

## Martin Earns Special Teams Honors

Written by Mike Flynn

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After averaging 52.5 yards per punt in the Detroit Lions' 27-20 win over the Washington Redskins last Sunday, Appalachian State University alumnus Sam Martin (Fayetteville, Ga./Starr's Mill) has been

tabbed as the National Football Conference Special Teams Player of the Week, the National Football League announced on Wednesday.

Martin boomed five of his six punts 50 yards or more on Sunday, including a 72-yarder that ranks as the second-longest punt in the NFL this season. He is first Detroit punter to earn NFC player-of-the-week recognition since Jim Arnold in 1993.

Three games into his rookie season, the fifth-round draft pick ranks sixth in the NFL with a 48.5-yard punting average.

Player-of-the-week awards are nothing new to Martin. He was named the Southern Conference Special Teams Player of the Week seven times during his collegiate career, just one SoCon

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player-of-the-week honor short of the school record of eight, shared by Appalachian State Hall-of-Famers Dexter Coakley and Richie Williams.

Martin is one of 10 former Appalachian State football standouts currently in the NFL, including seven on active 53-man rosters. He and the Lions (2-1) host the undefeated Chicago Bears on Sunday at Ford Field in Detroit.

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