

Cobb Named Southeast A.D. of the Year

Written by Mike Flynn
Monday, 13 June 2011 14:24

Appalachian State University director of athletics Charlie Cobb has been named the 2010-11 NCAA Division I FCS Southeast Region Under Armour Athletics Director of the Year, the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) announced on Monday.

Appalachian athletics has achieved unprecedented success on and off the field since Cobb's arrival in July 2005. On the field, Mountaineer teams have won 30 conference championships in Cobb's six years at ASU, including seven in 2010-11. Most notably, Appalachian football has claimed a record-tying six-consecutive Southern Conference titles and put together three-straight national championships from 2005-07, becoming the first FCS program to ever win three national titles in a row and the first Division I team (FCS or FBS) in 61 years to achieve the feat. Additionally, ASU men's and women's basketball have each advanced to postseason play twice during Cobb's tenure.

Thanks to the Mountaineers' across-the-board athletic success, Appalachian has won six-consecutive Commissioner's Cups (awarded to the SoCon's top men's all-around sports program) and three Germann Cups (awarded to the SoCon's top women's all-around sports program) under Cobb's direction.

In the classroom, nearly 35 percent of ASU student-athletes make the department's Academic Honor Roll (minimum grade point average of 3.25) and five programs (men's basketball, women's cross country, field hockey and women's indoor and outdoor track and field) have earned NCAA Public Recognition Awards for their Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores being ranked among nation's top 10 percent in their respective sports during Cobb's tenure. In the latest APR data released by the NCAA last month, all 20 of Appalachian's varsity sports boast multi-year APR scores of 951 or higher (on a scale of 1,000) and, on average, ASU's teams registered APRs that are nearly five points higher than the national average for their respective sports.

The success on and off the field can be attributed in large part to Cobb's efforts to provide Mountaineer coaches and student-athletes with the resources needed to achieve a high level of success. Due to Appalachian's success in fundraising and revenue generation, the athletics department budget has increased from \$7.5 million in Cobb's first year to nearly \$13 million in 2010-11. Yosef Club donations have skyrocketed under Cobb's direction, from just over \$600,000 the year prior to his arrival to over \$2.5 million in 2009-10. Additionally, ASU has shattered football attendance records with crowds surpassing The Rock's permanent seating capacity for each of the Mountaineers' 34 regular-season home games since Cobb's arrival in 2005, which was prior to the Apps' run of three-straight national titles.

Highlighting Cobb's many achievements has been the addition of first-class facilities that will give Appalachian the opportunity to be successful across the athletics spectrum for years to come. Cobb launched ASU's athletics facilities enhancement campaign in 2005 and to date, the effort has produced \$50 million worth of new and renovated facilities for Appalachian's coaches

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and student-athletes.

Most notably, the facilities enhancements included a complete facelift of Kidd Brewer Stadium, which included the addition of a 4,400 seat upper deck on the stadium's east side in 2008 and the construction of the 120,000-square-foot Appalachian Athletics Center on the stadium's west side. The Appalachian Athletics Center includes new football offices and locker room, a strength and conditioning center, athletic training facilities, academic study space and computer lab for all ASU student-athletes and premium stadium seating in the form of 600 club-level seats and 18 luxury suites. Additionally, the campaign produced new homes for Mountaineer baseball (Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium), softball (Sywassink/Lloyd Family Stadium) and soccer (at the Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex), as well as the Apps' first-ever indoor practice facility (Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility) and renovations to Varsity Gym that have upgraded the facility to a premier practice and competition venue for ASU basketball, golf, indoor track and field, volleyball and wrestling.

With the \$50 million in enhancements, all 20 of Appalachian's intercollegiate sports teams now practice and compete in facilities that have either been built or renovated since 2000.

Cobb arrived at ASU in 2005 after seven years as a senior associate athletics director at his alma mater, NC State. A four-year letterwinner on the gridiron, Cobb graduated from NC State in 1990 and received a master's in sports administration from Ohio University in 1992. He spent six years in Atlanta, Ga. with positions with the Atlanta Sports Council, the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl and the Georgia Dome before his return to NC State in 1998. He and his wife, Lindsay (an assistant coach for ASU's women's soccer program), have a son, Harrison (13), and a daughter, Branan (10).

Cobb will be recognized during NACDA's James J. Corbett Awards Luncheon on Saturday at the World Center Marriott Resort in Orlando, Fla.

What they're saying about Charlie Cobb:

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““This recognition confirms what we at Appalachian State University have known for a long time. Charlie Cobb is a tremendously gifted athletic director and university leader. Appalachian’s athletic programs have achieved great success under Charlie’s leadership. Charlie directs a department that focuses on our student-athletes and makes their academic performance a priority. Appalachian’s teams and our individual student-athletes consistently represent our university well on the field of play and in the classroom.”

— **ASU Chancellor Dr. Kenneth E. Peacock**

“This a very deserving honor for Charlie. He has worked hard and been a difference-maker since he stepped foot on our campus six years ago and I have appreciated him since day one. He is a professional in the truest sense of word and so much fun for us to work with as coaches and players. You hear coaches mentioned sometimes as a ‘players’ coach.’ Well, Charlie is a coaches’ and a players’ A.D. It is a real pleasure to work with him and I couldn’t be happier that he has received this recognition.”

— **ASU football head coach Jerry Moore**

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“It is a well-deserved honor for Charlie. I am happy that the level of commitment and dedication that he portrays to ASU on a daily basis is now being recognized on a national level. I am a firm believer that hard work never goes unrecognized and it is wonderful that this includes our administration. Congratulations to Charlie!”

— **ASU women’s basketball head coach Darcie Vincent**

“Charlie is most deserving of this award. He has done a masterful job of guiding the ASU program to new heights of success and has always put the welfare of the student-athlete at the top of his priorities.”

— **Southern Conference commissioner John Iamarino**

“I’m very proud of Charlie and his success. The tremendous job that he’s done at Appalachian State does not surprise me. He displayed those qualities as a recruit and throughout his career as a player. I’ve enjoyed staying in touch with Charlie through the years and am so happy for both Charlie and Appalachian State for the recognition that he has received.”

— **Former Furman and NC State football head coach Dick Sheridan, who recruited and**

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coached Cobb at NC State