

# SPORTS

## Softball team splits with Hillsborough

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First-year St. Johns River State College softball coach Martin Littlefield said she believes all the pieces are there to have a really big season with her Vikings.

But while those pieces are there, she said she's still tinkering with her team, putting players in different positions and finding chemistry on the field. Still, after splitting a doubleheader in Tampa with Hillsborough Community College, winning the first game, 9-8 and losing the second game, 8-6, there's one question mark that needs an answer.

"My biggest concern has to be pitching," she said. "We have a couple of pitchers who can throw a few innings, but they can't go a full seven, so for now, we're using two pitchers mainly (Maddie Tomas and Amanda Jessel) to throw our games."

The Vikings held on in the first game for the win as Jessel helped Tomas, going three innings, allowing two runs for her first save of the year. At the plate, Cardaejia Talley was 3-for-5 with two RBI,

while Bri Clapper finished 2-for-4 with three RBI and Karsyn Barnes was 2-for-4 with two RBI and four runs scored. Brooklynn Basile, Kendall Moody, Kelsea Friend, Jaime Valenta and JesseAnne Ackerman had one hit each. Two-run doubles by Barnes and Clapper highlighted a five-run second inning for SJRSC (3-3), while Clapper singled home Taylor Finney in a three-run fourth that gave the Vikings the lead for good.

In the second game, Aaliyah Carter had a two-run home run and Juliana Uribe was 2-for-4 with a run, Ysabella Dominguez finished 2-for-3 with three RBI and Cerynn Siemer finished 2-for-3 with an RBI.

For the Vikings, who will host South Georgia State in a 2 p.m. doubleheader Thursday, Abby Ferlin was 2-for-4 with two RBI, while Moody, a Palatka High product, was 2-for-4 with a run and four RBI, three coming on a third-inning home run. Friend and Lauryn Markis had one hit for the Vikings.