

Hot Shooting Propels Men's Basketball In Exhibition

Written by Charles Cochrum
Friday, 04 November 2011 07:44

In his unofficial ASU debut, junior Rodney Milum (Houston, Texas/Midland College) sank 8-of-12 three-pointers and scored 28 points to lead Appalachian State University men's basketball past Lenoir-Rhyne, 102-64, in a preseason exhibition on Thursday evening at the Holmes Center.

The junior transfer sparked the Mountaineers' quick start, scoring nine of ASU's first 13 points as the Apps opened a 21-3 advantage in the game's first

seven minutes. Milum added three assists, one rebound and a steal in 21 minutes on the floor.

The balanced Mountaineer attack saw three other players reach double figures in points, including Andre Williamson's (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George) 17 points on 7-of-8 shooting and game-high eight rebounds. The senior forward added a pair of steals and a block in 26 minutes.

Newcomer Jamaal Trice (Los Angeles, Calif./Midland College) poured in 11 points in the first half, before sitting out all but one minute after halftime to nurse a minor injury. The junior swing man connected on 4-of-6 shots with three rebounds and an assist in the win.

Paced by Milum's blazing start from downtown, ASU built a 63-29 halftime advantage on 63.9 percent shooting and 14-of-18 three-pointers. In the game's opening 20 minutes, Appalachian dished out 15 assists with only four turnovers, while scoring 19 points off of nine L-R turnovers. The second half saw a much closer matchup, as the Bears shot 50 percent from the field and the Apps sank just 3-of-10 longballs. While the lead was never in doubt, ASU held a minor 39-35 advantage after the intermission.

Also contributing for the Apps, junior Nathan Healy (New Bern, N.C./Blair Academy) sank three three-pointers to score 10 points with three rebounds and a pair of assists.

In addition to the pair of junior transfers, four other players made their Black & Gold debuts on Thursday.

Sophomore Brian Okam (Enugu, Nigeria/Rutgers) started at center and sank 3-of-5 shots for six points to accompany three rebounds and three blocks. The 7-footer played just 14 minutes due to foul trouble in the contest.

Freshmen Tab Hamilton (Winston-Salem, N.C./Fishburne Military) and Mike Neal (Greensboro, N.C./Oak Ridge Military) came off the bench to combine for nine points. Hamilton dished out two assists to match his two steals while Neal passed out four assists to accompany one trey. G.J. Vilarino (McKinney, Texas/Gonzaga) also stepped onto the court for the first time in the ASU uniform and tallied nine points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals in a well-rounded 27 minutes on the court. He shared time with returnee Mitch Woods (Naples, Fla./Community School of Naples), who started and scored six points with six assists and a pair of rebounds. The pair of sophomore point guards shared the court for a long stretch in the second half, in which ASU's ball movement stymied the Lenoir-Rhyne defense and created multiple looks both in the half court and in transition.

ASU's other contributing senior was Petey Hausley (Marion, N.C./Iowa Western), who tallied six points and four rebounds in 19 minutes of action.

L-R was led by 15 points from Denzel Dillingham. The Bears pulled in 32 rebounds to ASU's 35

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and ended the contest with a 41.1 field-goal percentage. Preseason Southern Conference Player of the Year Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) was limited to two minutes off the bench while easing his way back from a hand injury sustained in practice. Carter is expected to be ready when the regular season tips off on Nov. 11 against Lees-McRae at 7 p.m. in the Holmes Center.

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LENIOR-RHYNE 29 35 - 64
APP. STATE 63 39 - 102

LRU - JONES 9, THOMAS 11, HATHCOCK 9, DILLINGHAM 15, McKENZIE 12, McCLURE 3, McCLINTOCK 3, KUNZ 2. FG: 23-56, 3FG: 8-16, FT: 10-19. 32 REBOUNDS, 17 TURNOVERS.

ASU - TRICE 11, WILLIAMSON 17 (8 REBOUNDS), OKUM 6, MILUM 28, WOODS 6 (6 ASSISTS), HAMILTON 6, VILARINO 9, HEALY 10, NEAL 3, HAUSLEY 6. FG: 38-67, 3FG: 17-28, FT: 9-13. 35 REBOUNDS, 11 TURNOVERS.

Photo Courtesy: Rodney Milum, ASU Athletics

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