

## **Martin Makes Successful Pro Debut**

Written by Staff Reports

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It didn't take Sam Martin very long to make himself comfortable in the National Football League. Martin, who made his professional debut with the Detroit Lions Friday

night in their preseason opener against the New York Jets, had three punts for a 44-yard average. He had one downed inside the 20, and he belted a career-best 54-yard punt. Martin, an All-America at Appalachian State University last fall, was taken by the Lions in the fifth round (165th pick) in the NFL Draft last April. Martin is ranked third in ASU history with 226 punts for 9,397 punting yards, and he ranked sixth in school history with a 41.6-yard punting average. He was named Southern Conference Special Teams Player of the Week seven times, good for the third-most SoCon Player-of-the-Week awards in school history, behind only Appalachian State Hall-of-Famers Dexter Coakley (8) and Richie Williams (8). And Martin became only the second specialist in ASU history to be selected in the NFL Draft, joining Harold Alexander (third round, 67th overall, Atlanta Falcons, 1993). Martin also handle kick-offs on Friday night, and he had touchbacks on his first three kickoffs. The Lions (1-0), who defeated the Jets 26-17 Friday night, travel to Cleveland to play the Browns Thursday night, August 15.

**Photo Courtesy: Sam Martin, ASU Athletics**