

Mountaineers Outlast Campbell, 77-74

Written by Charles Cochrum
Friday, 23 December 2011 00:16

Senior Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George) hauled in a clutch rebound and was fouled with just 3.1 ticks left in regulation before knocking down a pair of free throws to lead

Appalachian State University men's basketball past Campbell, 77-74.

Moments before, Campbell's Marvelle Harris was fouled on a shot attempt in the paint while trailing by two points with less than 10 seconds remaining. The forward sank his first foul shot to pull the visiting Camels (8-5) within a point before the second attempt bounced Williamson's way near the baseline. Following Williamson's shots, Lorne Merthie's last-second attempt to tie rimmed out at the buzzer.

Williamson scored 16 points and led the Mountaineers (5-6) with five rebounds to accompany a block in the win as ASU moved to 4-1 at home on the season.

Jamaal Trice (Los Angeles, Calif./Midland College) came off the bench for the first time this season and led the Mountaineers in scoring with 17 points on 4-8 shooting with three long balls and a 6-of-9 mark from the foul line. The junior added three rebounds in 33 minutes on the court.

The Apps shot a season-best 52 percent (26-50) from the floor as a team and knocked down 10-of-20 three-pointers. CU also shot well with a 50.9 percentage from the field.

Appalachian faced its largest rebound deficit of the season at 33-24, and hauled in just three balls off the offensive glass. ASU converted six second-chance points compared to 11 for the visitors. Campbell also owned a 34-26 edge on points in the paint.

Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) notched 16 points in the game, including 12 in the opening 20 minutes. The senior was 7-of-13 from the floor with two three-pointers and a game-high four assists. He was joined in double figures by freshman Tab Hamilton (Winston-Salem, N.C./Fishburne Military), who scored 11 points off the bench in 18 minutes. The young guard shot 4-of-9 with a pair of treys.

Mike Neal (Greensboro, N.C./Oak Ridge Military) and Rodney Milum (Houston, Texas/Midland College) each made their second-consecutive starts and turned in solid performances. Neal scored four points with three blocks, two assists, a pair of steals and a rebound, while Milum added six points on a pair of three-pointers to accompany two boards and an assist.

The Mountaineers owned a positive assist-to-turnover ratio at 12-11 in the game and forced 12 CU turnovers, including seven steals.

ASU trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half before rallying to take a 37-36 lead into the intermission. Appalachian has held the halftime lead in all five of its wins on the year.

Coming out of the break, Isaac Butts (Milledgeville, Ga./Georgia Military) scored the home team's first six points of the half to help develop a seven-point cushion. The senior center was 3-of-5 on the night with three rebounds in 15 minutes.

CU's Eric Griffin led all players with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Darren White, a former Midland College teammate of Milum and Trice, scored 15 points and added eight boards for the Camels.

The Mountaineers take a short break to celebrate the holidays before closing out 2011 at Miami (Fla.) on Dec. 30.

NOTES: Carter surpassed 1,500 career points (including two seasons at Charleston Southern)

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on Thursday ... The Mountaineers are 13-4 all-time against Campbell ... ASU's starting five of Neal, Milum, Carter, Williamson and Butts is the team's fifth different one of the season ... ASU's previous season high in field-goal percentage was 51.2 percent at Tennessee Tech.

ASU 77, CAMPBELL 74

	1st	2nd	Total
Campbell.....	36	38	74
Appalachian State.....	37	40	77

CAMPBELL: HARRIS 5, GRIFFIN 21 (11 REBOUNDS), FREEMAN 14 (4 ASSISTS), FERGUSON 6, WHITE 15 (8 REBOUNDS), HORTON 5, MERTHIE 6, KALPIC 2. FG: 28-55, 3FG: 3-13, FT: 15-24. 33 REBOUNDS, 12 TURNOVERS, 11 ASSISTS.

ASU: WILLIAMSON 16, BUTTS 6, MILUM 6, CARTER 16 (4 ASSISTS), NEAL 4, HAMILTON 11, VILARINO 1, TRICE 17. FG: 26-50, 3FG: 10-20, FT: 15-22. 24 REBOUNDS, 11 TURNOVERS, 12 ASSISTS.

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Photo Courtesy: Jamaal Trice, ASU Athletics