

ASU Women's Soccer Defeats Mocs in Overtime

Written by Brandon McGinnis
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Freshman Samantha Childress' golden goal in the 100th minute of overtime clinched Appalachian State University women's soccer's 2-1 victory over Southern Conference opponent Chattanooga Friday night at Finley Stadium. With the key conference victory, the Mountaineers' extend their SoCon winning streak to

four matches, moving to 4-1 in league play and 7-5 overall. The Mocs fall to 2-8-1 on the year and 0-4 in the conference. The winning streak is the first four-match conference winning streak since 2001 and the first time Appalachian has won three overtime matches in a season. The Mountaineers beat the previous record of two overtime victories that was set a year ago. "I'm so proud of our girls," head coach Sarah Strickland said. "We worked hard and scored two great goals to get the win."

UTC began the match with a lot of pressure on the App State backline, committing three offsides and a shot on goal in the opening 11 minutes. As the match balanced out, the Mountaineers were first to get on the scoreboard in the 35th minute when sophomore forward Julia Holz knocked in a rebound for her fifth goal of the season, matching her goal total from a season ago. Holz currently leads the team in goals scored as junior forward Jamie Lockie was credited with the assist.

The Mountaineers took the 1-0 lead into halftime, outshooting the Mocs 10-1 for the opening 45 minutes. Holz fired two shots on goal, while Lockie also troubled UTC goalkeeper Lauren Thomas.

In the second half, the backline shined keeping Chattanooga scoreless for the majority of the half. As it looked if the Apps were about to claim their fifth shutout of the season, the Mocs were awarded a penalty kick in the 87th minute. UTC's Becca Smith tallied her fourth goal of the season, beating Appalachian goalkeeper Megan Roberson to knot the score at 1-1, where that tally would lead the match into overtime.

After a back-and-forth start to the overtime period, App State was given a free kick right outside the Chattanooga box. Childress lined up the shot and fired the ball into the box, beating Thomas, and giving the freshman her third game-winning goal of the season. The victory gives Appalachian its 13th victory all-time over Chattanooga as the Mountaineers control the series with a 13-3-3 record.

The Apps outshot the Mocs 19-6, as Holz, Lockie and Childress combined for six shots on goal. Roberson led the defense with four saves on the night. The Black and Gold carry their winning streak into their next conference matchup on Sunday, Oct. 7 when the Apps travel to Samford. Kickoff from Birmingham is set for 3 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Samantha Childress, ASU Athletics