



ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Middle Innings Hurt A-State Baseball in Loss at South Alabama

MOBILE, Ala (4/29/18) – The Arkansas State baseball team was tied 1-1 with South Alabama through three innings, but the Jaguars scored seven runs in the fourth-sixth innings and withstood a late rally by the Red Wolves to defeat A-State 9-6 in the series finale Sunday at Stanky Field in Mobile.

A-State (15-25, 6-15 SBC) scored five times in the top of the eighth with a two-run homer by Kyle MacDonald starting the scoring. Back-to-back doubles by Casey Vaughan and Winston Welch scored another run before RBI singles from Cullen Ray and Drew Tipton made the score 8-6. However, Travis Swaggerty swatted a solo long ball in the bottom of the eighth to make the score 9-6 in favor of South Alabama (25-17, 13-7 SBC). The Red Wolves went in order in the ninth to drop the game.

Even with the loss A-State took the series from the Jaguars with wins in the first two games for the first series victory over South Alabama since 2014. MacDonald led A-State with three hits and three RBI while Tipton extended his on-base streak to 19 games and hit streak to 15 games. Jeremy Brown saw his 20-game hit streak come to an end, but he did walk and was hit by a pitch to extend his on-base streak to 21 games.

Carter Holt limited the Jaguars to just one run over three innings in his first weekend start, but had to be pulled due to pitching last Wednesday. The A-State bullpen allowed the other eight runs with Chase Nix being the only one not to allow a run in his lone inning of work.

Jared Proctor was fantastic for the Jaguars after he allowed one run in six innings of work on three hits with five strikeouts against two walks. Nick DeSantis worked the final three innings for a save. Swaggerty and Brendan Donovan each had three hits for the Jaguars, while Michael Sandle had five RBI.

A-State was able to get on the scoreboard first with a MacDonald single that scored Tipton, who led off with a walk, advanced to second on a passed ball, and stole third. However, the Jaguars got the run back with a solo round-tripper from Donovan with two outs in the bottom of the first.

South Alabama took a 3-1 advantage in the bottom of the fourth after a two-run homer by Sandle off reliever Payton Lannon. USA then blew the game open with a four-run fifth inning, highlighted by a triple from Sandle with the bases loaded to make the score 7-1. The home team would add another run in the sixth inning to push the tally to 8-1.

Arkansas State returns to action May 4-6 with a home Sun Belt Conference series against Texas State. First pitch Friday night from Tomlinson Stadium is set for 6:30 p.m.

For the latest on A-State baseball follow the team by logging onto the Arkansas State Baseball Facebook page or by following the team on Twitter (@AStateBaseball) and Instagram (arkansasstatebaseball).