

SJR State Baseball



ANDY HALL / Palatka Daily News

Pictured in a February game, Jackson Spiller got his first win Saturday for St. Johns River State.

Into Bullpen, on to Win

Vikings wear down starter, rock relievers to beat Pasco-Hernando 7-2

Palatka Daily News

The name – Kyle Khachadourian – is a mouthful. And by the seventh inning of Saturday's game at Tindall Field, he'd been in a sackful of trouble with St. Johns River State College, even though he'd only given up one run. So out he went and the Vikings couldn't jump on

the Pasco-Hernando bullpen fast enough.

Langston Provitt tripled to right center to begin a six-run seventh inning and St. Johns went on to a 7-2 victory in the nonconference game, improving to 23-13 while dropping the Bobcats to 20-16.

See **VIKINGS**, Page 10A

Vikings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A

The Vikings rang up a dozen hits – five off Khachadourian, who also walked five – but it wasn't until the seventh, by which time he was in the dug-out, that the dam burst with Provitt's triple. Chase Malloy's sacrifice fly got Provitt home and they were ahead to stay.

"Getting (Khachadourian) out of the game and getting into their bullpen was the main thing," said SJR State coach Ross Jones. "He threw a lot of pitches under stress. We hit a lot of balls hard right at people in the early innings. We had him in trouble a lot."

Pasco's first reliever, Sam Prince (1-3), gave up six runs on five hits and a walk in two-thirds of an inning.

Provitt, Nick Romano, Ryan Romano, Ray Gonzalez and Luke Belanger had two hits apiece for St. Johns. Belanger had two doubles and two RBI, Gonzalez one double and two runs. Garrett Shephard and A.J. Mathis were both 1-1 and Sandon Witt delivered a sacrifice fly.

Viking batters struck out just twice.

The win went to Jackson Spiller (1-1), who took over from starter Darin Kilfoyl in the fourth. Spiller threw four scoreless innings, striking out five, walking three and allowing two hits. It was the second appearance and first start of the season for Kilfoyl, coming back from an injury. He allowed one run on three hits, striking out three and walking two over the first three innings.

"Our bullpen pitched really well," Jones said. "We're keeping Kilfoyl on a pitch count. Jackson Spiller looked the vest he's looked in a while. So did Evan Waterbor. And Garrett Blaylock got the last two outs. We're pitching him more and more."

The Vikings go to Pasco-Hernando on Wednesday, then return to Mid-Florida Conference play at home on Saturday against Florida State College-Jacksonville.

Blumenthal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A