

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 18, 2009

Contact: Walt Barton, GA SID (479) 968-0645

WONDER BOYS FALL SHORT AT HOME AGAINST 17TH-RANKED DELTA STATE

RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas – The Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys Baseball team had a 7-3 lead after seven innings but could not hold off the 17th-ranked Delta State Statesmen who rallied for 10 runs over the final two innings enroute to its 13-7 win here Saturday night at Tech Field.

The game, which was originally scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. and be a doubleheader, was delayed nearly five hours due to rain. The game finally began at 7 p.m. as a single nine inning contest. The teams will play a doubleheader on Sunday beginning at 1 p.m.

With the loss, Tech falls to 19-27 on the season and 7-9 in the GSC, while DSU improved its mark to 30-13 overall and 14-2 in league play. With its loss and Henderson State's 7-5 win over Christian Brothers, Tech and HSU are now tied for fifth place in the West Division standings with five games to play.

DSU's Clay Sartain hit his first of his two home runs on the night in the first inning, a two-run blast giving the Statesmen an early 2-0 lead.

The Wonder Boys answered with three runs in the third inning to take a 3-2 lead. In the inning, senior designated hitter **Tony Sanchez** (Mesquite, Texas) delivered a two-run single to tie the game and senior rightfielder **Clint Stroud** (Bonham, Texas) roped a double giving the Wonder Boys its lead.

In the fifth inning, Sartain knotted the game at 3 in the fifth with an RBI single.

The Wonder Boys struck for four runs in the sixth to take a 7-3 lead. Junior third baseman **Tyler Taunton** (Shreveport, La.) drew a bases loaded walk to put the Wonder Boys on top 4-3, while freshman shortstop **Tyler Shaw** (St. Mary's, Ga.) produced an RBI on a fielder's choice and another run scored on the play thanks to an errant throw from DSU shortstop Devin Goodwin. Junior centerfielder **Chad Wynn** (Bono, Ark.) then blooped an RBI single scoring Shaw and extending the Wonder Boys advantage to 7-3.

The Wonder Boys, though, could not hold the lead as the DSU offense surged for four runs in the eighth and six in the ninth, capped by a grand slam off the bat of Sartain in the ninth inning.

Junior **Karl Whitley** (Tucson, Ariz.) drew the start on the mound for the Wonder Boys. He allowed three runs on seven hits, walking six and striking out three in 5.2 innings of work. Senior **Barrett Davis** (North Little Rock, Ark.), the third Tech pitcher of the night, took the loss, surrendering five runs on five hits in 1.2 innings to fall to 2-3 on the season.

On the night, four Wonder Boy pitchers combined to walk 10 Statesmen hitters and also hit two batters.

Cody Kelley (4-2), the third of three DSU pitchers, allowed just one hit in three innings of relief to earn the win for the Statesmen.

Wynn led the Wonder Boy offense going 3-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored, while Stroud had two hits and an RBI and Shaw scored two runs in the loss.

Sartain sparked the DSU attack, going for 4-for-5 at the plate with two homers and eight RBIs, while Michael Niemann drove in a pair for the Statesmen.

- Tech Athletics -