Loynd leads FSU past Miami

By George Maselli Democrat staff writer

This was not quite Florida State heaven, but for the first time ever they were turning them away from the front rates.

A record Seminole Stadium crowd of 6,145 watched FSU dominate the Miami Hurricanes 6-1 behind the pitching of Mike Loynd and two-run doubles by Chad McClellan and Bien Figueroa.

But besides beating their most intense baseball rivals, the top-ranked Seminoles and their fans got their first chance to measure themselves against the defending national champions. For this game at least, FSU, now 40-7, compared quite nicely.

Considering the crowd, the atmosphere and the intensity of the rivalry, both teams played solid baseball. There were only two errors all night.

"It's ironic that we made an error on the first play

of the game and that's the only one we made," said FSU Coach Mike Martin. "Our ballclub kept its composure the entire night. Nobody panicked. And Mike Loynd did a good job of pitching, obviously. He was cooking."

Loynd, 11-1, was the story. He was mowing down Hurricanes just the way he has any old Samfords or Richmonds. He was nicked for seven hits, but he struck out 13 and walked one. Hurricane pitchers, on the other hand, walked seven and struck out three.

Miami, 29-9, got nothing going after the first inning. The Hurricanes scored first with their scratchfor-anything style that drives opponents to distraction. Rick Richardi reached on an infield hit, went to second on a throwing error and scored when Mike Fiore halfswung, half-punched a hit to right to go up 1-0.

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But from then on, it was all FSU and Loynd. The
early story for the Seminoles was one of missed opportunities. They loaded the bases in the first inning on a

walk, a hit-and-run single by Bien Figueroa and another walk. But Miami starter Kevin Ryan, making only his fourth start of the season, got Ed Fulton to bounce into a double play on an off-speed pitch.

From a bases-loaded, no-out situation in the third (two walks and an error), FSU managed only one run, that on a line drive to short right that Jose Marzan made into a sacrifice fly with heads-up baserunning. Miami shortstop Joe Nelson cut off further damage with a brilliant diving stab of a Steve Taddeo line drive that saved two runs.

Ryan, who had walked 21 in 25 innings coming into the game, was plagued by wildness throughout his brief stay. Surprisingly, it was the hitting of the bottom of the FSU order that knocked him out in the fourth inning. Greg Clayborne doubled for his second hit of the game. Eric Mangham singled him to third

See FSU, 3D

and No. 9 hitter Chad McClellan, playing only because of an injury to Barry Blackwell, ripped a two-run double for a 3-1 lead. McClellan was 2 for 28 this season before that hit.

After Ryan had departed, the Seminoles went to work over his replacement, Bob O'Brien. He walked Jose Marzan, retired Luis Alicea on a vicious line drive but was nailed for a two-run double by Figueroa to extend it to 5-1.

Eric Mangham drilled a long home run in the fifth to extend the lead to 6-1. But there were no riotous celebrations going on in the stands. It was still early, after all, and these were the vaunted Hurricanes. But Loynd had Miami hitters chasing his slider all over Leon County. And they kept coming up empty.

"I start it out inside or over the plate, and it breaks over the outside corner," said Loynd of his big pitch, the slider. "It breaks real late at the last second. It breaks about a foot and down a little."

Doing the depleted Seminole bullpen a big favor by going the distance for his fourth straight start, Loynd retired the side in order in the second, striking out two. In the third he was reached for an infield single, but that was the only Miami baserunner from the second through the fifth inning. And best of all, he kept throwing strikes. The only three Miami hitters who reached base in the first five in-

nings reached via hits.

In the sixth, Loynd got in twoout trouble when Greg Vaughn doubled and Greg Ellena, while striking out for the second time, reached first when the ball bounced to the backstop. No problem. Loynd fanned Chris Howard for the third time, his 10th strikeout victim of the night.

In the seventh, he issued his first walk and a single with none out. But he struck out Jose Trujillo looking and got No. 9 hitter Nelson to bounce into a double play.

"I love playing behind Mike," said McClellan, who himself was a major hero with his game-winning double. "He's one of the most intense competitors I know."

He also has one of the most intense sliders.

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