

SPORTS

St. Johns River State softball settles for split with Tallahassee

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Though it split its doubleheader with visiting Tallahassee Community College on Thursday, the St. Johns River State College softball team still has the best record in program history after 19 games.

The Vikings won the first game, 8-0, in six innings, but the Eagles came back to win the second game with three runs in the sixth inning, then two more in

the eighth – helped by the rule that states a runner starts on second base to begin the inning – in a 6-5 triumph.

The Vikings (14-5) held a 4-1 lead going to the sixth behind Madison Roeshink, but a two-run home run by Callie Paine was followed by a solo home run by Monica Marquez to tie it.

It stayed that way until the eighth. Then with the tiebreak rule of starting the inning with a runner on second

base – in this case Brandie Callaway – D’kota Cassidy moved her over to third on a bunt. On a fly ball to center, Taylor Nilsson caught the ball, from just outside the infield, but her throw to the plate was too strong and bounced wildly behind catcher Selena Nunez for an error, allowing Callaway to come home to make it 5-4. Then Marquez belted reliever Ariel McCullough (9-2) with a solo home run to give the Eagles

a 6-4 lead.

In the bottom of the eighth, Morgan Scala started at second and was moved to third by Selena Bezares. McCall singled Scala home and moved Bezares to second to make it 6-5. After a Nunez strikeout, Alyssa Rosenbaum bunted both runners up, but Jaime Valenta flied out to end the game.

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Bezares was 2-for-4 with three RBI, Reganne McCarl finished 2-for-4 with an RBI and Nunez was 2-for-4. Kelsea Friend, Rosenbaum, Valenta and Maegan Stone had one hit each.

Marquez finished 3-for-4 with three runs scored and two RBI for Tallahassee (7-8).

In the opener, McCullough got the win, walking no batters, allowing five hits and striking out five Eagles. She got support from a six-run first inning that saw her, Bezares, Rosenbaum and Valenta deliver RBI singles. Bezares added to the cause in the second inning with a solo home run, her sixth of the year.

Bezares was 2-for-4 with a run and two RBI, while Stone was 2-for-4 with a run scored and McCullough and Brittany Lewis each went 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI. Scala, McCall, Rosenbaum and Valenta had one hit each.

The Vikings will host a three-team event on Saturday, facing off with Chipola at 11 a.m., then after Chipola and Hillsborough play one another at 1 p.m., the Vikings will take on Hillsborough at 3 p.m.