

Mountaineers Fall Short in Overtime

Written by Kelsey Campbell

Tuesday, 14 January 2014 09:23

Maryah Sydnor tallied a double-double and KeKe Cooper sent the game to overtime with a free-throw in the closing seconds of the second half, but Appalachian State University women's basketball came up short in a 73-68 loss to Chattanooga on Monday.

The Mountaineers (5-10, 2-3 SoCon) battled their Southern Conference rivals throughout the contest, but the Mocs (14-3, 6-0) kept their perfect league record intact and extended their winning streak to 10 games.

Chattanooga would score six points from behind the arc to begin the game before Appalachian would get on the board with a layup from Cooper. From there the Mountaineers would attempt to catch up for the entire first half, never falling behind by more than six points. It would not be until the 3:32 mark in the first that Cooper would hit a jumper to tie the game at 22.

Bria Huffman scored two points two minutes later to put Appalachian in the lead, but Chattanooga's Ashlen Dewart responded, helping the Mocs pull ahead 26-24 with 1:29 left in the half. With 49 seconds left Huffman found Cooper in the post for two points, tying the game at 26 at halftime.

Sydnor led the team at the half with 10 points, while Cooper followed with eight. Both players went perfect from the floor in the first as Sydnor was 5-5 in field goals and Cooper was 4-4.

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The Mountaineers shot a 66.7 percent (12-18) field goal percentage in the first half, while the Mocs shot 34.6 percent, going nine for 26 in field goals.

Chattanooga's Taylor Hall led the team in points at the half with eight.

The Mocs hit a three-pointer to start the second half and pull ahead a 29-26. A jumper from Amber Doniere would help the Apps reclaim the lead with 17:55 to play, but Chattanooga would once again find a way to tie the score, downing another three.

The Mocs would go on a 12-4 run to lead Appalachian 44-39 with 11:24 to play. Despite a hot shooting hand from Alex Black, the Mountaineers stayed with the Mocs, only trailing by one with 5:35 left in the game.

With 1:59 left to play App State found itself down by three points, but Cooper would find a steal, throwing the ball down the court to a sprinting Huffman for a fast break layup.

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Down by one point, Cooper stole the ball again with 59 seconds left in the game and was fouled by the Mocs. Cooper converted on one free throw to send the game into overtime.

In overtime, Appalachian jumped out to a two-point lead, but Chattanooga scored nine of the final 12 points en route to the 73-68 victory.

Sydnor led all players with 20 points and 14 rebounds while Cooper and Huffman each added 17. Cooper also snagged nine rebounds and added four assists.

The Mountaineers shot 54.3 percent (25-46) in the game, while grabbing 35 rebounds and turning the ball over 19 times.

Hall paced the Mocs with 19 points and 10 boards, while Black tallied 17, going 4-7 from three-point range. Dewart also scored in double-figures for Chattanooga with 12 points.

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The Mocs shot 40.4 percent (23-57) from floor, pulling down 30 rebounds and recording 12 turnovers.

The Mountaineers will return to action on Friday, Jan. 17 when they travel to Elon for a 7 p.m. game.

UTC 73, ASU 68 (OT)

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SCORE BY PERIODS 1ST 2ND 1OT TOTAL

TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA 26 35 12 - 73

APPALACHIAN STATE 26 35 7 - 68

CHATTANOOGA: HALL 19 (10 REBOUNDS, 4 ASSISTS), DEWART 12, BLACK 17, SHUMPERT 6, PAYNE 2, TOWNS 2, DOWNES 7, DUPREE 8. FG: 23-57, 3FG: 8-22, FT: 19-27. 30 REBOUNDS, 18 ASSISTS, 12 TURNOVERS.

ASU: SYDNOR 20 (14 REBOUNDS), COOPER 17 (9 REBOUNDS, 4 ASSISTS), JONES 4, HUFFMAN 17, CARTER 1, MALLOW 5, DONIERE 4. FG: 25-46, 3FG: 1-2, FT: 17-26. 35 REBOUNDS, 10 ASSISTS, 19 REBOUNDS.

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Photo Courtesy: Maryah Sydnor, ASU Athletics