Written by Mike Kelly
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Watauga County native Eric Breitenstein of Wofford College and linebacker Jeremy Kimbrough of Appalachian State University have been invited to play in the the inaugural Raycom College Football All-Star Classic at the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery , AL. The game will be played Saturday, January 19 at 2 p.m., and it will be televised by the CBS Sports Network. The Raycom College Football All-Star Classic will be a week-long event that features elite college football seniors participating in NFL-formatted practices that are open to the public. They Raycom College Football All-Star Classic will be coached by former NFL head coaches Jim Bates and Dan Reeves.

Defensive tackle Brent Russell of Georgia Southern will join Breitenstein and Kimbrough at the Raycom Classic. Breitenstein, a fullback, and Russell will play for the Stripes team; Kimbrough will play for the Stars.

Breitenstein finished third in the Walter Payton Award voting. The award goes to the best offensive player in the nation at the FCS level. Breitenstein ran for a school record 2,035 yards and 19 touchdowns during his red-shirt senior year. He is also the school's all-time rushing leader with 5,730 yards. And he was named the Southern Conference Offensive Player of the Year.

Breitenstein was also named a first-team All-America by The Sports Network and the Associated Press.

Kimbrough was the SoCon co-Defensive Player of the Year. Kimbrough racked up 143 tackles in 2012, good for the third-highest total in the nation and seventh in Appalachian State single-season history. He also ranked third in the Southern Conference and among the top 100 nationally with 12.5 tackles for loss (1.04 per game) and 11th in the SoCon with 4.5 sacks.

The Appalachian State senior also finished second in voting for the Buck Buchanan Award, which is given to the nation’s top NCAA Division I FCS defensive player. He also received first-team all-America recognition from The Sports Network, garnered a second-team nod from the Associated Press.