

SPORTS

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St. Johns softball team opens with 4-1 weekend in Clearwater

Vikings outscore three Saturday opponents by a combined 29-4

Palatka Daily News

Rarely does a softball season start this well for the St. Johns River State College team.

But going 4-1 at the JUCO Kickoff Classic at Ed Moore Softball Complex in Clearwater on Friday and Saturday, coach Jill Semento is

cautiously optimistic of what she has in front of her.

The Vikings beat Gulf Coast, 8-3, before getting shut out by State College of Florida, 8-0. Then on Saturday, won against Palm Beach, 11-4, Northwest Florida State, 12-0, and Miami-Dade, 6-0.

“I think we definitely have things to work on, especially on defense,” the third-year Vikings coach said, “but I’m very, very, very happy with our effort. We did perform beyond

what I was expecting. I didn’t expect to have the kind of a breakout games we had. I figured we’d play 2-1, 3-2 games, but we got eight runs one game, 11 in another and 12 in another. I felt like we’ve got a great group of players back and that we recruited well for this year.”

One player who got off to a scorching start was returning infielder Selena Bezares from Plant City Durant. Bezares began the year 10-of-17 at the plate with three

home runs in the five games, scoring four times and driving in 12 runs.

But it was more than just Bezares doing the job for the Vikings.

In the Gulf Coast win, Reganna McCarl was 2-for-4; Kelsea Friend was 2-for-4 with two runs scored and Brittany Lewis was 2-for-4 with two RBI against Palm Beach; Alyssa Rosenbaum finished 2-for-4 with four RBI and Jaime Valenta was 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run in the win over Northwest Florida State

and McCarl was 3-for-4 with a run and an RBI, Rachel Johnson finished 3-for-3 with two RBI, Maegan Stone was 2-for-4 with two runs scored and Lewis was 2-for-3 with a run.

Ariel McCullough went 2-1 in the pitching circle, while returnee Madison Roeshink and Lacy McClellan each had a win.

The Vikings will not play again until Friday when they travel to St. Petersburg College.