It was a tale of two halves on Saturday afternoon as East Carolina built a 20-point halftime lead and then hung on to beat Appalachian State University 29-24 at Dowdy-Ficklin Stadium in Greenville, NC in the season-opener for both teams.

It was also the first meeting between the schools since 1979. And with the win Saturday, the Pirates have won five in a row in the series.

Sophomore Travaris Cadet, who transferred in from Pearl River Community College during the off-season, gave ASU (0-1 record) a huge spark in the second half. The Miami, Fla. native, ran for a touchdown as the Mountaineers, who couldn't do anything right in the first half and trailed 27-7 at the break, out-gained East Carolina (1-0) 163-63 in the second half and outscored the Pirates 17-2.

"I really wanted to win this game for our players, for our fans, and for our coaches, said ASU coach Jerry Moore. "But to comeback like we did after we made so many mistakes in the first half leads me to believe that we have a solid football team."

Cadet replaced starter DeAndre Pressley in the third quarter. He completed seven of nine passes for 55 yards and ran for an additional 35 yards. It was an impressive showing for Cadet, was eager to join the ASU program during the off-season.

"I love coach Moore and I love playing for this program," Cadet said. "East Carolina got real lucky today. They were lucky. We nearly came back, but fell short."

Devin Moore of the Mountaineers, who scored on a one-yard run in the fourth quarter, caught four passes for 41 yards. Moore was also ASU leading rusher with 37 yards on 17 carries. The Apps finished with 246 yards offensively. The Pirates had 320 yards, but most of that in the first half. Defensively, Cortez Gilbert had an interception. Pressley, making his second career start

for the Mountaineers, was seven of 15 for 89 yards and an interception. He ran for 12 yards and scored on a one-yard run in the first half.

The Mountaineers return home to play McNeese State, ranked 15th nationally in The Sports Network poll, next Saturday at Kidd Brewer Stadium. Our coverage begins at 1:30 pm on WATA 1450 AM Radio.