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Muleriders Rout Ouachita Baptist

Arkadelphia, Ark. --- Southern Arkansas University, ranked 23rd nationally in NCAA Division II baseball, completed a three-game sweep of Ouachita Baptist University here Sunday with a 17-2 rout of the Tigers. The surging Muleriders blanked OBU in the series opener 15-0 and closed Saturday's twin bill sweep with a 10-3 win. Southern Arkansas ran their overall record to 21-8 and their Gulf South Conference West Division record to 7-2 while Ouachita Baptist sank to 8-13 for the year and to 0-6 in the conference.

The 'Riders battered Tiger pitching for 14 hits, two walks, and two hit batters and made two errors while the Tigers collected 10 hits, three walks, and committed one error. Four of SAU's hits were for extra bases with a pair of home runs and two doubles while OBU had two doubles.

The Tigers took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning but the 'Riders went ahead 2-1 in the top of the second and never looked back. A six-run eruption in the fourth inning broke it open and SAU made it 12-1 before the Tigers scored once in the bottom of the fifth. SAU made it 13-2 in the sixth and 17-2 in the seventh before the 10-run rule after seven innings ended the mismatch.

Chipper Crum and Daniel Beardsley hit home runs for the 'Riders. Crum's round-tripper in the fourth drove in three runs and Beardsley's four-bagger was a solo shot in the sixth. Crum and Daniel Moseley added doubles. Crum was three for five, scored twice, and drove in six runs. Beardsley was three for four, scored twice, and drove in a run. Armando Alvarez was two for three, scored twice, stole a base, was hit by a pitch, and drove in a run. Moseley was two for four, scored twice, walked, and drove in two runs. Aharon Eggleston was one for four, scored twice, stole a base, was hit by a pitch, and drove in two runs. Ross Boudreaux was one for three, scored twice, and walked twice. Jeremy Hambrice was one for four, scored twice, walked, and drove in two runs, and Victor Duke was one for three, scored twice, walked, stole a base, and drove in a run.

Matt Deffenbaugh and Brock McCorkle had doubles for the Tigers. Deffenbaugh was two for four and scored twice, Bryan Jones was three for three, walked, and drove in a run, and Scott Wheeler was two for four.

Brent Foster pitched the first five innings for SAU to get the win. He gave up six hits, two runs with one earned, walked one, and struck out seven. He is 3-1 for the year. Ryan Grebert pitched the sixth and gave up one hit, one walk, and struck out one. Josh Jarman pitched the seventh and allowed three hits and walked one.

Andy Sutton opened for OBU and went three and two-thirds innings. He gave up eight hits, eight runs with four earned, walked three, and fanned two. Jeff Robinson was in for only a third of an inning, giving up one hit, four earned runs, walked three, and fanned none. Jay Carpenter pitched the fifth and allowed one hit. Mark Sangenito worked the sixth and gave up a hit, an earned run, and walked and fanned none. Ben Neutzler pitched the seventh and was greeted with three hits, four earned runs, walked one, and whiffed none. Sutton was the loser, falling to 1-3.

Southern Arkansas steps out of conference play to meet LeTourneau University in a doubleheader starting at 12 noon in Longview, Tex., Tuesday. Saturday and Sunday, the 'Riders return to GSC West play against Harding University in Magnolia. Saturday's twin bill begins at 12 noon and Sunday's single nine-inning game starts at 1 p.m.