

SPORTS

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Two grand slams for Daytona slugger in sweep of St. Johns

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When it rains, it pours – even on a sunny day in Daytona Beach – for the St. Johns River State College softball team.

After two Vikings errors let in two runs during a three-run fifth inning that broke a 2-2 tie and led to a 5-2 win in the opening game for Daytona State, the Falcons finished the Mid-Florida Conference sweep in the nightcap as Sammi Poehlman hit grand slams in the second and third innings of a 10-1 rout.

The losses left the Vikings at 24-17 overall and 2-10 in the MFC to remain

in the basement, and extended their losing streak to seven straight with conference leader Central Florida (38-8, 11-1) arriving at St. Johns River for a twinbill on Thursday.

Jill Semento, who admitted she's never had to go through this kind of rut in her three seasons as Vikings coach, said it's been hard of late to put good pitching, fielding and hitting together for one game.

"Our first game (Tuesday), our defense was bad, but our hitting was good and I thought our pitching looked

good," she said. "In the second game, our pitching was bad, but we were still hitting, just right at their players, and our defense was better. We're taking steps to improve ourselves going into (Thursday's games)."

Poehlman delivered the only RBI in the fifth inning of the opener after the Vikings had gotten two outs with a sacrifice fly. For SJRSC, Maegan Stone was 2-for-4 with a run scored, while Selena Bezares, Kelsea Friend, Morgan Scala, losing hurler Ariel McCullough, Alyssa Rosenbaum and Jaime Valenta had one

hit each.

Then Poehlman went to work in the second game, first delivering a grand slam over the center field fence in the second inning against losing hurler Madison Roeshink. Then in the third, Poehlman cranked her team-best fifth home run of the season, this grand slam off reliever Lacy McClellan, to right field. She finished 3-for-3 with two runs scored and the eight RBI.

For the Vikings, Scala, Bezares and Stone had hits with Stone knocking in Scala with a third-inning single.