

Miami upends FSU 8-3

By David Lee Simmons
Democrat staff writer

When you step into the ring against Miami, the Jake LaMotta of college baseball, you take your knockout opportunities when you get 'em.

But Florida State, which had its opportunities, let the Hurricanes back into the fight and paid for it with an 8-3 loss Sunday afternoon before 4,138 at Dick Howser Stadium.

FSU (36-9), ranked No. 5 by Collegiate Baseball-ESPN and No. 6 by Baseball America, lost twice in a row at home for the first time in a regular season since the 1987 team dropped two in a row to Miami.

The Hurricanes, ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, improved to 38-6.

Miami, forever linked with labels like "scrappy" and "gutsy," overcame shabby defense and poor base-running that spotted FSU an early 2-0 lead. Then the Hurricanes milked two outfield misplays by Brad Parker in the third and fourth that made the rest of the game a moot point.

The misplays, which accounted for five of Miami's runs, left FSU a 7-2 deficit.

That didn't help FSU starter Ricky Kimball (7-2), who lasted only 4½ innings.

"There is not a more humbling experience on the face of this earth than to be in the third game of a Miami series here, be five runs down and have no life in the dugout," said FSU coach Mike Martin, who said the team is in dire need of senior leadership right now. "You have to take adversity, throw it away, and go on."

Thus, the Hurricanes leave town by winning this series 2-1 for the second time in four years with a team that can dig itself a hole one moment and get

right back out the next.

"Every time you come up here, you don't know what to expect," said the Hurricane's leading Ragging Bull, Coach Ron Fraser. "We're a young, inexperienced team, and we're going to make mistakes. (Winning here) tells me they have a lot of character."

It tells FSU it may want to make some changes to kick this season back into gear. FSU is 14-6 in its last 20 games, including series losses to Southern Miss, Arizona State and now Miami.

Also, the Seminoles are 2-5 against teams ranked in the Top 10 at the time they played them.

Martin said that he will start by taking Chris Roberts, Saturday's loser, out of the rotation and replace him with fellow freshman Roger Bailey. Other changes are expected, but Martin would like to see increased leadership more than anything.

"It's easy to motivate freshmen, sophomores and juniors, but seniors have to motivate themselves," Martin said. "If a guy is not motivated, we'll put in a freshman or sophomore who is."

FSU had Miami on the ropes right away in the first, scoring two runs on errors by second baseman

Mike Tosar and third baseman Jorge Fabregas.

Tosar fielded Marc Ronan's hard grounder up the middle then made the automatic throw to first. But nobody was there, since first baseman Kevin DiGiacomo was trotting near the pitcher's mound, presumably because he thought the ball went through for a hit.

That scored Allen Bevis from third. Ronan later scored on Fabregas' error.

Eddie Perez's near-perfect bunt down the third-base line loaded the bases. But Pete Grifol hit into a double play to get Hurricane starter Shawn Purdy (8-1) out of the jam.

FSU humbled Miami in the second when, in succession, Miami native Grifol picked off Johnson at second and Kimball picked off Mora at first to quickly erase a two-baserunner threat.

FSU could have built on that momentum in the third when Ronan singled and went to second on Bargas' single. But third-base coach Chip Baker sent Ronan around on Perez's bloop single to center field, and Orlando Palmeiro's throw easily beat Ronan to the plate.

Grifol's fly ball to deep center could have scored Ronan from third if he had held.

That left FSU nothing with which to counter Miami's two runs in the third when Parker let Palmeiro's fly to deep left-center bounce off his glove for a double.

Miami opened it up in the

fourth on singles by Charles Johnson and Frank Mora and a walk to Donald Robinson to load the bases. FSU starter Ricky Kimball walked in a run before Tosar sliced a liner to left.

Parker initially broke in on the ball before noticing its hard slice toward the line, and simply couldn't catch up as three runs scored.

"I thought I had it," Parker said of the first misplay. "(The ball) hit my glove but just didn't stay in. (On the second double) it just kept slicing and I couldn't keep up with it. After the first step, I was lost."

After that, the teams traded solo homers by Tosar and Ronan, but that was about it.

MIAMI					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Palmeiro cf	5	1	3	3	Bevis 2b	4	1	1	0
Erickson ss	4	0	1	2	Cribb dh	5	0	0	0
Fabregas 3b	5	1	1	0	Ronan cf	5	2	3	1
Johnson dh	5	0	1	0	Bargas 3b	3	0	2	0
Mora lf	3	1	2	0	Tamayo 3b	1	0	0	0
DiMare lf	1	0	0	0	Felder ph	1	0	0	0
Robinson rf	4	1	2	0	Parker lf	3	0	0	1
Flores c	4	2	4	1	Brock rf	1	0	1	0
DiGiacomo 1b	5	0	0	0	Perez 1b	4	0	2	0
Tosar 2b	3	2	1	2	Grifol c	3	0	0	0
					Roberts rf	3	0	1	0
					Blanton lf	0	0	0	0
					Rau ss	3	0	1	0
					Harrison ph	1	0	0	0
					Gilliland ss	0	0	0	0
Totals	39	8	15	8	Totals	37	3	11	2

Miami	002	410	010—	8	15	3
Florida State	200	000	001—	3	11	0

E—Tosar, Fabregas, Mora. DP—Miami 2. LOB—Miami 9, FSU 10. 2B—Johnson, Palmeiro 2, Erickson, Brock. HR—Tosar (4), Ronan (4). SB—Bevis (22). CS—Robinson.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Miami						
Purdy W, 8-1	7.2	10	2	1	2	1
Bush	1.1	1	1	1	1	3
Florida State						
Kimball L, 7-2	4.2	9	7	7	4	5
Dunbar	0.2	1	0	0	1	1
Gregory	3.2	5	1	1	0	1

T—2:57. A—4,138.