Written by Courtney Burchett
Sunday, 16 January 2011 19:28

Appalachian State women's basketball snapped a 26-game losing skid to its Southern Conference foe Chattanooga Sunday afternoon, as the Mountaineers hammered their league rival 70-54 in the Holmes Center.

ASU's home game winning streak remains intact as the Apps have now won 15 straight on their home floor and improve to 12-4 on the season and 6-2 in SoCon action, while UTC falls to 8-10 overall and 5-4 in league play.

First half action was knotted twice and the two teams traded leads, before a Kelsey Sharkey (Cincinatti, Ohio/Saint Ursula) three-pointer provided the Black and Gold with the spark they needed, closing out the half on a 14-1 run.

Sharkey capped off the game yet again stellar defensively, recording a game-high 11 rebounds, while also tallying two steals and one block.

Chakeitha Weldon (Atlanta, Ga./Kansas) also came alive for Appalachian in the final five minutes of the first period, as she chipped in seven points during the spurt, including the last four of the half to put ASU on top 32-24 at intermission.

Continuing to be a force offensively, Appalachian started the second half off strong, outscoring the Lady Mocs 11-4, with sophomore Ashlen Dewart (Spartanburg, S.C./Dorman) proving to be unstoppable in the post.

Chattanooga had no answer for Dewart, as she poured in 10 of Appalachian's first 15 points of the second half, to extend the Apps' lead to 16, up 47-31 with a little over 12 minutes left to play.

Dewart was phenomenal in the contest, scoring a game-high 28 points, on 11-19 shooting, including going a spotless 6-6 from the charity stripe, while also grabbing six rebounds and swatting one shot.

Holding on to its 16 point advantage, it was Courtney Freeman (Carlton, Ga./Madison County) that helped to keep the Mountaineers in control of the game, as she chipped in nine second-half points, all coming in the final eight minutes of play to propel Appalachian to the double-digit victory.

Freeman also grabbed eight rebounds and dished out two assists.

Appalachian opened the contest strong, as two Anna Freeman (Thomasville, N.C./East Davidson) treys saw ASU jump out to a 10-5 lead.

However, paced by buckets by Whitney Hood, UTC continued to hang around and a mini 7-0 Lady Mocs spurt saw Chattanooga take its largest lead of the game up seven with under six minutes left until the half.

ASU responded, and was able to turn up the intensity and pressure, heading into halftime up eight points.

Posting solid play and executing both offensively and defensively, ASU never relinquished its advantage and downed Chattanooga 70-54.

The challenging 2010-11 slate carries on for the Mountaineers, as they take to the road for a three-game road swing, beginning at Davidson, Wednesday January 19. The contest between the two teams is slated to tip off at 7 p.m. from the Wildcats' Belk Arena.

NOTES: The win over UTC is ASU's first-ever over Chattanooga in the Holmes Center … snaps a 26-game losing skid to the Lady Mocs … gives ASU its first win over UTC since December 29, 1998 … gives the Mountaineers' their 15th-straight home win.

	1	2		T
UTC	24	30	-	54
ASU	32	38	-	70

UTC: HOOD 16, CHRISTOPHER 3, LAMBERT 15, DEWART 5, DOWNS 3, BRAMBLETT 4, HALL 7, TUCKER 1. FG: 19-59, 3FG: 6-26, FT: 10-18. REBOUNDS: 37, TURNOVERS: 18.

ASU: A. FREEMAN 12, DEWART 28, SHARKEY 3 (9 REBOUNDS), WELDON 9, RAMERIZ 3, EDWARDS 6, C. FREEMAN 9 (8 REBOUNDS). FG: 23-55, 3FG: 4-8, FT: 20-26. REBOUNDS: 47, TURNOVERS: 18.