

## ASU picked to win SoCon by Media

Written by Mike Kelly  
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The accolades just keep pouring in for Appalachian State University.

Despite the loss of Armanti Edwards--without question the greatest player in ASU history--the Mountaineers find themselves as pre-season favorites in the Southern Conference this season. They were picked to win the league in the coaches poll on Monday. They were picked as the top team by the media on Tuesday.

The Apps received 22 first-place votes and 259 points. Elon was picked to finish second. The Phoenix, 9-3 last season, received six first-place votes.

"Until any team in our league proves that we can beat Appalachian, they are still the barometer," Elon head coach Pete Lembo said.

ASU defeated Elon 27-10 last season on the road. And quarterback Scott Riddle, the SoCon pre-season Offensive Player of the Year, threw three interceptions in that game. Furman was picked to finish third, and received one first-place vote.

Chattanooga, one of the most improved teams in the conference, was picked to finish fourth in the Media Poll. Samford was picked to finish sixth, but the Bulldogs did receive one first-place vote.

But the big question looms for ASU---replacing Edwards, who backboned ASU to a pair of national titles and was a two-time winner of the Walter Payton Award. Jamal Jackson and DeAndre Presley hope to fill those shoes this fall.

"We went through the same thing with Richie Williams," Moore said after the Southern Conference installed his squad as its preseason favorite. "He had a terrific year and a good career, Armanti stepped in there, played well, and I hope that (now) we can develop one or two other guys.

"And I like what I've seen so far. They're like a lot of quarterbacks in our conference. They're athletic, and I like their leadership skills."

ASU begins the season at Chattanooga on September 4. ASU owns a 23-10 lead in the series.

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### SOUTHERN CONFERENCE PRESEASON POLL (Media)

1. Appalachian State (22 first place votes), 259 points
2. Elon (6), 231
3. Furman (1), 197
4. Chattanooga, 157
5. Wofford, 152
6. Samford (1), 141
7. Georgia Southern, 116

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8. Western Carolina, 52
9. The Citadel, 45