

SPORTS

Busy week ahead for St. Johns

Baseball team caps weekend with two wins

Palatka Daily News

A busy weekend for the St. Johns River State College baseball team is about to give way to a busy week.

Four games in four days at the Kevin Miller Classic in Panama City set the state for six games in six days at Tindall Field.

"Six games against some of the toughest competition we can get," said SJR State coach Ross Jones, whose club hosts Polk State today, has Wednesday off and then plays five games in four days at the Capital City Bank Classic.

The Vikings went 2-2 in Panama City, losing to host Gulf Coast State and Chattahoochee Valley, Ala., before coming back with wins over a couple of Georgia schools, 17-7 against Gordon State on Saturday and 7-2 against Andrew College on Sunday.

"We played well. It's a tough weekend, great competition," Jones said. "It's a confidence builder. When you look at the teams we played, we're right there with anybody. Had a couple of tough losses, but that's baseball."

Michael Koenig's grand slam was the big blow in a 12-run eighth inning with which the Vikings finished off Gordon State. They trailed 7-5 after seven innings before Kerry Carpenter's one-out, two-run single tied the game. St. Johns took the lead when Nick Koslowski was hit with the bases loaded.

The slam was the second of two homers on the day for Koenig, who was 2-5 with five RBI. Carpenter and Jimbo Reemsnyder also homered. Justin Smith had a triple and a double and Koslowski doubled.

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Smith was 3-4 to lead an 11-hit offense. Carpenter was 2-6 with five RBI and Koslowski had a two-run double. The other hits were Keonig's home runs and singles by Nick Owens, Josh Broughton and Jimbo Reemsnyder.

The third of three SJR State pitchers, David Litchfield (2-0) got the win with two scoreless innings. He walked one, struck out one and allowed one hit.

Starter Trevin Eubanks worked six scoreless innings on Sunday and pinch-hitter Jimmy Goldsmith's two-out, two-run single down the right field line keyed a five-run seventh as the Vikings cemented their win over Andrew College.

It was the first win in a starting role for Eubanks (1-0), who struck out seven, walked one and allowing three singles. Four relievers went the last three innings.

Cole Perry hit a home run and a double and Carpenter had two doubles for St. Johns.

Carpenter was 2-4, Perry and Nick Owens 2-5, Perry with three RBI. Goldsmith, Smith, Koslowski, Broughton and Andrew Williamson had one hit apiece.