

Phoenix Soars Over ASU

Written by Mike Flynn
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Appalachian State University baseball fell into a 5-0 hole after two innings and was never able to climb back in an 11-2 loss to Elon on Sunday afternoon at Latham Park. After falling into the early 5-0 hole, Appalachian (18-5, 7-2 SoCon) pulled within 5-2 with two runs in the top of the third inning. However, highlighted by

a sixth-inning grand slam from cleanup hitter Garrett Koster, Elon (14-11, 8-4 SoCon) scored the game's next six runs to pull away.

Five ASU pitchers combined to allow the season-high 11 runs. Junior southpaw Rob Marcello (Royal Palm Beach, Fla./Royal Palm Beach) endured his roughest start as a Mountaineer, allowing seven runs (six earned) on nine hits in 5.1 innings to suffer his first loss and fall to 3-1 on the campaign.

A 2-for-4 day for Daniel Kassouf (Lexington, N.C./North Davidson) was one of the few bright spots for the Mountaineers. With the two hits, which included an RBI single, the senior designated hitter raised his Southern Conference-leading batting average to .427. Jeremy Dowdy (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield) also went 2-for-4 to help pace the Apps' seven-hit effort. Tyler Zupcic (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) and Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) each had a hit to extend their hitting streaks to 16 and 14 games, respectively. With the defeat, ASU dropped the three-game SoCon series to Elon, two games to one. The series loss was the Mountaineers' first in five weekend sets this season and their eighth in nine regular-season series against Elon since the Phoenix joined the SoCon in 2003-04.

Appalachian returns to action on Tuesday when it opens four-game homestand versus North Carolina A&T. First pitch is set for 3 p.m. at ASU's Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.

Photo Courtesy: Jeremy Dowdy, ASU Athletics