

ASU Soccer Combats Gardner-Webb To Scoreless Tie

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After an emotional game in front of a supportive crowd, Appalachian State men's soccer came away with a 0-0 tie against Gardner-Webb in the opening game of the Davidson adidas Classic on Friday evening. The Mountaineers' record moves to 1-2-1, while the Runnin' Bulldogs remain even at 1-1-2.

Before the game, a moment of silence was conducted to honor the memory of ASU coach Shaun Pendleton, who passed away earlier in the week. The Mountaineers were not alone in Davidson as several hundred Appalachian fans made the trip to support their men on the field. Appalachian's forceful attack began immediately. Less than two and a half minutes into the game, the Apps recorded their first shot, trying to capitalize on a header by David Dodge (Oviedo, Fla. / Oviedo) off an ASU free kick.

Midway through the period, the Mountaineer offense kept up the pressure. Sekani Sinclair (Parkland, Fla. / Marjory Stoneman Douglas) shot a well-placed ball that was narrowly deflected by Gardner-Webb keeper Scott Krotee. ASU earned three quick corner kicks but was unable to profit, and the game remained scoreless through the half.

Appalachian continued its onslaught through the second stanza, amassing a 19-9 advantage in shots. Stanley Broaden (Wilmington, N.C. / Eugene Ashley) created an excellent chance with his fancy footwork, but Gardner-Webb's Eric Yeager made an athletic defensive save.

With five minutes to play, the Runnin' Bulldogs broke through the Mountaineers' back line, but the shot of Jalen Gathers missed just wide left of the goalpost, and regulation concluded without a goal.

In overtime, both teams made plays at the net, with Gardner-Webb notching four shots and ASU a pair. Despite the combined effort, neither squad broke the tie, and the teams walked away with a shutout draw.

ASU keeper Danny Free (Doncaster, England / Hall Cross School) picked up his first career shutout after stopping all six of the Runnin' Bulldogs' shots on goal. Sinclair paced the Mountaineers with four shots, three on goal.

After his first career game as a head coach, Matt Nelson expressed his thanks to all Appalachian fans. "The support we have been given has been unbelievable. The teachers, students, athletic department, coaches and the entire Appalachian community and campus—we are thankful for the amazing support we've been given."

Senior Ryan Duffy (Apex, N.C. / Apex) described the feeling of the game. "We had a lot of emotion going into it, but once we were on the field, it was just another game. If anything, the energy drove us to come out and play our hardest."

"We were focusing on each other," added Nelson, "and moving forward as a team. I'm honored to be a part of the group of men who stepped out on to the field together."

The Mountaineers wrap up the Davidson adidas Classic with a game against Detroit (2-1-0) on Sunday, Sept. 11. Kickoff is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Apps Drop Two Matches at Morehead St. Invitational

The Appalachian State volleyball team dropped its opening two matches of the 2011 Morehead State Invitational on Friday, Sept. 9 at Wetherby Gymnasium.

The Mountaineers (4-5) dropped their first match to the host Eagles (5-4), 3-1, in four sets (25-20, 23-25, 25-16, 26-24) before suffering a 3-1 loss to Western Michigan (7-1) in four sets (25-22, 20-25, 31-29, 25-20) in their second match. The Apps conclude tournament play tomorrow morning when they face George Mason at 11:30 a.m. ET.

Match 1

Appalachian picked up a second-set win behind thanks to strong efforts by Anna Wagner and Maggie Seeds, but was unable to overcome a first-set loss as it dropped a 3-1 decision to Morehead State in the first match on Friday.

The Eagles trailed 2-0 early in the first set before snagging a 12-7 lead and hanging on for the 25-20 win in the first frame. The Mountaineers rebounded with a 25-23 win in the second set by using two five-point runs en route to their lone set win.

Morehead State jumped out to a 6-1 lead in the third set and never led by fewer than four points in a 25-16 set victory. The Eagles also overcame a late 20-16 deficit in the fourth set to pull out a 26-24 victory and clinch the match.

Seeds and Wagner each finished with 12 kills while Courtney Rhein came up with 18 digs. The Apps hit just .192 in the match but still held the edge over Morehead State (.190), who had 11 attack errors in the second set. The Eagles finished with a slight edge in blocks (8-7) and were held to a negative attack percentage in the second set.

Match 2

In their final match of the day, the Mountaineers rallied to tie the score at 1-1 with a win in the second set, but Western Michigan picked up a hard-fought win in the third set before clinching the match with a 25-20 win in the fourth set.

Appalachian led by as many as three points on three occasions in the first set and led by one (18-17) late in the set before the Broncos rallied back to score seven of the final 11 points on their way to a first-set victory.

The Mountaineers jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the second set but trailed midway through (13-10) before notching 15 of the final 22 points to tie the match at 1-1.

A back-and-forth battle ensued in a hard-fought third set which saw eight lead changes and 12 tie scores. The Apps trailed by as many as six (21-15) late in the set before reeling off a 10-3 run to take a 25-24 lead. The lead would change hands several times before the Broncos finally prevailed, 31-29.

Appalachian would take a 1-0 lead to begin the fourth set, but Western Michigan used a 3-0 run to take the lead back and did not trail the rest of the way to take a match-clinching win by a final of 25-20.

Wagner led the Mountaineers with 16 kills while Maggie Seeds finished with 14 kills and hit an impressive .444. Wagner also chipped in with 12 digs while sisters Courtney (13) and Kelly Rhein (12) also tallied double-digit digs. The Apps were held to an attack percentage of just .208 while the Broncos hit .259 as a team and had three players with double-digit kill totals.