

Mountaineers Top Furman on Senior Day

Written by Megan Samassa
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Appalachian State University softball polished off the series sweep of Furman as it defeated the Paladins, 5-3, on Sunday afternoon at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium. With the win the Mountaineers improve 24-16 overall on the season, while Furman falls to 22-24 overall and 7-10 in the Southern Conference. The Black and Gold remain perfect at home, boasting a 14-0 record and improved to 16-5 in league play to stay atop the standings. App State came out strong for game three against the Paladins as they sat down the Furman offense in order before taking the early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Sarah Warnock was hit by a pitch before Dani Heichen laid down a bunt single to put runners on first and second. Lindsay Loudermilk advanced the runners into scoring position for senior Allie Cashion with a hard hit grounder to second base.

Cashion line a single up the middle to score both Warnock and Heichen, allowing the Apps to take the 2-0 lead over the Paladins. A walk and a double off the center field wall brought Furman within one of the Mountaineers in the top of the third inning.

The Paladins loaded the bases with a walk and back-to-back single to opposite fields before a wild pitch would knot the score at 2-2 in the top of the fourth inning. Furman took its first lead of the game when Hannah Pace laid down a suicide squeeze to score Taylor Jenkins from third base.

Appalachian responded to Furman in the bottom of the fourth inning when it scored three unearned runs with two outs. Caroline Rogers led off the inning with a single through the left side and Pepper Butler drew a walk before pinch hitter Ellie Manriquez reached first to load the bases on a Furman error.

Loudermilk brought in the first run of the inning when she was hit by a pitch for the second time in the contest before Cashion lined her second single of the day to drive in two runs for the Apps and give the Black and Gold the 5-3 lead. The Furman offense was highlighted by Siera Bishop who was the only Paladin to tally a multi-hit game as she went 2-for-3, while Clemmons and Pace added one RBI a piece.

Cashion led the Mountaineer line up as she went 2-for-4 at the plate with four RBI, while Loudermilk added the final RBI and Heichen went 2-for-3 at the plate and scored twice for App State. Starting pitcher Alissa Schoelkopf (16-9) earned the win in game three as she polished off her second conference sweep of the year. Schoelkopf tossed six complete innings with five strikeouts, while Shivaun Landeros threw one inning of relief to earn her second save of the season.

Appalachian will be back in action on Tuesday, April 23 when it travels to Spartanburg, S.C. to take on USC Upstate in a non-conference game. First pitch is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Allie Cashion, ASU Athletics