

SPORTS

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St. Johns softball needs sweep and needs help

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The St. Johns River State College softball team has no more options when it comes to making the state tournament in less than a month.

It's win a doubleheader Thursday and hope fellow contenders Florida State College-Jacksonville and Santa Fe struggle.

That's where the Vikings are after losing a crucial Mid-Florida Conference doubleheader to visiting Daytona State on Saturday. They fell 8-7 in the opener, 3-1 in the second game, leaving them 7-15 in the conference, the same amount of wins as Santa Fe, which is 7-13, and one win behind 8-12 FSC-J.

"We still have a shot," Vikings coach

Jill Semento said after her team slipped under .500 for the first time this year at 24-25 overall. "We have to go to Santa Fe and sweep them and I think we can."

But sweeping the Saints (21-27, 7-13) is only part of the equation.

Santa Fe and FSC-J play today against two state qualifiers in the conference. Santa Fe travels to Daytona State, Daytona State sweeping the Saints at Santa Fe earlier in the season. FSC-J will be taking on 50-2 and host Central Florida, which swept FSC-J in Jacksonville in the first meeting.

Expected results in those twinbills today could put the Vikings in a posi-

tion to play for a postseason spot against the Saints in Gainesville. The teams split last month. FSC-J, meanwhile, will finish at home with Seminole State, the second-best team in the conference. Seminole swept FSC-J the first time the teams met.

"I've told the girls we've got one more chance (to make the state playoffs)," Semento said. "No matter what the case may be, we have to sweep. They want to sweep Santa Fe."

If the Vikings finish in a tie for the final postseason position, they would have to play a one-game playoff at a neutral site. But there is a possibility, SJRSC, FSC-J and Santa Fe could also wind up in a three-way tie for the final

spot, which could get complicated and need things to be decided next week at a neutral field.

As for Saturday's doubleheader, there were four lead changes in the first game. But with the game tied at 7-all, Jesse Goddard singled to center field and when the ball got by center fielder Amanda Peck for an error. Megan Woodson, who was 4-for-5 in the game, scurried around to score the go-ahead run. Teammate Kendall Arcia was 3-for-5 with a run scored and three RBI as she, Goddard and Amanda Nikhazy all belted home runs.

For the Vikings, Savannah Montgomery went 3-for-4 with three

RBI, Sydney Shows was 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI and Kayla Kight hit a two-run home run. Peck, Chris Marasa and Jessie Grissom also had one hit each.

Kight singled home Jordan Phillips to give the Vikings a 1-0 lead, but the Falcons (32-16, 13-9) scored three runs in the fifth inning against losing pitcher Shelby Griffis as Arcia hit another home run, Woodson delivered an RBI double and Goddard added a sacrifice fly.

Haley Wildes and Montgomery added singles for the Vikings in the second game. The SJRSC-Santa Fe doubleheader starts at 2:30 p.m. Thursday.