

49ers Eliminate ASU In WNIT Opener

Written by Jennifer Clark
Friday, 22 March 2013 07:12

Anna Freeman scored a game-high 20 points in her final collegiate game, but it was not enough as Appalachian State University women's basketball fell to Charlotte, 79-61, in the first round of the 2013

WNIT on Thursday at Halton Arena. The Mountaineers (20-11) were able to hang with the 49ers (25-5) for most of the contest, but a late Charlotte run would seal the deal and send the Apps to a season-ending defeat.

Freeman was able to notch the first points of the game when she drilled a shot from beyond the arc at the 19:15 mark of the first half to put Appalachian up 3-0, but Charlotte was able to overcome the quick start by the Mountaineers to pick up its seventh-straight home win.

The 49ers and Mountaineers traded jabs throughout the opening five minutes before Charlotte snagged an 11-9 lead when Jennifer Hailey converted a three-point play with 14:23 remaining in the first half.

Despite keeping it close nearly the entire game, Appalachian was never able to regain the lead as the 49ers used Hailey's play to spark a 7-0 run and grab a 15-9 lead with 13:40 left in the opening half.

Appalachian was able to trim the deficit to one point on several occasions over the next few minutes, but Charlotte answered to extend the lead to 34-24 with 3:06 to go. The Mountaineers were able to cut the 49er lead to just five points (38-33) when Bria Huffman nailed a layup just before halftime.

The 49ers jumped back out to an eight-point lead (45-37) in the opening five minutes of the second half, but the Mountaineers cut the deficit to just two points (45-43) on Freeman's jumper with 13:16 left to play.

With the outcome still hanging in the balance and Charlotte nursing a 49-46 lead at the 9:53 mark, the 49ers were able to take control with a 15-6 run to take it's largest lead of the game at 64-52 with just 5:28 on the clock.

The Mountaineers were never able to threaten from there as Charlotte led by as many as 20 points (79-59) with 1:13 to play and slammed the door shut to grab the 79-61 win and advance to the second round of the WNIT.

Freeman led the Apps with 20 points to go along with five rebounds, four steals and two blocks. Huffman added 11 points off the bench and Maryah Sydnor finished with nine.

Charlotte saw two players record double-doubles as Hailey scored 20 points and ripped down 11 boards while Amanda Dowe notched 19 points and 16 rebounds. Ayanna Holmes scored 10 points off the bench and Ny Hammonds dished out 10 assists. The 49ers shot 47.7 percent (31-of-65) on the night while holding the Mountaineers to just 39.0 percent (23-of-59) from the floor. Charlotte finished with a 45-32 edge in rebounds and dished out 22 turnovers to Appalachian's 13 while committing 16 turnovers to App State's 20.

Appalachian State ended its season with its fourth-straight postseason appearance and third-straight in the WNIT.

Game Notes: The Mountaineers finished with two double-digit scorers in Anna Freeman, who posted a game-high 20 points along with four steals, and Bria Huffman, who matched her career high with 11 points. Kelsey Sharkey and Maryah Sydnor each pulled down five boards

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for Appalachian. Charlotte put up 48 points in the paint to Appalachian's 20, along with 28 points off turnovers and 20 from second-chance.

CHARLOTTE 79, ASU 61

Score by periods 1st 2nd Total

Appalachian State 33 28 - 61

Charlotte 38 41 - 79

ASU: SYDNOR 9 (5 REBOUNDS), A.FREEMAN 20, GARY 2, C.FREEMAN 6, WOOD 3, MALLOW 4, WILKERSON 2, COOPER 4, HUFFMAN 11, SHARKEY DID NOT SCORE (5 REBOUNDS, 4 ASSISTS). FG:23-59, 3FG: 5-14, FT: 10-12. 32 REBOUNDS, 13 ASSISTS, 20 TURNOVERS.

THREE-POINTERS: A.FREEMAN 2, SYDNOR, HUFFMAN, WOOD.

CHARLOTTE: DOWE 19 (16 REBOUNDS), HAILEY 20 (11 REBOUNDS), HAMMONDS 6 (10 ASSISTS), SIGMON 7, FORNEY 7, HOLMES 10, HARRIS 4, ALEXANDER 6. FG: 31-65, 3FG: 1-8, FT: 16-23. 45 REBOUNDS, 22 ASSISTS, 16 TURNOVERS.

THREE-POINTERS: FORNEY.

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Photo Courtesy: Anna Freeman, ASU Athletics