

ASU WOMEN CLINCH OUTRIGHT SOCON TITLE

Written by Courtney Burchett
Saturday, 19 February 2011 21:19

Appalachian State University women's basketball found its groove midway through the second period and clinched the outright 2011 Southern Conference regular season title, as the Apps cruised to a 74-59 win over Wofford Saturday afternoon at the Holmes Center.

The win is ASU's 18th straight on its home floor and improves the Black and Gold's season winning streak to 12 in a row.

Appalachian (22-4, 16-2 SoCon) took a 43-38 lead into the half, but Wofford (7-19, 3-15 SoCon) was able to cut its deficit to just three points, as the Terriers outscored ASU 5-2 in the opening three minutes of the second period.

Finding an energy boost at the right time, two jumpers by freshman Hillary Southworth (Twinsburg, Ohio/Twinsburg) helped to spark an 18-6 Mountaineer run and put the Apps in control the rest of the way.

Along with the freshman, senior Sam Ramirez (Fayetteville, N.C./Southview) drilled two treys during the run, while Anna Freeman (Thomasville, N.C./East Davidson) and Canesha Edwards (Newnan, Ga./Newnan) both were productively offensively as well.

Ramirez and Anna Freeman were stellar on the offensive front throughout the game, as the duo combined for 46 points, with Freeman totaling a game-high 24. Freeman also grabbed a team-best nine rebounds in the contest, and Ramirez dished out six assists.

ASU never relinquished its double-digit advantage and went on to earn the 15-point victory.

After the Black and Gold got out to a fast start, taking an early 6-0 lead, Wofford got going and knotted action at eight.

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Play was tied two more times before the halfway mark of the first half, until a 10-2 Terrier spurt earned Wofford its first lead of the contest.

April Moorhouse paced Wofford during its offensive outbreak, as she scored five points for the Terriers, and WC took a 26-24 lead with a little under seven minutes left until the half.

Moorhouse finished as Wofford's leading scorer with 17 points, while also grabbing 10 rebounds.

Continuing to battle, Freeman and Ramirez came through at the right time as the pair found their hot shooting hands, and thanks to their strong play Appalachian closed out the half outscoring Wofford 9-2.

It was hot first half shooting that helped Wofford offensively, as the Terriers shot a stout 57.7 percent from the field in the opening period, including going 6-9 from behind the arc.

Appalachian however found its rhythm at the right time in the second-half and the stifling Mountaineer defense limited the Terriers to a dismal 18.8 second period shooting percentage and forced 14-second half turnovers to grab the hard-fought win.

The Black and Gold continue with their homestand, as they welcome Georgia Southern to the Holmes Center, Monday, February 21. Looking to avenge an earlier season loss to the Eagles, ASU and GSU are set to tip off at 7 p.m.

NOTES: ASU has claimed the outright 2011 SoCon regular season title, its first regular season crown since 1995-96 ... the 22 wins on the season are the third most in school history ... Appalachian is now on a 12-game winning streak, tying the school record for a single season winning streak ... the Black and Gold have now swept Wofford the fourth straight season and third time under Coach Vincent ... ASU is on an eight-game winning streak against Wofford ... Appalachian is on an 18-game home winning streak ... ASU is now 5-0 in the month of February, its best start to the month since 1995-96 (8-0).

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ASU 74, WOFFORD 59

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WOFFORD	38	21	-	59
APPALACHIAN ST.	43	31	-	74

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WOFFORD: MOOREHOUSE 17 (10 REBOUNDS), WILLIAMS 8 (12 REBOUNDS), MORRIS 11, BLAKE 7, ECSORZA 4, HELMS 2, KROKER 6, MOTLEY 4, BRITTENHAM 11 ASSISTS. FG: 21-58, 3FG: 7-19, FT: 10-12. 42 REBOUNDS, 29 TURNOVERS.

ASU: SHARKEY 8 REBOUNDS, ANNA FREEMAN 24 (9 REBOUNDS), DEWART 8, EDWARDS 5, RAMIREZ 22 (6 ASSISTS), BARRIOS 2, WELDON 2, SOUTHWORTH 7, COURTNEY FREEMAN 4. FG: 28-67, 3FG: 5-13, FT: 13-17. 37 REBOUNDS, 16 TURNOVERS.