

The Appalachian State football team continued its domination of the Southern Conference on Saturday afternoon in Cullowee, NC.

The Apps (7-0 overall; 5-0 in the SoCon) scored on three of their first four possessions in the opening stanza and blew out Western Carolina 37-14 at E.J. Whitmire Stadium. It was Appalachian's sixth consecutive win against the Catamounts (2-6; 1-4 SoCon), and the 24th time ASU has beaten Western in their last 26 meetings. The Mountaineers also retain the Old Mountain Jug, and since the battle began 35 years ago in 1976, ASU has captured the jug 28 times. All-time, ASU owns a commanding 56-18 lead in the series with a tie.

Saturday's win was also Appalachian's 25th consecutive victory in SoCon play. The conference record is 30 straight wins by West Virginia in the 1950s. And Appalachian's conference winning streak is the longest in the nation at the Division I (FCS and FBS) levels.

Quarterback DeAndre Presley, the four-time SoCon Offensive Player of the Week, set the tone early with a pair of touchdown runs. He scored on an 11-yard run on Appalachian's first possession. He also tallied on a four-yard run.

The Catamounts finally got on the board with 2:52 left in the first half when quarterback Zac Brindise hooked up with Marquel Pittman on a 32-yard scoring strike, making it 20-7. But the Mountaineers answered quickly as Presley marched his team 91 yards in just eight plays for a 27-7 halftime lead. Presley completed the drive by scoring on a seven-yard run. The junior from Tampa, Fla., had 207 yards, including 73 on the ground in the first half, and scored three times in the first half alone.

"We took control of the game early," ASU coach Jerry Moore said. "But after that, I thought the game got real sloppy. We know what we're facing right now. It's nice to be 7-0, but we must keep things in perspective. We can't afford to look past Furman."

For the game, Presley, who should win Socon offensive player honors for the fifth time this season and for the third consecutive week, was 21-29 passing for 185 yards. He also ran for 87 yards and scored three times.

Adding to their woes, the Catamounts turned it over four times. WCU did put together an impressive drive to start the second half, marching the ball from its 22 down to the Appalachian 27-yard-line. But the Catamounts fumbled the ball away, and the Mountaineers promptly marched it the other way, going 73 yards in just five plays, grabbing a commanding 34-7 lead. Travaris Cadet scored his second rushing touchdown of the year on a ten-yard run to close out the drive. Cadet finished with a game-high 80 rushing yards on just nine carries.

The catamounts also made several critical mistakes that wiped out at least three possible scoring chances. Pittman dropped a potential touchdown pass in the first quarter; Sidney Rhodes went the distance with the opening kick-off of the second half, but it was wiped out by a holding call; and running back Michael Johnson fumbled the ball away at the one-yard line in the final stanza.

UPDATED: ASU whips WCU, 37-14

Written by Mike Kelly
Saturday, 23 October 2010 18:03

Tight end Matt Cline caught seven passes for 60 yards. Defensively, D.J. Smith had 13 stops and broke up a pass. Sophomore John Rizor from Fayetteville, NC, turned in one his best performances of the year. He made six tackles, two tackles-for-loss and he recovered a fumble. "We still have a lot of work to do, Rizor said. "Like coach Moore says, 'everyone is going to give us their best shot.' And we have to take the life out of them. But there's still a lot of games left to play. It was nice to win this game, but we still have a lot of work to do. This is not the time for us to get complacent."

The Mountaineers also had four quarterback sacks on the day, and the Apps now need only one more win to make themselves playoff eligible.

"Our defense did a great job in the second quarter," Moore said. "They took over at midfield for the better part of the second quarter. We got pinned deep in our territory on a few possessions and couldn't move the ball, but our defense was able to stop them.

"They never took advantage of that good field position. But I felt we lost our intensity and lost control of things late in the game. We can't do that."

The Mountaineers return home to play Furman next Saturday. Our coverage begins at 1:30 pm on AM 1450, WATA.

NOTES: There were 14,400 in attendance for Saturday's game at E.J. Whitmire Stadium, the fourth-largest crowd in school history..... in two career starts against WCU (2008 and 2010), Presley has accounted for 586 yards of total offense and seven touchdowns ... Mark LeGree (Columbus, Ga./Pacelli Catholic) moved into a tie for second in SoCon history with his 22nd career interception on Saturday, two behind former teammate Corey Lynch (2003-07).

SCORING:

	1	2	3	4	T
ASU	20	7	7	3	- 37
WCU	0	7	7	0	- 14

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1Q: 11:38 ASU - PRESLEY 11 YARD RUN (VITARIS KICK) 7-0

3:47 ASU - PRESLEY 4 YARD RUN (KICK NO GOOD) 13-0

1:22 ASU - BAKER 2 YARD RUN (VITARIS KICK) 20-0

2Q: 2:56 WCU - PITTMAN 32 YARD PASS FROM BRINDISE (BOSTIC KICK) 20-7

0:40 ASU - PRESLEY 7 YARD RUN (VITARIS KICK) 27-7

3Q: 9:10 ASU - CADET 10 YARD RUN (VITARIS KICK) 34-7

2:36 WCU - JOHNSON 3 YARD RUN (BOSTIC KICK) 34-14

4Q: 14:36 ASU - VITARIS 33 YARD FIELD GOAL 37-14

FIRST DOWNS: ASU 21, WCU 22

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TOTAL YARDS: ASU 391, WCU 349

RUSHING YARDS: ASU 206, WCU 88

PASSING YARDS: ASU 185, WCU 261

PENALTIES: ASU 5-51, WCU 4-40

ASU: RUSHING - PRESLEY 9-87, CADET 9-80

PASSING - PRESLEY 21-29 185

RECEIVING - CLINE 7-60, QUICK 4-48

WCU: RUSHING - JOHNSON 22-58

PASSING - 18-32-1 261

RECEIVING - ALEXANDER 9-151

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In Other Games:

Wofford 28, Elon 21

Eric Breitenstein rambled for 152 yards on 31 carries to pace the Terriers, who remain just one-half game behind ASU for first place in the Southern Conference. The Terriers, who let a 14-0 halftime lead slip away, won the game on Mitch Allen's 41-yard scoring toss to Devin Reed with nine seconds left in regulation time. The Terriers (6-1 overall; 4-0 SoCon) ran for 246 yards; defensively, they held Elon to 67 yards on the ground. Phoenix quarterback Scott Riddle was 28-40 for 232 yards, three touchdowns with an interception and he was sacked twice. Wofford travels to Boone on November 13. The game will be televised on SportsSouth at 3 pm.

Chattanooga 36, Furman 28

The Mocs rallied with 26 points in the fourth quarter and defeated Furman. Chattanooga has now won five in a row after an 0-2 start. The win leaves UTC in third place at 4-1 in the

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Southern Conference. Furman falls to 2-2 in league play. Quarterback B.J. Coleman had a huge game, despite four interceptions. He was 33-58 for 432 yards and two touchdown passes. His nine-yard strike to Joel Bradford with 8:57 left in the game put the Mocs on top to stay at 29-28. Furman travels to Boone to play ASU next Saturday.

Georgia Southern 20, The Citadel 0