

## Baseball Bounces Back to Rout Furman

Written by Mike Flynn

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Appalachian State University baseball rebounded from Friday night's heartbreaking loss to rout Furman, 10-2, on Saturday afternoon at Latham Stadium.

Less than 24 hours after Appalachian (17-15, 5-9 SoCon) squandered a 2-0 ninth-inning lead in a 3-2 loss to Furman, the Mountaineers hammered the Paladins to record their biggest win since a 14-4 romp over North Carolina A&T on March 2.

Highlighted by a six-run sixth inning, ASU scored the final eight runs of Saturday's ballgame to turn a tight contest into a blowout.

With the game knotted at 2-2 in the fifth, Zack Briggs (Lexington, S.C./Central Davidson) provided what proved to be the winning run with a two-out solo home run to left field. The blast not only gave Appalachian a 3-2 advantage but also extended Briggs' hitting streak to 12 games, ASU's longest of the season.

Thanks in large part to a Furman meltdown on the mound, Appalachian effectively put the game away in the sixth. ASU's first five baserunners of the inning got on without the benefit of a hit, as FU starter Daniel Stallsmith walked two batters and hit two more and his replacement, Matt Plate walked the first batter he faced to force in the second run of the inning and give the Mountaineers a 5-2 lead.

Jeremy Dowdy (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield) then broke the game wide open with a two-run single to center field and Daniel Kassouf (Lexington, N.C./North Davidson) and Preston Troutman (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) added consecutive RBI singles to stretch the ASU advantage to 9-2.

Appalachian put an exclamation point on the rout in the ninth when Kassouf led off with a double down the left field line and pinch runner Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) came around to score the game's final run on a wild pitch.

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Briggs, Kassouf, Troutman and Jack Myers (Charlotte, N.C./Myers Park) led the Mountaineers' 12-hit attack with two apiece while eight of ASU's nine starters scored at least one run and 7-of-9 registered at least one RBI.

Not to be overshadowed by the offensive outburst was a spectacular start on the mound by sophomore Nathan Hyatt (Brevard, N.C./Brevard). The right-hander limited Furman to just four hits over a career-best eight innings of work, striking out six along the way and evening his record at 4-4 on the campaign.

Reese Wade went 2-for-4 to pace Furman (16-16, 7-6 SoCon). The two clubs play the rubber match of their three-game SoCon series on Sunday at 1 p.m. at Latham Stadium.