

Sims Reaches Milestone in Win at Elon

Written by Charles Cochrum
Saturday, 05 February 2011 22:36

Donald Sims (Gaffney, S.C./Fork Union) scored a team-high 17 points, including the final three of the game to ice a 68-62 win at Elon on Saturday night at Alumni Gym.

His first two points of the game pushed him over the 2,000-point mark for his career as ASU won its second-straight game.

A relatively tame first half gave way to a wild back-and-forth second period as the Mountaineers (10-13, 6-7 SoCon) clawed back from an eight-point deficit early in the second half to tie the game with six minutes remaining, 52-52.

Mitch Woods (Naples, Fla./Community School of Naples) then gave the Apps the lead for good with just his second three-pointer of the season with 3:07 remaining, 61-59. Following an Elon foul shot, Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George) added to a one-point advantage with a layup off of a spin move in the paint for a 63-60 lead.

Elon's (10-14, 4-9) Chris Long responded with a jumper to pull within 63-63 with just over a minute remaining before ASU ran the clock down on the other end to just over 30 seconds. With just a few ticks left on the shot clock, Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) pulled up on the left baseline and sank a jumper to give the Mountaineers a safer 65-62 advantage.

Long then missed a three-pointer 20 seconds later, with Williamson winning the rebound. He passed to Sims, who was fouled with 10.3 seconds on the clock. Sims knocked down both free throws to increase the lead to two possessions. Following a quick Phoenix miss, Sims grabbed a rebound and sank one more free throw to provide the final margin.

Sims was 4-of-16 from the floor but sank 9-of-10 free throws and hauled in six rebounds with four assists on the night. He became only the 479th player in NCAA Division I history to reach the 2,000-point mark and the ninth player to accomplish the feat this season.

Carter also finished with 17 points on 8-of-14 shooting and notched his third double-double of

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the season with a game-high 10 rebounds.

Long finished with 15 points, eight assists and four rebounds for Elon, while Lucas Troutman came off the bench to lead all scorers with 19 points on 7-of-15 shooting and a team-high six rebounds.

The Apps found themselves in a 21-18 hole in rebounding at halftime before owning a 22-9 advantage in the second half. ASU's shooting also picked up after the intermission as the Mountaineers sank 38.7 percent of their shots in the first but 50 percent in the second half. Elon's shooting sank from 47 percent to 30 percent in the halves as the squad finished at 40.4 percent for the game and 26.3 percent from downtown.

Jeremi Booth (Altavista, Va./Fork Union) reached double figures for a second-straight game with 14 points on 4-of-10 shooting with two of ASU's three treys on the night. Williamson scored 11 points on 5-of-6 shooting and added six rebounds in the victory. The junior also swatted two of ASU's four blocks on the night. In addition to Woods' three points, he hauled in four rebounds and dished out a pair of assists.

The Mountaineers fell behind by eight points early in the contest before holding the Phoenix scoreless for four minutes. During the Elon dry spell, ASU scored 12-straight points to take its first lead of the game and extend the advantage to 26-20. The Phoenix closed the half on a 16-4 run to regain a 36-30 advantage at the intermission.

Appalachian returns home from the three-game road trip to host five of its final six games at home. beginning with Thursday's tilt against Samford. The February 10 game has been designated "Celebrate Watauga Night." Visit GoASU.com for more information and to purchase discounted tickets for the event. Our coverage Thursday night begins at 6:15 pm on AM 1450, WATA.

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APPALACHIAN STATE	30	38	-	68
ELON	36	26	-	62

ASU: WILLIAMSON 11 (6 REBOUNDS), SIMS 17, BOOTH 14, CARTER 17, WOODS 3, HAUSLEY 6. FG: 24-55, 3FG: 3-15, FT: 17-20. 40 REBOUNDS, 15 TURNOVERS.

ELON: BEAUMONT 9, GRABLE 1, SPRADLIN 6, BURDETTE 2, LONG 15, ISENBARGER 7, TROUTMAN 19, ERVIN 3. FG: 23-57, 3FG: 5-19, FT: 11-15. 30 REBOUNDS, 10 TURNOVERS.

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