

Apps Down Raiders; Fall to Panthers

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 01 March 2014 09:56

Appalachian State University softball began the Charleston Southern Invitational at 9 a.m. with the first game of the day against the Eastern Illinois Panthers and would fall 2-1. In the second game of the morning, App State would challenge the Colgate Raiders and win 3-2 on a walk-off sac-fly.

Game One: Eastern Illinois 2, App State 1

The Panthers (10-5) would strike first in the bottom half of the first inning on an RBI single from Hannah Cole to drive in Jennette Isaac. Sarah Warnock (Jamestown, N.C./Southwest Guilford) would end the threat by throwing out Cole trying to steal second base.

Ashley Seering (St. Charles, Ill./St. Charles North) would rope the first single of the game for the Mountaineers (3-10) in the top of the second. Seering would proceed to steal second base followed by an Alex Sohl (Paducah, Ky./Lone Oak) walk, but the Mountaineers would leave both runners stranded. Shivaun Landeros (Sparks, Nev./Edward C. Reed) would allow just a single and nothing more in the bottom half of the inning.

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App State would go down in order in the top half of the third. Landeros would tally two strikeouts in the inning and move quickly through the bottom half of the third. Warnock led off the fourth with a base hit, but the inning would end with Seering lining out to shortstop and Warnock would be doubled off of first base. After allowing a single, Landeros got April Markowski to line out in an unassisted double play after a great snag at first base by Lindsay Loudermilk (Bluff City, Tenn./Sullivan East).

After going down in order in the fifth, Landeros walked just one in the bottom half and used her fourth strikeout and timely pitching to send the game to the top of the sixth. Cara Parker (Lake Park, Ga./Lowndes) worked a walk followed by Warnock being hit by a pitch to start the sixth for the Mountaineers. The Apps would finally break through on Hanna Mennenga when Loudermilk hit a ground ball up the middle with the umpire ruling Hannah Rachor was bobbling the ball at second base. Everybody was ruled safe on the play with Parker scoring the tying run.

For the Panthers in the bottom of the sixth, Reynae Hutchinson would double down the left field line and drive in Brooke Owens to regain the lead 2-1. Sohl would start the inning getting hit by the pitch followed by Ashley Best (Thomasville, N.C./Ledford) earning a base on balls. Parker would then draw a walk, but App State would leave them loaded and Ellie Manriquez (Whittier, Calif./Ramona Convent), pinch hitting for Dani Heichen (Pembroke Pines, Fla./Pembroke Pines Charter), would ground out to third base.

Landeros (2-7) pitched six innings allowing just five hits and two runs while striking out four batters.

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Game Two: App State 3, Colgate 2

Playing in their first game of the season, the Raiders' (0-1) Katie Bushee led off the game with a single, but Sydney Laws (Brownwood, Texas/Brownwood) was able to strand her at third base and escape the first inning unscathed. Cynthia Gomez (Oxnard, Calif./Pacifica) got the Apps (4-10) started with a leadoff single to start the first. Gomez stole second and would advance to third, but App State couldn't push her across.

In the second, Laws would set the Raiders down in order in a relatively quick inning of work. The Mountaineer bats started to heat up in the second. Best drew a one out walk to set up Johnson's RBI triple into the right field corner. Johnson would score on the play as the result of an error and the Apps would take an early 2-0 lead. Laws would let up a single, but shutdown the Raiders in the third and keep them scoreless. Heichen would connect on her first hit of the day on an infield single. Parker later doubled to left center field, but Heichen was thrown out attempting to score all the way from first base.

The Raiders would get on the board in the fourth inning. Gillian Murray would double off the center field wall and later advance to third base. Tara Grennan would hit a sac-fly to Seering in right field to score Murray from third and cut the App lead to 2-1. Brigit leuter would set down the Apps in order in the fourth inning. Colgate would post runs in back-to-back innings to tie the game. Bushee hit an RBI triple to drive in Tera Vaughn from second base who earlier came into pinch run to tie the game 2-2.

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The pace of the game picked up with quick work in the fifth and sixth innings. Loudermilk hit a towering fly ball to right field it held up just enough for the right fielder to make the catch and end the sixth inning. Laws worked quick and effective in the seventh. Seering started the seventh with an infield single followed by an error in Best's at bat to give the Apps first and second. Terry pinch ran for Seering and stole third base with Best advancing on a wild pitch. The bases would become loaded when Johnson would be hit by the pitch. Warnock pinch hit and would hit a sac-fly to center field to drive in Terry and win the game for the Apps, 3-2.

Laws (2-2) pitched seven innings for the Mountaineers allowing just four hits and striking out two in the winning effort.

Women's Tennis Falls to East Carolina

Appalachian State University women's tennis lost for the first time at home this season when it suffered a 4-3 defeat at the hands of East Carolina on Friday at Yonahlossee Racquet Club.

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The Mountaineers (3-5) battled hard all day to secure the win against the Pirates (4-5) and took an early lead by winning the doubles point, but could not hang on in singles play as ECU prevailed.

Appalachian's No. 1 duo of Gabrielle Wreder/Mackenzie LaSure were the first to finish with an 8-5 win, with Megan Mullen/Clare Cox close behind, grabbing an 8-5 at No. 2 doubles.

The No. 3 doubles team of Olivia Isbey/McKayla Zupan trailed 5-6, but their match went unfinished as Appalachian had already secured the doubles point.

The Mountaineers continued to play close matches in singles play. LaSure snagged the No. 2 singles match 6-3, 6-2 while Wreder fell 6-2, 6-2 at No. 3. Brianna Armellino won her match at No. 4 by a final of 6-2, 6-2.

The No. 1 singles match was the closest of the day, as Cox battled the Pirates' Michelle Castro for three complete sets. Cox fell to Castro by a final of 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. Jessica Thaggard also took her opponent to three close sets, but lost as well by a final of 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, allowing East Carolina to tie the match up at 3-3.

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The neck-and-neck play continued into the final and deciding No. 6 match between Zupan and ECU's Dana Gray. Zupan lost by a final of 4-6 6-3, 6-2 to give the final point and match win to the Pirates.

The Mountaineers have a quick turnaround as they remain home to host Samford to begin Southern Conference action Saturday. The match was originally scheduled for noon, but will now take place at 1:30 p.m. at Yohnalossesee Racquet Club.

East Carolina 4, Appalachian State 3

Feb 28, 2014 at Boone, N.C. (Yonahlossee Racquet Club)

Singles competition

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1. Michelle Castro (ECU) def. Clare Cox (APP) 5-7, 6-3, 6-3
2. Mackenzie LaSure (APP) def. Nicole LaDuca (ECU) 6-3, 6-2
3. Melis Tanik (ECU) def. Gabrielle Wreder (APP) 6-2, 6-2
4. Brianna Armellino (APP) def. Emily Groeneveld (ECU) 6-2, 6-2
5. Maria Storozheva (ECU) def. Jessica Thaggard (APP) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3
6. Dana Gray (ECU) def. McKayla Zupan (APP) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2

Doubles competition

1. Gabrielle Wreder/Mackenzie LaSure (APP) def. Michelle Castro/Nicole LaDuca (ECU) 8-5
2. Megan Mullen/Clare Cox (APP) def. Dana Gray/Maria Storozheva (ECU) 8-5

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3. Olivia Isbey/McKayla Zupan (APP) vs. Emily Groeneveld/Melis Tanik (ECU) 5-6, unfinished

Match Notes

East Carolina 4-5

Appalachian State 3-5

Order of finish: Doubles (1,2); Singles (2,3,4,1,5,6)

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