

SPORTS

Net Result



9A

JACQUI HARRELL / Special to the Daily News

SJR State's Eden Edgell (2) challenges Emma Gray (13) and Casey James (3) of Lake-Sumter.

Close Doesn't Count

SJR State battles, but ends up being swept by conference foe Lake-Sumter

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Close, they say, only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades.

Close is once again what the St. Johns River State College volleyball team got against one of the two best teams in the newly formed Division II Sun-Lakes Conference, but close is about all the Vikings got in the end.

After losing the first two games in close fashion, the Vikings were close to extending the match with

Lake-Sumter State College, up 23-21. However, the LakeHawks responded by scoring four straight points and finishing out a 25-22, 25-21, 25-23 victory to improve to 8-8 overall and 5-1 in the Sun-Lakes Conference.

The loss dropped the Vikings to 16-7 overall and 2-3 in the conference.

"They are the better team," Vikings coach Matt Cohen said. "Every time we started playing better, they'd mirror our actions. We were the second-best team on the court."

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Vikings

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"They served tough. They served to our seams and the quality of pass returning the ball back suffered."

Coming up short on comebacks in the first two sets, the Vikings looked as if they were going to make things interesting with a 23-21 lead in the third set after Hanna Foecker deliv-

ered her fourth service ace of the match on a ball that clipped the top and trickled over on Lake-Sumter's side.

But an unforced error on the Vikings' side gave the ball to the LakeHawks at 23-22. A short return of an Amber Schwartz serve set up an easy kill for Kameron Johnson (12 kills, two blocks) to nail and tie the match up. Another unforced error on St. Johns' side of the net gave Lake-Sumter match point, and after Cohen called timeout, it was a kill – the only

one of the match for Hailey Franklin – that put the match away for Lake-Sumter.

The match was originally to be played today, but got moved to Tuesday at Lake-Sumter's request because the team is flying to North Carolina for this weekend's Catawba Valley Tournament, the same one that St. Johns River is driving to, according to Cohen.

"We've got to refocus," Cohen said. "Owens College (of Ohio) is really good and the host team from Catawba

Valley is going to be tough. Then we play Northern Valley Community College the next day (Saturday) and finish out with a really good team in Bob Jones University. We've got to find a way to get better."

The loss ruined a big night for Foecker, one of two Vikings who returned to the team after the program moved from playing in juco Division I to Division II. The German native had 18 kills, seven service points, four of those aces, and came up with 12 digs. Lindsey Grossman added eight kills

and seven digs, and Eden Edgell added six kills and a block.

"We are 0-3 against the two best teams in our conference," said Cohen of the losses to Lake-Sumter (twice) and Pasco-Hernando at home on Sept. 19. "We've got to stop with our bad habits. Losing is a bad habit. Quitting is a bad habit. It's hard to win when you have those habits. But hopefully, in a month, we have the conference tournament and we'll see these guys (Lake-Sumter) again. It's hard to beat someone three times in a season."