

SPORTS

SJR STATE SPORTS

Softball team stays above .500

Palatka Daily News

The St. Johns River State College softball team may have just played itself out of a rough patch.

The Vikings managed to remain over .500 in the process. On Saturday and Sunday, the Vikings went 2-2 at the Dodgertown Invitational held at the baseball-turned softball complex of the Los Angeles Dodgers in Vero Beach.

The Vikings split a pair of 2-0 games on Saturday, losing to Florida SouthWestern before beating Miami-Dade. On Sunday, the Vikings lost to the powerful tournament host, Indian River, before coming back with an 11-2 rout over Broward, leaving them at 13-12 for the season.

"We're getting healthy since we've had some illness going on," Vikings second-year coach Jill Semento said. "We're still without (Jordan) Phillips, who has mono, but we took everyone else to Vero Beach. I'm definitely a little more confident with the team. I see our power hitters

stepping up, especially on our field (200 feet around the field) compared the 220-foot field we just played on. I'm hoping to see us take two games (today) at home against Pasco-Hernando."

New Zealand native Courtney Gettins got the Vikings in the first game for 24-3 Florida SouthWestern, scattering four hits, walking none and striking out seven. Losing pitcher Madison Roeshink had no walks and one strikeout, allowing nine hits. Selena Bezares was 2-for-3, while Sydney Shows and Jessie Grissom had one hit each for the Vikings.

Christiana Marasa turned things around for the Vikings in the second game, allowing one walk, striking out one and giving up six hits to record the shutout and improve to 3-2. Emily Collier provided the only RBI of the game with a sixth-inning single that knocked in pinch-runner Mallory Lowe after Bezares singled. Grissom, Marasa, Shows and Marissa Huggins also all singled in that second game Saturday.

On Sunday, a pair of errors helped stake Indian River (16-9) to a 6-0 lead that the Vikings could never come back from. Hannah Collins delivered a two-run home run for the Pioneers and Michalyn Bingham was 3-for-4 with three runs scored to aid the victory. Shows was 2-for-3 with a run and a two-run double, while Huggins, Kayla Kight, Maegan Stone, Grissom and Taylor Nilsson all had one hit for the Vikings.

In the final game for the Vikings, Kight's three-run triple highlighted an eight-run second inning against Broward (1-16). Kight had the hot bat, going 4-for-4 with a run scored and five RBI, while Huggins was 2-for-3 with two runs, Stones finished 2-for-4 with two runs, Brittany Lewis ended up 2-for-3 with an RBI, Nilsson ended up 2-for-3 and Rachel Johnson provided a hit for the Vikings.

Roeshink (7-5) went the last 4 1/3 innings in relief of starter Skye Davenport to get the victory, walking none and striking out six.