

Gilbert Leads Apps Past Milligan

Written by Ryan Bower

Saturday, 21 December 2013 19:56

Rantavious Gilbert poured in a career-high 22 points and Appalachian State University men's basketball scored its most points in three years in a 100-68 thrashing of Milligan on Saturday at the Holmes

Center.

The Mountaineers (3-8) jumped out to a double-digit lead in the first six minutes of the ballgame and cruised to an easy win over the Buffaloes (8-4) to snap a three-game losing streak.

Milligan scored on its first possession and held a 6-4 lead with 17:54 to play in the first, but a 13-0 Appalachian run put the home team out in front by 11 points (17-6) and the Mountaineers were never in danger after that as they led by as many as 16 points in the first 20 minutes of play.

After leading 24-8 with 12:57 remaining in the first half, the Apps eased off the gas a bit and allowed the Buffaloes to regain some momentum as Milligan was able to cut the deficit to seven points on two occasions in the final five minutes, but Gilbert's dunk with four seconds to go gave the Mountaineers a 50-39 lead at the break.

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Appalachian continued to pour it on in the second half, taking a 21-point lead on Michael Obacha's dunk (60-39) with 18:31 left to play. The Buffaloes would come no closer than 14 points the rest of the way as the Mountaineers pushed their lead to 36 points twice in the last five minutes.

Gilbert scored his 22 points on 11-of-15 shooting and pulled down six rebounds while tallying two blocks. Tab Hamilton poured in 18 points while Aaron Scott scored 14 off the bench. Chris Burgess (12) and Mike Neal (11) also scored in double figures.

The Apps outrebounded Milligan by a 58-34 margin, thanks in large part to huge rebounding efforts by Obacha and Tommy Spagnolo, who finished with 17 and 10, respectively.

The Buffaloes were paced by a Torian Sitton, who led the squad in scoring (12) and rebounds (7). Cartree Pettis scored 10 points and Mickey Woods added nine points and five assist.

On the afternoon, the Mountaineers shot 48.1 percent (37-of-77) from the floor while holding Milligan to just 38.1 percent (24-of-63). Appalachian dished out 23 assists and committed just 12 turnovers.

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Appalachian State returns to action when it plays host to Bluefield College at 7 p.m. on Dec. 30 before heading to Duquesne for its final non-conference game of the season on Jan. 2.

NOTES: The Mountaineers improved to 15-4 all-time against the Buffaloes... the win extended Appalachian's winning streak to eight in the series vs. Milligan... the 100 points marked the team's highest scoring output since a 101-81 win over Montreat on Nov. 16, 2010... it was the 62nd 100-point game in school history... Obacha set a new career-high in rebounds while Spagnolo tied his career high... of his 107 rebounds on the season, Obacha has pulled down 64 in the past five games (12.8 rpg).

APPALACHIAN STATE 100, MILLIGAN 68

SCORE BY PERIODS 1 2 TOTAL

MILLIGAN 39 29 - 68

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APPALACHIAN STATE 50 50 - 100

MILLIGAN: McLEOD 8, PETTIS 10 (6 REBOUNDS), BROOKS 9, WOODS 7 (5 ASSISTS), SITTON 12 (7 REBOUNDS), BLAKE 6, ELLIS 2, WOODS, JR. 5, HENDREN 3, ROBINSON 4. FG: 24-63, 3FG: 10-30, FT: 10-20. 34 REBOUNDS, 13 ASSISTS, 17 TURNOVERS.

ASU: OBACHA 6 (17 REBOUNDS), HAMILTON 18, BURGESS 12, NEAL 11, KOBANI 5, CLARKE 2, GILBERT 22 (6 REBOUNDS), SPAGNOLO 6 (10 REBOUNDS, 5 ASSISTS), SCOTT 14, TONEY 4. FG: 37-77, 3FG: 8-24, FT: 18-27. 58 REBOUNDS, 28 ASSISTS, 12 TURNOVERS.

Photo Courtesy: Rantavious Gilbert, ASU Athletics