

Football Fall Camp Report: Aug. 15

Written by Mike Flynn
Monday, 15 August 2011 20:15

Appalachian State University football opened its final full week of fall camp with a pair of practices on Monday at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

It felt like football season at The Rock on Monday, as temperatures hovered in the 60s while Appalachian practiced in the morning and afternoon. Monday's morning workout was held in helmets and shorts before the Mountaineers donned full pads for the afternoon session.

ASU's offense enjoyed one of its most productive days of camp on Monday and was especially impressive during the 11-on-11 period that capped the afternoon practice. Highlights included:

- long touchdown runs by junior-college transfer Steven Miller (Piscataway, N.J./Piscataway) and defensive convert Michael Frazier (Conway, S.C./Conway). Both scoring runs covered over 50 yards and came on nearly identical plays with both runners bursting through holes on the right side of the offensive line. Miller used a couple of quick moves then turned on the speed to break away from defenders while Frazier broke a handful of tackles on his way to payday;
- a terrific showing from senior tight end Ben Jordan (Weddington, N.C./Charlotte Latin). After uncharacteristically dropping a couple of passes during Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage, Jordan caught everything thrown his way on Monday. He capped his strong afternoon by hauling in a long touchdown pass from DeAndre Presley (Tampa, Fla./Middleton) while streaking down the right hash mark;
- a perfect throw-and-catch from Jamal Jackson (Atlanta, Ga./North Atlanta) to Brian Quick (Columbia, S.C./Ridge View) for a touchdown down the left sideline on the final play of the 11-on-11 period.

Defensively, cornerbacks Ed Gainey (Winston-Salem, N.C./Mount Tabor), Rodger Walker (Thomasville, Ga./Brookwood) and Joel Ross (Damascus, Md./Damascus) displayed sure tackling skills against the run and pass during 11-on-11 drills. The trio combined for several good hits that drew praise from their coaches and teammates.

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Appalachian practices once on Tuesday before another two-a-day session on Wednesday.

MOUNTAINEERS RANKED NO. 2 IN INITIAL MEDIA POLL

Appalachian is ranked No. 2 in The Sports Network's preseason NCAA Division I FCS top-25 poll. The Mountaineers received 14 first-place votes to place second behind defending national champion Eastern Washington in the season's initial media poll, which was announced on Monday by The Sports Network.

William & Mary, Southern Conference foe Georgia Southern and Delaware round out the top five. Other SoCon teams in the top 25 include No. 8 Wofford and No. 21 Chattanooga.

SOCON STRIKES DEAL WITH ESPN3.COM

The SoCon announced a four-year agreement with ESPN3.com on Monday that will deliver a minimum of 45 live SoCon events to over 70 million households per year.

ESPN3.com is currently available in more than 70 million households through computers,

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tablets and smart phones and in 25 million households via Xbox gaming consoles. The network is also available at no cost to approximately 21 million U.S. college students and U.S.-based military personnel via computers connected to on-campus educational networks and on-base military networks.

The 45 live events to be carried by ESPN3.com include all eight football games that are part of the SoCon's football Game of the Week package, starting with Appalachian's Oct. 1 contest at Wofford and also including ASU's Oct. 29 showdown versus Georgia Southern and the Nov. 19 regular-season finale at Elon. ESPN3.com will also have the potential to air additional gridiron tilts that are not already part of the league's television schedule. A full list of football games to be carried on ESPN3.com will be finalized in the coming weeks.