

## ASU Softball Falls to Western In Series Finale

Written by Megan Samassa  
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Appalachian State University softball fell 13-4 in six innings to Western Carolina in game three of the series on Sunday.

Appalachian took two of three games from the Catamounts to earn the series victory over the weekend after sweeping

Saturday's double-header. The Mountaineer bats continued to be a force in game three of the series against Western Carolina as Cynthia Gomez singled through the left side and Allie Cashion doubled to left center to kick off the first inning.

The Catamount pitching staff surrendered two walks to score the Apps first run of the contest and allow them to take the 1-0 lead in the top of the first.

Western put a run on the board to knot the score at 1-1 when they recorded back-to-back lead off hits and two walks with no outs. The Cats took the 2-1 lead over the Black and Gold when Taylor Sigmon singled up the middle to score the runner from third, but a play at the plate retired the final out of the inning before any more runs could be scored.

The Mountaineers tied the game for the second time when Caroline Rogers drew a walk to lead off the second and Dani Heichen reached on a Western error. Sophomore Sarah Warnock drove a single to left field that plated Rogers to tie the score at 2-2.

Lindsay Loudermilk gave the Mountaineers their second lead of the game when she doubled to left center, scoring Warnock and allowing the Apps to take the 3-2 lead. The contest saw its third lead change when the Cats scored two runs on an App State error to take the 4-3 advantage in the bottom of the second.

Western tacked on four more run when Heather Chastain hit a grand slam over the center field fence to put the Catamounts up by five. A home run over the center field fence would give WCU a 9-3 lead and its seventh run of the inning before App State would see a pitching change.

A deep infield hit to the shortstop from Heichen would score Ashley Seering from second to bring the Apps within five of Western in the top of the third.

The Catamounts saw their third home run of the game over the center field fence when Haley Pace brought in two, to extend their lead to 11-4 in the sixth inning.

Another two-run home run just two batters later over the left field fence would allow Western Carolina to mercy-rule App State, 13-4, in six innings. Starting pitcher Shivaun Landeros (3-3) pitched 1.2 innings, while Alissa Schoelkopf came on in relief to pitch four innings with three strikeouts. Cashion led Appalachian offensively as she was 2-for-3 at the plate, while Gomez was 2-for-3 at the plate.

Cashion led the series for the Black and Gold as she tallied six hits and five RBI, while Smith added six hits on the weekend, going 6-for-7 at the plate in Saturday's double-header.

With the loss Appalachian State falls to 5-8 overall on the season and 2-1 in the SoCon, while Western Carolina improves to 7-13 overall on the season and 1-2 in the SoCon

Appalachian State will be back in action on Wednesday, Mar. 13 when it travels to Charleston, S.C. to take on Charleston Southern. First pitch of the double-header is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

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**Photo Courtesy: Allie Cashion, ASU Athletics**