

## Sloan to Head ASU's Recruiting

Written by Mike Flynn

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Appalachian State University inside linebackers coach and recruiting coordinator Mark Speir was named the head coach at Southern Conference rival

Western Carolina on Thursday.

Speir spent nine seasons at Appalachian and coached the Mountaineers' running backs (2003-04), defensive line (2005-08), defensive ends (2009-10) and inside linebackers (2011), as well as serving as the program's recruiting coordinator for the past eight years. He coached six Mountaineers to all-America accolades, including future NFL players Jason Hunter and Marques Murrell and 2011 second-team all-America honoree Jeremy Kimbrough. He also organized the efforts to land multiple recruiting crops that have been widely considered among the top NCAA Division I FCS recruiting classes in the nation.

Speir is the fifth current NCAA Division I head coach with Appalachian ties, joining Texas head coach Mack Brown (ASU head coach — 1983), Georgia Tech head coach Paul Johnson (earned master's degree at ASU — 1982), East Carolina head coach Ruffin McNeill (ASU assistant coach — 1989-96) and VMI head coach Sparky Woods (ASU head coach — 1984-88).

"Western Carolina made a very good choice in hiring Mark to lead its football program," ASU head coach Jerry Moore said. "Mark is not only a good football coach and evaluator of talent but is a terrific person that will be a leader in the community."

With Speir's departure, Moore announced that defensive backs coach Scot Sloan will head up Appalachian's recruiting efforts going forward. Sloan, who is in his second year with the Mountaineers, previously served as the recruiting coordinator at Georgia Military College from 1996-99.

"Scot has in essence been our co-recruiting coordinator for the past two years. He is a great evaluator of talent, has established terrific relationships with high-school and junior-college coaches over the years and is very knowledgeable about the prospects in our area and beyond," Moore said. "We won't miss a beat with Scot taking over as our recruiting coordinator at this critical point in the recruiting calendar."