

Hammerin' Down



FRAN RUCHALSKI / Palatka Daily News

Shown putting down a kill attempt against Lake-Sumter last Wednesday during a straight-set sweep at Tuten Gymnasium, St. Johns River State College's Louisa Marunde had 34 kills during the Vikings' 3-1 road trip in New Rochelle, N.Y., this weekend.

Another Successful Trip

Vikings take three of four matches in New York to improve to 7-4 for season

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Long road trips have proven to be positive for the St. Johns River State College volleyball team so far.

After a 2-2 road trip to start the season in Las Vegas, the Vikings finished a 3-1 road trip to Monroe Community College on Friday and Saturday.

"I was very pleased with our performance this weekend," Cohen said. "We went up there and because it was our second time traveling to a tournament, they were more prepared on the physical demands of going up and competing."

The Vikings fought point for point against Catawba Valley Community College of North Carolina in the first match Friday, but ultimately lost, 19-25, 25-19, 27-25, 15-25, 15-12. The Vikings (7-4), though, came back to take down the next three opponents. They defeated the host Monroe Community team, 25-17, 25-23, 24-26, 25-11, then on Saturday, beat Nassau (N.Y.) Community College, 25-7, 25-11, 25-10, and Northern Virginia Community College, 25-9, 25-9, 25-16.

Setter Jordyn Pruski, one of a number of sophomore players back, had a big tournament with 115 assists and 11 aces in the four-game set. Dariana Luna came up with 74 digs and seven

service aces, while Kendal Hoges and Louisa Marunde each had 34 kills and Brooklyn McLeod added 24 kills. Elena Swale led the Vikings with 11 assists in the final win over Northern Virginia.

"Monroe was a big and physical team that we played well against," Cohen said. "We were dominant in wins in the first and fourth sets and we were able to take (the second) set. I know the girls were exhausted after that match. We came out the next day and we know the competition wasn't as strong the second day, but we were able to play everyone in those two matches. It was a good opportunity to play everyone at that time."

The Vikings will have another challenge Wednesday when they travel to Pasco-Hernando, last year's top seed and host of the Sun-Lakes Division II junior college tournament. The Vikings lost twice to Pasco-Hernando last season.

"We want to keep the momentum we've built up going," Cohen said. "The last six matches we've played, our balance is showing. We're not leaning toward one or two players. Our offense is getting better and better. I just want to see us sustain that. We're a quality team, but we just have to prove it again and again. That's what we want to do to compete for a conference championship. We have to find ways to win conference matches on the road."