

## ASU Has Three on Rice Watch List

Written by Mike Flynn  
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The Sports Network added Appalachian State University punter Bentley Critcher (South Daytona, Fla./Warner Christian Academy) to its official watch list for the 2013 Jerry Rice Award on Thursday. The

Rice Award recognizes the nation's top NCAA Division I FCS freshman.

Critcher leads the Southern Conference and ranks third nationally among all NCAA Division I FCS punters with a 45.4-yard punting average as a walk-on true freshman. The 45.4-yard average is also good for second among all Division I freshmen (FCS or FBS) and, if the season were to finish today, he would have the third-highest single-season punting average in Appalachian State history.

Thirteen of Critcher's 37 punts have traveled 50 or more yards and 10 have been downed inside the 20 yard line. Opponents have only returned 16 of his 37 punts and Appalachian leads the SoCon with a 38.3-yard net punting average.

Critcher joins Appalachian State running back Marcus Cox (Dacula, Ga./Dacula) and inside linebacker John Law (Atlanta, Ga./Grady) on The Sport Network's Rice watch list, giving Appalachian three of the 22 players officially in the running for the third edition of the award. No other team has more than one representative on the list and the trio of Mountaineers are the

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only nominees from the SoCon.

A nationwide panel of FCS media and sports information directors will vote for the Rice Award following the conclusion of the regular season. The winner will be announced at The Sports Network's FCS Awards Presentation on Dec. 16 in Philadelphia.

**Photo Courtesy: Brantlee Critcher, ASU Athletics**