

ASU opens SoCon Tournament vs. COC

Written by Mike Kelly
Sunday, 23 May 2010 08:16

The Appalachian State University baseball team pulled off the series sweep against Wofford to close out the regular season.

The Apps (35-16-1 overall; 14-14-1 in the Southern Conference) completed the assault by taking a double-header from the Terriers on Saturday. ASU won the opener 13-4 and the Mountaineers were just as dominating in the second game as they battered the Terriers 10-3 down in Spartanburg, SC.

Chris Alessandria, who was the hero on Friday night with a three-run home run that gave ASU a come-from-behind 7-6 win in the series opener, continued this hot hitting by homering and driving in six runs in game one. The Apps also pounded out 21 hits in that game. Tyler Zupcic had four hits; David Towarnicky and Jeremy Dowdy both went deep.

ASU broke the game open with six runs in the eighth inning.

In game two, Wes Hobson had two hits and drove in three runs. Ryan Arrowood went four innings, gave up an earned run on six hits and struck out four to pick up his seventh win of the year.

But despite the season-ending sweep of the Terriers, the Apps are still a No.7 seed heading into the SoCon Tournament, which begins on Wednesday at Riley Park in Charleston, SC. ASU will play College of Charleston, the No.2 seed, in the opening round. Western Carolina nailed down the No.6 seed as the Catamounts (16-13-1 SoCon) pulled off a three-game sweep of their own against Davidson.

WCU defeated Davidson 11-2 on Saturday in Cullowee on Senior Day. The Catamounts will open SoCon Tournament play against the No.3 seed, Georgia Southern, which won the tournament last year.

ASU takes on COC at 9 am Wednesday morning. Our coverage begins at 8:40 am on WATA 1450 AM.

NOTES: By winning 35 games this season, the Mountaineers posted their best regular-season record in 24 years.....The Citadel won the SoCon regular-season championship this weekend as the Bulldogs by taking a pair of games from Georgia Southern on Saturday.....The Eagles finished in a two-way tie for third with Elon, but Georgia Southern wins the tie-breaker.....Furman secured the No.8 seed as the Paladins defeated UNC-Greensboro 11-6 in a game called in the eighth inning because of rain. A six-run second inning put Furman on top to stay. Furman begins tournament play Wednesday against the No.1 seed, The Citadel.

SoCon Tournament:
First Round

No.7 ASU v. No.2 COC 9 am
No.6 WCU v. No.3 Georgia Southern 1 pm
No.8 Furman v. No.1 The Citadel 5 pm
No.5 Sanford v. No.4 Elon 9 pm

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