Pirates Down ASU Volleyball In Five Games

Written by Kelsey Campbell Saturday, 21 September 2013 09:09

Appalachian State University volleyball lost a five-game match to East Carolina on Friday night at Varsity Gym. The Mountaineers drop to 7-5 overall following the loss to the Pirates, who match in the wins-losses column with a 7-5 record themselves.

The Apps took an early lead in the first set and never fell behind, taking a 25-18 victory. The second set would set the tone for the rest of the night giving way to a back-and-forth battle early in the frame. The set was tied at 19 all before the Pirates scored six straight points successfully taking the second set, 25-19.

The Mountaineers would regain composure in the third go-round, serving the Pirates a 25-14 victory, but an intense fourth set would ensue as the two teams rallied to the last point, eventually leading to an East Carolina victory (23-21).

The fifth set would highlight the match, yielding a knotted score on seven occasions. The Black and Gold would fall behind 7-10, before rallying back to tie the game at 14 off of a kill from sophomore Jess Keller (Swarthmore, Pa./Strath Haven). Though it would not be enough as ECU took the lead and never looked back, taking the final set, 17-15.

Outside hitter Keller netted a team-high 20 kills while sophomore Emily Corrigan (Johns Creek, Ga./Chattahoochee) finished with 17. Junior middle hitter Lauren Gray (Round Rock, Texas/Round Rock) made the difference in game five, finishing with 12 total kills.

On the back row, sophomore Meghan Mahoney (Leawood, Kan./Blue Valley) tallied 20 digs. Sophomore setter Paige Brown (Overland Park, Kan./St. James Academy) led all players with 57 assists. ECU was paced by Nicole Willis' 20 kills while Zarah Cecich led the team with 55 assists. Shelby Beasley (26) and Whitney Campbell (23) both eclipsed the 20-dig mark. The Apps tallied 22 blocks on the night to ECU's 25. Gray led the Mountaineers with six block assists as Appalachian hit .188 for the match to the Pirates .215 hitting percentage. Appalachian returns to action tomorrow when it hosts UT Arlington at Varsity Gym at 12:30 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Jess Keller, ASU Athletics