

SPORTS

Vikings snap out of it, get first conference win at windy Lake-Sumter

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A fierce wind was blowing on off the lake that guards the outfield at the Lake-Sumter State College baseball field Friday afternoon.

How fierce? "We had a couple of balls that could have gone out," said St. Johns River State College coach Ross Jones. "Chase's (Sanguinetti) was an absolute bomb and it barely got out. We didn't know it was a home run until the

right fielder came down without the ball."

Good thing for the Vikings and Sanguinetti, whose fourth-inning shot turned out to be the difference in a 3-2 victory as they salvaged the third game of their Mid-Florida Conference game with the LakeHawks. St. Johns (17-10, 1-2) had lost three of its last four, blowing a late lead Monday in Leesburg and playing atrocious defense in a 13-5

beating at home on Wednesday.

"It was a much-needed win, no doubt about that," Jones said. "It was good to get the monkey off our back and win a 3-2 game after they had the tying run at second in the ninth."

Lake-Sumter (13-11, 2-0) got its two runs in the second, after which Jason Gonzalez (3-0) settled in to throw four scoreless innings. He struck out two, walked three and allowed five hits over

six innings before Jackson Hodnick took over and got his second save. Hodnick struck out four, walked one and allowed one hit.

The hit came leading off the bottom of the ninth. A bunt put the tying run in scoring position before Hodnick closed the door with a popup and a strikeout.

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The Vikings were errorless behind Gonzalez and Hodnick. They were errorless in the

Wednesday debacle, too, but mental mistakes were blamed for six Lake-Sumter runs.

"We played really well defensively, coming off a game like the other night," Jones said. "Hodnick was really good in a three-inning save."

After trailing 2-0, SJR State

tied the game in the third. August Haymaker singled, went to third on Ryan Romano's one-out single to right and scored on a wild pitch that left Romano on second. Romano scored from there on Michael Rosario's single.

Sanguinetti followed in the fourth with his go-ahead

home run.

Rosario finished 3-4. Sanguinetti, Romano and Haymaker had two hits apiece. Ben Spittler was 1-4.

The Vikings open a three-game set with MFC rival Seminole State (13-10, 1-2) today at Tindall Field.