Written by Mike Kelly
Saturday, 30 April 2011 17:39

Appalachian State linebacker D.J. Smith has made it a habit of playing for winning teams during his career.

In high school, he won four state championships and never lost a game playing for Independence High School; in college, he won a Football Championship Sub-Division national championship playing for the Moutaineers in 2007 as a true freshman. And now, he's a member of the winningest franchise in National Football League history---the Green Bay Packers.
The Packers, who have won 13 NFL and Super Bowl titles combined, including Super Bowl XLV last season, was selected by the Packers in the sixth round of the draft with the 186th pick.
Smith led the Southern Conference and ranked fifth nationally with 144 total tackles. He 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 Dexter Coakley, who will be inducted into the SoCon Hall of Fame on May 24, as the only players in ASU history to surpass the 500-tackle plateau.
Smith was named a third-team All-America by the Associated Press last season, and he was also one of 20 finalists (joined by ASU team-mates Jabari Fletcher and Mark LeGree) for the Buck Buchanan Award, which goes to the top defensive player in the country at the FCS level.
Smith is a two-time All-America. As a true freshman, he didn't crack the starting lineup until the seventh game of the season in 2007. But he still finished with 121 tackles (49 solo, 5.5 for loss, two interceptions, and 11 pass breakups. He was a three-time All-SoCon performer, and was a first team selection the last two years.