

## **Apps Swept by Wofford, Face Furman Today**

Written by Ryan Bower

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Despite an impressive performance from Lauren Gray (Round Rock, Texas/ Round Rock) in her return from an ankle injury, Appalachian State University volleyball was unable to hold off Southern Conference foe Wofford in a 3-0 loss

on Friday at Benjamin Johnson Arena. The Mountaineers (5-16, 1-6 SoCon) were unable to stay with the Terriers (11-8, 2-5) after a competitive first set that saw 12 ties and four lead changes as Wofford seized momentum and dominated the final two sets.

Neither team could find separation early in the first set until the Terriers forced an Appalachian timeout with a late 3-0 run that made the score 18-15. The Apps would score out of the break, but could not regain the lead as Wofford snagged a 25-20 first-set win. The Terriers jumped out to a quick 7-1 lead in the second set and never trailed as they dominated throughout in a 25-16 second-set win.

The third and final set of the night saw App State jump out to a 6-2 lead before Wofford called a timeout to stem the tide, but it would prove to be a futile effort as the Mountaineers were able to extend their lead to as many as six points (12-6). Despite grabbing all the momentum, Appalachian was unable to hold on as the Terriers reeled off a late 6-0 run to take a 21-17 lead en route to a 25-21 third-set win and a match victory.

Gray paced the Mountaineers with 11 kills while hitting a blistering .500 on the attack. Dalton Tolliver (Ortonville, Mich./Notre Dame Prep) also finished in double figures with 10 kills. Lauren Brown (Overland Park, Kan./St. James Academy) tallied a team-best 24 assists in the contest while Courtney Rhein (York, Pa./Eastern York) led all players with 21 digs.

Wofford was led on offense by Amanda Liguori's 13 kills while Bekah Dorsey led all players with 32 assists. The Terriers hit .231 on the attack while limiting App State to .123 and finished with 10 total blocks to Appalachian's four. The Mountaineers return to action tomorrow when they take on Furman at 5:30 p.m. at Alley Gymnasium.

**MATCH NOTES:** Rhein moved into second-place in App State history with 1,700 career digs... she needs 129 more to set the school's all-time record... Tolliver tallied double-digit kills for the fourth-straight match and the 12th time this season... The Apps dropped to 19-5 all-time against Wofford... the Terriers snapped an 11-match losing streak to the Mountaineers.

**Photo Courtesy: Lauren Gray, ASU Athletics**