

Vitaris Named SoCon Special Teams Player of the Week

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Appalachian State University place kicker Jason Vitaris, who matched a career high with three field goals in the Mountaineers' 44-16 victory over North Carolina Central, has been named the Southern Conference's Special Teams Player of the Week, the league announced on Monday.

Vitaris converted all three of his field-goal attempts from 34, 24 and 29 yards in Saturday's win, marking the third time in 14 games that he has booted three field goals in a game. Prior to Vitaris first accomplishing the feat at The Citadel on Oct. 3 of last season, no Mountaineer had made three field goals in a game since Erik Rockhold versus Morehead State in 2003.

Vitaris was also perfect on five extra-point attempts versus NCCU, giving him a team-best 29 points on the season (4-of-5 field goals and 17-of-17 PATs). The only kick that Vitaris has missed all season was a 49-yard field-goal attempt in the season opener at Chattanooga that video replays have appeared to show was actually through the uprights.

The SoCon recognition is the second of Vitaris' career. The senior also earned the award after booting three field goals, including a career-long 49-yarder, in a rain-soaked win at Wofford on Oct. 17 of last year. ASU has had at least one player honored by the SoCon each week this season — quarterback DeAndre Presley was the Offensive Player of the Week after the season-opening win at UTC and wide receiver Brian Quick received the plaudits following last week's victory over Jacksonville.