It is hard to express the emotions we all have experienced for Appalachian Athletics this past year. The tremendous response in attendance at home football games was just the beginning of a monumental season.

Add the excitement of winning three home Division 1-AA playoff games and national television coverage of the semifinal and final games, and it's no wonder the phrase “It’s great to be a Mountaineer” rings so true.

I have heard from a number of people not associated with Appalachian who watched the games and shared their positive impression of the quality of this year’s football team. I even had a diehard University of Tennessee fan accompany me to the national championship game, and he was completely impressed.

So, without question, this has been a great year to be a Mountaineer, and to also show our pride as former athletes of this great university.

On behalf of the Former Athletes Association (FAA), I want to express sincere congratulations to Coach Jerry Moore, his staff and great team on this historic accomplishment. To Athletics Director Charlie Cobb and his staff, thanks also for the hard work in making the game day experience this year at Appalachian incredible.

There is no doubt that Appalachian Athletics is headed in an exciting new direction, and the Former Athletes Association wants to be an important part of the journey.

Other sports are doing well and also deserve recognition. The men’s basketball team has posted exciting wins against Elon University and Western Carolina University, No. 1 and No. 3 respectively in the Southern Conference’s Northern Division. The women’s basketball team is currently fourth in the Southern Conference. The wrestling team recently won seven of 10 matches against Campbell University and is above .500 for the season. The women’s indoor track and field team swept the top three spots in the women’s pole vault and weight throw and the top two positions in the shot put at the Valentine Open held at the Holmes Center on campus. Sophomore Mark Sturgis recorded three top-10 finishes and senior Adam Van Nortwick placed first in the mile to lead the men’s indoor track and field team at the Clemson Invitational Feb. 10-11.
There are many student-athletes at Appalachian of whom we can be proud. To all former athletes, regardless of your activity in the Yosef Club or FAA in the past, it is now time for you to come home. We want your participation and involvement. We need you to contribute as you see fit, because I know you—like me—are on a MOUNTAINEER HIGH.

Don L. Hastings ’71
President, Former Athletes Association

From the President
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Purpose of Former Athletes Association

The Former Athletes Association was established to support the total athletics program at Appalachian State University. During the past years, the FAA has purchased an ice machine for sports medicine, weight training equipment and training supplies, desktop publishing hardware and software, computers and software for secretarial support, lightweight tables for the Yosef Room, a portable sound system, laundry equipment, two-way radio equipment for athletic event coordination, portable cooker and activity tent, and assisted with the construction of women’s sports dressing rooms.

The FAA also sponsors the Appalachian Sports Hall of Fame, co-sponsors the All Sports Banquet and the Student-Athlete Welcome Cookout. The association provides financial assistance for the former athlete reunions and receptions, and makes an annual contribution to the Yosef Club Scholarship Fund. To recognize a team’s championship victory, the FAA has embarked on a new initiative. Each year, until all sports are recognized, a banner noting that accomplishment will be purchased and displayed on campus. To date, banners have been purchased for men’s basketball, baseball, tennis, football and soccer teams.

The FAA is proud of its many accomplishments and appreciates your assistance in helping us achieve our goals.

FAA Fundraiser

The Former Athletes Association’s annual car raffle in November netted $15,000. Proceeds will support the needs of all Appalachian athletic teams. Congratulations to Opal L. Allred who won this year’s raffle.

The FAA would like to thank Ross Chrysler, High Country Honda, Mack Brown Inc., and Boone Ford for participating in the car raffle this year. Special thanks to Tony Gray who spearheaded the project and the 27 members who sold 300 tickets. Twelve members sold 10 or more tickets. Gerald Adams (10), Bob Billings (10), Joe Gibbons (10), Lester Hardin (10), Tommy Sofield (10), Richard Tickle (10), Jack Branch (20), Joann Underwood (21), Tony Gray (22), Earl Bradshaw Jr. (25), Jack Groce (26) and Jack Neal (35).
Duggins Boys

E. C. Duggins was the Mountaineer head football coach from 1947-50 and 1952-55. His record was 57-25-3. Coach Duggins had a unique team, with veterans from World War II and Korea playing alongside recent high school graduates. His players, who ranged in age from 17 to 26, have been affectionately named the “Duggins Boys.” They keep in constant touch with each other through a calling tree and have an annual reunion at the Mountaineers first home football game. Four of the “Duggins Boys” in the coaching profession have had high school football stadiums named in their honor.

Successful Messere Era Reunion

Football teammates, coaches, managers and trainers from head coach Carl Messere’s era (1965-71) met in Boone September 16-17 to support the induction of Richard Tickle into the Appalachian’s Hall of Fame. Tickle, an all-time great linebacker for Coach Jim Duncan’s Mountaineers, coached the offensive line for Messere’s teams of the late 1960s and early 1970s. The group enjoyed fellowship at a pizza party on Friday night and the Hall of Fame breakfast on Saturday morning, and then watched the Mountaineers pulverize nationally ranked Coastal Carolina in the afternoon.

The Messere-era group has had three of its members voted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in the last two years; four others were inducted previously. The group has, within the last couple of years, contributed approximately $25,000 to athletic endowments and has the highest ratio of membership to the FAA of any group to date.
JOIN THE FORMER ATHLETES ASSOCIATION

All former Appalachian athletes are encouraged to join the FAA by filling out the form below and sending a $30 membership fee to FAA, Department of Athletics, Appalachian State University, PO Box 32025, Boone, NC 28608.

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________
City _____________________________ State __________ Zip ____________
Home Phone Number __________________ Work Phone Number ___________
E-mail Address ______________________ Sport Played ___________________
Years Played ________________________ Coach _________________________
Check enclosed in the amount of $ ___________

Visa or MasterCard CC __________________ Exp. Date ____________________
V- Code (3-digit code on back of card on signature panel): __________________
Signature __________________________ Date ____________________________
Recruited by: ________________________________

2005 Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the 2006 Appalachian State University Athletic Hall of Fame. Nominees must have completed their athletic eligibility at Appalachian at least five years prior to the year of their nomination. Former Appalachian coaches are eligible for nomination five years after their last year of coaching at the university. If you would like to nominate someone for 2006, please complete the nomination form provided in this newsletter before May 1. The Hall of Fame Committee will consider only those accomplishments achieved while at Appalachian. Please be as detailed as possible when giving reasons for selection.

2006 Hall of Fame Nomination Form

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________
City _____________________________ State __________ Zip ____________
Sport Played or coached ___________________________________________
Coach __________________________ Years Participated __________________
Please attach additional information regarding qualifications (honors, records, awards received at Appalachian)
Nomination submitted by ________________________________

Return completed form to: Former Athletes Association, Attn: Hall of Fame Committee, PO Box 32025, Boone, NC 28608. Nominations must be received no later than May 1, 2006.

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Address ___________________________________________________________
City _____________________________ State __________ Zip ____________
Home Phone Number __________________ Work Phone Number ___________
E-mail Address ______________________ Sport Played ___________________
Years Played ________________________ Coach _________________________
Check enclosed in the amount of $ ___________

Visa or MasterCard CC __________________ Exp. Date ____________________
V- Code (3-digit code on back of card on signature panel): __________________
Signature __________________________ Date ____________________________
Recruited by: ________________________________