

Mountaineers Drop Series Finale to Samford

Written by Mike Flynn
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Eight Samford players collected at least one hit to lead the Bulldogs to an 8-3 victory over Appalachian State University baseball on Sunday at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.

With the loss, Appalachian (21-17, 7-11 SoCon) dropped the weekend's three-game Southern Conference series to Samford (23-14, 11-7 SoCon), two games to one.

Appalachian trailed 4-1 going into the bottom of the seventh inning but rallied for a pair of runs on an RBI groundout by Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) and sacrifice fly by Tyler Zupcic (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) to cut the deficit to 4-3. However, the Mountaineer bullpen couldn't hold on to the momentum, surrendering four runs over the final two innings to allow Samford to run away with the victory.

ASU managed only five hits on the afternoon, including just four in six innings against Bulldog starter Kyle Putkonen (5-1). Making his first start in two weeks due to an oblique injury, Putkonen allowed just one run, struck out five and walked none to earn the victory.

Seth Grant (Etowah, N.C./West Henderson) gave the Mountaineers six strong innings on the mound but was hurt by two ASU errors in the setback. The right-hander allowed just five hits over his six innings of work but was saddled with three runs, two of which were unearned, to suffer the loss and fall to 3-5 on the campaign.

Zack Briggs (Lexington, N.C./Central Davidson) had two of Appalachian's five hits and scored two runs. Brad Moss went 2-for-5 with two RBI to lead Samford.

Appalachian closes a five-game homestand on Tuesday when it hosts Presbyterian at 6 p.m. at Smith Stadium.