

Bulldogs Sweep Mountaineers

Written by Ryan Bower

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Appalachian State University volleyball suffered its second-straight loss in a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Southern Conference rival Samford on Saturday at the Pete Hanna Center. The Mountaineers (4-12, 0-2 SoCon) dropped

their second match of the season as the Bulldogs (10-6, 2-0) picked up their fifth-straight win thanks to scores of 25-22, 25-14 and 25-15.

Appalachian fell behind, 8-3, early in the first set before rallying to pull within one point twice in the late stages, but Samford was able to hang on to take a 1-0 advantage after the first set. The Bulldogs again jumped out to an early lead in the second set and found themselves ahead by as many as 10 points (22-12) before notching a 25-14 second-set victory.

In the third and final set, Samford again led the entire way, though the Apps were able to keep it close in the early stages. Several mid-set runs by the Bulldogs proved to be too much as the Bulldogs grabbed a 25-12 third-set victory to seal the match.

Emily Corrigan (Johns Creek, Ga./Chattahoochee) led the Mountaineers with a match and season-high 13 kills while Lindsey Sauls (Prairie Village, Kan./Shawnee Mission East) tallied nine kills. Lauren Brown (Overland Park, Kan./St. James Academy) had 27 assists and Courtney Rhein (York, Pa./Eastern York) notched 14 digs.

Samford was paced by Lauren Hutchinson's 12 kills while Katie Murphy and Michaela Reasor each tallied 10. Casey Garvey posted a match-high 37 assists while two other Bulldogs posted double-digits in digs. Appalachian State hit just .165 on the attack while the Bulldogs hit a scorching .373. Both teams finished with six blocks on the evening while Samford finished with three aces to Appalachian's one.

The Mountaineers return home next weekend when they face SoCon North Division rivals Elon (Sept. 29) and UNCG (Sept. 30) at 7 p.m. and 5 p.m., respectively

MATCH NOTES: Saturday's loss snapped Appalachian's four-match winning streak over Samford... it was the first time App State was swept in back-to-back SoCon matches since a pair of 3-0 defeats to Elon and UNCG in 2009... Rhein needs just 259 more digs to become App State's all-time leader... she has recorded 1,570 career digs and needs 130 more to move into second all-time... the Apps are 0-2 in SoCon play for the first time since 2008.

Photo Courtesy: Emily Corrigan, ASU Athletics