

ASU Women Face Elon Monday in A Big SoCon Showdown

Written by Courtney Burchett
Sunday, 23 January 2011 18:35

Appalachian State closes out a three-game road stint, as the Mountaineers battle Elon, with first place in the SoCon on the line, as both teams are tied atop the conference standings with 8-2 conference marks.

The contest is slated to tip off at 7 p.m. from the comfy confines of Elon's Alumni Gym.

ABOUT THE APPS: Despite a somewhat sluggish start, and a game that saw many momentum swings, Appalachian State was able to win its fourth-straight contest, as the Mountaineers held off UNCG for an 11-point win Saturday afternoon.

After clinging to a narrow five-point lead early in the second period, a 24-7 Black and Gold run proved to be too much for the Spartans, as ASU took its largest lead of the game up 22 points with a little under nine minutes left to play. Offensive contributions came from all over for Appalachian, as Anna Freeman, Sam Ramirez and Kelsey Sharkey all provided a spark.

All three finished in double-figures scoring, with Ramirez pouring in a game-best 20 points, Anna Freeman chipping in 17, and Sharkey posting a season-best 1. Despite UNCG continuing 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.

ASU was able to stave off the athletic and tough Spartan team and capture the 83-72 win.

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Ashlen Dewart was the fourth Mountaineer to close out the game in double-figures as she was Appalachian's second leading scorer with 19 points.

The win is ASU's eighth in its past nine contests and keeps Appalachian in first in the conference standings with an 8-2 league mark, and improves ASU to an impressive 14-4 record.

The victory also moves Darcie Vincent coached Mountaineer teams to 4-1 all-time against UNCG. • Overall, Dewart, Ramirez and Anna Freeman lead ASU's offensive arsenal, averaging 17.4, 17.3 and 13.9 points per contest respectively.

On the glass, Dewart and Anna Freeman each haul in a game-high 6.3 rebounds per game, while Edwards grabs 5.4.

ELON: Elon holds a 13-5 overall record and 8-2 SoCon mark, and is on a seven-game winning streak, having not lost in 2011.

The Phoenix are coming off a 56-49 overtime win against College of Charleston Saturday afternoon, and previous to that defeated UNCG on a last second layup, winning 63-61.

During their winning streak, Elon's victories have also come against Wofford, Furman, Chattanooga, Samford and Georgia Southern.

The Phoenix' last loss came back on December 30, 2010 suffering a 79-69 defeat at the hands of Marshall.

The squad's last SoCon loss was dealt by Western Carolina on December 18, losing 74-64 to the Catamounts.

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Elon is 4-1 on its home floor against league foes.

Elon is first in the SoCon in blocked shots, second in scoring offense, posting 68.6 points per game, second in steals and defensive rebounds and third in field goal percentage.

The Phoenix are paced by sophomore guard Ali Ford, who averages 16.3 points per game, while Kelsey Evans chips in an average of 11.5.

Evans also leads the Phoenix in rebounding, grabbing an average of 8.7 boards per game, while Lei Lei Hairston hauls in an average of 6.6. Evans leads the conference in rebounding and is second in the SoCon in blocks per game.

THE SERIES: Monday's game marks the second time the two teams will meet this season, with Appalachian State pelting Elon 100-67 in the Holmes Center back on November 29. ASU is looking for its second season sweep of the Phoenix, having won both games against Elon during the 2009-10 season. Darcie Vincent coached Mountaineer teams are 4-1 all-time against Elon.