

Elon Club Baseball Sweeps UNCG on Saturday After Big Fifth Inning

By Matt Shiffman

After a big win in game one, Elon Club Baseball followed it up with a 13-3 thumping in game two, sweeping the double-header.

The story of the game through three innings was Elon Starting Pitcher Jake Toulmin.

In the first inning Toulmin, a sophomore, struck out the side while he worked around a one out single and subsequent stolen base. He got the first batter of the game to strikeout looking, then struck out the three and four hitters for UNCG swinging.

In the second, Toulmin only allowed a baserunner because his first strikeout of the inning was a dropped third strike, allowing the batter to reach. Toulmin took things into his own hands, picking off the baserunner leading off first. He followed that with two more strikeouts. In the third came the only out Toulmin generated that was not a strikeout. UNCG fit a flyout to right field in between two more strikeouts.

Toulmin exited after three dominant innings, allowing only one hit and striking out eight. I asked Third Baseman Ryan Stradtman about Toulmin.

“He’s someone that is going to be very good for a very long time... very excited to have him.”

The game was tied at three going into the bottom of the fifth when Elon's offense erupted for a ten run inning. Unlike game one, Elon's offense was not as reliant on the UNCG defense. The Phoenix collected three walks, two hit-by-pitches, four singles, and a double on their way to scoring ten runs and ending the game.

When a team is winning by ten or more in the fifth inning or later, the game is called for mercy rule and that is exactly the position Elon was in after the 10th run of the inning crossed home plate. The game was over, Elon 13, UNCG 3.

After winning both games in the Saturday double-header, Elon will look to take all three games with a win on Sunday morning. Because they played two games on Saturday, both games were only seven inning affairs. On Sunday, with only one game on the ledger, the teams will battle in a standard nine inning game. It will start at 10 A.M at Frankfurt Field.

For now, the offensive breakthrough was more enthralling for a team waiting for one. Stradtman said, "Our offense hasn't really been producing all year, and then we go out and score ten runs in one inning."