

SPORTS

St. Johns gets offense going, but it's a sweep for Santa Fe

Palatka Daily News

Struggling to get runs all season, the St. Johns River State College softball team had two mini-explosions in its Mid-Florida Conference matchup at home with Santa Fe College on Saturday.

That didn't overcome the 10 errors, 22 runs and 24 hits the Vikings surrendered as the Vikings slipped to 11-23 overall and 0-10 in the conference, falling 9-6 and 13-11.

"I find myself with my hopes raised after we have those two innings," first-year Vikings coach Marti Littlefield said. "And then, we lose that. Their main struggle is that they don't know how to win. When you get some players who have been used to losing, it unfortunately becomes a habit."

Littlefield has a point. Since the beginning of last year's conference season under former coach Jill Semento, the Vikings are 16-42.

But fortunes were high in the second game when the Vikings rallied from down 11-5 in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game. Taylor Finney had an RBI single, a passed ball scored Harli Phillips, a bases-loaded walk to Savannah Law forced home another run, an error on a Karsyn Barnes fly ball brought home another run, then with two outs and runners on sec-

ond and third, Jaime Valenta's pop fly to second baseman Jolie Watson was dropped, allowing Law and Barnes to score and tie the game.

However, in the 10th inning, Watson atoned for her error by delivering a single to right field to bring in the go-ahead runs for the Saints (18-18, 6-4). Watson was 3-for-6 with a run and two RBI, while teammate Cameron Trehly was 3-for-4 with three runs scored, two home runs and six RBI.

Kelsea Friend was 3-for-5 with a run scored for the Vikings, while Ferlin was 2-for-6 with an RBI, Finney was 2-for-5 with two runs and an RBI and Valenta, Cardaeja Talley and JesseAnn Ackerman had one hit each. Valenta had a two-run, first-inning home run.

The Vikings had a six-run third inning in the opener with Valenta and Maddie Tomas putting up two-run singles, Finney collected an RBI hit and Law walking in a run with the bases loaded, giving the Vikings a 6-4 lead.

But a four-run fifth gave the Saints the lead for good.

Valenta was 2-for-4 with a run and two RBI in the first game, while Tomas, who took the loss in the circle in both games, Finney, Friend and Barnes had one hit apiece.