

## **Mountaineers Take Down Spartans**

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 29 October 2011 09:12

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Kasey Sauls picked up the 3,000th dig of her career as Appalachian State volleyball defeated SoCon North Division foe UNCG on Friday, Oct. 28 at the Holmes Center.

The Mountaineers (17-8, 9-2) remained on top of the SoCon North with a 3-1 win over the Spartans (13-14, 5-6) and picked up their seventh-straight home win.

Both teams battled through a hard-fought first set

that featured 12 ties and two lead changes. Appalachian took an early 7-5 lead before UNCG rallied with a 6-3 run to jump in front, 11-10.

The Spartans led by as many as four points (17-13) before the Apps fought back to tie the match at 21-21, but UNCG scored four of the final six points for a 25-23 set win.

The Mountaineers stormed back in this second set to take a 25-15 victory. After trailing 4-2 early in the second set, ASU strung together a 5-0 run to take a 7-4 lead it would not relinquish. Appalachian led by as many as six points twice in the late stages before ending the set on a 4-1 run to pick up the second set victory.

The Apps dominated the final two sets of the match, leading by as many as 13 in the third set and nine in the fourth set to pick up 25-14 and 25-15 wins, respectively.

Maggie Seeds led all players with 14 kills while Kelly Rhein had a double-double with 11 kills and 11 digs.

Sauls had match-high 32 assists to push her career total to 3,021, sixth in ASU history.

Courtney Rhein led the Mountaineers with 16 digs and Anna Wagner had eight kills.

Seeds also finished the night with four block assists to boost her career total to 245, good for seventh all-time in the Appalachian record book.

As a team, the Apps hit .338 while holding UNCG to just a .092 attack percentage. The Spartans committed 30 attack errors to Appalachian's 14 and had just six blocks to the Mountaineers' 15.

Appalachian returns to action on Sunday when it faces Elon at 2 p.m. inside the Holmes Center.

NOTES: Appalachian improved to 10-1 at home this season... the first-set loss on Friday marked the first time that the Apps had dropped a set at home since a 3-1 win over Samford on Sept. 24... it was the Mountaineer's eighth 3-1 victory of the season... ASU's 58 kills tied the team's third-best single match mark of the season... Appalachian has recorded 50 or more kills 15 times this season... the Mountaineers will look to avenge their earlier loss to Elon on Oct. 1... the loss to the Phoenix is ASU's only defeat at the hands of a SoCon North foe this season.

## **Women's Golf Opens Lady Paladin Invitational**

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Junior Lauren Smith (Salisbury, N.C./UNCG) carded a 77 (+5) to tie for third place through 18 holes of the 54-hole Lady Paladin Invitational at the par-72, 6,160-yard Furman University Golf Course in Greenville, S.C. Appalachian State University women's golf ranks tied for 11th with a 328 (+40).

Smith holed three birdies on the afternoon before dropping three bogeys in the final four holes of the day.

Rumbidzai Masamvu (Harare, Zimbabwe/Dominican Convent) placed two strokes back on the day in a tie for 22nd at 79 (+7) with nine pars and a pair of birdies. Yue Xu (Beijing, China/HuiJia Private School) fell to 53rd place with an 84 (+12) following a pair of late double bogeys.

Mimi Burke ( Mooresville, N.C./Cannon School) sank a birdie on the par-four seventh hole and carded an 88 (+16) to stand in 70th place, while freshman Elena Thomas (Waxahachie, Texas/Waxahachie) finished the day in 79th at 92 (+20).

Appalachian finds itself even with James Madison and just two strokes behind 10th-place Wofford. Also from the Southern Conference, Samford ranks fourth at 316 (+28), host Furman stands seventh at 320 (+32) and Elon ranks ninth at 324 (+36)

ETSU carded a 308 (+20) to take a six-stroke lead in the team standings. Georgia State ranks second at 314.

Leading the individual leaderboard, ETSU's Sian Evans carded a 75 (+3), one stroke up on Samford's Natalie Mitchell. Including ASU's Smith, a whopping 14 players are tied for third place heading into the weekend.

Second round play tees off at 9 a.m. on Saturday with Sunday's final round scheduled for a shotgun start at 9 a.m.