

Huge SoCon Showdown Set For Saturday

Written by Mike Flynn
Friday, 19 October 2012 13:00

For the second-straight week and fourth time in seven games against NCAA Division I FCS competition this season, No. 13/11 Appalachian State University football takes on a nationally ranked opponent when it meets No. 8/9 Wofford in a mammoth Southern Conference showdown on Saturday.

TICKETS

All but a handful of scattered single prime and regular reserved seats for Saturday's game are sold out. A limited number of tickets for reserved seats that were returned by Wofford and for general-admission grass seating can be purchased the following ways (while supplies last):

- online at GoASU.com
- by phone at (828) 262-2079 (Friday - 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- in person at the Appalachian State athletics ticket office, located at the Holmes Center (Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- in person at the Kidd Brewer Stadium ticket plaza (Saturday beginning at 11:30 a.m.)

LIVE VIDEO

Saturday's game will be shown live on GoASU TV. Go to GoASU.com to become a GoASU TV premium subscriber.

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RADIO

Saturday's game will be broadcast live on the Appalachian IMG Sports Network. Live coverage begins at 1:30 p.m. with Pigskin Prelude. Locally, the game can be heard on AM 1450, WATA.

NOTING SATURDAY'S MATCHUP

- In addition to their lofty positions in the national rankings, Appalachian State (5-2, 3-1 SoCon) and Wofford (5-1, 3-1 SoCon) are tied for second place in the Southern Conference standings, a half-game behind first-place Georgia Southern (5-1, 4-1 SoCon).
- Saturday's winner will continue to control its own destiny in the conference title race while the loser will need help. Two-loss teams have won the SoCon championship just twice in the league's 79-year history.
- Appalachian State and Wofford have been the Southern Conference's premier football programs over the last several years. In nine seasons dating back to 2003, only twice have teams other than Appalachian and Wofford won SoCon championships (Georgia Southern and Furman shared the 2004 crown and Georgia Southern won the title outright in 2011).
- Appalachian State holds a 17-11 advantage in the all-time series with Wofford, which dates back to 1960. The Mountaineers have dominated the Terriers at home, with wins in 12 of the 14 meetings in Boone.
- Appalachian has won four-straight home games over Wofford by an average score of 41-15.
- The last two Appalachian-Wofford contests at Kidd Brewer Stadium have been top-four matchups dominated by the Mountaineers. The second-ranked Apps blew out No. 3 Wofford, 70-24, in 2008 in front of a Halloween night national-television audience on ESPN2. In 2010, No. 3 Appalachian routed the fourth-ranked Terriers again, 43-13, in a de facto SoCon

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championship game.

- The matchup features two of the winningest coaches in Southern Conference history in Appalachian State's Jerry Moore and Wofford's Mike Ayers. Moore's 212 victories at App State are a conference record while Ayers' 119 wins at Wofford are good for third in the SoCon's all-time annals.

- Saturday's game also features a premier individual showdown between two of the nation's top players in Appalachian State quarterback Jamal Jackson and Wofford running back Eric Breitenstein. Jackson leads the Southern Conference and ranks among the top 15 nationally in passing (1,869 yards), passing efficiency (147.7 passer rating), total offense (2,202 yards) and points responsible for (108). Breitenstein, a Boone native, ranks second nationally with 995 rushing yards and has scored nine touchdowns for the run-happy Terriers, which lead the nation in rushing with more than 410 yards per game. Injury-wise, Deuce Robinson (knee) and Ronald Blair (thigh) are expected to play Saturday, but their starting status is in question. Andrew Scott, who had seven tackles and three quarterback sacks last week against Samford, starts at defensive end; freshman Greg Hall will get the starting nod at linebacker.

Photo Courtesy: Greg Hall, ASU Athletics