

App State Sweeps Elon with 7-1 Victory Sunday

Written by Megan Samassa
Sunday, 07 April 2013 19:30

Appalachian State University softball improved its home record to 9-0 and stayed atop the Southern Conference standings by finishing off a series sweep of Elon on Sunday at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium. With the win the Mountaineers improve to 18-13 overall on the season, while the Phoenix fall to 12-24 overall. App State continues to lead the conference with its sweep over Elon as it improves to 12-3 in the SoCon, while the Phoenix drop to 2-10 in league play. The Apps were the first to score for the third-straight game when Meghan Smith and Ashley Seering laced back-to-back singles to put two runners on for Ellie Manriquez.

Manriquez singled to the right field wall, knocking in two RBI in the bottom of the second inning. The Black and Gold took a 7-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning, scoring five runs on four hits and capitalizing on two Elon errors.

Lindsay Loudermilk led off the bottom of the inning with a single down the right field line and would move to second on an error by the Elon right fielder before Racquel Cooke came in to run for Loudermilk. Senior Allie Cashion lined her 12th double of the season to right field, scoring Cooke to give the Apps the 3-0 advantage.

Smith was hit by a pitch to put runners on first and second before Seering dug in and laced her fifth home run of the season over the left field fence to extend the Mountaineer lead to 6-0.

Appalachian continued to put offensive pressure on the Phoenix as Manriquez reached on an error before two walks and another hit batter would load the bases with one out. Elon would earn the second out of the inning on a strikeout, but would be unable to retire the final out of the inning without allowing another run to cross the plate.

Loudermilk would notch her second hit of the game with a single to right field that scored pinch runner Kristen Terry and gave App the 7-0 advantage. After a scoreless fourth inning, Elon's Carleigh Nester hit her third home run of the series over the left field fence to score the Phoenix's lone run of the contest.

Three Mountaineers recorded multi-hit games as Seering led the way with two hits and three RBI. Manriquez added two RBI as Cashion and Loudermilk knocked in one apiece. The App State offense forced Elon to make three pitching changes as no pitcher threw more than three innings for the Phoenix.

Sophomore pitcher Alissa Schoelkopf (12-7) picked up her third win of the weekend as she pitched her tenth complete game with five strikeouts and allowed only seven hits. Appalachian will be back in action on Tuesday, April 9 when it takes on Winthrop at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium. The Apps will look to stay undefeated at home in the doubleheader against the Eagles. First pitch of game one of the non-conference mid-week game is set to start at 4 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Lindsay Loudermilk, ASU Athletics