

ASU SoCon Pre-season Favorite

Written by Mike Kelly
Tuesday, 28 July 2009 03:37

The Southern Conference coaches have selected Appalachian State as the pre-season favorite to win the league championship this season.

The Mountaineers received eight of nine first-place votes. The Apps, who have won four in a row (tying Georgia Southern, Furman and West Virginia in that category), are looking to become only the second SoCon team to win five straight. Georgia Southern, which received the other first-place vote, won six in a row from 1997-2002.

The Mountaineers are followed by Wofford, Elon, Furman Georgia Southern, The Citadel, Samford, Western Carolina and Chattanooga.

ASU also had 16 players and 17 selections named to the coaches pre-season All-SoCon team, and the most selections by any team in the league. Quarterback Armanti Edwards was named the pre-season Offensive Player of the Year; linebacker Jacque Roman was named the pre-season Defensive Player of the Year.

Edwards, Roman, offensive linemen Mario Acitelli, Brett Irvin and Daniel Kilgore, defensive lineman Jabari Fletcher, and defensive backs Cortez Gilbert and Mark LeGree were named the first team. Running back Devon Moore, tight end Ben Jordan, wide receivers Brian Quick and CoCo Hillary, defensive lineman Anthony Williams, linebacker D.J. Smith, defensive back Ed Gainey and place kicker Jason Vitaris. Hillary was also selected as a return specialist on special teams.

Elon had eight All-SoCon selections, Furman had seven, Wofford and The Citadel had six each.

ASU will open the season at East Carolina September 5. The Southern Conference pre-season football media teleconference can be heard today on GOASU.COM. ASU coach

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Jerry Moore and quarterback Armanti Edwards will be featured at 12:45 pm.