

# SPORTS

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B SECTION

## Back on track, Vikings blank Pasco

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If St. Johns River State College baseball players were having any hangover from their first back-to-back losses of the season, coach Ross Jones couldn't see it during practice on Tuesday.

Neither could Pasco-Hernando State College during the game on Wednesday.

The Vikings rang up 12 hits, played errorless defense and recorded 13 strikeouts in an 8-0 defeat of the host Conquistadors.

It was the first nonconference game in almost a month for St. Johns, which improved to 31-7

while dropping Pasco to 27-9.

"We had the best practice we've had in over a month Tuesday," said Jones, whose Vikings were coming off consecutive losses to Santa Fe that left a two-game gap between the teams in the Mid-Florida Conference. "Everyone was in a great mood. We were very up-tempo. It didn't surprise me they responded the way they did in practice."

It showed in the game.

Hunter Jones, Pearson McMahan and Tyler Carr combined in the shutout. Jones (2-0) struck out five, walked two and spread five hits

over five innings in what his coach – and father – called perhaps his strongest outing of the year. Hunter Jones left with a blister on his finger, then McMahan struck out six over the next three innings and Carr punched out two in the ninth.

Previously unbeaten Sean Fluke opened with three scoreless innings before SJR State scored in five of the last six innings against Fluke (7-1) and three relievers.

"We played really well today. We faced a quality team, a quality pitcher," coach Jones said.

Nick Koslowski got the Vikings on the board with a fourth-inning

triple that scored Nick Owens, who had singled. Koslowski came home on Hunter Alexander's sacrifice fly and it was 2-0.

The other big blow for St. Johns was a two-run homer in the seventh by Jimbo Reemsnyder.

Wes Weeks and Cole Perry were both 2-3, Reemsnyder 2-4. Koslowski and Omar Villaman were both 2-5. Collin Morrill had a double in three at-bats.

SJR State plays the Rollins College junior varsity today in Winter Park, then hosts Pasco on Saturday in the final nonconference game of the regular season.