

SPORTS

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C SECTION

Vikings snap out if it, ring up 20 hits in first MFC win

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Even with a big lead Tuesday, St. Johns River State College softball coach Marti Littlefield had concerns as host Daytona State College began scoring runs in the final two innings of their Mid-Florida Conference matchup.

Three runs scored in the sixth and three more were coming in during the seventh.

"They were creeping up on us," the first-year St. Johns River coach said. "They nearly gave me a heart attack."

With some of the big innings the Vikings surrendered thus far in the conference season, you could under-

stand Littlefield's concern. But this time, the Vikings held on.

Banging out 20 hits, the Vikings took a 12-3 lead, then held on for a 12-9 victory over the Falcons to claim their first conference win of the season in 11 tries.

The second game of the scheduled doubleheader was halted by rain in the sixth inning with Daytona State holding a 5-2 lead. Having to finish the game by rule, Littlefield said the teams may play the rest of that game when the teams meet up again in the regular-season doubleheader finale on April 13 at SJRSC.

Abby Ferlin and Cardaejia Talley had big afternoons for the Vikings (12-23 overall). Ferlin finished 4-for-4 with three runs scored and four RBI, while Talley was 4-for-4 with a run and three RBI. Winning pitcher Maddie Tomas (8-8) was 3-fop-4 with a run and an RBI, Karsyn Barnes finished 3-for-5 with a run and two RBI, Savannah Law was 3-for-5 with two runs scored and JesseAnn Ackerman, Jaime Valenta and Kelsea Friend had one hit apiece to finish the 20-hit onslaught.

"It seems to me they saved all their hits for this one game," Littlefield joked.

"It was like they were holding out on their hits until (Tuesday). Both of Daytona's pitchers (starter Ashley Greene and reliever Cloee-Anna Merritt) were keeping it around the plate. There were a lot of balls hit right back up the middle."

The Vikings were down in the sixth inning, but had runners on first and second with no outs and Ackerman at the plate when the rains came down hard, forcing the teams to figure out when to finish it.

The Vikings will host Central Florida on Thursday and Florida State College-Jacksonville on Saturday.