

FSU wins big — but not easily

By George Maselli

Democrat staff writer

MIAMI — Somehow, some way, it is never easy here. Forget the 7-0 lead, forget the 11-1 lead.

Florida State still had to sweat this one out before holding off Miami 14-6 Saturday night in Mark Light Stadium.

Behind Luis Alicea's two home runs and the pitching of Mike Loynd, FSU was enjoying a strangely pleasant evening here. But by the time the eighth inning rolled around, the Hurricanes had knocked out Loynd and Steve Kovenasky, had scored four times to close the gap to 11-5 and had the bases loaded with none out.

But just in time, Doug Little entered. He started a pitcher-to-home-to-first double play. Then reserve outfielder Keith Kidd made a spectacular catch at

the wall in left to end the eighth. Relieved, the Seminoles punched up three more runs in the ninth. Never easy. Not here.

It hasn't been easy for FSU in 10 years, a period in which the Seminoles are now 5-20 here.

Achieving a certain symmetry with the victory, the Seminoles snapped an eight-game Miami winning streak. The Hurricanes snapped an eight-game FSU winning streak Friday night. The final game of the series is today at 2.

"I've got to admit it. I thought the game was over," said FSU coach Mike Martin. "We had an 11-1 lead and Michael (Loynd) was cooking."

With 6,566 watching on this warm Saturday night, there were some early FSU concerns. But if you can nail down a turning point in a four-hour baseball game, you would have to go with the

bottom of the first. With Loynd struggling to find the plate, Miami loaded the bases with none out on two walks and a bunt single. Could there be another eight-run outrage that left the red-faced Seminoles down 8-0 Friday night?

Not only was that nightmarish thought in the air, Loynd's scoreless streak of 28 innings seemed doomed. Loynd, however, has thrived in such dire circumstances all season.

He struck out Will Vespe after going to a full count. Then Loynd started storming around the mound the way he does when pumping himself up in such situations. Building on his animated clenched-fist routine with each strike and out, Loynd retired tough Chris Magno on an infield pop and Rusty DeBold on a routine bouncer.

The Seminole bench leaped to greet Loynd as he charged into the dugout.

On offense, the Seminoles got on Miami early and never let up. They were shut out in only two innings.

Jose Marzan began the game with a triple to the gap in right-center. Luis Alicea brought him home with a sacrifice fly.

But FSU began pouring it on in the second inning against Miami starter Gus Meizoso. With one out, Eric Mangham and Craig Saxner walked. One out later, Greg Clayborne poked one off the end of his bat down the right-field line for a two-run double. Marzan welcomed reliever Steffen Majer with a run-scoring single and it was 4-0.

With two outs in the bottom of the second, there was another interesting incident. Miami's Joe Nelson slid past second base with cleats high as Alicea made

a force play at second. Martin charged onto the field to protest.

Alicea said nothing with his mouth but answered loudly with his bat. He was the next hitter and launched a Majer pitch over the right-center wall for a his seventh homer. One out later, Mangham and Saxner walked just as they had an inning earlier. After Barry Blackwell struck out fouling off a squeeze-bunt attempt, Ed Fulton responded with a two-out, two-run double to make it 7-0.

The Seminoles added one run in the fifth inning on singles by Bien

Miami did manage to break Loynd's scoreless streak with a run in the fifth inning. Loynd had not been scored on since the first inning of a 7-1 victory over the Hurricanes April 12.

"There were so many turning points," said Martin. "Michael getting out of the first inning, Keith Kidd's catch, and on and on.

**From the Tallahassee Democrat
May 5, 1986
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Saturday's boxscore										
Florida State					Miami					
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi	
Marzan,1b	6	1	3	0	Vaughn,rf	2	0	0	0	
Sorrento,rf	4	1	0	0	Richardt,cf	4	3	3	0	
Alicea,2b	4	3	3	3	Flore,lf	3	1	3	0	
Figueroa,ss	5	1	3	1	Vespe,dh	3	0	0	0	
Mangham,cf	4	1	0	0	Magno,c	1	0	0	0	
Saxner,dh	1	2	1	1	DeBoid,3b	3	0	0	0	
Blackwell,3b	3	1	1	0	Domingz,1b	4	0	0	0	
Fulton,c	4	1	2	4	Trujillo,2b	2	0	0	0	
Clayborne,lf	2	1	1	2	Nelson,ss	4	0	1	0	
Kidd,ph-lf	3	0	1	0	Howrd,ph-1b	2	1	1	1	
Taddeo,dh	2	1	1	0	Noce,ph-2b	1	0	0	1	
McClellan,3b	1	1	0	0	Viera,ph-rf	2	0	0	0	
					Dulon,3b	2	0	2	2	
					Ellena,ph-dh	1	1	0	0	
Totals	39	14	16	11	Totals	34	6	10	4	
Florida State					133	012	013	—14		
Miami					000	010	041	—6		
E—Maier, Magno, Dulon. DP—FSU 1, UM 2. LOB—FSU 8, UM 10. 2B—Clayborne, Fulton, Richardt. 3B—Marzan, Taddeo. HR—Alicea (7, 8), Fulton (14). SB—Marzan, Sorrento, Alicea, Vaughn, Richardt, Kidd. SH—Mangham. SF—Alicea, Howard, Flore.										
					IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida State										
Loynd (W 15-1)					7	6	5	5	5	7
Kovensky					0	1	0	0	2	0
Little (S 1)					2	3	1	1	0	1
Miami										
Meizoso (L 6-4)					1½	2	4	4	3	0
Maier					1	3	3	3	2	1
Ryan					3½	4	3	3	1	3
Gibbons					3	7	4	4	2	4
T—3:45. A—6,566.										