

SPORTS

Vikings sweep Seminole

Four pitchers combine on 8-1
conference triumph in Sanford

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The St. Johns River State College baseball team got a second straight quality start from a pitcher easing his way back from injury, continued good work from its deep bullpen and early offensive punch on its way to an 8-1 victory Wednesday afternoon at Seminole State College, completing a three-game sweep of the first Mid-Florida Conference series of the season.

Darin Kilfoyl got his first collegiate win in his second start after having been sidelined more than three weeks. Facing a 50-pitch limit, the 6-foot-7, 270-pound freshman got through three scoreless innings on 46 pitches, striking out one, walking one and allowing one infield hit. It was welcome news for Kilfoyl (1-1), originally tabbed as the Vikings' No. 1 starter but returning from tendinitis as the third man in the rotation.

"His last two outings, he's thrown the ball really well," SJR State coach Ross Jones said. "He was 90, 91, flashing 92 (mph on his fastball). He's getting stronger. We've just got to build him back up."

St. Johns (16-6, 3-0) led 4-0 before Kilfoyl turned it over to the bullpen. Relievers Cameron Sereda, Matt Marini and Jagger McCoy combined for five strikeouts over the final six innings, walking three and allowing one run on four hits.

"The bullpen's thrown well. In this series, they threw 15 innings and gave up four runs," Jones said.

The Vikings led 7-0 before the Raiders (13-13, 0-3) got their lone run in the fifth.

Kerry Carpenter, Nick Romano, Jimmy Goldsmith and Francis Villaman all doubled in an eight-hit offense.

Carpenter, who entered the game with the state's best batting average at .524, actually saw that figure take a hit by going 2-5. Goldsmith was 2-2 with three RBI. Romano and Riley Wash were both 1-3, Joe Gunn 1-2 with an RBI and Villaman 1-5. Justin Farmer delivered a sacrifice fly.

Jones was disappointed the Vikings eased off the gas after leading 7-0 in the middle of the fifth.

"They bring in the bottom of the bullpen and we stink," he said. "You're cruising and you take the last four innings off. One of these days, that's going to jump up and bite them. Monday night's game (an 8-7 win at Tindall Field), we're down four and come back, so I know it's there."

SJR State opens a three-game set with Lake-Sumter (8-16-1, 0-0) Friday afternoon at Tindall Field.