

SPORTS

St. Petersburg thunders to sweep of SJR State softball

Vikings look to rebound today against Georgia opponent

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The St. Johns River State College softball team scored six runs in the fourth inning of the second game of a doubleheader Friday at home against St. Petersburg College.

Turns out that would be the only runs the Vikings would score for the day. The visitors would score a lot of runs before and after that.

St. Petersburg swept the twin-bill by pounding the Vikings, 18-0, in the first game, then taking them down, 14-6, in the sec-

ond game.

"It was a combination of everything," Vikings coach Marti Littlefield said. "It was our defense, our offense, our pitching and catching. We weren't very strong in the circle pitching. Now we're going to be facing some better-hitting teams. And our offense and defense needs to kick it into high gear earlier in games and not later."

Gabi Cirillo held the Vikings to one hit in the first game, a five-inning, mercy-rule victory. The one hit was a first-inning single by Ashley Kirkbride. Cirillo walked one and struck out five Vikings. She got plenty of support from Isabella Huff, who went 3-for-5 with three runs

scored and seven RBI, belting a three-run, first-inning home run then adding a grand slam in the fourth inning. Tatianna Watts belted a third-inning solo home run. Hannah Barnes was 3-for-4 with two runs and two RBI and Lexi Thrasher finished 3-for-4 with three runs scored.

The second game was a little better for the Vikings.

Breanna Cefaliello got the Vikings on the board with a solo home run, her second of the season.

After that, Brianna Clapper scored Palatka High product Kendell Moody with an RBI single after Moody doubled and Madison Houtz knocked in all three runners with a bases-clear-

ing double.

Otherwise, it was all St. Petersburg (15-7). Mya Plant hit two home runs, a three-run shot in the fourth inning and another in the fifth. Samantha Crim was 3-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI.

For the Vikings in the nightcap, Cefaliello was 2-for-3 with a run scored and the solo home run. Moody (one run), Houtz (three RBI), Clapper (one run, one RBI), Kirkbride (one run) and Janelle Pagan had one hit apiece.

The Vikings (7-11) will travel to Tifton, Ga., today to face Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College at 1 p.m. in a doubleheader.