

ASU Baseball Drops Ninth Straight

Written by James Ashley
Saturday, 01 March 2014 10:08

The Appalachian State University baseball team saw great performances by pitchers but could not gain more than one run losing the first game of the Notre Dame's Irish Classic 2-1 to Youngstown State Friday afternoon at the USA Baseball National Training Complex.

Junior right-hand pitcher Jamie Nunn (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mt.Tabor) started the game off strong. After giving up a walk to his first batter of the game, two-straight groundouts and a fly-out got the Mountaineers out the inning. He continued to pitch strong, giving Appalachian six innings only giving up six hits, one earned run, four runs and had five strikeouts.

Appalachian scored the first run of the game. Freshman Brian Bauk (Salisbury, N.C./Salisbury) sent a hot-shot right over the second base bag and into the outfield for a single. After, he stole second base and got on third by way of a wild pitch. Senior Tyler Zupcic (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) doubled down the left-field line to bring Bauk home.

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Appalachian gave up the lead in the very next inning.

Back-to-back hits had Youngstown State with runners at both first and third base and a bunt single brought the first run home. The next run came by throwing error but the Mountaineers was able to get out the inning by catching one of Youngstown's player trying to steal home.

There were only a combined four hits for the rest of the game.

Sophomore Dillon Dobson (Hamptonville, N.C./Starmount) had two of Appalachian's six hits. Junior Taylor Thurber (Mooresville, N.C./Lake Norman) took over on the plate in the seventh inning and gave up only one hit and had four strikeouts.

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The Penguins was led by Alex Larivee who had three hits on four at-bats and one run. Youngstown State's starting pitcher Patrick O'Brien pitched six innings, giving up five hits and two walks. He was charged with the only earned run.

Appalachian State will return to the field on Saturday when they take on the University of Michigan at the Notre Dame's Irish Baseball Classic at the USA Baseball Complex at 4 p.m.

NOTES: Seven of Appalachian's nine games have come against nationally ranked opponent....

Appalachian State charted its season-high in putouts with 27....previous mark was 24 in which was done in eight games.

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Appalachian is squaring off against a Big Ten club for only the second time in program history and the first time in 19 years....

In its only previous matchups against the Big Ten, Appalachian suffered a two-game sweep at Ohio State in 1995 (7-6 and 6-2)

Photo Courtesy: Jamie Nunn, ASU Athletics