

Breitenstein Earns Player Of Year Honors

Written by SoCon Sports Information
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League champion Georgia Southern placed nine student-athletes on the 2011 Southern Conference Football All-Conference team and won or shared

in three of the league's five major awards in balloting conducted by the league's head coaches. Junior defensive lineman Brent Russell was named the Defensive Player of the year while head coach Jeff Monken was tabbed the Southern Conference Coach of the Year. Freshman running back Dominique Swope was named Co-Freshman of the Year with Chattanooga quarterback Terrell Robinson. Wofford's Eric Breitenstein was named the league's Offensive Player of the Year, while teammate Nate Page earned the Jacobs Blocking Award, which is given annually by the Jacobs family to the top blocker in the league.

Monken was named Coach of the Year in just his second season at the helm in Statesboro. He guided the Eagles to a 9-2 mark this season, including a 7-1 record in league play to give the Eagles their sixth outright Southern Conference championship and ninth overall. It is the fifth time a Georgia Southern head coach has won the award. The Eagles earned the No. 3 seed in the FCS Playoffs and will host either Old Dominion or Norfolk State December 3.

A finalist for the Buck Buchanan award that goes to the nation's top defensive player, Russell was tabbed the league's top defender. The junior has recorded 48 tackles, including 11.5 for loss this season. A disruptive force on the defensive line, Russell has tallied five sacks, two quarterback hurries and a blocked kick this season. He has anchored a unit that ranks 23rd in the nation in scoring defense, yielding just 20.8 points per game.

Breitenstein leads the SoCon and ranks 11th nationally with 122.1 rushing yards per game. He finished the regular season with 1,343 yards and 16 touchdowns. A junior, Breitenstein has rushed for at least 100 yards in nine games this year and turned in a season-high 217 yards against Elon on October 29. He averaged 5.5 yards per carry for the Terriers.

Chattanooga's Terrell Robinson went 3-1 as the Mocs' starting quarterback. He was named the league's Freshman of the Week three straight times in October, and on the season, Robinson completed 27 of 43 passes for 336 yards and six touchdowns. A dual threat for UTC, Robinson also carried 90 times for 417 yards and 5 TDs.

Swope came on late in the season for Georgia Southern and earned the league's Freshman of the Week honor three times, including each of the last two weeks. Swope finished the regular season with 591 yards rushing and four touchdowns on 91 carries. He ran for a game-high 165 yards at Wofford November 12 as the Eagles clinched the league championship. The following week Swope recorded 153 yards on 18 carries with a touchdown at Alabama, recording the most yards against the top defense in the FBS in 2011.

Page becomes the third Terrier to earn the Jacobs Blocking Award, joining Pat Illig (2010) and Eric Deutsch (2003). The senior is a part of an offensive line which has powered the Terriers' rushing attack. Wofford leads all of FCS with 356 yards per game on the ground. The Terriers also boast one of the top scoring units in the nation as they average 33.4 points per game, the 23rd best mark in the country.

The Eagles led all teams with nine players selected to the all-conference team, including five first-team honorees. Appalachian State placed eight on the all-conference team while Furman and Chattanooga each had seven honorees.

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Coaches were not permitted to vote for their own players in the voting process.

2011 Coaches All-Southern Conference Football Team

Offensive Player of the Year - Eric Breitenstein, Jr., RB, Wofford

Defensive Player of the Year - Brent Russell, Jr., DL, Georgia Southern

Co-Freshman of the Year - Terrell Robinson, QB, Chattanooga & Dominique Swope, RB, Georgia Southern

Jacobs Blocking Award - Nate Page, Sr., OL, Wofford

Coach of the Year - Jeff Monken, Georgia Southern

First Team Offense

QB Chris Forcier, Sr., Furman

RB Fabian Truss, So, Samford

RB Eric Breitenstein, Jr., Wofford

OL Orry Frye, Sr., Appalachian State

OL Mike Sellers, So., The Citadel

OL Ned Cuthbertson, Sr., Elon

OL Brett Moore, Sr., Georgia Southern

OL Nate Page, Sr., Wofford

TE Colin Anderson, Jr., Furman

WR Brian Quick, Sr., Appalachian State

WR Aaron Mellette, Jr., Elon

First Team Defense

DL Derek Douglas, So., The Citadel

DL Brent Russell, Jr., Georgia Southern

DL Josh Williams, Jr., Chattanooga

DL Eric Eberhardt, Sr., Wofford

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LB **Jeremy Kimbrough, Jr., Appalachian State**

LB Ryan Consiglio, Sr., Chattanooga

LB Wes Dothard, So., Chattanooga

DB **Demetrius McCray, Jr., Appalachian State**

DB Ryan Steed, Sr., Furman

DB Laron Scott, Sr., Georgia Southern

DB Corey White, Sr., Samford

First Team Specialists

PK Adrian Mora, Sr., Georgia Southern

P Cass Couey, Jr., The Citadel

RS Laron Scott, Sr., Georgia Southern

Second Team Offense

QB Jaybo Shaw, Sr., Georgia Southern

RB **Travaris Cadet, Sr., Appalachian State**

RB Jerodis Williams, Jr., Furman

OL Dakota Dozier, So., Furman

OL Dorian Byrd, So., Georgia Southern

OL William Maxwell, Sr., Georgia Southern

OL Ryan Dudchock, Jr., Samford

OL Jake Miles, Jr., Wofford

TE **Ben Jorden, Sr., Appalachian State**

WR Kelsey Pope, So., Samford

WR Joel Bradford, Sr., Chattanooga

Second Team Defense

DL Ameet Pall, Sr., Wofford

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- DL Josh Lynn, Jr., Furman
- DL Chris Billingslea, Jr., The Citadel
- DL John Douglas, Sr., Georgia Southern
- LB Joshua Jones, Sr., Elon
- LB Kadarron Anderson, Sr., Furman
- LB Alvin Scioneaux, Wofford
- DB** **Troy Sanders, Jr., Appalachian State**
- DB D.J. Key, So., Chattanooga
- DB Chris Lewis-Harris, Sr., Chattanooga
- DB Kadeem Wise, So., Chattanooga

Second Team Specialists

- PK Cameron Yaw, Jr., Samford
- P** **Sam Martin, Jr., Appalachian State**
- RS Fabian Truss, So., Samford

Photo Courtesy: Eric Breitenstein, Wofford College Athletics