

Freeman's Double-Double Powers ASU By Furman

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 28 January 2012 18:02

Courtney Freeman posted her fifth career double-double and Maryah Sydnor scored 20 points for the second-straight game as Appalachian State University women's basketball picked up a 78-63, Southern Conference win over Furman on Saturday afternoon. The Mountaineers (15-3, 9-1 SoCon) won their

fourth-straight game and avenged last season's road loss to the Paladins (11-9, 7-4) to stay alone atop the conference standings.

Appalachian State trailed just twice in the contest and led for the final 32 minutes of play en route to another convincing win over a conference opponent. Sydnor, who scored 20 points in Monday's win over Samford, got ASU on the board first for the second game in a row as the teams traded blows throughout the opening 10 minutes.

Furman, which trailed by as many as five points in the early going, grabbed a one-point lead (3-2) on Kaitlin Murphy's three-pointer before the Apps used a 6-0 run to take an 8-3 lead. The Paladins regained the lead two more times in the first half, the first on a jumper by LaShawna Booker and the second on Raegan Thompson's trey to take their biggest lead of the game (14-12) with 12:46 left in the first half.

It would be the final time that Furman would lead as the Mountaineers turned on the jets and reeled off a 23-10 run over the next 10 minutes to take their first double-digit lead of the game (35-24) with 2:46 left in the first half. ASU headed to the locker room with a 37-28 lead, which Furman was able to cut to four points (40-36) early in the second half, but ASU scored the next eight points and snagged another double-digit lead (48-36) after Catherine Williams completed a three-point play with 15:34 left to play.

The Mountaineers would lead by as many as 21 points (66-45) midway through the half before the Paladins rallied to cut the lead to just seven points at the 3:03 mark. Appalachian State responded by hitting four-straight shots to stretch the lead to 76-61 with under a minute to go before closing things out on a Canesha Edwards jumper to make the final 78-63.

Sydnor scored 20 points on 8-of-10 shooting to match a career-high in scoring while Freeman finished with 16 points and a game-high 10 rebounds. Anna Freeman oured in a game-high 22 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Furman was paced by Brittany Hodges team-leading 21 points and nine rebounds while Sarah Durdaller (12) and Teshia Griswold (10) each scored in double-figures.

As a team, Appalachian State shot 50.8 percent (33-for-65) from the floor including a 4-of-7 mark from beyond the arc. The Paladins were held to just 34.8 percent (23-for-66) from the field and finished just 3-of-17 from deep.

ASU finished the contest with a 51-32 edge in rebounds, forced 18 turnovers and dished out 15 assists. The Mountaineers outscored Furman 21-19 off turnovers and 22-16 in the paint.

Appalachian State returns home when it plays host to Western Carolina at 6 p.m. on Monday before weekend road contests at Georgia Southern and College of Charleston.

GAME NOTES: ASU forced 10 or more turnovers for the 85th-straight game... the Apps improved to 52-11 when A. Freeman scores 10 or more points... Sydnor is now 16-for-16 from the charity stripe in the last three games... ASU's field-goal percentage was its third-highest mark of the season... Anna Freeman moved into eighth-place in school history with 625 career

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rebounds... the Mountaineers improved to 38-10 in SoCon play since the beginning of the 2009-10 season.

ASU 78, FURMAN 63

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Appalachian State...	37	41	78
Furman.....	28	35	63

ASU: SYDNOR 20, A. FREEMAN 22 (8 REBOUNDS), TAYLOR 2, GARY 2, C. FREEMAN 16 (10 REBOUNDS), SHARKEY 4 (7 REBOUNDS), WELDON 3, EDWARDS 4 (6 REBOUNDS), WILLIAMS 5. FG: 33-65, 3FG: 4-7, FT: 8-14. 51 REBOUNDS, 20 TURNOVERS, 15 ASSISTS.

FURMAN: THOMPSON 3, HODGES 21 (9 REBOUNDS), BOOKER 4, MURPHY 7, GRISWOLD 10, ROBERTS 1, DURDALLER 12, RANDOLPH 2, PETERSON 2, MORRISSEY 1. FG: 23-66, 3FG: 3-17, FT: 14-22. 32 REBOUNDS, 18 TURNOVERS, 11 ASSISTS.

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Photo Courtesy: Maryah Sydnor, ASU Athletics