

ASU Downs North Carolina A&T, 10-2

Written by Mike Flynn

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After junior starting pitcher Chad Farmer pitched seven strong innings, Appalachian State University baseball plated five in the eighth inning to insure

the 10-2 victory over North Carolina A&T on Tuesday night at War Memorial Stadium. Farmer struck out seven and settled down after giving up two runs in the bottom of the first. The victory marked his first decision in his last 12 starts and the first since March 14, 2012. Appalachian began quickly as senior Hector Crespo singled through the right side. With outfielder Preston Troutman up, Crespo took off from first and recorded his 92nd stolen base of his career and 10th against N.C. A&T. With a Troutman single and a wild-pitch, Crespo scored the opening run of the game. Troutman eventually scored as the Apps carried a 2-0 lead into the bottom half of the inning.

The Aggies bounced back quickly in the first. Luke Tandler was hit by Farmer's first pitch of the game. Tandler was followed by a bunt-single by Dylan Hipp. Tandler and Hipp eventually scored, but the two runs would be all the Aggies would plate in the contest.

After a walk by William Head and a fielder's choice by Brandon Burris, Crespo doubled in the left-center gap, scoring Head and Burris. Crespo eventually stole third, and scored on an error by A&T's Jevoanny Tolentino.

Despite the run-spree in the first two innings, neither could find the scoreboard until the top of the eighth when outfielder Jaylin Davis led off the inning with a triple off the centerfield wall. Davis' triple woke up the Mountaineer bats, as they recorded six hits and five runs in the inning. Right-hander Josh Wilson relieved Farmer in the eighth inning and retired five-straight batters, striking out one. Rob Marcello clinched the victory as he recorded the final out of the game. Crespo and catcher Josh Zumbrook led Appalachian with three hits, highlighted by Zumbrook's fourth double of the season.

Aggie Andre McKoy paced A&T with three hits and one RBI. McKoy was the only Aggie hitter to have a multiple hits in the game.

Starter Tim Jones lasted just two innings and gave up five earned runs. Jamal Clark came in relief in the third and struck out five Mountaineer hitters, eventually pitching five innings.

Appalachian State returns to its Southern Conference slate on Friday, March 22, as the Apps head to Patroits Point to face College of Charleston. The first contest of the three-game set is scheduled for 6 p.m.

NOTES: App State improves its record over North Carolina A&T to 46-7 all-time ... the Mountaineers have now won 12-straight over the Aggies with A&T's last win coming in 2007 ... the 10-2 win is Appalachian's fifth-straight win at War Memorial Stadium ... Zumbrook improves his hitting-streak to eight-straight games ... Will Callaway has reached base safely in 11 of the last 12 games as he improves to 8-for-17 (.471) against A&T all-time ... with Crespo's 92nd and 93rd stolen base, he moves into 10th in SoCon history and is 54 short of the record set by The Citadel's Chris Morris in 1998 ... Crespo now has 11 stolen bases against the Aggies all-time ... Farmer improves to 4-3 for his career and 1-0 on the year.

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Photo Courtesy: Hector Crespo, ASU Athletics