Ahmad Smith, who played college basketball at Appalachian State University, has been named an assistant coach at Charleston Southern.

Smith, who played two years for the Mountaineers and help them win a Southern Conference North Division title in 2003, was hired by Charleston Southern coach Barclay Radebaugh.

Smith, who will begin his duties as an assistant coach immediately, was coaching basketball over seas in Dublin, Ireland. He was the head men's and women's basketball coach at Institute of Technology Tallaght College in Dublin.

The women's team finished as team champions and the men's squad was a runners-up in 2011. Smith has a 74-45 record in his young head-coaching career. He also spent time with the Colaiste Eanna High School U19 Boys (2009-2011), and the Shamrock Rovers Hoops Professional Superleague, where he coached from August 2008 to March 2010.

"I am so appreciative to Coach Radebaugh for giving me this opportunity," said Smith. "It is great to be a part of the program and join this coaching staff. This is a great opportunity to further my coaching career."

Upon his graduation from ASU in 2004, Smith was an assistant coach under Houston Fancher from 2004-08. And he was a member of the ASU coaching staff in 2006-07, when the Mountaineers won the San Juan Shootout, a school record 25 games and received an invitation to the National Invitational Tournament. He was also a member of Fancher's coaching staff when the Mountaineers won the SoCon North Division championship in 2008.

**EAGLES No.1, MOUNTAINEERS No.5 IN PRE-SEASON POLL**

The college football season is still more than three months away, but the argument of just who is No.1 is starting to heat up in the Football Sub-Division Championship Series.

Georgia Southern, one of ASU's most bitter rivals, got the first crack at it. The Eagles, national semifinalists last fall, are ranked No.1 in the Athlon Pre-season Top 25 Poll. The Mountaineers, who host the Eagles on Black Saturday, October 29, are fifth in that poll. Wofford College, which shared a SoCon championship with the Mountaineers last fall, is eighth. And believe it or not,

Chattanooga, one of the most important teams in the Southern Conference the last two years, are ranked 16th.

The Mocs, who haven't been ranked in a pre-season poll since 1992, are coming off their second-consecutive 6-5 season. And the Mocs, who were ranked in The Sports Network Poll for two weeks last season (their first national ranking during regular-season play since 1997) will kick-off the 2011 season at Nebraska Saturday, September 3. The Mocs play at ASU on September 24.

And four of their first five games will be against FCS teams ranked in the Athlon Poll.