

Mountaineers Even Series with 6-5 Win

Written by Mike Flynn
Sunday, 13 April 2014 08:45

Tyler Moore (Banner Elk, N.C./Watauga) threw his third complete game of the season and Michael Pierson (Coral Springs, Fla./Pine Crest) drove in four of Appalachian State University baseball's six runs in

a 6-5 win over The Citadel on Saturday afternoon at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium.

With the victory, Appalachian State (11-20, 6-4 SoCon) evened its three-game Southern Conference series with The Citadel (14-22, 2-12 SoCon) at a game apiece. The rubber match is set for 1 p.m. Sunday at Smith Stadium.

Pierson, who finished 4-for-5 with four RBI and two runs scored, was the central figure in Appalachian State's two-run seventh inning, which turned a 5-4 deficit into a 6-5 lead. Tyler Zupcic (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) led off the frame by drawing a four-pitch walk from The Citadel's Ross White (1-2) and Pierson followed with a triple to the gap in left-center field that brought Zupcic home with the tying run.

Two batters later Jaylin Davis (McLeansville, N.C./Northeast Guilford) lifted a fly ball into relatively shallow right field but Pierson tagged up from third and made a great head-first slide at the plate to beat a strong throw from right fielder Tyler Griffin and give the Mountaineers a 6-5

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advantage.

Armed with his first lead since the third inning, Moore put the tying run on base in the top of the eighth with a one-out walk but induced a double play to get out of the inning unscathed. He then retired the side in order in the ninth to finish off the 126-pitch complete game.

Moore (7-2) was in vintage form throughout the afternoon, scattering nine hits but inducing three double plays to keep the damage to a minimum. The sixth-year senior struck out four en route to his Southern Conference-leading seventh win of the season.

In addition to his game-tying triple and go-ahead run in the seventh inning, Pierson also had an RBI single in the first and a two-run single in the fifth. He capped the first four-hit game of his career with another single in the eighth.

Preston Troutman (Rockwell, N.C./East Rowan) and Matt Brill (Coal Valley, Ill./Moline) added to Appalachian's 13-hit attack with two apiece. Brill's two hits, which included an RBI double in the first, extended his team-best hitting streak to 14 games.

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Drew DeKerlegand went 2-for-4 with two RBI to lead The Citadel.

NOTES: Appalachian State snapped a six-game losing streak to The Citadel ... Appalachian has won four of its last five home games versus the Bulldogs ... Moore has won seven-straight starts ... Brill is hitting .462 (24-52) during his 14-game streak and is batting .400 for the season ... Appalachian State has pounded out double-digit hits in seven-straight games ... Moore's complete game was the sixth by a Mountaineer pitcher this season ... Sunday's series finale pits Appalachian State LHP Jeffrey Springs (Belmont, N.C./South Point) (1-1, 3.54 ERA) versus The Citadel RHP Brett Tompkins (1-2, 5.79 ERA).

Photo Courtesy: Tyler Moore, App State Athletics