

# PALATKA DAILY NEWS

# SPORTS

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## SJR State Baseball



ANDY HALL / Palatka Daily News

SJR State first baseman Nick Romano snags a pickoff throw in the seventh inning of Saturday's game against Seminole State.

## Vikings

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before the Falcons' Keiji Parkhurst hit a solo home run in the eighth.

"The bottom of our order really came through," Jones said. "(Jordan) Dubberly came back today and threw really well. Jackson Spiller was strong. It was a good game."

Working on a pitch count while working his way back from an injury, starter Darin Kilfoyl gave St. Johns four scoreless innings, striking out five and walking three, before giving way to Dubberly, who was coming back from shoulder trouble. Dubberly (5-1) threw three and a third for the win, followed by Spiller for his second save.

Mason Sharp, a freshman from Palatka High, pitched a hitless and scoreless ninth for Daytona, striking out two.

Seminole turned two hits, a walk, a sacrifice fly and a passed ball into two runs for a 4-3 lead in the seventh inning on Saturday, then held on as the Vikings tried to come back in the ninth.

Garrett Sheppard drew a one-out walk. Pinch-runner A.J. Mathis stole second and went to third on a two-out infield hit by Langston Provitt, who stole second without a throw before Jakob Bailey struck out Ryan Romano to end the game.

"That 1-1 pitch (to Romano) was eight inches in the other batter's box. Big difference between batting 2-1 and 1-2," Jones said. "Top of the seventh, (Anthony) Simonelli threw a 1-2 pitch right down Broadway. We don't get the call and he goes on to walk (and score). We've got to get some of those calls and we haven't gotten them all year."

"That was a tough one - hell of a game."

Down 2-0 going to the bottom of the second, St Johns tied the game on Ray Gonzalez leadoff double, three walks and an RBI grounder by Provitt.

The Vikings went up 3-2 in the fifth as Ryan Romano single, stole second, hustled to third when Nick Romano took off for first on a dropped third strike and scored on Bubba Sangster's sacrifice fly.

Simonelli (4-3) took the loss allowing four runs (three earned) on four hits with six strikeouts and a walk. Connor Centalla took over during the seventh inning.

Lefthander Elijah Gill (7-1) will open against Santa Fe Wednesday.

# Vikings Remain in Hunt

Bottom of order delivers in Monday afternoon triumph at Daytona State

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The bottom of the order came up big for a St. Johns River State College baseball team trying to stay in the thick of Mid-Florida Conference race.

The 7-8-9 batters had seven of the Vikings' nine hits and all four RBI in a 4-1 victory at Daytona State that pushed them to 31-14 overall and 13-8 in the Mid-Florida Conference. No. 8 hitter Riley Wash was 3-4 with a double and three RBI for St. Johns, which bounced back from Saturday's 4-3 home loss to Seminole State to stay two games behind first-place Central Florida and one behind Seminole and Santa Fe with three games to play.

The Vikings get Santa Fe (32-13, 13-7) on Wednesday, Central Florida (40-7, 15-6) on Friday - both at Tindall Field - then go to Florida State College-Jacksonville to complete regular-season

MFC play next Monday. The conference champion earns a trip to state while the second-, third- and fourth-place teams stage a tournament to decide the other berth.

"It keeps us in it and makes the next three really important," said SJR State coach Ross Jones. "Whether or not we're still in the race for the championship, we want second place and the bye the first round of the tournament."

"The top four in the conference - there's not a hair's worth of difference. All four could beat each other on a given day."

So Wash's work against Daytona was big, as was that of Francis Villaman, who was 3-3 with a double and No. 9 batter Chase Malloy, who was 1-3 with one RBI. Ryan Romano and Nick Romano singled to round out a nine-hit offense.

It was a scoreless game until the Vikings put up one run in the fifth and two in the sixth. It was 4-0

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