

Blair, Ford Granted Medical Redshirts

Written by Mike Flynn
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After playing in just two games apiece in 2013, Appalachian State University defensive lineman Ronald Blair (Greensboro, Ga./Greene County) and defensive back Jordan Ford (Calhoun Falls, S.C./Calhoun Falls Charter) have been granted medical redshirts and have each gained an additional season of athletic eligibility.

Blair's 2013 campaign was derailed by a combination of issues, not the least of which was a severe thumb injury that required surgery. With the medical redshirt, he continues to be a junior eligibility-wise and has two seasons of eligibility remaining. Despite missing 10-of-12 games last year, Blair was tabbed as a preseason first-team all-Sun Belt Conference honoree by Phil Steele's 2014 College Football Preview. The 6-4, 275-pounder has been a starter for all 26 games that he has played at Appalachian State and owns 7.5 sacks and 21.5 tackles for loss in his career.

Ford, who was limited to seven games in two seasons at Monroe (N.Y.) College due to a hip injury, retains three seasons of eligibility. Despite the minimal playing time in the junior-college ranks, he was tabbed as a two-star recruit by 247Sports. He enrolled at Appalachian State in January but was not able to participate in spring practice while continuing to recover from the injury.

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Appalachian State opens fall camp on Aug. 1 in preparation for the 2014 season opener on Aug. 30 at Michigan.

Photo Courtesy: Ronald Blair, App State Athletics