

ASU Claims Series Opener Against CofC

Written by Mike Flynn

Saturday, 23 March 2013 09:52

Starting pitcher Jamie Nunn (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor) continued his impressive start to the season with seven strong innings and earned his fifth win of the campaign in Appalachian State University baseball's 5-2 victory over College of Charleston on Friday afternoon at Patriots Point.

Nunn (5-1) struck out six in his sixth-straight quality start to open the season. The right-handed sophomore was dominant throughout, allowing just four hits over six scoreless frames to open the ballgame, which allowed Appalachian State (12-7, 4-3 SoCon) to jump out to a 3-0 lead. He ran into a little bit of trouble in the seventh, as College of Charleston (12-10, 3-4 SoCon) plated two runs to cut the Mountaineer advantage to 3-2. However, with the tying run in scoring position, Nunn fanned CofC's Gunnar Heidt to end the threat and keep Appalachian's one-run lead intact.

Nunn departed the ballgame after fanning Heidt to end the seventh and turned it over to Taylor Thurber (Mooresville, N.C./Lake Norman) in the eighth. Thurber, the Southern Conference's leader in ERA (1.50) and opponents' batting average (.188) coming in, slammed the door on any hopes of a Charleston comeback by tossing two perfect innings to close it out. The right-handed sophomore struck out one en route to his second save of the season.

Offensively, freshman center fielder Jaylin Davis (McLeansville, N.C./Northeast Guilford) put the Mountaineers up quickly in the first, booming a 2-2 pitch over the left-center field fence for his team-high-tying fourth home run of the season, a two-run shot that gave the Apps an early 2-0 lead.

Noah Holmes (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) stretched Appalachian's lead to 3-0 with a sacrifice fly in the fourth. After Charleston sliced the advantage to a single run in the seventh, Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) put the game out of reach with a two-run double into the left-center field gap in the ninth that accounted for the final margin.

Seven of the nine members Appalachian State's starting lineup each recorded a single hit to comprise the Mountaineers' seven-hit attack. Five of the seven hits came against preseason SoCon Pitcher of the Year Matt Pegler (1-1), who was tagged for three runs in six innings of work and suffered his first loss of the year.

The lone multi-hit performer in the pitchers' duel was Charleston's Brandon Murray, who finished 2-for-3. Appalachian goes for the series victory on Saturday when the Mountaineers and Cougars play the second game of their three-game SoCon series. First pitch is slated for 2 p.m. with Appalachian State's Sam Agnew-Wieland (Marietta, Ga./Wheeler) and Charleston's Jake Zokan listed as the probable starters.

NOTES: Appalachian State has won three of its last five games ... the win marked only the second time in nine all-time series at College of Charleston that Appalachian has taken the opener ... Appalachian also won the series opener at CofC in 2002 and went on to win the series, two games to one ... the Mountaineers moved to 12-33 all-time against the Cougars but have won five of the last eight games in the series ... Davis' first-inning home run, Appalachian's 22nd long ball in 19 games this season, snapped a two-game homerless streak for the Mountaineers ... Josh Zumbrook (Wilkesboro, N.C./West Wilkes) increased his hitting streak to nine games with a single in the fourth inning ... Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) reached base safely for the 13th-straight game with a single in fourth inning ... Crespo has four RBI in the last two games and has hit safely in 17-of-19 games this season.

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Photo Courtesy: Jamie Nunn, ASU Athletics