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**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Ayers Named AFCA Region Coach of the Year  
**Date:** December 3, 2002 at 10:51 AM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu



Wofford Head Football Coach Mike Ayers has been named the Division I-AA Region Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

Ayers is now one of five finalists for AFCA Division I-AA National Coach of the Year, which will be announced Jan. 7 at the AFCA Convention in New Orleans.

The other Division I-AA region winners were Don Brown (Northeastern), Tim Billings (Southeast Missouri State), Don Patterson (Western Illinois), and Joe Glenn (Montana).

Ayers led the Terriers to a second-place finish in the SoCon with a 9-3 overall record and 6-2 league mark. Wofford, the only team in Division I-AA to beat two teams ranked in the top five (Georgia Southern, Appalachian State), was picked to finish seventh in preseason polls by the league coaches and media.

Already Wofford's all-time winningest coach with 90 victories, Ayers recorded his 100th career win in a 39-10 victory at East Tennessee State (Nov. 9). During his 15-year tenure at Wofford, Ayers has guided the Terrier program from NAIA membership to NCAA Division II, Division I-AA Independent, and the Southern Conference.

Ayers was previously AFCA Region Coach of the Year in 1990 and 1991, when he led the Terriers to NCAA Division II playoff appearances in both seasons.

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Nine Wofford Players Receive All-SoCon Honors; Ayers Tabbed as Coach of the Year  
**Date:** December 3, 2002 at 1:45 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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MC

The Southern Conference Sports Media Association has tabbed nine Wofford football players for All-SoCon honors with Mike Ayers being named the Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons.

Halfback Jesse McCoy, defensive tackle Anthony Jones, and free safety Matt Nelson were named to the first team, while offensive tackle Jesse Blackburn, center Prosser Carnegie, offensive guard Eric Deutsch, nose tackle Nathan Fuqua, cornerback Roland Harris, and punter Jimmy Miner received second-team honors.

With offensive tackle Chad Bentley being named to the coaches' All-SoCon team last week, a Wofford record 10 players received All-League honors this year. McCoy and Jones were also first-team choices by the SoCon coaches.

Ayers led the Terriers to a second-place finish in the SoCon with a 9-3 overall record and 6-2 league mark. Wofford, the only team in Division I-AA to beat two teams ranked in the top five (Georgia Southern, Appalachian State), was picked to finish seventh in preseason polls by the league coaches and media.

Ayers is also the Region Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association and a finalist for its Division I-AA National Coach of the Year award. He is also a finalist for The Sports Network's Eddie Robinson Award, signifying the top coach in Division I-AA.

Ayers was previously named SoCon Coach of the Year following the 2000 campaign.

McCoy rushed for 1,001 yards and 10 touchdowns on a 7.8 per carry average as he became the first non-quarterback at Wofford since 1979 to reach the 1,000-yard mark. The Acworth, Ga., native closed his career as the Terriers' fifth all-time leading rusher with 2,684 yards. He also holds the Wofford mark for career per carry average at 7.3 yards.

McCoy had four 100-yard rushing performances this season and was a three-time SoCon Player of the Week. He had a personal-best 184 yards, also the high game for a SoCon player this year, in the 27-14 win over The Citadel. It came one week after a then career-high 145-yard effort and two touchdowns in the 26-19 victory at Appalachian State. He also rushed for 114 yards and two scores, including the game-winner on a 4th-and-goal play late in the fourth quarter, in the 14-7 victory at Georgia Southern. McCoy placed third in the SoCon in rushing (91.0 yards per game) and second in all-purpose yards (119.9 per game).

Jones set single-season school records with his SoCon-leading totals of 15.5 sacks and 26.5 tackles for loss. The senior from Lexington, Ky., is also the Terriers' career leader in both categories with 30.5 sacks and 64.5 stops behind the line of scrimmage.

Twice in the last three games, Jones equaled a single-game Wofford record with five tackles for a loss. He had three-sack performances in wins over Appalachian State. Chattanooga.

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and East Tennessee State.

Nelson placed second in the SoCon with a team-high 131 tackles, representing the most stops by a Wofford player since 1987. He was also among the league leaders with 11 pass breakups. The junior from Grove City, Ohio, is already third on the Terriers' career tackles list with 285. His 83 solo stops this fall rank as the third-best single-season total in school history.

Blackburn (Marysville, Ohio), Carnegie (Davidson, N.C.), and Deutsch ( Cincinnati, Ohio) helped anchor a Wofford offensive line that paved the way for the nation's second-ranked rushing offense (342.2 yards per game). The Terriers' 4,106 yards rushing was just five yards shy of a single-season school record (4,111, 1989).

Blackburn, Carnegie, and Deutsch were also key in allowing McCoy to become Wofford's first running back since 1979 to reach the 1,000-yard plateau.

Fuqua has received All-SoCon honors for the fourth straight season. The Danville, Ky., native was instrumental in Wofford topping the SoCon and placing 16th nationally in total defense, allowing just 270.4 yards per game. The Terriers were first in the SoCon in run defense (125.9 yards per game) and second in pass defense (144.5 yards per game).

While facing constant double and triple-teaming on blocks, Fuqua had 11 tackles for loss among his 54 stops on the year. He closes his career with 50 tackles for loss to place second on Wofford's career list, behind only Jones.

Harris topped the Terriers and placed among the SoCon leaders with four interceptions, including two spectacular picks in the final five minutes of the 26-19 win at Appalachian State. His efforts in that game earned him SoCon Defensive Player of the Week honors. The senior from Hope Mills, N.C., also had seven pass breakups.

Miner ranked 13th nationally with a 42.2 average. The junior from Kennesaw, Ga., had 13 of his 47 punts downed inside the 20-yard line, with seven inside the 10-yard line and three inside the five.

In a 7-6 win over a South Carolina State team that was ranked in the Top 25 for several weeks this season, Miner had three of his five kicks downed inside the nine-yard line with his last two punts being placed at the one. Another kick resulted in field position at the Bulldog 14-yard line. S.C. State began two of its final three possessions at its own one-yard line. The average starting field position for S.C. State in the game was its own 14, including the nine-yard line on four second-half series.

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Ayers is Runner-Up for Robinson Award as National Coach of the Year  
**Date:** December 19, 2002 at 7:53 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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Wofford Head Football Coach Mike Ayers placed second in voting for the 2002 Eddie Robinson Award, signifying the top coach in Division I-AA this season.

The Eddie Robinson Award was established in 1987 by The Sports Network. The Award is named for legendary head coach Eddie Robinson, who retired in 1997 after 56 years at Grambling State University.

Tommy Tate, head coach of McNeese State, was named as this year's recipient. Tate has guided the top-ranked Cowboys into the I-AA national championship game against Western Kentucky.

Tate received 23 first-place votes and 261 points from the panel of 109 I-AA sports information directors and selected media. Following Tate in the voting was Ayers, who earned 14 first-place votes and 188 points. Western Illinois' Don Patterson was third with 12 first-place votes and 176 points.

With Wofford picked to finish seventh in the Southern Conference, Ayers led the Terriers to a second-place finish with a 6-2 league mark and 9-3 overall record. Wofford was the only team in Division I-AA this season to have two wins over teams ranked in the top five, as the Terriers posted victories at Georgia Southern and Appalachian State.

Ayers was selected as the SoCon Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons while being named AFCA Region Coach of the Year for the third time in his career. He is also a finalist for AFCA Division I-AA National Coach of the Year.

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Wofford Defensive Tackle Receives First-Team All-America Honor  
**Date:** December 20, 2002 at 11:25 AM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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Wofford College defensive tackle Anthony Jones has been named a first-team All-America by The Sports Network.

Jones topped the SoCon in sacks (15.5) and tackles for loss (28.0). The senior from Lexington, Ky., is also the Terriers' career leader in both categories with 30.5 sacks and 66 stops behind the line of scrimmage.

Jones had three sacks in wins this season over Appalachian State, East Tennessee State, and Chattanooga in addition to two key fourth-quarter sacks versus Furman. Twice in the last three contests, Jones equaled a single-game Wofford record with five tackles for a loss.

"Anthony has earned it," Wofford Head Coach Mike Ayers said. "He worked hard and had a tremendous year in leading the Southern Conference in sacks.

"He's a tenacious player and outstanding competitor who has overcome some odds. He was undersized coming out of high school and not a lot of people looked at him. We felt he could help our football team and he ended up being an All-American. We're very happy for him and very proud of him."

Jones keyed a Wofford defensive unit that led the SoCon in run defense (125.9 yards per game), pass defense (144.5 yards per game), and total defense (270.4 yards per game).

The Terriers posted a 9-3 record, including a second-place finish in the SoCon with a 6-2 league mark. With road wins over Georgia Southern and Appalachian State, Wofford was the only team in Division I-AA this season to have victories over two teams ranked in the top five in the final regular-season poll.

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Wofford Football Ranked No. 11 and No. 14 in Final Football Polls  
**Date:** December 23, 2002 at 1:09 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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The Wofford football team is ranked No. 11 and No. 14, respectively, in final Division I-AA polls released today by ESPN/*USA Today* and The Sports Network.

The Terriers placed second in the Southern Conference with a 6-2 league mark and 9-3 overall record. With road victories at Georgia Southern and Appalachian State, Wofford was the only team in Division I-AA this season to have two wins over teams ranked in the top five in the final regular-season poll.

This year's Wofford team was also just the sixth in school history to record at least nine wins in a season.

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Wofford Football Ranked No. 2 in Final National Football Gazette Poll  
**Date:** December 27, 2002 at 12:57 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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The Wofford football team is ranked No. 2 in the nation by the *National Football Gazette* in its final Division I-AA poll this season.

The poll can be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.donhansen.com/polls/ncaa1-aa.php>

National champion Western Kentucky is the top-rated team with Georgia Southern, Western Illinois, and McNeese State rounding out the top five.

The Terriers placed second in the Southern Conference with a 6-2 league mark and 9-3 overall record. With road victories at Georgia Southern and Appalachian State, Wofford was the only team in Division I-AA this season to have two wins over teams ranked in the top five in the final regular-season poll.

Wofford topped the SoCon in run defense (125.9 yards per game), pass defense (144.5 yards per game), and total defense (270.4 yards per game). The Terriers were also second nationally in rushing offense (342.2 yards per game).

This year's Wofford team was just the sixth in school history to record at least nine wins in a season.



**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Ayers Receives National Coach of the Year Honor; Jones and Fuqua Also Cited  
**Date:** January 8, 2003 at 11:43 AM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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MC

Wofford football coach Mike Ayers has been named the 2002 Division I-AA Coach of the Year by College Sporting News/I-AA.org ([www.i-aa.org](http://www.i-aa.org)) with defensive tackle Anthony Jones and nose tackle Nathan Fuqua being selected to the organization's I-AA All-Star team.

With Wofford picked to finish seventh in preseason polls by the league coaches and media, Ayers guided the Terriers to a second-place finish with a 6-2 league mark and 9-3 overall record. Wofford had road wins over Georgia Southern and Appalachian State in becoming the only team in Division I-AA this season to post victories over two teams in the top five of the final regular-season poll.

The Terriers closed the year ranked No. 11 and No. 14, respectively, in polls by ESPN/*USA Today* and The Sports Network.

Ayers received SoCon Coach of the Year honors for the second time in three seasons. For the third time in his Wofford career, he was named the Region Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA). He was also the runner-up for the Eddie Robinson Award, presented by The Sports Network to the top coach in Division I-AA.

Already Wofford's all-time winningest coach with 90 victories, Ayers picked up his 100th career win this season with a 39-10 rout of East Tennessee State (Nov. 9).

Jones, an All-America selection by The Sports Network and Associated Press, topped the SoCon in sacks (15.5) and tackles for loss (28.0). The senior from Lexington, Ky., is also the Terriers' career leader in both categories with 30.5 sacks and 66 stops behind the line of scrimmage.

Jones had three sacks in wins this season over Appalachian State, East Tennessee State, and Chattanooga. He also had two key fourth-quarter sacks versus Furman. Twice in the last three contests, Jones equaled a single-game Wofford record with five tackles for a loss.

Fuqua is the first Terrier to be a four-time All-SoCon selection. The senior from Danville, Ky., had 11 tackles for loss among his 57 stops on the year. He places second to Jones on Wofford's career tackles for loss list with 50.

Jones and Fuqua keyed a Wofford defensive unit that led the SoCon in run defense (125.9 yards per game), pass defense (144.5 yards per game), and total defense (270.4 yards per game).

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Six Terriers Receive Football Gazette All-Region Honors  
**Date:** January 16, 2003 at 4:51 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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Six Wofford College football players have been named to Don Hansen's *National Football Gazette* All-Southeast Region Team.

Offensive tackle Jesse Blackburn, offensive guard Eric Deutsch, cornerback Roland Harris, defensive tackle Anthony Jones, halfback Jesse McCoy, and free safety Matt Nelson represent the Terriers on the squad that includes members from the Southern Conference, MEAC, Big South, and Northeast Conference.

Blackburn, Deutsch, Harris, Jones, McCoy, and Nelson were also All-SoCon selections with Jones being named a first-team All-America by The Sports Network.

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Wofford Football Announces Start Date for Spring Practice  
**Date:** January 22, 2003 at 4:38 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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MC

The Wofford College football program and coach Mike Ayers have announced that spring practice will begin on Feb. 24.

The Terriers will return seven starters on offense and two on defense from the 2002 squad that posted a 9-3 overall record and 6-2 SoCon mark. The Terriers finished second in the SoCon after being a preseason seventh-place pick by the league coaches and media. Wofford closed the year No. 11 in the final ESPN/USA *Today* poll and No. 14 by The Sports Network.

"We feel that we have a lot of work to do this spring," Ayers said. "We've got a great group of guys coming back from last season's team and there are a lot of question marks.

"We're kind of flipping the page. Last year, the question marks occurred with the offense, rebuilding the offensive line, and no experience at our quarterback position. We now come back with an experienced offense, and it's on the flip side with the defense and its inexperience. We've got to find some young guys who are going to step up and be starters and then backups as well.

"It's always great to get on the field, coach, practice, and watch the progress. We're excited about it. We'd like for it to be here right now and we'd like for recruiting to be over. Hopefully, we'll settle up with recruiting soon and be ready to go in February and have a great spring."

Ayers was named the National I-AA Coach of the Year by the College Sporting News. He was the runner-up for the Eddie Robinson Award, given by The Sports Network to the top I-AA coach in the country. Ayers also received region coach of the year honors from the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) while being named the SoCon Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons.

Wofford opens the 2003 campaign on Aug. 30 at Air Force.

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Former Wofford Football Player Makes Super Bowl Appearance  
**Date:** January 29, 2003 at 12:10 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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MC

Rick Patterson, a 1980 Wofford graduate and former Terrier football player, worked as a side judge in Sunday's Super Bowl between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Oakland Raiders.

Patterson is in his seventh year as a National Football League official. During the week, he is a senior vice president and regional director of business and community banking for Wachovia Bank in Spartanburg, S.C.

Patterson has worked more than 150 NFL games, including the AFC Championship in 1999 and the Pro Bowl in 2001. Prior to the NFL, he officiated for 10 years on the collegiate level. He worked several bowl games, including three Fiesta Bowls and the Sugar Bowl.

Patterson is the first South Carolina native (Blacksburg, S.C.) to officiate in the Super Bowl. He earned the assignment by grading out higher than every official at his position this season.

**From:** Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM  
**Subject:** Two Wofford Football Players Receive First-Team All-America Honors  
**Date:** January 29, 2003 at 3:24 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

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MC

Wofford College defensive tackle Anthony Jones and free safety Matt Nelson have received first-team All-America honors from the *National Football Gazette*.

Offensive guard Eric Deutsch was a third-team selection with offensive tackle Jesse Blackburn and punter Jimmy Miner garnering honorable-mention accolades.

Jones is a consensus All-America. He was previously a first-team selection by The Sports Network and a second-team choice by the Associated Press.

Jones topped the SoCon in sacks (15.5) and tackles for loss (28.0). The senior from Lexington, Ky., is also the Terriers' career leader in both categories with 30.5 sacks and 66 stops behind the line of scrimmage.

Jones had three sacks in wins this season over Appalachian State, East Tennessee State, and Chattanooga in addition to two key fourth-quarter sacks versus Furman. Twice in the last three contests, Jones equaled a single-game Wofford record with five tackles for a loss.

Jones and Nelson keyed a Wofford defensive unit that led the SoCon in run defense (125.9 yards per game), pass defense (144.5 yards per game), and total defense (270.4 yards per game).

Nelson placed second in the SoCon with a team-high 131 tackles. After making 114 stops last year, he now owns the Terriers' top two single-season tackle totals dating back to 1987. He was also among the league leaders with 11 pass breakups. The junior from Grove City, Ohio, is already third on the Terriers' career tackles list with 285. His 83 solo stops this fall rank as the third-best single-season total in school history.

Deutsch (Cincinnati, Ohio) and Blackburn (Marysville, Ohio) helped anchor a Wofford offensive line that paved the way for the nation's second-ranked rushing attack (342.2 yards per game). The Terriers' rushing total of 4,106 yards was just five yards shy of a single-season school record (4,111, 1989).

Deutsch and Blackburn were also key in allowing halfback Jesse McCoy to become Wofford's first running back since 1979 to rush for 1,000 yards.

Miner ranked 13th nationally with a 42.2 average. The junior from Kennesaw, Ga., had 13 of his 47 punts downed inside the 20-yard line, with seven inside the 10-yard line and three inside the five. In a 7-6 win over South Carolina State, he had three of his five kicks downed inside the nine-yard line with his last two punts being placed at the one.

The Terriers posted a 9-3 record, including a second-place finish in the SoCon with a 6-2 league mark. With road wins over Georgia Southern and Appalachian State, Wofford was the only team in Division I-AA this season to have victories over two teams ranked in the top five in the final regular-season poll.

Wofford finished the season ranked No. 2 by the *National Football Gazette*, No. 11 by ESPN/USA Today, and No. 14 by The Sports Network.