

ASU Women Win Seventh-Straight

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 10 December 2011 22:16

Anna Freeman (Thomasville, N.C./East Davidson) scored a game-high 24 points and Catherine Williams (Chattanooga, Tenn./Howard) dished out a career-high eight assists as

Appalachian State women's basketball picked up an 85-71 win over UNC Asheville on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Kimmel Arena.

The Mountaineers (7-1) downed the Bulldogs (2-5) for the second-straight season and the first time in Asheville since the 2001-02 campaign.

After falling behind 5-4 in the early going, Appalachian State reeled off a 16-2 run to take an 13-point lead (20-7) with 11:52 left to play in the game. The Bulldogs would cut the lead to just eight points (27-19) with just under five minutes to go in the half.

The Apps would extend the lead before the break and led by 11 points (36-25) heading into the locker room. Appalachian State held UNCA to just 30.8 percent (8-for-26) from the floor in the first half and forced 13 first-half turnovers.

Appalachian would see its lead cut to no less than seven points on two occasions in the second half as the Bulldogs, behind the hot shooting of Lindsey Thompson, stayed in contention until the closing minutes before the Mountaineers put the game with a 19-8 run from the 5:01 to 1:18 mark of the second half.

Freeman led all player with 24 points on 11-for-21 shooting while pulling down six boards.

Courtney Freeman (Carlton, Ga./Madison County) scored 14 points and grabbed eight boards while Williams scored six and pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds.

Maryah Sydnor (Radford, Va./Radford) added 10 points off the bench and Kelsey Sharkey (Cincinnati, Ohio/Saint Ursula) chipped in with seven points and eight rebounds.

The Bulldogs were led on offense by Thompson's team-high 19 points on 7-for-12 shooting. She also connected on 4-of-7 from beyond the arc, including several from just past the half-court line.

Shonese Jones and Brittany Gwynn each had 14 points and Kelli Riles ripped down 11 rebounds but was held to just six points, just half of her season average.

As a team, the Mountaineers shot 43.2 percent (32-for-74) from the floor and 70.8 percent (17-for-24) from the charity stripe while holding the Bulldogs to 38.1 percent (24-for-63) from the field.

Appalachian State pulled down 49 rebounds to UNCA's 41, forced 20 turnovers and had eight total blocks.

The Mountaineers return to action on Monday, Dec. 12 when they pay host to Southern Conference rival College of Charleston at 6 p.m. inside the Holmes Center.

GAME NOTES: Appalachian State forced 10 or more turnovers for the 75th-straight game... the Apps improved to 45-10 when A. Freeman has 10 or more points... with her 24 points, A. Freeman needs just 43 points to become the 21st player in ASU history with 1,000 career points... Williams picked up two blocks in the contest to notch her 80th career block just three shy of moving into sixth-place all-time at ASU... the Mountaineers outscored the Bulldogs 46-27 in the paint, 28-10 off turnovers and 31-9 on second-chance points.

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ASU 85, UNCA 71

1st	2nd	Total
Appalachian State.....	36 49	- 85
UNC Asheville.....	25 46	- 71

ASU: WILLIAMS 6 (13 REBOUNDS), C. FREEMAN 14 (8 REBOUNDS), A. FREEMAN 24, SHARKEY 7 (8 REBOUNDS), GARY 2, WELDON 8, EDWARDS 6, MALLOW 8, SYDNOR 10. FG: 32-74, 3FG: 4-14, FT: 17-24. 49 REBOUNDS, 16 TURNOVERS, 18 ASSISTS.

UNCA: RILES 4 (11 REBOUNDS), WORMACK 7 (8 REBOUNDS), THOMPSON 19, JONES 14, GWYN 14, BARKSDALE 1, MANLEY 9, BLAYLOCK 3. FG: 24-63, 3FG: 7-16, FT: 16-25. 41 REBOUNDS, 18 TURNOVERS, 16 ASSISTS.

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Photo Courtesy: Anna Freeman, ASU Athletics