

Mountaineers Fall to Texas State

Written by Charles Cochrum
Thursday, 23 December 2010 22:09

On a night when nothing seemed to go right for Appalachian State University men's basketball, the Mountaineers fell against Texas State, 79-68, in the Cancun Governor's Cup on Thursday.

Appalachian (4-6) committed a season-high 21 turnovers, made just 10-of-22 free throws and lost its second point guard to injury in as many days in the setback in the tournament's consolation bracket.

After a quick start and early seven-point advantage, the Mountaineers fell behind by six points at the intermission as the Bobcats closed the period on an 18-7 run, including the half's last six points. ASU was unable to make up any ground in the second half as Texas State (3-8) expanded its advantage to 13 points and did not let the Apps come any closer than 51-45 after a brief spurt to open the period.

ASU shot 52 percent in the opening period but fell to a paltry 36.1 percent in the second half. Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) led the offense with 17 points on 7-of-15 shooting with six rebounds and a pair of assists.

Donald Sims (Gaffney, S.C./Fork Union) scored 15 points in the contest on 5-of-16 shooting with just two three-pointers in nine attempts. The senior guard hauled in six boards and led the team with six assists and three steals.

ASU was already without the services of Marcus Wright (Winston-Salem, N.C./Winston-Salem Prep), who injured his right ankle during Wednesday's game, when Mitch Woods (Naples, Fla./Community School of Naples) reinjured his hip in the first half, and was not able to return to action after playing just nine minutes.

Petey Hausley (Marion, N.C./Iowa Western) scored 13 points with six rebounds before fouling out in 21 minutes of play and fellow starting post Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince

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George) added seven points and six boards of his own.

After starting the last four games, Jeremi Booth (Altavista, Va./Fork Union) provided energy off the bench and contributed eight points, five rebounds, a pair of assists and two steals. Nathan Healy (New Bern, N.C./Blair Academy) led the Apps with eight rebounds to accompany six points before fouling out as the Mountaineers put the Texas State squad on the free throw line at the end of the game. The strategy was solid as the Bobcats struggled nearly as much as ASU from the charity stripe at 25-of-42 on the night.

Cameron Johnson led Texas State with 24 points on 10-of-16 shooting and eight rebounds. The Bobcats shot 55 percent from the floor in the second half to finish the game at 47.3 percent.

The Apps held a 42-38 advantage on the glass after Colorado State owned a 10-board advantage over the Mountaineers on Wednesday. The board total included 15 offensive rebounds, leading to just 10 second-chance points.

Appalachian faces East Tennessee State in the tournament finale on Friday at 1 p.m. EST. The Bucs fell against Northeastern on Thursday. Southern Miss squares off against the winner of Thursday night's game between Colorado State and Mississippi for the Cancun Governor's Cup title.

Texas State advances to face Northeastern in its finale on Friday. Our coverage of ASU basketball begins at 12:15 pm Friday on AM 1450, WATA.

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TEXAS STATE: JOHNSON 24 (8 REBOUNDS), SLOAN 4, WHITE 10 (6 ASSISTS), BOWMAN 8, ROGERS 3, RIOS 7, JONES 3, SEGURA 2, STAFF 12, BISHOP 6. FG - 26-55, 3FG - 2-11, FT - 25-42. REBOUNDS - 38, TURNOVERS - 14.

ASU: WILLIAMSON 7, HAUSLEY 13, SIMS 15 (6 REBOUNDS, 6 ASSISTS), CARTER 17, HEALY 6 (8 REBOUNDS, 4 ASSISTS), BOOTH 8, BREEZE 2. FG - 26-61, 3FG - 6-22, FT - 10-22. REBOUNDS - 42, TURNOVERS - 21.