

ASU Ranked 9th TSN Poll; 8th FCS Poll

Written by Mike Kelly

Monday, 21 November 2011 21:05

The Appalachian State University football team, coming off a dramatic victory on Saturday at Elon in the regular-season finale, is ranked ninth this week in The Sports Network Top 25 Poll, and eighth in the FCS Coaches Top 25 Poll. The Mountaineers (8-3), who nailed down an at-large berth in the NCAA Football Championship Sub-Division Playoffs, will host Maine on December 3 at Kidd Brewer Stadium. The Black Bears (8-3), from the Colonial Athletic Association, are ranked 13th in both TSN and Coaches Polls. It's the second meeting ever between the schools. Maine defeated ASU 14-13 in the opening-round of the FCS (at the time NCAA 1-AA) playoffs in 2002 at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

Montana State, which earned its first-ever No.1 ranking last week, was quickly knocked off its lofty perch on Saturday by in-state rival Montana. The Bobcats reign only lasted five days. The win handed the Grizzlies the Big Sky Conference title and a No.4 seed in the FCS playoffs. Sam Houston State (11-0) becomes the new No.1 team. The Bearcats received 125 first-place votes in TSN Poll and 17 in the Coaches Poll. Georgia Southern, Northern Iowa, North Dakota State and Montana round out the top five in the Coaches Poll; Northern Iowa, Georgia Southern, North Dakota State and Montana round out the top five in TSN Poll.

The Eagles also received six first-place votes in TSN Poll and four in the Coaches Poll. Wofford, which opens the FCS playoffs on the road at Northern Iowa December 3, is ranked 12th in TSN Poll and 11th in the Coaches Poll.

The FCS playoffs begin Saturday with four first-round, play-in games. Also, it was announced on Monday that the lists for the Walter Payton Award (which goes to the top offensive player in the nation at the FCS level) and the Buck Buchanan Award (which goes to the top defensive player in the country) have been whittled down to 20 finalists. And among those in the running are running back Eric Breitenstein of Wofford (and Watauga High) and wide receiver Brian Quick of ASU.

Breitenstein has gained 1,343 yards on 245 carries for 16 touchdowns. He's averaging 122-yards-per-game; Quick has caught 64 passes for 1,055 yards and 16 touchdowns. He is ASU's all-time leader in receiving yards, touchdown receptions, and he's five receptions shy of DeVon Fowlkes, the school's all-time leader in that category.

FCS Coaches Poll

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No.	School	Record	Points	Prev
1	Sam Houston State (17)	11-0	585	3
2	Georgia Southern (4)	9-2	546	2
3	Northern Iowa	9-2	544	4
4	North Dakota State (1)	10-1	528	5
5	Montana	9-2	496	7
6	Lehigh	10-1	489	6
7	Montana State (1)	9-2	458	1
8	Appalachian State	8-3	436	8
9	Towson	9-2	403	10
10	Old Dominion	9-2	392	9
11	Wofford	8-3	352	12
12	New Hampshire	8-3	334	13
13	Maine	8-3	298	11
14	Harvard	9-1	253	14
15	Central Arkansas	8-3	221	19
16	Delaware	7-4	219	17
17	Illinois State	7-4	187	14
18	Jackson State	9-2	167	18
19	James Madison	7-4	161	20
20	Tennessee Tech	7-3	134	21
21	North Dakota	8-3	111	22
22	Norfolk State	9-2	97	25
23	Liberty	7-4	78	14
24	Stony Brook	8-3	46	33
25	San Diego	9-2	30	29

Others Receiving Votes: Bethune-Cookman(8-3) 21; Eastern Kentucky(7-4) 19; South Dakota(6-5) 19; Furman(6-5) 16; Drake(9-2) 15; Southern Utah(6-5) 12; Portland State(7-4) 11; William & Mary(5-6) 10; Indiana State(6-5) 9; Chattanooga(5-6) 9; Eastern Washington(6-5) 8; Jacksonville State(7-4) 7; Albany(8-3) 6; South Carolina State(7-4) 4; Nicholls State(1-10) 4; Cal Poly(6-5) 3; Brown(7-3) 2; Duquesne(9-2) 2; Youngstown State(6-5) 2; Dayton(6-5) 1; Alabama State(7-3) 1

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The Sports Network/Fathead.com FCS Top-25 College Football Poll

Team	(First-place votes)	Record	Points	Previous Rank
1. Sam Houston State Bearkats	(125)	11-0	3,473	2
2. Northern Iowa Panthers	(2)	9-2	3,155	4
3. Georgia Southern Eagles	(6)	9-2	3,110	3
4. North Dakota State Bison	(3)	10-1	3,061	5
5. Montana Grizzlies		9-2	2,916	7
6. Lehigh Mountain Hawks	(4)	10-1	2,842	6
7. Montana State Bobcats		9-2	2,631	1
8. Towson Tigers		9-2	2,518	8
9. Appalachian State Mountaineers		8-3	2,416	9
10. Old Dominion Monarchs		9-2	2,246	10
11. New Hampshire Wildcats		8-3	2,129	12
12. Wofford Terriers		8-3	1,902	13
13. Maine Black Bears		8-3	1,634	11
14. Delaware Blue Hens		7-4	1,485	15
15. Central Arkansas Bears		8-3	1,454	17
16. Harvard Crimson		9-1	1,273	18
17. James Madison Dukes		7-4	1,116	19
18. Illinois State Redbirds		7-4	1,101	14
19. Norfolk State Spartans		9-2	958	20
20. Jackson State Tigers		9-2	778	21
21. Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles		7-3	772	23
22. Stony Brook Seawolves		8-3	481	NR
23. North Dakota Fighting Sioux		8-3	463	NR
24. Liberty Flames		7-4	351	16
25. Jacksonville State Gamecocks		7-4	218	NR

Others receiving votes: Furman 197, San Diego 124, Eastern Kentucky 106,

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Bethune-Cookman 96, Alabama State 72, Drake 57, Albany 55, Duquesne 52, South Dakota 52, Portland State 28, William & Mary 25, Cal Poly 20, Georgetown 20, Indiana State 19, Southern Utah 19, Murray State 18, Eastern Washington 16, Chattanooga 14, South Carolina State 11, Brown 5, Alabama A&M 4, Grambling State 3, Stephen F. Austin 3, Youngstown State 1.

Photo Courtesy: Brian Quick, ASU Athletics