Written by Charles Cochrum Thursday, 23 February 2012 09:25

Nathan Healy (New Bern, N.C./Blair Academy) scored a career-high 19 points but Appalachian State University men's basketball struggled to make baskets in a 62-51 loss at The Citadel on Thursday night at McAlister Field House. The Mountaineers shot just 35.7 percent

for the game as the Bulldogs snapped ASU's two-game winning streak. The junior sank 6-of-12 shots, three longballs and 4-of-5 free throws to surpass his previous high of 14 points. He added three rebounds, an assist and a steal in the effort.

Appalachian converted just 3-of-22 three-pointers, compared to 3-of-8 by the home team. The Bulldogs (6-22, 3-14) knocked in 50 percent of their shots from the floor to win a second-straight game.

The Apps started out strong and led by four points early on before The Citadel pulled even and scored the final seven points of the first half to take a 26-19 lead into the break. ASU cut its deficit to as few as four points on five different occasions in the second half but could not get over the hump to complete the comeback.

The Citadel owned a 36-26 advantage on the glass and turned nine offensive rebounds into 11 second-chance points. Bo Holston led the home team with 10 rebounds to accompany 13 points.

Mike Groselle also scored in double figures with 18 points on 6-of-8 shooting with eight rebounds for the Cadets. He sank 6-of-8 free throws as well to help The Citadel to a 21-of-28 mark from the foul line. The team scored its final nine points at the charity stripe to hold off a late Mountaineer (12-16, 7-10 SoCon) rally.

Andre Williamson (Dayton, Ohio/Prince George) came off the bench to tally 10 points and a game-high 14 rebounds. The forward was 5-for-6 from the field and added an assist, a block and one steal.

Omar Carter (Charlotte, N.C./Charleston Southern) and Tab Hamilton (Winston-Salem, N.C./Fishburne Military Academy) combined to shoot 5-of-19 from the floor for six points each. Carter added one steal while Hamilton chipped in a pair of assists and two steals.

Mitch Woods (Naples, Fla./Community School of Naples) dished out three of ASU's eight assists. He added two points, a rebound and a steal. ASU forced 13 Bulldog turnovers on the night and converted them into 12 points. Appalachian also scored the game's only two fast-break points.

The Mountaineers close out the regular season on Saturday at Western Carolina. Tipoff against the rival is set for 2 p.m. at Cullowhee's Ramsey Center.

NOTES: ASU's 19 first-half points were the team's second-lowest of the season, behind 17 against East Carolina on Nov. 22 ... Williamson came off the bench for the first time this season ... ASU's starting lineup (Neal, Woods, Hamilton, Healy, Isaac Butts) was the team's 13th different group of the season.

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Score by periods 1st 2nd Total Appalachian State...19 32 51 The Citadel...... 26 36 62

ASU: HAMILTON 6, HEALY 19, NEAL 3, BUTTS 5 (4 REBGOUNDS), WOODS 2 (3 ASSISTS), CARTER 6, WILLIAMSON 10 (14 REBOUNDS). FG: 20-56, 3FG: 3-22, FT: 8-11. 26 REBOUNDS, 8 TURNOVERS, 8 ASSISTS.

THE CITADEL: HARRIS III 5, WRIGHT 4, ROBERTSON 3, GROSELLE 18 (8 REBOUNDS), HOLSTON 13 (10 REBOUNDS), MILLER 9, BRAY 10 (7 REBOUNDS). FG: 19-38, 3FG: 3-8, FT: 21-28. 36 REBOUNDS, 13 TURNOVERS, 11 ASSISTS.

Photo Courtesy: Nathan Healy, ASU Athletics

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