

Four runs in ninth lift Seminoles

By David Lee Simmons
Democrat staff writer

CORAL GABLES — What in the name of NCAA regional host sites was Florida State thinking?

The Seminoles, playing for leverage and momentum, broke open a one-run ball game with four runs in the ninth to stun top-ranked Miami 8-4 Sunday afternoon before 6,192 at Mark Light Stadium.

That gave FSU (42-12) two wins in this three-game series, the third time in four years the Seminoles have taken a series from Miami (46-8) here.

"Important? Golly dog, we've got so much at stake," said a relieved FSU coach Mike Martin. "We've got a regional to consider, we've got the confidence level to think about. I don't know. I'll tell you one thing, I am a happy puppy."

This win does more than give the Seminoles, ranked No. 6 by Collegiate Baseball-ESPN and No. 9 by Baseball America, a chance to move up in the polls. It also puts FSU in a position to gain the kind of momentum necessary for postseason play.

And then there's the matter of hosting an NCAA regional, something FSU's done for the past seven years. After losing to unranked Florida International on Wednesday, there was concern that FSU might miss out on a host site if it didn't do well against Miami.

"We felt we needed to win two of three here to stay in contention," Martin said.

The regional selection committee will meet in a conference call today and name the host teams May 14. Arkansas and Louisiana State are considered FSU's main competition.

The confidence factor, however,

cannot be overlooked. Going into the series, especially with Wednesday's loss, there was the feeling that this team wasn't playing up to its potential.

Before the series, FSU was 1-5 against teams ranked in the Top 10.

"We (the coaches) know we're a good ball club, and now the guys know it," Martin said. "I think this could go a long way toward giving us the spark we've been looking for."

Beating Miami twice here — tying the regular-season series 3-3 — sure helps.

Things looked grim after Friday's opening loss with No. 1 starter Gar Finnvoid on the mound. And after Sunday's starter, freshman Roger Bailey, exited in the third, it looked worse.

Thanks to strong relief pitching and that four-run ninth, FSU pulled it out.

Please see **FSU, 7D**

FSU/ The win was just what the Seminoles needed

From 1D

Mike Brady, pitching for the first time since suffering an elbow injury, pitched three crucial innings of middle relief.

Then Ricky Kimball, still fresh off his return to the bullpen, scattered three runs over 3½ innings to pick up his third save of the season and his second in two days.

The Hurricanes scored two runs off Kimball in the bottom of the eighth on Frank Mora's two-run, two-out single to cut FSU's lead to 4-3.

In the top of the ninth, the Seminoles answered with doubles by Brian Gilliland and Allen Bevis as well as Brad Parker's run-scoring single to center.

Both Gilliland and Parker were pinch hitters. That, combined with a fielder's choice grounder and an error, opened up the game for FSU, 8-3.

Miami scratched a run across in the ninth when Juan Flores doubled and scored on Kevin DiGiaco-

mo's ground-out to short, but that was it.

If Brady hadn't produced like he did, FSU might not have been in a position to win in the first place. Bailey, a righthander from Chathahoochee, was making his second appearance as the No. 3 starter.

He made his earliest exit of the season, giving up a run in the third on two hits and two walks.

In came Brady, who hadn't pitched in a game since April 21, when elbow soreness forced him out of the 6-5 loss to South Carolina.

He retired Donald Robinson with the bases loaded, and later struck out Jorge Fabregas twice. Before facing Brady, Fabregas was 7 for 9 in the series.

"(The elbow) got tight when I would throw, and it really bothered me when I pitched fastballs," Brady said. "But our backs were to the wall. We needed to split this series."

Kimball picked him up in the

sixth, and pitched effectively while adjusting to pitching twice in two days.

"I tried throwing more sinkers, because I didn't know if I could blow them away coming right in," he said. "So I got a lot of ground balls."

Miami didn't help itself by stranding 16 baserunners, eight of them in scoring position.

"We left so many people on base, and you can't do that," said Miami coach Ron Fraser, who was ejected during FSU's four-run rally for arguing a call. "(FSU) got some strikeouts when they needed it."

FSU NOTES

- It doesn't get any easier for FSU, which travels to Metro Conference frontrunner Virginia Tech for a three-game series that starts Tuesday.

The Hokies are 9-3 in the Metro, while the Seminoles are second at 11-4. The series will prove crucial in deciding who will get the top seed in the conference tournament hosted by Southern Mississippi from May 16-20.

- Though it is a very inexact science, here are the probable

host sites going into today's preliminary conference call by the selection committee: Fresno State, Wichita State, Arizona State, Texas, Mississippi State, Waterbury, Conn. (neutral site), Miami and FSU. Again, Arkansas and Louisiana State are generally considered potential hosts.

FLORIDA STATE					MIAMI				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Bevis 2b	5	1	3	2	Palmeiro cf	4	1	2	0
Ronan lf	4	2	2	1	Erickson ss	3	1	0	0
Bargas dh	3	1	2	0	Fabregas 3b	5	1	3	0
Roberts cf	4	0	1	1	Mora lf-rf	5	0	3	3
Grifol c	5	0	0	1	Johnson 1b-c	5	0	0	0
Perez 1b	4	0	0	0	Flores dh	4	1	4	0
Tamayo 3b	5	1	1	0	Robinson rf	2	0	0	0
Brock rf	3	1	0	0	Hirsch c	3	0	0	0
Rau ss	1	0	0	0	Tosar 2b	3	0	1	0
Cribb ph	1	0	0	0	Farrell lf	1	0	0	0
Gilliland ss	1	1	1	0	Anderson ph	1	0	0	0
Parker ph	1	0	1	1	Crum ph	1	0	0	0
Blanton pr	0	1	0	0	DiMare lf	1	0	0	0
					Coleman 2b	2	0	1	0
					DiGiacomo 1b	1	0	0	1
Totals	37	8	11	6	Totals	41	4	14	4

Florida State	000	101	204—6
Miami	001	000	021—4

E—Tosar, Rau, Coleman. DP—Miami 1.
LOB—FSU 8, Miami 16. 2B—Bargas, Roberts.
Flores 2, Ronan, Fabregas, Gilliland, Bevis.
SB—Rau (7), Ronan (28). CS—Palmeiro.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida State						
Bailey	2.2	5	1	1	3	5
Brady W, 4-1	3.0	3	0	0	2	4
Kimball S, 3	3.1	6	3	3	1	2
Miami						
Purdy L, 10-2	6.2	6	4	4	2	2
Bush	1.2	4	2	2	1	0
Alkire	0.1	1	2	1	3	0
West	0.1	0	0	0	0	0

WP—Purdy. PB—Hirsch, Johnson. T—3:41.
A—6,192.