

Six in the sixth give FSU win over Southern Miss

Special to the Democrat

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Bien Figueroa keyed a six-run sixth inning with a bases-loaded triple to lead Florida State to a 13-9 Metro Conference baseball win over Southern Mississippi on Sunday afternoon.

FSU went to 28-3 overall and 5-1 in conference play. Southern Mississippi dropped to 11-16 overall and 2-7.

Florida State was trailing 2-1 in the sixth when the Seminoles started the game-winning rally. Paul Sorrento opened the inning with a single and

Tommy Zoeller drew a walk. Both runners moved up one base on Barry Blackwell's successful bunt. Greg Clayborne tied the score on a long sacrifice fly.

With two outs, Southern Mississippi pitcher Danny Porciani allowed Eric Mangham's ground ball to roll between his legs to keep the inning alive. Relief pitcher Fred LaGrove then walked Jose Marzan to load the bases. FSU took the lead on Luis Alicea's RBI infield hit. That play set up Figueroa's base-clearing triple. Ed Fulton then singled and FSU led 7-2.

Southern Mississippi closed the gap

to 7-5 in the sixth inning as Greg Conner hit a two-run homer followed by Darrin Nixon's solo home run.

Florida State countered with two in the seventh on Marzan's two-run, two-out homer, his eighth of the season.

Trailing 9-5, the Eagles moved closer in the bottom of the seventh on Mack Duncan's leadoff home run off FSU relief pitcher Steve Kovensky. FSU appeared to put the game away in the eighth on RBI singles by Blackwell and Clayborne. But in the eighth Nixon hit his second home run for Southern Mississippi to make it 11-7.

Florida State added two in the ninth on Craig Saxner's third home run of the season, a two-run, two-out shot to left field.

Southern Mississippi came back to score two in the ninth, and threaten for more. Duncan hit his second home run of the game to left field, and Mike Jacobs followed with a walk. Two outs later Conner followed with a RBI single to close the gap to 13-9.

The game ended when Kovensky caught Nixon's deep fly to the base of the wall in center field.

See FSU, 5D

Ed Porcelli worked five innings to pick up the win, and move to 2-0 on the season. Kovensky picked up his second save of the year. Pourciau, the first of six Southern Mississippi pitchers, took the loss and fell to 3-3.

FSU continues its five-game road trip today, facing South Alabama in Mobile. Richie Lewis, 6-0, will get the start for FSU in the designated Metro Conference game.

Florida State					Southern Miss				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Marzan,1b	4	2	2	3	Jacobs,2b	3	1	1	0
Alicea,2b	5	1	3	2	Love,lf	5	0	0	0
Figueroa,ss	4	2	1	3	Burnett,cf	5	2	2	0
Fulton,c	5	1	3	1	Conner,rf	5	1	3	4
Sorrento,rf	4	1	1	0	Nixon,dh	4	2	3	2
Zoeller,dh	3	1	0	0	O'Ravez,ss	3	0	0	0
Blackwell,3b	4	0	1	1	Graves,3b	4	0	0	0
Clayborne,lf	4	1	2	1	Cronk,1b	4	1	1	1
Mangham,cf	3	2	0	0	Duncan,c	4	2	2	2
Saxner,dh	1	2	1	2					
Taddeo,ph	1	0	0	0					
McClellan,2b	0	0	0	0					
Totals	38	13	14	13	Totals	37	9	12	9
Florida State					001	006	222	—13	
Southern Miss					100	013	112	—9	

E—O’Ravez, Pouciau, Graves. DP—FSU 1, Southern Miss 1. LOB—FSU 13, USM 5. 2B—Conner, Nixon, Fulton. 3B—Figueroa. HR—Cronk (2), Conner (7), Nixon (4,5), Marzan (8), Duncan (1,2), Saxner (3). SB—Sorrento, Fulton, Mangham. CS—Clayborne, Jacobs. SH—Blackwell. AF—Alicea, Clayborne.

FSU	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Porcelle (W 2-0)	5	7	4	4	1	2
Thomas	1	1	1	1	0	0
Kovensky (S)	3	4	4	4	2	2
Southern Miss						
Pouciau (L 3-3)	5 $\frac{2}{3}$	5	5	1	6	3
LaGrouge	0	2	2	0	0	0
Magee	1	2	2	2	2	0
Gessner	$\frac{2}{3}$	4	2	2	1	0
Guin	1 $\frac{1}{3}$	1	2	2	3	2
McGrath	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	0	0	0	0

T—3:35. A—9:37.