

ASU Favored to Win SoCon Again

Written by Mike Flynn
Monday, 26 July 2010 18:30

Appalachian State University is a near unanimous choice of the Southern Conference's coaches to win the 2010 SoCon football championship, the conference announced on Monday.

Appalachian received first-place votes from 7-of-9 SoCon coaches in the conference's preseason poll. Coaches are not permitted to vote for their own teams, meaning that only one of eight possible votes was cast for a team other than ASU.

The Mountaineers are in search of their sixth-straight SoCon title, which would match the conference record for consecutive championships set by Georgia Southern from 1997-2002. The Apps return 20 starters (nine on offense, seven on defense and four specialists) from last year's squad that went 11-3 overall, including a second-straight perfect 8-0 SoCon record, and finished ranked No. 3 in the major national polls.

Appalachian also had a league-high 13 representatives on the SoCon's preseason all-conference squads, nearly twice as many as Samford, which landed the second-most players on the squad with seven.

Ten of ASU's 13 preseason all-conference honorees are first-team selections, led by Walter Payton Award candidate Devon Moore at running back and its trio of Buck Buchanan Award candidates on defense: end Jabari Fletcher, linebacker D.J. Smith and defensive back Mark LeGree.

Joining Moore, Fletcher, LeGree and Smith on the first team are offensive linemen Brett Irvin and Pat Mills, tight end Ben Jordan, wide receiver Brian Quick, defensive end Lanston Tanyi and place kicker Jason Vitaris. ASU's second-team selections include offensive linemen Daniel Kilgore and Matt Ruff and defensive back Ed Gainey.

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Appalachian officially begins preparations for the 2010 campaign on Friday, Aug. 6 when it opens fall practices. The season opener is Sept. 4 at SoCon-rival Chattanooga. The opener will be televised regionally on SportSouth and kicks off at 3 p.m.

2010 SoCon Football Preseason Coaches Poll

Place	School (First-place votes)	Points
1.	Appalachian State (7)	63
2.	Elon (2)	58
3.	Furman	41
4.	Samford	39
5.	Chattanooga	37
6.	Wofford	36
7.	Georgia Southern	25
8.	The Citadel	14
9.	Western Carolina	11

NOTE: Coaches were not permitted to vote for their own team

2010 Southern Conference Football

Preseason All-Conference Teams

Offensive Player of the Year: Scott Riddle, Sr., QB, Elon

Defensive Player of the Year: Bryce Smith, Sr., LB, Samford

First Team Offense

QB Scott Riddle, Sr., Elon

RB Devon Moore, Sr., Appalachian State

RB Chris Evans, Sr., Samford

OL Brett Irvin, Sr., Appalachian State

OL Pat Mills, Sr., Appalachian State

OL Thomas Gray, Sr., Samford

OL Chris Harr, Sr., Chattanooga

OL Pat Illig, Sr., Wofford

TE Ben Jordan, Jr., Appalachian State

WR Adam Mims, Sr., Furman

WR Brian Quick, Jr., Appalachian State

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First Team Defense

DL **Jabari Fletcher, Sr., Appalachian State**

DL **Lanston Tanyi, Jr., Appalachian State**

DL Brandon Ward, Sr., Elon

DL Brent Russell, So., Georgia Southern

LB **D.J. Smith, Sr., Appalachian State**

LB Bryce Smith, Sr., Samford

LB Kadarron Anderson, Jr., Furman

DB **Mark LeGree, Sr., Appalachian State**

DB Cortez Allen, Sr., The Citadel

DB Buster Skrine, Sr., Chattanooga

DB Mitchell Bell, Sr., Western Carolina

First Team Specialists

PK **Jason Vitaris, Sr., Appalachian State**

P Bob Hooper, Sr., Samford

RS Adam Mims, Sr., Furman

Second Team Offense

QB B.J. Coleman, Jr., Chattanooga

RB Tersoo Uhaa, Jr., Furman

RB Mike Rucker, Sr., Wofford

OL **Daniel Kilgore, Sr., Appalachian State**

OL Clark Bishop, Sr., Wofford

OL **Matt Ruff, Jr., Appalachian State**

OL Rodney Austin, Jr., Elon

OL Ryan Lee, Jr., Furman

TE Alex Sellars, Sr., The Citadel

WR Riley Hawkins, Jr. Samford

WR Marquell Pittman, Sr., Western Carolina

Second Team Defense

DL Jordan Gibson, Sr., Elon

DL John Michael Clay, Jr., Samford

DL Josh Williams, So., Chattanooga

DL (tie) Ameet Pall, Jr., Wofford

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DL (tie) Eric Eberhardt, Jr., Wofford
LB Joshua Jones, Jr., Elon
LB Ryan Consiglio, Jr., Chattanooga
LB Mike Niam, Jr., Wofford
DB Terell Wilson , Sr., Elon
DB Max Lerner, Sr., Furman
DB **Ed Gainey, Jr., Appalachian State**
DB Laron Scott, Jr., Georgia Southern

Second Team Specialists

PK Blake Bostic, Sr., Western Carolina
P Mike Hammons, Jr., Chattanooga
RS Richie Fordham, Jr., Samford

NOTE: Coaches were not permitted to vote for their own players.