Ping!Baseball tabbed Appalachian State University third baseman Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) as a third-team freshman all-American on Monday.

Crespo is the first player in Appalachian history to earn freshman all-America recognition.

The Miami, Fla. native was expected to serve mainly in a reserve role as a true freshman but went 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBI in in ASU's second game of the season at USC Upstate and almost never relinquished the starting position the rest of the year, getting the nod at third base in 54 of the club's final 56 games.

Crespo hit .335 as a rookie, batting mainly out of the leadoff spot for the Mountaineers. He led all NCAA Division I freshman with 31 stolen bases, a figure that ranked second in the Southern Conference and 27th nationally overall and was good for second in Appalachian single-season history, just three shy of the school record of 34 swiped by future major-leaguer Mike Ramsey in 1974.

Crespo also displayed a one of the SoCon's top gloves at third base, making several highlight-reel defensive plays throughout the season despite coming into his collegiate career touted mainly as a middle infielder.

In addition to the freshman all-America accolades, Crespo was also a member of the SoCon's all-freshman and all-tournament teams.
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HOBSON NAMED ALL-STATE

ASU second baseman Wes Hobson (Winston-Salem, N.C./North Forsyth) added to his long list of honors when he was named to the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) University Division all-state team.

Hobson is the fourth Mountaineer in four years to earn NCCSIA all-state recognition, joining outfielder David Rubinstein (2007) and relief pitcher Zach Quate and third baseman Isaac Harrow (2009).

Hobson, a third-team all-American and first-team all-conference honoree, was the SoCon's 2010 batting champion with a .404 average. He led Appalachian with 95 hits, a school-record 69 runs scored, 22 doubles, 54 RBI and .655 slugging and .474 on-base percentages while belting 11 home runs, good for a tie for 15th in school history. Along the way, he set ASU career records with 318 hits, 879 at-bats, 223 runs, 78 doubles and 504 total bases.

The Winston-Salem, N.C. native became the ninth Mountaineer in the past three years to be selected in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft when the San Francisco Giants picked him in the 40th round of the 2010 MLB Draft last week. He will begin his professional career this month, either with the Arizona Giants of the rookie-level Arizona League or the Salem-Keizer (Ore.) Volcanoes of the class-A short-season Northwest League.