

SPORTS

Vikings toppled in 10th

Seminole flexes muscle in 9-8
Mid-Florida Conference game

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Baseball can be as simple as 1-2-3. Or 2-3-4.

It was the latter on a long Wednesday night at Tindall Field, where Seminole State College outlasted St. Johns River State College 9-8 in 10 innings.

Seminole's 2-3-4 hitters combined to go 11-15 with eight RBI. St. Johns' 2-3-4 hitters combined to go 1-12 with one RBI.

Still, the Vikings forged leads of 7-4 and 8-7 before the Raiders came back to take the series and improve to 15-11 overall, 3-3 in the Mid-Florida Conference. SJR State dropped to 15-15 and 2-4.

No one was harder on the home team than Alejandro Figueredo, who was 4-4 with a home run, a double and five RBI. Even his one cheap hit, a bloop single lost in the lights, was problematic for the Vikings in that it helped extend the seventh inning for Ty Milliner to hit a game-tying three-run homer.

"We're up 7-4, we finally get (Figueredo) and he gets on base because we can't see the ball. We should be in the dugout when we make a terrible pitch and (Milliner) hits a three-run jack," said SJR State coach Ross Jones.

"Figueredo is the best hitter in the conference, hands down. He's a man playing against boys. We can't hang a breaking ball against him. It's pretty easy: We've got the scouting report, we've played them twice, we've got to keep the ball down."

It wasn't quite as simple as the performance of each team's 2-3-4 hitters, but almost. Jones also cited ill-advised pitches and mental mistakes, even though the Vikings had no official errors.

And it's not like they didn't show some resiliency.

They took their first lead with a five-run fifth inning that included a two-run single by Andre James, RBI hits from Ben Spittler and Charlie Welch, a walk, a hit batsman and two Seminole errors.

St. Johns shook off Milliner's tying home run in the top of the seventh by scratching out a run in the bottom half. Welch led off with a single, went to second when Nick Tripp walked, took third on Spittler's bunt and scored when August Haymaker beat out an infield hit.

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The Raiders came back with single runs in the eighth and 10th – it was Figueredo who singled

home the tying run – and the Vikings could not respond, though walks gave them two runners in the 10th.

The win went to Ethan Brown (3-1), who took over in the seventh and struck out seven – six in a row over the eighth and ninth – before Josh Collet pitched the

10th for his first save.

Jackson Spiller completed five innings for St. Johns before giving way to Jason Gonzalez. Cameron Sereda (1-3) took over in the eighth and got the loss.

Welch was 3-5 with a solo homer in a 10-hit SJR State offense. Chase Malloy went 2-4,

James 2-5. Spittler, Haymaker and Ryan Romano had one hit apiece.

The Vikings open a three-game series at Daytona State on Friday.

"All you can do is keep working," Jones said. "We've got to sweep Daytona. We're going to have to play our best baseball from here on out."