

Bulldogs Sweep ASU, 12-4 , 4-1

Written by Mike Flynn
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Defending Southern Conference regular-season and tournament champion The Citadel completed a three-game conference-opening sweep of visiting Appalachian State University by taking both ends of a doubleheader from the Mountaineers on Saturday at Riley Park.

Appalachian dropped a 12-4 decision in the first game of the twinbill and fell, 4-1, in the nightcap.

Appalachian (6-5, 0-3 SoCon) was out-hit by a combined 21-12 in Saturday's doubleheader and managed only six runs on 18 hits in three games against The Citadel's sterling pitching.

The Citadel (6-5, 3-0 SoCon) jumped out to an 8-0 lead after just three innings in Saturday's first game and cruised to the victory. Five ASU pitchers surrendered 12 hits and issued nine walks in the loss.

Freshman Lawrence Pardo (Miami, Fla./Christopher Columbus), the reigning SoCon Pitcher of the Week, suffered the worst outing of his young collegiate career, allowing seven runs on five hits over just 1.1 innings of work.

The Bulldogs grabbed another early advantage in the nightcap, taking a 3-1 lead after one inning.

After the three-run first inning, Appalachian starter Seth Grant (Etowah, N.C./West Henderson) settled in to give ASU its strongest individual performance of the weekend. The right-handed senior retired 15-consecutive batters after the three-run first and went on to turn in 6.2 strong innings, scattering seven hits and holding the Bulldogs scoreless over his final 5.2 innings of work.

However, as was the story all weekend, ASU could not muster any significant rallies against The Citadel's pitching staff, despite the fact that preseason SoCon Pitcher of the Year Matt Talley did not see action due to injury. The Mountaineers struck out 11 times in the nightcap, 19 times in the doubleheader and 34 times in the three-game weekend series.

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Zack Briggs (Lexington, N.C./Central Davidson) and Tyler Zupcic (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) led Appalachian with two hits apiece in Saturday's opener while Jack Myers (Charlotte, N.C./Myers Park) recorded two hits and drew a walk in the nightcap.

After playing its first 11 games away from Boone, the road-weary Mountaineers make their true home debut on Tuesday when they host LaSalle for the opener of a two-game mid-week series. First pitch for the home opener is set for 3 p.m. at ASU's Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.