

## Wofford Outlasts App State, 64-58

Written by Ryan Bower

Sunday, 16 February 2014 02:04

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Despite shooting a higher percentage than Wofford across the board, Appalachian State University men's basketball dropped a hard-fought 64-58 decision in Southern Conference action on Saturday afternoon at the Holmes Center.

The Mountaineers (8-17, 4-8 SoCon) shot 63.6 percent (14-of-22) in the first half and built a 36-31 halftime lead, but the Terriers (15-10, 9-3) held Appalachian to just 5-of-15 (33.3 percent) in the second half en route to their eighth-straight win.

After trailing for the vast majority of the first half, Appalachian State scored the final seven points of the opening period to build a five-point half time lead.

Wofford led by as many as three points on two occasions in the opening 13 minutes of play and held a 31-29 lead with 1:54 to go, but back-to-back jumpers from Tab Hamilton (Winston-Salem, N.C./Fishburne Military) and Mike Neal (Greensboro, N.C./Oak Ridge Military), combined with Hamilton's buzzer-beater from beyond the arc to end the half, made it 36-31 in favor of App State as the teams headed into the locker room.

The Mountaineers were able to maintain the slim lead for the opening four minutes of the half, but following a layup from Ty Toney (Alpharetta, Ga./Alpharetta) that made it 40-35 with 15:52 to play, Appalachian would go cold and did not score again until Tommy Spagnolo (West

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Jefferson, N.C./Ashe County) hit a pair of free throws five minutes later.

Despite tying the game at 44-44 on Spagnolo's layup with 9:03 to play, the Mountaineers were never able to regain the lead as the Terriers led by as many as eight points (57-49) in the final five minutes and sealed the victory on Spencer Collins' free throws with 15 seconds to go that gave Wofford the six-point win.

Tevin Baskin (Stamford, Conn./Chipola College) led Appalachian State with 13 points off the bench while Hamilton finished with 12 and Spagnolo scored 10 to go along with five rebounds. Michael Obacha (Edo State, Nigeria/High Point Christian) grabbed a team-high six boards and Neal dished out a team-leading four assists.

Lee Skinner paced the Terriers with 17 points and nine rebounds while Collins scored 12 and CJ Nuemann poured in 11 off the bench. Despite scoring just eight points, seven less than his season average, Karl Cochran dished out a game-high six assists.

On the day, the Mountaineers shot 51.4 percent (19-of-37) from the floor, including a 2-of-4 mark from long range, and connected on 18-of-26 free throws. Wofford shot 45.3 percent (24-of-53) from the floor, but ripped down 13 offensive rebounds, which led to 11 second-chance points.

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The Mountaineers return to action in their final home game of the season when they play host to Western Carolina on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Holmes Center.

**NOTES:** Appalachian State fell to 23-16 overall and 13-6 at home against the Terriers... Wofford forced 16 turnovers, which it converted into 21 points... Spagnolo scored in double figures for the sixth-straight game while Hamilton hit double-digits for the fifth-straight time... Baskin eclipsed 10 points for the first time since scoring 10 at Davidson on Jan. 11... Appalachian's 16 turnovers were a season-high... the Terriers picked up their fourth-straight win in Boone.

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### SCORE BY PERIODS 1ST 2ND TOTAL

WOFFORD COLLEGE 31 33 - 64

APPALACHIAN STATE 36 22 - 58

**WOFFORD:** SKINNER 17 (9 REBOUNDS), COCHRAN 8 (6 ASSISTS), GARCIA 5, COLLINS 12, SWINTON 3, GORDON 8, NEUMANN 11. FG: 24-53, 3FG: 3-8, FT: 13-21. 30 REBOUNDS, 14 ASSISTS, 10 TURNOVERS.

**ASU:** OBACHA 4 (6 REBOUNDS), SPAGNOLO 10, HAMILTON 12, BURGESS 4, TONEY 5, BASKIN 13, NEAL 6 (4 ASSISTS), CANTY 4. FG: 19-37, 3FG: 2-5, FT: 18-26. 24 REBOUNDS, 7 ASSISTS, 16 TURNOVERS.

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**Photo Courtesy: Chris Burgess, ASU Athletics**