Written by Mike Flynn Tuesday, 06 August 2013 23:17

For the first time this season, Appalachian State University football donned full pads on Tuesday afternoon for its two-hour practice at Kidd Brewer Stadium.

The first day in full pads brought with it some big collisions. None were bigger than a clean but vicious hit that true freshman outside linebacker Rashaad Townes

(Macon, Ga./Howard) laid on sophomore wideout Bobo Beathard (Haymarket, Va./Battlefield) during the first of two 11-on-11 periods near the end of practice.

As has been the case throughout camp, the 11-on-11 work that comprised two of the final three periods of the afternoon were dedicated to specific game situations. On Tuesday, the first featured third-down-and-short (four yards to go) and the second was dedicated to third-down-and-long (eight yards to go). As might be expected, the offense got the best of the defense in the third-and-short situations while the defense dominated the third-and-long period. Starting quarterback Jamal Londry-Jackson (Atlanta, Ga./North Atlanta) was particularly effective during the third-and-short plays, as he completed four-straight passes to open the period, three of which went for first downs. Beathard was on the receiving end of three of Londry-Jackson's four completions but the only one that didn't result in a first down came when Townes leveled him shortly after he caught a pass in the flat. Londry-Jackson's streak came to an end when freshman linebacker Toronto Thomas (Ellenwood, Ga./Air Force Prep) broke up a pass across the middle.

Backup quarterback Kameron Bryant's (Cary, N.C./Panther Creek) first pass was also incomplete but he followed up with two long completions to true freshman Dante Jones (Raleigh, N.C./Southeast Raleigh). Jones made two of the best offensive plays of the afternoon on the back-to-back catches from Bryant. On the first, he caught a short pass, juked around multiple defenders and scampered upfield for a long gain. On the very next play, he found a soft spot in the secondary up the seam and hauled in a long pass from Bryant. The third-and-short period closed with a first-down run by true freshman running back Marcus Cox (Dacula, Ga./Dacula).

While the offense shined during the third-and-short period, the defense was even more impressive in third-and-long situations. The offense picked up first downs on just three of the 13 third-and-eight plays while the defense recorded five sacks and two interceptions during the 13-play period. Ronald Blair (Greensboro, Ga./Greene County), Greg Milhouse (Garner, N.C./Garner) and Chris Shaffer (Charlotte, N.C./Providence) all recorded solo sacks while George Vinson (Damascus, Md./Damascus) and Deuce Robinson (Blythewood, S.C./Blythewood) and Darian Small (Hampton, Ga./Dutchtown) and Lee Wright (York, S.C./York Comprehensive) teamed up for the other two sacks. Shaffer and T.J. Watkins (Forest City, N.C./East Rutherford) notched the two interceptions.

Appalachian State holds its first two-a-day practices of the season on Wednesday, with morning and afternoon sessions at Kidd Brewer Stadium. Practices are closed to the general public but full reports will be available throughout fall camp at appstatesports.com.

SINGLE-GAME TICKET SALES BRISK: As has become the norm at Appalachian State, ticket

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sales were brisk on Tuesday, which was the first day that single-game tickets were available to the general public.

For the fourth-straight year, Appalachian State generated over \$100,000 in revenue on the opening day of single-game ticket sales. Tickets still remain for each of the Mountaineers' six home games this season but seats for the Sept. 28 Family Day game versus Charleston Southern, Oct. 12 homecoming contest versus Samford and Oct. 26 showdown versus future Sun Belt Conference rival Georgia Southern were going fast and may not last long. Appalachian's allotment for road games at Montana (Aug. 31) and Elon (Sept. 21) sold out on Tuesday while only a limited number of tickets for the Nov. 9 matchup at Georgia remain available to the general public. A portion of App State's allotment for the UGA game will be held back to be sold exclusively to Appalachian State students.

Single-game tickets can be purchased online at appstatesports.com/tickets, by phone at (828) 262-2079 or in person at the Appalachian State athletics ticket office, located in the Holmes Center.