

Tigers Nip ASU In Season Opener

Written by Brandon McGinnis
Saturday, 18 August 2012 10:14

Appalachian State University women's soccer could not capitalize on its opportunities and fell to ACC opponent Clemson 1-0 Friday night at Historic Riggs Field. Clemson outshot the Mountaineers 25-11, as the loss brings App State to 0-1-0 on

the season.

"I thought Clemson was a great team," head coach Sarah Strickland said. "It was a great game and I saw things we can focus on for the next game."

Sophomore goalkeeper Amy Kolowsky stood out with 11 saves for the match. Sophomore forward Jenna Caudle shined in her Appalachian debut, creating many chances and tallying three shots on goal. Sophomore Julia Holz also found chances on the front line, but none of her shots missed the goal, totaling three shots. The first half was highlighted by Kolowsky, making several key saves to keep the Tigers scoreless, totaling six for the half. The Apps had several chances in the first half, including an early shot from Holz that just snuck by the left upright and out for a goal kick.

With 16 minutes remaining in the first half, Holz took shot that found the back of the net, but was marked offside, taking the goal off the scoreboard. The Mountaineers started the second half with a lot of momentum, as Caudle found separation twice, but her shots were stopped by Clemson goalkeeper Hunter Rittgers. Four minutes later from Caudle's last attack, Holz found a seam but her shot went wide.

Clemson got on the scoreboard in the 64th minute when a cross from Tabitha Padgett found the head of Allie Kington and the shot beat Kolowsky to her left, putting the Tigers ahead. The goal deflated the Apps offense as they could not find another opportunity for the rest of the match.

Clemson's defense was strong for the final fifteen minutes, capping off the 1-0 victory.

"Amy was outstanding tonight," Strickland said. "Not only did she make point blank saves, but she read the game well and pick out balls that would have dangerous situations."

The Mountaineers will continue their road trip, as they travel to Austin Peay on Friday, Aug. 24. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

ASU Men's Soccer Starts Preseason At High Point

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Appalachian State University men's soccer begins its preseason with its first of two scheduled exhibitions on Saturday, Aug. 18, as the Mountaineers will travel to High Point for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

The Mountaineers

The Apps are coming off their 21st season posting 10 wins or more, finishing 2011 with a 10-5-4 overall record and a 3-2-2 mark in the Southern Conference, placing them in a tie for 4th in the SoCon standings. App State eventually fell in the conference tournament semifinals to top-seeded UNC Greensboro, 2-1.

For his efforts, head coach Matt Nelson was named SoCon Coach of the Year, becoming the sixth coach ASU history to receive the award.

Coach Nelson's roster returns six seniors, including Hermann Trophy Watch List honoree, defender Lee Williams. The Liverpool, England native has started 45 games for his career at Appalachian and was also named to the Preseason all-Conference Team. Williams led a backline that ranked No. 6 nationally in goals-against and shutout percentage.

Appalachian loses its two top goal-scorers from a season ago, so Nelson will look for offense from senior midfielders Ryan Lavigne and David Dodge who combined for five goals last season. Senior forwards Nate Latigue and Joshiah Trower will also contribute from the front line. Danny Free will start in goal after starting 14 matches a season ago. The junior tallied 11 shutouts in 2011 to go along with his 10 victories. Free's productivity in 2011 makes him a player to watch for the upcoming season.

The Panthers

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High Point comes into Saturday's exhibition recently picked to finish second in the Big South preseason poll behind nationally ranked Coastal Carolina. The Panthers finished 2011 with a 9-9-3 overall record and a 4-4-1 record in conference play, earning the No. 6 seed in the Big South tournament. HPU was able to upset No. 3 seed Campbell in the opening round, but eventually fell in penalty kicks to No. 2 seed Gardner-Webb.

Head Coach Dustin Fonder returns for his sixth season, tallying 48 wins while at High Point. The Panthers also lost their top two goal scorers from a season ago, as senior Shawn Sloan and sophomore Mamadee Nyepon tallied a combined nine goals last season. HPU also lost starting goalkeeper Michael Chesler, leaving redshirt junior Ryan Henke as the only goalkeeper to have collegiate experience.

QUICK HITS

- This is the second straight season Appalachian and High Point have met for an exhibition. The Panthers captured a 1-0 victory in last season's meeting.
- The Mountaineers and High Point have met 17 times in the regular season with ASU controlling the series with a 14-3-0 record. HPU took the last match in 2008 with a 2-1 win.
- This seasons' App State roster includes players from six different states and two different countries.
- Appalachian's next exhibition is slated for Monday, Aug. 20 as the Mountaineers will host their second straight Big South Conference opponent, VMI at the Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex. Kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy: Amy Kolowsky, ASU Athletics