

Offense Stalls In Setback Against ETSU

Written by Charles Cochrum
Friday, 24 December 2010 17:40

Nathan Healy (New Bern, N.C./Blair Academy) recorded a career-high 14 points on 5-of-9 shooting and led the team with seven rebounds off the bench, but the rest of the shorthanded Mountaineer offense was unable to find a groove in Appalachian State University men's basketball's 79-51 setback against East Tennessee State in Friday's Cancun Governor's Cup tournament finale. The Mountaineers (4-7) were without the squad's two main point guards, as Mitch Woods (Naples, Fla./Community School of Naples) and Marcus Wright (Winston-Salem, N.C./Winston-Salem Prep) suffered injuries in the tournament's first two contests.

Appalachian scored five points on its first two trips down the floor before the Bucs answered with the game's next 16 points, the longest run allowed by ASU this season. Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George) and Petey Hausley (Marion, N.C./Iowa Western) picked up two early fouls each and both players committed a third before the intermission, keeping the Apps from establishing a presence in the paint.

Sidelined for all but 22 combined minutes, the starting pair totaled just six points and three rebounds with nine fouls between them for the game.

In addition to Healy, Jacob Lail (Granite Falls, N.C./Caldwell) was also called upon to make up some of the minutes in the post and responded with energetic and aggressive play to accompany a pair of rebounds in a career-high 21 minutes.

For the opening 20 minutes, the Apps were held under 30 points for the first time this season, as the squad shot just 8-for-29 in the frame, compared to a scorching 63 percent for ETSU. The result was a commanding 45-26 ETSU lead at halftime.

The Mountaineers shot just 31.5 percent in the contest and made 7-of-24 three-pointers. ETSU cooled off a bit to finish the contest at 57.1 percent from the field and 6-of-14 from downtown in the game, but added 17-of-23 free throws. ASU's charity stripe woes continued, with the squad combining for a 10-of-17 effort at the line.

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The Bucs (5-7) also rebounded well, with a 39-26 advantage on the glass. Mike Smith led ETSU with 30 points and 16 rebounds and was joined in double figures by Adam Sollazzo (14 points) and Micah Williams (13).

Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) scored a team-best 16 points for ASU on 6-of-15 shooting from the floor. He added four rebounds in 37 minutes. Jeremi Booth (Altavista, Va./Fork Union) returned to the starting lineup but struggled to find his shooting touch, notching five points and five rebounds in 27 minutes.

Donald Sims (Gaffney, S.C./Fork Union) moved within 15 points of ASU's career scoring record with a modest eight points in the contest. The senior led the Mountaineers with four of the squad's five assists and added a pair of steals as well.

The Mountaineers return home to host Milligan on Dec. 30 at 7 p.m. before the calendar flips over to the new year and ASU dives head first into Southern Conference play.

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ETSU	45	34	-	79
ASU	26	25	-	51

ASU: WILLIAMSON 6, SIMS 8 (4 ASSISTS), BOOTH 5, CARTER 16, HEALY 14 (7 REBOUNDS), SHAW 2, FG - 17-54, 3FG - 7-24, FT - 10-17. REBOUNDS: 26, TURNOVERS

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ETSU: BROWN 16 (7 REBOUNDS), SMITH 20 (16 REBOUNDS), TUBBS 7, WILLIAMS 13, SOLLAZZO 14, COOLEY 3, D. JOHNSON 2, WARD 4. FG - 28-49, 3FG - 6-14, FT - 17-23. REBOUNDS: 39, TURNOVERS: 12.