

ASU Football Spring Practice Report

Written by Mike Flynn
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Appalachian State University football hit the field for the first time in the Scott Satterfield era on Friday afternoon when the Mountaineers held the first of 15 spring practices at chilly Kidd Brewer Stadium. Appalachian State practiced for two hours

on an overcast day with unseasonably cool temperatures in the 30s. Per NCAA regulations, the Mountaineers wore helmets and sweats for the non-contact workout.

While much of the spring's first practice was dedicated to fundamentals during individual and group drills, the day also included extensive focus on special teams work and several periods of 7-on-7 and 11-on-11 work.

“It was a great day,” Satterfield said of his first practice as a head coach. “There was a lot of energy and a lot of intensity. Of course, there are a lot of areas that we can get better but I was pleased with the effort and the work that we’ve put in to get to this point.”

As would be expected when playing without its top two quarterbacks from last fall (Jamal Londry-Jackson and Kameron Bryant, who are both still recovering from knee injuries sustained during the season), Appalachian's offense lagged a bit behind the defense during the 7-on-7 and 11-on-11 periods.

Four interceptions during the latter stages of the afternoon highlighted an impressive showing by the defense in its first day under the tutelage of new defensive coordinator Nate Woody. Sophomore Doug Middleton, who was back on the field for the first time since sustaining a foot injury in last season's opener at East Carolina, picked off two passes during 7-on-7 drills. During 11-on-11 work, senior Patrick Blalock and true freshman Anthony Covington both intercepted passes. Covington's INT was particularly impressive, as the early graduate from Mallard Creek H.S. in Charlotte showed great athleticism to pluck a tipped ball out of the air and take it back for a long return.

Offensively, Sean Price appeared to pick up right where he left off when he set NCAA Division I FCS records for receptions (81) and receiving yards (1,196) by a freshman last fall, as he made several fine catches during 7-on-7 drills. Fellow sophomore receiver Malachi Jones caught a pair of passes from Logan Hallock during the 11-on-11 periods that resulted in nice gains. The non-contact practice did not feature much of the run game but Eric Davidson, a mid-year transfer from the University of Utah, did pick up a large chunk of yardage on a rush during 11-on-11 drills.

Photo Courtesy: Sean Price, ASU Athletics