

# ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

***ATHLETICS***

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## **WONDER BOYS BASEBALL FALLS IN NINTH INNING AT WEST FLORIDA**

**PENSACOLA, Florida** – Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys Baseball concluded its three-game series here Wednesday with West Florida by suffering a 4-3 loss to the Argonauts in Jim Spooner Field at Pelican Park.

With the loss, Tech falls to 16-20 on the season, while UWF improves to 21-14.

UWF broke a 3-3 tie in the bottom of the ninth inning by scoring a run with one-out single through the right side by Brandon Brewer off of junior reliever **Josh Floriani** (Malvern, Ark.). Brewer's single plated Jimmy Boswell with a winning run, who was pinch running for Brenton Goebel, who had reached on a one-out double down the right field line. Floriani was the ninth pitcher of the night for the Wonder Boys.

Junior **Chad Wynn** (Bono, Ark.), who started the game in centerfield, took the loss for the Wonder Boys as he pitched 1.1 innings and allowed one hit and one run to fall to 0-1 on the season.

Brewer's game-winning hit made a winner out of Ryan Sorce (2-2), the third Argos pitcher of game. Sorce tossed one perfect inning and recorded a strikeout.

Tech broke open a scoreless game in the third inning as they plated two runs on four consecutive singles and a groundout. In the inning, junior third baseman **Tyler Taunton** (Shreveport, La.) led off the inning with a single, advanced to third on a single by freshman shortstop **Tyler Shaw** (St. Mary's, Ga.) and then scored on an RBI single by junior catcher **Tyler Kellar** (Morrilton, Ark.). After Wynn reached on a bunt single off of UWF starter Matt Whitaker, senior second baseman **Josh Holloway** (Booneville, Ark.) drove home Shaw with an RBI groundout for the first out of the inning.

UWF got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fourth inning as Greg Pron drove in a run on a groundout to drop Tech's lead to 2-1 and then the Argos tied the game at 2-2 in the bottom of the fifth thanks to a triple by Jack Materne and three straight walks by junior reliever **Stephan Bartlett** (Tulsa, Okla.). Bartlett was the fifth pitcher of the game for the Wonder Boys.

In the sixth, Tech retook the lead on a double by junior leftfielder **Jeremy Houchin** (Springdale, Ark.), a single by senior first baseman **Robbie Hohler** (Searcy, Ark.) and a fielder's choice groundout by Taunton, which plated sophomore **Austin Gwatney** (Sherwood, Ark.), who was pinch running for Houchin.

The Argos, though, answered Tech's run in the bottom of the sixth thanks to a hit by pitch, a single, a balk and a wild pitch by Shaw, who was the seventh pitcher of the game for the Wonder Boys.

For the game, Tech outhit UWF, 8-4, but struggled with runners on base as they stranded seven. UWF also stranded seven runners in the win as Tech's nine pitchers combined to walk eight Argos.

Hohler led Tech's offense with two hits, while Kellar, Shaw, Taunton, Wynn, Houchin and redshirt freshman catcher **Landon Sullins** (Harrison, Ark.) each had a hit in the loss. Brewer was one of four Argos to record a hit and he also drove in two of UWF's four runs.

Tech will remain on the road this weekend when they travel to Memphis, Tenn., to face Christian Brothers in a three-game Gulf South Conference series. The teams will play a doubleheader on Saturday, March 28 at 12 p.m., before concluding the series on Sunday, March 29 at 1 p.m.

**- Tech Athletics -**