

SPORTS

Two-out hits key St. Johns

Palatka Daily News

St. Johns River State had a modest six hits Monday at the batter's paradise known as Seminole State College, but made them count.

The Vikings drove in four runs on three two-out hits, opening their Mid-Florida Conference stretch run with an 8-5 victory and claiming first place with Santa Fe's loss to Florida State College-Jacksonville.

Justin Smith had a two-run homer, Kerry Carpenter an RBI single with two out in a five-run fifth inning for the Vikings, who never trailed while improving to 32-15 overall and 15-4 in the MFC. The win completed a season sweep of the Raiders (22-23, 8-11), who had won four of five before Monday.

Pearson McMahan (5-2) won his fifth straight, striking out 11 and walking two while allowing two runs (one earned) on four hits over the first six innings.

"He had really, really good stuff — 93, 94, up to 96 (mph). His slider was the best it's been all year," said SJR State coach Ross Jones. "The home run they hit was a popup with the wind blowing out to left.

"We got six hits, but we got big hits when we needed them."

Cole Perry's solo home run put the Vikings on top in the third, then they took charge in the fifth.

Michael Koenig walked, Perry singled, Scott Kobos bunted them up and a walk to Jimbo Reemsnyder loaded the bases. An errant throw trying to pick Koenig at third skipped into left field, scoring Koenig and Perry and getting Reemsnyder to second. Carpenter's two-out single plated Reemsnyder and Smith followed with a two-run homer to left.

Koenig had St. Johns' other two-out RBI, a triple in the eighth.

Seminole chipped away until Andrew Vaccacio came on in the ninth to get his fifth save

Jones considered the game a needed improvement on an uneven week of nonconference games in which the Vikings lost two of three.

"They knew what they were playing for," he said. "Our energy was better. We played really good defense."

SJR State is home Wednesday to face Lake-Sumter State College.