

ASU Softball Falls To Southern Miss

Written by Megan Smassa
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Appalachian State University softball fell to Southern Miss, 5-3, in the consolation game of the Florida State Renegade Classic on Sunday afternoon.

Southern Miss made its first threat of the contest when they loaded the bases on two walks and a single in the top of the second inning. Pinch hitter Katie Cleary hit a short single to left center field and brought in the Golden Eagles first run of the game.

USM extended its lead to 3-0 when Caroline Walker hit a single down the left field line to score two runs later in the second.

With two outs in the bottom half of the second, sophomore Ashley Seering hit a solo home run off the scoreboard to bring the Apps within two of Southern Miss (3-1). The home run marks Seering's first of the season and her fourth hit of the Renegade Classic.

Mackenzie Sher would double down the left field before coming around to score on a passed ball as the Golden Eagles took the 4-1 advantage in the top of the third inning.

The Mountaineers responded to the run in the bottom of the third as the sophomore duo of Dani Heichen and Cynthia Gomez combined for the run. Heichen led off with a single to left and would advance to third on two groundouts. Gomez dug in with two outs and singled through the left side of the field to score Heichen and cut the deficit to just two runs yet again.

Southern Miss tacked on one run in the top of the sixth on a well executed hit-and-run to take the 5-2 advantage over App State.

The Apps threatened in the bottom of the sixth inning as Gomez would walk and Lindsay Loudermilk would reach on a fielding error with only one out. Appalachian loaded the bases when it capitalized on the Golden Eagles' second error of the inning, bringing freshman Alex Sohl to the plate with only one out.

Sohl would reach first on a fielder's choice, allowing Gomez to cross the plate and score the Black and Gold's third run of the contest. Southern Miss retired the final batter of the inning to maintain a 5-3 lead heading into the top of the seventh and closed things out for the victory.

With the loss App State falls to 3-7 overall on the season, while Southern Miss improves to 10-14 overall on the season. Starting pitcher Alissa Schoelkopf (1-4) suffered the loss as she pitched two innings, while Shivaun Landeros pitched five innings for the Apps.

Gomez and Seering led App State as they both recorded one hit and one RBI, while Heichen added one hit and Sohl tacked on a RBI.

Loudermilk and Sarah Warnock led Appalachian at the Renegade classic as they each tallied six hits, while Loudermilk had five RBI and Warnock knocked in two. Seering recorded her first hits of the season as she had four on the weekend with two doubles, one home run and one RBI.

In three days at the Renegade Classic, the Mountaineers finished with a 2-3 record as they picked up a win over Troy, split with Southern Miss and dropped a pair to No. 25 Florida State on Saturday.

Appalachian State will be back in action on Saturday, Mar. 9 when they travel to Cullowhee, N.C. for its first Southern Conference series of the season. First pitch of the double-header is slated for 1 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy: Cynthia Gomez, ASU Athletics