

The first two months of the season are in the books and a full slate of Southern Conference games await Appalachian State women's basketball as the

new year begins.

Here's a look at the latest news and notes surrounding the program including a look at the very first official NCAA RPI rankings of the season.

### Welcome to the Club

- Junior forward Anna Freeman became the 21st player in ASU history to score 1,000-career points with her 18-point performance against Longwood on Dec. 31. The junior forward started the game with three-straight makes from beyond the arc and surpassed 1,000 points with her layup at the 7:33 mark of the first half.
- Freeman is now ranked 20th in Appalachian history with 1,008 career-points and needs just 12 more to move into 19th place.
- She is averaging a team-best 16.8 points per game, a scoring mark that has her ranked first in the SoCon and 74th nationally. Freeman is on pace to finish the season with the highest points per game mark of any ASU player since the 1993-94 season (Angela Crosby - 22.2 ppg).
- In addition to reaching a career-scoring milestone, Freeman has been named as the SoCon Women's Basketball Player of the Week twice this season and should be a serious contender for December Player of the Month honors after averaging 18.7 points in six games last month.
- Freeman has not only been a prolific scorer during her career but has also been a key cog for ASU's defense. She currently ranks second in blocks (162), fifth in steals (213) and 10th in rebounds (591) in Appalachian State history.

### Free-Throw Records?

- Both Anna Freeman and Chakeitha Weldon are on pace to tie for the top single-season free-throw percentage mark in ASU history.
- Freeman is currently shooting 90.0 percent (36-for-40) on the season while Weldon is also at 90.0 percent (18-for-20). Should both players keep up their respective pace, they would finish as the top two single-season free-throw shooters in Appalachian State history, breaking a

record currently held by Jane Dalton (89.0 percent - 1987-88).

- In order to qualify for the Top-10 list, a player must have a minimum of at least 25 free-throw attempts on the season.

### **Home Cookin'**

- The Mountaineers have been nearly unstoppable at home the past three seasons. Appalachian State is 26-7 at home in its last 33 home games including a 17-5 mark in Southern Conference games played at the Holmes Center.
- Appalachian State has not dropped back-to-back home games since suffering three straight losses from Jan. 4-9, 2010.
- Since that three-game losing streak, the Apps are 23-1 in their past 24 home games with the lone loss coming to Georgia Southern on Feb. 21, 2011.

### **SoCon Success**

- After finishing second in the Southern Conference during the 2009-10 season and winning the outright conference title a year ago, the Mountaineers have asserted themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the SoCon.
- Appalachian State is 34-9 in 43 conference contests since the start of the 2009-10 season, a winning percentage of .791.

### **New Year, Same Result?**

- Appalachian State will look to continue its recent run of New Year's success.
- The Mountaineers have won two-straight games to start the new calendar year including an 85-66 win over Elon on Jan. 2, 2010.
- ASU has won three-straight road games following the New Year's holiday.

### Tip-Off Announced for Western Carolina

- Appalachian State's home game against archrival Western Carolina will tip-off at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 30 at the Holmes Center.
- The game was the lone "TBA" game left on ASU's home slate, a final tip-off time has not yet been announced for the Feb. 18 road game at Davidson.

### RPI: Apps Near Top Among SoCon

- The NCAA released its first official RPI (Ratings Percentage Index) rankings on Tuesday afternoon and Appalachian State found itself in the 101st spot, the second-highest rank of any SoCon team.
- Preseason conference-favorite Chattanooga was ranked 76th nationally in the RPI, which computes its rankings based on a combination of winning percentage, strength of schedule and opponents' schedule strength.

### CollegelInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25

- The Mountaineers are ranked No. 9 in the latest CollegelInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 poll, released yesterday.
- Appalachian State is the highest-ranked SoCon team in the Mid-Major poll as Chattanooga moved into the up to the No. 24 spot this week.

1. Green Bay (30) 12-0 774 1 Horizon
2. Delaware 10-1 729 2 Colonial Athletic
3. Gonzaga (1) 12-2 726 3 West Coast
4. Florida Gulf Coast 11-2 656 4 Atlantic Sun
5. Princeton 10-4 633 7 Ivy League
6. BYU 12-3 586 5 West Coast

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7. Hampton 10-3 540 8 Mid-Eastern Athletic
8. James Madison 8-3 529 6 Colonial Athletic
- 9. Appalachian State 9-2 454 13 Southern**
10. Northern Iowa 8-5 420 10 Missouri Valley
11. Missouri State 8-4 419 9 Missouri Valley
12. Toledo 7-5 400 11 Mid-American
13. Middle Tennessee 10-5 388 17 Sun Belt
14. Bowling Green 10-3 386 16 Mid-American
15. Hofstra 9-3 361 12 Colonial Athletic
16. McNeese State 9-4 347 14 Southland
17. Hartford 9-6 224 15 America East
18. Central Arkansas 10-3 208 20 Southland
19. Towson 10-2 161 24 Colonial Athletic
20. Oral Roberts 8-6 156 18 Summit
21. Long Island 12-2 130 NR Northeast
22. Sacred Heart 9-4 95 21 Northeast
23. UC Davis 8-5 92 19 Big West
24. Chattanooga 8-3 90 25 Southern
25. Stetson 12-3 79 NR Atlantic Sun

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Marist 76, Saint Mary's 45, Denver 43, Robert Morris 39, Stephen F. Austin 38, Wichita State 32, San Diego 32, Eastern Illinois 29, Coastal Carolina 26, South Dakota State 20, Creighton 15, Miami 15, Rider 12, Charleston Southern 10, Montana State 10, Central Michigan 9, Eastern Michigan 9, Lehigh 7, Lamar 6, North Texas 4, Wright State 4, Campbell 3, Northern Colorado 3, Portland State 2, Seattle 2, South Dakota 1.

**Photo Courtesy: Courtney Freeman, ASU Athletics**

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