

# SPORTS

## Bullpen comes up big as Vikings sweep Pasco

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It is tempting, when the crunch of Mid-Florida Conference play gives way to a few nonconference games, to check out mentally, if not physically.

The St. Johns River State College baseball team resisted the temptation and has a series sweep to show for it.

The Vikings took two Wednesday at Pasco-Hernando State College, rallying with a three-run seventh inning to win the opener 6-5 and leading throughout a 4-1 triumph in the second game. Coupled with Saturday's 7-2 win at home over the Bobcats, the sweep left St. Johns 25-13 overall

before returning to MFC action Saturday against Florida State College-Jacksonville.

Division II Pasco is 20-18, but not without taking its best shot at the Vikings.

"They've got a good club. We saw their 1-2-3 (starting pitchers) and competed well against them," said SJR State coach Ross Jones. "We played with some energy, had some enthusiasm and played loose."

They also got through the series without using any of their regular starting pitchers. Converted infielder Garrett Blaylock went in the opener

and coming back from injury, Darin Kilfoyl started the second game and while each had their moments, neither figured in the decision.

"Our bullpen pitched well. I was really pleased with how (winning pitchers) Luke Sutko and Stephen Halstead pitched. Evan Waterbor and Connor Centalla threw really well. In eight and a third innings, our bullpen gave up two unearned runs," Jones said.

Halstead went to 4-1, Sutko to 2-2 with the victories. Centalla got his fifth save in the opener and Jackson Spiller earned his first in the second game.

The Vikings capitalized on five

walks in their three-run seventh to win the first game.

The inning began with walks to Ryan Romano and Nick Romano and each moved up on a wild pitch immediately after a pitching change. Bubba Sangster got them home with a single down the line in left that made it 5-5. A walk to Ray Gonzalez placed runners on the corners, but after a couple of popouts had Pasco on the verge of getting out of the inning, Riley Wash and Luke Belanger both walked to score Sangster with the go-ahead run.

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Centalla allowed an infield hit and a walk in the bottom of the seventh, but nothing came of them.

Sangster was 2-3 with the two-run single to lead a seven-hit offense. Gonzalez, Langston Provitt, Nick Romano, Sandon Witt and Garrett Shephard all singled.

The Vikings got to Sean Osceola (6-4) for three runs in the first inning of the second game and remained in charge.

Provitt was 2-3, Rick Romano 2-4 with a double and two RBI for SJR State. Francis Villaman doubled and Michael Rosario and Ryan Romano both singled.

"We had really good at-bats, except for the first few innings of the first game," Jones said.