

SPORTS

Vikings mercy-ruled against Patriots

The Mid-Florida Conference season was not how coach Marti Littlefield pictured it starting on Saturday.

The St. Johns River State College softball team was on the short end of two mercy-rule defeats against state power College of Central Florida, losing by scores of 8-0 in the opener and 10-0 in the nightcap, collecting just three hits in the doubleheader. It was the conference opener for both teams.

"We definitely held our own in the first game (down 1-0) until the fourth inning when (Central Florida) got four runs and we never recovered from that," Littlefield said. "After that, we got our butts beat."

The Patriots (25-7) banged out 18 hits in the doubleheader, while their pitchers stymied any kind of offensive threat. In the first game, Caroline Hoppe went the full six innings, allowed two hits, walked Vikings and struck out three. In the nightcap, Kelsie Rivers went five innings, walked one and struck out six. The only hit she gave up was a second-inning single by Abby Ferlin.

Ferlin and Kelsea Friend had singles in the first game for the 11-15 Vikings, who travel to take on Florida State College-Jacksonville this afternoon.