

SPORTS

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St. Johns softball nearly pulls off Hillsborough sweep

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The St. Johns River State College softball team left the Plant City softball complex with a doubleheader split with Hillsborough Community College Thursday. And coach Jill Semento was not disappointed at all with the performance of her team.

“We showed a little fight to come back in the second game,” Semento said after winning the first game, 8-6, then coming back in the nightcap with three runs in the sixth inning to tie the game up, only to lose in the bottom of the seventh, 5-4. The Vikings are 9-4. “The second game was a really excit-

ing game. Maddy (lefty starter Roeshink) threw well, but we made errors behind her. So we need to clean up some things defensively.”

In the first game, the Vikings scored five runs in the fourth inning to take an 8-0 lead with Brittany Lewis, Maegan Stone and Selena Bezares delivering RBI singles around an RBI triple by Taylor Nilsson.

Reganne McCarl went 3-for-4 with a run scored, while Stone was 2-for-5 with two runs scored and an RBI, Bezares was 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI, winning pitcher Ariel McCullough (6-1) going 2-for-3 with

a run and an RBI and Lewis finishing 2-for-3 with a run and RBI. Nilsson, Morgan Scala, Rachel Johnson and Baily Bellamy each had one hit with Bellamy’s single knocking in two runs in the first inning.

Lacy McClellan came into the circle in relief of McCullough with no outs in the seventh and gave up one hit, while getting the final three outs for her first save of the year.

Down 4-1 in the second game, the Vikings rallied to tie it in the sixth on a two-run triple by Scala and an RBI double by McCarl. But in the bottom of the seventh, Kaitlyn Ridolf tripled

off Roeshink (2-2) with one out and came home on a single up the middle by Lindsey Hupp.

Marcella Parado went the distance for the win with two walks and five hits allowed and nine strikeouts, while hitting three batters for the Hawks (8-8).

For the Vikings, Scala, McCarl, Stone, Lewis and Nilsson got hits. Roeshink allowed eight hits, walked one and struck out two.

The Vikings will head to the southern end of the state this weekend to face Broward on Saturday and Miami-Dade on Sunday.