

## ASU Ranked In Top Five

Written by Mike Kelly

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The college football season is still a little more than two months away.

But for you football junkies yearning for the season start, Appalachian State has all ready been ranked in three different preseason polls. The Mountaineers are ranked No.1 in Lindy's Top 25 Poll, they're No.3 in the College Sporting News Top 25, and they're ranked fifth in the Athlon Poll. Defending national champion Eastern Washington is No.1 in the College Sporting News Poll; Georgia southern, which made it to the FCS semifinals last season, is No.1 in the Athlon Poll. The Eagles are third in Lindy's Poll, and sixth in the College Sporting News Poll. ASU is second in the consolidated rankings. Eastern Washington is No.1.

Wofford College, which shared the SoCon title with ASU last season, is ranked ninth in Lindy's Poll, tenth in the College Sporting News Poll, and eighth in the Athlon Poll. The Terriers are eighth in the consolidated ranking.

The Mountaineers, who won ten games last season before they were eliminated by Villanova in the quarterfinal round of the NCAA FCS playoffs, return a very experienced team on offense, especially at the skill positions. Defensively, questions abound, especially with the loss of some talented stars to graduation. The Mountaineers will also fashion a new look this season as they switch to a 3-4 alignment, primarily to take advantage of their athleticsim.

The Mountaineers have also won six consecutive Southern Conference championships; and during his tenure, head coach Jerry Moore, the deam of coaches in the SoCon, has won nine conference titles (his first coming in 1991) since he arrived in Boone back in 1989. Moore is the winningest coach in the SoCon history with 132 wins and in ASU history with 199. He also led ASU to three consecutive national championships from 2005-07.

The Mountaineers return DeAndre Presley at quarterback, who turned a lot of heads last fall, and filled the void left by two-time Walter Payton Award winner, Armanti Edwards. Presley amassed nearly 3,700 yards of offense last season, he ran for 13 touchdowns and he threw 21 touchdowns passes. Presley completed 61% of his attempts and was intercepted just seven times.

Travaris Cadet leads a very deep running game. The senior ran for 671 yards and a six touchdowns, he caught 19 passes for 218 yards and he returned 12 punts for 72 yards. But despite some question marks, the Mountaineers, Georgia Southern and Wofford College are listed among the top contenders for the SoCon championship in 2011 by The Sports Network. The Mountaineers play Georgia Southern at Kidd Brewer Stadium on Black Saturday, October 29; they play Wofford in Spartanburg, SC., on Saturday, October 1. ASU opens the season at Virginia Tech Saturday, September 3rd. The ASU Fanfest will be Saturday, August 20 at Kidd Brewer Stadium with Corey Smith in concert. For more information, please visit [goasu.com](http://goasu.com).

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