Former Appalachian State University all-American and current Denver Broncos standout Jason Hunter (Fayetteville, N.C./E.E. Smith) is one of 32 outside linebackers on the AFC ballot for the 2011 National Football League Pro Bowl, the NFL announced this week.

A fifth-year pro, Hunter signed with Denver in August after being released by the Detroit Lions midway through training camp. Despite entering camp late with the Broncos and moving to outside linebacker in Denver's 3-4 defensive scheme after playing defensive end for his entire pro career, Hunter has appeared in all seven games with six starts in his first year with the club. He ranks fourth on the squad with 30 tackles, second with two sacks and is tied for the team lead after making his first career interception two weeks ago versus the New York Jets.

At Appalachian, Hunter played an integral role in the Mountaineers' first NCAA Division I-AA national championship in 2005, teaming with another future pro in Marques Murrell to form one of the most prolific defensive-end duos in all of college football. Hunter tallied 101 tackles as a senior in '05, including 13 sacks and 24.5 tackles for loss, en route to first-team all-America recognition.

However, his ASU career will forever be defined by two plays in the final two games of the Mountaineers' first title campaign. In the waning seconds of the national semifinals versus Furman, Hunter stripped FU quarteback (and future Green Bay Packers teammate) Ingle Martin to seal a heart-stopping 29-23 victory and send Appalachian to its first-ever national championship game. Then, in the fourth quarter of the title game versus Northern Iowa, he scooped up a fumble forced by Murrell and rumbled 15 yards for what proved to be the game-winning touchdown in Appalachian's 21-16 triumph.

Hunter signed with the Packers as a rookie free agent in 2006 and spent three seasons in Green Bay before suiting up for Detroit in 2009.

Hunter is looking to become the first Mountaineer to earn a Pro Bowl invitation since Dexter Coakley made the last of his three Pro Bowl appearances with the Dallas Cowboys in 2003. To vote for Hunter, visit www.nfl.com/probowl .