

Callaway, Davis Lead Apps Over Eagles

Written by Mike Flynn
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Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) and Jaylin Davis (McLeansville, N.C./Northeast Guilford) combined to go 6-for-8 with eight RBI and five runs scored to lead Appalachian State University baseball to a 9-5 win over first-place Georgia Southern in Friday afternoon's Southern Conference series opener at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium. Callaway went 2-for-3 with a career-high five RBI and Davis (4-for-5) matched career highs with his four hits and three RBI in the victory. Paced by the duo, Appalachian State (16-9, 7-5 SoCon) won its fourth-straight game, good for its longest winning streak of the season. Thanks to an RBI triple by Davis and a sacrifice fly by Callaway, Appalachian jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Georgia Southern turned the Mountaineers' early advantage into a 4-2 deficit in the top of the third when, aided by an App State error, the Eagles plated four runs (three of them unearned).

GSU's only lead was short-lived, however, as Davis, Callaway and Noah Holmes (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) strung together three-consecutive RBI singles with two outs in the bottom of the third to put the Mountaineers ahead for good at 5-4.

Two innings later, Callaway broke the game wide open when he belted a 1-2 pitch from Georgia Southern reliever Chris Myers over the left-field wall for a three-run home run. The senior's first homer of the season gave Appalachian State a commanding 8-4 lead.

Davis capped the scoring in the sixth with a two-out RBI single that brought Gabe Dimock (Greensboro, N.C./Grimsley), who doubled down the right-field line to lead off the frame, home from third with the Mountaineers' ninth run. Callaway and Davis were two of six Mountaineers to finish with multiple hits, as Holmes, Dimock, Dillon Dobson (Boonville, N.C./Starmount) and William Head (Asheville, N.C./Asheville) had two apiece. As a team, Appalachian's 15 hits matched its second-highest total of the season.

The offensive explosion somewhat overshadowed a terrific outing by starting pitcher Jamie Nunn (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor). Appalachian State's ace bounced back from last Friday's 9-1 loss to Wofford by allowing just one earned run on five hits over seven solid innings for his conference-leading sixth win of the season. Nunn (6-2) struck out six in the winning effort.

Appalachian hammered GSU starter Sam Howard for seven runs on eight hits in four-plus innings of work. The left-hander, who came into the contest tied with Nunn atop the SoCon in wins, dropped to 5-3 with the loss. T.D. Davis (2-for-4) was the only player with multiple hits for Georgia Southern (19-10, 9-4 SoCon). The clubs continue their three-game weekend series on Saturday. First pitch is set for 3 p.m. at Smith Stadium.

NOTES: One more win this weekend would give Appalachian State only its third series victory over Georgia Southern since the Eagles joined the Southern Conference in 1992 (Appalachian took 2-of-3 games from GSU in 2008 and 2011) ... while Georgia Southern maintains a commanding 54-17 advantage in the all-time series between the two clubs, Appalachian State has now won five of the last eight games against GSU ... Callaway became the first Mountaineer with five RBI in a game since current Atlanta Braves farmhand Tyler Tewell drove in five in a 14-0 win over Furman on April 21 of last year ... with his three-run blast in the fifth inning, Callaway became the 10th different Mountaineer to homer this season ... fans are encouraged to get to their seats early on Saturday for a special pregame presentation that will be made at approximately 2:50 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy: Will Callaway, ASU Athletics