

Five Run Inning Lifts Apps To Victory Over Upstate

Written by Megan Samassa
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Appalachian State University softball defeated Atlantic Sun conference leader, USC Upstate, 6-3 in a single non-conference game at Cyrill Stadium on Tuesday evening. With the win the Mountaineers improve to 25-16 overall on the season, while the Spartans suffered only their eighth loss of the season, falling to 37-8 overall.

USC Upstate showed off its powerful offense immediately as leadoff hitter Meredith Barnes drove her team-high 11th home run over the center field fence to give the Spartans a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Back-to-back line drives up the middle and a bunt single loaded the bases with no outs for Upstate before Shivaun Landeros struck out one and Alex Sohl caught a foul ball to retire the second out.

Kendall Settlemyre lined a single to the shortstop to drive in two runs for the Spartans, extending the USC Upstate lead to 3-0 before a throw from Sohl to Caroline Rogers caught Dana Landers coming from second base.

The Mountaineers responded in the bottom of the second as Meghan Smith and Ashley Seering hit back-to-back shallow singles to center field before Sohl drove a single up the middle to score Smith and bring the Apps within two of the Spartans.

Appalachian loaded the bases when Rogers was hit by a pitch with no outs before Sarah Warnock lined her second hit of the contest just over the shortstop's head, scoring two and knotting the score at 3-3.

The Apps loaded the bases for the second time in the inning when Allie Cashion drew an intentional walk. With two outs and runners on all bases Lindsay Loudermilk popped up a hit to the edge of the grass, allowing Rogers and Warnock to score and the Black and Gold to take their first lead of the game.

After no scoring for the next four innings, Loudermilk lined a deep home run over the right field wall to allow the Apps to take a three-run lead into the bottom of the seventh inning.

Loudermilk led the App State offense as she went 2-for-4 at the plate with three RBI, while Warnock added two hits and two RBI for the Black and Gold. The Mountaineers out-hit USC Upstate 9-7 in the contest and did not commit an error in the field for the second straight contest.

The Apps would see the leadoff hitter get on in four of the seven innings as Warnock, Smith, Heichen and Loudermilk all tallied leadoff hits.

The Spartan offense was highlighted by Settlemyre, who drove in two runs on one hit, while Barnes added one RBI on a solo home run in the first inning. Starter Hannah Alexander suffered the loss in the circle for Upstate as she pitched two innings before Ana Miller came on in relief in the top of the third to pitch five innings with six strikeouts.

Landeros (9-6) settled in after a rocky first inning to pitch seven complete innings with three strikeouts and seven hits.

App State will be back in action on Wednesday, April 24 when it returns to the High Country for a doubleheader against non-conference opponent North Carolina A&T. The doubleheader which was originally scheduled for 5 p.m. will now start at 4 p.m. at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium.

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Photo Courtesy: Lindsay, Loudermilk, ASU Athletics