Appalachian State University volleyball dropped its Southern Conference opener to Chattanooga by a 3-0 final on Friday at Maclellan Gym. The Mountaineers (4-11, 0-1 SoCon) were swept by the Mocs (7-9, 1-0) by scores of 25-18, 25-16

and 25-21. Chattanooga jumped out to an early lead in each set and never trailed en route to its first win over App State in almost two years.

The Mocs set the tone early by racing out to a 9-2 lead in the first set and held the seven-point edge throughout the early stages before the Mountaineers rallied to cut the deficit to 18-15. It would not be enough, however, as Chattanooga was able to stave off the comeback attempt on its way to a 25-18 first-set victory.

In the second set, Appalachian was able to keep it close throughout much of the early-going, but a late 8-1 run by the Mocs would be too much as Chattanooga took a 25-16 second-set win.

The third and final set turned out to be more of the same as the Mocs build a 7-1 lead early, then held back a furious rally by the Mountaineers late in the set to pick up the sweep.

Lauren Gray led the Mountaineers with eight kills while recording six block assists. Dalton Tolliver tallied seven kills while Lindsey Sauls and Jacqui Spurgeon each finished with six. Paige Brown posted a double-double with 16 assists and 13 digs while sister, Lauren Brown, notched 10 assists, three digs and an ace.

Julimar Alvarado and Kristina Teter led the Mocs with 13 and 12 kills, respectively, while Bridget Camacho tallied a match-high 31 assists. Paula Passmore finished with a team-best 23 digs.

App State struggled offensively, hitting just .056 on the attack while Chattanooga notched a .205 attack percentage. The Mountaineers did finish with the edge in blocks as they tallied six.

Appalachian State returns to action tomorrow when it faces defending SoCon champion Samford at 8 p.m. at the Pete Hanna Center.

MATCH NOTES: The Mountaineers were swept by the Mocs for the first time since Sept. 22, 2007... it was the first time App State was swept by a SoCon foe since 3-0 loss at College of Charleston on Oct. 21, 2011... Courtney Rhein needs just 273 more digs to become App State's all-time leader... she has recorded 1,556 career digs and needs 144 more to move into second all-time.

Photo Courtesy: Lauren Gray, ASU Athletics