

SPORTS

Vikings get offense going to gain split

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After being shut out in its last three games, the St. Johns River State College softball team finally found its offensive groove in the second game of a Mid-Florida Conference doubleheader at Santa Fe College Thursday.

The Vikings broke out quickly, too. They scored four runs in the first inning of game two, ending a 19-inning scoreless string and eventually held on for a 6-4 victory over the Saints to gain a split.

"I was very impressed with how we came out," said first-year Vikings coach Marti Littlefield. "Their pitchers they threw weren't quite as good as their first-game pitcher (Dontaysha Gobourne), so I felt we could get some runs off of them and take (the game) as long as we kept focused and sharp."

The RBI hits came one right after another in that first inning – Kelsea Friend singled home Karsyn Barnes, who reached on an error, Cardeajia Talley doubled in Friend, JesseAnne Ackerman doubled home Talley and Taylor Finney doubled home Ackerman.

The Vikings (14-31 overall, 3-18 in conference) held the lead from there as Amanda Jessel (3-13) won her first game in well over a month. She allowed seven hits, walked one batter and struck out two.

"She was hitting her spots very well," Littlefield said. "And she was getting ahead of the batters rather than coming back from falling behind. So it took a lot more pressure off her."

Friend finished 2-for-5 with a run and an RBI, while Barnes, Talley, Ackerman, Finney, Jessel and Kendell Moody had one hit apiece.

In the first game, Gobourne was on top of her game, walking four, allowing singles by Ackerman and Talley, and striking out 12. Teammates Adrianna Garip hit a three-run home run in the first inning and Cameron Trehy added a two-run home run in the frame to get the Saints (23-25, 11-11) out to a 5-0 lead in the first.

The Vikings will play their final games of the season on Saturday at home against Daytona State. The teams will resume a game that got delayed on March 26 in Daytona Beach with the Falcons leading the second game of the scheduled twinbill, 5-2, in the sixth inning, but the Vikings have two runners on base and Ackerman at the plate with no outs.