

ASU Drops Second-Straight to The Citadel

Written by Brandon McGinnis
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Shortstop Will Callaway began the game with a solo home run in the first inning to extend a 12-game hitting streak, but the hits were not frequent enough, as Appalachian State University baseball dropped its second-straight game to The Citadel, 5-3, Saturday afternoon at Riley Park. Callaway's solo shot was his fourth home run of the season, as he scorched the second pitch he saw over the leftcenter field wall. The senior now has two home runs in the last three games, knocking his third homerun of the year against Campbell on Wednesday night. With the round-tripper in the first, Appalachian continued to step in the right direction in the second when Hector Crespo doubled to the leftfield wall, scoring John Kincaid, who previously reached on an error. Crespo went on to have a 2-for-4 day with his RBI and a run scored. Mountaineer starter, Sam Agnew-Wieland, did not allow a Bulldog hit for the opening two innings, but the lineup responded in the bottom half of the third. After a leadoff double by Brett Bullard, Hughstron Armstrong brought in the rightfielder with a sacrifice fly.

With a run in hand, The Citadel continued to add pressure with a double by Joe Jackson, followed by a walk to Bo Thompson. With two men on, Drew DeKerlegand tripled in the leftcenter gap, which scored both Bulldog runners. Armstrong added on to his RBI total in the fourth with a single through the left side, which plated Bullard and Bret Hines. With the two runs, The Citadel took its largest lead of the day at 5-2.

Appalachian showed some life in the fifth when Crespo notched his second double of the day and was later brought home on a Noah Holmes sacrifice fly. Between the sixth and ninth innings, the Mountaineers managed just two hits, as they found themselves scoreless throughout the rest of the game. William Head joined Crespo, Callaway and Kincaid as the only Apps to record hits on the day with a single in the sixth innings.

Rob Marcello relieved Agnew-Wieland in the sixth inning and tossed 1.2 innings, allowing just one hit. Appalachian looks to claim the final game of the series on Sunday, as first pitch from Riley Park is scheduled for 1 p.m.

NOTES: During Callaway's 12-game hitting streak, the shortstop is 24-for-53 (.453) with five doubles, four home runs, 17 RBI and 17 runs scored ... Crespo has multiple hits in 15 of the last 26 games and is batting .368 (42-for-114) with eight doubles, two triples, three home runs, 20 RBI, 22 runs and 12 stolen bases ... Agnew-Wieland recorded his lowest strikeout total since striking out two batters at Furman on May 10 ... Appalachian has now lost nine-straight at The Citadel, dating back to 2008 ... with the loss, The Citadel controls the all-time series with a 78-28 record.

Photo Courtesy: Will Callaway, ASU Athletics