

Hot-Shooting Cougars Down ASU

Written by Charles Cochrum
Saturday, 04 February 2012 18:05

College of Charleston's Andrew Lawrence made 6-of-8 three-pointers and scored a game-high 24 points as Appalachian State University men's basketball suffered a rare second-consecutive home loss, 74-62, on Saturday afternoon at the Holmes Center. Although Appalachian (9-13, 5-7 SoCon) dominated the

glass with a 46-32 rebound advantage, it could not overcome Charleston's hot shooting from the perimeter as the Cougars knocked down 11-of-26 three-pointers, including 44.4 percent in the second half, to break away late in regulation.

For a second-straight game, Nathan Healy (New Bern, N.C./Blair Academy) led the Apps in scoring with 12 points. The junior added eight rebounds, three assists, two blocks and a steal. He was joined in double figures by Tab Hamilton (Winston-Salem, N.C./Fishburne Military) and Isaac Butts (Milledeville, Ga./Georgia Military College Prep), who scored 10 points each. Butts and Hamilton were among the few bright spots for ASU's offensive efficiency, as they combined to shoot 8-of-12. The rest of the squad combined for a paltry 18-of-58 from the floor as ASU shot just 37.1 percent on the afternoon.

Despite CofC's seven three-pointers in the first half alone, Appalachian trailed by only three points (35-32) at halftime. The Mountaineers remained within striking distance for the first 11 minutes of the second half but, sparked by seven-straight points from Lawrence, Charleston went on a 10-0 run to stretch its advantage 59-45 with just under seven minutes to play and ASU never cut the deficit to less than 12 points the rest of the way.

The Apps scored 42 points in the paint, compared to just 20 for the Cougars, including eight points by Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George). The senior forward shrugged off a 1-for-6 first half to finish the game with a 4-of-11 shooting mark to accompany eight rebounds, an assist and a block. ASU's 42 points in the paint were the team's second-highest mark of the year and the most in Southern Conference play.

Mike Neal (Greensboro, N.C./Oak Ridge Military) dished out four of ASU's 15 assists to add to his three points, two rebounds and two steals. Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) chipped in one assist to go along with seven points and eight boards.

ASU sank 7-of-8 free throws but CofC made it to the line 22 times and converted 17 of its foul shots. Trent Wiedeman added 14 points, five rebounds and three blocks for the Cougars, who improved to 2-2 under interim head coach Mark Byington.

ASU returns to action on Monday for a pivotal game at Southern Conference North Division rival Elon. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

NOTES: ASU lost a second-straight home game for the first time in nearly three years, when it dropped back-to-back contests to The Citadel and College of Charleston on Feb. 5 and 16, 2009 ... more than 40 former Mountaineer players and coaches attended the game as part of Men's Basketball Alumni Weekend ... ASU's +14 rebound margin was the largest of the season.

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CofC 74, ASU 62

SCORE BY PERIODS	1ST	2ND	TOTAL
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON.....	35	39	74
APPALACHIAN STATE.....	32	30	62

COFC: WIGGINS 8, WIEDEMAN 14, BARU 5 (9 REBOUNDS), LAWRENCE 24, JOHNSON 11, SUNBERG 7 (6 REBOUNDS), SCOTT 5. FG: 23-53, 3FG: 11-26, FT: 17-22. 32 REBOUNDS, 8 TURNOVERS, 12 ASSISTS.

ASU: HEALY 12 (8 REBOUNDS, 3 ASSISTS, 2 BLOCKS), WILLIAMSON 8 (8 REBOUNDS), TRICE 6 (7 REBOUNDS), HAMILTON 10, NEAL 3 (4 ASSISTS), VILARINO 6, CARTER 7 (8 REBOUNDS), BUTTS 10 (7 REBOUNDS). FG: 26-70, 3FG: 3-19, FT: 7-8. 46 REBOUNDS, 13 TURNOVERS, 15 ASSISTS.

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Photo Courtesy: Nathan Healy, by Bill Sheffield, ASU Athletics