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IN FOCUS

Seniors not gone or forgotten, dominate 72-54 victory

CHRIS ZALUSKI
Staff Writer

The perfect definition of home court advantage was shown Tuesday at the Holmes Convocation Center.

The Appalachian State men's basketball team defeated Western Carolina University 72-54 on Senior Night in front of 5,109 fans, the third largest total in Holmes Center history.

The added energy was an obvious factor in helping the Mountaineers get the win.

"You don't want to let the crowd down," ASU senior Noah Brown said. "They took the time out to come watch us play and support us and we just wanted to put a smile on their face and give them something to talk about."

Appalachian's dominating performance was what left the fans talking. ASU led from the tip-off until the game ended, only letting the Catamounts tie the score once.

The strong performance was led by Appalachian's defense. ASU had 11 blocks and forced 15 Western turnovers.

Eight of the blocks happened in the first half when ASU had to rely on their defense to make up for a lagging offense.

Appalachian took an early 14-5 lead with the momentum from the five senior starters of Herbert Jones, Clint Deas, Brown, Corwin Davis and Chris McFarland.

When the Mountaineers began to lose the lead, it was the monstrous blocks of Jeremy Clayton and Jones that kept Western from pulling ahead.

Although the score was tied at 21 with only 6:00 left until halftime, ASU went into halftime leading 32-30.

"We were just executing and we were playing with discipline," WCU junior David Berghoef said. "We went away from that in the second half and that's what hurt us."

The Mountaineers took advantage of the Catamounts' lack of focus after halftime and created a 10-point lead within the first five minutes of the half.



Peter Larkins | Chief Photographer

Noah Brown celebrates with the Mountaineer Maniacs after the 72-54 win.

With 6:40 left in the game and ASU leading 62-47, a McFarland dunk gave ASU the final boost they needed to seal the victory.

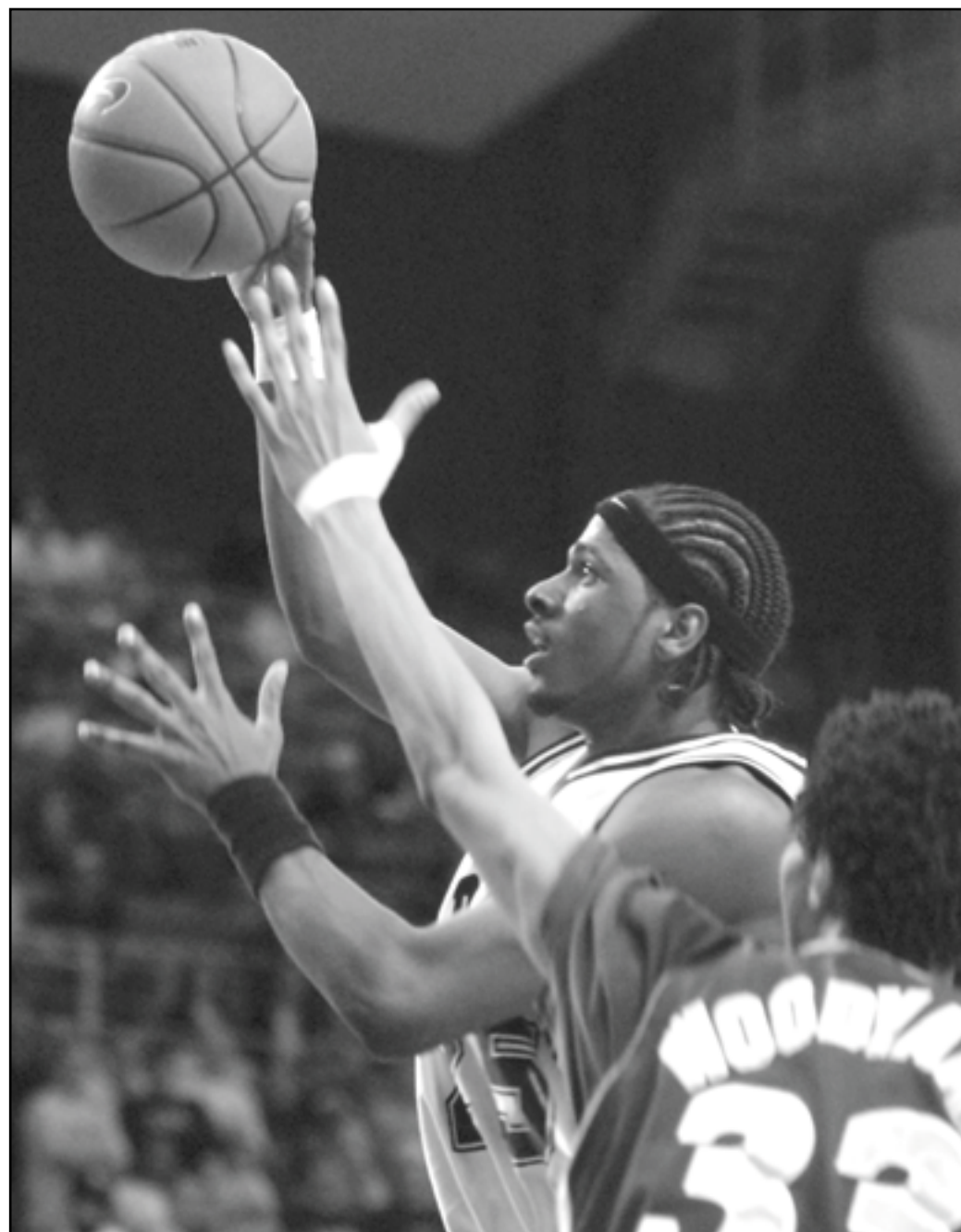
McFarland's last game at the Holmes Center was a success as he ended up with 17 points, nine rebounds and four steals. It was an especially good showing for the senior, who has seen his role diminish significantly this season.

"I really wanted to go out with a bang at home in front of everybody and show them I still got it," McFarland said.

Other seniors who made the best of the final game in the Holmes Center were Jones and Brown. Jones had a game high 18 points and four blocks while Brown scored 12 points and dished out five assists.

Although ASU was out rebounded 30-18 in the first half, the Mountaineers fixed the problem and ended up out rebounding the Catamounts 48-46 for the game.

If they defeat Elon, ASU will get a first round bye in the Southern Conference Tournament next week in Chattanooga, Tenn.



Peter Larkins | Chief Photographer

Senior Herbert Jones (25) spins and soars to the basket for a score. Jones led the team with 18 points on Senior Night against Western Carolina.



ASU professor takes a look back over the years of change at ASU

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Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian

Construction workers finish breaking down the covering that protected the masonry of the front of the new Rankin Science Building

MYDROPBOX catches plagiarizers in their tracks

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

Almost 80 percent of college students admit to cheating, according to a study by The Center for Academic Integrity. In accordance, Appalachian State University is determined for its students to hold up certain scholastic standards.

"Academic integrity is at the absolute foundation of a college education," Vice Chancellor for Student Development Cindy A. Wallace said. "It is something we have to address because it is an epidemic on college campuses right now and we have to find a solution."

The university is testing a new plagiarism detection program called MYDROPBOX.

The program allows students and professors to submit papers to be checked for duplications.

Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Neal G. Lineback said MYDROPBOX would cost Appalachian \$7,000 to \$8,000 annually, if it is implemented next year.

Dr. Stephen J. Breiner, associate director for Information Technology Services, said faculty members have expressed concerns that there was no way to tell if significant plagiarism was occurring without spending a lot of time with each paper.

Breiner said the program compares submitted papers and 4.2 billion independent documents to Internet sites.

"I think it is a wonderful thing," Lineback said. "It is easy to use, almost like a spell check."

After being processed, the paper is sent back to the submitter with problem sentences highlighted.

"The idea was to establish this program where students

could submit their papers and get back originality reports in the hope that then they could start recognizing when what they are doing is not appropriate," Breiner said.

The program is being tested by about 50 professors campus-wide.

At the end of the semester, participants are asked to write an assessment report for the program. If the university decides to buy the program, it will be in place for the Fall 2005 semester.

Although Breiner acknowledged the software would deter students from plagiarizing, he said that is not the main objective of using the program.

"The goal is not to nail students, the goal at this point is to educate people in what constitutes plagiarism," he said.

"We're trying expressly not to send the message to students that we don't trust

Library, Rankin Science projects complete this spring

JUSTIN BOULMAY
Senior Staff Writer

Two major campus construction projects, the Belk Library & Information Commons and the addition to Rankin Science Building, should be completed by the end of the spring semester.

Rankin will hold mostly research labs and offices for faculty members. The new building will hold space for the geology department on the first floor, the department of biology on the second floor and the department of astronomy on the rooftop area.

After the new building is complete, renovations in the old Rankin Science Building will begin.

The third and fourth floors will be redone first,

followed by the bottom two.

"When they're complete, we'll move out of the first and second [floor] and renovate that," Director of Design and Construction Clyde D. Robbins said.

Each renovation is expected to take six months, he said.

The entire project, including the two new buildings and future renovation of Old Rankin, will cost \$11.5 million. The funds are part of the 2000 North Carolina bond.

The Belk Library & Information Commons is ahead of schedule and should be open in May, Project Manager Patrick A. Beville said.

"We're in our finishing up stages," Beville said.

"We've already got ceilings in, carpeting in on the third, second and first floor. We're doing touchups and final inspections on the third and second floor. The first floor will probably be punched out in another two weeks."

Construction workers are currently painting and installing ceiling on the lower and fourth floors, Beville said.

When the building is ready to receive books, the current Belk Library will close for a few weeks.

University Librarian Mary Reichel said the library will keep its reference and instructional areas open during the move.

The ABC Express program, a program where

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ASG goes to Washington

ANNA OAKES
Senior Staff Writer

After the possibility of budget cuts to several higher education programs were announced, North Carolina students went to Washington, D.C. in defense of those programs.

The Association of Student Governments, a student body representing the 16 student governments in the University of North Carolina system, traveled to the nation's capital last week to talk to elected officials on behalf of students.

"This was a step in the right direction for ASG to attain visible presence at our nation's capital," Appalachian

State University student body President Miriam N. Makhyouon said.

This is the first time ASG has made a trip to Washington, Makhyouon said.

About 50 students departed Raleigh Feb. 16 for the trip.

The group's main focus for the lobbying mission was funding for the Higher Education Act of 1965, ASG vice president for student and academic affairs Jud Watkins said.

The HEA funds many programs designed to help minorities and students from lower socio-economic levels attend college, Makhyouon said.

Watkins said reauthorization of the HEA will be voted on this year.

Under President George W. Bush's recent budget proposal, HEA-funded programs such as Upward Bound and GEAR UP, which help low-income middle- and high-school students prepare for college, face elimination.

Watkins said he has worked with students in both programs before.

"I see these low socio-economic groups and minority students who don't have the means that [others] do," Watkins said. "To say, 'Yes, we have financial aid, if you get the grades, you can go to college' is the kind of promise I don't want to see broken."

ASG students split up to meet with congressional representatives from their respective districts.

Watkins and Makhyouon hoped to speak with 5th-District Rep. Virginia Foxx, but Foxx was absent and they were able to speak with her legislative assistant instead, Watkins said.

The group split into two teams to speak with Sens. Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr. Dole and Burr were also not available, and the teams spoke with their legislative assistants instead.

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