

Eagles Soar Over ASU In Season Finale

Written by Mike Kelly
Saturday, 21 May 2011 16:49

The Appalachian State University baseball team was denied a season-ending sweep against Georgia Southern.

The Eagles, who got belted in the series opener Thursday night and coughed up a three-run lead and lost on Friday, got their revenge Saturday afternoon. Georgia Southern (32-23 overall; 18-12 in the Southern Conference), which began the day tied with Samford for the No.4 seed in the SoCon standings, belted ASU 12-4 at Beaver Field/Smith Stadium.

The Eagles will be the No.5 seed after Samford defeated College of Charleston 6-5 Saturday afternoon in Birmingham, AL. The Bulldogs, who blew a 4-0 lead, won the game on Philip Ervin's run-scoring single in the ninth. The Eagles and Bulldogs will play each other in the opening round of the SoCon tournament Wednesday in Charleston, SC.

The Eagles built a 5-1 lead by the third inning against the Mountaineers, and broke the game open with a four-run explosion in the fifth. Lead-off man Shawn Payne did most of the damage with two hits and four runs-batted-in. He belted a two-run triple in that four-run fifth inning that gave the Eagles a commanding 9-1 lead.

Seth Grant (4-9) suffered the loss for ASU. He coughed up three earned runs on five hits and two walks in three innings of work. Chad Farmer, who came on in relief of Grant, was touched up for four earned runs in the 1 2/3 innings.

Ironically, winning pitcher Josh Adams (8-6) of the Eagles walked eight men. and as a team, the Georgia Southern pitching staff coughed up 13 walks. But the Mountaineers (31-25; 15-15), who made ten hits, left 11 men on base.

They were paced by Tyler Zupcic and Trey Holmes with two hits a piece. Hector Crespo, Jack Myers and Jason Wallace each drove in a run. The Mountaineers (the No.6 seed) now venture down to Riley Park in Charleston, SC, for the SoCon tournament. ASU will play the College of Charleston (the No. 3 seed) in the opening round Wednesday at 1 pm.

Our coverage begins at 12:40 pm on AM 1450, WATA.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

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WEDNESDAY'S GAMES:

NO.2 UNC-GREENSBORO v. NO.7 FURMAN 9 AM

NO.3 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON v. NO.6 ASU 1 PM

NO.1 ELON v. NO.8 WESTERN CAROLINA 5 PM

NO.4 SAMFORD v. NO.5 GEORGIA SOUTHERN 9 PM