

Five Former Apps Compete in Rookie Minicamps

Written by Mike Flynn
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Five former Appalachian State University gridiron standouts — wide receiver Brian Quick (St. Louis Rams), running back Travaris Cadet (New Orleans Saints), cornerback DeAndre Presley (San Diego Chargers), fullback Ben Jordan (Carolina Panthers) and defensive tackle Gordy Witte, Jr. (New Orleans Saints) — got

their first taste of the National Football League this past weekend when they participated in four teams' rookie minicamps.

The former Mountaineers took different routes to the NFL practice fields. The Rams selected Quick with the first pick of the second round (33rd overall) in last month's NFL Draft, making him the highest draft selection in Appalachian history. Within hours of the draft's conclusion, Cadet and Presley agreed to free-agent rookie contracts with the Saints and Chargers, respectively. Jordan and Witte were invited to the Panthers' and Saints' rookie minicamps on a tryout basis with the potential of signing free-agent deals following their weekend auditions.

With the three-day rookie minicamps in the books, the former Apps now set their sights on upcoming full-team minicamps and offseason team activities (OTAs), which will be conducted in the coming month. NFL training camps open in late July.

Counting all five rookie hopefuls, Appalachian boasts a total of 12 former student-athletes in the NFL ranks. Jason Hunter (Denver Broncos), Dexter Jackson (New York Jets), Armanti Edwards (Carolina Panthers), Daniel Kilgore (San Francisco 49ers), Mark LeGree (San Francisco 49ers) and D.J. Smith (Green Bay Packers) are all inked with their respective franchises while Corey Lynch, who spent the past three seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, is currently an unrestricted free agent.