

## Mountaineers Sweep Western Carolina

Written by Justin Bohn  
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Clutch hitting by Appalachian State University softball helped the Mountaineers earn a three-game sweep over Western Carolina, 7-3, 9-3, on Saturday at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium. A walk-off grand slam by junior Allie Cashion in the bottom of the eighth gave the Mountaineers the 7-3 victory in game-one. Freshman Dani Heichen

led off the eighth frame with a single to left and used her tremendous speed to steal second and third on consecutive pitches. Senior Megan Rembielak earned a walk and the Catamounts allowed her to take second without an attempt to second. Freshman Sarah Warnock took four balls to load up the bases. With one-out, Cashion launched the game-winning hit over the center field wall to record her fifth RBI of the day. The Waxhaw, N.C. native's five RBIs put her on top of ASU all-time runs batted in list with 127 career RBIs.

The Mountaineers (15-17, 6-7 SoCon) didn't waste any time in the first taking a 2-0 lead. Meghan Smith homered to left field to score Warnock, who singled to center a batter earlier. The Catamounts (13-25, 3-9 SoCon) tied the game at two in the top of the third. With one out, Erin Foster doubled to left center field. After Foster moved to third on a passed ball, Morgan Wyatt walked to put runners at the corners. Amber Steinhardt laid down a beauty of sacrifice squeeze bunt, scoring Foster and earning her a spot at first base. Heather Chastain's single RBI, through the left side, scored Steinhardt to tie the game at two.

Steinhardt homered to left center in the top of the fifth to give WCU a 3-2 lead, but the Mountaineers responded in the bottom half of the inning. Warnock led off the bottom of the fifth for with a single and moved all the way to third. Cashion's single RBI tied the game at three. Caroline Wainright came in relief in the fourth and earned the win without giving up a run and only allowing three hits. Riley Carter earned her third consecutive start and pitched four innings with allowing six hits and three runs (two earned).

Heichen recorded a career high three hits while Warnock tallied her third three hit game. In the bottom of the third, Smith struck again for Appalachian with her second home run of the day to give ASU a 3-0 lead.

Carter held the Catamounts scoreless till the fourth inning. Steinhardt led off the inning with a single past the short stop. Braman attempted a sacrifice bunt, and error on the throw to first by ASU allowed Steinhardt to motor home and score, 3-1.

Western Carolina put the game within one run on a solo home run by Foster in the fifth inning. Appalachian State tacked on six runs in the bottom of the sixth for insurance to put the game out of reach. The Mountaineers batted around in the inning and was highlighted by Carter's first career RBI to start the six-run inning.

Carter earned her first career win by only allowing two runs (one earned) and five hits in four and a third innings of work, while Wainright came in relief to put the game away.

Smith led the Apps in the nightcap with a 2-for-4 day and three RBIs and two runs.

The Mountaineers host ETSU on Wednesday for a doubleheader at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium with first pitch scheduled at 4 p.m.

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**Photo Courtesy: Megan Rembielak, ASU Athletics**