

SPORTS

ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE BASEBALL



CHRIS DEVITTO / Palatka Daily News

St. Johns River State College's Nick Owens delivers a two-run single during a four-run second inning against Central Florida on Friday

Luck Be A Viking

Not at its best, SJR State outlasts Central Florida, takes Mid-Florida lead

Palatka Daily News

The St. Johns River State College baseball team won Friday with less than its best.

Far less. "We didn't have great energy today. We kind of sleepwalked," said SJR State coach Ross Jones. "Two double-play ground balls turned into four runs when we didn't make them. We pitched in disadvantage counts, gave up too many walks. We made baserunning mistakes – things we had covered in practice.

"We got lucky (Friday)."

Lucky in more ways than one.

First and foremost, the Vikings won, 10-8 over the College of Central Florida at Tindall Field. Secondly, Mid-Florida Conference archrival Santa Fe lost 3-2 to 18-18 Seminole as St. Johns (26-12, 10-3)

moved percentage points in front of Santa Fe (24-9, 7-3).

"You take them any way you can get them," said Jones, whose team plays Central Florida again today in Ocala and on Monday at Tindall Field.

Jimbo Reemsnyder hit an RBI double in the second inning and a two-run homer in the fifth inning of a game in which the Vikings never trailed.

Josh Broughton and Nick Koslowski singled to start a four-run second. Michael Koenig bunted them into scoring position for Cole Perry, who reached on a fielder's choice that scored Broughton and left runners on the corners. Reemsnyder doubled to right, scoring Koenig, and Nick Owens drilled a two-run single to left and it was 4-0.

The Patriots (11-24-1, 4-9) scored three runs in the top of the fifth, but the Vikings

came back with five in the home half, including Reemsnyder's home run and an RBI single by Perry.

After Central Florida got within a run in a four-run eighth, SJR State got an insurance run in the bottom half. Kerry Carpenter singled, stole second, took third on a wild pitch and scored on Broughton's sacrifice fly.

The Patriots had a runner on first in the ninth when St. Johns turned to its fourth pitcher, Zach Greene, who served up two ground balls and a fly ball to earn his first save.

The winning pitcher was the starter, Clay Helvey (4-2), who went 5 2/3 innings. He struck out six, walked four and allowed four earned runs on seven hits.

Reemsnyder, Broughton and Koslowski finished with two hits apiece.