

Six Mountaineers Tabbed All-America by TSN, Phil Steele

Written by Mike Flynn
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Highlighted by consensus first-team All-American Mark LeGree (Columbus, Ga./Pacelli Catholic), six Appalachian State University football players earned various all-America honors this week.

The Sports Network named LeGree and linebacker D.J. Smith (Charlotte, N.C./Independence) to its first team, defensive end Jabari Fletcher (Atlanta, Ga./Grady) to its second team and quarterback DeAndre Presley (Tampa, Fla./Middleton) to one of its three all-America teams, with the announcement of which team delayed until next month's presentation of the 2010 Walter Payton Award.

Phil Steele publications tabbed LeGree as a first-team all-American, Presley, Fletcher, Smith and wide receiver Brian Quick (Columbia, S.C./Ridge View) as second-team honorees and offensive tackle Daniel Kilgore (Kingsport, Tenn./Dobyns-Bennett) as a third-team selection.

LeGree, who already earned first-team honors from the Associated Press, American Football Coaches Association and Walter Camp Football Foundation, is only the second three-time consensus first-team All-American in Appalachian history, joining two-time Buck Buchanan Award winner and three-time NFL Pro Bowler Dexter Coakley. A 6-0, 200-pound senior defensive back, LeGree finished his career as the active leader in NCAA Division I with 22 career interceptions, four more than any other FCS or FBS player active in 2010. 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 picked off five passes as a senior, good for a tie for 20th nationally. He also broke up eight passes and made 49 tackles in his final collegiate campaign.

Smith led the SoCon and ranked fifth nationally with 144 total tackles this season. The 6-1, 235-pound senior also recorded four-and-a-half tackles for loss, two sacks, five quarterback hurries, four pass break-ups, an interception and a fumble recovery and finished his career with 525 tackles, the most among all Division I players (FCS or FBS) active in 2010. His 525 career stops rank fourth in SoCon history and he joined Coakley as the only players in ASU history to surpass the 500-tackle plateau.

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Fletcher, a 6-3, 265-pound senior defensive end, led the Mountaineers with nine sacks (good for a tie for 13th nationally) and 16.5 tackles for loss (tied for 19th nationally) 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 22 sacks and 44.5 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.

In his first season as a starter, Presley became only the fourth player in FCS history to pass for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 yards in a season. The 5-11, 170-pound junior finished the season with 2,631 passing yards (20th nationally) and 1,039 rushing yards (28th nationally and second among QBs), good for third nationally in total offense (3,670 yards). The SoCon Offensive Player of the Year accounted for 35 touchdowns (21 passing, 13 rushing and one receiving), the second-highest total in the nation.

He is joined on The Sports Network all-America teams by the other two top-three vote-getters for the Walter Payton Award (FCS Player of the Year) Western Illinois quarterback Matt Barr and Stephen F. Austin signal-caller Jeremy Moses. The winner of the Payton Award and the order in which the trio falls for all-America recognition will be announced at The Sports Network NCAA Division I FCS Awards Presentation on Jan. 6 in Frisco, Texas.

Bringing the all-time total of ASU all-Americans to 81 are Quick and Kilgore. Quick, a 6-5, 220-pound junior, finished among the SoCon's top five in both receiving yardage and touchdown receptions. His 17.7 career yards per catch leads all active FCS players. Kilgore, a 6-3, 285-pound senior, anchored an offensive front that surrendered only eight sacks in 13 games and helped lead the Mountaineers to top-10 national rankings in scoring (seventh - 34.3 ppg), rushing (eighth - 217.4 ypg) and total offense (10th - 430.9 ypg).