Edwards looks to repeat as Payton Award winner

Written by Mike Kelly Tuesday, 07 July 2009 16:29

The Sports Network announced on Tuesday that Appalachian State All-American quarterback Armanti Edwards is one of 20 initial candidates for the Walter Payton Award.

The Walter Payton Award, named after the Chicago Bears Hall of Fame running back who passed away in 1999, is presented to the top NCAA Division I FCS (Football Championship Series) player of the year. Edwards, a consensus All-American and All-Southern Conference selection in his three-year career at ASU, won the award in landslide fashion last year.

He earned 398 total points, including 53 first-place votes. Edwards easily outdistanced James Madison quarterback Robbie Landers (290 and 17 first-place votes) by more than 100 points. Edwards, who is only the sixth underclassman to win the award, scored 41 touchdowns (30 on the ground and 11 through the air) last season. He also had 3,843 total yards, he only threw two interceptions in 224 pass attempts during the regular season and he had a passer-efficiency-rating of 170.19.

Edwards also owns 12 school and eight SoCon records, including total offense (10,783 yards) and touchdowns responsible (109) in a career. If Edwards win the award this season, he will become the first player ever to win it twice. And ASU is only one of two programs (Montana being the other) to produce a Payton Award, Buck Buchanan Award (nation's top defensive player) and an Eddie Robinson Award (national coach of the year) winner.

Senior linebacker Jacque Roman and junior defensive back Mark LaGree of the Mountaineers are among the initial candidates to be named to the Buck Buchanan Award watch list that comes out in the next few weeks.

The Apps will officially begin the season in Greenville, NC against East Carolina on September 5. The game begins at high noon and will be televised on MASN. Remember as well, all ASU games can be heard on the Voice of the Mountaineers in the High Country, WATA 1450 AM Radio. The home opener will be September 12 with McNeese State beginning at 3:30 pm. For ticket information, you may call the ASU ticket office at 262-2079.

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