

## **Mountaineers Swept by Elon**

Written by Ryan Bower

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Appalachian State University volleyball fell in three sets to Southern Conference rival Elon on Friday at Alumni Gym.

The Mountaineers (5-19, 2-9 SoCon) suffered their sixth-straight conference road loss as the Phoenix (13-13, 6-5) won

by set scores of 25-19, 28-26 and 25-23. Elon grabbed an early lead in the first set before the Apps battled back to take a one-point lead, but it would be short-lived as the Phoenix used several late runs to pull out the first-set win. The second set saw a back-and-forth battle that went to extra points and featured four lead changes. After falling behind by seven points (16-9) early in the set, App State battled back to take the lead and had a chance to win the set with a 24-22 lead late.

Elon was able to kill the Mountaineers' momentum with three-straight points to take a 25-24 lead and hung out for the 28-26 second-set win. The third and final set saw another tight contest as neither team was able to distance itself from the other. Appalachian State held a 21-20 lead late in the set, but the Phoenix battled back to take a 25-23 third-set victory and a 3-0 sweep. Dalton Tolliver led the Mountaineers with a match-high 16 kills while Lauren Brown tallied a team-best 25 assists. Courtney Rhein led the Apps with 13 digs and Lauren Gray and Jacqui Spurgeon each tallied eight kills. Megan Gravley led Elon with 13 kills while Chanelle Smith tallied 11. Ana Nicksic notched a match-high 38 assists and the Phoenix had three players record double-digit digs.

Appalachian State was held to .190 on the attack while Elon hit at a .258 clip and outblocked the Mountaineers by a 9-4 tally. App State returns to action tomorrow when it travels to UNCG for a 7 p.m. match.

**Photo Courtesy: Dalton Tolliver, ASU Athletics**