Appalachian State University women's basketball was able to withstand a second-half surge by Samford and complete its first-ever season sweep of the Bulldogs Saturday afternoon, as the Apps defeated their SoCon foe 61-53 at the Pete Hanna Center.

ASU has now won 10 games in a row and ends Samford's seven-game winning streak, to improve to 20-4 on the season and 14-4 and in league play, while the Bulldogs fall to 19-7 and 12-7 in conference action.

Samford was able to come within as close as four points thanks in part to two straight three-pointers and two made free throws by Paige Anderson, and Appalachian State saw its once double-digit lead diminish, clinging to a 53-49 lead with a little over two minutes left to play.

Anderson finished as Samford's leading scorer with 17 points.

Holding onto its four-point advantage, Samford began to foul, sending Canesha Edwards (Newnan, Ga./Newnan), Sam Ramirez (Fayetteville, N.C./Southview) and Ashlen Dewart (Spartanburg, S.C./Dorman) all to the free throw line under the one-minute mark.

Thankfully, all three were perfect at the charity stripe, going 8-8, and the Apps pushed past the Bulldogs for the eight-point win,

Ramirez was unstoppable in the contest, as she poured in a game-best 18 points, on 5-11 shooting, including grabbing four rebounds and swiping three steals.

Opening minutes of play were heated and intense between the Mountaineers and Bulldogs as action was knotted twice before the 13-minute mark of the first half.

However the first period was tied for the final time at eight apiece, as the Black and Gold posted an 11-0 run and held Samford to without a field goal for a five minute stretch, to take a commanding 19-8 lead.

Appalachian's offense was evenly distributed, with five different Mountaineers contributing on the offensive front.

The Bulldogs tried to answer draining back-to-back three-pointers, but ASU outscored Samford 13-4 in the closing five and half minutes before the half, to head into intermission up 33-18.

Appalachian's stifling defense rattled Samford, forcing the Bulldogs to cough up the ball 18 times in the opening 20 minutes, with the Black and Gold also grabbing 10 first-half steals, as Anna Freeman (Thomasville, N.C./East Davidson) recorded half of them.

Freeman was a spark for the Apps as well, scoring 12 points, tallying seven steals and totaling four rebounds.

Entering the second-half strong, Samford went on a 10-0 scoring spurt, to pull within seven points, making the score 35-28 with a little under 14 minutes remaining.

It was the senior duo of Savannah Hill and Emily London leading the way for the Bulldogs, as the two scored all of Samford's points during the run, including draining two treys.ee

Able to somewhat quiet Hill and London, the preseason all-conference selections, the duo combined for just 20 points in the game.

Ramirez however answered for Appalachian, drilling a trey and teammate Ashlen Dewart (Spartanburg, S.C./Dorman) followed suit, chipping in four points as well to push Appalachian's advantage back out to 12.

Dewart also capped off the game in double-figures as she had 16 points, while recording a team-best eight rebounds.
Samford however would not give up, and the game went down to the wire, but the Apps were clutch at the free throw and were able to withstand Samford's second-half charge to seal the win.
The suffocating Mountaineer defense continued to wreak havoc on Samford, as the Bulldogs ended the game with a season-high 30 turnovers, and Appalachian scored 29 points off the Bulldogs miscues.
Looking to close out its final regular-season road trip with a win, the Mountaineers travel to Chattanooga in search of its first victory at Chattanooga since 1998. ASU will battle its bitter conference foe, Monday, February 14 at 7 p.m. in the Lady Mocs' McKenzie Arena. Coverage begins at 6:30 pm on Mix 102.3 FM.
Notes: ASU improves to 20-4 on the 2010-11 season and picks up its 14th SoCon win of the season … the 14 conference wins tie ASU's total number of SoCon wins from a season ago and tie the most in school history … the 20 overall victories tie for the third most overall wins in a season in program history .. the 20 wins mark the first back-to-back 20 win seasons in ASU program history since the 1986-87 to 1987-88 campaigns. (24 season wins in each) .. ASU snaps Samford's seven-game winning streak and hands the Bulldogs just their second loss on their home floor this season.

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APPALACHIAN STATE	33	28	-	61
SAMFORD	16	35	-	53

ASU: STARKEY 2, ANNA FREEMAN 12 (7 STEALS), DEWART 16 (8 REBOUNDS), WELDON 4 (5 ASSISTS), RAMIREZ 18, EDWARDS 6, COURTNEY FREEMAN 3. FG: 21-55, 3FG: 4-12, FT: 15-16. 30 REBOUNDS, 19 TURNOVERS.

SAMFORD: DAWSON 5, HILL 9 (9 REBOUNDS), LONDON 11, ANDERSON 17, KETCHUM 7, CAMPBELL 4. FG: 17-41, 3FG: 8-21, FT: 11-12. 29 REBOUNDS, 30 TURNOVERS.