9-2012

Football Press Releases September 2012

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Saturday, September 1, 2012

Wofford Football Wins Opener 34-7 At Gardner-Webb

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – In the 2012 season opener, the Wofford football team won 34-7 over Gardner-Webb on Saturday evening at Spangler Stadium. Despite a steady rain in the first half, the Terriers were able to run for 402 yards and hold the Runnin’ Bulldogs to only twelve yards rushing.

The Terriers open the season 1-0 and Gardner-Webb is 0-1. For Wofford, Eric Breitenstein rushed for 219 yards and two touchdowns. Donovan Johnson added 71 rushing yards and a 37-yard touchdown reception from Brian Kass. Blake Wylie led the defense with eight tackles and the Terriers recorded five sacks. Gardner-Webb was led by Deonte Swinton with six catches for 106 yards.

The Runnin’ Bulldogs took the opening kickoff and gained three first downs before Blake Wylie intercepted a pass from Lucas Beatty in the end zone for a touchback. Brian Kass ran for two first downs before finding Donovan Johnson for a 37-yard touchdown pass. Wofford took a 7-0 lead with 8:36 on the clock in the first quarter.

Wofford forced a fourth-and-six and Gardner-Webb lined-up to punt. The snap was bobbed and Josh Holt forced a fumble that was picked up by C.J. Turner and returned it 12-yards for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead at 6:26 in the first quarter. Both teams then traded punts twice. Gardner-Webb then went three-and-out and Wofford got the ball back with 10:47 left in the second quarter. Eric Breitenstein used a 27-yard run plus a facemask penalty to move the ball across the 50, but the Terriers turned the ball over on downs.

Gardner-Webb picked up a first down passing, but then fumbled at the Wofford 30-yard line and it was recovered by Stephon Shelton. The Terriers gained two first downs, but failed to convert a fourth-and-one to turn the ball over. The Runnin’ Bulldogs picked up a first down, but had to punt back to Wofford. Eric Breitenstein had a 37-yard run for a first down and Donovan Johnson added a rushing first down, but time ran out on the first half with the Terriers leading 14-0.

The Terriers received the kickoff to open the second half, but Brian Kass was intercepted on the second play from scrimmage by Drew White. The Runnin’ Bulldogs got to the two-yard line before a sack, offensive pass interference, and holding calls backed them up to the 38-yard line. Gardner-Webb was forced to punt to end the scoring chance.

With the ball back, the Terriers had a 20-yard reception by Jeff Ashley and a 51-yard run by Donovan Johnson set up a 28-yard field goal by Christian Reed for a 17-0 lead with 4:24 left in the third quarter. Gardner-Webb hit a 62-yard pass from Lucas Beatty to Deonte Swinton, but a 41-yard field goal attempt by Trevor Austin was wide left. Wofford fumbled the exchange on the first play of the ensuing drive and the Runnin’ Bulldogs took over at the 23-yard line. On the next play, Kenny Cook caught a 23-yard touchdown pass to make it a 24-7 game with 16 seconds left in the third quarter.

Wofford used a 25-yard first down pass to Jeff Ashley along with a personal foul penalty to move the ball inside the 30-yard line. Eric Breitenstein then went 19-yards for his second rushing touchdown of the game and the Terriers had a 31-7 lead with 13:45 left in the game.

The Runnin’ Bulldogs gained three rushing first downs, they went for it on 4th and 13 and Phillip LeGrande had a sack to end the drive. Wofford opened the next drive with Michael Weimer at quarterback. Caleb Lucas gained three first downs rushing and Jonny Martin added a rushing first down. Christian Reed capped the drive with a 38-yard field goal to give
Wofford had a 34-7 lead with 3:33 left in the game. Wofford was able to force Gardner-Webb to punt and get the ball back with 1:36 to play. James Lawson came into the game at quarterback and the Terriers were able to run out the clock on the 34-7 win.

Wofford had 484 total yards, with 402 on the ground. Gardner-Webb had 235 total yards, 223 of which were passing. Wofford was 6-of-14 on third downs and 0-for-2 on fourth down. Gardner-Webb was 2-of-13 on third down. Wofford had four penalties, while Gardner-Webb was flagged seven times. Wofford had the time of possession by a 30:41 to 29:19 margin.

Next week the Terriers will host Lincoln University at Gibbs Stadium in a 7:00 p.m. contest. Lincoln was defeated 34-21 in their season opener against Cheney.

**Wofford vs. GWU Post-Game Notes**

Due to a strong thunderstorm in the area during pregame warm-ups, the start time was delayed until 6:15 p.m. The rain continued through the beginning of the third quarter.

Wofford has opened the season on the road for four straight seasons. Wofford is 48-55-1 all-time in season openers.

Eric Breitenstein had his first 100+ rushing game this season with 219 rushing yards. It was his 21st career 100+ rushing game. It was his fourth 200+ rushing game and third highest single game total.

With the 219 rushing yards, Eric Breitenstein moves to 3,914 in his career and passes Kevious Johnson (3,851 yard) for second all-time at Wofford.

In his first career start, Brian Kass was 3-of-7 passing for 82 yards, a touchdown, and an interception. He also had 38 rushing yards on 15 carries.

Game captains were Zach Bobb and Eric Breitenstein.

Attendance was 3,140 at Spangler Stadium.
Monday, September 3, 2012
Eric Breitenstein Named SoCon Offensive Player of the Week

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – The Southern Conference named its football players of the week today for the games played Thursday, Aug. 30, and Saturday, Sept. 1. Wofford’s Eric Breitenstein was named Offensive Player of the Week while The Citadel’s Chris Billingslea earned Defensive Player of the Week honors. Troy Mitchell of Western Carolina was selected as the Freshman of the Week, and Appalachian State’s Sam Martin was tabbed as the Special Teams Player of the Week. The players of the week are selected by the league office.

Breitenstein, a senior fullback from Valle Crucis, North Carolina, rushed for 219 yards on 22 carries as Wofford defeated Gardner-Webb 34-7 Saturday night. He scored a 64-yard touchdown in the third quarter and added a second score from 19 yards out in the fourth. With 219 rushing yards in the game, Breitenstein moved into second place on Wofford’s all-time rushing list at 3,914 yards, passing Kevious Johnson. It was the fourth time in his career he topped the 200-yard plateau and the 119th time a SoCon player topped 200 yards. It also was the 21st time he has rushed for more than 100 yards in a game.

It is the fourth SoCon Player of the Week honor for Breitenstein in his career and his first this season. He was also named the National Running Back of the Week by the College Football Performance Awards and the College Sports Madness SoCon Offensive Player of the Week. The Terriers will host Lincoln on Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. at Gibbs Stadium in the home opener.
Saturday, September 8, 2012
Wofford Football Downs Lincoln 82-0

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – On Saturday night at Gibbs Stadium, the Wofford football team defeated Lincoln 82-0. Eight different Terriers accounted for touchdowns as Wofford scored the second most points in school history on the way to the largest margin of victory ever. The Terriers open the season 2-0 and Lincoln is 0-2. For Wofford, the offense had 602 total yards and the defense limited the Lions to 179 total yards. The Terriers were led by Ray Smith with rushing 88 yards and Nick Crocker with 66 rushing yards, with both scoring touchdowns. Brody Hingst and Eric Breitenstein had two rushing touchdowns each, while Michael Harpe caught two touchdown passes.

“...We saw a lot of great things tonight but we have to make sure that we continue to progress as a football team,” said head coach Mike Ayers. “Lincoln came in here and fought hard, but we outmanned them. I told our guys at the beginning of the week that we are a better football team, but only if we prove it. We played everybody that was dressed and it was just one of those things where you do not want to tell your guys to stop making plays. We did some real good things, but I guarantee once we look at the film we are going to have some things to tighten up. Western Carolina is a much improved team and a big challenge for us.”

The Lions had the ball first, but were forced three-and-out. Wofford was able to go 60-yards in just six plays as Michael Harpe caught a 24-yard pass from Brian Kass for a touchdown. After another three-and-out by the Lions, Wofford put together a five play, 58 yard drive that was capped by Eric Breitenstein scoring from nine yards out. The Terriers had a 14-0 lead with 7:53 left in the first quarter.

The Wofford defense forced another three-and-out. Wofford then added a touchdown on a seven-yard reception by Jeff Ashley from Brian Kass to take a 21-0 lead at 3:41 in the first quarter. Another three-and-out gave the Terriers a short field to work with and Brian Kass found Michael Harpe for a 22-yard touchdown pass to push the lead to 28-0 with 1:45 left in the first quarter.

On the next punt by Lincoln, Jeremy Holt blocked the punt and it was recovered inside the ten-yard line by Tarek Odom. Cam Flowers scored from three-yards out to give Wofford a 35-0 lead with six seconds left in the first quarter. On the next drive by Lincoln, they picked up five first downs, but the drive ended on a 33-yard field goal attempt by Kyle Jaski that was wide left.

Michael Weimer entered the game for Terriers. After three big first downs by Will Gay, Eric Breitenstein capped the drive with a one-yard touchdown as Wofford took a 42-0 lead with 6:47 left in the second quarter. The Lions gained two first downs, then failed to convert a fourth-and-three and turned the ball over on downs. Wofford used a 43-yard run by Ray Smith to set up a 24-yard field goal by Christian Reed for a 45-0 lead at the half.

Wofford had the ball to open the second half with James Lawson in at quarterback. After gaining three first downs, Christian Reed kicked a 23-yard field goal to give the Terriers a 48-0 lead. The Lions failed to convert a fourth down conversion and turned the ball over on downs. Wofford answered with a three-yard touchdown run by Brody Hingst to push the lead to 55-0 with 5:52 on the clock in the third quarter.

The teams then traded punts. Lincoln had the ball when Brion Anderson picked off a pass for his first career interception. The Terriers converted the turnover into points when Ray Smith scored from 21 yards out to take a 62-0 lead at the end of the third quarter. Lincoln punted on
their next possession. Wofford used a 65-yard run by Nick Crocker to get inside the five-yard line and Crocker punched it in from a yard out to take a 69-0 lead with 11:29 left in the game. On the next possession by Lincoln, the Lions punted and Octavius Harden returned the punt 60 yards for a touchdown. Wofford had a 76-0 lead with 9:03 left in the game. The teams traded punts, then Lincoln had a pass intercepted by Philemon Permis, the first of his career. Wofford ran the ball up the middle five straight times, with Brody Hingst scoring from four yards out with 2:00 left on the clock. The extra point was missed, giving the Terriers an 82-0 lead. The Lions held the ball for the final two minutes of the game. Wofford had 602 total yards, with 449 on the ground. Lincoln had 179 total yards, 141 of which were passing. The Terriers had 30 first downs to just eight for the Lions. Wofford was 5-of-9 on third downs. Lincoln was 2-of-15 on third down. Wofford had two penalties, while Lincoln was flagged eight times. Wofford had the time of possession by a 30:15 to 29:45 margin.

Next week the Terriers will host Western Carolina at Gibbs Stadium in a 7:00 p.m. Southern Conference contest.

**Wofford vs. Lincoln Post-Game Notes**

For the second straight game, the start was delayed due to lightning. The kick was at 7:10 p.m. Wofford has won the last twelve home openers. The last home opening loss came in 2000 when the Terriers lost 34-14 to Lehigh on September 9. With Mike Ayers at the helm, Wofford is 17-8 in home openers.

Cam Flowers scored his first career touchdown in the first quarter. Brody Hingst and Ray Smith both scored first career touchdowns in the third quarter. Nick Crocker added his first career touchdown in the fourth quarter. Octavius Harden scored his first career touchdown on a punt return in the fourth quarter.

Philemon Permis and Brion Anderson each had their first career interceptions in the contest. Wofford scored 35 points in the first quarter, just one point shy of the school record of 36 points in a quarter set in 1990 against ETSU (fourth quarter). The 82 points scored were the second most in school history and the most in the NCAA Division I era. The school record is 83 points scored against High Point in 1949. The margin of victory was the largest in school history, topping the 81 point margin (81-0 over Piedmont in 1925).

The 30 first downs were the fifth most in school history.

With two rushing touchdowns, Eric Breitenstein has 50 career rushing touchdowns. He carried the ball only five times for 35 yards and did not play after scoring at the 6:47 mark in the second quarter.

Game captains were Calvin Cantrell and Josh Roseborough.

Attendance was 4,309 at Gibbs Stadium.
Saturday, September 15, 2012
Wofford Football Runs For 49-20 Win Over Western Carolina

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – On Saturday night at Gibbs Stadium, the Wofford football team ran for 590 yards on the way to a 49-20 win over Western Carolina. Three different Terriers had over 100 yards rushing in the contest and Wofford scored seven rushing touchdowns. The Terriers open the season 3-0 and Western Carolina is 1-2. For Wofford, the offense had 595 total yards and the defense limited the Catamounts to only two offensive touchdowns. The Terriers were led by Eric Breitenstein with 160 rushing yards, Michael Weimer with 141 rushing yards, and Donovan Johnson with 126 rushing yards. The Catamounts were led by Eddie Sullivan who was 28-of-37 passing for 302 yards, while Spearman Robinson had 91 receiving yards.

The Terriers received the opening kickoff and picked up one first down before punting. The Catamounts gained three first downs passing before lining up for a 23-yard field goal. Mike Niam blocked the attempt and James Zotto returned it 37 yards. Wofford then used three rushing first downs to set up a two-yard rushing touchdown by Eric Breitenstein. The Terriers led 7-0 with 4:44 left in the first quarter.

The Wofford defense forced the Catamounts three-and-out on their next drive. The Terriers picked up a first down, but then Brian Kass was sacked and fumbled. Eric Banford recovered the fumble and ran it in ten yards for the touchdown to tie the game with 13 seconds left in the first quarter.

With the ball back, Wofford went 93 yards in eleven plays on a drive that was capped by a one-yard run by Eric Breitenstein. The Terriers led 14-7 at the 13:17 mark of the second quarter. The Catamounts then were three-and-out and punted back to the Terriers. Wofford then added a touchdown when Michael Weimer broke free on a 54-yard run for a 21-7 lead at 8:41 in the second quarter.

Western Carolina gained two big first downs, but then Josh Roseborough ripped the ball away from the running back and returned it to the 49-yard line. Will Irwin then ran 51-yards on a perfectly executed reverse to take a 28-7 lead with 7:11 left in the first half. The Catamounts went three-and-out and punted. Wofford then used a 73-yard run by Michael Weimer along the far sideline to make it a 35-7 advantage with 3:48 on the clock.

The Catamounts drove down the field and lined up for a 43 yard field goal, but a running into the kicker penalty gave them another shot. The try from 38-yards was wide right and Wofford got the ball back with 1:19 left in the half and gained one first down before the clock hit zero. To open the second half, Western Carolina gained two first downs before turning the ball over after an incomplete pass on fourth-and-three. Wofford then went on an eight play drive that covered 76 yards and was capped by a two-yard touchdown run by Eric Breitenstein for a 42-7 lead at 7:57 in the third quarter. The Catamounts used a 62-yard completion to Karnorris Benson from Eddie Sullivan to move inside the red zone. Darius Ramsey then scored a touchdown from three yards out to make it 42-14 with 5:25 left in the third quarter.

On third and long, Eric Breitenstein broke free and went 55 yards to set up a four-yard touchdown run by Donovan Johnson. Wofford had a 49-14 lead with 3:17 left in the third quarter. Western Carolina added a touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter when Troy Mitchell scored from eight yards out. The point after was blocked, making it a 49-20 game with 14:52 left in the game.

After trading punts, Wofford had the ball and had a first down by penalty before punting.
Western Carolina then drove into the Wofford 30-yard line before Alvin Scioneaux recovered a fumble by Troy Mitchell. The Terriers were then able to run out the final 5:43 on the clock, gaining four first downs.

Wofford had 595 total yards, with 590 on the ground. Western Carolina had 428 total yards, 335 of which were passing. The Terriers had 24 first downs to 21 for the Catamounts. Wofford was 12-of-17 on third downs. Western Carolina was 4-of-13 on third down. Wofford had seven penalties, while Western Carolina was flagged three times. Wofford had the time of possession by a 32:17 to 27:43 margin.

After an open week, the Terriers will travel to Elon on Saturday, September 29 for a Southern Conference contest against the Phoenix.

**Wofford vs. WCU Post-Game Notes**

In the second quarter, Michael Weimer and Will Irwin both scored their first career touchdowns.

Eric Breitenstein crossed the 4,000 career rushing yards mark in the second quarter. He had 160 rushing yards in the game to give him a total of 4,109.

The total of 590 rushing yards were the second most in school history and only five yards behind the record of 595 yards against Charleston Southern in 1994.

Wofford had three players run for over 100 yards in the contest. Michael Weimer had his first career 100+ game, Donovan Johnson had his fifth career 100+ game, and Eric Breitenstein had his 22nd career 100+ game. The last time Wofford had three players with over 100 rushing yards each was on October 16, 2011 at Western Carolina.

With three rushing touchdowns, Eric Breitenstein has 53 career rushing touchdowns. He is tied for seventh in SoCon history in career rushing touchdowns.

Game captains were Phillip LeGrande and Jake Miles.

Attendance was 8,544 at Gibbs Stadium.
Monday, September 17, 2012
Michael Weimer Named SoCon Freshman of the Week
SPARTANBURG, S.C. – The Southern Conference named its football players of the week today for the week ending Saturday, Sept. 15. The Citadel teammates Ben Dupree and Carson Smith have been named the Offensive and Defensive Players of the Week, respectively. Wofford’s Michael Weimer was selected as the Freshman of the Week, while Samford’s Fabian Truss was tabbed the Special Teams Player of the Week. The players of the week are selected by the conference office.
Weimer, a redshirt freshman from Chapin, S.C., entered the game in the second quarter and made an immediate impact for the Terriers as they recorded a 49-20 victory over Western Carolina. He ran for a 54-yard score on his first offensive series to give the Terriers a 21-7 lead. On the second snap of his third series, he ran for a 73-yard touchdown as Wofford built a 35-7 halftime lead. Weimer finished the game with 141 yards on just six carries and completed one of two pass attempts. It was his first 100-yard rushing game.
After an open week, the Terriers will travel to Elon on Saturday, September 29 for a Southern Conference contest against the Phoenix.

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Saturday, September 29, 2012
Wofford Football Wins 49-24 At Elon
ELON, N.C. – On a wet Saturday afternoon, the Wofford football team used a career day by Eric Breitenstein to win 49-24 over Elon at Rhodes Stadium. Breitenstein set a new Southern Conference single game record with 321 rushing yards in the contest as the Terriers ran for a total of 500 yards.
The Terriers open the season 4-0 and 2-0 in the SoCon. Elon is 2-3 overall and 0-2 in conference play. For Wofford, Breitenstein had two touchdowns. Brian Kass ran for 57 yards and three touchdowns and threw for one touchdown. Elon was led by Thomas Wilson who was 31-of-47 passing for 322 yards and two touchdowns. Aaron Mellette had 13 catches for 177 yards and two touchdowns.
“The big guys up front did an unbelievable job,” said head coach Mike Ayers. “I think anytime that you have a day like today you have to start there. Eric had a record-setting day and it was one of those situations where everything came together. We had talked to our guys all week that Elon would do a lot of different things and there are times they would get us and there are times we would get them. If we do, they are going to be big plays and that is the way that it turned out. I thought that Elon played hard and it was a four-quarter game in all three phases. If you look at what is to come, the hill only gets higher and the next challenge is Furman.”
The Phoenix had the ball first and gained one first down before Alvin Scioneaux forced a fumble that was recovered by E.J. Speller. On the first play for the Wofford offense, Donovan Johnson ran 32 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead with 13:09 on the clock.
Elon used three passing first downs to move into the redzone. A pass break-up in the endzone by Blake Wylie on third down gave the Phoenix a 35-yard field goal attempt that was good with 10:21 left in the first quarter. With the ball back, Wofford once again needed only one play as Eric Breitenstein went 90-yards down the middle of the field for a touchdown and a 14-3 advantage.
On the next drive for Elon, the Phoenix gained two first downs before punting. Wofford went three and out and punted, but Elon punted back to the Terriers after one first down. The Terriers drove to the seven-yard line, but on third down a fumble was recovered by the Phoenix. Elon could not convert the turnover into points and punted. Wofford drove inside the five-yard line, but a pass was intercepted by Odell Benton in the endzone. The Phoenix gave it right back to Wofford when Stephon Shelton recovered a fumble and returned it to the 18-yard line. Brian Kass found Michael Harpe in the far corner of the endzone for a 16-yard touchdown pass to take a 21-3 lead with 5:21 left in the second quarter.
Elon drove quickly down the field and scored a touchdown as Thomas Wilson found Aaron Mellette in the endzone for a seven-yard reception. The score was 21-10 with 2:09 remaining in the first half. Wofford went the distance of the field in only 90 seconds as Eric Breitenstein had a 49-yard run and scored on a 19-yard run to give the Terriers a 28-10 lead with 29 seconds remaining in the half. Elon took a knee to send the game to halftime.
Wofford had the ball to open the second half, but gained only one first down before punting. Elon went three-and-out and punted. The Terriers had the ball back and after a 42-yard run by Eric Breitenstein, Brian Kass scored from one yard out. Wofford led 35-10 with 9:33 on the clock in the third quarter. The Phoenix drove down the field with four first downs and scored when Aaron Mellette caught a pass from Thomas Wilson that went through the hands of a
Wofford defender. Elon converted the two-point attempt for a 35-18 score with 5:03 left in the third quarter. The Terriers were three-and-out and punted on their next drive. Elon was able to drive into Wofford territory and scored on a 43-yard field goal by Adam Shreiner with 1:14 on the clock in the fourth quarter for a 35-21 score.

Brian Kass then capped a nine-play drive with a two-yard touchdown run to make it 42-21 with 11:27 left in the game. Elon gained one first down before failing to convert a fourth-and-three and turning the ball back over to Wofford. The Terriers then added a touchdown with a 39-yard run by Brian Kass to take a 49-21 lead with 8:04 remaining. A 33-yard field goal by Adam Shreiner with 2:52 left on the clock made it a 49-24 game. Wofford was able to run out the final minutes after Eric Breitenstein set the SoCon rushing mark with a nine-yard first down run.

Wofford had 516 total yards, with 500 on the ground. Elon had 410 total yards, 361 of which were passing. The Terriers had 22 first downs to 24 for the Phoenix. Wofford was 8-of-12 on third downs. Elon was 5-of-15 on third down. Each team had four penalties. Elon had the time of possession by a 30:31 to 29:29 margin. Next week, the Terriers will host Furman at 1:30 p.m. at Gibbs Stadium.

**Wofford vs. Elon Post-Game Notes**

Wofford has opened the season 4-0 for the first time since 1991.

The Wofford defense has held all four opponents this season to under 100 rushing yards. Elon had only 49 in the contest.

Eric Breitenstein reached 100 yards rushing in the first quarter. It marked his 23rd career 100+ rushing game. He set a new personal best with 321 yards, second in school history. It was his fifth career 200+ rushing game and first career 300+ game. Eric Breitenstein stands at 4,430 career rushing yards. He is currently 698 yards behind Shawn Graves at 5,128 yards.

The 321 rushing yards by Eric Breitenstein marked only the third time in SoCon history a player has had 300 or more rushing yards. Armanti Edwards (ASU) had 313 in 2007 and Louis Ivory (FUR) had 301 in 2000.

With two rushing touchdowns, Eric Breitenstein has 55 career rushing touchdowns. He is sixth in SoCon history in career rushing touchdowns. Brian Kass scored three rushing touchdowns, a new career high.

Christian Reed scored seven points, all on point after touchdowns, to give him 217 career kicking points at Wofford. He moves into first place all-time, passing Brian Porzio (216 from 1991-94).

Game captains were Blake Wylie and Brad Nociek.

Attendance was 10,302 at Rhodes Stadium.