

Mountaineers Drop Series Finale at Charleston

Written by Mike Flynn
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Appalachian State University baseball allowed a season-high 16 hits in a 10-7 loss to College of Charleston on Sunday at Patriots Point Park.

With the setback, Appalachian (29-23, 13-14 SoCon) dropped the three-game weekend series to Charleston (34-18, 17-10 SoCon), two games to one, but remained in sixth place in the Southern Conference standings with three league games to play. ASU clinched a berth in the eight-team SoCon Tournament, which begins on May 25 at Charleston's Riley Park, with an 8-5 victory over C of C on Saturday.

On Sunday, the Mountaineers fell behind 3-0 after two innings and never pulled closer than two runs the rest of the way.

Appalachian trailed 7-2 after seven innings but made it a ballgame by batting around in the top of the eighth. ASU scored three runs in the stanza to cut the deficit to 7-5 and had the tying run in scoring position and the go-ahead run on first base with two outs. However, Charleston's Casey Lucchese wiggled his way out of the bases-loaded jam by striking out Trey Holmes (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) to end the frame.

The Cougars capped their 10-run, 16-hit outburst in the bottom of the eighth with three runs on four hits off ASU closer Taylor Miller (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield). Daniel Aldrich effectively ended any hopes of an Appalachian comeback with a two-out, two-run home run in the eighth, his 21st of the year.

The Mountaineers plated two more runs in the top of the ninth but despite 1.2 shaky innings, Lucchese was able to finish off the Apps for his fifth save of the season.

Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) and Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) paced Appalachian's 12-hit attack with Callaway going 3-for-5 with a double and two runs scored and Crespo going 2-for-3 with a walk, two doubles, an RBI and two runs.

Aldrich went 3-for-4 with a double, homer and four RBI to lead the Cougars. Rob Harding chipped in with a 3-for-4 performance of his own.

Appalachian plays its final road game of the regular season on Tuesday when it travels to No. 17 North Carolina. First pitch is set for 6 p.m. at Boshamer Stadium in Chapel Hill, N.C.