

ASU Women Win Fourth Straight

Written by ASU Sports Information
Saturday, 22 January 2011 18:33

Appalachian State University women's basketball found its rhythm mid-way through the second-half and was able to hang on to defeat UNCG 83-72 Saturday afternoon at Fleming Gym.

The win is the Black and Gold's fourth straight and pushes the squad to a 14-4 record, including a 8-2 SoCon mark, while the Spartans drop to 9-9 on the season and 6-4 in league play.

Appalachian State took a 13 point lead, just two minutes into second-half action, but UNCG would not go away quietly and the Apps saw their double-digit lead diminish, holding tightly to a 45-40 advantage.

Five points would be the closest the Spartans could make the score however, as the Mountaineers got an offensive boost and posted a 24-7 run that UNCG could not match, making the score 69-47 in the Black and Gold's favor with a little over eight minutes left to play. Contributions came from all over for ASU during the spark, with Anna Freeman (Thomasville, N.C./East Davidson), Sam Ramirez (Fayetteville, N.C./Southview) and Kelsey Sharkey (Cincinnati, Ohio/St. Ursula) all producing on the offensive front.

Ramirez was once again the Apps leading scorer with 20 points, including dishing out six assists and grabbing two steals.

Not quiet offensively either Anna Freeman scored 17 points in the game, going 7-14 from the field, while Sharkey posted a season-best 11 points, hauling in seven rebounds and recording three assists.

UNCG continued to hang around, as eight points from Amanda Leigh in a two minute span, including connecting on two treys gave the Spartans some life cutting UNCG's deficit to just nine points with under four minutes remaining.

Leigh was on fire for the Spartans, pouring in a game-best 26 points, connecting on 5-8 from downtown.

Able to stave off the athletic and tough Spartan squad, ASU picked up the 11- point victory. First half action saw two ties, at both the 12-point and 19 point marks.

Fortunately for ASU, after starting the game off somewhat sluggish, the Black and Gold were able to outscore the Spartans 18-9 in the final eight minutes of first half play.

It was sophomore Ashlen Dewart (Spartanburg, S.C./Dorman) that continued her offensive dominance early, as she poured in seven of Appalachian's first 12 points, but Dewart only played eight minutes in the first period due to foul trouble.

Dewart was the fourth Mountaineer to close out the game in double-figures as she had 19 points along with seven boards.

Propelled by offensive brilliance by Anna Freeman and Ramirez, as the duo combined for 14 of ASU's final 19 before the break, ASU grabbed a 37-28 halftime lead.

In a second-half that saw many momentum changes, Appalachian State was able to keep its double-digit point cushion for the majority of the period and went on to earn the exciting win.

Appalachian was unstoppable down low offensively, pouring in 60 points in the paint, and took advantage of UNCG's miscues, scoring 34 points off the Spartans' 23 turnovers.

With little time to rest, ASU caps off its road swing, Monday, January 24 as the team heads to

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Elon, N.C. for a first place conference showdown with the Phoenix, who are also 8-2 in league play. The game is set to start at 7 p.m. from Elon's Alumni Gym.

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APPALACHIAN STATE	37	46	-	83
UNC-GREENSBORO	28	44	-	72

ASU: SHARKEY 11 (7 REBOUNDS), A.FREEMAN 17 (9 REBOUNDS), DEWART 19 (7 REBOUNDS), WELDON 6, RAMIREZ 20 (6 ASSISTS), EDWARDS 4, C.FREEMAN 4, HACKETT 2. FG: 36-71, 3FG: 2-10, FT: 9-14. REBOUNDS: 39, TURNOVERS: 17.

UNCG: SMITH 11 (6 REBOUNDS), STEVENSON 5, FLOYD 20 (6 ASSISTS), LEIGH 26, RICHBOW 3 (9 ASSISTS), WEAVER 2, HARMON 1, CLAPPER 4. FG: 28-56, 3FG: 6-14, FT: 10-15. REBOUNDS: 29, TURNOVERS: 23.

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