

Lake-Sumter takes St. Johns in 11th

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It's always the little things in a one-run game. Big things, too.

St. Johns River State College failed to execute in a couple of situations and its starting pitcher endured two big, bad innings in a 10-9 loss to Lake-Sumter State College as Friday afternoon gave way to Friday evening at Tindall Field.

Coming off a three-game sweep of Seminole State in the first Mid-Florida Conference series of the season, the Vikings (16-7, 3-1) found themselves in an 8-1 hole after the LakeHawks (9-16, 1-0) reached Jaison Heard for three runs in the third inning and five in the fourth.

It was 9-9 by the end of the sixth, however, and that's where it stood until Hawks got the go-ahead run on a wild pitch with two out in the top of the 11th. Riley Wash got his third double of the game with two out in the bottom half, but was stranded when Joey Bellini, bidding for his fifth hit, drilled a hard line drive into the glove of the second baseman.

"Heard had two terrible innings. Lack of execution those two innings got him in trouble," said SJR State coach Ross Jones.

The loss went to Jagger McCoy (1-1), the fourth of five Vikings pitcher, despite striking out six, walking none and allowing two hits over two and two-third innings.

Bellini went 4-7 and Wash had three doubles in five at-bats to lead a 14-hit St. Johns offense. The state's leading batter, Kerry Carpenter, went 2-5 with a double. The Vikings got a solo homer from Francis Villaman, doubles from Nick Romano and Jimmy Goldsmith and singles from Pablo Cedeno and Ray Gonzalez. "Offensively, we did a great job getting back in the game. We were down 8-1, tied it 9-9 and left runners on every inning after that," Jones said. "It was a well-played game on both sides. We made some mistakes – little things that come up and bite you."

The Vikings and Hawks play today in Leesburg, then complete the series Monday night at Tindall Field.