

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

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WONDER BOYS RALLY FOR HOME NON-CONFERENCE WIN AGAINST OVER UNIVERSITY OF OZARKS

RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas – Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys Baseball concluded its non-conference slate of games here Tuesday evening by plating three runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to collect a 3-1 victory over the University of the Ozarks at Tech Field.

Five Tech pitchers combined to hold the Eagles to a single run on five hits. Freshman **Cody Hatman** (Roland, Okla.) and senior **Josh Floriani** (Malvern, Ark.) each pitched two innings to hold the Eagles hitless through the first four frames.

The Eagles' first hit came in the fifth on a leadoff double by Chris Driedric off of sophomore **Jordan Gomez** (Murphy, Texas), the third Tech pitcher of the game. Driedric would later score the game's first run on an RBI single by Jeremy Hogan.

U of O southpaw Travis Conner held the Wonder Boys bats at bay, allowing just four hits through the first seven innings, before junior catcher **Tyler Kellar** (Morrilton, Ark.) led off the eighth inning with a sharp single to right. Kellar advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by freshman shortstop **Tyler Shaw** (St. Mary's, Ga.), moved to third on a groundout by junior centerfielder **Chad Wynn** (Bono, Ark.) and scored when senior second baseman **Josh Holloway** (Booneville, Ark.) laced a single to left field to even the game at 1-1. Tech increased its lead to 3-1 thanks to a bloop 2-run double by junior rightfielder **Clint Stroud** (Bonham, Texas).

The Eagles managed to load the bases off right-hander **Karl Whitley** (Tucson, Az.) in the ninth, before Whitley forced Cory Brings to ground into a game-ending fielder's choice to earn his second save of the season.

Senior hurler **Barrett Davis** (North Little Rock, Ark.) tossed four scoreless innings to earn the win and improve to 3-3 on the season. Davis allowed just two hits, while walking none and fanning four.

Conner (2-2) was strapped with the loss, allowing three runs, two earned with two walks and three strikeouts in 7.2 innings of work.

Holloway led the Wonder Boys offensively, going 2-for-3 with a RBI and a run scored.

Tech will close out its regular season with a three-game Gulf South Conference series against Harding this coming weekend at Tech Field. The teams will play a doubleheader on Saturday at 2 p.m., before concluding the series with a 1 p.m. regular season finale on Sunday. The game will mark the home finale for Tech's five seniors – Davis, Holloway, first baseman **Robbie Hohler** (Searcy, Ark.), pitcher **Tyler Mattox** (Conway, Ark.) and third baseman **Tony Sanchez** (Mesquite, Texas).

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