Written by Mike Flynn
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Appalachian State University running back Steven Miller (Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway), who rushed for 245 yards and amassed 270 all-purpose yards in Saturday's 38-27 win over Western Carolina, has been named the Southern

Conference Offensive Player of the Week, the league office announced on Monday. With starting quarterback Jamal Jackson (Atlanta, Ga./North Atlanta) sidelined for most of the game due to a knee injury sustained in the first quarter, Miller carried the load offensively for the Mountaineers, rushing 34 times for the 245 yards, both career highs. The 245-yard effort was the second-highest rushing total in the Southern Conference and the seventh-best in NCAA Division I FCS this season. It is also tied for the sixth-best single-game rushing performance in Appalachian State history and tied for 22nd in the all-time SoCon annals.

The senior from Piscataway, N.J. also caught an 11-yard pass and returned a kickoff 14 yards, giving him 270 all-purpose yards, which is the 22nd-highest mark by an FCS player in 2012.

The 245-yard performance also pushed Miller over the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the season, making him only the 14th player and 12th running back in school history to rush for 1,000 yards in a single season. Through just nine games, Miller's 1,077 rushing yards rank 15th in Appalachian single-season history.

For the season, Miller ranks 10th nationally in all-purpose yardage (157.7 ypg), 13th in rushing (119.7 ypg) and is tied for 19th in scoring (8.7 ppg). The weekly honor is the first of Miller's career and the eighth received by an Appalachian State player in nine weeks this season.

Still in the hunt for a seventh Southern Conference title in eight years and needing at least one victory in their final two games to put themselves in contention for an eighth-straight NCAA Division I Football Championship appearance, Miller and the Mountaineers travel to Statesboro, Ga. this weekend for a showdown versus No. 1-ranked Georgia Southern (7-1, 6-1 SoCon). Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. Saturday at GSU's Paulson Stadium.

Appalachian (6-3, 4-2 SoCon) is looking to knock the Eagles from their perch as the nation's top-ranked team for the second-straight year. The Mountaineers downed No. 1 GSU, 24-17, last season in Boone.

Photo Courtesy: Steven Miller, ASU Athletics