

Florida State's Brian Cox breaks up Alex Santos' no-hit bid with two outs in the ninth as the Seminoles fall to Miami 7-1.

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT
MIAMI

In a series that has seen almost everything, there was nearly something new on Friday night.

Alex Santos came within one out of pitching the first Miami no-hitter against Florida State since this rivalry first began in 1951.

Brian Cox hit a ninth inning, two-out line drive homer over the right field wall to keep the Seminoles from being shut out for the first time since the 1996 season. It did nothing to keep Miami from once again owning FSU (40-15) this season.

Miami's 7-1 whipping of Florida State was the fourth consecutive win this season against its archrival, and gave the Hurricanes a 6-1 record at home against the No. 12 Seminoles dating to the 1996 season.

"He just thoroughly dominated us," FSU head coach Mike Martin said. "It was one of the best pitched games we've ever had thrown against us. I thought we were anxious. We didn't have good at bats, and a lot of that was that we was just so overpowering."

The Hurricanes (42-5) came into this series talking big about a six-game sweep of FSU, something that would likely make FSU's bid to host a regional a long shot. Miami, ranked either No. 1 or No. 2 depending on the publication, is a lock to host a regional.

Popular belief is that FSU needed to do well against Clemson and Miami to host a regional this season. FSU lost two of three to Clemson last weekend.

Santos, 11-1, gave the Hurricanes a quick start in the three-game series at Mark Light Stadium. Not even an 1½-hour rain delay could cool off Santos. He struck out 12 Seminoles, including one for the final out after Cox's homer.

The Hurricanes gave Santos all the runs he needed as they took a 1-0 lead in the first inning and then grabbed a 3-0 lead before adding three runs in the seventh inning on four hits.

Miami didn't exactly rock FSU starter Wes Crawford (6-3). But the sophomore left-hander gave up six runs on seven hits before being relieved in the seventh inning.

FSU had not been shut out since losing to Clemson on May 6, 1996.

Martin confirmed that Jamey Shouppe was among the six or seven coaches who underwent a preliminary interview for the North Carolina head coaching job. Martin said Shouppe has since been told the school was going in a different direction.

WP—Kelly (2). HBP—by Santos (Zabala), by Santos (Henderson), by Kelly (Michaels), by Smalley (Saggesse)
T—4.01. A—3356.