

SPORTS

Blue Wave halts Vikings' 7-game win streak

Teams meet again Friday at Tindall Field

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Not content simply to stay out of the basement in the Mid-Florida Conference, Florida State College at Jacksonville is making a run at a state tournament berth.

Long an also-ran in the MFC, the

Blue Wave have home victories this season over both frontrunners, Santa Fe College and St. Johns River State College. FSCJ got St. Johns on Wednesday, 3-1, behind the six-hit pitching of Felix Garcia.

The loss snapped a seven-game win streak for the Vikings, who are 28-13 overall and 12-4 in the conference, second behind Santa Fe (27-9, 10-3). The Blue Wave (17-15, 8-5) are tied for third with Daytona State. The

third-place finisher from the MFC plays the third-place team from another conference for a spot in the state tournament.

Garcia (5-4) struck out eight and walked none in a complete-game performance that succeeded where prime pro prospect Nate Pearson of Central Florida fell short on Monday.

"He was real good. He pitched his butt off, but we had bad at-bats all day," said SJR State coach Ross

Jones. "That's the mystery of the game. You see guys like Nate Pearson and fight, fight, fight. Then you see a guy who's 85 (mph with his fastball) and can't do anything at all."

The Vikings got their only run in the fifth. Josh Broughton led off with a single, stole second and scored on Michael Koenig's one-out single to make it 1-1.

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FSCJ turned three singles and a double steal into two runs in the sixth and led the rest of the way. St. Johns had runners on second and third with one out in the seventh, but Garcia struck out the next batter and the inning ended when first baseman Brady Van Hook snagged Jimmy Goldsmith's hard liner.

The loss went to starter Clay Helvey (4-3), who allowed three runs on seven hits with four strikeouts and a walk over five and one-third innings. Jagger McCoy struck out five over two and two-third innings.

Justin Smith went 2-4 for the Vikings. Their other hits were Scott Kobos' double and singles by Koenig, Broughton and Nick Koslowski.

The series continues Friday, when FSCJ comes to Tindall Field.
