

Mountaineers Blast Gardner-Webb, 12-3

Written by Mike Flynn
Thursday, 14 April 2011 06:28

Daniel Kassouf (Lexington, N.C./North Davidson) and Zack Briggs (Lexington, N.C./Central Davidson) continued their recent tears at the plate to lead Appalachian State University baseball to a 12-3 rout over Gardner-Webb on Wednesday evening at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.

Kassouf homered for the third-straight game and notched his fourth-consecutive multi-hit outing while Briggs hit his fourth home run in five contests and extended his hitting streak to 15 games to pace Appalachian's season-high-tying 14-hit attack.

The duo provided ASU (20-15) with all the scoring it would need in the first three innings of the game. In the first, Kassouf drove in the game's initial run with an RBI double to left field and Briggs followed with his fifth homer of the season, a two-run blast that gave the Mountaineers a 3-0 lead.

Two innings later, Kassouf launched a towering two-run blast to left center field that extended the ASU advantage to 5-0.

Appalachian stretched the lead to 8-0 before Gardner-Webb (20-10-1) finally got on the board with a single run in the sixth. The Bulldogs would cut the deficit to 9-3 with two more runs in the seventh but the Mountaineers ended any hopes of a GWU comeback with a three-run eighth.

In addition to Kassouf (2-for-4) and Briggs (2-for-5), who each doubled and homered in the romp, ASU also received multi-hit performances from Jack Myers (Charlotte, N.C./Myers Park) (2-for-4, RBI, two runs), Tyler Tewell (Charlotte, N.C./Butler) (2-for-3, two runs) and Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside), who came off the bench to go 3-for-3 with a double and two RBI.

On the mound, three Mountaineer pitchers limited Gardner-Webb, the nation's sixth-best hitting team with a .328 average coming in, to just seven hits while not walking a batter. Ryne Frankoff (Apex, N.C./Apex) got the win, surrendering just one run on four hits while striking out five over a career-long six innings. Frankoff (1-0) had never pitched more than 2.1 innings in 10 previous appearances in his career.

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Daniel Merck and Dusty Quattlebaum led GWU with two hits apiece.

ASU, the winner of eight of its last 10 ballgames and 23 of its last 25 non-conference tilts at home, continues a five-game homestand this weekend when it hosts a pivotal three-game Southern Conference series versus third-place Samford (21-13, 9-6 SoCon). The three-game set opens on Friday at 6 p.m. at Smith Stadium.