

App State Falls Twice to Auburn

Written by Megan Samassa
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Appalachian State University softball dropped its first doubleheader of the season, falling twice to Auburn at Jane B. Moore Field on Saturday. The Mountaineers fell 9-0 in five innings in game one, before dropping game two, 10-0, to the Tigers. With the losses App State falls to 27-18 overall on the season, while Auburn improves to 30-20 overall. The powerful Mountaineer offense was held scoreless for only the third time this season as it was unable to notch any runs against the Tigers.

Game One: Auburn 9, App State 0

After starting pitcher Alissa Schoelkopf issued two-straight walks on nine pitches, Auburn would take the 3-0 lead over Appalachian when freshman Emily Carosone homered over the left center field wall with no outs in the top of the first inning.

Two more walks from Schoelkopf put runners on the base path before the Apps retired the first out of the inning. Auburn tacked on a fourth run when an App State throwing error allowed Brooke Lathan to score before Baylee Stephens singled through the right side of the field, extending the Tiger lead to five.

Auburn took the 7-0 advantage over the Mountaineers when Morgan Estell drew her second walk of the contest and Branndi Melero lined the Tigers second home run of the contest over the center field wall. App State's only hits came from the senior duo of Meghan Smith and Allie Cashion and sophomore Cynthia Gomez, as Smith extended her hitting streak to 10 games. A single deep in the hole at shortstop and a walk put runners on first and second for Carosone who hit a shallow ball to the edge of the center field grass to knock in her fourth RBI of the day, allowing Auburn to take an 8-0 lead in the fourth inning.

Malero crossed the plate for the third time of the afternoon when Caitlin Schultze hit a sacrifice fly to left field, giving Auburn the 9-0 lead. After the Apps were unable to score in the top of the fifth inning, Auburn would earn the mercy, defeating the Mountaineers 9-0 in game one.

Schoelkopf (17-10) suffered the loss in the circle as she pitched four innings with three strikeouts.

Game Two: Auburn 10, App State 0

Auburn would be the first to get on the scoreboard in game two as the first run came across the plate on an App State error.

The Tigers took a 2-0 advantage when a shallow hit single from Brooke Lathan scored Carosone from third base.

A Baylee Stephens single up the middle with one out extended the lead to 4-0 before starting pitcher Katherine Johnson struck out the second out of the inning. Appalachian committed its second error of the inning, this time a throwing error, that allowed two runs to cross the plate and bring the Auburn lead to 6-0 before Johnson earned her second strikeout of the day.

Carosone led off the bottom of the second inning with a double to the warning track before coming around to score on a wild pitch and extend the Tiger lead to 7-0.

A single and a walk put runners on first and second before Shivaun Landeros came in to relieve Johnson. Landeros struck out the first batter she faced before Jade Rhodes singled through the left side of the field, scoring one. The Tigers took a 9-0 advantage over the Mountaineers when Lathan hit a sacrifice fly to left field.

First baseman Caitlin Jordan lined a deep home run just fair over the left field wall to give Auburn the 10-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning over the Apps. Freshman Ellie Manriquez tallied the only hit for Appalachian in game two as she singled in the top of the

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second inning.

Johnson suffered the loss in the circle going two innings in only her second decision of the 2013 season, while Landeros pitched two innings with one strikeout.

App State will be back in action on Wednesday, May 1 when it looks to complete a perfect home season at Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium against non-conference opponent, Radford. Game one of the doubleheader is slated to start at 4 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Alissa Schoelkopf, ASU Athletics