

Sydnor's 20 Points Leads ASU Past Samford

Written by Ryan Bower

Tuesday, 24 January 2012 07:29

Maryah Sydnor tied a career-high with 20 points as Appalachian State University women's basketball picked up a 53-49 win over defending Southern Conference champion Samford on

Monday at the Holmes Center.

The Mountaineers (14-3, 8-1 SoCon) won their third-straight game and, with Chattanooga's loss to Davidson, moved into sole possession of first place in the SoCon while the Bulldogs (11-8, 6-4) fell for the second time in their past three games.

Appalachian State got on the board first with a pair of free throws from Sydnor and never trailed the rest of the game, although Samford would make it close several times in the final five minutes.

The Apps took their first double-digit lead of the game (20-10) with 5:34 left in the first half, but the Bulldogs connected on back-to-back three-pointers to cut the deficit to four points (20-16). ASU responded with three-straight buckets, capped off by Katie Mallow's "trey" to end the half and give the Mountaineers a 26-16 lead at the break.

Appalachian led by as many as 16 points (45-29) with 8:36 remaining in the second half and seemed to be in total control, but Samford clawed its way back into the contest and used a 20-6 run to make it 51-49 with just over 30 seconds left to play.

After a missed three-pointer by Paige Anderson the Bulldogs were forced to foul, sending Sydnor to the line where she ended the game in the same way she started it, sinking both free throws to cap off a 53-49 victory.

The freshman forward led all players with 20 points while collecting seven rebounds, three steals and two assists. Raven Gary scored a career-high eight points off the bench and Kelsey Sharkey finished with seven points and a game-high 10 rebounds.

Samford was led on offense by Hannah Dawson's 11 points while Jazmine Powers scored 10. Anderson, who entered the night averaging a team-high 13.4 points per game, was held to just seven points on 2-of-7 from the floor.

As a team, Appalachian State shot 42.6 percent (20-for-47) from the field including an 11-for-15 mark from the charity stripe. Samford managed to shoot just 32.7 percent (18-for-55) and was ice cold from beyond the arc, connecting on just 20.0 percent (5-for-25) of its shots from long range.

The Apps finished with a 35-32 edge in rebounds but turned the ball over 22 times to Samford's 19. Each squad finished with 10 assists and the Mountaineers snagged 14 steals to 10 for the Bulldogs.

Appalachian State returns to action when it hits the road for a 2 p.m. contest at Furman on Saturday before returning home against Western Carolina at 6 p.m. on Monday.

GAME NOTES: ASU forced 10 or more turnovers for the 84th-straight game... Mallow set a career-high with four steals... the Mountaineers allowed just 16 first half points, the lowest first-half point total for any ASU opponent since College of Charleston scored 15 on Feb 5, 2011... the Apps did not score a field goal over the final 3:23 of the game... ASU improved to 28-8 at home over the past three seasons... the Mountaineers are 19-6 in their last 25 SoCon home games and 37-10 in conference games since the start of the 2009-10 season.... the Apps defeated Samford for the fourth-straight time in the regular season.

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ASU 53, SAMFORD 49

SCORE BY PERIODS 1ST 2ND TOTAL

SAMFORD..... 16 33 49

APPALACHIAN STATE. 26 27 53

SAMFORD: REECE 6, DAWSON 11 (9 REBOUNDS), POWERS 10 (6 REBOUNDS), ANDERSON 7, KETCHUM 7, MARTIN 8. FG: 18-55, 3FG: 5-25, FT: 8-10. 32 REBOUNDS, 19 TURNOVERS, 10 ASSISTS.

ASU: SYDNOR 20 (7 REBOUNDS), A. FREEMAN 2, TAYLOR 2, WELDON 2, SHARKEY 7 (10 REBOUNDS), EDWARDS 6 (7 REBOUNDS, 4 ASSISTS), GARY 8, MALLOW 5, WILLIAMS 1. FG: 20-47, 3FG: 2-4, FT: 11-15. 35 REBOUNDS, 22 TURNOVERS, 10 ASSISTS.

Photo Courtesy: Maryah Sydnor, ASU Athletics