

Comeback Falls Short in Home Opener

Written by Ryan Bower

Wednesday, 13 November 2013 09:03

Appalachian State University men's basketball cut a late 16-point deficit all the way to four but the rally came up short in a 73-66 loss to Campbell in Tuesday night's 2013-14 home opener at the Holmes Center.

Appalachian State (0-2) trailed 64-48 with seven minutes to go but went on a 14-2 run over the next 4:38, capped by a Tab Hamilton (Winston-Salem, N.C./Fushburne Military) three-pointer that cut the Campbell lead to 66-62 with 2:22 still remaining in the ballgame.

Appalachian pulled within four points on two more occasions in the waning minutes but did not get any closer as Campbell (2-0) - which did not make a field goal in the final 6:22 of the contest - made enough free throws down the stretch (7-of-12) to keep the Mountaineers at arm's length.

The difference in the game was free-throw shooting. Despite missing five of its final 12 attempts, Campbell finished 17-of-25 (.680) at the charity stripe while Appalachian State missed nine of its first 10 attempts and finished just 9-of-22 (.409) at the line.

Mike Neal (Greensboro, N.C./Oak Ridge Military) led three Mountaineers in double-figures with 20 points, despite making just 4-of-10 free-throw attempts. Chris Burgess (Lakeland, Fla./Georgia Jenkins) scored 14 points off the bench and Hamilton added 10. Michael Obacha (Edo State, Nigeria/High Point Christian) grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds but made just

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1-of-6 free throws and finished with seven points.

Appalachian returns to action when it travels to Cincinnati at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the third-of-four games in the Global Sports Shootout.

NOTES: Appalachian State dropped to 14-6 all-time against Campbell... Tuesday's loss was the first-ever at home to the Camels... the Apps had won eight-straight home games against CU... Obacha set a career-high with 15 rebounds... the Mountaineers outscored the Camels 38-30 in the paint and 20-7 on second-chance buckets... Appalachian fell to 120-57 all-time at the Holmes Center... the Apps dropped their first-ever home opener under head coach Jason Capel (3-1)... Appalachian is 11-4 in non-conference home games under Capel... Appalachian is 0-2 to start the season for the first time since the 2003-04 campaign.

CAMPBELL 73, ASU 66

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Score by periods 1st 2nd Total

Campbell 37 36 - 73

Appalachian State 21 45 - 66

CAMPBELL: LEEK 5, LEONARD 16, McCARTER 8 (6 REBOUNDS), RAY 2, RYAN 14 (6 REBOUNDS), OLIVER 3, HAMER 6, MASON 19. FG: 24-49, 3FG: 8-23, FT: 17-25. 36 REBOUNDS, 14 ASSISTS, 11 TURNOVERS.

ASU: BASKIN 4, OBACHA 7 (15 REBOUNDS), SPAGNOLO 4, HAMILTON 10 (7 REBOUNDS), NEAL 20, KOBANI 3, BURGESS 14, EAVES 2. FG: 26-62, 3FG: 5-19, FT: 9-22. 39 REBOUNDS, 7 ASSISTS, 9 TURNOVERS.

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Photo Courtesy: Mike Neal, ASU Athletics