

Sims, Carter Earn Post-Season Honors

Written by Charles Cochrum
Thursday, 10 March 2011 16:54

In addition to his recent selection to the Southern Conference's men's basketball first team, Donald Sims (Gaffney, S.C./Fork Union) was named the league's February Player of the Month.

The senior also earned first team all-district honors from the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and was joined by Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern), who earned second team honors.

Sims led the Mountaineers (16-15, 10-8 SoCon) to a 7-1 record in February and reached a pair of milestones along the way. The guard scored 23 points with six rebounds and five assists in 43 minutes in ASU's overtime win at UNCG to open the month, before scoring his 2,000th career point at Elon in the following game.

He posted his second 30-point performance of the season with 30 points on 9-of-15 shooting against Western Carolina. Sims then sank 7-of-10 shots with six treys for 28 points in ASU's BracketBuster win at High Point. The sharp-shooter then scored 32 points on 11-of-16 shooting with five rebounds and six assists against College of Charleston. The senior became the fourth player in program history to score 500 points in back-to-back seasons.

For the month, Sims averaged 22.0 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game while shooting 47.1 percent from the field, 38.3 percent from downtown and 85.4 percent from the charity stripe.

It is his second Player of the Month honor in the four-month season and third such award of his career.

Sims also repeated as a first team all-District 22 member as voted by members of the NABC. He is joined on the team by four SoCon South representatives, including Wofford's Noah Dahlman, The Citadel's Cameron Wells, College of Charleston's Andrew Goudelock and Furman's Amu Saaka.

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Carter was voted to the second team by the nation's coaches as ASU and CofC were the only SoCon programs with multiple honorees. Carter, Chattanooga's Omar Wattad and Elon's Drew Spradlin were the only juniors named to the teams, as the other seven all-district members are seniors.

Carter and Sims became the first-ever Appalachian teammates to score 500 points each in a season. They were the top two scorers in the SoCon North for the season, as Sims ranks second with 21.0 points per game and Carter added 16.3 in 31 contests.

ASU fell to Southern Conference champion Wofford in the league tournament quarterfinal round last Saturday, 69-56.