

FSU sweeps Gators

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

GAINESVILLE — No one connected with the University of Florida or Florida State could uncover the statistic without major research: When did FSU last sweep a baseball series from the Gators here?

Coach Mike Martin had better recall. He said it was 1980, the year FSU last appeared in the College World Series.

Whether or not that proves to be an omen, FSU completed a two-game sweep with a 10-7 victory Wednesday at Perry Field, usually a Seminole death trap.

The sweep had all sorts of ramifications for the team ranked No. 1 in the ESPN-Collegiate Baseball poll.

"My gosh, that was a big win," said Martin. "That's going to be a short trip home. We just swept the Gators."

"We knew for us to stay No. 1 in the nation that we had to sweep," said FSU reliever Mike Lee, who earned his second save in two days.

There is no question that these are heady days for the Seminole baseball program. There has been an urgent need for a short reliever, and the little-known Lee has stepped in handsomely. Martin called on pinch-hitter Craig Saxner in a critical situation in the ninth inning, and Saxner stepped in cold on the blustery day and hit a 390-foot, three-run homer for the final margin. Saxner had a single in five previous at-bats this season.

Saxner's home run was the difference because a misplayed fly ball and an error helped Florida score twice in the bottom of the ninth and send the tying run to the plate. Lee struck out John Woodward to end it.

Riding a nine-game winning streak, the Seminoles are 11-1. They return home to play South Florida on Saturday at 3 p.m. The Gators have lost five of their last six and are 5-5.

Just as in Tuesday night's dra-

matic 10-6 FSU victory, the first inning was a serious Seminole problem. They led 1-0 with the help of a throwing error by Gator second baseman Collin Luttringer, FSU's secret weapon in these two games.

Luttringer, who had three critical errors Monday night, threw away a play at the plate as Luis Alicea scored. But Alicea, struggling in the field himself, made an error that opened the way for a three-run Gator first inning.

FSU starter Richie Lewis, 3-0, hurt himself with two walks in the inning. But he bailed himself out of the inning with his best weapon. He struck out catcher Ed Shea with the bases loaded.

If anything, this series showed that this FSU team, if not particularly polished at this stage, is certainly resilient. The Seminoles parlayed two walks and a Deion Sanders triple off the wall in right for two runs in the second to tie the score at 3. After watching his team allow 11 walks Monday night, Gator coach Joe Arnold watched starter Ken Sebree walk seven in 4 1/3 innings.

Five of the first Seminole run-scorers reached on walks. Sebree finally collapsed in the fifth after pitching behind in the count to nearly every batter he faced. A double to hot-hitting Jose Marzan, a walk, a check-swing single to Bien

Figueroa and another walk left him on the ledge. His shaky infield defense pushed him over.

With the bases loaded, an infield pop, bent by the stiff wind, dropped untouched a foot foul. Tommy Zoeller then bounced one to deep short that went for a hit. Barry Blackwell followed with a grounder up the middle that short-stop Tim Touma let roll under his glove into center field.

It was 7-3, and the Gators were in trouble with Lewis going well. He was reached for two runs in the seventh, but Lee came out of the bullpen and performed his new job with unexpected expertise.

Is Lee now the all-important short-relief specialist?

"I would say if he's not that I would need to see a doctor," Martin said.

A 7-5 lead hardly leaves room for rampant optimism for a team that has had the uneven defensive play that has troubled the Seminoles. That was why the ninth inning was critical, and the Seminoles knew it.

Marzan, perhaps FSU's most valuable player to date, opened the inning with a bunt single. Alicea forced him at second, but then stole his way into scoring position. One walk and one out later, left-handed swinging Paul Sorrento stepped in. Sorrento has been struggling at the plate, but Arnold decided to remove righty Phil Goodrich (Florida's most effective pitcher of the series) and bring in lefty Todd

Gedaminski.

Martin countered with right-handed hitting Saxner, who responded with the biggest hit of his life.

"If I had been in Joe's spot, I would have done the same thing," said Martin, the gracious victor.

Sweeping the Gators, punching all the right buttons and sitting on top of the college baseball world can leave a coach feeling most gracious.

FLORIDA STATE					FLORIDA				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Sanders,cf	5	0	1	2	Woodward,cf	6	1	3	0
Kidd,lf	0	0	0	0	Touma,ss	5	1	0	0
Marzan,1b	4	1	2	0	Fernandez,lf	3	2	0	0
Alicea,2b	3	3	0	0	Brewer,dh	4	1	1	0
Fulton,c	3	1	1	0	Clemo,3b	4	1	1	1
Figueroa,ss	5	1	1	1	Hodges,1b	5	1	1	1
Sorrento,rf	3	1	1	0	Carlson,rf	4	0	1	3
Saxner,ph	1	1	1	3	Luttringer,2b	4	0	1	3
Clayborne,lf	0	0	0	0	Shea,c	2	0	0	0
Zoeller,dh	5	0	2	1	Arena,ph	1	0	0	0
Blackwell,3b	3	1	1	1	Floyd,c	0	0	0	0
Mangham,lf	3	1	0	0	Brigham,ph	1	0	0	0
					Caforio,c	1	0	0	0
Totals	35	10	10	8	Totals	39	7	9	6
Florida State					120 040 003—10				
Florida					300 000 201— 7				

E—Luttringer, Alicea, Touma, Blackwell (2). DP—none. LOB—FSU 6, Florida 12. 2B—Marzan, Clemo. 3B—Sanders. HR—Saxner. SB—Marzan, Alicea. CS—Marzan, Sanders, Sorrento.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida State						
Lewis (W 3-0)	6 ² / ₃	7	5	2	5	9
Lee	2 ¹ / ₃	2	2	1	2	2
Florida (L 1-1)	4¹/₃	7	7	6	7	2
Goodrich	4 ¹ / ₃	2	2	2	1	6
Gedaminski	¹ / ₃	1	1	1	0	0
T—3:23. A—1,550.						