



CHRIS DEVITTO / Palatka Daily News

Lake-Sumter's Jeremy Migliori slides home ahead of the throw to SJR State's Jimbo Reemsnyder.

Nick of Time

Koslowski delivers as Vikings beat Lake-Sumter in 10

BY ANDY HALL
Palatka Daily News

Nick Koslowski was robbed of a two-run single on a great catch in the third inning Wednesday night.

He was denied a double by the situation in the 10th.

That's fine with the St. Johns River State College designated hitter, whose towering shot over a drawn-in Lake-Sumter outfield went in the book as a single that scored Kerry Carpenter from third for a 4-3 win in a Mid-Florida Conference game at Tindall Field.

Koslowski didn't even get to touch second for all the teammates running out to congratulate him as the Vikings bounced back from Monday's 8-5 loss in Leesburg and improved to 19-10 overall and 4-1 in the conference. The LakeHawks are 9-14 and 1-1.

"Those guys – their record's not good, but they're a good team. They can beat anybody," said SJR State coach Ross Jones, who is sending one of his most effective pitchers of late, Clay Helvey, against Lake-Sumter in Friday's series finale rather than save him for Saturday and the first of

a three-game set with defending MFC champ Santa Fe.

Koslowski's game-winning hit completed a long, slow climb from a 3-0 hole the Vikings dug for themselves in a first inning in which the LakeHawks hit only one ball past the mound but combined three hits with a walk and an error for their lead. Lake-Sumter had just six singles on the night, four of them infield hits.

"Baseball is such a strange game," Jones said.

Strange, indeed.

With one out in the seventh, the game tied 3-3, Brandon Suttles reached on Lake-Sumter's fourth infield hit, stole second and took third on a passed ball. St. Johns starter Pearson McMahan had a 3-2 count on the next batter, Aaron Simple, when Jones changed pitchers.

Simple fouled off the first pitch from lefthander Jagger McCoy, then went down swinging. McCoy went on to strike out Jay Prather and the game went to the eighth still tied.

McCoy (2-2) finished for the Vikings, getting the 'Hawks in order in the eighth and ninth and surviving a two-out single in the 10th.

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Vikings

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"I needed a strikeout and I had one of the best changeups in the state in the bullpen," said Jones of changing pitchers with a full count. "Jagger made me look good."

SJR State got its second straight quality start from McMahan – seven strikeouts, one walk and five hits, including the first-inning cheapies, over six and a third innings.

"After (the first), he did a phenomenal job," Jones said. "He had 31 pitches in the first inning and got us into the seventh on 96. He pitched through it."

Scott Kobos got St. Johns on the board with a solo home run in the fourth inning. He would score the tying run in the sixth, sliding home as Jimbo Reemsnyder drilled a two-out, two run double. The hit also scored Koslowski, who, like Kobos, had walked.

It was still 3-3 in the 10th when Carpenter and Justin Smith both walked on 3-2 pitches

and Michael Koenig dropped a single into left, loading the bases. Lake-Sumter pulled in its outfielders to keep anything short from beating them, but Koslowski went deep.

Kobos wound up 2-3. The other SJR State hits were Reemsnyder's double and singles by Smith, Koenig, Koslowski, Josh Broughton and Nick Owens.