

Day makes Miami's night

By Rodney Page

SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

TALLAHASSEE — What a difference a Day makes. Miami reliever Steve Day pitched 3½ innings of shut-out relief, including a crucial strikeout of Brad Parker in the sixth, and his teammates pounded out 10 hits as the Hurricanes defeated Florida State, 8-5, Saturday night before 5,877 at Dick Howser Stadium — the second-largest crowd in FSU history.

The game was a sharp contrast from Miami's three-hit performance of a night earlier (in which Miami lost, 7-3), and it improves the Hurricanes' record to 37-6. FSU falls to 36-7.

Miami forced FSU starter Chris Roberts out early in the second inning when he could only manage one out while giving up three runs. It was the shortest appearance for Roberts this season.

After Frank Mora wasted a double by getting picked off second by catcher Pete Grifol, Roberts walked Charles Johnson and then gave up three consecutive singles.

Juan Flores' single up the middle scored Johnson, and Kevin DiGiacomo did the same to score Orlando Palmiero. One walk later, Roberts was replaced by Brady, who gave up a run-scoring groundout to Greg Erickson before getting the final out of the inning.

The Hurricanes added another run in the fourth when shortstop Brian Gilliland threw wide of second base on a force attempt, which allowed Mora to score.

FSU rallied to cut the deficit to one in the bottom of the inning, courtesy of wildness by Oscar Munoz, who hit two batters. In the fifth, Marc Ronan hit a sacrifice fly to score Gilliland and tie the score. But designated hitter Charles Johnson, who was 3-for-3, hit a two-run homer to give Miami a two-run lead.

Then Day took over.

With two men in scoring position in the sixth, Day, who was on in relief of Jim West after Munoz left after 5½ innings, struck out Parker to end the inning, and FSU's threat. He collected his first save of the year with the performance.

"When I struck him out, I had a lot of confidence," Day said. "I couldn't wait to get back out there."

FSU Coach Mike Martin agreed that Day was the difference.

"Day was the neutralizer tonight," he said. "He made us hit some very weak fly balls."

Reliever Mike Brady (5-1) took the loss for FSU.

Saturday's boxes

Miami 8, Florida State 5

Miami	ab	r	h	bi	FSU	ab	r	h	bi
Erickson ss	5	0	0	1	Bevis 2b	4	0	1	0
Coleman 2b	4	0	0	0	Cribb dh	3	1	3	0
Tosar 2b	1	0	0	0	Ronan cf	3	1	1	2
Fabregas 3b	5	1	1	0	Bargas 3b	4	0	0	1
Nora lf	1	2	1	0	Parker lf	4	0	0	1
DiMare lf	1	0	0	0	Blanton pr	0	0	0	0
Johnson dh	3	2	3	2	Perez 1b	4	0	0	1
Crum pr	0	0	0	0	Grifol c	5	0	1	0
Palmiero cf	5	2	1	0	Brock rf	4	0	0	0
Flores c	4	1	2	3	Gilliland ss	2	3	0	0
DGcm 1b	3	0	1	1					
Robinson rf	3	0	1	0					

Totals 35 8 10 7 Totals 33 5 6 5

Miami 031 020 200 — 8
 FSU 003 101 000 — 5

E—Gilliland, Erickson, Grifol, Fabregas.
 DP—FSU 1. LOB—Miami 7, FSU 11. 2B—
 Mora, Grifol. HR—Johnson. SF—Perez,
 Ronan.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Miami						
Munoz	5½	5	4	5	2	
West	½	1	0	0	1	0
Day	3½	1	0	0	0	1
FSU						
Rbbs	1½	4	3	3	2	1
Brady	5½	4	5	4	3	4
Steintz	2½	2	0	0	1	1

T—3:17.