

Coaching Changes Continue At ASU

Written by Staff Reports

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The Appalachian State University football team lost two more football coaches Thursday afternoon. The school has announced that offensive line coach Bob McClain and running backs coach Chris Moore have left to pursue other professional opportunities, effective immediately.

McClain spent two years with the Mountaineers. He came to ASU in 2010 from Tulsa, where he served as the Golden Hurricane's tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator in 2009. He also worked for Rich Rodriguez as an assistant coach at Michigan and West Virginia. He was part of three Big East titles and four bowl appearances at West Virginia.

Moore, who is also head coach Jerry Moore's son, spent 13 years with the Mountaineers, the last seven as running backs coach. Moore began his coaching career as a student assistant on Appalachian's staff from 1995-98. Following his graduation from ASU in 1999, he slid into a defensive assistant role for two seasons before taking over as linebackers coach. During his time as a student and defensive assistant, 22 Mountaineers earned all-conference recognition, most notably two-time Buck Buchanan Award winner Dexter Coakley.

As ASU's running backs coach, he has mentored three all-Southern Conference honorees in Kevin Richardson, Devon Moore and Travaris Cadet.

Richardson, a former walk-on, flourished into a three-time all-American and all-Southern Conference honoree, the 2008 SoCon Offensive Player of the Year and ASU's all-time leader with 4,804 rushing yards and 66 rushing touchdowns. In 2005, Moore's first on the offensive side of the ball, the Mountaineers averaged 193.3 rushing yards per game, an improvement of over 90 yards per game from the previous year.

Moore played collegiately for two seasons at Texas Tech (1993) and Stephen F. Austin (1994). He was a three-time all-district honoree and 1,000-yard rusher and two-time all-area performer as a running back at Coronado H.S. in Texas. He also lettered twice in track and field.

"We had an opportunity to rework our offensive staff since the end of the season and after much deliberation, it has been decided that it is the right time for Bob and Chris to pursue new opportunities," Moore said. "Although we're parting ways, both did good things for our program. Bob coached six all-conference selections, two all-Americans and an NFL draft pick in his two seasons here and, in his seven years as running backs coach, Chris had at least one all-conference running back every year and every running back that started a game during that time has graduated. On a personal note, Chris and I both enjoyed the experience of coaching together as father and son."

The Mountaineers are looking to fill five coaching vacancies on their staff for 2012. Inside linebackers coach/recruiting coordinator Mark Speir left to become the new football coach at Western Carolina in December; former ASU assistants Trey Elder, John Holt and Brad Glenn left January 3 to join Speir's staff at WCU.

ASU was 8-4 this past season and lost to Maine in the second-round of the NCAA Football Championship Series playoffs. It was ASU's earliest exit from the playoffs since 2002. And the Mountaineers were also denied a chance to win their seventh consecutive SoCon title, and they were ranked 12th nationally in the final The Sports Network Poll.

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Photo Courtesy: Chris Moore, ASU Athletics