

# SPORTS

## St. Johns baseball win streak reaches nine before ending in Panama City

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The season-opening win streak for the St. Johns River State College baseball team reached nine Friday afternoon, but it ended that night in what coach Ross Jones called “a tale of two games” at the Kevin Miller Classic in

Panama City.

The Vikings hit three home runs and struck out 17 batters in the afternoon game, a 7-1 win over Gordon State College of Georgia. They had three hits total and struck out 11 times in the seven-inning night game, a 5-0 loss to the host school, Gulf Coast State College.

“The first game, we competed our tail off. The second game, we didn’t,”

said Jones, whose club plays two more today in Panama City, Georgia’s Andrew College in the morning and Alabama’s Chattahoochee Valley in the afternoon.

“Gordon is legit. They were 50-9 last year and may be better this year. We played about as well as we can play. The second game was about as bad as we can play and this may be the best team

Gulf Coast has had in five years.”

Ryan Romano hit two two-run homers and Chase Sanguinetti had a solo shot for St. Johns against Gordon, the winds that passed through Putnam County Thursday and Friday having long since died down in the Panhandle.

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## Vikings

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Ben Spittler was 2-3, Romano and Michael Rosario both 2-5 in the afternoon game. The other Viking hits were Sanguinetti’s

home run and Chase Malloy’s single.

Jackson Spiller (3-0) pitched the first five innings, striking out nine and walking three while allowing on unearned run and four hits. Jason Gonzalez notched his first save with four scoreless, walk-free innings, striking out eight and allowing

one single.

Alex Lazado (2-1) pitched six scoreless innings for Gulf Coast, striking out 11 and walking none while holding the Vikings to three hits. “He’s really good. We made him look like Justin Verlander,” Jones said.

The Commodores (5-2) took charge with a four-run third

inning in which SJR State made only one official error but some major mental mistakes. “Just stupid stuff,” Jones said.

St. Johns’ only hits were a double by Rosario and singles by Malloy and Romano.

Starter Cameron Sereda (1-1) took the loss. Nic Daniels worked in relief.