

SPORTS

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Gill strikes out 12 in five innings as Vikings smoke Daytona State

Take three-game win streak into today's rematch at Tindall Field

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It took seven games, not including one that was suspended in the 13th inning, but the St. Johns River State College baseball team is over .500 in the highly competitive Mid-Florida Conference.

It only took about 90 minutes on Friday.

Elijah Gill pitched a two-hit, five-inning shutout and the Vikings rode a six-run fourth inning to a 10-0 beating of host Daytona State College that ended early on the mercy rule. Bouncing back from a one-sided loss last Saturday, Gill (4-1) struck out 12, walked one and held the Falcons to a couple of singles.

"Completely dominant, completely

dominant," SJR State coach Ross Jones said of the sophomore lefthander after his team improved to 19-9 overall and 4-3 in the conference with its third straight win.

"As good as you can pitch. We had to make three plays."

Gill had all the help he could have wanted. Nick Romano and Michael Rosario were both 3-3 and Langston Provitt and A.J. Mathis homered in a

13-hit offense in which eight Vikings had at least one hit. St. Johns played errorless defense.

"We played really well. It's hard not to play well when you get that kind of pitching performance," Jones said. "It was apparent early that Elijah had good stuff. We put all three phases of the game together. I was real proud of them."

Provitt's two-run homer and Francis Villaman's two-run double were the big

blows in the fourth.

Ray Gonzalez was 2-3 with one RBI, complementing Romano and Rosario. The Vikings' other hits were the home runs by Provitt and Mathis, Villaman's double and singles by Bubba Sangster and Jorge Ramirez. Sangster had two RBI, Ramirez one.

SJR State caps its three-game series with Daytona (14-12, 3-5) today at 1 p.m. at Tindall Field.