

# SPORTS

## SJR State caps season with pair of losses to LSU-Eunice

Palatka Daily News

St. Johns River State College got a glimpse of its 2020 baseball team during its last weekend of 2019.

It wasn't bad.

It wasn't victorious – the Vikings were swept 2-0 and 5-4 by LSU-Eunice a day after they had taken two from host Chipola College – but they

showed promise while capping a 37-19 season that saw them finish just short of the state tournament.

“We made four errors in two games, beat Chipola twice and lost two to a great team that was 47-5 going in,” said SJR State coach Ross Jones. “We won 37 games, didn't end up where we wanted to be, but we'll work hard to

get back there next year. We just had a two-week stretch where we couldn't hit water if we fell out of a boat.”

He was referring to the start of Mid-Florida Conference play, where St. Johns was 7-7 before winning eight of 10 to make the conference tournament and push Santa Fe to a third game in a best-of-three series for a trip

to Lakeland.

LSU signee Andrew Sheridan (12-1) held St. Johns to two hits – singles by Ryan Romano and Francis Villaman – in Saturday's seven-inning opener. Landon Clifton pitched the last two innings of the shutout.

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### Vikings

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Freshman Jackson Spiller (2-2) got the loss, allowing two runs on four hits over the first five innings. He struck out five and walked none. Austin Elliott pitched a scoreless sixth for SJR State.

“Stephen Halstead beat Chipola. Jackson Spiller lost 2-0. They both threw great. They'll be rotation guys next year,” said Jones, who also used freshman Ryan Romano at short all weekend after he had spent most of the season at third.

The second game went nine

innings and unfolded like another pitchers' duel with LSU-Eunice on top 1-0 through six before adding two in the top of the seventh. The Vikings fired back with four in the home half before LSU-Eunice regained the lead with single runs in the eighth and ninth innings.

Villaman and Nick Romano were both 2-4, Langston Provitt 2-5 in a 10-hit offense, Romano and Provitt each with one RBI. The other St. Johns hits were singles by Riley Wash, Luke Belanger, Michael Rosario and Raymond Gonzalez.

The fourth of four Viking pitchers, Elijah Gill (8-2) took the loss.