

LeGree, Fletcher Earn All-America Recognition

Written by Mike Flynn

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Defensive back Mark LeGree (Columbus, Ga./Pacelli Catholic) and defensive end Jabari Fletcher (Atlanta, Ga./Grady) picked up Appalachian State University's first all-America accolades of 2010 when the duo was tabbed for the recognition by the American Football Coaches Association on Tuesday.

In earning the honors from the AFCA, LeGree becomes just the fifth three-time all-American in Appalachian history while Fletcher earns the acclaim for the first time.

LeGree, a 6-0, 200-pound senior, is the NCAA Division I active leader with 22 career interceptions, four more than any other active FCS or FBS player. The 22 interceptions are good for second in Southern Conference history and third in ASU's all-time annals. Despite opposing offenses steering away from the ball-hawking safety for much of the year, LeGree has still picked off five passes as a senior, good for a tie for 24th nationally. He has also broken up six passes and made 46 tackles in his final collegiate campaign.

Fletcher, a 6-3, 265-pound senior, leads the Mountaineers and ranks among the national and conference leaders with eight sacks and 14.5 tackles for loss this season. During the course of his spectacular senior campaign, he was twice named SoCon Player of the Week and was also recognized as the conference's October Player of the Month. With 21 sacks and 42.5 tackles for loss in his career, Fletcher is one of only seven players in ASU history to register 20 sacks and 40 tackles for loss in a career.

Both LeGree and Fletcher garnered first-team all-conference recognition from the SoCon's coaches and media and are among 20 finalists for the Buck Buchanan Award, which recognizes the nation's top FCS defensive player.

The AFCA has selected all-America teams every year since 1945 and its accolades are among college football's most prestigious because only 25 players — all first-teamers — receive the recognition.

The ACFA all-America team is the first of many that will be announced over the coming month. Other Mountaineer all-America candidates include quarterback DeAndre Presley (Tampa,

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Fla./Middleton), linebacker D.J. Smith (Charlotte, N.C./Independence), offensive linemen Daniel Kilgore (Kingsport, Tenn./Dobyns-Bennett), Brett Irvin (Gaffney, S.C./Gaffney) and Pat Mills (Charlotte, N.C./Providence), place kicker Jason Vitaris (Seneca, S.C./Seneca), wide receiver Brian Quick (Columbia, S.C./Ridge View) and tight end Ben Jordan (Weddington, N.C./Charlotte Latin).