

Price, Washington Named Preseason All-America

Written by Mike Flynn

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Appalachian State University wide receivers Sean Price (Reston, Va./South Lakes) and Tony Washington (High Point, N.C./T.W. Andrews) have been named to Phil Steele Publications' 2013 NCAA Division I FCS all-America teams. Price earned first-team recognition while Washington was tabbed third-team as a wide receiver and kickoff returner and fourth-team as a punt returner.

Price emerged as one of college football's top receivers last season. In just 10 games as a redshirt freshman in 2012, the 6-5, 210-pounder set NCAA Division I FCS freshman records with 81 receptions and 1,196 receiving yards, shattering the previous records of 71 receptions (set by Cal State Northridge's Drew Amerson in 1999) and 1,073 yards (set by Marshall's Randy Moss in 1996). He was the 2012 SoCon Freshman of the Year, a first-team all-conference and all-America honoree, placed third in balloting for the Jerry Rice Award (The Sports Network's National Freshman of the Year) and was named College Sports Journal's national co-Freshman of the Year.

Washington established himself as one of the nation's premier playmakers with 1,316 all-purpose yards as a junior last season. He caught 39 passes for 472 yards, good for third on the squad in both categories, and rushed eight times for 71 yards, good for a lofty 8.9-yard average. He also ranked 11th nationally with a 27.3-yard kickoff-return average and 21st with a 9.0-yard punt-return average. He scored six touchdowns — three receiving, two rushing and one on a 99-yard kickoff return (the longest return by a Mountaineer in 44 years).

The preseason recognition from Phil Steele is the latest in a long line of preseason honors for Price and Washington. Price was also tabbed as a first-team preseason all-American by The Sports Network and is one of 20 players on the official watch list for the 2013 Walter Payton Award, which recognizes the nation's top player in NCAA Division I FCS. Washington was also named third-team preseason all-America as a return specialist by The Sports Network.

Appalachian State officially begins preparations for the 2013 campaign when it opens fall camp on Aug. 2. The 2013 season opener is set for Aug. 31 at Montana.

Photo Courtesy: Sean Price and Tony Washington, ASU Athletics