

## Huskies shut down Alleghany in season opener, 28-0

In what will hopefully be the only time that the high school football season begins in February, Ashe County got off to an impressive start with a 28-0 shutout victory on the road against Alleghany.

Due to COVID-19, the NCHSAA reshaped its athletic calendar and decided to move football to an early spring sports season.

Ashe County had no problems with the adjusted schedule, holding Alleghany to just 160 yards of total offense and forcing two turnovers.

Offensively, senior quarterback Dawson Cox completed

18 of 28 passes for 186 yards, three touchdowns and one interception. Matthew Peterson led the Husky rushing attack with 79 yards on 12 carries. Senior wideout Austin Poe led the Huskies with six catches for 89 yards and caught all three of Cox's touchdown passes. Peterson had four catches for 16 yards, Thomas Ballard had three grabs for 25 yards, Keenan Witherspoon had two catches for 39 yards, JJ Mannan had two catches for 10 yards and Timothy Peterson had one catch for seven yards to go along with seven rushing yards.

Alleghany's sophomore running back Elijah Campbell had 66 rushing yards on 11 carries while senior Riley Pruitt

had 60 yards on 15 carries. Austin Bare added 23 rushing yards and Alex Woodel had 11 rushing yards. Quarterback Ivan Delp completed just 2 of 9 passes for 11 yards and an interception.

Huskies remaining schedule

- HOME vs. Elkin, March 5
- AT North Wilkes, March 12
- HOME vs. Wilkes Central, March 19
- AT East Wilkes, March 26
- AT West Wilkes, April 1
- HOME vs. Starmount, April 9

## Mountaineers release 2021 football schedule

Starting with a Thursday night game against East Carolina to kick off the college football season in North Carolina, App State will play an exciting 2021 fall schedule in head coach Shawn Clark's second full season at the helm.

The Mountaineers, moving forward from a 9-3 campaign and the program's sixth straight bowl win in as many tries, will kick off the fall with back-to-back games in NFL stadiums. A Sept. 2 neutral-site tilt against ECU will be held at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, followed by a Sept. 11 road game at Miami, played at Hard Rock Stadium.

Kidd Brewer Stadium will host six games this fall, starting with nonconference matchups against Elon (Sept. 18) and Marshall (Sept. 25). The season ticket renewal deadline is April 30, after which App State plans to sell new season tickets.

Winners of four Sun Belt Conference championships in the last five years, App State will seek another title run with league home games against Coastal Carolina (Wednesday, Oct. 20), ULM (Oct. 30), South Alabama (Nov. 13) and Georgia Southern (Nov. 27). Sun Belt road opponents are Georgia State (Oct. 2), Louisiana (Tuesday, Oct. 12), Arkansas State (Nov. 6) and Troy (Nov. 20). The annual matchup with Georgia Southern is scheduled for the last Saturday of the regular season for the first time in the storied history of a rivalry that dates back to 1932.

The back-to-back midweek games against Louisiana and Coastal Car-

olina will air on national television. Networks and times will be announced later. The Mountaineers played in front of a national TV audience a school-record eight times in 2020.

App State is expected to return seven starters on offense and 10 on defense from last year's squad that finished one spot out of the final AP Top 25. Thirteen players elected to return for a "super senior" season and take advantage of the NCAA's ruling that the 2020 season did not count against anyone's eligibility clock.

Since 2015, App State has the fifth-best record of all FBS programs (63-15), behind only Alabama, Clemson, Ohio State and Oklahoma. Only four programs have won nine or more games every year in that span – App State, Alabama, Clemson and Oklahoma.

### 2021 App State Football Schedule

Thurs., Sept. 2 vs. East Carolina  
(Charlotte, NC-Bank of America Stadium)

Sat., Sept. 11 at Miami

**Sat., Sept. 18 vs. Elon, 3:30 pm**

**Sat., Sept. 25 vs. Marshall, 3:30 pm**

Sat., Oct. 2 at Georgia State\*



**2021 APPSTATE FOOTBALL**

<b>THURSDAY SEPT 2</b> EAST CAROLINA CHARLOTTE, NC	<b>SATURDAY OCT 2</b> GEORGIA STATE ATLANTA, GA	<b>SATURDAY NOV 6</b> ARKANSAS STATE JONESBORO, AR
<b>SATURDAY SEPT 11</b> MIAMI MIAMI GARDENS, FL	<b>TUESDAY OCT 12</b> LOUISIANA LOUISVILLE, LA	<b>SATURDAY NOV 13</b> SOUTH ALABAMA MOBILE, AL
<b>SATURDAY SEPT 18</b> ELON BOONE, NC	<b>WEDNESDAY OCT 20</b> COASTAL CAROLINA BOONE, NC	<b>SATURDAY NOV 20</b> TROY TROY, AL
<b>SATURDAY SEPT 25</b> MARSHALL BOONE, NC	<b>SATURDAY OCT 30</b> ULM BOONE, NC	<b>SATURDAY NOV 27</b> GEORGIA SOUTHERN BOONE, NC * SENIOR DAY

TRADITION  
TOGETHER

## App State wrestling has five SoCon Championship winners

Before he had an opportunity to embrace double-overtime winner Cody Bond, teary-eyed App State Wrestling coach JohnMark Bentley jumped high into the air to celebrate an individual conference title that was as dramatic as it was unlikely.

The Mountaineers put on a crowd-stirring show to start the final round of the SoCon Championship tournament at the Holmes Center, with their first five finalists all clinching NCAA Championships berths by securing league titles.

App State rallied to take a late lead in the team standings during that inspired run, but Campbell ended up as the first-place squad with 92 points and three individual champs among the 10 weight classes.

The Mountaineers totaled 87 points, followed by Chattanooga in third with 64.

Matching the school record of five SoCon champions set previously in 2003, App State benefited from individual titles by Jonathan Millner (149 pounds), Codi Russell (125 pounds), Sean Carter (133 pounds), Anthony Brito (141 pounds) and Bond (157 pounds). Through five of seven conference tournaments at the Division I level, the only teams with five league champions are App State, Arizona State and NC State.

With top-20 NCAA Coaches rankings for third-place finisher Will Formato (No. 16 at 165 pounds) and runner-up Thomas Flitz (No. 13 at 174 pounds), App State has hopes of sending a whopping seven out of its 10 starters to the NCAA Championships in St. Louis.

Aside from Carter's win over Jake Rotunda of The Citadel, App State's finals victories from Millner, Russell, Brito and Bond all came in head-to-head matchups with Campbell to trim away at the Camels' lead, which stood at 21 points following the semifinal round.

Bond, a first-year starter who left the team for a stretch earlier in his career and entered this season with a 9-9 career record, used an improbable four-point near fall to break a

second-overtime tie in a 10-5 decision against Benjamin Barton, who had won the regular season meeting.

Bond forced overtime at 5-all by producing a takedown in the final minute of the third period, and neither wrestler scored in the one-minute Sudden Victory period because Bond was able to avoid a takedown after Barton had moved into a scoring position. After that, there are two 30-second TB-1 periods with each wrestler getting a positional choice, and Barton was looking for an escape with Bond starting on top.

Instead, Bond executed a tilt that put Barton on his back for four points. Barton started the next 30-second period on top, and Bond avoided any trouble after using an escape to pull ahead 10-5.

In a matchup of top-15 wrestlers at 149, Millner rode out the second period to build a two-minute advantage in riding time against Joshua Heil. Millner officially took a 1-0 lead with an escape early in the third period, then added the bonus point for a 2-0 decision that allowed him to repeat as the 149 champion and improved his career record in SoCon duals/tournaments to 20-0.

Russell followed a 2019 title at 133 pounds with a second championship in his first year at 125, as he rolled to an 11-4 decision against Zurich Storm, and Brito stretched his lead to 6-2 by the end of the second period in a 7-3 decision against Campbell's Shannon Hanna. Brito reached the final with a 3-2 decision that went to the TB-1 overtime period against Gardner-Webb's Trevon Majette, who conceded an escape after failing to produce one of his own with Brito on top to start the first 30-second period.

A newcomer at 133 this season, Carter used a takedown with 12 seconds left in the first period to move ahead in a 3-1 decision against the top-seeded Rotunda.

The unbeaten top seed in a tough 165 weight class that includes four nationally ranked wrestlers, Formato overcame a last-minute semifinal loss to The Citadel's Dazjon Casto to fight back for third place. He won 5-3 against 21st-ranked RJ Mosley of Gardner-Webb in the third-place match.

Flitz reached the 174 final for the second straight year before dropping a 9-3 decision against top-seeded Austin Murphy of Campbell, while Michael Burchell went 2-2 in the heavyweight division.

Julian Goring was involved in a pair of tight matches decided by two points and one point at 184 pounds, and Mason Fiscella's day began with a two-point quarterfinal loss.

Final Team Scores

- Campbell, 92
- App State, 87
- Chattanooga, 64
- Gardner-Webb, 50
- The Citadel, 43.5
- VMI, 18
- Presbyterian, 6.5

Individual champions

- 125 – Codi Russell, App State
- 133 – Sean Carter, App State
- 141 – Anthony Brito, App State
- 149 – Jonathan Millner, App State
- 157 – Cody Bond, App State
- 165 – Andrew Nicholson, Chattanooga
- 174 – Austin Murphy, Campbell
- 184 – Caleb Hopkins, Campbell
- 197 – Chris Kober, Campbell
- HWT – Michael McAleavey, The Citadel



Photo courtesy of Appalachian State Athletics