SPORTS

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Viking volleyball reaches 20-win milestone

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Two milestones were reached on Thursday night at St. Johns River State College.

The first of those milestones in the Vikings' 25-11, 23-25, 25-22, 25-19 Mid-Florida Conference matchup with Lake-Sumter at Tuten Gymnasium was their 20th win of the season, matching the total of the 2000 and 2001 teams. The Vikings improved to 20-7 overall and 3-5 in the conference.

The second was big for St. Johns' overall athletic program. With the baseball team winning 47 games and the softball team winning 33 games last spring – both single-season school records – the volleyball team gave SJR State 100 victories for the calendar year.

"We took everything (Lake-Sumter) had and still pulled through," said Vikings coach Matt Cohen. "With seven matches remaining, we are looking to establish a new all-time high in wins and winning percentage. The third conference win also sets a new record (for a season) and we still have two more to play."

The Vikings were led by Ashley Smith, who had a season-high 12 kills and a career-high hitting percentage of .637. Juli Hicks had nine kills and eight blocks, Tae Bradley finished with nine kills and seven blocks, Maddie Speyerer handed out 28 assists and had 10 digs and Courtney Chappell came up with 10 digs. The Vikings made their point in Thursday's match with 18 blocks.

SJRSC goes after its all-time best 21st win on Tuesday at home against a tough Central Florida squad before hosting Florida State College-Jacksonville on Thursday in the last MFC match of the season.