

ASU Strands 11 in 3-1 Loss at Radford

Written by Mike Flynn
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Appalachian State University baseball stranded 11 baserunners, including six left in scoring position, in a 3-1 loss at Radford on Tuesday evening.

Appalachian (25-18), which left 10 or more men on base seven times in the first 21 games of the season, stranded double-digit baserunners for the first time in 22 contests on Tuesday evening. The runners left on base were the main culprit in ASU seeing its winning streak snapped at four games.

Of the Mountaineers' 11 stranded runners on Tuesday, none were more painful than the final two. Trailing 3-1 in the top of the ninth inning and facing Radford closer Abram Williams, Appalachian put the tying run in scoring position with one out.

Jeremy Dowdy (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield) started the ninth-inning rally by drawing a leadoff walk. Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) followed with an infield single and Tyler Zupcic (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) moved Crespo and Dowdy to second and third with a sacrifice bunt. However, ASU could not take advantage of two opportunities for a game-tying base hit, as Trey Holmes (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) struck out looking on a 3-2 pitch and Jack Myers (Charlotte, N.C./Myers Park) grounded back to Williams to end the game.

Radford (25-15) scored what proved to be the winning runs on a two-run homer by Carl Travers in the sixth inning of ASU reliever Chad Farmer (Evans, Ga./Greenbrier) (2-2). RU jumped out to a 1-0 advantage on a sacrifice fly by Alex Guerra and Appalachian knotted the score at 1-1 in the fifth when it plated its only run of the game on a sac fly by Crespo.

The Mountaineers outhit the Highlanders, 11-6, led by three hits from Zupcic and a pair of doubles from Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside), who scored ASU's only run after leading off the fifth with his second two-bagger of the ballgame.

Ryne Frankoff (Apex, N.C./Apex) turned in his fourth-consecutive strong start for the Mountaineers but did not figure into the decision after allowing one run on four hits over five innings of work.

Derrick Brewer (1-3) got the win for Radford with two innings of scoreless relief and Williams held on for his 11th save of the year.

Appalachian opens a season-long six-game homestand on Wednesday when it hosts North Carolina A&T. First pitch is set for 6 p.m. at ASU's Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium. Radio coverage begins at 5:40 pm on AM 1450, WATA.