

SPORTS

SJR State baseball holds off Georgia team; softball splits vs. St. Pete

Palatka Daily News

Everything was going well until the ninth inning. It turned out OK for the St. Johns River State College baseball team, but not before walking four and giving up three runs in the ninth inning of a 10-8 victory over Georgia's Gordon State College on Friday, the second day of the Kevin Miller

Classic at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City. Kerry Carpenter continued his early season tear, going 3-5 with a home run, a double and four RBI as the Vikings improved to 5-1. It was the season opener for Gordon.

St. Johns had four home runs out of its 11 hits on a windy day – one each by Carpenter, Francis

Villaman, Joe Gunn and Riley Wash.

"Carpenter's and Villaman's were no-doubters," said SJR State coach Ross Jones. "We had the game under control and then four walks in the ninth. You take the ninth away and I feel better about it."

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Vikings

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The Vikings went ahead to stay with a three-run third inning. Gunn singled, moved up on Pablo Cedenos's bunt and scored on Joey Bellini's two-out single. Carpenter followed with his home run to make it 3-1. Villaman and Wash both hit two-run homers in the fourth, Wash with two out, as the lead grew to 7-1.

Starting pitcher Elijah Gill (2-0) went five innings, allowing two runs (one earned) on five hits with four strikeouts and one walk. Matt Marini pitched the sixth and seventh innings, Austin Parsley the eighth before Rian Haire and Luke Sutko ran into trouble in the ninth. Haire walked the bases loaded with one out and Sutko gave up a walk and a two-run double before a groundout and a strikeout gave him his second save.

Bellini, Gunn and Wash had two hits apiece for the Vikings. Cedenos went 1-2, Villaman 1-3.

SJR State plays another Georgia school, Andrew College, today, then Alabama's Beville State on Sunday before heading home.

SOFTBALL

■ St. Johns River got off to a slow start in its doubleheader at the Ed Moore Complex in Clearwater against St. Petersburg, falling in the first game, 6-3, but the Vikings bounced back with a 3-2 victory to move to 5-2 on the season.

Taylor Trimble's RBI single in the fourth inning knocked in Morgan Davis with the

go-ahead run against losing hurler Lacy McClellan. The loss ruined a 4-for-4 performance by Selena Bezares, who improved her early season attack to 15-for-22. She knocked in her 13th run of the season in the opener, while Maegan Stone, Jaime Valenta, Kelsea Friend and Brittany Lewis had one each.

The Vikings took a 1-0 lead in the second inning of the nightcap as Selena Nunez singled home Valenta. The Titans (6-2) took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the second, then in the fourth, Nunez walked, Rachel Johnson reached on an error, then after a passed ball, Stone beat out an infield hit to load the bases. Friend delivered a double to left field to give the Vikings the lead.

Winning hurler Ariel McCullough (3-1) made it hold up, walking one, striking out two and scattering six hits in the complete-game victory. Reganne McCarl was 2-for-3, while Friend was 2-for-4. Valenta, Nunez, Johnson and Stone had one hit apiece.

The Vikings travel to Indian River on Tuesday.



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