

## ASU Solid In Tournament Victory

Written by Jennifer Clark

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Appalachian State University volleyball captured its final regular-season tournament victory after back-to-back wins over Denver and UT Arlington on Saturday night at Varsity Gym. The Mountaineers (9-5) hosted the Black & Gold Challenge in its final round of competition before heading into conference play. Despite dropping a 3-2 loss to East Carolina on Friday, Appalachian earned victories over Denver (6-7) and UT Arlington (6-6) on day two to grab the tournament title.

### **APPALACHIAN 3, DENVER 2**

Emily Corrigan's (Johns Creek, Ga./Chattahooche) 28 kills helped Appalachian State University volleyball cap off day two of the Black & Gold Challenge with a 3-2 (23-25, 27-25, 25-23, 20-25, 15-13) win over Denver in one of its most thrilling and tightly contested matches to-date.

Corrigan registered a double-double, her third straight, collecting 28 kills and 12 digs, along with Paige Brown (Overland Park, Kan./St. James Academy), who nabbed a double-double off of her 54 assists and 13 digs. Two other App players recorded 10-plus digs, led by libero Meghan Mahoney's (Leawood, Kan./Blue Valley) 25 to go along with Lauren Brown's 12.

The Pioneers (6-7) would lead by as many as six in the first set before four straight terminations from Corrigan would tie the frame at 23. Following a Denver timeout, Brea Muhle and Moni Corrujedo would lay a pair of kills to take the first set (25-23).

The Mountaineers (9-5) trailed late into the second set, again, by as many as six points with Corrigan rallying the comeback to 24 all. The two squads would trade scores (25-25) before two Nola Beasley attack errors cost Denver the set and gave Appalachian the 27-25 win.

Following a tightly contested third frame, the Black and Gold would own a 25-23 victory and head into the fourth run with a 2-1 advantage.

Set four remained tight until a trio of Appalachian errors would build Denver's lead to five (20-15). Despite back-to-back kills from Jess Keller (Swarthmore, Pa./Strath Haven) (23-20), a pair of Pioneer kills would seal DU's fourth frame victory (25-20).

The Apps maintained the momentum heading into the final set, which proved to be toe-to-toe all the way. A service ace, courtesy of Corrigan, would put Appalachian at a 13-11 advantage, forcing Denver to call a timeout. A kill from Muhle would keep the Pioneers in the game (13-12), but ultimately a pair of errors would cost them the match, giving Appalachian the 15-13 set and the overall victory.

The Mountaineers shot .163 as a team, led by Corrigan's team-high .270 hitting percentage, and dished out 85 total digs. Starters Corrigan and Keller both recorded two service aces, while Keller and Lauren Gray (Round Rock, Texas/Round Rock) each grabbed a block solo.

Beasley notched a team-high 17 kills for the Pioneers, who shot .265 combined, while Kate Acker recorded a match-high 33 digs. DU put up 11 blocks to Appalachian's nine to go along with 85 points to Appalachian's 76.

### **APPALACHIAN 3, UTA 1**

In a thrilling four-set spar, Appalachian State University volleyball came out swinging to a 3-1 victory over future Sun Belt foe UT Arlington to open day two of the Black & Gold Challenge. The Mountaineers improved to 8-5 overall with the win and 1-1 in tournament action, while the

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Mavericks dropped to 6-6 overall following a match that saw 38 knotted scores and 19 lead changes across four sets.

Three Mountaineers recorded double-digit kills, including Jess Keller (16), Emily Corrigan (14), and Lauren Gray (11). Paige Brown's 45 helpers led the Mountaineers to a .192 team hitting percentage. The Apps' primary setter also put up 8 digs against UTA.

Gray's 11 kills yielded her a team-high .579 on the attack, while Sauls and Corrigan shot .267 and .200 apiece, respectively. Frosh Kati Stammen (Raleigh, N.C./Leesville Road) led the defensive front with 15 digs and Meghan Mahoney added 14 to go along with a pair of assists. Corrigan registered 10 digs to finish with her eighth double-double of the season. Lindsey Sauls and Gray both recorded block solos.

As a team, UTA finished with a .180 hitting percentage and 56 total kills, led by Charmaine Whitmore, who tallied 13 in addition to six total blocks, including two block solos. Amanda Welsh dished out a team-high 27 assists for the Mavericks, while Cassidy Wheeler added 19. Megan Casey managed the back row with 19 digs, followed by Shelby Dickson and Welsh with 13 and 11, respectively.

Up next, the Mountaineers open league play as they travel to Cullowhee, N.C. to face Southern Conference foe Western Carolina Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. followed by a home match against Davidson on Sept. 27.

**Photo Courtesy: Emily Corrigan, ASU Athletics**