

SPORTS

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017

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St. Johns softball streak at 7

Palatka Daily News

And the streak goes on.

Sydney Shows nearly hit for the cycle in the first game and pitchers Skye Davenport and Christiana Marasa threw complete-game efforts in leading the St. Johns River State College softball team to a doubleheader sweep of host Pasco-Hernando in New Port Richey, winning the first game, 4-1, then taking the nightcap with an emphatic 12-1 decision.

That makes it seven straight victories for the Vikings (19-12) and eight wins in the last nine games.

"I always knew we had a really good defense," Vikings coach Jill Semento said. "It was our freshmen learning the speed of the game that was taking time. They weren't used to the junior college level. Once they got a little bit more into it, we began to play well. We are really athletic on defense and that helps us a lot."

Davenport, getting the rare start, improved to 4-4 after allowing three hits in the opener, walking three and striking out one. In the second game, Marasa (6-3) scattered five hits, walked one and fanned two in the five-inning

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game.

"We have a solid pitching staff with Chris and Maddy (lefty Madison Roeshink, who got the day off from the circle), and Skye comes in and throws for us a very good game," Semento said. "As long as our pitchers aren't walking people, we're going to be in games."

Shows was a home run away from the cycle in the first game, finishing 3-for-4 with two runs scored and two RBI. She delivered a two-run double in the fourth inning to double the Vikings' lead to 4-0. Kayla Kight, Jessie Grissom, Marissa Huggins, Brittany Lewis, Taylor Nilsson and Marasa all had one hit each with Marasa driving in the other two runs.

In the second game, Nilsson had a two-run single and Kight,

Roeshink and Huggins had RBI singles to spearhead an eight-run fourth inning that put the game away. Maegan Stone (single) and Kight (double) had RBI hits in a three-run first inning.

Kight was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and two RBI, while Roeshink, Huggins, Stone, Shows, Marasa, Selena Bezares, Lewis, Nilsson and Rachel Johnson had one hit apiece for the Vikings.

SJRSC will have a big test against one of the best teams in

the state, sixth-ranked Indian River (23-10), on the road Friday. The Vikings open up their Mid-Florida Conference season on Tuesday at home with No. 3 Seminole State (27-2).

"It's important we start conference next week in a good way," Semento said. "If we can take a game or two from arguably, in my opinion, the best team in the southern part of the state, we can take a game from anyone in our own conference."