Written by Mike Kelly
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Armanti Edwards went through his first day of practice with the Carolina Panthers on Thursday.

The Panthers officially opened training camp at Gibbs Stadium at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC on July 28. There are 80 players in camp, including Edwards, a third-round pick (89th player taken overall) in the National Football League draft in April.

Edwards, who rewrote the record book at Appalachian State University and in the Southern Conference, is a four-time All-America (the first in school history) and a two-time Walter Payton Award winner (the first two-time winner in the history of the award).

And Panthers coach John Fox feels Edwards can be a major contributor this season.

"He's definitely a playmaker," Fox said. "He's good with the ball in his hands. He proved that in his college career at the quarterback position. There are a lot of different roles on this football team that have to be filled, and we'll evaluate him in a few of them."

The Panthers worked out Thursday morning on a very hot and humid day. The heat index was at 105 degrees (each practice session lasts between 90-minutes and two hours). Edwards saw his share of work on his first day of practice. And the former quarterback, who is now a wide receiver, is willing to help in anyway he can.

"Before the draft, everybody wanted me to come here. Now that I'm here, I've got a lot of people supporting me," Edwards said. "I've had a lot of people texting and calling, asking when practice is open so they can come.

"I'll do anything, whatever is the quickest way to get on the field. I'm getting comfortable at receiver and at catching punts and a couple of kickoffs."

Training camp runs through August 18. The team will then make its way to Charlotte. The pre-season opener will be in Baltimore against the Ravens on Thursday, August 12. The season opener will be in the Meadowlands Sunday, September 12 against the New York Giants.

Our first Panthers broadcast will be August 12 at 7 pm on Mix 102.3 FM.