Written by Mike Kelly
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Former Appalachian State University defensive end Daniel Orlebar is really enjoying himself these days.

Orlebar, a dominant player during his collegiate career at ASU, has taken that aggressive attitude to the next level. He is currently playing for the Baltimore Mariners of the American Indoor Football Association---a league that was established in 2005 and features a 13-team circuit that stretches from New Jersey to Alaska.

And like his team, Orlebar, only a rookie, is dominating the competition. He has nine quarterback sacks and 12 tackles-for-loss and ranks among the league leaders in each of those categories. The Mariners, who were undefeated this past season (14-0 record), and have won 19 of their last 20 games, led the AIFA with 45 quarterback sacks and they are the second-leading scoring defense in the league giving up an average of 28.4 points-per-game.

Orlebar, a Maryland native, helped ASU win two national titles. He transferred to ASU from Wake Forest where he saw limited playing time during his first two years with that program.

Orlebar has made a huge impression with the Mariners this season.

"Daniel has great quickness for his size," said Mariners coach Chris Simpson. "He has a solid football background. We're very fortunate to have a player with his abilities on our team."

During his stay with the Mountaineers (from 2005-07), Orlebar had 99 tackles, 4.5 tackles-for-loss, two sacks and seven quarterback hurries. The Mountaineers, who won two national titles during his stay, were 32-9 in that three-year period.

Following his college career, Orlebar has played with several teams during his professional career. He originally signed and played with the Mahoning Valley Thunder of the then Arena Football League in 2007; he went to training camp with the Iowa Barnstormers and then signed with the Manchester Wolves of Arena Football 2 in 2008, but didn't play in any regular-season games; and he spent the preseason with the Odessa Roughnecks of the Indoor Football League last fall, but did not play in any regular-season games.

The Mariners take on Harrisburg in the Eastern Conference championship game of the AIFA in Baltimore on Saturday night.