

ASU rallies to beat Wofford

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Appalachian State football team rallied from a 14-point, third-quarter deficit to beat Wofford 44-34 Saturday in Spartanburg, SC.

The Apps (4-2 overall; 3-0 Southern Conference) have now won four in a row and 15 consecutive SoCon games. Armanti Edwards had his usual day at the office. Even though the Terriers kept him contained on the ground, the ASU senior showed off his arm by completing 27 of 34 passes for 415 yards and two touchdowns.

Both of his strikes went to wide receiver Brian Quick. The last one----a 58-yard bomb with 6:48 left in the game----sealed the deal for ASU. Ironically, it was a career day for ASU. Quick caught a career-best eight passes for 181 yards and two scores; running back Devin Moore had his fourth 100-yard game of the season as he rambled for a career high 180 yards and two touchdowns. That effort eclipsed his 155 yard rushing day against McNeese State in week two.

His 47-yard jaunt in the third quarter brought ASU within seven points, at 34-27. It was set up by Mark LeGree's interception. His one-yard run with ten minutes to go in the game gave ASU the lead for good at 37-34. It was set up by D.J. Smith's fumble recovery. In all, the Terriers (1-5; 0-3) turned it over five times.

"It was a great game for the fans and the players, but a tough one for the coaches," said ASU coach Jerry Moore. "We coughed up too many big plays; we just didn't tackle well; but that's coach (Mike) Ayers. He does a great job preparing his kids and they play real hard."

The kicking game had a record day as well. Place-kicker Jason Vitaris had a career-best 49-yard field goal with 14:54 to go in the game; and Sam Martin had a 74 yard punt with 19 seconds left that was downed at the Terriers' two-yard line. That 74-yard punt by Martin ties him for the fourth longest punt in school history.

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"We are finishing games strong," said freshman defensive back Troy Sanders. "But we gotta avoid the slow starts. That's really hurting us."

The Terriers scored on their first offensive play of the game as running back Derek Boyce (who didn't play in the second half after injuring his knee in the second quarter) rambled 76-yards for a touchdown and a 6-3 Terriers lead in the opening stanza. In all, Wofford had three scoring plays of 64 yards or more. And that gave the Terriers a 27-20 lead at the break.

"We have to come out more aggressive," said Quick. "If we keep doing this, it will eventually hurt us, especially against a good team. You can bet those good teams will bring all they have against us."

ASU out-gained Wofford 611 yards to 537. The Terriers also had 384 yards on the ground. Edwards paced the Mountaineers with 432 total yards. The Apps return home to play Georgia Southern for Black Saturday, October 24 at Kidd Brewer Stadium. Our coverage begins at 1:30 pm on WATA 1450 AM radio.

NOTES: Senior defensive back Cortez Gilbert was injured from a blind-side block by Terriers wide receiver Brandon Bresin in the third quarter. He left the game under his own power, but never returned. Mark LeGree had two interceptions. The Buck Buchanan Award candidate has two interceptions on the year and 12 in his career.