

ASU Women Win Eighth Straight

Written by Ryan Bower

Thursday, 09 February 2012 09:06

Appalachian State University women's basketball finished off a regular-season sweep of Southern Conference foe Wofford with a 75-46 victory on Wednesday at the Holmes Center. The Mountaineers (19-3, 13-1 SoCon) defeated

the Terriers (11-13, 4-11) for the 10th-straight time and extended their winning streak to eight games, matching its season high.

Wofford used three quick strikes to jump out to a 7-3 lead in the first three minutes, but the Apps responded with four-straight points to tie the contest.

A pair of buckets would put Wofford up 11-7 and force ASU to take a timeout with 13:34 left in the first half, but Appalachian would roar back with a 15-5 run over the next six minutes to jump out to a 24-16 lead.

After the Terriers closed the gap to five points (26-21) with five minutes left, Kelsey Sharkey and Chakeitha Weldon combined to score the next eight points to give the Apps their first double-digit lead of the game (34-21) with 2:26 remaining in the period.

Wofford scored four-straight points to cut the deficit to nine (34-25) with under a minute to play, but Anna Freeman stretched the lead back to 37-25 with a three-pointer to end the half.

The Mountaineers would go on to dominate the second half, taking their first 20-point lead (45-25) on Maryah Sydnor's jumper with 16:39 left to play and scoring 12 unanswered points to start the half and take a 49-25 lead with just under 14 minutes to play.

The Terriers would never threaten in the second half as the Apps kept their foot on the gas and led by as many as 33 (73-40) when Canesha Edwards converted a layup with 2:16 left play.

Appalachian State shot 50.8 percent (33-for-65) from the floor while limiting Wofford to just 35.2 percent (19-for-54). The Mountaineers finished with a 43-29 edge in rebounds.

The Apps dished out 22 assists, just two shy of a season high, and forced 30 turnovers by the Terriers. Appalachian State had four players record three more assists and three with three more steals.

Freeman led all players with 16 points while dishing out five assists and collecting five steals.

Sharkey finished with 12 points, seven rebounds and four steals while Courtney Freeman scored 11 and grabbed eight boards. Weldon scored 10 points and dished out four assists.

Wofford, which did not have a player score in double-digits, was led on offense by Daniella Motley and Mariah Masalin who each netted eight points.

Appalachian State returns to action on Saturday when it plays host to UNC Greensboro at 4:30 p.m. before a Monday contest against Furman at 6 p.m.

GAME NOTES: ASU forced 10 or more turnovers for the 89th-straight game... the Apps improved to 56-11 when A. Freeman scores 10 or more points... Appalachian State finished with a 46-30 edge in points in the paint, outscored Wofford 28-16 off turnovers and scored 15 second-chance buckets.. the Mountaineers improved to 44-10 in conference games since the start of the 2009-10 season.... Appalachian State is 30-8 at home in its last 38 games including a 21-6 mark in SoCon games... A. Freeman moved into to a tie for 13th place in ASU history with 1,170 career points... she also moved up to sixth place in career assists with 280.

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ASU 75, WOFFORD 46

SCORE BY PERIODS 1ST 2ND TOTAL

WOFFORD COLLEGE...25 21 46

APPALACHIAN ST....37 38 75

WOFFORD: MOOREHOUSE 7, MOTLEY 8, MORRIS 6, BRITTENHAM 4, WRIGHTSON 6, MASALIN 8, FROST 1, MERRITT 6. FG: 19-54, 3FG: 3-10, FT: 5-9. 29 REBOUNDS, 30 TURNOVERS 30, 8 ASSISTS.

ASU: SHARKEY 12 (7 REBOUNDS), A. FREEMAN 16, WELDON 10, SYDNOR 8 (6 REBOUNDS), C. FREEMAN 11 (8 REBOUNDS), EDWARDS 8, TAYLOR 2, GARY 6, MALLOW 2. FG: 33-65, 3FG: 2-8, FT: 7-11. 43 REBOUNDS, 25 TURNOVERS, 22 ASSISTS.

Photo Courtesy: Chakeitha Weldon, by Bill Sheffield, ASU Athletics

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