

Mountaineers Trounce ETSU in Home Opener

Written by Ryan Bower

Tuesday, 22 November 2011 09:06

Anna Freeman and Maryah Sydnor each scored 20 points as Appalachian State women's basketball trounced East Tennessee State, 89-65, at the Holmes Center on Monday, Nov. 21. The Mountaineers (2-1) used a second-half surge and

timely free throw shooting to take down the Lady Bucs (0-4) for the third-straight season and fifth-straight time at home.

ETSU led for much of the first half, streaking out to a 24-14 lead with 11:41 on the clock, before Appalachian cut the lead to just five points (24-19) on Chakeitha Weldon's layup at the 10:49 mark.

The bucket, which gave Weldon two of her 10 points in the game, began a 20-4 run for the Mountaineers that put them up by nine points (39-30) with 5:31 remaining in the half.

Appalachian State would extend its lead to as many as 11 points on two occasions in the final five minutes, but a 7-1 run by the Lady Bucs cut the lead to 42-47 at the half.

The Mountaineers shot 44.4 percent (16-for-36) in the first half, but ETSU bested the Apps by shooting 48.1 percent (13-for-27) through the first 20 minutes including 5-for-6 from beyond the arc and 11-for-14 from the charity stripe.

After ETSU tied the game up at 48-48, ASU responded by playing lock-down defense the rest of the way limiting the Lady Bucs to just 33.3 percent (8-for-27) from the floor in the second half and forcing 18 second-half turnovers.

Appalachian would go on to outscore ETSU by a 42-23 margin in the second half and blew the game wide open with an 18-5 run that stretched its lead to 81-60 with just over five minutes to play.

Sydnor added two more buckets in the final three minutes and Kelsey Sharkey converted a layup with 52 seconds left to give ASU a 24-point win.

The Mountaineers shot 44.4 percent (16-for-36) and connected on 22-of-37 free throws while ETSU shot 40.7 percent (22-for-54) and was 14-for-20 from the free-throw line.

Freeman finished the night 6-for-11 from the floor and had seven steals while Sydnor was 9-for-19 with eight rebounds. Courtney Freeman had 15 points while Sharkey and Weldon each finished with 10.

Natalie Pickwell paced the Lady Bucs with a game-high 23 points, including a 4-for-7 effort from long range, but was the only ETSU player to score more than nine. Appalachian State outrebounded ETSU by a 54-34 tally and snagged 31 offensive rebounds.

The Mountaineers return to action on Friday when they face Eastern Kentucky at 4 p.m. in Atlanta, Ga. at the Georgia State Thanksgiving Classic. ASU will face Georgia State at 4 p.m. on Saturday to finish out the road trip.

GAME NOTES: Appalachian State made 13 free throws in the first half, the highest first-half total since a 62-36 win over Western Carolina on Jan. 31, 2011... A. Freeman became the first ASU player to have back-to-back 20-point performances since Sam Ramirez (1/19/11 & 1/21/11)... Sydnor's 20 points were the highest total for an ASU freshman since Ashlen Dewart had 21 against Memphis (3/20/10)... the 31 offensive boards were Appalachian's most since snagging 26 against Miami (OH) on Nov. 28, 2009... ASU's 89 points were the most since the team defeated UNC Asheville by a 99-71 final on Dec. 2, 2010... Appalachian eclipsed the

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85-point mark for the seventh time under head coach Darcie Vincent... the Mountaineers outscored the Lady Bucs 48-26 in the paint, 36-13 off turnovers and 33-14 on second-chance buckets... ASU's bench outscored the ETSU bench 41-17... the Mountaineers improved to 41-31 all-time against the Lady Bucs... A. Freeman's seven steals matched a career-high and moved her into fifth-place in ASU history with 182 steals.

ASU 89, ETSU 65

	1st	2nd	Total
East Tennessee State.....	42	23	65
Appalachian State.....	47	42	89

ETSU: MITCHELL 5, DUKE 7 (7 REBOUNDS), AUSTIN 4, PICKWELL 23, BOGARD 9, GORDON 8, RANDALL 2, BOWLING 2, WASHINGTON 5. FG: 22-54, FT: 7-14, FG: 14-20. 34 REBOUNDS, 34 TURNOVERS, 12 ASSISTS.

ASU: SHARKEY 10 (8 REBOUNDS), WILLIAMS (10 REBOUNDS), A. FREEMAN 20, GARY 3, C. FREEMAN 15 (6 REBOUNDS), WELDON 10, EDWARDS 4, TAYLOR 1, MALLOW 6, SYDNOR 20 (8 REBOUNDS). FG: 32-78, 3FG: 3-9, FT: 22-37. 54 REBOUNDS, 20 TURNOVERS, 13 ASSISTS.

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Photo Courtesy: Maryah Sydnor, by David Scarce, ASU Athletics