

SPORTS

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Vikings fall further back in MFC after twinbill sweep

Daytona State losses put SJR 4-12 in conference

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St. Johns River State College softball coach Jill Semento and her team is through with the first half of its Mid-Florida Conference schedule.

The second-year Vikings coach feels optimistic about the second half.

They'll need to be better after going 4-8 the first time around. The Vikings finished the first half on a down note, losing their second straight doubleheader, this time to

third-place and visiting Daytona State on Saturday. The Falcons captured the first game, 7-2, then the Vikings came up short in a seventh-inning rally, falling 5-4.

"We've had one thing fail us every game (they've lost)," Semento said after her team dropped to a 24-21 overall record. "If it was pitchers throwing well, then our defense made errors. Then if our defense plays great, our pitchers aren't throwing well. I'm a little disappointed, but we're a few games back of (fourth place) Santa Fe (which is 6-6 in the MFC). If we can take a game or two from the top three teams in our conference (Seminole, Central

Florida and Daytona State), we can make up the difference. Whatever we need to do, we'll go do it."

In the nightcap, Karlee Beard delivered a three-run home run in the fourth inning against losing hurler Madison Roeshink (11-9) to give the Falcons (26-10, 7-3) a 3-0 lead. In the top of the seventh, Megan Woodson, who was 3-for-4 with two runs in the first game, singled with two outs and moved to third on a Vikings error. She would score on a single by Damashah Charles to give the Falcons a 5-1 lead.

But in the bottom of the seventh, Jordan Phillips started with a single. One out later, Sydney Shows singled

and Christiana Marasa singled to load the bases. Kayla Kight was hit by a pitch from reliever Olivia Printiss to make it 5-2. Selena Bezares, who hit a sixth-inning home run, her 10th of the year, sent a drive to deep right field that got held up by the wind and caught for an out, allowing Shows to score, making it 5-3.

Maegan Stone singled to knock in Marasa to make it 5-4, but with the tying run on second base, Jessie Grissom hit a groundout to shortstop Charles to end it.

Marasa went 2-for-4 with a run scored, Stone finished 2-for-4 with an RBI and Phillips was 2-for-3 with a

run. Bezares, Shows, Kight and Grissom each had one hit in the nightcap.

In the first game, Printiss went the first five innings to get the victory, walking one, allowing six hits and striking out seven. Kendall Arcia was 3-for-4 with a run in the first-game win.

For the Vikings, Marasa and Grissom each had two hits, while Bezares (RBI), Stone and Taylor Nilsson had one hit. The Vikings start the second half of their conference schedule with a 1 p.m. doubleheader Saturday at Seminole State (37-4, 10-2), which the Vikings split with at home the first time.