

SPORTS

www.palatkadailynews.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015

C SECTION

Vikings alone at top

Sweep Lake-Sumter to open conference play

Palatka Daily News

This morning, if you take a look at the top of the Mid-Florida Conference softball standings, you will see a name not usually associated with the top.

That would be St. Johns River State College, which opened the conference season with a doubleheader sweep of Lake-Sumter on Tuesday in Leesburg, 5-3 and 9-0.

With conference favorite Central Florida splitting with a good Florida State College-Jacksonville team and Santa Fe and Daytona State opening with a split, the Vikings are the only Mid-Florida team at 2-0.

And at 23-7 overall, the Vikings matched the best win total in coach Katie Brosky's five-year tenure as head coach. In 2012, the Vikings went 23-36, but missed out on going back to the state tournament when it lost to Central Florida, 2-1, in a one-game play-in that saw the Patriots win on a botched comeback to the mound in the bottom of the seventh inning of a 1-1 game.

Still, excuse Brosky if she takes a "can't stop, won't stop" attitude even after the first twinbill.

"In this conference, every game matters," she said. "We can only worry about what we can do and how we play. We still have work to do and players to get healthy so we can continue to sit at the top."

The first-game was highlighted by a pair of home runs: Alexis Martinez nailing a two-run home run in the fifth inning, her first career home run on the college level, and Savannah Montgomery hitting a solo shot in the sixth for insurance.

Left-hander Hunter Scharf improved to 11-5, scattering eight hits and giving up two earned runs in going the distance with two walks and one strikeout. Haley Wildes and Martinez each had two hits with Wildes knocking in one run and Martinez two. Montgomery was 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI and Tikeya Strong and Nicole Brock added one hit apiece.

In the second game, a misplayed ball by two Lakehawks on a Strong popup allowed Francesca Gazarato to score from first and let Strong get to third. Julie Leduc singled her home. One batter later, Wildes doubled home

See **VIKINGS**, Page 2C

Vikings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

Montgomery and Martinez singled home Wildes.

Wildes and Martinez each finished 2-for-3 with an RBI with Wildes scoring a run and Leduc finished 2-for-4 with a run and two RBI. Strong had a hit, run and two RBI and Gazarato had a hit and two runs scored.

Brock (9-3) allowed four hits, walked none and struck out four in the five-inning win.

The Vikings will have a test at 1 p.m. Saturday when they travel to Gainesville to face the perennial power Saints of Santa Fe in a conference doubleheader.