

ASU eliminated by WCU, 7-6

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Appalachian State University baseball team was denied its chance of reaching the Southern Conference tournament finals on Saturday night.

The Mountaineers (38-18-1), who marched their way into the semifinal round with three impressive performances, finally ran out of gas on Saturday night in their rematch with Western Carolina. The Catamounts (37-20-1), who were victimized by ASU on Saturday morning, losing 3-2 in the bottom of the ninth, returned the favor in game two.

The Catamounts erased an early 4-1 deficit and beat the Mountaineers 7-6. Tyler White's run-scoring single drove home the game winner. A lead-off single by Ross Heffley, a sacrifice bunt, an intentional walk to Trevor Collias and a htis batsman set the stage for White's game-winning hit. ASU had tied the game at 6-6 on David Towarnicky's RBI single in the top of the ninth.

Chris Patterson, who was named the SoCon Pitcher of the Year by the league coaches, suffered his second loss in tournament play. The righthander, the fourth pitcher used by ASU coach Chris Pollard, coughed up an earned run on two hits in 1 1/3 innings of work.

Hector Crespo, who should be a shoe-in for the all-tournament team, had three hits in five trips and scored three times. Wes Hobson had three hits; Towarnicky had two hits, homered and drove in four runs.

Ollie Goulder homered and drove in three runs for the Catamounts. WCU now advances to the SoCon championship game Sunday afternoon. The Catamounts take on the Citadel, which rallied to beat Elon 6-5 in ten innings.

The Catamounts must beat The Citadel twice to win the tournament title. The Bulldogs are unblemished in tournament play. Sunday's championship game begins at 2 pm.