

ASU Women Ready For Season Opener

Written by Ryan Bower

Thursday, 10 November 2011 12:18

Appalachian State women's basketball will make its 2011-12 regular season debut when it travels to Virginia for a 7 p.m. showdown with the Cavaliers on Friday, Nov. 11 at John Paul Jones Arena.

The Mountaineers enter the 2011-12 campaign

after posting program records in total wins (25) and wins in Southern Conference play (17) a year ago en route to winning the SoCon regular season title.

ASU returns 10 letterwinners from last year's squad including reigning SoCon Defensive Player of the Year Anna Freeman. Appalachian head coach Darcie Vincent was named as the Southern Conference Coach of the Year for the second-consecutive season.

Virginia enters the 2011-12 season after making an appearance in the Women's NIT a year ago. The Cavaliers are under new leadership this season as first-year head coach Joanne Boyle takes over for legendary Virginia coach Debbie Ryan, who retired after 34 seasons and over 700 victories.

Friday's contest marks the first-ever meeting between Appalachian and Virginia. The Cavaliers are one of two ACC teams, Boston College the other, that ASU has never faced.

ASU vs. UVA

- ASU opens the regular season on the road at ACC foe Virginia.
- Friday's contest marks the first-ever meeting between the Mountaineers and Cavaliers.
- The Apps are 19-22 all-time in season openers and have won two-straight season openers.
- ASU has faced ACC opponents 11 times in season openers and is 2-9 against the ACC in the season's inaugural game.
- Appalachian State is 25-91 all-time against the ACC.

All About the Apps

Appalachian State • 0-0

- Appalachian State is looking to win back-to-back Southern Conference titles for the first time since it won three-straight from 1987-89.
- The Mountaineers 2011 SoCon Championship snapped Chattanooga's run of 11-straight

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regular season titles.

- ASU finished with a 10-5 road record last season and is 20-10 away from Boone the past two seasons.
- The Mountaineers return three starters from last year's squad including Anna Freeman, the reigning SoCon Defensive Player of the Year.
- Appalachian State is opening on the road for the third season in a row and the 18th time in school history.
- Last year, the Mountaineers set records for total wins (25) and wins in SoCon play (17).
- The squad also picked up a win over Wake Forest, the first victory over an ACC opponent since the 2004 season.
- Appalachian's 11 victories at home last season tied the record for the most single-season victories at the Holmes Center.
- The Apps posted an 18-game home winning streak, lasting from Jan. 23, 2010 to Feb.21, 2011.
- At the time, the home winning streak was the 10th longest in NCAA Division I and is the longest in program history.
- ASU ended the season ranked 13th in the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Poll.

Scouting the Opposition

Virginia • 0-0

- Virginia is in its first season under head coach Joanne Boyle.
- A 1985 graduate of Duke University, Boyle enters the season with a career record of 204-93 after head coaching stints at the University of California and Richmond.
- The Cavaliers finished last season with a 19-16 record and a 5-9 mark in ACC play.
- Virginia was selected to play in the Women's NIT last season where it advanced to the quarterfinals before falling to Charlotte.
- The Cavaliers return 10 letterwinners from last season including ACC all-freshman selection Ataira Franklin.
- Franklin led the ACC in three-point field-goal percentage (45.7) and averaged 9.4 points per game during her first season.
- Virginia also brings back Arianna Moore, who won the ACC's Sixth Player of the Year award after leading the team in points per game (9.7) in a reserve role.

Up Next

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- Appalachian travels to Gardner-Webb on Nov. 19 before playing host to East Tennessee State in the 2011-12 home opener on Nov. 21.