

## Vikings win, take break from MFC

### SJR State softball team is swept Saturday at Seminole

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The St. Johns River State College baseball team is just where it wants to be with a week off from Mid-Florida Conference play.

And now, the Vikings rest – sort of.

A four-run seventh inning and another strong pitching performance by Scott Kobos Saturday keyed a 6-2 victory at Florida State College-Jacksonville, pushing them to 30-13 overall and 14-4 in the conference. St. Johns is at the three-quarter mark of the season in the MFC, percentage points behind first-place Santa Fe (30-9, 13-3), which defeated Daytona State on Monday.

Now come three non-conference games before the stretch drive begins next week with single games against each MFC team. The Vikings travel to Pasco-Hernando State College Tuesday, host Pasco on Wednesday and host the Rollins College junior varsity on Friday.

“We want to play some different people, juggle some things,” said SJR State coach Ross Jones. “I’m going to throw a lot of people (today), start (Clay) Helvey Wednesday and Kobos Friday. It’ll set up our pitching for the last six conference games.”

“We’re relatively healthy. We’ve got some nicks and bruises and stuff.”

Kobos (4-2) was in command Saturday at FSCJ, striking out seven, walking two and allowing two runs (one earned) on three hits over seven innings. Zach Green finished with two scoreless innings, striking out two.

“Scott Kobos was really good again,” Jones said. “He’s just a strike-throwing machine. He gave us seven innings with 96 pitches.”

Still, the Vikings found themselves in a 2-2 tie until their four-run seventh.

Andrew Williamson walked and singles by Brian Moore and Nick Owens loaded the bases. Kerry Carpenter delivered a tie-breaking single up the middle, scoring Williamson, but Moore was out at the plate. Justin Smith and Nick Koslowski both walked, the latter walk bringing Owens home for a 4-2 lead and keeping the bases loaded. Josh Broughton grounded



CHRIS DEVITTO / Palatka Daily News

Scott Kobos was the winning pitcher Saturday for SJR State.

to third and beat out the double-play attempt as Carpenter scored. Michael Koenig singled, scoring Smith and it was 6-2.

Kobos pitched a scoreless bottom of the seventh and Greene took it from there.

“We had a good day offensively,” Jones said. “We had eight hits but I thought we were a little bit better offensively than that. We hit balls hard right at people. We had good, competitive at-bats.”

Carpenter and Koenig each ended up 2-4 with one RBI. Owens was 2-5, Smith homered and Moore singled. Koslowski was 0-2, but had two RBI.

#### SOFTBALL

■ The wheels are coming off the rails and if the SJR State softball team does not fix its issue, it may lose its chance of a postseason spot quickly.

The Vikings lost their third straight Mid-Florida Conference doubleheader on Saturday, losing at Seminole State, 8-4, in the first game, then losing 8-0 in five innings.

The losses dropped the Vikings to 24-23

overall and 4-12 in the conference, moving them further away from third-place Santa Fe (8-6) and fourth-place Daytona State (9-7) with 10 games left.

But Vikings coach Jill Semento, whose team has a tall task today with second-place Central Florida (40-9, 13-3) at home, is optimistic.

“It’s been very difficult and just hard for us now,” Semento said. “But we still have a chance. As I’ve always been told, strange things can happen. We need to get back to what got us 24 wins in the first place. We go on a streak and someone ahead of us starts going into a losing streak, we have a good shot.”

Seminole (41-4, 14-2), which leads the conference, but split almost a month ago at SJRSC, got home runs in both games from shortstop Stevanna Ames, who was 4-for-7 in the twinbill with four runs scored and seven RBI.

For the Vikings, Sydney Shows was 2-for-4 with a run and RBI and Christiana Marasa was 2-for-3 with two runs and an RBI. Selena Bezares and Grissom each had a hit and an RBI and Taylor Nilsson finished with a hit and a run.