

Mountaineers Break for Thanksgiving

Written by Mike Flynn

Wednesday, 23 November 2011 14:44

After three days of preparation for its second-round NCAA Division I Football Championship matchup versus Maine, Appalachian State University football embarked on a three-day Thanksgiving break

following Wednesday morning's practice at the Sofield Family Indoor Practice Facility. Appalachian held meetings and watched film on Monday and held two-hour practices on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. before dismissing the players to allow them to travel for Thanksgiving. The Mountaineers will report back to campus on Sunday evening for meetings and begin preparations for Maine in earnest on Monday.

No. 9/8 Appalachian (8-3) and Maine (8-3), which is ranked 13th in both The Sports Network (media) and American Football Coaches Association Division I FCS polls, both enjoy first-round playoff byes this weekend before squaring off in the second round of the 20-team Division I Football Championship on Sat., Dec. 3 at ASU's Kidd Brewer Stadium. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m.

MEDIA TABS EIGHT FOR ALL-CONFERENCE ACCOLADES: Eight Mountaineers received all-conference recognition from the Southern Conference Sports Media Association, the SoCon announced on Wednesday.

Three first-team selections highlighted ASU's eight media honorees: offensive lineman Orry Frye (Charlotte, N.C./Providence), wide receiver Brian Quick (Columbia, S.C./Cedar Ridge) and defensive back Demetrius McCray (Covington, Ga./Newton). Frye anchored a young offensive line that ranks among the top 25 nationally with just 14 sacks allowed on the season, Quick is among the nation's leaders in receptions (64 — tied for 19th), receiving yards (1,055 — 11th) and touchdown catches (11 — tied for sixth) and McCray leads the SoCon and is tied for eighth nationally with five interceptions.

Second-team picks included offensive lineman Matt Ruff (Charlotte, N.C./Providence), tight end Ben Jordan (Weddington, N.C./Charlotte Latin), linebacker Jeremy Kimbrough (Decatur, Ga./Cedar Grove), defensive back Troy Sanders (Chester, S.C./Chester) and punter Sam Martin (Fayetteville, Ga./Starr's Mill).

The Mountaineers' eight media honorees were third behind only conference champion Georgia Southern and Furman, which both had nine.

Including the coaches' all-SoCon teams, which were announced on Tuesday, a total of nine Mountaineers earned all-conference recognition, including four first-teamers. Kimbrough was a first-team linebacker and Travaris Cadet (Miami, Fla./Central) was a second-team running back on the coaches' all-conference squads.

Tough-luck omissions from the all-conference teams included quarterback Jamal Jackson (Atlanta, Ga./North Atlanta), who ranked second in the league in passing efficiency (144.9

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rating) and third in total offense (226.3 ypg), nose tackle Dan Wylie (Washington, Ga./Washington-Wilkes), who ranked among the league's leading interior linemen with 40 tackles and linebacker Brandon Grier (Charlotte, N.C./West Charlotte), who was 11th in the league with 84 stops.

ASU-MAINE TICKET INFORMATION: Appalachian's athletics ticket office reports brisk sales this week for the Mountaineers' second-round playoff matchup versus Maine.

- Reserved seat tickets for the Dec. 3 second-round game between Appalachian and Maine are on sale NOW at GoASU.com. Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth (ages 3-12).
- Tickets can be purchased 24 hours a day, seven days a week at GoASU.com and are available from Monday-Friday between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. by phone at (828) 262-2079 or in person at the ASU athletics ticket office, located in the Holmes Center.
- Unlike past years, ASU students will be admitted to all postseason games at Kidd Brewer Stadium for FREE. Appalachian athletics will cover the costs to allow all ASU students to attend by simply presenting their student ID at the gate on gameday, just like the regular season. Student guest tickets cost \$15 and will go on sale on Sunday, Nov. 27.
- Full season ticket holders have until Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. to purchase their regular-season seats for the second-round matchup versus Maine.

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Photo Courtesy: Keith Cline, ASU Athletics