

ASU Women's Hoops Dominates SoCon Opener

Written by Jennifer Clark

Tuesday, 04 December 2012 09:47

Courtney Freeman became the 22nd player in Appalachian State University women's basketball history to score 1,000 career points in Monday's 79-47 romp over Southern Conference foe Georgia Southern

in the 2012-13 league opener. The Mountaineers (6-1, 1-0 SoCon) cruised to an easy victory over the Eagles (1-4, 0-2), who never threatened in the contest.

Georgia Southern won the tip sending Danielle Spencer straight to the basket for two (0-2), but it would be no indication of the Eagles' game to follow. Kelsey Sharkey marked App's first points with an easy layup for two (2-2) before a scoreless two minute run ensued. Maryah Sydnor followed with a layup of her own to add two more for the Mountaineers (4-2), before GSU's Anna Claire Knight connected on a three-pointer and shifted the lead back in the Eagles' favor (4-5). Just seconds later Anna Freeman put a layup on the board to swing the momentum in Appalachian's favor (6-5), and set the Mountaineers on a 6-0 scoring run as they climbed ahead 12-5.

Appalachian held GSU to just 20.7 percent (6-of-29) from the floor in the first half as it staked itself to a 29-14 halftime lead and never looked back.

Courtney Freeman opened the second half with a layup to continue Appalachian's dominance (31-14) as the Mountaineers ascended from there, scoring 50 points in the second half to widen the final margin to 32 points.

C. Freeman led all scorers with 24 points, and fell just shy of a double-double with nine rebounds. Maryah Sydnor poured in 19 points and Anna Freeman added 14 points to go along with four assists and three blocks.

As a team, Appalachian shot 45.2 percent (28-of-62) from the floor while holding the Eagles to just 31.6 percent (18-of-57) on the night. The Mountaineers shot an incredible 95.7 percent (22-of-23) from the charity stripe and pulled down 43 rebounds to GSU's 35.

Appalachian returns to action on December 18, when they travel to East Tennessee State, before meeting West Virginia on December 28 in Morgantown.

Notes: The Mountaineers' victory against Georgia Southern marks their third-consecutive victory against the Eagles. The Apps shot 40 points in the paint compared to GSU's 18, and scored 28 points off of turnovers, while the Eagles grabbed just four. Courtney Freeman recorded her 24th point of the night with 1:18 left in the contest to earn her place in the women's basketball 1,000 point club. Khadijah Wilkerson set a career high in points (5) and free-throws and attempts, shooting 3-3.

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Score by periods 1st 2nd Total

Georgia Southern 14 33 - 47

Appalachian State 29 50 - 79

GEORGIA SOUTHERN: SPENCER 9, KIRKLAND 2, KNIGHT 8, FRYE 7, DUBOSE 8, COOK 2, RAWLS 6, WOFFORD 1, BENZIO 4. FG: 18-57, 3FG: 1-21, FT: 10-17. 35 REBOUNDS, 4 ASSISTS, 24 TURNOVERS. THREE POINTERS - KNIGHT.

ASU: SHARKEY 6, SYDNOR 19 (6 REBOUNDS), TAYLOR 5, C. FREEMAN 24 (9 REBOUNDS), A. FREEMAN 14 (6 REBOUNDS, 4 ASSISTS), MALLOW 6, WILKERSON 5. FG: 28-62, 3FG: 1-8, FT: 22-23. 43 REBOUNDS, 10 ASSISTS, 19 TURNOVERS. THREE POINTERS - SYDNOR.

Photo Courtesy: Maryah Sydnor, ASU Athletics