

Cashion Reaches Milestone, Gamecocks Blank ASU

Written by Megan Samassa
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Appalachian State University softball suffered its second-straight loss as it fell to South Carolina 5-0 at Carolina Softball Stadium – Beckham Field in on Wednesday night. With the loss, the Mountaineers fall to 15-13 overall on the season while USC improves to 19-14 overall on the season. South Carolina loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the first inning with back-to-back hits and a walk before cleanup hitter Kristen Struett singled up the middle to bring in two. The third run crossed the plate on the play when App State made a throwing error trying to catch Dana Hathorn at third base.

USC took a 4-0 lead over the Mountaineers when pitcher Shivaun Landeros threw a wild pitch over the head of starting catcher Sarah Warnock. Landeros settled in after the wild pitch and struck out the next two batters before a ground out to Pepper Butler retired the final out of the inning.

The Apps threatened in the top of the fourth inning when Meghan Smith singled up the middle with two outs and Ashley Seering reached first on a fielder's choice before a ground out deep in the second base hole would end the inning before the Black and Gold could push a run across the plate.

The Gamecocks tacked on their final run in the bottom of the fifth inning when Samie Garcia hit her sixth triple of the season down the right field line before coming around to score on an Alaynie Page sacrifice fly to left field.

Senior Allie Cashion's double to the center field wall in the top of the sixth inning marked her 43rd career double and 10th on the season. The hit pulled Cashion into a tie with Lindsay Glover for the career doubles record at Appalachian.

Cashion advanced to third on a groundout before Seering drew a walk from relief pitcher Katie Marks with two outs. A slow rolling groundout to second would make the final out of the inning as the Apps' chances were shut down.

The App State offense was highlighted by Cashion's record tying double off the wall as she went 1-for-3 at the plate, while Lindsay Loudermilk, Alex Sohl, Smith and Warnock each added a hit. The Black and Gold were out hit 6-5 by the Gamecocks, while committing one error.

Landeros (6-5) suffered the loss in the circle as she pitched four innings with four strikeouts, while Alissa Schoelkopf came on in relief to pitch two innings with one strikeout and allowed only one run to score.

Appalachian will look to stay atop the Southern Conference standings when it takes on Elon at home this weekend. The Mountaineers are 6-0 at home and look to improve that record by taking three games from the Phoenix this weekend with a doubleheader on Saturday, April 6 and a single game on Sunday, April 7. First pitch on Saturday from Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium is scheduled for 1 p.m

Photo Courtesy: Allie Cashion, ASU Athletics