

ASU WOMEN WIN BIG ON SENIOR DAY

Written by Courtney Burchett
Saturday, 26 February 2011 21:26

Appalachian State University women's basketball got back on the winning track Saturday afternoon and closed out its regular season in style as the Mountaineers drilled UNCG 80-57 in the Holmes Center.

The win gives ASU a 23-5 mark and 17-3 SoCon record to close out the regular-season and drops the Spartans to 13-15 and 10-10 in league play.

Finding itself down by four at halftime, ASU picked up its pace in the opening minutes of the second-half, but the contest was still hotly contested as the two teams traded buckets over the course of first seven minutes of second period play.

Appalachian however found its offensive swagger at the right time, as the squad posted a 19-4 run that proved to be the difference-maker in the contest and was too much for UNCG to come back from.

Anna Freeman (Thomasville, N.C./East Davidson) started the spark for ASU as she tallied seven points during the spurt, while Courtney Freeman (Carlton, Ga./Madison County) and Ashlen Dewart (Spartanburg, S.C./Dorman) found the bottom of the basket as well.

Freeman was one of five Apps that ended the game in double-figures and one of three to close out the contest with a double-double as she had a game-best 19 points and 15 rebounds. Continuing to clutter the stat line, Freeman had three blocks and two steals as well, and the three swats push her into tied for second on ASU's career block list with 131.

Dewart also had a double-double with 12 points and 10 boards, while Courtney Freeman recorded 12 points and a career-high seven assists, while swiping three steals.

Sam Ramirez (Fayetteville, N.C./Southview) was not shy either in the second-half as she helped stop any chances of a UNCG comeback, scoring eight straight points, including 10 in a little under three minute span in the closing minutes of the game.

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Ramirez, the lone senior, notched just the second double-double of her career and first of the season, as she chipped in 17 points while also handing out a career-high 11 assists.

That momentum swing was all the Black and Gold needed, as Appalachian went on to crush the Spartans and pick up the decisive 80-57 victory.

First half play however was not quite in Appalachian's favor, despite the Mountaineers jumping out to a 21-10 lead, UNCG controlled much of the opening period.

After the Apps went on a 15-2 run, UNCG was quick to answer, responding with a staggering 27-8 spark of their own over a seven and half minute time frame, to take their largest lead of the game up 37-29 with less than 30 seconds remaining until the break.

It was Brey Dorsett who got the Spartans going, as she poured in 10 points, including drilling two three-pointers.

Dorsett closed out the game as the Spartans' leading scorer with 14 points.

Finding some spark right before the break, Kelsey Sharkey (Cincinnati, Ohio/St. Ursula) hit a layup and Ramirez stole the inbounds pass and converted a layup as well to put ASU down just four at the break, trailing 37-33.

Finally clicking on all cylinders it was second-half domination, which pushed the Black and Gold to the exciting victory, as the squad shot 61.8 percent from the floor in the second period and outscored their counterpart 47-20.

ASU closed out the contest winning the battle of the boards, out-rebounding UNCG by 12, while also shooting a stout 50.0 percent from the floor and recording 25 assists.

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Looking to keep with its strong play, the Mountaineers now turn their sights to the Southern Conference Tournament. Having earned the No. 1 seed ASU will await the winner of the No.8/No. 9 game between Davidson and College of Charleston. The Apps will face their opponent Friday, March 4 at approximately 11:30 a.m. in Chattanooga, Tenn. at UTC's McKenzie Arena.

Notes: The 23 wins are the second most in program history for ASU ... the Black and Gold closed out the season with an 11-1 record, its best mark in HCC history ... the 11 home wins tie the most in the building (11-6: 2009-10) ... ASU has now swept UNCG for the second straight season ... Darcie Vincent coached teams are a perfect 3-0 against the Spartans at the Holmes Center ... ASU is now on a four-game winning streak against UNCG ... Appalachian closes out the month of February with a 6-1 mark its best record in the month since the 1995-96 season.

ASU 80, UNCG 57

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UNCG	37	20	- 57
ASU	33	47	- 80

UNCG: SMITH 3, STEVENSON 11 (6 REBOUNDS), FLOYD 10, RICHBOW 2, PATTERSON 3, DORSETT 14, FOLWELL 1, HARMON 8 (5 REBOUNDS), HEADLY 5. FG: 23-64, 3FG: 4-17, FT: 7-19. 36 REBOUNDS, 15 TURNOVERS.

ASU: ANNA FREEMAN 19 (15 REBOUNDS) DEWART 12 (10 REBOUNDS), RAMIREZ 17, SHARKEY 12, WELDON 2, EDWARDS 4, TAYLOR 2, COURTNEY FREEMAN 12 (8 REBOUNDS). FG: 36-72, 3FG: 2-8, FT: 6-6. 48 REBOUNDS, 13 TURNOVERS.

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