

SPORTS

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B SECTION

Vikings' softball team gets over .500 with twinbill sweep

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After taking down Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in a home doubleheader on Wednesday, St. Johns River State College softball coach Marti Littlefield was cautiously optimistic.

A doubleheader sweep on Sunday at home against South Carolina-Salkehatchie would put the Vikings over .500 for the first time in a long time.

Mission accomplished. The Vikings were 8-0 winners twice against the Indians, the first game ending in six innings, the latter in

five innings.

"I feel happy," said Littlefield, whose Vikings struggled mightily last year and a turnover in roster has given her this much better 2020 start at 5-3. "They played a whole level of ball I hadn't seen and though (Salkehatchie) is not the best level to play against, our girls enjoyed playing with one another and were fun to watch."

In the opener, Kathleen Ingram (four innings, one walk, one hit allowed, four strikeouts) and Savannah LePain (two innings, one hit, no walks, no strikeouts)

combined on a two-hitter. At the plate, Brealyn Holley was 3-for-4 with a run scored, while Breanna Cefaliello finished 2-for-4 with two RBI. Madison Houtz, Emma Shiskin and Kaylee Anthony had one hit apiece.

The nightcap saw Ingram go the entire way on a four-hitter, walking one and striking out four. Houtz scored Holley on a forceout during a two-run first inning that was all the Vikings needed.

Anthony and Cefaliello were each 2-for-3 with a run, while Madison McAllister (two runs),

Ashley Kirkbride (two RBI), Houtz (one run), Palatka High product Kendell Moody (one run, two RBI), Holley (one run, three RBI) and Morgan Adamek had one hit apiece.

The Vikings next host Eastern Florida State, which handed the Vikings an 8-4 loss in Clearwater on Jan. 31, in a doubleheader Friday starting at 1:30 p.m. The Vikings have won five in a row after starting the season 0-3.

"Hopefully, we'll get a chance to keep going and get the same play we've gotten of late," Littlefield said.