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Miami beats FSU

By George Maselli Democrat staff writer

Ron Fraser pondered a rainy forecast for today and a Florida State fifth-inning rally Saturday night. The Miami coach took a desperate measure. That turned into had news for Florida State.

The bad news was Rick Raether. Raether, Miami's bullpen ace, fired 4% innings of one-hit relief to lead the Hurricanes to a 4-3 victory over Florida State with 4,893 watching at Seminole Stadium.

The Hurricanes are 30-9. The Seminoles are 40-8. The deciding game of the series will be played

today at 1.

"I think that's as good a college baseball as you'll see," said Fraser, relieved to move into today's game (weather permitting) even in the

three-game series.

He was also relieved to have Raether, owner of some of the nastiest 6-foot-5, right-handed sidearm stuff around and who is two saves away from becoming the most productive reliever in college-baseball history.

After getting beaten 6-1 Friday night, and after hearing something about an 80 percent chance of rain today, and as he watched FSU ready to snatch the game away with a big inning, Fraser ripped up the baseball book. A top short reliever like Raether is called in the eighth or ninth inning. In a dire emergency, maybe the seventh. When was the last time Goose Gossage or Bruce Sutter saw a fifth inning?

"Rick was well-rested, and we felt we had to take some of their momentum away," said Fraser. "It was a gamble. I rolled the dice."

Had things turned out differently, the move might have been called Fraser's Folly. But it worked, so second-guessers haven't a leg to stand on.

From the start, despite the rain that fell throughout the early innings, this one had a special look One of the reasons was that both teams ran top pitchers to the mound. Matchups of the caliber of Richie Lewis against Dan Davies don't happen often on the collegebaseball calendar.

Lewis was throwing his fastball and big curveball with deadly effect. He retired the first 11 Hurricanes hitters in order, five of them on strikes. But one mistake to hulking Greg Vaughn with two outs in the fourth inning produced a 1-0 Miami lead. Vaughn's liner one over the left-center field fence had the look of a cannon shot.

The Seminoles had been unable to do anything with Davies, a small left-hander who used a brilliant mix of speeds, stuff and control. But he didn't survive the surprisingly quick hook by Fraser.

In the FSU fifth with one out, Davies was reached for his first walk by Craig Saxner. Craig Clayborne blooped a single to center and Eric Mangham bounced a single to left to load the bases.

The Miami bullpen went to work, but no one could tell who was throwing down there in the dark behind the right-field grandstands. Davies had to get Chad McClellan, a reserve who stepped in with a scant three hits in 28 at bats. But

McClellan, who has game-winning hits over Tulane and Miami (Friday night) to his credit, blooped one into right field for a run and a 2-1 game.

Davies did not look happy about leaving. He was working on one of the strongest outings of any visiting pitcher this season to Seminole

"He understood," said Fraser.

"I needed a strikeout."

Before the shock of Raether's early entrance wore off, he had struck out Jose Marzan on some nasty breaking balls. Then in a struggle between two of the finest pro prospects in the college game, FSU second baseman Luis Alicea fouled off two 2-2 pitches before bouncing to second. So relieved were the Hurricanes that second baseman Jose Trujillo's toss throw barely reached first and was dropped by Chris Howard as the tying run scored. That was the only error of an immaculate game.

Raether shook it off and struck out Bien Figueroa to end the

threat.

The Hurricanes went back on top 4-2 with back-to-back doubles in the seventh inning by Trujillo and Joe Nelson, the No. 8 and 9 hitters, and a wild pitch.

Any sense of Raether's invincibility was destroyed in the seventh by outfielder Clayborne. He took a hanging Raether slider out over the lights to left to cut it to 4-3.

"He is tough. Coming from the side and he is so tall, the ball is coming right at you," said Clayborne, a walk-on who has been one of the most important surprises of the year for FSU. "He made the mistake of throwing the same pitch three times in the same place.

"We played well. We're disappointed to lose, but we're looking forward to coming out tomorrow

and going for the series."

Despite having thrown somewhere in the vicinity of 120 pitches going into the eighth, Lewis held off Miami and gave his team a chance to win — a large order

against Raether.

Fittingly in a game of this quality, it came down to the bottom of the ninth. Miami nursing its onerun lead with its best pitcher on the mound. The Seminoles and their fans, who specialize in rattling visiting pitchers in such situations, were hoping to squeeze something out.

Clayborne hit a fly ball deep to center, but any chance the ball had to get out of the park was killed by

the heavy air. Raether jumped ahead of Eric Mangham 1-2, and struck him out on a sweeping curve. He finished nailing it down by getting Chad McClellan to bounce out.

"I actually enjoy pitching here with the crowd and two good teams," said Raether. "That is what college baseball is all about. You've got to want to pitch in these games. If you don't like these kinds of games. you should get out of baseball."

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Magno,c	1	0	0	0	Sor	ren	to,	f	3 0	0 0
Ellena,dh	4	0	1	0	Fu	Iton	,c		40	0 0
DeBold,3b	3	1	0	0	Sax	kner	,dh		11	0 0
Howard, 1b	3	0	0	0	Ta	dde	o,d	h	20	0 0
Truiillo,2b	3	1	1	1	Cla	ybo	rne	,If	4 2	2 1
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WP-Lewis 2. BK-Davies. HBP-

Nelson by Lewis. T-3:08. A-4,893.