

ASU Splits Home Opening Twinbill with UNCG

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Appalachian State University softball routed UNCG 8-0 in the first game of the doubleheader and fell, 9-4, in the nightcap on Saturday at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium to open Southern Conference play and the home slate. The Mountaineers (10-8, 1-1 SoCon) defeated the Spartans (7-14, 1-1 SoCon) for the

19th time and will look to win the three-game series on Sunday for the seventh time in the last eight series. Senior Caitlin Wainright pitched one of her best games of the season as she recorded her first complete-game shutout of the year. The Greenville, N.C. native gave up a hit in the first and then sat down the Spartans in order the next four frames before giving up her final hit in the sixth-inning. Wainrights round out her stellar performance with three strikeouts and didn't allow a walk.

Junior Allie Cashion put the Mountaineers head in the first-inning for the sixth time in the last eight games on a RBI double to score freshman Sarah Warnock. Freshman Caroline Rogers reached base on a throwing error by the shotstop to score Cashion and give ASU a 2-0 head. Junior Meghan Smith earned a walk to lead off the third-inning and would give Appalachian a 3-0 lead when she stole home.

The Mountaineers put the game out of reach with four runs on two-outs in the fourth frame. The Apps tallied walks by Warnock and Smith before Cashion blasted her sixth home run of the season (6-0). Rogers launched a solo homer run to record her fourth of the season to give the ASU a 7-0 advantage.

In the nightcap, UNCG finally got on the board in the second-inning when Tatiana Alcala blasted a two-run homer to take a 2-0 lead.

The Mountaineers regained the lead in the third on a three-run double to right center by senior Michelle Lighton.

In the fifth-inning, the Spartans took the lead back in the fifth (5-3) on a three-run bomb by Katelyn Bedwell. Appalachian cut its deficit to one run (5-4) when pinch hitter Caroline Williams singled up the middle to score Smith.

The Spartans put the game out of reach in the seventh on a grand slam homer by shortstop Heather Robb (9-4).

Freshman Caroline Wainright took the loss as she gave up five runs and six hits but was able to fan three Spartan batters.

UNCG's Erica Navarette earned her second win of the season in nine hit, five strikeout performance.

The Mountaineers will wrap up their opening SoCon series at 1 p.m. on Sunday at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium.