

Mountaineers Sweep Paladins In Battle Of Top Teams

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 15 October 2011 21:53

Appalachian State Volleyball solidified its place as the top team in the SoCon with a sweep of South Division leader Furman on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Holmes Center. The Mountaineers (14-7, 6-1) picked up their fourth-straight win and extended their home winning streak to six matches with a 25-18, 26-24, 25-19 win over the Paladins (12-6, 5-2).

ASU's victory tied conference foe College of Charleston for the most victories in SoCon play and has one less conference loss than the Cougars this season. The two teams will square off next Friday in Charleston.

Appalachian jumped out to 3-0 lead and never trailed in the first set. The Paladins would tie the set twice in the early going but the Apps would pull away, leading by as many as seven points (19-12), before closing things out with a kill from Kelly Rhein.

Furman would provide a stiffer test in the second set by taking a 4-1 lead before the Mountaineers came back to tie it at 5-5. The lead would change hands three times during the set but the Paladins would put the Apps on the ropes by snagging a 24-23 lead.

The Mountaineers rallied for three-straight points, two on attack errors by Furman's Amanda Komisarow, as Maggie Seeds (Clemmons, N.C./West Forsyth) picked up the final point to put ASU up two sets to none.

The third set was much the same as the first as the lead changed just two times. The Paladins took a 3-1 lead before the Apps erased the deficit with four-straight points to take a 5-3 lead. Appalachian would never trail again and led by as many as seven two times in the late stages of the decisive set. Furman pulled within five points (24-19) late in the set, but Alison Blasingame's kill, her eighth of the match, gave ASU a 25-19 set victory.

The Mountaineers were led on offense by Seeds' match-high 11 kills. Rhein finished with nine kills and eight digs while fellow senior Anna Wagner also had nine kills and picked up nine digs. Kasey Sauls had a match-highs in assists (21) and digs (15) while Lauren Brown had 14. Courtney Rhein had 12 digs on the evening.

As a team, ASU hit .205 and held Furman to a season-low .091 hitting percentage. The Paladins did have the edge in blocks, 11-7, thanks in part to Alexis Shaffer's match-high six block assists.

The Mountaineers return to action tomorrow when they play host to Wofford at 5 p.m. at the Holmes Center.

MATCH NOTES: Appalachian's 6-1 start in SoCon play is its best mark through seven conference matches since 2006... the six-straight wins at home are the most since the 2007 squad posted an eight-match home winning streak... the victory over Furman marked the second time this season that the Apps have posted back-to-back sweeps... with her three block assists on Saturday, Seeds needs just five more to pass Amy Lewis for ninth all-time... Seeds has recorded 233 block assists in her career.