

ASU Tames Terriers, 6-2

Written by Mike Flynn
Saturday, 02 April 2011 20:55

Appalachian State University baseball clinched its first Southern Conference series victory of the season with a convincing 6-2 triumph over Wofford on Saturday afternoon at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.

Appalachian (14-13, 3-8 SoCon) fell behind 2-0 in the top of the first inning but tied the game in the bottom of the frame on Trey Holmes' (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) and rode strong pitching performances from Nathan Hyatt (Brevard, N.C./Brevard) and David Port (Dunwoody, Ga./Dunwoody) the rest of the way.

Aside from issuing six walks, Hyatt (3-4) was nearly flawless after the two-run first. He surrendered just four hits, only two of which came after the first inning, and retired 10 of the last 13 batters he faced before turning the ball over to Port with two outs in the seventh inning. Port came on to strand two Wofford baserunners in the seventh and allowed just one hit over the final two innings to close out the victory.

Offensively, the Mountaineers scored what proved to be the winning run on Jeremy Dowdy's (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield) RBI single in the third inning. They tacked on a pair of unearned runs in the fourth thanks to Wofford (14-14, 2-6 SoCon) committing two of its four errors in the frame and closed out the scoring on Preston Troutman's (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) RBI triple in the fifth.

ASU also received one of its best all-around defensive performances of the season on an afternoon that featured wind gusts as high as 60 miles per hour. Holmes picked several low throws off the turf at first base, Troutman made a running catch while crashing into the wall in left field, Tyler Zupcic (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) made a full-out diving catch of a sinking line drive in center and Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) made a terrific back-hand play behind second base in the ninth inning.

With the victory, Appalachian moved to 2-0 in April, a month that it has dominated over the past two-plus seasons. The Mountaineers are 36-4 overall in the month since 2009.

ASU goes for the three-game series sweep on Sunday at 1 p.m. at Smith Stadium.

ASU Tames Terriers, 6-2

Written by Mike Flynn
Saturday, 02 April 2011 20:55
