

High Country All-Stars Down ACC Elite 117-112

Written by Adam Hicks
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A last chance. That's what Appalachian State's senior guard, Eduardo Burmudez, said he wanted after a lackluster season, and that's exactly what he got as the High Country All-Stars took down Tyler Hansbrough, Danny Green, and the rest of the Carolina Barnstorming Tour on Thursday evening at the Holmes Convocation Center.

Burmudez and the rest of the Mountaineers had a somewhat disappointing season with a 13-18 record. Burmudez even spent a few games away from the team as he was suspended midway through the season, before earning his spot back on the roster. In his last game as a Mountaineer, Burmudez and the Apps lost in the second round of the Southern Conference tournament to the rival Davidson Wildcats. These setbacks seemed to fuel the fiery guard from Puerto Rico.

In an exhibition game in which Burmudez' team was expected to play the role of the abysmal Washington Generals, Burmudez was all business from buzzer to buzzer. Burmudez helped lead the High Country All-Stars to a 117-112 victory over the Carolina Barnstorming Tour, which included collegiate thoroughbreds like Tyler Hansbrough, Danny Green, and Bobby Frasor.

Hansbrough was nothing short of spectacular as he punished the under-sized all-stars from the High Country. Green also had a solid game as he added a few amazing dunks and showed off his perimeter game with some long-distance jumpers. Frasor brought his typical

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blue-collared approach as he hustled after every loose ball and was the definitive team player for the Carolina Barnstormers. Duke's senior forward, David McClure, also added quite a bit of athleticism to the team with his high-flying dunks.

The High Country All-Stars featured seniors from ASU, Lees McRae, Mars Hill, Montreat, UNC-Asheville, and other area schools. The team was lead by Burmudez, who was slow getting started but carried the team late in the second half, and senior guard from Mars Hill, P.J. Gore. The High Country All-Stars also received a 12-point boost from a manager from Appalachian State's men's basketball team, Ryan Goodson. The junior exercise science major even put on a dribbling exhibition at halftime, which garnered a standing ovation from the crowd and athletes on the bench.

After the game, Burmudez said, "I wanted a last chance. Thank God [Coach Houston] Fancher gave me the opportunity to play with these wonderful players. I beat an ACC player, I can put that on my resume now."

In the big scheme of things, the exhibition didn't mean anything more than a game of Monopoly, but it meant the world to the 6'3" senior from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, who wanted to leave Boone a winner.

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