

# SPORTS

## St. Johns makes long ride worth it

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The St. Johns River State College volleyball team found it hard to get into a rhythm offensively Wednesday night.

"We had 45 kills in five sets," Vikings coach Matt Cohen said. "In the third set, we had just five kills. Both sides played really well defensively."

In the end, though, his Vikings found a way to make the 3 1/2-hour trip to Avon Park worth it by defeating South Florida State College, 25-21, 21-25, 20-25, 25-21, 15-11, in a Juco Division II Sun-Lakes Conference matchup that improved their record to 15-6 overall and 2-2 in the newly formed conference.

"We really struggled in this one," said Cohen, whose Vikings have won their most matches in a season since his program-record 25-win club that played in Division I in 2015 during his first run as head coach. "We couldn't find ways to finish games off early, but our girls showed a lot of grit and battled back each time."

Where the numbers did matter offensively, Hanna Foecker had 16 kills, 20 digs and six aces, Lindsey Grossman put up 12 kills and 25 digs, Kendal Hoges added 10 blocks (the Vikings had 18 as a team), Jordyn Pruski, named the conference setter of the week for the third time in four weeks recently, handed out 29 assists and Skyler Martin scrapped for 16 digs.

"The 18 blocks are the most we've had in my time as coach," Cohen said. "Our blocking and defense were outstanding. In the end, our serving was just a little better than theirs."

The Vikings return home for a match Friday night in the conference against Gulf Coast State.

"We have six more matches in conference (regular season) left and four of those are at home," Cohen said. "I'm pretty excited for what we have in front of us left."