

Washington Earns SoCon Specialist of Week Honors

Written by Jason Yaman
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The Southern Conference named its football players of the week today for games played Saturday, Oct. 20. Elon's Thomas Wilson has been named

the Offensive Player of the Week, while Wofford's Tarek Odom was named the Defensive Player of the Week. Western Carolina's Troy Mitchell was selected as the Freshman of the Week, while Appalachian State's Tony Washington was tabbed the Special Teams Player of the Week. The players of the week are selected by the conference office.

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Tony Washington, Appalachian State, Jr., WR/KR, High Point, N.C. After Cam Flowers' 5-yard touchdown run gave Wofford a 24-21 lead midway through the third quarter, Appalachian State's Tony Washington returned the ensuing kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown to put the Mountaineers in front, 28-24. Washington's touchdown was Appalachian State's first kickoff return for a score since CoCo Hillary's 95-yarder against Wofford in 2007. Washington's return was the second-longest in school history, falling just one yard shy of Keith Nash's school-record 100-yard return set against Lenoir-Rhyne in 1968.

Other Nominees: Adam Shreiner (Elon), Matt Dobson (Georgia Southern), Cameron Yaw (Samford), Nick Pollard (Chattanooga), Clark Sechrest (Western Carolina) and Kasey Redfern (Wofford).

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Thomas Wilson, Elon, Sr., QB, Raleigh, N.C. Senior Thomas Wilson threw for 412 yards and a career-high five touchdowns as Elon outlasted Western Carolina, 42-31, Saturday. He completed 20 of his 28 pass attempts in the win and recorded his third career 400-yard passing performance. Wilson's 75-yard touchdown strike to Chris Harris midway through the first quarter tied for the 10th-longest pass play in program history. The Raleigh, N.C., native ranks 10th in the NCAA FCS with 279.9 passing yards per game. Other Nominees: Jamal Jackson (Appalachian State), Jerick McKinnon (Georgia Southern), Kelsey Pope (Samford), Jacob Huesman (Chattanooga), Spearman Robinson (Western Carolina) and Eric Breitenstein (Wofford).

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Tarek Odom, Wofford, So., DL, St. Augustine, Fla. With Wofford holding a 31-28 over Appalachian State, Tarek Odom picked up a fumble and returned it 40 yards for a score to give the Terriers a 38-28 advantage. The sophomore added two

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tackles on the day as Wofford limited the Mountaineers to 363 yards of total offense, their lowest output of the year and 101 yards below their season average. Other Nominees: Jeremy Kimbrough (Appalachian State), Jonathan Spain (Elon), John Stevenson (Georgia Southern), Durell Hill (Samford), Davis Tull (Chattanooga) and Rock Williams (Western Carolina).

FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK: Troy Mitchell, Western Carolina, Fr., QB, Mobile, Ala. Freshman quarterback Troy Mitchell led the Catamounts on the ground and through the air in Saturday's loss at Elon. Mitchell led WCU in rushing with 15 carries for 78 yards. The Mobile, Ala., native also completed 13 passes for 175 yards and two touchdowns in the loss. Mitchell found teammate Jacoby Mitchell for a 13-yard touchdown just before halftime for his first career touchdown pass. He connected with Spearman Robinson in the second half for his second score.

Other Nominees: Sean Price (Appalachian State), Tracy Coppedge (Elon), Matt Dobson (Georgia Southern), Jacob Huesman (Chattanooga), and Cam Flowers (Wofford).

Photo Courtesy: Tony Washington, ASU Athletics