

Nelson Steps In For Mountaineers

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Matt Nelson, who has been an assistant coach with the Appalachian State University men's soccer team, has been named the acting head coach for the remainder of the season with the sudden passing of former head coach Shaun Pendleton on Tuesday.

During his first season at ASU, Nelson coached freshman Collin Taylor to 2008 first-team all-conference goalkeeper honors and all-freshman accolades. Nelson helped the ASU defense lead the Southern Conference in fewest goals allowed and goals against average. In three years with the Mountaineers, Nelson's keepers have racked up 15 total shutouts.

Nelson was an NSCAA all-American and all-Region player in 1999. He was named to the NSCAA academic all-south region twice (1998, 99) and was a two-time all-Sunshine State Conference goalkeeper (1998, 99). After graduation, Nelson played professionally for the Cape Cod Crusaders of the USL Second Division and was an all-league selection.

As well as a successful professional career, Matt also brings five years of coaching experience to the program. While working with Virginia Wesleyan College as goalkeeper coach, Nelson helped the Marlins achieve two Old Dominion Athletic Conference championships and a record of 41-15-4 from 2003 to 2005. Nelson then joined William and Mary's women's program, notching a record of 23-5-13 as assistant coach in 2005 and 2006.

The Mountaineers (1-2) travel to Davidson this weekend, where they will play in the Adidas Classic. ASU will play Gardner-Webb Friday at 5 p.m.; the Mountaineers will play the University of Detroit Saturday at 5 p.m.