

SPORTS

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Viking softball team makes unwanted trip to Splitsville

Palatka Daily News

One of the St. Johns River State College softball team's biggest problems a year ago was not being able to finish out doubleheaders.

The Vikings either lost a doubleheader or split doubleheaders in the Mid-Florida Conference until it was too late to finally sweep one at the end of the season against Santa Fe. And when the Vikings did that last April 17, it still wasn't enough to qualify for the state tournament as Florida State College-Jacksonville was sweeping Seminole to earn the

fourth and final state tournament berth from the conference.

On Saturday, the Vikings did it again in the conference against host Lake-Sumter. After winning the first game of a doubleheader handily, 11-3, the Vikings fell victim to a seven-run fifth inning that ultimately led to the LakeHawks' 7-3 win for the split.

Rachel Phelps capped off the seven-run fifth inning with a three-run home run off losing hurler Christiana Marasa (8-5). Phelps was 2-for-3 with a run and the three RBI.

"We didn't come out to play the second game," said an unhappy Jill Semento, SJRSC's second-year coach. "Chris pitched very well, but we started that inning with an error and they weren't hitting anything hard until (Phelps') home run. We're still working on finishing."

The Vikings, who went to 22-17 and 2-4 in the conference, saw Sydney Shows go 3-for-4 with two runs in the nightcap, while Taylor Nilsson was 2-for-3 and Maegan Stone, Marissa Huggins and Marasa got one hit each.

In the opener, the Vikings got six runs off Lake-Sumter pitching and never looked back to the six-inning victory against the team Semento coached from 2013-15. Selena Bezares, who was 3-for-4 in the opener with two runs and four RBI, hit a two-run single during a six-run first, while Kayla Kight, who was 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI, and Stone had RBI singles in the frame.

Marasa was 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI, and Shows, Jessie Grissom and Nilsson added one hit each.

Lefty Madison Roesink became a

10-game winner, improving to 10-7 with the win. She allowed six hits, walked two and struck out three.

The Vikings will have a busy week, hosting FSC-J today, then travel to Santa Fe on Thursday and host Daytona State on Saturday.

"I just want us to compete for two games," Semento said of the doubleheaders approach. "Not just one win, but both of them. We talked about this at practice (on Monday) and worked on the little things we need to execute. I'm hoping this will pay off this week."