

Agnew-Wieland Blanks Wofford to Even Series

Written by Mike Flynn

Sunday, 31 March 2013 11:21

Sam Agnew-Wieland (Marietta, Ga./Wheeler) threw a five-hit shutout to lead Appalachian State University baseball to a 4-0 win over Wofford on Saturday afternoon at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.

Agnew-Wieland's gem helped Appalachian State (13-9, 5-5 SoCon) even its three-game Southern Conference series with Wofford (13-15, 4-7 SoCon) at a win apiece. The teams play the rubber match of their three-game set on Sunday at 1 p.m. at Smith Stadium.

Agnew-Wieland's complete-game shutout was the first by a Mountaineer since Seth Grant blanked Elon, 5-0, on March 24 of last season. It also marked the first time that Appalachian has blanked an opponent since a 6-0 win at Wofford on April 29 of last year.

The shutout came in dominant fashion, as Agnew-Wieland (4-2) struck out an Appalachian State season-high 10 and Wofford managed to hit the ball out of the infield only three times. All five of the Terriers hits were singles and four didn't leave the infield.

Appalachian's offense provided Agnew-Wieland all the support he needed when it scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning. The Mountaineers got on the board when Will Callaway's (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) hard-hit ball scooted through the legs of Wofford third baseman Seth Neely and down the left-field line, allowing Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) to score on the error. One batter later, Noah Holmes (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) doubled over the head of left fielder Clark Wise to drive in Callaway and give the Mountaineers what proved to be an insurmountable 2-0 lead.

The Apps tacked on a couple of insurance runs in the sixth on an RBI triple by Preston Troutman (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) and an RBI single by William Head (Asheville, N.C./Asheville).

That would be more than enough for Agnew-Wieland. Wofford managed to put just four runners in scoring position all afternoon and only one reached third base. When the Terriers got a runner to third for the first time with one out in the eighth inning, Agnew-Wieland induced back-to-back groundouts to get out of the jam and keep the whitewash intact.

Holmes, Head, Troutman and Jaylin Davis (McLeansville, N.C./Northeast Guilford) paced the Mountaineers' 11-hit attack with two apiece. Wofford starter Jesse Morris surrendered four runs (two earned) over six innings to fall to 4-2 on the season. Designated hitter Matthew Ramsay (2-for-2) was the only Terrier with multiple hits.

NOTES: Appalachian State has shut out Wofford three times in the last five years (Saturday, April 29 of last year and April 25, 2009) ... Appalachian has limited Wofford to two runs or less six times in their last eight meetings ... Agnew-Wieland's 10 strikeouts were the most by a Mountaineer since Ryan Arrowood fanned 10 in a 1-0 win at No. 7 LSU on Feb. 25 of last season ... Head has reached base in seven-straight games ... Brandon Burris (Concord, N.C./Mount Pleasant) extended his hitting streak to four games with an eighth-inning single ... Appalachian had double-digit hits for only the second time in the last seven games ... prior to the second game of its March 16 doubleheader versus Cornell, the Mountaineers had banged out double-digit hits in seven-straight contests.

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Photo Courtesy: Sam Agnew-Weiland (No.14), ASU Athletics