Appalachian State University football opened spring practices by working out for nearly two hours at Kidd Brewer Stadium on Monday.

Monday's practice was the first of 15 permitted by the NCAA during the spring. Unlike last spring when winter weather forced the vast majority of spring drills to be held in the Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility, Monday's session was held outdoors in nearly perfect conditions on a 67-degree afternoon in the High Country. Per NCAA guidelines, the first practice of the spring was conducted in shorts, jerseys and helmets (no pads).

Despite many young players getting more reps than they have ever experienced at ASU, Monday's practice was up-tempo. Just like a normal in-season practice, Monday's session included individual, group and team drills, as well as extensive work on special teams. In particular, head coach Jerry Moore said that the Mountaineers worked on the running game on offense, especially in short-yardage situations, and on being in better position to make tackles on defense. More intensive work in both areas is expected when the squad straps on full pads for the first time this spring on Thursday.

"It was a good, spirited practice," Moore said of the spring's first session. "I was pleased with the intensity and focus of the players and that we, as coaches, got the opportunity to look at a lot of young players and see how they respond with the first and second teams."

POSITION CHANGES: A handful of Mountaineers were at new positions when the spring opened on Monday. Former wide receiver Rodger Walker, who saw some time at defensive back late last season, has made a permanent move to DB. Wide receiver Andrew Peacock, who joined Walker on the defensive side of the ball late last year, is back at WR. Trevor Sawyer, who was poised to see playing time at tight end last season before having his freshman season cut short by a shoulder injury, is seeing time at wide receiver this spring. Former offensive lineman Chris Marshall has moved to the defensive line.

Moore said that there could be more experimentation with position changes as the spring

progresses.

MAGAZU FOREGOES FINAL SEASON: Dominick Magazu, who has held the role as Appalachian's holder on place kicks the last two seasons, has decided to forego his final season of eligibility.

Magazu graduates from ASU in May but has a season of eligibility remaining. Instead of enrolling in graduate classes to compete on the gridiron in the fall, he will begin pursuit of a coaching career immediately following his graduation.

On Monday, redshirt freshman Logan Hallock got the lion's share of the reps at holder.

KIDD BREWER STADIUM TURF REPLACEMENT TO BEGIN ON MARCH 1: The replacement of the FieldTurf playing surface at Kidd Brewer Stadium will begin next Tuesday, March 1, ASU athletics announced on Monday.

The eight-year-old surface, which has been subject to more wear and tear than many similar fields due to the vast amount of activity at the stadium, is due for replacement this summer. However, it was decided on Monday that the field's crown would also be removed as part of the project, which necessitated that the work begin earlier. The installation of the new surface is scheduled to be completed by mid-summer, weather permitting.

While the turf is being replaced, all football-related activities will be held in the Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility.