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FURMAN'S SMITH SCORES 28 TO LEAD LADY PALADINS
PAST EAST TENNESSEE STATE 69-61

GREENVILLE — Jackie Smith poured in 28 points and teammate Amy King added 16 to lead Furman's Lady Paladins to a 69-61 Southern Conference win over the visiting East Tennessee State Lady Buccaneers Saturday afternoon at Timmons Arena.

Smith, a junior forward and the reigning Southern Conference Player-of-the-Year, connected on 9-of-12 field goal attempts, including 3-of-3 3-pointers, and was a perfect 7-of-7 from the free throw line for her game high 28 points. King, meanwhile, connected on three 3-pointers and claimed a game high eight rebounds to go along with her 16 points.

"We played very well in the first half, showed patience, and made the extra pass," said Furman head coach Sherry Carter, whose squad recorded 17 assists on 23 field goals. "Our effort in the first half is what we strive for every game — we played with poise, our concentration was there, and our defensive intensity was high. We lost some focus in the second half, but that's because we had a couple of our starters foul out and because we got a little tired."

Leading 37-25 at halftime, Furman extended its lead to 17 points on three occasions in the second half and took total control of the contest when Jackie Smith scored on a layup with 8:39 left to give the Lady Paladins a 59-42 advantage.

In claiming its second straight win, Furman (2-4, 2-0 SoCon) shot 44.2 percent from the field and 46.7 percent from 3-point range. East Tennessee State (0-6, 0-1 SoCon) was paced by Carla McKinney's career high 20 points, with Leslie Burleson and Shawn Thompson each adding 11 for the Lady Buccaneers, who hit only 21-of-62 field goal attempts (33.9 percent) and only 2-of-18 3-pointers in the contest.

Furman returns to action on Tuesday when its hosts UNC Charlotte in a 7:00 p.m. contest.

(For More Information, Contact: Hunter Reid)