

SoCon Title Hopes On The Line Saturday

Written by Mike Flynn
Friday, 02 November 2012 07:46

The Appalachian State University football team, ranked 15th in The Sports Network Poll and 14th in the FCS Coaches Poll, looks to keep its Southern Conference title hopes alive on Saturday when it travels to face Georgia Southern. The Eagles are ranked No.1 in the coaches poll and No.2 in TSN poll.

RADIO

Saturday's game will be broadcast live on the Appalachian IMG Sports Network. Live coverage begins at noon with Pigskin Prelude. Locally, the game will air on AM 1450, WATA beginning at 12 noon.

LIVE VIDEO

Saturday's game will be broadcast live on ESPN3 (Darren Goldwater - play-by-play; Doug Chapman - analyst).

NOTING SATURDAY'S MATCHUP

- Saturday's matchup is the third-straight between Appalachian State and Georgia Southern in which one of the two teams has been ranked No. 1 nationally in one of the major NCAA Division I FCS polls (Georgia Southern is the top-ranked team in this week's FCS coaches poll).
- The No. 1-ranked team has lost the previous two Appalachian-GSU matchups. The top-ranked Mountaineers lost, 21-14, in overtime at Georgia Southern in 2010 and the No. 1 Eagles fell at Appalachian last season, 24-17.
- Appalachian State (6-3, 4-2 SoCon) must win Saturday's game in order to remain in contention for a seventh SoCon championship in eight years. If Georgia Southern (7-1, 6-1 SoCon) wins, it clinches its second-straight conference crown.

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- Appalachian likely needs one win in its final two games (at Georgia Southern, Nov. 10 vs. Furman) to earn its eighth-straight NCAA Division I Football Championship berth. Seven Division I wins is generally considered the benchmark for inclusion in the 20-team playoff field for teams from upper-echelon FCS conferences.
- Five of the last six Appalachian State-Georgia Southern duels have been decided by seven points or less, including two overtime tilts. Not including a 52-16 Mountaineer victory in 2009, the other five Appalachian-GSU games since 2006 have been decided by a total of just 25 points.
- The visiting team won three-straight games between the Mountaineers and Eagles from 2006-08 but the home team has prevailed in each of the last three matchups.
- Appalachian is 3-5 all-time versus the nation's No. 1-ranked team. Both of its last two victories over No. 1 teams have come against Georgia Southern (1999 and 2001).
- The Mountaineers have never defeated a No. 1 team on the road (0-3).
- Saturday's matchup pits the SoCon's top offense (Appalachian State - 465.9 ypg) against the conference's top defense (Georgia Southern - 279.9 ypg).
- While Appalachian boasts one of the nation's top all-around offenses, ranking among the top 25 nationally in all five major offensive categories, Georgia Southern is one of the nation's top rushing teams. The Eagles' triple-option attack ranks second nationally (behind only SoCon foe Wofford) with 387.1 rushing yards a game but is last among 121 FCS teams with only 53.4 passing yards per contest.

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For all of the information on Saturday's matchup, including links to live video, audio and stats, both teams' rosters, depth charts, game notes and much more, please visit GoASU.com's official Gameday Central page.

Photo Courtesy: Jeremy Kimbrough, ASU Athletics