

SPORTS

Yet another Viking split

Late errors cost softball team in front end of doubleheader

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The St. Johns River State College softball team was within one flubbed seventh inning from getting the sweep it so needed on Tuesday.

Instead, the host Vikings had to settle for a Mid-Florida Conference split with Lake-Sumter, losing that first game, 10-7, as the Lakehawks scored four runs in the top of the seventh to erase a 7-6 deficit. In the second game, Haley Wildes went 3-for-3 with three RBI and a run scored and Amanda Peck hit her first home run of the season, a solo shot, as the Vikings won, 9-4.

The split left the Vikings at 22-19 overall and left both the Vikings and Lakehawks at 5-9 in the conference, tied for the fourth and final state tournament berth out of the conference. Santa Fe, which got swept by 49-1 No. 1 in the country Central Florida on Tuesday, is 5-11 in the MFC.

“What it comes down to is sweeping one doubleheader and not getting swept,” said Vikings coach Jill Semento, who said this time around she was in a much different place emotionally than the last time her Vikings played her former team. The Lakehawks swept the Vikings in mercy-rule fashion, 10-2 and 12-4, in Leesburg on March 8.

“You never know what’s going to happen in this conference,” Semento continued. “You don’t know when teams get hot or get cold. Getting this split hurt because our defense, which has played well, were not handling routine ground balls.”

That Vikings made six errors in the opening game, including two costly ones in the seventh inning. One led to two runs, wiping out the SJR State lead.

For the Vikings, Hannah Sommers went 2-for-3 with a run scored, while Wildes, Stacey Wilson, Sydney Shows, Kayla Kight, Savannah Montgomery and Alandra Resdends had one hit apiece.

In the second game, Montgomery went 2-for-3 with two runs and an RBI, while Shows was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Kight, Chris Marasa, Wilson, Sommers and winning pitcher Shelby Griffis had one hit apiece.

Griffis struggled a bit, scattering five hits and walking six, while recording one, but it was good enough to improve her record to 6-6 for the year.

The Vikings will travel Thursday to for a conference doubleheader with Florida State College-Jacksonville.