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'Noles get a rare victory in Miami

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

Pitcher Daryl Roque didn't look so invincible and Miami didn't look like No. I.

But mostly, Florida State did not look like its usual self at Mark Light Stadium. After losing six of its previous seven games in Miami, No. 12 FSU dominated Saturday night.

The much-needed 11-5 victory before a season-high crowd of 4,506 was the second-most lopsided win by FSU at Miami in 12 seasons.

FSU gave Roque, the nation's winningest pitcher, his first loss this season after 11 wins.

The Seminoles responded to coach Mike Martin's challenge in a rare team meeting before the game.

"I think we were pressing a little bit," Martin said. "We played with a lot more emotion, a lot more desire. This is the biggest night of the year for Miami and our guys responded to the situation with poise."

The teams conclude their regular-season series today at 1 p.m. with FSU freshman Nick Stocks (5-1) facing Darin Spassoff (1-1). The teams could be back in Mark Light Stadium for an NCAA Regional, although FSU is still hoping to host one. Miami is expected to host a regional later this month,

FSU freshman Jon McDonald, showing the poise of a veteran, escaped two serious Miami threats early and allowed just four hits in six innings. McDonald (8-3) picked up some offensive help from two unlikely sources as FSU (41-15) snapped this season's four-game losing streak to Miami (42-6).

Jose Zabaia went 4 for 4 to lead FSU's hitting onslaught after the Seminoles were one-hit on Friday. The senior third baseman from Miami Columbus was just 2 for 24 entering the game.

"That was something to see," Martin said. "He played a solid game."

Brooks Badeaux responded to his move back to the top of the order with an RBI single that sparked FSU's four-run seventh inning. A two-run homer in that inning by Jeremy Salazar, his 14th this season, helped end Roque's 10-

game winning streak.

Miami put runners in scoring position three times without producing a run. That included the sixth inning when, trailing 3-1, Miami had runners on second and third with no outs. In the first inning, Miami had a runner on third with nobody out when FSU made good on a gamble by moving its infield in.

The Hurricanes had nine hits off three FSU pitchers only because they got to reliever Chris Chavez for five hits in the last two innings.

Good thing for Chavez that FSU picked up two runs in the ninth inning and his teammates executed a double play to end a Miami threat and the game.

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