

SPORTS

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C SECTION

SJR STATE SOFTBALL

Vikings bounce back, split

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The seven-game winning streak the St. Johns River State College softball team fashioned ended Friday in Vero Beach.

But the Vikings spent no time pouting. They just started a new one.

After losing the first game, 10-2, to highly regarded Indian River State College, the Vikings bounced back for a 9-6 win in the nightcap to gain a split and make it nine wins in the last 11 games and improve to 20-13.

And it's just in time as the Mid-Florida Conference season begins on Tuesday when SJRSC hosts 27-2 Seminole.

"We've played good competition so far," Vikings second-year coach Jill Semento said. "We didn't play out-of-state schools looking for games. Of course, with our conference, everything

gets turned on its head. For us, it comes down to how our team shows up and plays, but I feel like we are definitely one of the top four teams in the conference. We have the pitching, defense and the hitting. We're good at all three things and aren't weak in any other area. We don't rely on one pitcher or one hitter."

The Vikings bounced back in the nightcap with four runs in the first inning as Selena Bezares had a two-run single and Kayla Kight added an RBI single. Indian River (26-11) cut SJRSC's lead to 5-4 going into the fifth, but in that top of the fifth, the Vikings scored three times with Brittany Lewis hammering an RBI single and the Pioneers committing two of their five errors.

Sydney Shows was 3-for-5

with two RBI and Lewis finished 3-for-4 with two runs scored. Kight was 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI, Bezares was 2-for-4 with two RBI and Jessie Grissom, Marissa Huggins and Maegan Stone had one hit apiece. Christiana Marasa (7-3) got the win in relief of starter Skye Davenport

In the opening game, Michalyn Bingham went 3-for-4 with three runs scored, Savannah Julylia went 3-for-4 with two runs and two RBI and the Pioneers got a two-run home run by Dream Aaron and a three-run shot from Stefany Collins off starting pitcher Madison Roeshink (9-6).

Shows was 2-for-3, while Marasa was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Huggins, Bezares and Lewis had one hit each in the opener.