

SPORTS

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PAGE 6A

Vikings rebound for split with Seminole

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An 8-0 loss in the opening game of the first Mid-Florida Conference doubleheader of the season may have made teams cower heading to the second game.

That's not this year's St. Johns River State College softball team.

After collecting just two hits in the opener, the Vikings stormed back with a six-run third inning in the nightcap, highlighted by a three-run home run by Sydney Shows and a two-run home run by Selena Bezares in a 6-3 victory to

gain a split with Seminole State College, handing the Raiders only their third loss in 33 games this season. The Raiders are 3-1 in conference play.

"It felt really good to get out of there with the split," Vikings coach Jill Semento said. "We didn't think (Seminole) was better than us. I feel we can hang with anybody. The girls really bounced back. In the first game, we popped out a lot, but in the second game, we got it on the ground and they made a couple of key errors in that third inning. Seminole is a very good team,

but our girls overcame that first game and played a great second game."

Winning pitcher Christiana Marasa improved to 8-3 after walking one batter and striking out one in going the distance, scattering 10 hits. Kayla Kight, who was 2-for-3 with a run and an RBI, delivered an RBI single in the the third-inning rally.

Maegan Stone, who had one of the two hits in the first game, was 2-for-3 with a run in the nightcap, while Shows and Bezares delivered the home runs. Bezares had the other hit in the first

game against winning pitcher Mealnie Murphey, who walked none and struck out five for the opening-game victory. Alyssa Oakes was 2-for-3 with a run scored and Steveanna Anes was 2-for-2 with two runs scored for the Raiders.

The Vikings (21-14, 1-1) will travel to Ocala Thursday afternoon for another conference doubleheader, this time with another tough team, Central Florida (31-6, 4-0).

"If we play the way we're capable of playing, we can take one game against them," Semento said. "Maybe both."