

Mountaineers' Upset Bid Falls Short

Written by Charles Cochrum

Wednesday, 07 December 2011 07:50

Rodney Milum (Houston, Texas/Midland College) scored a career-high 16 points with five three-pointers as Appalachian State University men's basketball gave Minnesota all it could handle

for 35 minutes before falling, 70-56, on Tuesday night at Williams Arena.

The junior guard shot 5-of-10 from the field with nine of the attempts coming from beyond the arc. He added an assist in 22 minutes off the bench as the Mountaineers (4-4) came within a few minutes of dealing the Golden Gophers (9-1) just their second loss of the season.

An Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) three-pointer knotted the score at 52-52 with just more than five minutes to play before Rodney Williams hit an NBA-range three-pointer as the shot clock expired and the home team added five more points off of turnovers on the next two possessions to regain an eight-point advantage just a minute later.

UM knocked in its free throws down the stretch to deny the Mountaineers to climb back any closer than six points in the waning minutes. Minnesota sank 14-of-19 foul shots in the game and converted 54 percent of its attempts from the field (27-50).

Carter finished with a game-high 18 points on 5-of-11 shooting with three treys of his own. The senior added three assists, three rebounds and a steal in the effort. Isaac Butts (Milledgeville, Ga./Georgia Military) added nine points on 4-of-6 shooting with eight rebounds, an assist and a steal.

Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George) matched Butts with eight boards, but the Mountaineers fell to a 32-29 disadvantage on the glass in the contest. ASU pulled in 14 offensive rebounds to UM's 10. Williamson scored two points on a pair of free throws after misfiring on all five field goal attempts in the contest.

Though the Apps heated up from downtown to shoot 43 percent from deep, the squad shot just 35.3 percent overall from the field. The Apps dished out 11 assists on 18 field goals and turned the ball over a season-low 13 times.

After ASU jumped out to a 5-0 lead on a Carter three-pointer and layup from G.J. Vilarino (McKinney, Texas/Gonzaga), ASU led by as many as three points on two occasions in the second half. Vilarino added one of ASU's 11 assists in 23 minutes.

Leading the way for the Gophers, Williams knocked down 8-of-10 shots for 18 points to accompany six rebounds and five blocks. Julian Welch added 15 points and two other players scored 10 points each off the bench for UM.

After trailing by as many as 10 points in the first half before Milum heated up to pull ASU back within 32-30 at halftime. His only miss of the first half was an off-balance three-point attempt at the clock expired.

Appalachian returns home on Saturday for host ETSU at 2 p.m. before taking a one-week break for final exams.

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MINNESOTA 70, ASU 56

	1ST	2ND	TOTAL
APPALACHIAN STATE.....	30	26	- 56
MINNESOTA.....	32	38	- 70

ASU: WILLIAMSON 2 (8 REBOUNDS), BUTTS 9 (8 REBOUNDS), VILARINO 4, TRICE 5, CARTER 18, MILUM 16, WOODS 2. FG: 18-51, 3FG: 9-21, FT: 11-15. 29 REBOUNDS, 13 TURNOVERS, 11 ASSISTS.

MINNESOTA: WILLIAMS 18 (6 REBOUNDS), WELCH 15, HOLLINS 4, OSENIKS 2, COLEMAN 10, AHANMISI 3, ARMELIN 3, SAMPSON III 10 (5 REBOUNDS). FG: 27-50, 3FG: 2-6, FT: 14-19. 32 REBOUNDS, 9 TURNOVERS, 18 ASSISTS.

Photo Courtesy: Omar Carter, ASU Athletics