

Mountaineers Cruise Past Elon

Written by Jennifer Clark

Saturday, 02 February 2013 23:00

Anna Freeman poured in a game-high 26 points and pulled down 10 boards to lead Appalachian State University women's basketball to a dominating, 80-62 win over visiting Southern Conference foe Elon on Saturday at the Holmes Center.

The Mountaineers (13-5, 7-3 SoCon) jumped out to an early lead and never trailed as they downed the Phoenix (11-9, 8-3) for the eight-straight time.

Jessica Barrios nailed a three pointer off a steal in the opening seconds of the contest in her first start of the season. The Mountaineers would build from there and steadily increase the lead. Kelsey Sharkey gave Appalachian its first double-digit lead of the game (24-14) with a good free-throw at 7:25 on the clock, while Bria Huffman quickly added two more with a jumper (26-14). Elon's leading scorer Ali Ford would add ten more points for the Phoenix in five trips to the basket (35-26), but her effort wouldn't be enough as Appalachian held Elon to just 23.5 percent (8-for-34) in the first half on its way to a commanding 36-26 halftime lead.

The Apps would continue to pour in the points in the second half as they torched the nets to the tune of 53.3 percent (16-of-30), scoring 44 second-half points and leading by as much as 22. Freeman led all players in scoring and grabbed her 15th double-double of the season, while also dishing out two assists and notching two steals. Maryah Sydnor finished with 19 points and six boards while Kelsey Sharkey fell just shy of a double-double with 10 points and nine boards off the bench. Jessica Barrios recorded a game and career-high four steals and set career-highs in points (8), three-point field goals and attempts (2), free-throws (2), assists (1). Courtney Freeman dished out a game-high eight assists.

Elon was paced by 18 points from Ali Ford, who finished as the only Phoenix in double figures. Kelsey Harris grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

Appalachian shot 46.6 percent (27-of-58) on the afternoon while Elon managed to connect on just 30.3 percent (20-of-66) of its shots.

Game Notes: Appalachian State shot 46.6 percent on the night, compared to Elon's 30.3 percent, while grabbing 26 points in the paint to Elon's 16. Kelsey Sharkey fouled out of the game at 5:13 in the second half, along with Courtney Freeman who committed her fifth with just 1:11 remaining in the contest.

ASU 80, ELON 62

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Score by periods 1st 2nd Total

Elon 26 36 - 62

Appalachian State 36 44 - 80

ELON: EVANS 6, COFFER 4, STEPHENSON 6, FORD 18, HARRIS 4, (11 REBOUNDS), REDMOND 6 (3 ASSISTS), HUDSON 2, FARMER 8, CARTER 8. FG: 20-66, 3FG: 2-12, FT: 20-27. 44 REBOUNDS, 9 ASSISTS, 24 TURNOVERS.
THREE-POINTERS: STEPHENSON 2.

ASU: A. FREEMAN 26 (10 REBOUNDS), BARRIOS 8, MALLOW 3, SYDNOR 19, C. FREEMAN 9 (8 REBOUNDS, 8 ASSISTS), SHARKEY 10 (9 REBOUNDS), TAYLOR 2, GARY 1, HUFFMAN 2. FG: 27-58, 3FG: 6-12, FT: 20-28. 40 REBOUNDS, 21 ASSISTS, 24 TURNOVERS.
THREE-POINTERS: A. FREEMAN 2, BARRIOS 2, MALLOW, C. FREEMAN.

Photo Courtesy: Anna Freeman, ASU Athletics