

## Mountaineers Drop Nailbiter at No. 25 Arkansas

Written by Mike Flynn

Sunday, 16 February 2014 01:56

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Appalachian State University baseball rallied from a pair of four-run deficits but fell just short in a 7-6 loss to No. 25 Arkansas on Saturday afternoon at Baum Stadium.

Appalachian State (0-2) trailed 6-2 after four innings and 7-3 after six but plated three runs in the top of the seventh to pull within a run.

Tyler Zupcic (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) kick-started the seventh-inning rally by roping a 2-2 pitch down the left-field line for a double. Preston Troutman (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) and William Head (Asheville, N.C./Asheville) followed with back-to-back singles to push Zupcic across the plate and cut the deficit to 7-4.

After a double play, Dillon Dobson (Hamptonville, N.C./Starmount) ripped a triple into the right-field corner to score Head. On the play, Arkansas second baseman Brian Anderson tried to gun down Dobson at third with a relay throw from right but the ball sailed into the stands and Dobson went home on the error to bring the Mountaineers within a run.

The score remained 7-6 going into the top of the ninth and Troutman was hit by a pitch to put the tying run on base with one out. However, Head was punched out on a questionable 3-2 pitch for the second out and Jaylin Davis (McLeansville, N.C./Northeast Guilford) grounded back to the pitcher to end the game.

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A day after managing only four hits (none for extra bases) against Arkansas' top-notch pitching staff, Appalachian State banged out seven on Saturday, including three for extra bases. Dobson led the way, going 2-for-4 with an RBI double in the third to go along with his RBI triple in the seventh.

Making his first start in 61 career appearances for the Mountaineers, Tyler Moore (Banner Elk, N.C./Watauga) struck out three in 3.1 innings but was saddled with four earned runs and suffered the loss.

Anderson led Arkansas' 11-hit attack by going 3-for-5 with two runs scored. The Razorbacks' 3-6 hitters combined for nine hits and five RBI.

Right-hander Chris Oliver limited Appalachian to one hit over five innings to earn the win while Michael Gunn worked the final 2.1 frames for the save.

Appalachian will look to salvage the final game of the season-opening three-game series on

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Sunday when it squares off with Arkansas (2-0) at 2 p.m. ET.

**Photo Courtesy: Preston Troutman, ASU Athletics**