

Martin Named SoCon Player of the Week

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Tuesday, 06 September 2011 06:54

After matching a career-high with a lofty 45-yard punting average during Saturday's loss at Virginia Tech, Appalachian State University's Sam Martin (Fayetteville, Ga./Starr's Mills) has been named the Southern Conference Special Teams Player of the Week, the SoCon office announced on Monday.

A bright spot in Appalachian's 66-13 loss to the No. 13 (AP) Hokies, Martin's 45-yard average over eight punts equaled a career-best set last season at Florida (min. five punts). Two of his eight kicks traveled 50-plus yards, including a long of 59, and two were downed inside the five yard line. His 45-yard average ranked 12th nationally on the opening weekend of the season. The SoCon honor is the third of the junior's career. He was also named the league's Special Teams Player of the Week twice last season — after downing 3-of-7 punts inside the 20 yard line in a win at Samford and after averaging 43.7 yards per boot with four fair catches and two downed inside the 20 yards line in a victory over Furman.

Martin and the No. 3-ranked Mountaineers look to rebound from the season-opening loss when they host in-state rival North Carolina A&T on Saturday at Kidd Brewer Stadium. A limited number of reserved seats remain for ASU's 2011 home opener and can be purchased online at GoASU.com, by phone at (828) 262-2079 or in person at the ASU athletics ticket office located in the Holmes Center. Online ticket sales are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week while phone or in-person purchases can be made from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.