

Apps Dig Early Hole in 8-2 Loss to Citadel

Written by Mike Flynn

Saturday, 12 April 2014 09:07

Appalachian State University baseball banged out double-digit hits for the sixth-straight game but the Mountaineers left the bases loaded twice and never led in an 8-2 loss to The Citadel on Friday night at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.

Appalachian State (11-20, 5-4 SoCon) had 10 hits but left the bases juiced in the second and fifth innings and came away scoreless after a leadoff triple in the sixth, en route to its third-straight loss. The three-game skid is Appalachian's longest in nearly a month, dating back to three-consecutive defeats at the hands of Notre Dame, Clemson and Michigan on March 11, 12 and 14.

The Citadel (14-21, 2-11 SoCon) broke a 1-1 tie with four runs in the third inning and three in the fourth to take the commanding 8-2 advantage. The Bulldogs benefitted from a costly error, three walks and a hit batter in their four-run third and took advantage of another walk in the fourth. In all, The Citadel needed only five hits — all singles — to plate its seven runs in the third and fourth innings.

Appalachian State's lone runs came on RBI singles by Alex Leach (Charlotte, N.C./Ardrey Kell) in the second inning and freshman Matt Brill (Coal Valley, Ill./Moline) in the third. Brill's run-scoring single extended his team-best hitting streak to 13 games.

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Starting pitcher Jamie Nunn (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor) struggled to find the strike zone and allowed five runs (three earned) on only three hits. Nunn walked three and hit a batter in just three innings of work. He suffered his first loss in four starts and fall to 3-5 on the season.

Jaylin Davis (McLeansville, N.C./Northeast Guilford) went 3-for-4 with a double to pace the Mountaineers' 10-hit attack. Michael Pierson (Coral Springs, Fla./Pine Crest) chipped in with two hits.

Bo Thompson led The Citadel offensively by going 2-for-4 with a walk, a solo homer, two RBI and three runs scored. Johnathan Stokes drove in three runs for the Bulldogs.

Despite allowing 10 hits, issuing three walks and hitting a batter, The Citadel's starting pitcher Logan Cribb tossed his first complete game of the season. The southpaw threw 126 pitches in the effort.

Appalachian State looks to even the three-game Southern Conference series on Saturday when it hosts The Citadel for Game Two. First pitch is set for 3 p.m. at Smith Stadium.

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NOTES: Brill is hitting .468 (22-for-47) during his 13-game hitting streak ... the three-inning outing matches the second-shortest in 30-career starts for Nunn ... Appalachian State fell to 6-3 at Smith Stadium this season ... the Mountaineers have dropped back-to-back home games for the first time since they lost consecutive games to No. 29 Western Carolina on May 16-17 of last season ... the defeat was Appalachian's sixth-straight to The Citadel ... however, the Mountaineers fell to The Citadel at home for the first time since a 6-3 loss to the Bulldogs at Smith Stadium on March 28, 2010.

Photo Courtesy: Alex Leach, App State Athletics