

# SPORTS

## St. Johns collects 22 hits in rout

BY ANDY HALL

Palatka Daily News  
ahall@palatkadailynews.com

Even these games have a purpose, and not just to inflate batting averages and deflate earned-run averages.

St. Johns River State 25, Edward Waters JV 2.

A dozen Vikings combined for 22 hits and four pitchers combined for 13 strikeouts in seven innings Tuesday afternoon at Tindall Field, extending St. Johns' season-opening win streak to eight while dropping the Tigers to 1-3.

The streak could be in jeopardy, perhaps as early as Thursday when the Vikings open the Kevin Miller Classic in Panama City against host Gulf Coast State College. If not then, tests loom throughout the weekend with Gordon State and Andrew College of Georgia and Chattahoochee Valley of Alabama.

"The tough part of our schedule starts now," said SJR State coach Ross Jones, who considered Tuesday a worthwhile workout, using all but two position players and splitting the pitching among three freshmen and a first-year sophomore.

"I was pleased with the way we swung the bat," Jones said. "We got all the young kids on the mound. Caleb Dix pitched well, got up on a couple of his fastballs. They need things like that. These are the pitchers that have got to beat Polk (next Tuesday). These are guys that have got to beat Tallahassee in midweek games."

Dix (1-0), Kavin Kroll, Michael Morse and Joe Becker combined on a five-hitter, striking out 13, walking none and hitting one batter. One of the EWC runs was unearned.

St. Johns trailed for the first time this season when the Tigers' Jamal Fraley sent an 0-1 delivery out to left with two out in the first. The deficit lasted only until the Vikings came to bat in the home half, scoring four runs on four hits, including back-to-back doubles by Ben Spittler and Nick Tripp, a walk, an error and a hit batsman.

The Vikings came back with four more runs in the second, then scored 10 in the third on nine hits, including Tripp's three-run homer, Chase Malloy's RBI triple and a double by Becker.

Michael Rosario finished 3-5 with a home run, four RBI and four runs. Becker was 3-3 with a double and one RBI and coming off the bench, August Haymaker was 3-4 with two RBI. Another backup, Sean McArdle, hit a two-run homer.

Tripp was 2-3 with five RBI, Spittler 2-3 with four RBI, J.J. Sousa 2-4 with a double and Ryan Romano 2-5 with one RBI. The other St. Johns hits were Malloy's triple and singles by Juan Jaime, Andre James and Gerardo Rodriguez.