

Mountaineers Scrimmage in Charlotte

Written by Mike Flynn

Saturday, 13 April 2013 22:52

Appalachian State University football held its first of two open practices when it scrimmaged in front of more than 1,500 fans at Ardrey Kell High School on Saturday. The Mountaineers, who will wrap up their spring practice season with a Spring Game next week at Kidd Brewer Stadium, began the day with positional drills and warm ups before moving into a 24-drive scrimmage that lasted nearly 90 minutes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Saturday's scrimmage featured 24 drives that began at the offense's 30-yard line. A three-and-out by the defense at any point signaled the end of that possession for the offense.
- Appalachian's quarterbacks split the drives fairly evenly as Kalik Barnes was under center on 14 drives while Logan Hallock was the signal-caller for the other 10 possessions.
- The Mountaineer defense set the tone early in the scrimmage as it recorded two tackles for loss on the opening drive to stymie the offense. On the day, the defense finished with an incredible 29 tackles behind the line of scrimmage including an impressive eight sacks.
- Hallock engineered the first scoring drive on his second possession, marching the offense 70 yards and capping off the drive with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Malachi Jones. Hallock then ran the ball in on a two-point conversion following the touchdown.
- On the seventh drive of the scrimmage, Doug Middleton just missed an interception that would have turned into a touchdown for the App State defense. Brandon McGowan also had a near-interception on the ensuing offensive possession.
- Appalachian's first sack of the day came when Ronald Blair blew through the line and grabbed Hallock for a five-yard loss. Hallock responded by throwing a 19-yard touchdown strike to Andrew Peacock just two plays later.
- Following the Hallock-to-Peacock touchdown pass, the Mountaineers sent out the punt units. The punt-return squad blocked the first punt of the day from Zach Matics, which Aaron Krah picked up and returned 20 yards for a touchdown.
- The Apps almost picked up another block on Mark Powell's punt on the following play, but the junior was able to get the ball off for a 42-yard kick. Bobo Beathard would have returned the ball almost 80 yards for a touchdown later in the drill, but punt returns were stopped upon contact with the returner during the scrimmage.
- Freshman wideout Chris Starks had one of the most exciting plays of the day when he hauled in a 66-yard pass from Barnes that got the offense down to the defense's 15-yard line. The Mountaineer defense would hold on from there as Greg Milhouse recorded a crucial sack later in the drive to force the offense to settle for a field goal.
- On the ensuing field-goal attempts from 33 yards out, Matics, Powell and Drew Stewart each connected. The trio would also nail their attempts from 30 yards out later in the contest. On the day, Appalachian's kickers went a combined 6-of-6 on field goals and 12-of-12 on extra points.
- Towards the later stages of the scrimmage, Joel Ross nearly came away with an interception, but sophomore wideout Sean Price made a fantastic defensive play to knock the ball away before Duece Robinson ended the drive by batting down a pass at the line of scrimmage.
- Following the touchdown toss to Peacock, Appalachian State's defense kept the offense out of the end zone on 14-straight possessions before Hallock found Price for a 22-yard strike. Barnes would connect with Simms McElfresh from 40 yards out on the next possession to close out the scoring for the day.
- The defense saw its final chance for a turnover come on the second-to-last drive of the day

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when Chris Shaffer nearly hauled in an interception near midfield.

- Milhouse and Denzel Ward had strong showings as each recorded a team-high six tackles for loss and two sacks. Milhouse also finished with two pass break-ups.
- The wide receiver trio of Peacock, Price and Jones combined for 221 yards and three scores on 18 receptions. Ricky Ferguson led all rushers with 90 yards, 68 of which came on the play just before Price's touchdown catch.

OFFENSIVE STATISTICS

Rushing: Ferguson 11-90; Magloire 6-54; Andre 3-15; K. Barnes 8-6.

Passing: K. Barnes 18-28-0, 209 yds., TD; Hallock 16-31-0, 147 yds., 3 TD.

Receiving: Peacock 6-95, TD; Price 6-64, TD; Jones 6-62, TD; Starks 3-70; Kavanaugh 3-27; Shuler 2-22; McElfresh 2-48, TD; Beathard 1-8, Andre 1-7, Anding 1-3; Gore 1-3.

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Tackles For Loss: Milhouse 6; Ward 6; Chambers 3; Robinson 3; Blair 2; Dada 2; Hall 2; McGowan 2; Singleton 2; Burns 1; Gray 1; Thomas 1.

Sacks: Milhouse 2; Ward 2; Blair 1; Dada 1; Singleton 1; Small 1.

Pass Break-ups: Gray 2; Milhouse 2; Robinson 2; Covington 1; Ross 1; Shaffer 1; Singleton 1.

KICKING STATISTICS

Field Goals: Matics 2-2 (33, 30); Powell 2-2 (33, 30); Stewart 2-2 (33, 30)

PAT: Matics 4-4; Powell 4-4; Stewart 4-4

Punting: McGuirt 3-120; Powell 2-92; Matics 1-42

WHAT'S UP NEXT

Appalachian State wraps up its spring practice next week when it hosts its Spring Game at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 20 at Kidd Brewer Stadium. The event is free and open to the public, more details on the spring game can be found at goasu.com.

Photo Courtesy: Logan Hallock, ASU Athletics