

Bearcats Stifle Mountaineers, 77-49

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 16 November 2013 22:54

After falling behind 9-0 in the first four minutes, Appalachian State University men's basketball was able to battle back and cut the deficit to 13-11, but a late first-half surge would give Cincinnati a 77-49 win on Saturday at Fifth Third Arena.

The Mountaineers (0-3) found themselves in an early hole as the Bearcats (3-0) dominated the pace of play over the first four minutes with their signature full-court pressure defense, but Appalachian would slow things down and mounted an 11-4 run to cut the gap to just two points (13-11) with 12:02 remaining in the open period.

App State's run began when Mike Neal hit a layup for the Mountaineers' first points of the game at the 15:45 mark and was capped off by Tevin Baskin's three pointer with 12:02 remaining, but the Bearcats would turn up the pressure on defense and caught fire from the floor to outscore the Apps 27-10 over the final 12 minutes of the half.

Cincinnati grabbed its first double-digit lead (22-11) when Troy Caupain hit a layup with 9:03 to go in the first. The bucket was part of a 14-0 Bearcat run that extended UC's lead to 27-11 with 7:25 on the clock en route to a 19-point (40-21) advantaged at the half.

Despite scoring the first two points of the second half on a pair of free throws by Neal, the Mountaineers were unable to get any closer than 19 points after Michael Obacha tipped in an offensive rebound with 14:43 to go in the second half as Cincinnati pressed the entire time and continued to stay hot on the offensive end.

Mike Kobani and Baskin led the Mountaineers with 11 points each while Tommy Spagnolo ripped down a team-best seven rebounds and Neal dished out four assists.

Caupain and Troy Rubles led the Bearcats with 13 points each while Sean Kilpatrick scored 12 and Shaquille Thomas and Jermaine Sanders poured in 10 apiece. Rubles and Thomas co-led Cincinnati with seven boards while Justin Jackson came away with four blocks.

Appalachian shot just 29.2 percent (19-of-65) from the floor while the Bearcats connected on 46.3 percent (31-of-67) of their shots. Cincinnati finished with a 47-35 edge in rebounds and came away with 21 offensive boards, which it converted into 21 second-chance points.

The Apps return to action in Tuesday when they host Lees-McRae at 7 p.m. at the Holmes Center before wrapping up the Global Sports Shootout with a contest at North Carolina Central on Nov. 22.

NOTES: Appalachian is 0-3 to start the season for the first time since 1977-78... the 29.2 percent shooting was App State's lowest since it connected on just 28.8 percent (15-of-52) in a loss to Wofford on March 8, 2010... the Mountaineers shot 23.1 percent (9-of-39) in the first half, their lowest first-half shooting percentage since an 81-68 loss at ETSU on Nov. 15, 2011... the Apps fell to 0-3 in the Global Sports Shootout while Cincinnati improved to 3-0... the Mountaineers fell to 3-3 all-time against current members of the American Athletic Conference

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and 3-4 all-time against teams from the state of Ohio... the Apps are now 4-16 against non-conference opponents outside of Boone since the start of the 2010-11 season... Kobani's point total was a career-high for the freshman, who also saw career-highs in minutes (23), field goals (5) and field-goal attempts (6).

CINCINNATI 77, APP STATE 49

Score by periods 1st 2nd Total

Appalachian St. 21 28 - 49

Cincinnati 40 37 - 77

ASU: BASKIN 11, OBACHA 5, SPAGNOLO 4 (7 REBOUNDS), HAMILTON 5, NEAL 4 (4 ASSISTS), KOBANI 11, BURGESS 5, TONEY 4. FG: 19-65, 3FG: 3-14, FT: 8-11. 35 REBOUNDS, 7 ASSISTS,. 14 TURNOVERS.

CINCINNATI: RUBLES 13 (7 REBOUNDS), THOMAS 10- (7 REBOUNDS), JACKSON 8, GUYN 2, KILPATRICK 12, CAUPAIN 13 (4 ASSISTS), LAWRENCE 5 (6 REBOUNDS), SANDERS 10, JOHNSON 2, NYARSUK 2. FG: 31-67, 3FG: 4-9, FT: 11-16. 47 REBOUNDS, 13 ASSISTS, 14 TURNOVERS.

Photo Courtesy: Mike Kobani, ASU Athletics