

SPORTS

SJR State sweeps SCF

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Swept in a Saturday doubleheader at home, the St. Johns River State College softball team discussed a number of things at practice on Monday.

The Vikings not only talked, they worked – in particular, on getting some lift on the ball.

It made a difference Tuesday, as State College of Florida can attest with regret.

St. Johns clubbed a home run and four doubles to drub the Manatees in the first half of a doubleheader, 9-1, then got an RBI double in the bottom

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of the seventh to finish the sweep with a 4-3 victory in the second game.

It was an ideal birthday present for coach Jill Semento, whose team improved to 11-10 while dropping SCF to 12-10.

“We worked all day Monday on lifting the ball out of the field and it paid off,” Semento said. “The girls had a lot of energy and it showed today.”

The Manatees scored three runs in the fifth inning of the second game to take their first lead of the day at 3-1. It lasted only until the sixth.

Maegan Stone singled with one out and made it to third on a two-out error on Jessie Grissom’s fly ball to center. Running for Grissom, Ta’Shylla Brockington stole second and Stone broke for home on the throw to second, scoring to bring St. Johns within 3-2. Taylor Nilsson doubled, scoring Brockington with the tying run.

Sydney Shows singled with one out in the seventh, moved up a base when Kayla Kight walked and scored the winning run without a throw home when Stone doubled to left center.

Christina Marasa (2-2) recorded a complete-game victory, striking out four and walking one. She allowed three runs on five hits.

Kight homered, Nilsson was 2-3 and Stone 2-4 in the second game. Shows, Marasa and Selena Bezaras all singled.

Bezaras homered and Marasa, Kight, Stone and Shows all doubled in a one-sided opener. The Vikings broke a 2-1 game open with five runs in the second inning.

Stone and Kight had two hits apiece in a nine-hit offense. Marasa, Nilsson and Marissa Huggins were each 1-2. Madi Roeshink (6-4) scattered six hits on her way to the win, striking out one and walking one. The game was stopped after five innings on the mercy rule.

The Vikings go to Plant City for a Thursday doubleheader with Hillsborough.