

WCU Buzzer Beater Downs ASU, 79-78

Written by Charles Cochrum
Sunday, 16 January 2011 00:00

Marcus Wright (Winston-Salem, N.C./Winston-Salem Prep) gave Appalachian State University men's basketball a one-point lead with less than two minutes to play but Western Carolina's Mike Williams responded with a buzzer-beating jumper to finish off the Mountaineers and earn a rare win in the lopsided rivalry, 79-78, at the Ramsey Center on Saturday afternoon.

Neither team gained more than a seven-point advantage throughout the hard-fought contest as ASU owned a six-point lead with six minutes to play. Though WCU tied the game six times in the second half, it wasn't until Brandon Boggs drained a layup with 2:32 on the clock that the Catamounts took their first lead in the frame.

It was late in the next ASU possession that Appalachian (7-9, 3-3 SoCon) regained the lead on Wright's jumper at the top of the key with 1:54 remaining in the game.

Each team missed its next two shot attempts as the clock ran down, giving the Catamounts (8-10, 4-2) a chance for the game's final possession with 26 seconds remaining.

Following a WCU timeout, Richie Gordon missed a layup but a tie-up on the rebound kept the ball with the home team as the possession arrow favored the Cats with just 4.3 ticks left. Harouna Mutombo received the inbounds pass and kicked it out to Williams on the right corner. The guard faked a three-pointer and stepped up to knock down the game-winning jumper before time expired.

Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) led the Mountaineers with 19 points on 7-of-14 shooting and eight rebounds. He added two of ASU's eight assists as well.

Donald Sims (Gaffney, S.C./Fork Union) scored 11 in the first half and finished with 18 in the contest to accompany two assists and a pair of steals.

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Wright completed his best outing since returning from a December ankle injury with 10 points and a career-high five steals. The Winston-Salem native was 4-of-5 from the field with two treys and a pair of assists.

Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George) added 14 points in the post on 5-of-13 shooting with four rebounds and Petey Hausley (Marion, N.C./Iowa Western) added nine points and three boards.

Trey Sumler fought off early foul trouble to lead five Catamounts in double figures with 17 points. Williams finished the contest with 10 while Gordon added 16 points and a game-high nine rebounds.

WCU held a 36-28 advantage on the glass and turned 10 offensive rebounds into 13 second-chance points.

Both teams shot the ball well inside the arc at 48 percent overall for the Appys and 49 for WCU. The squads combined to shoot 9-of-28 from downtown.

Western Carolina drained all 17 free throws in the game while ASU was 17-of-24. It was just Western Carolina's second win since 2003-04 as ASU has dominated with wins in 12 of the last 14 meetings.

Appalachian returns home for Monday's contest against Elon. Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m. Our coverage begins at 6:15 pm on AM 1450, WATA.

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ASU	36	42	- 78
WCU	35	44	- 79

ASU: SIMS 18, HEALEY 4, WRIGHT 10, BOOTH 4, CARTER 19, WILLIAMSON 14, HAUSLEY 9. FG: 28-58, 3FG: 5-14, FT: 17-24. REBOUNDS: 28, TURNOVERS: 9.

WCU: COLE 7, SUMLER 17, WILLIAMS 10 (6 ASSISTS), MUTOMBO 12, BOGGS 10, KING 2, ROSS 5, GORDON 16 (9 REBOUNDS). FG: 29-59, 3FG: 4-14, FT: 17-17. REBOUNDS: 36, TURNOVERS 13.