

ASU Women Drop Season Opener

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 12 November 2011 02:28

Courtney Freeman notched her third career double-double, but Appalachian State women's basketball was unable to overcome an early deficit in an 80-48, season-opening loss at Virginia on Friday, Nov. 11 at John Paul Jones Arena.

The Cavaliers (1-0) jumped out to a 6-0 lead and

never looked back, outscoring the Mountaineers (0-1) by a 41-29 margin in the first half. After a layup from Jazmin Pitts with 13:30 remaining in the first half put the Cavaliers up by 10 (12-2), Appalachian reeled off a 6-0 run to pull within four points (12-8).

Virginia extended its lead to six points (14-8) before ASU brought the deficit back to four points (14-10) on a pair of free throws from C. Freeman.

It was all the closer the Mountaineers would get as the Cavaliers pounded the ball inside, scoring 22 points in the paint in the first half, to build an insurmountable lead.

Virginia shot an impressive 47.1 percent (16-for-34) from the field in the first half as Chelsea Shine led the way with 13 first-half points.

C. Freeman scored 11 of her team-high 15 points in the first half, but Appalachian shot just 34.5 percent (10-for-29) through the first 20 minutes of play.

The second half proved to be more of the same as the Cavaliers came out on fire, scoring the first six points, and pushed their lead to 53-33 with just under 15 minutes to play.

Appalachian State would come no closer than 17 points on two occasions the rest of the way as Virginia cruised to its seventh-straight season-opening win.

C. Freeman also finished as the game's top rebounder, tying a career-high with 13 boards.

Maryah Sydnor scored nine points in her collegiate debut and fellow freshman Katie Mallow netted eight.

Anna Freeman pulled down six rebounds, scored four points and collected two steals.

Chakeitha Weldon finished with six points and a game-high six assists.

The Cavaliers were paced by Shine's 15 points and eight rebounds. Pitts finished with 13 points in just 12 minutes of play while Ataira Franklin (11 points) and Lexie Gerson (10 points) each hit double figures.

Virginia grabbed 46 rebounds to Appalachian's 36, turned the ball over 12 times and forced 17 ASU turnovers. The Cavaliers finished with 21 assists to ASU's 10.

Appalachian shot just 31.1 percent (19-for-61) from the floor while Virginia showed 46.0 percent (29-for-63) including 6-for-14 from beyond the arc.

The Mountaineers return to action when they travel to Gardner-Webb for a 3 p.m. matchup on Saturday, Nov. 19.

GAME NOTES: Appalachian State dropped to 19-23 all-time in season openers... the Mountaineers are now 2-10 against the ACC in season openers and 25-92 all-time against the ACC... with its first-ever meeting against Virginia complete, Boston College is now the only ACC school that ASU has never faced... the 80 points were the most that ASU has allowed since an 81-65 loss to Maryland on Dec. 5 2010... the 32-point margin of defeat was the worst since the Mountaineers dropped an 87-51 decision to Samford on Jan. 10, 2009... Appalachian State forced 10 or more turnovers for the 68th-straight game... the Cavaliers outscored ASU 42-16 in the paint and 14-0 on the fast break.

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VIRGINIA 80, ASU 48

ASU: SHARKEY 2, SYDNOR 9, A. FREEMAN 4, WELDON 6, C. FREEMAN 15 (13 REBOUNDS), MALLOW 6, WILLIAMS 4. FG: 19-61, 3FG: 4-19, FT: 6-8. 36 REBOUNDS, 17 TURNOVERS.

UVA: SHINE 15 (8 REBOUNDS), EGWU 4 (6 REBOUNDS), CROSBY 8, MOORER 9 (5 REBOUNDS), FRANKLIN 11, THOMPSON 3, WOLFE 1, GERSON 10, PITTS 13 (7 REBOUNDS), McCALL 6. FG: 29-63, 3FG: 6-14, FT: 16-25. 46 REBOUNDS, 12 TURNOVERS.