

Rogers' Two Homers Powers ASU Past ETSU

Written by Justin Bohn
Thursday, 12 April 2012 07:26

A pair of home runs by freshman Caroline Rogers led Appalachian State University softball in the 13-9 slugfest over ETSU on Wednesday at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium. The Mountaineers improve to 16-17 after the non-conference contest while the Buccaneers fall

to 10-23. With temperatures dropping, both offenses were not affected by the cold weather with eight runs scored in the first inning. The Bucs scored the first run of the game on a Casey Horner's RBI-single which scored Haley Thompson and Jackie Baird advanced to third and Horner to second on the throw. Alex Everett sacrificed flied to score Baird and Horner scored on a single by Marlina Delisa to give ETSU a 3-0 lead.

When the Apps received their chance to respond they wasted no time and tallied five runs in the first. Freshman Sarah Warnock started ASU's inning with one-out double to left center and scored on screaming double down the left field line by Meghan Smith. Smith advanced to third on a fielding error by the left fielder and score on Allie Cashion's single to right field. With one swing of the bat Rogers put the Mountaineers up 4-3 on a two-run homer of the left center scoreboard. Freshman Dani Heichen extended her hitting streak to four games on RBI-double and give ASU 5-4 advantage.

Just like Appalachian, the Buccaneers regained the lead with one swing of the bat by Baird. Baird launched a three-run bomb to give ETSU a 6-5 lead in the top of the second.

In the bottom half of the second, Rogers tallied her second homer of the day on bomb to dead center to score Warnock and Heichen and give the Apps a 8-6 lead.

The Black and Gold offense kept it rolling in the third with four more runs on two outs. Warnock recorded her third hit of the game on a RBI-single to score Heichen. ETSU kept the Apps inning alive with a fielding error by the second baseman and the Mountaineers capitalized on the opportunity when Riley Carter screamed one to center field to clear the bases to give ASU a 12-6 lead.

The Bucs answered back in the fourth inning with three runs of their own. Everett tallied her second RBI of the game to cut the deficit to 12-7 and two more runs scored on a Mountaineer miscue to bring ETSU with in striking distance, 9-12.

The Mountaineers tagged on insurance run in the sixth (13-9) before Caroline Williams put the game away in the seventh.

Carter earned the start but Caroline Wainright earned the win with her four innings of relief. Wainright only allowed three runs (one earned) on three hits and struck out one, while Williams threw a perfect four batter seventh inning.

Warnock, Smith and Rogers all lead the Apps with multi-hit game but Rogers tallied career-high five RBIs.

Game two of the doubleheader was cancelled due to frigid weather in Boone as temperatures were slated to hit below 30 degrees in the nightcap.

The Mountaineers return to conference play on Saturday and Sunday where they travel to Elon for a three-game Southern Conference series. Saturday's doubleheader is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. and first pitch for Sunday's game at 1 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy: Caroline Rogers, ASU Athletics