesday night at Perry Field.

The Seminoles, whose move to No. 1 in the ESPN-Collegiate Baseball was announced Tuesday, are 10-1 and have won eight straight. They play the Gators again today at 3.

Florida, 5-4, has lost three of its past four. On the heels of two late-inning gifts to the Hurricanes at Miami, this collapse left the Gators and their fans in a surly mood. In the eighth and ninth of the dramatic FSU comeback, the Gators contributed four errors, a hit batman and two walks.

"Another late-inning loss, I'd hate to label us like that, but it's happened too many times," said Gator coach Joe Arnold.

"This is one of the biggest wins I've ever been involved with at Florida State," said FSU coach Mike Martin.

The Seminoles proved heroic if only by their unwillingness to fall apart when times turned very ugly. In the first inning, FSU's top starter Doug Little walked the first batter and then threw a routine tapper down the right-field line for a three-base error.

Little, normally known for his poise and control, walked two more and allowed two more hits before the four-run Gator first was over.

To compound things, the Seminoles had Deion Sanders picked off first base in the first inning, wasted a two-on, none-out chance in the second and stranded the bases full in the third.

By then, Gator left-hander Steve Rosenberg was beginning to look invincible. He struck out the side in the fourth.

Little had further trouble. But he kept fighting back. Trailing 4-0, he was nailed for a solo homer by Scott Clemo in the third inning. That was followed by a hit, another Little throwing error and a mental mistake by third baseman Barry Blackwell that left the bases loaded with one out.

But Little held together. He struck out Gator catcher Ed Shea and got lead-off man John Woodward on a tap to the mound to escape. From then on, he did just

about everything he could to save FSU an embarrassment.

The Gators' last run of the night came in the fifth inning. That, by the way, left it 6-0. The brave Seminole fans who made the trip to Perry Field were accounting typical abuse, most notable the mocking Seminole Tomohawk arm gestures.

But by the time it was over, many Gator fans had departed and the small group of FSU faithful were chanting "We're No. 1."

FLORIDA STATE					FLORIDA				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Sanders,cf	3	0	1	2	Woodward,cf	4	1	0	0
Marzan,1b	4	0	1	1	Touma,ss	5	1	1	0
Figueroa,ss	5	0	1	0	Fernandez,dh	4	1	1	1

Zoeller,dh	4	1	1	0	Brewer,rf	5	0	0	0
Alicea,2b	4	2	2	0	Clemo,3b	3	2	2	1
Fulton,c	4	3	2	2	Hodges,1b	4	1	1	0
Sorrento,rf	5	1	0	0	Alou,lf	4	0	1	1
Blackwell,3b	4	2	2	0	Roberg,lf	0	0	0	0
Mangham,lf	2	0	0	0	Brigham,ph	1	0	0	0
Saxner,dh	0	0	0	0	Luttringer,2b	4	0	2	2
Taddeo,pr	0	0	0	0	Arena,2b	0	0	0	0
Kidd,lf	0	1	0	0	Shea,c	4	0	0	0
Totals	35	10	10	6	Totals	37	6	8	5

Florida State	000	000	145	—	10	10	4
Florida	401	010	,000	—	6	8	6

E—Little 2, Sanders, Hodges, Alicea, Luttringer 3, Gedaminski, Arena. DP—Florida 3. LOB—FSU 12, Florida 10. 2B—Zoeller, Luttringer. HR—Clemo (1). SB—Fernandez, Alou. SF—Marzan.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida State						
Little W,2-0	8 1/3	8	6	3	5	5
Lee S,2	2 2/3	0	0	0	0	0
Florida						
Rosenberg	7	5	4	2	9	9
Gedaminski L,0-1	1	3	5	3	1	2
Cox	0	1	1	0	1	0
Sanford	1	1	0	0	0	0

PB—Shea, Fulton. HBP—Sanders (by Gedaminski). T—3;16. A—1,703.