

Mountaineers Stifle Gardner-Webb

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 19 November 2011 22:23

Anna Freeman picked up her 12th career double-double as Appalachian State women's basketball shut down Gardner-Webb in a 69-41 victory on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Paul Porter Arena.

The Mountaineers (1-1) forced the Runnin' Bulldogs (0-3) into 28 turnovers and shot 43.1 percent (25-for-58) in the contest to pick up their second-straight win over Gardner-Webb. Despite a slow start, Appalachian built a double-digit lead (23-13) with just over

six minutes remaining and led by as many as 15 points (30-15) before heading into the break with a 30-20 lead.

The Apps exploded in the second half, scoring 39 points while shooting an impressive 48.4 percent (15-for-31) from the floor and 85.7 percent (6-for-7) from the charity stripe.

Freeman, who scored 21 of her game-high 28 points in the second half, gave ASU their first 20-plus point lead (57-36) with 4:53 remaining in the contest. The 28 points marked a new career-high for the preseason all-SoCon selection, who also ripped down a game-high 14 rebounds.

Kelsey Sharkey finished with six points and 10 rebounds while freshman Katie Mallow poured in 13 points and was 3-for-4 from beyond the arc as the Mountaineers show 40 percent (4-for-10) from three-point range. Chakeitha Weldon dished out a career-high nine assists, scored five points and had four steals.

Gardner-Webb did not have a player score in double figures and shot just 34.7 percent (17-for-49) from the floor and 35.3 percent (6-for-17) from the free-throw line.

The Mountaineers finished with a 40-33 edge in rebounds and shot 75.0 percent (15-for-20) from the charity stripe in the game. Appalachian State never trailed after Gardner-Webb scored the first point of the contest and never allowed the Bulldogs to tie the game at any point.

Appalachian returns to action when it plays host to East Tennessee State at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21 in the 2011-12 home opener inside the Holmes Center.

GAME NOTES: Appalachian State forced 10 or more turnovers for the 69th-straight game... the Apps outscored GWU 32-30 in the paint and 16-8 on the fast break... ASU scored 27 points off turnovers and got 18 points from the bench... Freeman finished with two steals to move into a tie for sixth-place in ASU history with 175 career steals... the Mountaineers are now 20-12 in games played on Saturday under head coach Darcie Vincent, 17-4 the past three seasons... the Apps improved to 2-3 all-time against Gardner-Webb... Appalachian is 5-2 against teams from the Big South since Vincent's arrival as head coach... Saturday's loss marked just the third time in the past six seasons that Gardner-Webb has dropped back-to-back games at home.

ASU 69, GARDNER-WEBB 41

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TURNOVERS, 8 ASSISTS.

Photo Courtesy: Anna Freeman, By Dave Mayo, ASU Athletics

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