

WHITTED LEAVES ASU FOR COLORADO STATE

Written by Mike Flynn

Wednesday, 08 February 2012 10:17

Wide receivers coach Alvis Whitted, who joined Appalachian's staff last month, has resigned to accept the same position at Colorado State. Whitted is the second Appalachian staffer to become a member new head coach

Jim McElwain's staff at Colorado State, joining former ASU director of strength and conditioning Mike Kent.

ASU head coach Jerry Moore expects to complete his staff with the hiring of three assistant coaches (wide receivers, offensive line and inside linebackers) before the start of spring practice, which is slated to begin the week of March 19.

Presley, Quick Receive Combine Invites

The National Football League has invited former Appalachian State University football standouts DeAndre Presley (Tampa, Fla./Middleton) and Brian Quick (Columbia, S.C./Ridge View) to participate in the NFL Combine later this month in Indianapolis.

The NFL Combine is the annual job fair for prospective new NFL players. From Feb. 22-28 at Lucas Oil Stadium, players are put through a series of drills, tests and interviews in front of more than 600 NFL personnel including head coaches, general managers and scouts. With Presley and Quick's invitations, six Mountaineers have been selected to participate in the prestigious event over the last three years, joining eventual NFL Draft picks Armanti Edwards in 2010 and Daniel Kilgore, Mark LeGree and D.J. Smith last year.

Presley, who finished third in voting for the Walter Payton Award (nation's top NCAA Division I FCS player) as a quarterback as a junior in 2010, has been invited to the combine as a defensive back. The 5-11, 180-pounder was one of college football's most versatile performers as a senior in 2011, beginning the season as Appalachian's starting quarterback for five games before suffering a shoulder injury that caused him to miss one contest before finishing the season playing a wide range of positions including quarterback, wide receiver, cornerback and kickoff and punt returner. He concluded the spectacular campaign with 812 passing yards and four touchdown passes, 163 rushing yards and four scores, five receptions for 66 yards, 204 yards on nine kickoff returns, one punt return for three yards, 17 tackles (12 solo), one-and-a-half tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and two pass break-ups.

Last month, Presley made three tackles and returned four punts for 75 yards, including a 65-yard touchdown, to help lead his North squad to a 51-3 victory in the Battle of Florida all-star game in Boca Raton, Fla.

A 6-5, 220-pound wide receiver, Quick is one of the most highly touted NFL prospects in Appalachian history. He is the program's all-time leader in receptions (202), receiving yards

WHITTED LEAVES ASU FOR COLORADO STATE

Written by Mike Flynn

Wednesday, 08 February 2012 10:17

(3,418) and touchdown catches (31). As a senior in 2011, he caught 71 passes for 1,096 yards and 11 scores.

Quick excelled at last month's Senior Bowl, which is widely regarded as college football's premier all-star game. As only the second ASU player to ever appear in the Senior Bowl, Quick caught a six-yard pass on a third-and-five play in the second quarter and later dragged a tackler two yards to the first-down marker to covert a third-and-four and set up a field goal in the fourth quarter of the North's 23-13 win. Quick's two receptions, both of which came from Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore, matched a team high.

Perhaps more importantly, most observers reported that Quick had an impressive week of practices leading up to the game, with the workouts being watched by hundreds of NFL general managers, scouts and coaches throughout the week. In fact, during the NFL Network's broadcast of the game, analyst Mike Mayock identified Quick as one of a small handful of players that "made money" with his showing in Mobile.

The possibility remains that Mountaineer running back Travaris Cadet (Miami, Fla./Central) could join Presley and Quick at the NFL Combine, as invitations are still being extended at this time.