

## Holmes' Single Lifts ASU to 8-6 Win

Written by Mike Flynn

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Trey Holmes' (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) two-out RBI single in the seventh inning provided the winning run in Appalachian State University baseball's 8-6 victory over Presbyterian on Tuesday evening at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.

Appalachian (22-17) led 5-1 after four innings but Presbyterian (18-20) rallied to knot the score at 6-6 with three runs in the top of the seventh inning.

Jeremy Dowdy (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield) led off the bottom of the seventh with a single up the middle and moved into scoring position on Preston Troutman's (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) sacrifice bunt. Dowdy attempted to break the tie when Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) followed Troutman's sacrifice with a single to left center field but PC center fielder Gabe Grammer made a strong throw to nail the ASU catcher at the plate for the second out of the inning.

The ballgame would remain tied for only one more pitch, however, as Holmes belted an 0-1 offering from Presbyterian reliever Matt Nodelman (0-1) into right center field and Callaway easily came home from second with the go-ahead run.

After ASU closer Taylor Miller (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield) preserved the one-run lead by coming on to strike out Tony Micklon with the bases loaded in the top of the eighth, the Mountaineers tacked on an insurance run in the bottom of the stanza. Jack Myers (Charlotte, N.C./Myers Park) led off the bottom of the eighth with his third base hit of the evening and came around to score on Zack Briggs' (Lexington, N.C./Central Davidson) RBI single to right center field.

Miller retired the side in order in the ninth to seal the win and record his eighth save of the season.

All nine ASU starters recorded at least one hit in the club's season-best 15-hit output. Holmes (3-for-4, double, RBI) and Myers (3-for-4, two RBI) led the way for the Mountaineers. Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) chipped in with two RBI in a 2-for-3 effort and Callaway went 2-for-3 and scored three runs.

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David Port (Dunwoody, Ga./Dunwoody) worked 1.2 innings of one-hit scoreless relief to earn the win and move to 2-0 on the season. Presbyterian's rally from the early 5-1 deficit ruined a third-consecutive strong start by Mountaineer southpaw Ryne Frankoff (Apex, N.C./Apex), who did not surrender an earned run over four innings. Despite not figuring in the decision, the sophomore lowered his ERA to 2.50.

Brad Zebedis paced the Blue Hose's 10-hit attack by going 3-for-4 with a double, RBI and two runs scored.

Appalachian, which has won 24 of its last 26 non-conference games at Smith Stadium, takes to the road this weekend for a pivotal Southern Conference series at Davidson. The Easter weekend set between eighth-place ASU (7-11 in SoCon play) and seventh-place DC (16-19, 8-12 SoCon) begins on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Davidson's Wilson Field.