

ASU has seven pre-season All-American selections

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The Appalachian State football team, favored to win its sixth consecutive Southern Conference championship this fall, had seven players (the most of any team) named to The Sports Network/Fathead Football Championship Series Subdivision Pre-Season All-America Team.

Linebacker D.J. Smith, who leads all active players in tackles made, and defensive back Mark LaGree, who has 17 interceptions in his career, were named to the first team. Running back Devon Moore, wide receiver Brian Quick, tight end Ben Jordan and defensive lineman Jabari Fletcher were named to the second team. Lanston Tanyi was a third-team selection. Defending FCS champion Villanova has the most players on the first team with three - senior wide receiver Matt Szczur, senior offensive tackle Ben Ijalana and senior linebacker Terence Thomas. Southern Illinois is second with five selections overall; in all, 87 players were selected to the Preseason All-America Team. The Southern Conference leads all leagues with 15 selections, followed by the Big Sky Conference with 12, including a national-best six on the first team. The Missouri Valley Football Conference has 11 overall selections and the Colonial Athletic Association has 10. Next are the Southland Conference with seven and the Southwestern Athletic Conference with six. ASU opens the season at Chattanooga September 4.