

# SPORTS

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C SECTION

## Vikings score seven in ninth, but come up a run short

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It was almost another fantastic finish for a baseball team that has had a sackful this season.

Almost.

Thing is, there is no room for almost when chasing the state's top-ranked team in

one's conference.

So a seven-run ninth inning was little solace to St. Johns River State College coach Ross Jones in a 13-12 loss at Florida State College-Jacksonville Friday afternoon.

He didn't like the way it ended and didn't like the cir-

cumstances that made the comeback necessary.

"Stunk it up. Stunk it up," he fumed after the Vikings dropped to 35-8 overall and 13-4 in the Mid-Florida Conference, two games behind the Santa Fe team they play today in Gainesville.

SJR State had taken the first two games in its series with FSCJ (11-25, 6-11) but was in a 10-2 hole by the end of the fourth inning on Friday.

"We were horrible on the mound. We were horrible offensively for seven innings," Jones said. "It's like we think

we can throw the gloves out there and beat somebody. I don't know if we were looking ahead."

It was still 10-2 before the Vikings scored three runs in the top of the eighth – only for the Blue Wave to get them back in the home half.

Hunter Alexander hit his second home run of the game, a three-run shot, and Wes Weeks hit a two-run double to key the comeback in the ninth. But down 13-11 with nobody out and runners on second and third, the Vikings got only one run home.

Continuing his recent resurgence after weeks of struggling, Alexander was 2-3 with four RBI in a 14-hit St. Johns offense.

Omar Villaman was 3-6 with a double and an RBI. Andrew Williamson doubled in both of his at-bats and Alec Dowell was 2-5 with two RBI. The Vikings' other hits were doubles by Weeks and Matthew Rhodes and singles by Nick Koslowski, Harlan Harris and Collin Morrill.

The first of five St. Johns pitchers, Hunter Jones (2-1) took the loss.