

ASU Softball Claims First SoCon Title

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Appalachian State University clinched the program's first regular season Southern Conference Championship on Saturday afternoon after defeating Georgia Southern 2-0 in game one of the three-game series. The game one win at Eagle Stadium was all the Apps needed to earn the regular season championship. The game one victory marked a program-best as the Apps now have 30 wins on the season, the best since the 2006 season when the Mountaineers marked 29 wins.

Game One: App State 2, Georgia Southern 0

Back-to-back home runs to opposite fields in the top of the fourth inning allowed the Mountaineers to take the 2-0 lead over the Eagles. Junior Lindsay Loudermilk drove her seventh home run down the right field line before senior Meghan Smith went opposite field with her team-high eighth home run.

Georgia Southern's best chance of scoring came in the bottom of the first inning when a leadoff walk and two wild pitches would get Alexa Lewis to third base for the Eagles. Lewis would be retired for the third out of the inning after a well played wild pitch would make a play at the plate for the Apps, allowing no runs to score.

The Eagles saw their first hit of the game in the bottom of the sixth inning when Lewis singled up middle with one out. Appalachian would get Lewis out on a hard hit ball back to pitcher Alissa Schoelkopf for the second out of the inning. A fly out to center field retired the final out, allowing no runs to score on the Georgia Southern hit.

The Eagles battled in the bottom of the seventh inning as Shelby Morrill had a leadoff single through the right side of the field before pinch runner Nicole Benton came in for Georgia Southern. A hard hit line drive back to Schoelkopf would allow the pitcher to turn a double play as she threw to second before Smith fired over to first to retire the second out of the inning. Loudermilk and Smith led the Appalachian offense as they each tallied one hit and one RBI, while Sarah Warnock, Dani Heichen and Ellie Manriquez each notched a hit for the Mountaineers.

Schoelkopf (19-10) pitched her 14th complete game, striking out six and allowing just two hits, while the shutout marks the first complete game shutout of her career.

Game Two: Georgia Southern 1, App State 0

The Eagles scored their first run of the day when Lewis had a leadoff single and advanced to second on a walk. Lewis came around to score when Tabby Douberly doubled with two outs. Appalachian would get the final out of the inning before any more runs were able to cross the plate, as Georgia Southern took the 1-0 lead into the top of the second inning.

App State's lone hit came in the top of the first inning when Heichen singled to lead off the inning. In the top of the fourth inning, Cynthia Gomez reached first on a fielding error before advancing to second on an Allie Cashion ground out. Gomez would be the only Mountaineer to reach second for the Apps in game two as they were held to just one hit in seven innings.

Heichen led the Black and Gold in game two as she was the only player to tally a hit, while Shivaun Landeros (11-7) suffered the loss in the circle pitching six innings with one strikeout. Appalachian will complete its regular season schedule on Sunday, May 1 when its play game-three against the Eagle. First pitch from Eagles Stadium is slated for 1 p.m.