

Appalachian Completes 2011 Football Schedule

Written by Mike Flynn

Monday, 31 January 2011 17:56

Six home games, including three in September, and a season-opening contest versus one of college football's most powerful programs highlights Appalachian State University's 2011 football schedule, which was announced by ASU director of athletics Charlie Cobb on Monday.

Appalachian opens the 2011 campaign at Virginia Tech. The season-opening matchup pits two of only three NCAA Division I programs that have won at least 10 games each of the last six years (Ohio State is the third). Despite being separated by less than 150 miles, the Mountaineers and Hokies are squaring off for only the fourth time ever and the first time since 1982. Virginia Tech won each of the three previous meetings between the programs, all of which took place at VT's Lane Stadium in a four-year span from 1979-82 (the teams did not meet in 1980). The Mountaineers are 7-27-1 all-time against current members of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

In 2007, Appalachian became the first FCS program (Football Championship Subdivision — formerly Division I-AA) to defeat a nationally ranked FBS foe when it topped No. 5 Michigan, 34-32. Last season, Virginia Tech became the second ranked FBS program to fall to an FCS opponent when the 13th-ranked Hokies fell to James Madison, 21-16. Following the loss to JMU, VT went on to win 11-straight games, including a 44-33 triumph over Florida State in the ACC championship game that propelled the Hokies to their third Orange Bowl appearance in five years.

Following the opener at Virginia Tech, ASU settles in for a very rare string of three-consecutive home games, beginning with the home opener on Sept. 10 versus North Carolina A&T, followed by a Sept. 17 date against another Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference foe in Savannah State and the Sept. 24 Southern Conference opener versus Chattanooga. The three-consecutive games at Kidd Brewer Stadium, where ASU has led FCS in regular-season attendance for each of the past four years, mark only the third time in Appalachian's 82-year football history that the Mountaineers will play regular-season home games on three-straight Saturdays (the Apps also played at home on three-consecutive weekends in Sept. 1957 and Sept. 1981).

Chattanooga's visit on Sept. 24 begins Appalachian's pursuit of a seventh-straight SoCon championship, which would break a tie with Georgia Southern (1997-2002) for the most consecutive titles in the league's 90-year football history. Two of the Mountaineers' toughest conference challenges come at the beginning of the SoCon slate, as a trip to 2010 SoCon co-champion Wofford is set for Oct. 1.

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Following a bye on Oct. 8, ASU closes out the regular season at The Citadel (Oct. 15), home against Samford (Oct. 22) and Georgia Southern (Oct. 29), at Furman (Nov. 5) home versus Western Carolina (Nov. 12) and at Elon (Nov. 19).

For the sixth-straight year, Appalachian's schedule includes six home games. As has been the case every year since 2008, the ledger is comprised entirely of Division I opponents and for the first time since 2004, all 11 foes come from either automatic-qualifying conferences for the NCAA Division I Football Championship or the FBS ranks. The fan-friendly slate also includes 10 of the 11 contests being played in the Carolinas, with the short trip to Virginia Tech being the only exception.

"We're pleased that we have met our annual goal of giving our great fans a lot of opportunities to see the Mountaineers in action with six home games and a travel-friendly road slate, all against Division I competition," Cobb said. "Once again, (associate athletics director) Jay Sutton has done a terrific job of overcoming a number of obstacles to put together the best possible schedule for our fans as well as our players and coaches."

Appalachian has also announced that its annual homecoming festivities will be held in conjunction with the Oct. 22 game versus Samford and Black Saturday will be Oct. 29 when the Mountaineers look to avenge last year's loss to Georgia Southern. Dates for other annual events, including Hall of Fame Day and Family Weekend, will be set soon. Kickoff times for ASU's six home games will not be set until television considerations are finalized in the coming months.

Information regarding 2011 ASU football tickets will be available at GoASU.com in the coming weeks.

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2011 APPALACHIAN STATE FOOTBALL REGULAR-SEASON SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Site	All-Time Series	Last Meeting
September 3	at Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, Va.	VT leads, 3-0	VT 34, ASU 0 (Oct. 23, 1982)
September 10	North Carolina A&T	Boone, N.C.	ASU leads, 4-1	ASU 38, A&T 31 (Sept. 16, 1995)
September 17	Savannah State	Boone, N.C.	First Meeting	—
September 24	Chattanooga*	Boone, N.C.	ASU leads, 24-10	ASU 42, UTC 41 (Sept. 4, 2010)
October 1	at Wofford*	Spartanburg, S.C.	ASU leads, 17-10	ASU 43, WOF 13 (Nov. 13, 2010)
October 15	at The Citadel*	Charleston, S.C.	ASU leads, 28-11	ASU 39, CIT 10 (Oct. 16, 2010)
October 22	Samford* (Homecoming)	Boone, N.C.	ASU leads, 4-1	ASU 35, SAM 17

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(Sept. 25, 2010)

October 29 Georgia Southern* (Black Saturday) Boone, N.C. ASU leads, 13-12-1 GSU 21, ASU 14 OT (Nov. 6, 2010)

November 5 at Furman* Greenville, S.C. FU leads, 21-17-3 ASU 37, FU 26 (Oct. 30, 2010)

November 12 Western Carolina* Boone, N.C. ASU leads, 56-18-1 ASU 37, WCU 14 (Oct. 23, 2010)

November 19 at Elon* Elon, N.C. ASU leads, 29-9-1 ASU 34, Elon 31 (Oct. 9, 2010)