

Mountaineers remain perfect

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 30 October 2010 20:27



Appalachian State staved off a huge challenge by one of its biggest rivals and clinched a playoff spot in the process on Saturday afternoon at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

The Mountaineers (8-0 overall; 6-0 in the Southern Conference) held on to beat 37-26 Furman on Black Saturday. The Mountaineers used a strong running game led by Travaris Cadet and a stubborn defense to keep the Paladins (4-4; 2-3) at bay.

Cadet, who is slowly establishing himself as a huge weapon at running back, ran for 108 yards on 25 carries and scored three touchdowns.

"God bless me with a lot of talent," Cadet said. "And I have Him to thank for that. But I'm not satisfied. I had a good game today, but I have to keep at it. I can always get better."

It was also Appalachian's sixth consecutive win against the Paladins. But it was also a sloppy effort. Quarterback DeAndre Presley had an off day, completing 13 of 27 passes for 137 yards and a touchdown. He also threw his first interception of the year.

The Apps were also flagged ten times for 106 yards, something that didn't sit well with head coach Jerry Moore.

"Penalties are just eating us up," he said. "I bet we had four times tonight that we were first and 20 and that is hard to overcome against a good football team. The worst part of it is that it takes you out of sync and it's just a downer. It takes away the emotion that you have.

"In a way it was your typical Furman game. We just weren't as sharp offensively as we had been all year long, but I thought our defense played well."

Jabari Fletcher, who received his first SoCon Defensive Player of the Week honors after last week's performance at Western Carolina, was at it again on Saturday. The senior from Atlanta, Ga., had five tackles, a half-quarterback sack and a half-tackle-for-loss. But his biggest moment came in the third quarter.

With ASU leading 14-6, Fletcher picked up Cody Worley's fumble and rambled 40 yards for his first career touchdown, giving ASU a 15-point advantage.

"I saw the gold and sucked it up," Fletcher said. "I wasn't going to let them catch me. I did a good imitation of Forest Gump. I just turned it on and didn't let up until I got into the end zone."

Troy Sanders scored Appalachian's final points on a blocked extra point. It was reminiscent of what happened in 2002 (when Josh Jeffries interceptioned a two-point conversion pass and pitched it to Derrick Black that gave ASU two-points and a 16-14 win), but not as dramatic. After Furman scored on Worley's five-yard scoring toss to Daniel McFadden with 2:38 left to make it 35-26, ASU blocked Ray Early's extra-point try and Sanders returned it 96 yards for a two-point conversion, giving ASU an 11-point lead.

"The bottom line is, Luke Wynn is our snapper," said Furman coach Bobby Lamb. "He has

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been our snapper all year long. He got a concussion in the first half, so we have a guy snapping with a cast on his hand. The snap may have been a little low and we didn't handle it very well and they blocked it.

"But we really fought our guts out. I mean I am proud of our kids, they really fought their guts out. The only thing you can ask when you're playing the number one team in the country is to have a chance and an opportunity in the fourth quarter and they gave us that"

ASU also won its eight-straight game against Furman at home. The Paladins haven't won at Kidd Brewer Stadium since 1996. The Apps have also won 26 consecutive games in SoCon play. But Cadet admits, this one had a playoff atmosphere.

"It was definitely a playoff-type game," Cadet said. "But we can and must play better. All those penalties we had are unacceptable. You can't do that against good teams without paying a price. We have the talent, and we work hard in practice, but we need to be more disciplined when we go up against a good team like we did today."

Presley ran 16 times for 80 yards; Brian Quick caught four passes for 46 yards. The Apps racked up 363 total yards. ASU hits the road next Saturday. The Mountaineers travel to Statesboro, Ga., as they take on Georgia Southern. Our coverage begins at high noon on AM 1450, WATA.

NOTES: ASU junior wide receiver Brian Quick became only the fourth player in ASU history with 2,000 career receiving yards on a 19-yard reception in the third quarter. Rick Beasley (3,124 – 1978-80), DaVon Fowlkes (2,960 – 2001-04) and Bob Agle (2,151 – 1965-68) are the other 2,000-yard receivers in ASU history.....ASU junior running back Travaris Cadet scored on runs of nine, one and one yards for his first career multi-touchdown gameAppalachian (8-0, 6-0 SoCon) moved to 8-0 for only the second time in the program's 81-year history.....Despite Saturday's loss, Furman still leads the all-time series, 21-11-1.

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FURMAN	0	6	14	6	-	26
ASU	7	7	14	9	-	37

FIRST QTR.:

6:14 ASU: CADET 5 YARD RUN (VITARIS KICK) 7-0

SECOND QTR:

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10:21 FUR: EARLY 20 YARD FIELD GOAL 7-3

6:35 FUR: EARLY 21 YARD FIELD GOAL 7-6

3:28 ASU: CADET 1 YARD RUN (VITARIS KICK) 14-6

THIRD QTR:

14:14 ASU: FLETCHER 40 YARD FUMBLE RETURN (VITARIS KICK) 21-6

13:56 FUR: UHAA 2 YARD RUN (EARLY KICK) 21-13

8:44 ASU: JORDAN 5 YARD PASS FROM PRESLEY (VITARIS KICK) 28-13

1:45 FUR: WILLIAMS 5 YARD PASS FROM WORLEY (EARLY KICK) 28-20

FOURTH QTR:

9:27 ASU: CADET 1 YARD RUN (VITARIS KICK) 35-20

2:38 FUR: McFADDEN 5 YARD PASS FROM WORLEY (KICK BLOCKED) 35-26

2:38 ASU: SANDERS RETURNS BLOCKED EXTRA POINT 37-26

FIRST DOWNS: ASU 22, FURMAN 14

TOTAL YARDS: ASU 363, FURMAN 266

RUSHING YARDS: ASU 226, FURMAN 137

PASSING YARDS: ASU 137, FURMAN 129

PENALTIES: ASU 10-106, FURMAN 5-20

ASU:

RUSHING: CADET 25-108; PRESLEY 16-80

PASSING: PRESLEY 13-27 137-1-1

RECEIVING: QUICK 4-46; HILLARY 2-45

FURMAN:

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RUSHING: WILLIAMS 7-59; CUNNINGHAM 2-41

PASSING: WORLEY 10-23-90-0-1

RECEIVING: MAPLES 3-27