

SPORTS

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St. Johns softball no-hit in second game of sweep

Palatka Daily News

After coming up short in the opening game of a Mid-Florida Conference doubleheader Thursday, the last thing the St. Johns River State College softball team wanted to see was a pitcher it couldn't hit.

Shayne O'Connell had a memorable afternoon for College of Central Florida, tossing a no-hitter

in the nightcap to lead the Patriots to a 6-0 victory over the Vikings to finish a sweep and improve to 33-6 overall and 6-0 in the conference.

"She had a really good change-up," Vikings coach Jill Semento said of O'Connell, who improved to 11-2. O'Connell walked one batter (Kayla Kight in the fourth inning) and hit a batter (Marissa Huggins in the third), while striking out

seven. "She could throw it at anytime she wanted. She threw hard and we even tried to bunt, but we couldn't hit her. We had some close ones (for hits), but they made some nice defensive plays behind her."

Jenna Rodelo was the only Central Florida player with multiple hits in the nightcap, going 2-for-3 with a run. The Patriots got nine hits off losing hurler Christiana

Marasa (8-4), who walked three and struck out one in going the distance.

In the opener, Rodelo got things rolling for the Patriots with a grand slam off of starter Skye Davenport (4-5) during a five-run first inning. The Patriots held a 7-0 lead into the sixth inning when the Vikings (21-16, 1-3) scored five times to make it interesting, highlighted by

a grand slam from Maegan Stone. That would be the closest the Vikings would get.

Stone had a home run and double in three at-bats with a run and four RBI. Marissa Huggins, Sydney Shows, Kayla Kight and Jessie Grissom had one hit apiece for the Vikings, who travel to Lake-Sumter for a conference doubleheader Saturday.