

ASU WOMEN BATTER FURMAN 85-67

Written by Courtney Burchett
Saturday, 29 January 2011 22:54

Appalachian State University women's basketball avenged just one of its two Southern Conference losses from earlier in the season, as the Mountaineers drilled Furman to the tune of 85-67 Saturday afternoon at the Holmes Center.

The win is not only ASU's 16th straight home victory and sixth straight on the season, but it also improves the Apps to a stout 16-4 record and 10-2 conference mark, while Furman falls to 8-12 overall and 4-7 in league play.

Once Furman used three three-pointers in the opening three minutes of second half play to cut ASU's halftime lead to just two points, up 45-43, Appalachian broke the contest open posting an unstoppable 17-3 run.

With offensive output coming from all over, as five different Mountaineers found the bottom of the basket, the Black and Gold extended their lead to double-digits, grabbing a commanding 62-46 advantage.

Continuing to show its offensive brilliance, free throws by Ashlen Dewart (Spartanburg, S.C./Dorman) and Courtney Freeman (Carlton, Ga./Madison County) saw ASU grab a 21 point lead, with a little over ten minutes left to play.

Dewart and Courtney Freeman were two of four Apps that closed out the game with double-digits in the scoring column, as Dewart posted a game-high 19 points, on 8-11 shooting while Courtney Freeman had 10, along with grabbing four boards.

That push was all Appalachian needed, as the Mountaineers went on to hammer the Paladins and earn the 18-point victory.

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First half action was heated, but ASU appeared in control, taking a 24-16 lead off a Canesha Edwards (Newnan, Ga./Newnan) jumper just half way through the first period.

Edwards was quite impressive against Furman as well, as she had 14 points, tied for a team-best seven rebounds and swiped two steals.

The Paladins however would not quit and scored eight straight points to knot play for the fourth time at 24 all.

Quick to respond, ASU answered with nine-straight points of its own, and was able to hold off a late first half Furman charge to take a 41-34 halftime advantage.

With Dewart and Anna Freeman (Thomasville, N.C./East Davidson) active on the offensive front and Appalachian finding its momentum, the Apps went on to earn its sixth consecutive win by a double-digit margin, and posted 85 points, marking the third time in the past four games that the squad has scored 80 or more points.

With not time for rest, the tough conference schedule continues, as the Mountaineers hit the road in search of a season-sweep of Western Carolina. The Apps and Catamounts are set to battle, Monday, January 31 with tipoff set for Noon in WCU's Ramsey Athletic Center.

NOTES: ASU's 10 SoCon wins tie for the third most in school history ... the 16 overall wins tie the 2010-11 Mountaineers for the sixth most overall in school history ... the home win is ASU's 16th straight, which is the 11th longest home winning streak in NCAA Division I ... the win over Furman is ASU's first this season and third over the Paladins in the past four meetings ... ASU is now on a six game winning streak its longest of the 2010-11 season ... Ashlen Dewart is now 137 points away from 1,000 ... Sam Ramirez needs just eight points to move into sole possession of fifth on ASU's all-time scoring list.

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FURMAN	34	33	-	67
APPALACHIAN STATE	41	44	-	85

FURMAN: LEDFORD 4, O'CONNER 14, RANDOLPH 6, MURPHY 9 (6 ASSISTS), BERRY 11 (11 REBOUNDS), ROBERTS 10, THOMPSON 5, KEETON 8. FG: 24-67, 3FG: 6-19, FT: 13-18. REBOUNDS: 42, TURNOVERS: 20.

ASU: ANNA FREEMAN 17 (6 ASSISTS), ASHLEN DEWART 19 (7 REBOUNDS), SHARKEY 4, WELDON 8, RAMIREZ 8, EDWARDS 14 (7 REBOUNDS), KELLY 2, COURTNEY FREEMAN 10, HACKETT 3. FG: 35-73, 3FG: 0-7, FT: 15-19. REBOUNDS: 45, TURNOVERS: 12.