

Appalachian Cruises Past Elon

Written by Staff Reports

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Appalachian State volleyball pushed its home winning streak to nine matches with a 3-0 sweep of SoCon North foe Elon on Sunday, Oct. 30 at the Holmes Center.

The Mountaineers (18-8, 10-2) stayed tied with Samford atop the SoCon North by picking up a win over the Phoenix (16-12, 4-8),

who came into the weekend as the only team in the North Division with a win over the Apps. Appalachian set the tone early with a dominant effort in a 25-12 first-set victory. The Mountaineers never trailed in the first set and strung together two 5-0 runs to build an 18-6 lead in the set win. Maggie Seeds and Anna Wagner ended the set with back-to-back kills.

Elon proved to be much tougher in the second set as it jumped out to a 4-1 lead before ASU reeled off a 4-0 run to take a 5-4 lead. The Phoenix were able to take an 18-17 lead late in the set, but Appalachian battled back to take a 25-21 set win.

The Mountaineers stormed out to a quick 4-0 lead in the third and final set, but Elon was able to hang around and took a 12-7 lead before a 7-1 run by ASU forced a Phoenix timeout midway through the set.

The Phoenix would eventually pull within one point (16-15) but Appalachian pulled away and picked up a 25-18, match-clinching win on back-to-back services aces from Seeds.

As a team Appalachian State hit .198 and held Elon to a just a .020 attack percentage. The Phoenix committed 20 errors to Appalachian's 18 and the Apps finished with a 9-6 edge in blocks.

Seeds led all players with 12 kills and five block assists while Kasey Sauls had a match-high 26 assists. Courtney Rhein finished with 20 digs while sister Kelly Rhein had a match-high four service aces.

Alison Blasingame had five block assists and seven kills. Wagner also tallied seven kills and Jessica Eley had four block assists.

The Mountaineers return to action at 7 p.m. on Friday against Davidson at the Holmes Center. Friday's match marks the final home match of the year for Appalachian State.

NOTES: Appalachian improved to 11-1 at home this season... ASU has picked up 3-0 wins in seven of its 11 home victories... it was the Mountaineer's eighth 3-1 victory of the season...

Seeds has recorded 10 or more kills in three-straight matches... she has 45 kills during is hitting .468 during that stretch... the Mountaineers have won nine-straight matches at home... the Apps have the second-best home record in the SoCon... only Samford (10-0) has been better at home... Appalachian plays at Samford in the season finale on Nov. 13.