

Season Opener At Montana Kicks Off At 9 p.m.

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Appalachian State University football's 2013 season opener at Montana will kick off at 9 p.m. ET (7 p.m. MT) on Saturday, Aug. 31, Montana athletics announced on Thursday. The 9 p.m. ET kickoff is Appalachian State's latest since it kicked off at midnight ET when it opened the 2003 season at Hawaii. Coverage begins at 7 p.m. on the Appalachian-IMG Sports Network (locally on AM 1450, WATA)

The game will be televised on local stations throughout the state of Montana. Additionally, Learfield Sports (Montana athletics' multimedia rights holder) and Max Media (which will produce the telecast) will aggressively collaborate to expand distribution beyond the state of Montana.

The much-anticipated season opener at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula, Mont. is the back end of a home-and-home series between the longtime NCAA Division I FCS powers. Appalachian is looking to sweep the two-game series after defeating the Grizzlies, 35-27, in last season's thrilling home opener at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

The trip is the Mountaineers' third to Missoula. Appalachian dropped heartbreakers at Montana in the 2000 and 2009 national semifinals (19-16 overtime loss in 2000 and 24-17 defeat in 2009).