

SPORTS

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B SECTION

SJRSC off to fast start on volleyball court

Vikings go 4-0 in tourney; to host first match Wednesday night

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Things couldn't have gone any better for the St. Johns River State College volleyball team in its opening matches of the season at the Spartanburg Methodist College Tournament last weekend in South Carolina.

The one thing that could have gone better was if the Vikings had swept all four of their matches. The Vikings took down Andrew College, 25-13, 25-10, 25-12, then beat Walters State Community College, 25-16, 25-15, 25-10, on Friday. Then on Saturday, SJRSC defeated Wake Tech Community

College, 25-18, 23-25, 25-9, 25-17, and finished the near-perfect weekend with a win over the host team, 27-25, 26-24, 25-23.

"I believe that this is the best start for the program since 2000," said third-year coach Matt Cohen. "I know the program was 4-1 that year, but the loss came before the fourth win."

Juli Hicks got things going in the opener with 14 kills and a .619 hitting percentage. In her first match since recovering from anterior cruciate ligament surgery,

Tatiana Lopez had five kills and nine digs, while Maddie Speyerer handed out 24 assists and Jenica Ramos had four aces and Dani Jaramillo added three aces. In the win over Walters State, Hicks had 14 kills and four blocks, Courtney Chappell had seven kills and 10 digs, Speyerer put up a dou-

ble-double with 28 assists and 16 digs and had two aces along with Jamie Holton.

Courtney Mitchell took on star honors in the win over Wake Tech with nine kills and five blocks, while Courtney Mitchell added nine kills and five kills.

Tae Bradley put up six blocks and Speyerer handed out 24 assists and came up with eight digs. Chappell had 18 digs and Lopez delivered three aces. In the final match against Spartanburg, Hicks had 10 kills and five blocks, Jenica Ramos had a double-double (14 assists, 10 digs), Jaramillo added 14 digs and kills by Ashley Smith (set one), Holton (two) and Chappell (three) ended each set.

The Vikings look to continue the fast start in their first home match at 6 p.m. Wednesday against Eastern Florida State College.