

UPDATED: Former Pioneer Gore Injured

Written by Mike Kelly
Monday, 08 August 2011 08:56

Mo Gore, a freshman walk-on wide receiver at Appalachian State University, had surgery on his injured leg Sunday night at the Watauga Medical Center.

The procedure was successful, according to the Appalachian State athletic department, but he is out for the season. Gore, who was an All-Conference Northwestern 3A/4A performer for Watauga High last fall, was injured Sunday afternoon during a one-on-one, non-contact drill at Kidd Brewer Stadium. Gore, who was a defensive back, a punter and a wide receiver for the Pioneers in 2010, turned in a solid senior year. Gore led WHS with 19 catches for 396 yards and five touchdowns, and he led the team in scoring with 32 points. Gore also had a school-record 71-yard punt last fall.

FCS To Expand Playoff Field?

The Football Championship Subdivision Series is considering the possibility of expanding the playoff field from 20 to 24 teams in the near future. The FCS playoffs expanded from 16 to 20 teams in 2010. If the expansion plan goes through, the Pioneer Football League champion, which has been snubbed by the FCS playoffs the last two years, would get an automatic bid, and the expansion would also create three more at-large berths.

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Mountain Heritage Names New Basketball Coach

Athletic Director Joey Robinson has announced that Dwayne Buckner has been named the new men's basketball coach at Mountain Heritage High. He replaces Barry Johnson, who retired last spring after a 29-year stay with the program. The Cougars were 21-7 last season before they were eliminated by East Rutherford in the Class 2A Western Regional championship game. Buckner has been a coach in Yancy County for 20 years. Buckner makes his head-coaching debut with the Cougars on November 21.

Former Catamount Takes Over At Smokey Mountain

David Napert, who was an assistant coach at Western Carolina University for six seasons (2003-07), has been named the new football coach at Smokey Mountain High. He replaces Neil Setzer, who stepped down a week ago to take a coaching position in Georgia. Napert has been on the Smokey Mountain staff as an assistant coach the last two years. Napert's only experience as a head coach was at Rhea County, TN, where he was 6-5 in his only season as a head coach in 1998. Napert has also been a college assistant at Chattanooga, East Tennessee State, SMU and Valdosta State. Ironically, former WCU head coach Kent Briggs is an assistant at Smokey Mountain. Smokey Mountain opens the season at home against Cherokee on August 19.

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Grindstaff To Be Inducted In McDowell HOF

Jenis Grindstaff, the all-time leading scorer in McDowell High history, will be inducted into that school's Hall Of Fame on September 2. Grindstaff, who played college basketball at Virginia Tech and Tennessee, but was hampered by a serious knee injury throughout his collegiate career, poured in 2,102 points during his playings days for the Titans.