

ASU Suffers 9-2 Loss to North Carolina

Written by Megan Samassa
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Appalachian State University softball fell 9-2 to the University of North Carolina in Tuesday's mid-week single game at Anderson Stadium – Williams Field in Chapel Hill, N.C. With the loss, Appalachian falls to 15-12 overall on the season while UNC improves to 26-13 overall. A leadoff single and a two-out double from the Tar Heels in the bottom of the first inning would allow them to take the early 1-0 lead over App State.

Starting pitcher Alissa Schoelkopf issued two walks to load the bases, before pinch hitter Kati Causey dug in for North Carolina. Causey would see four-straight balls to earn the walk and score Constance Orr from third base.

A two-out Mountaineer error would cause a third run to cross the plate in the bottom of the first inning with two outs before Schoelkopf had her fourth walk of the inning, extending the Tar Heel lead to 4-0. Schoelkopf retired the final out of the inning with a hard hit ball back to the circle before any more damage was done.

Freshman Shivaun Landeros would come on in relief in the top of the second inning and would give up back-to-back hits before issuing back-to-back walks, allowing UNC to take the 5-0 advantage over the Black and Gold.

With bases loaded and one out Landeros would hit Amy Nece, scoring the Heels second run of the inning and sixth of the contest. A shallow single to left field that was just out of reach of Allie Cashion would allow North Carolina to take a 7-0 lead, before a wild pitch scored Orr from third base and the Heels took the 8-0 advantage.

North Carolina tacked on one more run in the bottom of the second inning before a fly ball was hit to Ashley Seering in right field for the final out of the inning. With two out in the top of the fifth inning Caroline Rogers would walk before Pepper Butler picked up her first career hit with a shallow single to left field to bring up Sarah Warnock.

Warnock doubled off the right center field wall to score both Rogers and Butler as the Apps trailed 9-2 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning. The Apps looked to make a comeback in the top of the seventh inning when Rogers hit a one out single to shallow right field, but it was not enough as she ran into a force out at second base and Butler was retired on a high pop up in the infield to end the contest.

After allowing the Tar Heels to score nine runs between the first and second inning the Mountaineers settled in and shut down the powerful offense for the remaining four innings. Warnock led the App State offense as she went 1-for-3 at the plate with two RBI, while Lindsay Loudermilk, Rogers and Butler each had a hit for the Mountaineers. Appalachian was out-hit 13-4, while committing two errors.

Schoelkopf (9-7) suffered the loss in the circle as she pitched one inning and allowed two unearned runs, while Landeros pitched five innings with five strikeouts. The Apps will be back in action on Wednesday, April 3 when they travel to Columbia, S.C. to take on the Gamecocks. First pitch for the single game is slated for 7 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy: Alissa Schoelkopf, ASU Athletics