

ASU Football Spring Practice Report

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As it gears up for Saturday's much-anticipated open practice and intrasquad scrimmage at Ardrey Kell High School in Charlotte, N.C., Appalachian State University football held its first full-contact workout of the week on Wednesday afternoon at Kidd Brewer Stadium. Wednesday's two-hour practice was Appalachian State's ninth of 15 this spring. After working out in helmets, shoulder pads and shorts on Monday, the Mountaineers donned full pads for Wednesday's practice.

The final 25 minutes of Wednesday's workout were dedicated mainly to scrimmage-like 11-on-11 drills. As has been the case for much of the spring with Appalachian's offense undermanned due to injuries, the Mountaineer defense had the majority of the highlights during the full-team work. In 43 plays, the defense tallied two sacks and 13 tackles for loss, broke up four passes and forced two fumbles.

Leading the way was sophomore defensive lineman Thomas Bronson (Brooksville, Fla./Hernando), who recorded a sack, two tackles for loss and a pass break-up. Sophomore linebacker Greg Hall (Bogart, Ga./North Oconee) also had a sack and two tackles for loss while freshman defensive back Alex Gray (Suwanee, Ga./Peachtree Ridge) forced a fumble with a huge hit on freshman tight end Barrett Burns (Woodstock, Ga./Etowah), who made a nice grab in traffic before getting leveled by Gray.

The offense's longest gain of the day came when junior quarterback Kalik Barnes (Atlanta, Ga./Parkview) found junior tight end Drew Bailey (Spartanburg, S.C./Dorman) for a 35-yard pass. Sophomore running back Ricky Ferguson (Fuquay-Varina, N.C./Fuquay-Varina) ran eight times, highlighted by an 11-yard first-down run midway through the 11-on-11 period.

Appalachian State will hold a limited-contact practice on Friday before boarding buses to Charlotte for Saturday's open practice and intrasquad scrimmage at Ardrey Kell H.S. Saturday's practice begins at 2 p.m. and admission is FREE.