

## Mountaineers' Second-Half Comeback Falls Short

Written by Ryan Bower

Thursday, 29 November 2012 08:33

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Appalachian State University men's basketball battled all the way back from a 14-point halftime deficit but Duquesne's Quevyn Winters hit a go-ahead three-pointer with 31 seconds remaining to lift the

visiting Dukes (2-3) to a 73-72 victory over the Mountaineers on Wednesday evening at the Holmes Center.

Appalachian State (1-5) trailed 47-33 at halftime but opened the second half on a 24-9 run to take 57-56 lead on a Nathan Healy three-pointer with 9:08 to go in the ballgame.

It was a back-and-forth affair the rest of the way, with neither team leading by more than three points at any point in the final nine minutes.

With under a minute to go and the score knotted at 68-68, Healy drove into the paint, drew two defenders and dished to wide-open freshman Michael Obacha on the baseline, whose layup gave the Mountaineers a 70-68 lead with 48 seconds to play.

However, on the ensuing possession, Winters drilled Duquesne's ninth three-pointer of the game from the left wing to retake a one-point lead.

Appalachian came up empty on its next possession and was forced to foul Duquesne's Jeremiah Jones, who made both free throws with 15 seconds remaining to stretch the Dukes' advantage to 73-70.

After Jay Canty pulled the Mountaineers' within a point with a layup with five seconds to go, Jones missed a pair of free throws with four seconds to go. However, the battle for the rebound left Appalachian with only a second on the clock when the loose ball finally settled into Healy's hands and his three-quarters-court attempt at the game-winner was off the mark.

Canty recorded a double-double with 15 points and 10 assists to lead Appalachian while Healy scored a team-high 21 points and senior 7-footer Brian Okam turned in perhaps the best performance of his career with seven big points on 3-of-3 shooting.

"We lost this game in the first half," ASU coach Jason Capel said. "We have to do a better job of coming out with more intensity to start the game. We can't keep spotting teams, 13-, 14-, 19-point leads."

On the night, the Mountaineers shot 50.0 percent (29-of-58) including 9-of-20 from beyond the arc while the Dukes shot 41.3 percent (26-of-63) and were limited to just 9-of-29 in the second half.

Duquesne finished with a 39-30 edge in rebounds, including a 16-6 advantage on the offensive glass, and dished out 15 assists. Appalachian dished out 18 assists and committed 18 turnovers while forcing the Dukes to turn the ball over 17 times. The Mountaineers also finished with six blocks, four of which came from Healy.

"We're much better than our record indicates," Capel said. "We're a team that's getting better, but I don't want to be patted on the back for our effort. We're suppose to have effort. I don't want this team to be accustomed to people telling them, 'good job, you played hard,' we're suppose to play hard."

The Apps travel to No. 16/15 Missouri on Saturday for the first of a season-high four-straight road contests. And because of ASU football, there will be no radio coverage of Saturday's game at Missouri. The Mountaineers return to the air for their Southern Conference opener at Western

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Carolina on December 8. A starting time for that game has not been announced.

**GAME NOTES:** The Mountaineers fell to 21-24 all-time against teams from the Atlantic 10... Appalachian failed to win a November game against a Division I opponent for the first time since the 1999-2000 campaign... interestingly enough, that season was also the last time that the Mountaineers made the NCAA Tournament... Healy has scored 20 or more points in two of the last three games... Appalachian fell to 19-10 at home over the past three seasons... the Apps were outscored 34-16 in the paint and 42-13 in bench points.

### DUQUENSE 73, ASU 72

#### Score by periods 1st 2nd Total

Duquesne	47	26	-	73
Appalachian State	33	39	-	72

**DUQUESNE:** MARHOLD 8 (9 REBOUNDS), PANTOPHLET 11 (7 REBOUNDS), ABELE 4, COLTER 6 (7 ASSISTS), JOHNSON 2, TORRES 2, BINNEY 3, WINTERS 9, JONES 6. FG: 26-63, 3FG: 9-26, FT: 12-20. 39 REBOUNDS, 15 ASSISTS, 17 TURNOVERS. THREE POINTERS - WINTERS AND JONES 3, PANTOPHLET 2, BINNEY.

**ASU:** OBACHA 3, HEALY 21 (6 REBOUNDS), CANTY 15 (10 ASSISTS), HAMILTON 19 (7 REBOUNDS), CANTY 15 (10 ASSISTS), TRICE 1, BURGESS 6 (5 ASSISTS), OKAM 7. FG: 29-58, 3FG: 9-20, FT: 5-7. 30 REBOUNDS, 18 ASSISTS, 18 TURNOVERS.

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THREE POINTERS - HAMILTON 5, HEALY 3, CANTY.

**Photo Courtesy: Tab Hamilton, ASU Athletics**