

# SPORTS

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## Central Florida brings St. Johns streak to screeching halt

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Two teams streaking in opposite directions collided at Tindall Field Wednesday and the collision was loud.

The noise was music to the College of Central Florida, which scored eight runs in the first inning and rocked six

St. Johns River State College pitchers for 19 hits in a 20-6 rout that took more than three hours to complete, even though the game was cut to seven innings by the mercy rule.

Blake Marabell homered twice for the Patriots (20-11-1, 9-5 Mid-Florida Conference), who resoundingly put the brakes on a five-game conference losing streak. The Vikings (25-9, 11-3) had

won six straight and jumped from seventh to third in the latest state coaches' poll before Wednesday's debacle.

Santa Fe (28-6, 9-2) jumped them for first in the MFC standings with its win over Seminole State.

"It doesn't matter if it's 7-6 or 20-6. It's a conference loss, the series is tied and we've got to come back and win it," said SJR State coach Ross Jones, whose club

faces the Patriots Friday in Ocala.

The Vikings might have escaped the disastrous first inning unscathed had a deep, but catchable fly ball not fallen in for a double. Central Florida sent 14 to the plate in the first and every batter had at least one hit, run or RBI. David Flores hit a three-run homer and

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### Vikings

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Marabell followed with a solo shot.

St. Johns starter Jaison Heard

(3-2) was gone by the second. Joey Bellini and Nick Romano both homered in the home half of the first and Zach Blankenship pitched a 1-2-3 second, but the Patriots were back at it in the third, when they scored six runs on six hits, two walks and an error.

"You've got to put people away. Our pitchers did not put people away," Jones said. "They force our hand by putting up eight in the first and we've got to go deep in our bullpen. We didn't perform on the mound and then we got sloppy defensively."

Backups Livingston Morris

(2-2, double) and Jose Varela (2-3, one RBI, one run) capitalized on rare opportunities against a conference opponent to lead a nine-hit Viking offense. The other hits were the home runs by Bellini and Romano, a double by Riley Wash and singles by Ray Gonzalez and Kerry Carpenter.