

Seven-Run Sixth Lifts Mountaineers to 9-1 Win

Written by Mike Flynn
Saturday, 04 May 2013 10:53

Highlighted by a seven-run sixth inning, Appalachian State University baseball jumped out to a 9-0 lead and cruised to a 9-1 win over Elon in the clubs' Southern Conference series opener on Friday evening at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium. Appalachian State (25-17, 12-11 SoCon) banged out 13 hits, its most in three weeks, en route to only its second win in its last 12 meetings with Elon (23-26, 15-10 SoCon). The victory vaulted the Mountaineers into fifth place in the SoCon standings, a game ahead of Georgia Southern (24-22, 12-13 SoCon), which dropped a 13-5 home decision to Furman on Friday.

With starting pitchers Jamie Nunn (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor) and Spencer Medick locked in a pitcher's duel early on, the game was scoreless until Appalachian put the first run on the board on Dillon Dobson's (Boonville, N.C./Starmount) RBI groundout in the fourth. The Mountaineers added another run in the fifth on a sacrifice fly by Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) before exploding for seven runs in the sixth to turn the slim 2-0 lead into a commanding 9-0 advantage.

Jaylin Davis (McLeansville, N.C./Northeast Guilford) opened the floodgates in the seven-run sixth when he snapped a personal 2-for-31 skid with a two-run triple to right center field. Preston Troutman (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan), William Head (Asheville, N.C./Asheville) and Callaway also drove in runs in the big inning while two Elon errors allowed the Mountaineers to plate the final two runs of the stanza.

That would be more than enough for Nunn to earn his SoCon-best ninth win of the season. The right-handed sophomore retired 16-straight batters at one point and surrendered Elon's only run of the evening on an RBI groundout by Antonio Alvarez in the seventh. The quality start (six or more innings pitched, three or fewer runs allowed) was Nunn's 10th in 12 outings this season. Callaway led the Mountaineer charge by going 3-for-3 with a pair of sacrifice flies. In the process, the senior shortstop extended his hitting streak to 17 games (the longest by a Mountaineer this season) and upped his batting average to a lofty .356.

Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) also had three hits to raise his average to .351. Josh Zumbrook (Wilkesboro, N.C./West Wilkes) went 2-for-4 to round out three Appalachian batters with multiple hits. Niko Fraser went 2-for-3 with a double to lead Elon, which managed just five hits. After the strong start, Medick (5-5) fizzled and was lifted from the game after allowing seven runs on 11 hits in 5.1 innings. The Phoenix lost for the 13th time in its last 16 games.

Appalachian State and Elon continue their three-game SoCon series on Saturday at 3 p.m. at Smith Stadium.

NOTES: Callaway, who was named April's SoCon Player of the Month earlier on Friday, is hitting .458 (33-for-72) with 23 RBI, 20 runs scored and 11 multi-hit games during his 17-game hitting streak ... Callaway's two sacrifice flies give him nine on the season, just one shy of the NCAA Division I leaders (Georgia's Kyle Farmer and Vanderbilt's Conrad Gregor) ... Crespo has reached base in 21-straight games, Appalachian State's longest streak of the season ... with at least three starts likely remaining this season, Nunn moved into a tie for fifth in Appalachian State history with his ninth win of the campaign, just three shy of the school record of 12, set by Pete Hardee in 1984 ... Appalachian State's 13 hits were its most since it had 15 in a 9-1 win at UNCG on April 12 ... Appalachian moved to 5-3 in SoCon series openers this season ... the Mountaineers are in search of just their second SoCon series victory in 10 attempts against Elon ... Appalachian's only SoCon series win over the Phoenix came in 2008

Seven-Run Sixth Lifts Mountaineers to 9-1 Win

Written by Mike Flynn
Saturday, 04 May 2013 10:53

when the Mountaineers won 2-of-3 game at Elon.

Photo Courtesy: Jamie Nunn, ASU Athletics