

Mountaineers Nip Bulldogs, Sweep Series

Written by Megan Samassa
Sunday, 17 March 2013 17:04

Appalachian State University softball defeated Samford, 7-6, in game three of a weekend Southern Conference series after coming back from a 5-0 deficit early in the contest.

With the win Appalachian improves to 10-8 overall on the season and 5-1 in the SoCon, while Samford falls to 9-13 overall and 1-5 in the SoCon.

The Bulldogs came out and took the early 2-0 lead over the Mountaineers when Callie Brister drew a leadoff walk and came around to score on a Alex Adams home run over the center field fence.

Samford extended its lead to 3-0 when Brister drove the Bulldogs second home run of the contest over the left field fence to lead off the top of the third inning.

With one out and one on, sophomore pitcher Alissa Schoelkopf would come in on relief for the Black and Gold. Back-to-back doubles from the Samford lineup would score two runs allowing the Bulldogs to take a 5-0 advantage heading into the bottom of the third inning.

Freshman Alex Sohl earned the first hit of the contest for the Mountaineers as she singled through the right side of the infield to lead off the bottom of the third inning. Caroline Rogers reached base on a fielder's choice and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt from Dani Heichen.

Rogers crossed the plate when Sarah Warnock singled deep into left center field as the Apps trailed the Bulldgos 5-1 with two outs in the bottom of the third. The rally continued for Appalachian as Cynthia Gomez laid down a bunt single to put runners on first and second with Lindsay Loudermilk at the plate.

Loudermilk ripped a single past the center fielder to score Warnock and bring the Apps within three of Samford. Senior Allie Cashion brought the Mountaineers within one when she doubled down the left field line to plate both Gomez and Loudermilk.

After a Bulldog pitching change, the final out of the third inning would be retired as the Apps trailed 5-4 heading into the top of the fourth.

Samford threatened to score in the top of the fourth inning Brister picked up her second hit of the day as she doubled to right center and advanced to third on a groundout with two outs, but the Bulldogs were unable to score as a fly-out to left field ended the inning.

Appalachian loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the fourth inning when it drew three walks, but the final batter of the inning was sat down before the Apps were able to push a run across the plate.

The Mountaineers took their first lead of the game when Cashion drew a one out walk and Meghan Smith knocked her third home run of the season over the center field fence, allowing App to take the 6-5 lead in the bottom of the fifth.

The Apps extended its lead to 7-5 when Rogers singled through the left side of the field. Pinch runner Kristen Terry took second base on a Samford error and advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt from Heichen. Warnock hit a deep sacrifice fly to center field that would allow Terry to score the unearned run from third base.

Samford started a comeback in the top of the seventh inning when Adams doubled to right field and pinch runner Caroline Seay advanced to third on a wild pitch. Seay would score the Bulldogs final run of the contest when Abby Adams hit a sacrifice fly to short stop, but it would

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not be enough as the Apps went on to a 7-6 victory.

Warnock, Cashion and Smith each knocked in two RBI for the Mountaineers as they each tallied one hit. Schoelkopf (6-5) picked up her sixth victory of the season as she pitched 4.2 innings on relief with three strikeouts.

Warnock led the Appalachian roster in the weekend series as she has three hits with six RBI and two home runs.

App State will be back in action when they take on Winthrop in a mid-week non conference doubleheader on Wednesday, March 20. First pitch is slated for 4 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Sarah Warnock, ASU Athletics