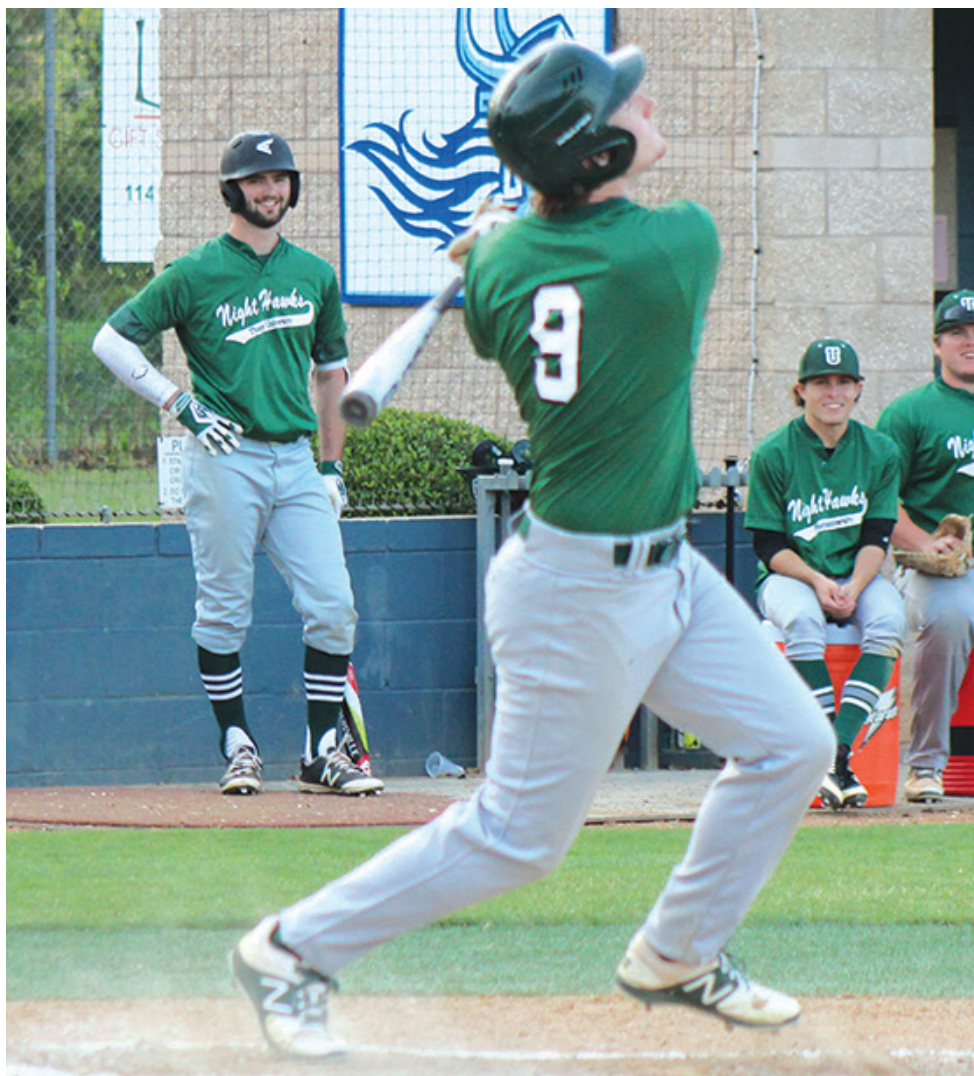


## Ex-Panthers as Rivals



Photos by ANDY HALL / Palatka Daily News

Former Palatka players Austin Langston (batting), Rhett Lamoreaux (taking a lead) and Clayton Faircloth (pitching) and were opponents in Thursday's doubleheader between host SJR State and the Thomas University JV.

# There's Always a Reason

Nonconference doubleheader sweep gave some SJR State players needed time

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It was a nonconference doubleheader sweep on a chilly, breezy April afternoon at Tindall Field, yet not without significance for the St. Johns River State College baseball team.

Wins of 6-0 and 9-2 over the Thomas University junior varsity of Thomasville, Ga., represented an opportunity for bench and bullpen experience that can't be duplicated in practice.

"You've got to get them ready for tournaments. You don't know who you're going to need," said St. Johns coach Ross Jones with an eye not only on the state tournament but the Mid-Florida Conference tournament in May take to get there. "The most important thing today is that we got Jose (Varela) and Livingston (Morris) some at-bats. We were able to get Rhett (Lamoreaux) some time behind the plate. And we got some pitchers some time. That's why we play these games."

The afternoon was also a chance for former Palatka High School teammates to go against one another - Lamoreaux with the Vikings and Austin Langston and Clayton Faircloth with the Nighthawks of Thomas University.

Catching parts of both games, Lamoreaux came out the best of the three, both on the scoreboard and scorebook. He was 1-1 with a run scored in the second game. Langston played both games in center field for Thomas, going 0-3 in the opener and 1-3 with a run scored in the second game. Faircloth pitched the first two innings of the second game, giving up three runs.

Darin Kilfoyl (3-2) sailed through the first six innings of the first game, striking out eight, walking three and allowing three hits. Jacob Cross completed the shutout in the seventh.

Joey Bellini, Kerry Carpenter, Riley Wash and Francis Villaman each had a double and a single for the Vikings in the opener. Villaman collected three RBI.

Morris had a home run and a double in three at-bats to lead a 12-hit SJR State offense in the second game.



## Vikings

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Riley Wash went 2-2, Joe Gunn 2-4 with a double. Lamoreaux, Bellini, Carpenter, Justin Farmer, Pablo Cedeno and Raymond Gonzalez all singled.

"We had good at-bats in a tough day - Tindall Field with the wind blowing in," Jones said. "Overall, we defending well. We defending the field well."

Starting pitcher Rian Haire (3-0) picked up with win. Cameron Sereda, Austin Parsley and Zach Blankenship all worked in relief. The four pitchers combined for nine strikeouts in seven innings.

St. Johns (29-11) hosts Pasco-Hernando State College in another nonconference game on Sunday.

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