

St. Johns softball season up

Swept by Daytona State and
Seminole, goes 5-19 in conference

Palatka Daily News

The end result wasn't what St. Johns River State College softball coach Jill Semento had in mind.

After a promising 22-7 start, the Vikings stumbled to a 5-19 record in the Mid-Florida Conference and lost all four games to end their season this weekend.

The Vikings lost a pair at home against Daytona State on Saturday, falling 5-1 in the first game, then going from within two outs of a mercy-rule win a 10-8 loss in the nightcap. In Sunday's finale at Seminole State, the Vikings lost 4-0 in the opener, then got mercy-ruled, 10-2.

"I'm just happy it's over," said Semento, a tone of disappointment in her voice when reflecting on the end of the season that saw the Vikings lose six of their last seven.

The one win against Florida State College-Jacksonville assured the Vikings an over-.500 season at 27-26, tying for third best in program history with her 27-30 team last year. Only Semento's first team in 2016, which went 28-25, and the 33-22 2015 team of previous coach Katie Brosky have had better records.

"Everything started to turn after coming off that 22-7 start," said Semento, who warned that even after the best start in program history the conference could be rough. "We simply didn't do what we needed to do. I really wished we had done better, but we made mistakes in our conference games we didn't make in the games leading up to them. But it wasn't from a lack of effort. They were trying. At the end, they weren't happy to see it end the way it ended."

Alicia Tomberlin got the Falcons (25-23 overall, 11-13 in conference) to a 3-0 lead in the first inning with a two-run home run off of losing pitcher Madison Roeshink (6-7). Winning pitcher Tina Velazquez went the distance on a five-hitter, walking five and striking out seven. The lone highlight for the Vikings in the opener was the first college home run for sophomore Taylor Nilsson, accounting for the only run. She was 2-for-3, while Selena Nunez, Selena Bezares and Marissa Huggins had one hit each.

Softball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8A

The second game saw the Vikings fly out to an 8-0 lead and heading to the fifth, they needed three outs to record the mercy-rule win and attain a split. But things fell apart as the Falcons got three runs to keep the game going, then Riley Gore delivered a grand slam, the sixth given up by the Vikings in the last two weeks.

Karlee Beard finished out the come-from-behind win when she delivered a three-run double to the right-center field gap to

give the Falcons the lead for good.

In that loss, Huggins was 2-for-5 with two runs, Bezares finished 2-for-4 with two runs and two RBI, Brittany Lewis was 2-for-4 with an RBI and Alyssa Rosenbaum ended up 2-for-3. Reganne McCarl, Nunez and Nilsson added a hit.

On Sunday, starter Kyra Gipson went the first six innings, walking one batter and striking out one, and Gabrielle LoPresti combined on a three-hit shutout, aided by a pair of home runs by catcher Chelsea Peace, a two-run shot in the first and a solo shot in the third, her 21st and 22nd home runs of the season. The only hits were by McCarl, Kelsea

Friend and Nilsson.

In the nightcap, Tatiana Rodriguez scattered four hits, walked two and struck out two as Seminole played flawless defense for the second straight game. Meghan Sexton started the second game with a solo home run off of losing pitcher Lacy McClellan (4-6) as the Vikings fell behind 5-0 in the opening frame. Peace added her third home run of the twinbill in the second inning, a two-run shot and 23rd homer, to push Seminole (47-10, 19-5) ahead 7-1.

McCarl finished 2-for-3 with an RBI. Nilsson and Karsyn Barnes had one hit each for the Vikings.