

Mountaineers Disarm Spartans, 79-60

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 11 February 2012 22:36

Anna Freeman scored 18 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to record her 15th career double-double and lead Appalachian State University women's basketball to a 79-60 win against visiting Southern Conference foe UNCG on Saturday at the Holmes Center. The Mountaineers (20-3, 14-1 SoCon) picked up their ninth-straight victory and defeated the Spartans (3-21, 2-14) for the

fifth-straight time to improve to 29-28 all-time against UNCG.

Appalachian State jumped out to a quick 11-point lead (13-2) on a layup by Maryah Sydnor with 15:33 remaining in the first half before UNCG cut the deficit to five points (15-10) with just over 11 minutes left in the period.

The Apps responded with a 13-0 run to push the lead back into double-digits (23-10) and never led by less than 11 points for the duration of the contest.

Katie Mallow connected on a jumper with 3:40 remaining in the half to put the Mountaineers up by 20 points (37-17) for the first time and help propel ASU to a 40-24 halftime lead.

UNCG cut the deficit 15 points early on, but never really threatened in the second half as Appalachian led by as many as 23 points on a three-pointer from Freeman with 12:15 left in the game.

As a team, the Mountaineers shot 51.7 percent (30-for-58) from the floor, 64.0 percent (16-for-25) from the charity stripe and went 3-for-8 from beyond the arc.

UNCG was held to just 37.7 percent (20-for-53) on the day but were able to convert on 81.0 percent (17-for-21) of their free throws. ASU won the rebounding battle by a 38-30 margin.

The Apps forced 22 turnovers, collected 12 steals and dished out 19 assists while the Spartans had 10 steals, 10 assists and four blocks.

Freeman led all players in rebounding while dishing out six assists. Courtney Freeman led all players in scoring with 19 points while grabbing three boards and notching three assists. Sydnor had 14 points and five rebounds while Mallow scored nine off the bench.

UNCG was led on offense by Jazz Weaver, who scored 13 points and was 8-for-8 from the charity stripe. Natalie Headley also hit double-digits with 10 points while Janae' Stevenson scored eight and grabbed a team-high nine rebounds.

The Mountaineers return to action when they face Elon at 6 p.m. on Monday at the Holmes Center.

GAME NOTES: ASU forced 10 or more turnovers for the 90th-straight game... the Apps improved to 57-11 when A. Freeman scores 10 or more points... Appalachian State finished with a 46-18 edge in points in the paint, outscored UNCG 21-18 off turnovers and scored 14 second-chance points.. the Mountaineers improved to 45-10 in conference games since the start of the 2009-10 season.... Appalachian State is 31-8 at home in its last 39 games including a 22-6 mark in SoCon games... A. Freeman moved into to a tie for third-place in ASU history with 257 career steals... former Mountaineer great Valorie Whiteside served as the team's honorary coach... the announced attendance of 952 was ASU's largest home crowd since drawing 1,032 against UNCG in last year's home finale... it was the second-largest crowd in the past five seasons... the Mountaineers shot 57.7 percent (15-for-26) in the first half, their highest first-half shooting percentage of the season... ASU's overall shooting percentage was its highest

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since shooting 59.3 percent against UNCG on Jan. 9... Appalachian State improved to 46-19 in the months of January and February under head coach Darcie Vincent.

ASU 79, UNCG 60

Score by periods 1st 2nd Total

UNCG.....24 36 60

Appalachian State..... 40 39 79

UNCG: HARMAN 9, PATTERSON 9, SAVAGE 7, HEADLEY 10, WEAVER 13. RICHBOW 3, AWURUONYE 1, STEVENSON 8 (9 REBOUNDS). FG: 20-53, 3FG: 3-11, FT: 17-21. 30 REBOUNDS, 22 TURNOVERS, 10 ASSISTS.

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ASU: SHARKEY 5 (6 REBOUNDS), A. FREEMAN 18 (10 REBOUNDS), WELDON 4, SYDNOR 14, C. FREEMAN 19, EDWARDS 5, TAYLOR 1, GARY 4, MALLOW 9. FG: 30-58, 3FG: 3-8, FT: 16-25. 38 REBOUNDS, 18 TURNOVERS, 19 ASSISTS.

Photo Courtesy: Katie Mallow, ASU Athletics