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**FURMAN'S JACKSON, BOUTON EARN SOCON HONORS;
PALADINS RANKED 18TH AND 20TH IN NATIONAL POLLS**

GREENVILLE — Furman freshman cornerback Richie Jackson today was named Southern Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Week, and former Greenville High standout linebacker Will Bouton was tabbed the league's freshman-of-the-week for their respective performances in the Paladins's 31-7 win over Western Carolina on Saturday.

Jackson recorded seven tackles, a pass deflection, and his league leading fourth interception of the season to set up Furman's first touchdown of the game and help the Paladins to a 17-0 first quarter lead.

Bouton, meanwhile, totaled eight tackles and an interception, which he returned 24 yards for a touchdown. He is the third different Paladin freshman to garner conference freshman-of-the-week honors this season. Fullback Louis Ivory was accorded the honor after rushing for 161 yards and two touchdowns in a 27-19 win over South Carolina State, and the next week cornerback Daniel Roberson was tabbed the league's freshman-of-the-week after intercepting two passes, including one he returned 40 yards for a touchdown in a 34-24 win over Samford.

Furman's win over Western Carolina also pushed the Paladins up in two NCAA I-AA national polls, which were released today. Furman is ranked 18th in the latest USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Poll and 20th in the latest Sports Network poll, which is voted on by media and sports information directors from across the country.

Furman takes on Appalachian State this Saturday at 3:30 p.m. in Boone, N.C. The Mountaineers are ranked third and fourth, respectively, in the USA Today/ESPN and Sports Network polls following their 30-27 overtime win over Wake Forest.

(For More Information, Contact: Hunter Reid)