

## Celebrating the Longball



FRAN RUCHALSKI / Palatka Daily News

St. Johns River State College's Garrett Blaylock celebrates with teammates after hitting a two-run home run in the sixth inning of Friday's game against Santa Fe at Tindall Field.

## Coming Up Short

### Despite hitting pair of 2-run home runs, St. Johns River edged by Santa Fe

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So close, but not enough for the St. Johns River State College baseball team Friday night.

Chase Malloy delivered a ninth-inning home run to cut the lead to a run, but the Vikings fell short, losing 6-5, to Santa Fe College at Tindall Field, dropping the Vikings to 20-11 overall and 5-5 in the Mid-Florida Conference.

"It really was a great game," Vikings coach Ross Jones said. "A couple of breaks and they hurt us, and they got a few mistakes and they didn't affect them."

The biggest of the breaks for Santa Fe (22-11, 3-5) came in the sixth inning with the Vikings down 3-1. A double play off the bat of Jorge Ramirez wiped a runner off base. With one run-

ner still on, Garrett Blaylock delivered a two-run home run to tie the game instead of giving the Vikings the lead.

Three hits helped give the Saints a 6-3 lead in the seventh, but the Vikings made it close when Malloy delivered his home run with two outs with Langston Provitt on base to make it 6-5. But that would be it.

For the Vikings, Raymond Gonzalez went 3-for-5 with two runs scored, while Blaylock and Francis Villaman each went 2-for-4 with Villaman driving in a run. A.J. Mathis, Provitt and Malloy added one hit as reliever Luke Sutko (1-2) took the loss, allowing two earned runs on two hits in two-thirds of an inning.

The Vikings will be back in action tonight again this afternoon to finish the three-game set with Santa Fe at 1 p.m.