

Six ASU players named pre-season All-America

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Sports Network has named six Appalachian State football players pre-season All-America.

Leading the way is quarterback Armanti Edwards, who was last year's Walter Payton Award winner, and defensive back Mark LeGree, who led the nation with ten interceptions last season. Both Edwards and LeGree were first-team selections.

Senior linebacker Jacque Roman, who along with LeGree are initial candidates for the Buck Buchanan Award that goes to the best defensive player in the FCS (Football Championship Series) NCAA Division I player, senior offensive lineman Mario Acitelli and senior defensive back Cortez Gilbert were named second-team selections.

Roman had 130 tackles last season, three quarterback sacks, four fumble recoveries and two interceptions last fall; Gilbert had the team's only blocked kick last season and led ASU defensive backs with 72 stops; Actielli is the leader of the offensive line, which backboned ASU to top-10 national rankings in scoring, rushing, passing efficiency and total offense last season. A left guard last fall, Actielli will move back to his natural position, left tackle this season.

Junior linebacker D.J. Smith was a third-team selection. Smith was second on the team with 123 tackles and he also had 7.5 tackles for loss. He also broke up seven passes.

Only Weber State had more selections with seven. ASU, Weber State, Villanova, and Richmond each had two first-team selections.

The Apps will open the season at East Carolina on September 5. The game will be televised on MASN beginning at noon. Air time on WATA Radio is 10 AM. The home opener will be against McNeese State at 3:30 pm on September 12.

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Some season ticket packages still remain, and single-game tickets (\$27 for adults, \$17 for children) go on sale August 5. For more information, please call the ticket office at 262-2079. And remember, you can hear all ASU games on the Voice of the Mountaineers in the High Country on WATA 1450 AM Radio.