

LeGree Added to List of NFL Combine Invites

Written by Mike Flynn

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Former Appalachian State University defensive back Mark LeGree (Columbus, Ga./Pacelli Catholic) has received an invitation to participate in next month's NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis.

With LeGree's invitation, Appalachian will have three representatives at the prestigious event. Former Mountaineer offensive lineman Daniel Kilgore (Kingsport, Tenn./Dobyns-Bennett) and linebacker D.J. Smith (Charlotte, N.C./Independence) accepted Combine invites earlier this month.

The NFL Combine is the annual job fair for prospective new NFL players. From Feb. 23-March 1 at Lucas Oil Stadium, players are put through a series of drills, tests and interviews in front of more than 600 NFL personnel including head coaches, general managers and scouts.

LeGree 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.

With LeGree's invitation, Appalachian will have three representatives at the NFL Combine for only the third time since its inception in 1982. In 1996, defensive backs Jamie Coleman, Matt Stevens and Clarence Sutton all participated in the NFL Combine. Stevens was selected in the third round of the 1996 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills and enjoyed a eight-year professional career, highlighted by winning a Super Bowl ring with the New England Patriots in 2001.

Prior to the Combine, Kilgore, LeGree and Smith will all represent ASU at the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) college all-star game on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. ET at the Alamodome in San Antonio (live on CBS College Sports). Formerly known as the Texas vs. the Nation game, the NFLPA Game will continue to pit players with ties to the state of Texas against

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players from the rest of the United States. Kilgore, LeGree and Smith and the rest of the Nation team will be coached by former Houston Oilers and Atlanta Falcons coach Jerry Glanville.