

Mountaineers Finish Season Blasting WCU

Written by Staff Reports

Saturday, 23 November 2013 22:17

It was a long and trying season to say the least for Appalachian State University football coach Scott Satterfield and his players. But like they've done so many times before, the Mountaineers (4-8 overall; 4-4 Southern Conference) closed out the season by battering Western Carolina 48-27 at Kidd Brewer Stadium in the final SoCon meeting between the schools. The Mountaineers defeated WCU for the ninth consecutive time, and they close things out---at least for the time being---with a commanding 59-18-1 lead in the series.

"I'm real proud of our guys and the way we came out to play tonight," said ASU coach Scott Satterfield. "I've been proud of them the last month. We talked about how we were going to finish the season and those guys really started playing well together and it showed tonight and last week."

Appalachian State freshman running back Marcus Cox rushed for an Appalachian State freshman record 215 yards (prev. 207 – Alan Atwater vs. Chattanooga, Nov. 1, 2003). And with the 215 rushing yards, Cox also set a new Appalachian State freshman record with 1,250 rushing yards on the season (prev., 1,153 – Armanti Edwards, 2006). The 1,250 yards rank 13th overall in Appalachian State history.

Cox scored four touchdowns (three rushing, one receiving) to set Appalachian State freshman records for single-game and season (20) touchdowns. Cox's three rushing touchdowns gave him 15 for the season, matching the Appalachian State freshman record set by Edwards in '06.

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"He said earlier in the week that he wanted to get at least 100 yards rushing, but we wanted to get him 200 yards and he did just that," Satterfield said. "Marcus has been making huge plays for us all season. He was the workhorse on the team and we are glad to see him get those records."

"The only record that I knew about before the game was the freshman single-game rushing one," Cox said.. "I'm glad to have broken the records. The line was able to block for me. I'm just happy that we got the win and closed the season out well."

With the victory in its final Southern Conference and NCAA Division I FCS game, App State kept possession of the Old Mountain Jug (the traveling trophy presented to the winner of the Appalachian-WCU matchup) for the ninth-straight year and 31st time in 37 games since the Jug was introduced to the rivalry in 1976.

Saturday's contest was a rout from the get-go. Appalachian took a 7-0 lead just 2:14 into the game on the first of Marcus Cox's (Dacula, Ga./Dacula) four touchdowns and went on to score on four of its first five possessions, capped by a 50-yard touchdown pass from Kameron Bryant (Cary, N.C./Panther Creek) to Tony Washington (High Point, N.C./T.W. Andrews) that stretched the advantage to 31-0 with 8:05 still left to play in the second quarter.

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Highlighted by a 37-yard interception return for a touchdown by linebacker Karl Anderson (Pilot Point, Texas/Pilot Point) on the second play of the second half, the Mountaineers extended the lead to 48-14 midway through the third quarter before Western Carolina (2-10, 1-7 SoCon) scored two late touchdowns to account for the final margin.

"It looked like we were going to answer their first drive with a nice drive, but that fumble really hurt." said WCU coach Mark Speir. "Second series we had some miscommunication issues. They came out and executed and move the ball on us. Offensively we just became dormant, which has been a problem for us all year.

"It's disappointing to end a rivalry game like that. You hope it's going to be one of those classic games and it wasn't. App State did a great job. They came out and executed that first drive."

In all, Cox accounted for 234 of Appalachian State's 491 yards of offense. The 491 yards came on just 60 snaps, good for a whopping 8.2 yards per play.

Bryant engineered the majority of the 491-yard output with an efficient day behind center, completing 10-of-16 passes for 186 yards and two scores before being lifted from the game in the third quarter. Senior Jamal Londry-Jackson (Atlanta, Ga./North Atlanta) came on to complete all five of his passes in the final outing of his collegiate career.

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Washington was the quarterbacks' top target with four catches for 86 yards.

Defensively, Appalachian State forced five-straight three-and-outs in the first and second quarters to help stake the Mountaineers to the commanding 31-0 lead. Appalachian surrendered just 145 yards before WCU put together three long touchdown drives long after the game was in hand.

Senior Patrick Blalock (Asheville, N.C./A.C. Reynolds) led the Mountaineers with right tackles while Anderson added seven stops to go along with a pass breakup and the 37-yard pick-six.

NOTES: Appalachian State moved to 59-18-1 in 78 all-time games versus Western Carolina ... the Old Mountain Jug will remain in Boone for the foreseeable future, as there are currently no future matchups scheduled between Appalachian and WCU after the Mountaineers move to the Sun Belt Conference and NCAA Division I FBS next season ... Appalachian finished with a 204-87-5 (.698) all-time record in 296 SoCon games ... the Mountaineers won 12 conference championships in their 42 seasons in the SoCon, good for second in league history behind Furman, which won its 13th SoCon title on Saturday ... Cox's 215 rushing yards broke the previous Appalachian State single-game freshman record of 207 set by Alan Atwater versus Chattanooga on Nov. 1, 2003 ... Cox's 1,250 rushing yards on the season broke the previous App State freshman record of 1,153, set by Armanti Edwards in 2006 ... his 1,250 yards are good for the 13th-best overall single-season rushing total in school history ... Anderson's interception was his second in three games and the touchdown was the first of his career ... Appalachian scored 40 points in a game for the first time since a 55-14 win over Coastal Carolina on Sept. 29 of last season ... the Mountaineers' span of 18 games in between 40-point games was their longest since they went 21 games between 40-point games from Oct. 14, 1995-Sept. 20, 1997 ... with wins in its final two games, Appalachian State avoided finishing

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below .500 in SoCon play since going 2-5 in league games in 1984 ... in his final game as the CEO of Appalachian State University, outgoing Chancellor Dr. Kenneth E. Peacock was honored with an on-field halftime ceremony and was presented with a game ball after the contest in the Appalachian State locker room ... senior wide receiver Andrew Peacock (Durham, N.C./Northern Durham) was taken off the field in an ambulance for precautionary reasons after colliding with a WCU player in the third quarter but was released from Watauga Medical Center shortly after the conclusion of the game with no major injuries.

ASU 48, WCU 27

Scoring Summary

Score by Quarters 1 2 3 4 Total

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Western Carolina 0 7 13 7 - 27

Appalachian State 14 17 17 0 - 48

1st

12:46 APP - Marcus Cox 13 yd run (Drew Stewart kick), 6-79 2:14 0 - 7

02:46 APP - Marcus Cox 15 yd pass from Kameron Bryant (Drew Stewart kick), 8-87 3:50 0 - 14

2nd

13:57 APP - Drew Stewart 38 yd field goal, 7-37 1:32 0 - 17

11:33 APP - Marcus Cox 56 yd run (Drew Stewart kick), 4-75 1:43 0 - 24

08:05 APP - Tony Washington 50 yd pass from Kameron Bryant (Drew Stewart kick), 2-50 0:42
0 - 31

04:36 WCU - Darius Ramsey 25 yd pass from Eddie Sullivan (Richard Sigmon kick), 6-40 1:57

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7 - 31

3rd

14:05 APP - Karl Anderson 37 yd interception return (Drew Stewart kick) 7 - 38

10:56 WCU - Shaun Warren 3 yd run (Richard Sigmon kick), 8-75 3:09 14 - 38

10:05 APP - Marcus Cox 2 yd run (Drew Stewart kick), 3-39 0:40 14 - 45

06:59 APP - Drew Stewart 48 yd field goal, 4-4 1:03 14 - 48

02:42 WCU - Karnorris Benson 6 yd pass from Eddie Sullivan (Eddie Sullivan pass failed),
11-75 4:17 20 - 48

4th

05:03 WCU - Eddie Sullivan 14 yd run (Richard Sigmon kick), 14-96 5:14 27 - 48

Team Statistics

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FIRST DOWNS: WCU 23, ASU 21

RUSHING YARDS: WCU 166, ASU 292

PASSING YARDS: WCU 231, ASU 199

TOTAL YARDS: WCU 397, WCU 491

FUMBLES/LOST: WCU 1-1, ASU 2-1

TURNOVERS: WCU 3, ASU 1

PENALTY YARDS: WCU 7-40, ASU 8-78

TIME OF POSSESSION: WCU 32:10, ASU 27:50

THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS: WCU 10-18, ASU 4-11

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FOURTH DOWN CONVERSIONS: WCU 1-2, ASU 1-2

Individual Statistics

RUSHING:

ASU - COX 26-215-3TD, FERGUSON 3-54

WCU - SULLIVAN 9-78-TD, WARREN 9-41-TD

PASSING:

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ASU - BRYANT 10-16-186-2TD, LONDRY JACKSON 5-5-13

WCU - SULLIVAN 22-41-206-2I-2TD, MITCHELL 2-5-25

RECEIVING:

ASU - WASHINGTON 4-86-TD, PEACOCK 2-55, COX 2-19-TD

WCU - ROBINSON 5-38, GOODMAN 5-37, BENSON 5-24-TD, SEXTON 4-91

Photo Courtesy: Marcus Cox, ASU Athletics