

SPORTS

www.palatkadailynews.com

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017

B SECTION

Vikings ring up 40 runs on 46 hits in three wins



CHRIS DEVITTO / Palatka Daily News

SJR State's Nick Koslowski was 3-6 with four RBI in Monday's win over Daytona State.

Palatka Daily News

Three games of intense, pitch-for-pitch baseball between St. Johns River State College and archrival Santa Fe gave way to three games of light-it-up, free-for-alls.

St. Johns won all three, boosting its status in the Mid-Florida Conference, not to mention its batting statistics.

The Vikings rang up 40 runs on 46 hits in wins of 15-6 at Daytona State College on Saturday, 10-0 over Illinois' Morton College on Sunday and 15-10 over Daytona on Monday, the latter two games at Tindall Field. They had 18 extra-base hits over

that span, including two home runs and three doubles by Justin Smith, while pushing their record to 24-12 overall and 8-3 in the conference.

The wins over the Falcons (14-12, 7-4) knocked them out of first place in the MFC and left St. Johns in second behind Santa Fe (23-8, 6-2). The Saints took two of three from the Vikings last week in a series in which one run separated the teams over 33 innings before three games with scores suggesting slowpitch softball.

"We had good at-bats in all three of these games," said SJR State coach Ross Jones. "We played good

defense and swung the bats well. In the two Daytona games, I've been disappointed by the way we pitched except for Pearson (McMahan)."

McMahan (2-2) started Saturday's game, working into the seventh and leaving with a 6-5 lead, two of the Daytona runs unearned Trevin Eubanks got the Vikings into the eighth and Jagger McCoy finished, picking up his seventh save.

St. Johns hung eight runs on the Falcons in the ninth to remove any doubt as to the outcome.

See **VIKINGS**, Page 3B

Vikings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Smith homered twice, Josh Broughton was 3-5 with a home run and a double and Scott Kobos and Cole Perry both doubled twice to highlight a 13-hit offense. Clellan Barnes doubled for the Vikings, Nick Owens went 2-3 and Jimbo Reemsnyder singled.

SJR State struck for three runs in the first inning of Monday's rematch, only to have the Falcons claim the lead with a six-run fourth inning that reminded Jones of the four-run seventh that helped Santa Fe to a 6-4 win on Friday.

"This has been our

Achilles' heel – giving up big innings," he said. "We've been pitching really well, really well, really well and when we don't, it's like a nuclear meltdown. Daytona's got the best offense they've had in six or seven years, but you can still pitch to them and we didn't make the pitches.

"On the other side, we've been really good offensively. We've been patient, getting deep into counts and we've gotten big hits."

St. Johns had 19 hits Monday, including three doubles by Smith. Jimmy Goldsmith was 4-4 with two RBI, Nick Koslowski 3-6 with three RBI. Owens, Reemsnyder, Kerry Carpenter and Michael Koenig had two hits apiece. Perry added a single.

The win went to McCoy (3-2), the third of five pitchers. Andrew Vaccacio picked up his third save.

David Litchfield (4-0), Jaison Heard, David Pattinson and Zach Greene combined on a walk-free, five-hit shutout of Morton College in Sunday's nonconference game. They totaled eight strikeouts, four in two innings by Heard.

Brian Moore went 3-4 with two home runs and five RBI in a 14-hit attack. Broughton and Andrew Williamson also homered, finishing with two hits apiece. Carpenter was 2-3 with a double. Gabriel Coburn doubled and Koslowski, Perry, Smith and Pablo Cedenno all singled.

The Vikings finish the three-game Daytona series Wednesday on the road.