Written by Hunter Reid
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Furman quarterback Reese Hannon has been named to the initial Jerry Rice Award Watch List for the current 2012 season, the Sports Network announced today. The Jerry Rice Award is

presented annually by The Sports Network to the top freshman in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). This year's award will be presented on Dec. 17 at the FCS Awards Banquet and Presentation in Philadelphia, Pa.

Hannon, a 6-foot-1, 192-pound true freshman from Greer, S.C., has delivered outstanding play since taking over Furman's offense following an injury to starting quarterback Dakota Derrick in the second quarter of the Paladins' Sept. 8 contest against Coastal Carolina. Over the last four games, which include three starts, he has completed 71-of-111 passes for 937 yards and six touchdowns, with one interception. His current 150.91 passing efficiency rating tops the Southern Conference and ranks 12th nationally.

Hannon, a former all-state standout at Greer High School, has thrown for over 200 yards in each of his four games, just one shy of the current Furman standard set by Billy Napier in 2002. In his collegiate debut versus Coastal Carolina, he completed 22-of-35 passes for 255 yards and four touchdowns, rallying the Paladins from a 22-12 deficit with four minutes remaining to force overtime. He engineered touchdown drives in each of Furman's final six possessions and converted all five fourth down plays via pass or run in the eventual 47-45 triple overtime loss. He passed for 235 yards in his first collegiate start the next week against No. 11 ranked Clemson and followed it up with a 217-yard performance versus Presbyterian (31-21 win) and 230-yard outing against Western Carolina (45-24 win), which featured a season long 70-yard touchdown strike against the Catamounts.

Furman (2-3, 1-1 SoCon) plays at FCS fifth-ranked Wofford (4-0, 2-0 SoCon) this Saturday in a 1:30 p.m. game. The Paladins will play Appalachian State at Kidd Brewer Stadium on "Black Saturday" on November 10.

Photo Courtesy: Reese Hannon, Furman Athletics