

Scott Groover throws no-hitter for SGC Tigers

SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE -- It's been 18 years since a South Georgia College Tiger tossed a no-hitter. That is, until freshman lefty Scott Groover of Locust Grove, Ga., faced the Glen Oaks Community College Vikings at Crider Field Wednesday afternoon..

The Tigers and Vikings played a double-header, the first two games of a seven-game home stand for SGC.. The Tigers took game one 7-0 behind Groover's no-hitter, and followed that performance with a 12-2 win in game two on a three-hitter by freshman Bray Bishop.

Groover (1-0, 3.07 ERA) shut down the Vikings from the first pitch of the contest, and had a perfect game through 4 1/3 innings. He surrendered two of his three walks in the fifth before settling back in.

"He was around the strike zone all day. It was good for him to turn in that kind of performance," said SGC head coach Scott Sims.

Coach Sims began to take notice of the no-hitter in the third inning. "That's when I really started watching it. I noticed it, then I just sat back and kept my mouth shut. None of the others said anything about it, either," said Sims.

The SGC defense played very well behind Groover, though there weren't any really close plays. Not for 6 2/3 innings anyway. Groover retired Mike Huling to lead off the top of the seventh. Jared Rose reached first on a walk. Ethan Houck hit into a fielder's choice, and Rose was forced out. That left Houck on first with two outs. Groover then plunked Pete Guerra, putting runners on first and second with two outs. Glenn Batteast came up next and he nearly spoiled Groover's day. Batteast picked out a pitch he liked and lofted a floater to the right side of the infield. It wasn't hit hard and looked for a moment like it might fall between second and first. But first baseman Lee Hall played the ball perfectly and made a superb diving catch to preserve

the no-hitter. "It was a tough play.. It was the best play of the game," said Coach Sims. Groover struck out six and walked three.

The Tigers scored one in the second, two in the fourth and four in the sixth. Centerfielder Zack Kilday was 4 for 4 with two RBI and one run scored. Stuart Drew was 3 for 4 with one RBI and one run scored. Shortstop Keenan Ivey also had a pair of hits for the Tigers.