

# SPORTS

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## Vikings a game away from trip to state

### Struggle past last-place Lake-Sumter at home

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St. Johns River State College didn't play like a baseball team with pennant fever Friday afternoon. Just a fever.

The Vikings survived, though, and moved within a game of their fourth consecutive state tournament berth while keeping alive faints hopes for a fourth straight Mid-Florida Conference title.

They scored six runs in the sixth

inning, then held on for an 8-7 victory over last-place Lake-Sumter State College, improving to 37-10 overall and 15-6 in the conference. The LakeHawks are 12-30 and 4-16 but looked like anything but a team playing out the string at Tindall Field.

"We play like we've got no fire at all. They're playing like it's the World Series," said SJR State coach Ross Jones. "We just don't have any sense of urgency. We know our magic number (to make state) is two and we've got four to play. It's unexplainable to me. It's frustrating."

The Vikings broke on top with a run

in the first, but found themselves down 4-2 going to the bottom of the sixth, when Nick Owens and Nick Koslowski delivered two-run singles to highlight a six-run uprising.

Reliever Pearson McMahan (6-1) got the win with three and a third innings that included three strikeouts, three walks, three hits and two runs, one earned. Closer Tyler Carr got two LakeHawks on called third strikes to get out of an eighth-inning jam, but gave up two runs in the ninth before nailing down his 13th save.

Koslowski went 3-4 with three RBI to lead a 14-hit St. Johns offense. Wes

Weeks was 2-3 with a double and one RBI. Owens and Omar Villaman were both 2-4, Hunter Alexander 2-5. The Vikings' other hits were singles by Alec Dowell, Harlan Harris and Cole Perry. Matthew Rhodes had a sacrifice fly.

The Vikings will try to nail down the playoff berth this afternoon at Daytona State, where they will pitch No. 1 starter Andy Toelken. Next week brings home games Monday with Santa Fe and Friday with Florida State College-Jacksonville.

Other MFC games Friday were rained out.