

## Critcher Named Third-Team All-America

Written by Mike Flynn

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Appalachian State University punter Bentley Critcher (South Daytona, Fla./Warner Christian Academy) received third-team recognition on The Sports

Network's NCAA Division I FCS all-America teams, which were announced on Wednesday.

Critcher is only the second Appalachian State player to be named all-America as a true freshman (joining Armanti Edwards in 2006) and the first walk-on true freshman to ever earn all-America honors in Appalachian's 84-season football history. He is the sixth all-America punter in Appalachian State history, joining Joe Parker (1974), Harold Alexander (1991-92), Brian Reilly (1999), Nate McKinney (2003) and Sam Martin (2012).

Critcher set Appalachian State and Southern Conference freshman records by averaging 45.9 yards per punt in 2013, good for third and fourth overall in the school's and conference's all-time annals, respectively. The 45.9-yard average was also good for second nationally among FCS punters (tops among FCS freshmen).

Eighteen of his 51 punts traveled 50 yards or more and 15 were downed inside the opponent's 20-yard line. Thanks to opponents being able to return just 19 of Critcher's 51 punts, Appalachian led the SoCon with a gaudy 40.6-yard net punting average.

Critcher is the 87th all-American in Appalachian State history, dating back to running back Len Wilson in 1937. Appalachian's 87 honorees have earned all-America recognition a total of 122 times.

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