

ASU Defeats High Point in Final Seconds

Written by Charles Cochrum
Sunday, 20 February 2011 11:21

The Panthers rallied from a 10-point deficit to tie the game in the final minute before Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George) sank the game-winning free throw with five seconds remaining to lift Appalachian State University men's basketball over High Point, 82-81, on Saturday night at the Millis Center in the annual ESPNU BracketBuster event. The Mountaineers (13-14, 8-8 SoCon) held a narrow lead at the half before an explosive 16-6 run early in the second period gave the Panthers a six-point lead with 15 minutes to play. Petey Hausley (Marion, N.C./Iowa Western) scored 10 of his career-high 17 points in the second half to help ASU not only regain the lead, but push it to double figures three and a half minutes left in regulation.

HPU then furiously rallied to tie the game at 81-81 with 34.5 seconds remaining, thanks in part to five-straight points from Shay Shine and a timely turnover. On the Mountaineers' final possession of the game, Williamson caught a pass under the basket and was fouled on the layup attempt. He then sank the second of two free throws to put the Mountaineers ahead.

On the other end of the floor, Big South Preseason Player of the Year Nick Barbour launched a three-pointer from the left corner just before the buzzer sounded, but the shot fell short, denying the junior his second game-winner of the week. A teammate tipped in the miss but a video replay confirmed that the final horn had already sounded.

Hausley completed his first double-double with a season-high 10 rebounds, including five on the offensive glass. The junior sank 6-of-10 shots and 5-of-8 free throws with a pair of blocks off the bench.

Donald Sims (Gaffney, S.C./Fork Union) paced the Mountaineer offense with 28 points on 7-of-10 shooting with 6-of-8 three-pointers and an 8-of-8 mark from the foul line. The senior dished out three assists and swiped three steals.

Appalachian overcame superb shooting by the Panthers all evening as HPU sank its first seven shots in the game en route to a 66.7 field goal percentage in the half. Relatively speaking, HPU cooled off in the second half, sinking 51.7 percent of its shots to finish at 58.9 percent for the game.

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ASU shot better than 50 percent in each half and stood at 54.2 percent for the game, along with 9-of-13 three-pointers. Marcus Wright (Winston-Salem, N.C./Winston-Salem Prep) sank 2-of-3 from downtown and finished with eight points.

Williamson tallied nine points with three rebounds, two assists and a pair of blocks. The junior was 5-of-7 from the charity stripe, including his game-winner.

Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) also reached double figures with 13 points on 6-of-11 shooting. He hauled in four rebounds and led the team with four assists.

The Apps owned a 26-23 advantage on the glass with seven offensive rebounds converting into seven second-chance points.

Shine led High Point with 27 points on 11-of-13 shooting, while three other players reached double figures for the Panthers, including Barbour's 18 points.

Appalachian returns home to host the final two games of the regular season. College of Charleston visits on Thursday for a 7 p.m. contest before The Citadel travels to the High Country on Saturday. ASU will honor its seniors prior to the 2 p.m. tipoff.

ASU 82, HIGH POINT 81

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APPALACHIAN ST.	45	37	-	82
HIGH POINT	41	40	-	81

ASU: WILLIAMSON 9, SIMS 28, WRIGHT 8, BOOTH 3, CARTER 13, HEALY 2, WOODS 2, HAUSLEY 17 (10 REBOUNDS). FG: 26-48, 3FG: 9-13, FT: 21-26. 26 REBOUNDS, 15 TURNOVERS.

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HIGH POINT: BRIDGES 14, BARBOUR 18, COX 13, SHINE 27, CAMPBELL 2, MARTIN 3, ELLIOTT 4. FG: 33-56, 3FG: 6-12, FT: 9-12. 23 REBOUNDS, 13 TURNOVERS.