SPORTS INFORMATION



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Lander upsets defending national champion Cougars

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GREENWOOD, S.C.---The Lander baseball team earned its two biggest victories of the Mike McGuire Era Saturday when the Senators upset defending NCAA Division II champion Columbus State University, 9-4 and 4-3, in a Peach Belt Conference doubleheader at Legion Field. The two teams will complete the PBC series at 1 p.m. Sunday. Lander improves to 8-2, 2-0, while Columbus State drops to 7-5, 0-2.

In the first game, Lander's Ben Howerton went the distance in improving his record to 2-1. Howerton struck out four, walked three and allowed four runs (one earned) on nine hits. John Habrack (1-1) took the loss, striking out one, walking three and allowing seven earned runs in 2.1 innings.

Lander's Bob Fenn, who went 3-for-4 with one RBI, and James Scrubbs (2-for-3, one RBI) both homered for the Senators. Jonathan Myers went 1-for-4 with one triple and one RBI, while Juan Adriatico (2-for-4) and Ryan Roeder (1-for-3, one RBI) both doubled.

After taking a 2-0 lead in the first, Lander exploded for five runs in the second inning keyed by Roeder's two-run double, Myers' RBI triple and Jeremy Ryals' sacrifice bunt.

For Columbus State, Taylor Groce went 3-for-5 with one double and two RBI, while Stephen Worrell and Brad Hightower each went 2-for-4. Columbus State scored one run in the third, one in the fifth and two in the ninth.

In the second game, Lander's David Wilson earned the win, striking out seven, walking one and allowing three earned runs on six hits in the complete seven innings. Tom Capallo (1-1) took the loss, striking out two and allowing four runs on nine hits.

Fenn gave Lander a 1-0 first-inning lead on his second homerun of the day. Columbus State took a 2-1 lead in the second on Larry Pittmon's two-run blast over left centerfield.

The Senators came back to regain a 3-2 lead in the second when Ryals and Myers scored on a Columbus State error, then stretched the margin to 4-2 on Fenn's fifth-inning sacrifice fly that scored Corey Reed. CSU scored its final run in the sixth when Brian Koon singled in Andrew Ginther.

Lander's Myers went 3-for-3 and Jeff Whitfield went 2-for-2. CSU's Pittmon went 2-for-3 with three RBI.

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