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**Football Press Releases Spring 2002**

Wofford College. Sports Information Office

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The Wofford College football team has announced that spring practice will begin on Apr. 8.

"We're looking forward to spring practice," Wofford Head Coach Mike Ayers said. "The kids have had a good offseason. We feel recruiting has gone well and we can't wait to get started. We've been in the office too long. We need to get on the field to work on fundamentals and becoming a better football team."

Wofford returns 10 of 11 starters on defense and four starters on offense.

The Terriers open their first-ever 12-game regular season on Aug. 31 with a home date against Newberry. The 2002 slate includes a Sept. 28 visit to ACC champion Maryland.
The Wofford College football team will begin spring football tomorrow with a 6:30 p.m. practice.

The Terriers return 10 of 11 starters on defense and just four on offense. Among the losses to graduation on offense are four starters from the line and quarterback Travis Wilson.

"We're looking forward to spring football," Wofford Head Coach Mike Ayers said. "We've had a tough offseason program and the kids have worked real hard.

"We're stronger and we're in better shape than we've ever been at this point. We had five kids that required surgery so we had to wait on them to rehab so they could go through spring ball. We feel confident that we're going to have a great spring. The attitude of our kids is outstanding. We've got a lot of work to do, especially on the offensive side.

"We have to redo a whole offensive line with just one starter back. We also have to find a starting quarterback. We have our work cut out for us but we're excited about it. We're looking forward to becoming a better football team and that's our main focus."

A four-way way battle to replace Wilson will take place between senior Nick Haughey (Rock Hill, S.C.) and sophomores Jonathan Carey (Jonesboro, Ga.), Trey Rodgers (Spartanburg, S.C.), and Jeff Zolman (Miamisburg, Ohio).

Haughey made the start at South Carolina this past year when Wilson was injured. He saw action in eight games, rushing for 37 yards on 13 carries while completing 10-of-17 passes for 83 yards. Carey did not see game action while Rodgers and Zolman saw limited duty. Rodgers is a local player who earned South Carolina Player of the Year honors as he led Dorman High School to a state title his senior year. Zolman, a southpaw, is the younger brother of Greg Zolman, who will graduate from Vanderbilt this year after being the Commodores' starting quarterback.

Following tomorrow night, the Terriers' practice schedule for the remainder of the week includes Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Friday at 3 p.m., and Saturday at 10 a.m.
As the Wofford College football team prepares for its second spring practice this evening, a pair of Terriers have seen position changes.

Chad Bentley, who started all 11 games at left guard last season, has been moved to left tackle to offset the loss to graduation of All-SoCon performer J.C. Neel. Bentley is a rising senior from Pickens, S.C.

Rising sophomore Tony Jefferson (Lynchburg, Va.), who lettered for his work on the special teams last season, has been moved from halfback to free safety.

Inside linebacker Jimmy Freland is also working at outside linebacker this spring. A rising sophomore from Cincinnati, Ohio, he started seven games as a true freshman a year ago and placed ninth on the team with 43 tackles, including five for a loss.

Following tonight's 6:30 practice, the Terriers will return to the field at 3 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday.
Black Issues In Higher Education has named Wofford College halfback Ben Foster its male Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar of the Year for best exemplifying the standards of scholarship, athleticism, and humanitarianism.

In 1992, Black Issues In Higher Education established the Sports Scholars Award to honor undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr.

A three-year starter and Team Captain for the Terrier football team, Foster was a two-time Verizon Academic All-District selection. He also served as Wofford’s Student Body President this year. A Dean's List student majoring in biology, he plans to attend medical school following his graduation next month. He is a recipient of the Dave Hart Postgraduate Scholarship from the Southern Conference.

Among his myriad of activities and honors, Foster is the lone I-AA representative on the Division I Football Issues Committee and the Southern Conference delegate on the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Council.
The battle for the starting quarterback job at Wofford is heating up as the Terriers continue their first week of spring football.

Looking to replace departed four-year starter and record-setting quarterback Travis Wilson are rising senior Nick Haughey (Rock Hill, S.C.) and rising sophomores Jonathan Carey (Jonesboro, Ga.), Trey Rodgers (Spartanburg, S.C.), and Jeff Zolman (Miamisburg, Ohio).

"We hope to come out of spring ball knowing who the first guy is and down the line from there," Wofford Head Coach Mike Ayers said. "Only one of the four has some experience (Haughey) and the rest are basically just new guys.

"They're talented. They have a lot of ability. They can all throw the ball and run the ball. It's going to be interesting. The one thing about that position versus any other we have on the team is that there is tremendous competition. Each one of them will have an opportunity to show what they can do. At the end of the 15 practices, we'll make a determination on who that guy is"

Haughey made the start at South Carolina this past year when Wilson was injured. He saw action in eight games, rushing for 37 yards on 13 carries while completing 10-of-17 passes for 83 yards. Carey did not see game action while Rodgers and Zolman saw limited duty. Rodgers is a local player who earned South Carolina Player of the Year honors as he led Dorman High School to a state title his senior year. Zolman, a southpaw, is the younger brother of Greg Zolman, who will graduate from Vanderbilt this year after being the Commodores' starting quarterback.
The Wofford College football team returns to the field tonight at 6:30 for the second week of spring practice after a very solid opening week that left Head Coach Mike Ayers pleased.

"I really like the intensity of the team and the way the kids are working," Ayers said. "I think they have a great focus.

"We've put a lot in on offense and there's still a lot of thinking going on with that side of the ball. Defensively, we've got some kids that are flying around and doing an excellent job. (Strong safety) Matt Nelson is a young man that we feel can be a mainstay and Anthony Jones is playing very well at defensive tackle. We also have some young linebackers that have a great deal of potential. We just need to get them dialed in."

Nelson, a rising junior from Grove City, Ohio, earned All-SoCon honors last season. His team-high 114 tackles easily outdistanced the next closest Terrier (Hondre McNeil, 71). Nelson's tackle total was the highest at Wofford in the 14-year tenure of Ayers.

A rising senior from Lexington, Ky., Jones totaled a team-high 20 tackles for a loss last season.

"All in all, it was a very productive first week," Ayers said. "We still have a little more to install offensively and defensively, but we'll be finished by the middle of this week. It will then just be trying to fine tune and work on our technique."

The Terriers will also practice at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday and 3 p.m. on Friday. The first spring scrimmage is Saturday at 10 a.m.
Wofford College quarterback Nick Haughey will be sidelined until this fall after suffering a torn ACL and MCL in his left knee in practice on Friday.

Haughey underwent an MRI yesterday and will have surgery the first part of next week. A rising senior from Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, S.C., Haughey had been in contention to start at quarterback for the Terriers. He is hopeful of returning to non-contact drills in August.

Rising sophomores Jonathan Carey, Trey Rodgers, and Jeff Zolman will now compete for the starting job.

Carey (Jonesboro, Ga.) did not see game action last season. Rodgers appeared in four games. The former local standout at Dorman High School in Spartanburg rushed for 48 yards on eight carries while completing 2-of-3 passes for 17 yards. Zolman (Miamisburg, Ohio) saw limited duty in two appearances.
The Wofford College football team will hold its first spring scrimmage at 10 a.m. Saturday in Gibbs Stadium with Jonathan Carey and Trey Rodgers locked in a battle for the Terriers' starting quarterback job.

"We're looking forward to being out there and trying to get everything put together," Wofford Head Coach Mike Ayers said. "We've been working bits and pieces of the offense and defense and really haven't gone a whole lot of 11-on-11.

"This will be our first scrimmage situation in the first two weeks. We'll let them get out there and see how they respond. We're looking for great effort. We want to have great execution. The problem is that we've put in a lot of stuff but haven't been able to work it as much as we'd like due to the limited number of practices.

"Each day we're getting better and we're better this week than we were last. I believe the scrimmage will give us a pretty good indication of how far we've come and how far we need to go."

Carey and Rodgers will share the snaps at quarterback. Rising senior Nick Haughey, the most experienced signal caller, is sidelined with a torn ACL and MCL in his left knee while Jeff Zolman has sat out the last week with an AC sprain and will not take part in the scrimmage.

"Jonathan and Trey have the lead right now as far as being our starting quarterback," Ayers said. "Both of those guys have performed well and the scrimmage will be a big indicator as far as who's the guy that will get the most reps at the No. 1 position."
The Wofford College football team held its first scrimmage of spring practice, consisting of 77 plays in just over an hour, under a hot sun this morning in Gibbs Stadium.

"Overall, the kids were trying and working hard," Ayers said. "Our ball security was terrible. We've got to do a much better job securing the football.

"We had some big plays. We have some quarterbacks that can be creative and make things happen. Defensively, we flew around pretty well but did not tackle well in space and that's a problem. When you're playing quick people and good backs, you have to be down in your legs and have more than one guy running to the football.

"Overall, with the limited amount of time we've had and the amount we've put in, I think the kids did a pretty good job."

Rising sophomores Jonathan Carey and Trey Rodgers split time at quarterback as they continued their battle to win the starting job.

"There was a lot of good and a lot of bad out of both of them," Head Coach Mike Ayers said. "We just have to get them where they are more consistent.

"Anytime that you want to score and move the sticks, the big thing is consistency in your execution. We'd have a great play and then we'd have a turnover or we'd have a guy go the wrong way. We're playing a ton of young guys up there and it's just a matter of them getting reps. The more reps you get the less you have to think and the better you'll execute."

Carey completed 9-of-15 passes for 59 yards, including a two-yard scoring toss to Marcus Gilmore on a 4th-and-goal play. Carey's 50 yards rushing on 10 carries tied him for team-high honors with Jesse McCoy, who ran for 50 yards on just four attempts. Carey, a native of Jonesboro, Ga., who did not see game action last season, had a 20-yard gain on his first carry of the morning.

Rodgers led his unit on a 75-yard scoring drive on the first possession of the scrimmage. The sophomore from Spartanburg, S.C., hit Curtis Nash, his former teammate at Dorman High School, with a 15-yard completion on his first attempt in the air. Rodgers capped the drive with a 16-yard touchdown pass to tight end Steve Prochak, a rising junior from crosstown rival Spartanburg High School.

Rodgers was 4-of-8 for 32 yards on the day while adding 32 yards rushing on 11 carries, including an 18-yard scramble on a 3rd-and-10.

Rising sophomore halfback Ben Mungin was the top receiver with three catches for 29 yards while fullback J.R. McNair rushed for 21 yards on six attempts.

Defensive standouts included a pair of Terriers seeing action at new positions. With three-time All-SoCon nose tackle Nathan Fuqua not participating due to injury, Anthony Jones slid over from his normal defensive tackle spot to the nose. Jimmy Freland, an inside linebacker as a freshman last season, performed well at outside linebacker. Also cited was All-SoCon strong safety Matt Nelson, outside linebackers Hondre McNeill and Teddie Whitaker, and inside linebackers LaRay Benton and Timmy Thrift.

The Terriers will begin their third week of spring practice when they return to the field Monday at 6:30 p.m. The next scrimmage will be next Saturday at 10 a.m.
Sophomore quarterback Jonathan Carey threw for 188 yards and four touchdowns to lead Wofford in its second scrimmage of spring practice Saturday morning at Gibbs Stadium in Spartanburg.

"Overall, we got after it pretty good," said Wofford head coach Mike Ayers. "There was a lot of intensity on the field today. It was just our second scrimmage this spring and all we really expect is to get better from one scrimmage to the other. I think we have done that."

Former Dorman High School standout Trey Rogers started the scrimmage at quarterback, but after rushing from one scrimmage to the other. I think we have done that."

With Rogers on the sideline, Carey took over first-team duties on the drive and marched the offense 59 yards on its opening possession for the first score. A six-yard run by Jesse McCoy capped the scoring drive. Carey was 2-for-3 passing for 39 yards and ran three times for 14 yards in the drive.

"Carey is a playmaker," said Ayers. "He makes it happen."

Carey connected with D.J. Gaillard for a 13-yard scoring play for the offense's second score of the day, capping a nine-play, 80-yard drive. Carey accounted for 75 of the 80 yards, running for 35 and throwing for 40. Carey later connected with Isaac Goodpaster for a four-yard scoring strike and McCoy for 15 and 35-yard scoring plays.

"Our first group on offense was solid," said Ayers. "They made big plays. I think we are improving to the point where we will have an exciting offense capable of moving up and down the field and putting points on the board."

The defense also stepped up throughout the day. After cornerback Roland Harris tipped a Chris Dawson pass on the third drive of the scrimmage, linebacker Jimmy Freeland grabbed the ball for an interception and returned it 62 yards for a touchdown, marking the defense's only score.

"Defensively, we stepped up and made some big plays," said Ayers. "Matt Nelson, the defensive line, the entire group played well."

McCoy finished the scrimmage with 186 rushing yards for 59 carries and a touchdown. He also caught
McCoy finished the scrimmage with 16 yards rushing on five carries and a touchdown. He also caught three passes for 59 yards and two scores. D.J. Gaillard ran three times for 17 yards and caught three passes for 38 yards and a touchdown. Melvin Jones was solid, rushing for 20 yards on three carries and catching two passes.

Wofford enters its final week of spring practice this week.
The Wofford College football team held a 71-play scrimmage this afternoon in Gibbs Stadium to close out spring practice.

A 57-yard touchdown run by Jesse McCoy, on the second series, was the offensive highlight and lone touchdown for the Terriers. Rising sophomores Jonathan Carey, Trey Rodgers, and Jeff Zolman split time at quarterback.

"We weren't as consistent as I thought we'd be," Wofford Head Coach Mike Ayers said. "There were a lot of kids running around and going hard, but a lot of times they were going hard in the wrong direction.

"We did not catch the ball very well today. We had too many dropped passes and some problems with a couple of pickups on protection. Defensively, we didn't tackle as well as we needed to so we gave up some big plays.

"Overall, it was a productive spring. We added a lot as far as the offense. We're not quite as sharp as we need to be. Thank goodness for 29 practices prior to getting cranked up in August (Wofford opens the 2002 campaign on Aug. 31 versus Newberry)."

Rodgers, a local standout at Dorman High School in Spartanburg, S.C., completed 6-of-8 passes for 54 yards. Carey was 3-of-8 for 35 yards with one interception, while Zolman was 4-of-8 for 37 yards and one pick.

Fullback J.R. McNair had 52 yards on seven rushing attempts while rising sophomores Donald Dorham and Jeff Sullivan added 48 and 42 yards, respectively. McCoy totaled 60 yards on just two carries. Halfback Ben Mungin was the top receiver with four catches for 32 yards.

Defensive tackle Bill Pryor had the highlight for his side of the ball with an interception and 27-yard return. Inside linebacker Matt Allison also recorded an interception. Brandon Smith had a pair of pass breakups from his strong safety position.
The Wofford College football team has announced that rising sophomore Trey Rodgers will enter preseason camp in August as the starter at quarterback.

Rodgers, a local standout who led Dorman High School in Spartanburg, S.C., to the 2000 state title and earned Shrine Bowl Most Valuable Player honors, appeared in four games last season. He had eight carries for 48 yards while completing 2-of-3 passes for 17 yards.

"I feel that Trey made a lot of progress," Wofford Head Coach Mike Ayers said. "He's a guy who can take charge and command of the offense.

"He was very productive when he was in there. I thought he showed a lot of toughness bouncing back from when he was injured (sprained ankle) in the second scrimmage, and performed well in the third scrimmage.

"The challenge for Trey is to stay on top because it's so close. Nobody can afford to slip or have a bad day because the competition level with the other guys is tight and they'll catch up with him. I think that's going to help our football team. I feel very good about the ability of our quarterbacks to make plays and good decisions. I think it's going to be a great opportunity for our team to take the next step because of the competition at the quarterback position."

Wofford will play its first-ever 12-game regular season schedule this fall. Included in the slate, which opens Aug. 31 at home against Newberry, is a Sept. 28 contest at ACC champion Maryland.
Former Wofford College placekicker Darren Brown has received a $5,000 postgraduate scholarship from the Carolina Panthers Scholarship Fund, a component fund of Foundation For The Carolinas.

A Dean's List student, Brown graduated earlier this month with a degree in computer science. He has narrowed his choice of law school to either Duke or the University of Texas. He scored in the 90th percentile on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

Brown was a first-team All-Southern Conference selection this year. He holds Wofford's career field-goal accuracy record at 77.8 percent (21-of-27). As a junior, he set a single-season SoCon mark at 85.7 percent (12-of-14).

Brown is the third Wofford football player to receive a postgraduate scholarship through the Carolina Panthers and the Foundation For The Carolinas. Tight end Scot Jones was a 1998 recipient with offensive guard Eric Cole garnering the award in 1999.
The Wofford College football team will enter a new era in 2002 with a retooled offense and a defensive unit that returns nearly intact, including three-time All-Southern Conference nose tackle Nathan Fuqua.

The Terriers have just four starters back on offense. Among the seven losses to graduation are four-year starter and record-setting quarterback Travis Wilson. Also gone are four starters from the offensive line. However, the top three ground gainers return from a squad that placed seventh in the nation in team rushing (264.1 yards per game) last year.

Defensively, the Terriers will again be led by Fuqua and free safety Matt Nelson. An All-America candidate, Fuqua is already Wofford’s career leader in tackles for a loss with 39 in just three seasons. Nelson’s 114 stops last year were the most by a Terrier since 1987.

Wofford is also very strong in the kicking game with punter Jimmy Miner, who topped the SoCon and ranked eighth nationally in Division I-AA with his average of 42.0 yards per attempt.

After having faced Clemson and South Carolina last season, this year’s Wofford schedule is again formidable with a Sept. 28 date at defending Atlantic Coast Conference champion Maryland. The Terriers will also play their first-ever 12-game regular season slate.

Mike Ayers will be in his 15th season as head coach at Wofford, establishing himself as an icon on campus. The 2000 SoCon Coach of the Year, Ayers became Wofford’s all-time winningest coach last season. He now has 81 victories on the Terrier sideline.

With its National Football League caliber facilities on campus, Wofford will also benefit from arguably its top recruiting class ever. The Terriers are the summer training camp site for the Carolina Panthers. Panther owner and founder Jerry Richardson is a 1959 Wofford graduate and a former All-America wide receiver for the Terriers.

Wofford is the smallest football playing member in Division I-A or I-AA with an enrollment of just 1,100 students. In fact, the average SAT score at Wofford (1212) is higher than the enrollment. Nearly one out of every six males at Wofford plays on the football team.

**Quarterback**

Looking to replace Wilson are a trio of talented sophomores in Trey Rodgers (6-0, 185, Jr.), Jonathan Carey (6-2, 185, So.), and Jeff Zolman (6-1, 190, So.). Senior Nick Haughey, the most experienced signal caller, is questionable for the season opener after suffering a torn ACL and MCL in spring practice.

Rodgers came out of the spring as the starter. A local performer who earned South Carolina Player of the Year honors when he led Dorman High School to the 2000 state title his senior year, Rodgers appeared in four games last season, rushing for 48 yards on eight carries while completing 2-of-3 passes for 17 yards.

Very consistent in his performance, Rodgers has great instincts and reaction skills. He also has a presence about him in taking command of the offense. He had a very productive spring.

Carey did not see game action and has four years of eligibility remaining. Potentially the most athletic quarterback Wofford has ever had, he can beat opponents via the run or pass.

Zolman is the younger brother of Greg Zolman, who was Vanderbilt’s starting quarterback the last two seasons. A southpaw, Zolman missed most of spring practice with a sprained AC joint in his right shoulder. He understands the offense as well as anyone and is possibly the best decision maker from an option standpoint.

Haughey made the start at South Carolina last year when Wilson was injured. He saw action in eight games, rushing for 37 yards on 13 carries while completing 10-of-17 passes for 83 yards.

**Halfback**

While missing the blocking of graduated three-year starter Ben Foster, Wofford does return one of the top halfbacks in school history in Jesse McCoy (5-10, 195, Sr.).

An All-SoCon candidate and the 1999 SoCon Freshman of the Year, McCoy concluded the 2001 campaign with a 7.07 career per carry average, just ahead of the Wofford record of 7.02 held by former quarterback great Shawn Graves (1989-92). McCoy rushed for 530 yards last season and was also the Terriers’
great Shawn Graves (1989-92). McCoy rushed for 530 yards last season and was also the Terriers' second-leading receiver with 17 catches for 226 yards (13.3 avg.). He is averaging 8.9 yards each time he touches the ball from the line of scrimmage in his career.

McCoy has tremendous speed and quickness and has been very productive in his Terrier career.

**Ben Mungin** (5-9, 180, So.) is a talented young back projected to step into the starting lineup. He averaged 11.8 yards per carry on his limited attempts last season. Four of his six carries were for at least 10 yards. He also showed the ability to catch the ball with four receptions.

**D.J. Gaillard** (5-10, 200, Sr.) and **Shaun Fogle** (5-11, 195, Jr.) are experienced returning backs who will also see significant action.

Gaillard is a three-year letterman who has shown solid improvement each season. He is a good blocker and receiver out of the backfield.

The biggest halfback on the team, Fogle demonstrated his ability when he earned National Freshman of the Week honors after rushing for 193 yards and three touchdowns on just five carries in a 35-31 win at East Tennessee State in the 2000 campaign.

Also in the mix for playing time is **Donald Dorham** (5-10, 215, So.). An original signee of Air Force, Dorham saw limited action last year but made strides with his performance in spring drills. He also competed in the 100-meter dash and 4x100 relay for the Wofford track team.

**Fullback**

Wofford's "two-headed monster" of **Melvin Jones** (5-10, 215, Sr.) and **J.R. McNair** (5-10, 200, Jr.) at fullback gives the Terriers as much productivity from the position as anyone in the country.

Jones (905 yards, 4.7 avg., 10 TDs) and McNair (563 yards, 4.4 avg., 9 TDs) were the Terriers’ top rushers last season while also ranking sixth and 10th, respectively, in the SoCon. They combined for 1,468 yards and 20 touchdowns.

The 905 yards by Jones last season represented the highest total by a non-quarterback at Wofford since 1979. The senior from West Columbia, S.C., is one of the more experienced backs in the SoCon and the league’s second-leading returning rusher. Included in Jones’ total last year was a 168-yard effort against Appalachian State.

Jones has all the skills needed to be a successful back and will again carry a huge part of the load this fall. With 10 receptions last season, he can also be utilized as a receiver.

McNair, a member of the Dean’s List and one of the more popular students on campus, will share the playing time with Jones.

The Jonesboro, Ga., native is the strongest back on the team with unbelievable power in his legs. McNair has the ability to break a lot of tackles and has great finishing speed. He was named the Terriers’ Offensive Player of the Week in the season opener at Clemson as well as after his 98-yard performance in a 13-0 win at The Citadel.

**Mike Jones** (5-10, 195, So.) and **Jeff Sullivan** (5-9, 200, So.) are young players who have made steady progress and impressed in spring practice. They will both push for playing time.

**Wide Receiver**

**Isaac Goodpaster** (6-0, 175, Sr.) heads a wide receiver group that returns everyone from last season. Despite suffering from macular degeneration and being legally blind with 20/200 vision, Goodpaster has established himself as a big-play performer with his team-high 25 receptions last season for an average of 16.9 yards. Among his big grabs was a touchdown catch at Clemson to give Wofford a 14-7 first-quarter lead.

**Marcus Gilmore** (6-1, 190, Sr.) and **Curtis Nash** (6-1, 180, Jr.) are both outstanding athletes and former high school quarterbacks.

Gilmore will make tough catches and had receptions in eight of the Terriers’ 11 games a year ago. Nash received team Offensive Player of the Week honors last season at Chattanooga. A physical player, he is also arguably the top blocker among the receivers.

**Shiel Wood** (5-10, 185, So.) and **Nathan Ernst** (6-0, 175, So.) are young performers who also figure into the mix.
Wood was a solid contributor at wide receiver and on special teams last year. The hardest worker on the offensive side of the ball, he has great hands and is an aggressive blocker. Ernst is sneaky fast. He saw his stock rise after an impressive spring practice.

**Tight End**
With the graduation of Matt Flynn, Adam Regenthal (6-3, 242, So.) and Steve Prochak (6-2, 235, Jr.) will battle for the starting job. Both saw significant action last season.

Regenthal showed the ability to catch the ball at the close of the year. His outstanding hands and big-play ability has the Wofford coaches making a concerted effort to throw more to the tight end.

Prochak has simply made himself a better player with his work in the weight room. He has shown steady improvement throughout his time at Wofford and developed into a team leader. He will push hard for the starting job.

Tommy Chandler (6-1, 210, Jr.) will also compete for playing time at tight end.

**Offensive Line**
Despite the loss of four starters to graduation, the Terrier coaching staff believes its revamped offensive line could actually be improved this fall.

Chad Bentley (6-1, 290, Sr.), the lone returning starter and one of the strongest players on the team, has been moved from left guard to left tackle. He made the switch without any problems this spring and will contend for All-SoCon honors.

Jesse Blackburn (6-3, 270, Sr.), a part-time starter over the last three seasons, will occupy the right tackle spot. Blackburn has played a lot of football in his Terrier career and is the team’s best lineman from a technique standpoint. He’s also the top pass blocker and the quickest off the ball.

Thad Ball (6-3, 265, So.) and Kevin Hodapp (6-3, 270, So.) are second-year performers who will add depth at tackle. Neither saw game action last season but are being counted on to play a lot of snaps this fall.

Eric Deutsch (6-3, 315, Jr.) will inherit Bentley’s vacated left guard spot while Colan Miles (6-0, 260, So.) is the projected new starter at right guard. Deutsch has very good size and excellent quickness for someone so large. Miles did not see game action last year but was one of the more improved players in the spring. He was originally at center for the Terriers.

Bryan Stanley (6-4, 310, So.) and Bobby Gibbs (6-3, 290, So.) are young players who will also play a lot this fall. Stanley is big and strong and has all the tools to be a successful lineman. He just needs game experience. Gibbs lettered as a true freshman last year and is projected to be a mainstay on the line in the coming seasons. He has a great deal of leadership and maturity for a sophomore and is someone who plays better against better competition.

Prosser Carnegie (6-1, 275, Sr.), one of the few veterans on the offensive line, is slated to be the starting center. A converted guard, Carnegie has an excellent work ethic and has shown tremendous improvement. The Terrier coaches need him to stay healthy and have a great senior year.

Montez Hilliard (6-0, 265, Jr.) will backup Carnegie. Excellent on pass protection, he could also see action at guard.

**Defensive Line**
With Nathan Fuqua (6-2, 285, Sr.) and Anthony Jones (5-10, 255, Sr.) returning for their fourth year in the starting lineup, the Wofford defensive front is arguably the best in the SoCon.

Fuqua has been a dominant performer in earning All-SoCon honors each of the last three years at nose tackle. The Sports Network has referred to him as the nation’s premier player at his position. Fuqua proved his ability to play against the best in the country when he dominated the middle against Clemson and drew postgame praise from Head Coach Lou Holtz after his performance against South Carolina. He is an impact player who set Wofford’s career record in tackles for a loss (39) in just three seasons.

Jones is worthy of All-SoCon consideration at the tackle spot after ranking among the league leaders with 20 stops for a loss and nine sacks last year. Simply a playmaker, Jones had an outstanding spring and is primed for his best season yet.

Sophomore Lee Rasinger (6-1, 255, So.) is the projected starter at the other tackle position. Rasinger
Sophomore Lee Basinger (6-1, 255, So.) is the projected starter at the other tackle position. Basinger came on very strong in a first-team role at the close of last season, earning team Defensive Player of the Week honors in a 24-3 win over East Tennessee State. Basinger is a tremendous worker with great intensity and focus. He could be the next great defensive lineman at Wofford.

John Pressley (6-2, 250, Jr.) and Bill Pryor (6-2, 245, Jr.) have played a lot of snaps the last two years and figure prominently into the two-deep mix. Both Pressley and Pryor are tough, hardnosed performers.

Ben Whitney (6-3, 260, So.) is a young player who will see significant action. Veteran Sean Patterson (6-2, 245, Sr.) is a great pure athlete and the Terriers’ designated pass rusher.

**Linebacker**

The Terrier linebacker corps returns virtually all its key members from a year ago.

With fifth-year senior Hondre McNeil (6-2, 218, Sr.) on the outside and Robert Mathis (6-2, 242, Sr.) anchoring the inside, Wofford has a pair of linebackers with the ability to earn postseason honors. McNeil and Mathis are both past SoCon Player of the Week selections.

McNeil is one of the top pure athletes on the team. He has added 15 pounds while also increasing his speed since the close of last season. He placed second on the 2001 team with 71 tackles, including nine for a loss and six sacks.

A mainstay on the Terrier defense, Mathis is big, strong and athletic. He can be a dominating player when healthy. The Cross, S.C., native ranked third on last year’s team with 67 stops in an injury-plagued campaign.

Teddie Whitaker (6-2, 230, Jr.) emerged during spring practice as a starter at outside linebacker, elevating his game as much as anyone on the team. A very good athlete, he has dramatically improved his strength and quickness in taking a big step forward.

Veteran Chase Corn (5-11, 205, Sr.) and Jimmy Freland (5-11, 215, So.) will also see plenty of action on the outside.

Corn was the SoCon’s Defensive Player of the Week after his performance in last year’s 13-0 shutout of The Citadel. A Dean’s List student headed to medical school next fall, Corn is one of the more intense players on the team. His 57 stops a year ago placed among the team leaders.

Freland was moved to the outside after starting eight games on the inside as a true freshman last season. He played both positions in the spring.

Timmy Thrift (6-0, 215, So.) is the projected starter opposite Mathis on the inside. Thrift started the season opener at Clemson as a freshman a year ago. A very good athlete, he was having an impressive rookie campaign until being slowed by injury.

LaRay Benton (5-11, 225, Sr.), Erik Hutchinson (5-11, 220, So.), and Josh Smith (6-1, 215, So.) will also push hard for playing time on the inside.

Benton is a fifth-year senior who missed most of last season due to injury. Hutchinson is projected to be an impact player. He runs well, has good agility, and had a very good offseason. Smith is a great worker who has made a lot of progress since first arriving on campus.

**Secondary**

All-SoCon free safety Matt Nelson (6-1, 205, Jr.) anchors the Wofford secondary.

Nelson, a co-Most Valuable Player on last year’s Terrier team, sets the tone for the defense with his intensity and fiery nature on the field. His 114 tackles topped last year’s team and represented the highest single-season total at Wofford since 1987. He had 43 more stops than the next closest Terrier (71, Hondre McNeil).

A native of Grove City, Ohio, Nelson is extremely versatile. He has also played a lot of strong safety for the Terriers.

One of the surprises of spring practice was Tony Jefferson (5-11, 188, So.). Moved from halfback to the secondary, he enters the fall in a second-team position behind Nelson at free safety.

Ryan Steele (6-1, 200, Jr.) came out of the spring as the No. 1 strong safety. A solid contributor in a backup role last season, he has all the physical tools to be an outstanding defensive back.
Veterans **Shaun Davis** (6-1, 195, Sr.) and **Brandon Ladd** (5-10, 185, Sr.) will backup Steele at strong safety. Both have played a lot of snaps but have missed significant time over the years due to injuries.

**Roland Harris** (5-9, 180, Sr.) will be in his third season as a starter at cornerback. He topped the Terriers with three interceptions and 10 pass breakups last year and will push for postseason honors.

Veteran **Fred Washington** (5-10, 195, Sr.) enters his fifth year ready to assume the other starting corner spot. He had an interception at Clemson last year and is an experienced player. The Terrier coaches believe Washington is ready for a breakout campaign.

**Sylvester Carstarphen** (5-9, 184, Sr.), who missed last season due to injury, and **Craig Thomas** (5-10, 188, Jr.) will contribute in backup roles as well as on special teams.

**Special Teams**

**Jimmy Miner** (6-3, 195, Jr.), a first-team All-SoCon selection by the league coaches last season, enters his junior year ready to push for All-America consideration. His average of 42.0 yards in 2001 led the SoCon and ranked eighth nationally. He has been the Terrier punter since the opening practice of his freshman year.

Taking over the placekicking duties will be highly regarded newcomer **Todd Rhoden** (6-0, 180, Fr.). The Metairie, La., native was listed as one of the Top 10 placekickers in the United States last year. He had scholarship offers from several SEC schools. Factoring in his decision to attend Wofford was his sister-in-law who is an assistant professor of foreign languages on campus. Rhoden was a first-team All-State selection and a nominee for Louisiana Player of the Year honors.

**Jesse McCoy** (5-10, 195, Sr.), a big-play performer at halfback, will take on an increased role on the special teams this fall as the Terriers’ primary kick and punt returner. McCoy averaged 21.4 yards on 15 kick returns last season.
Wofford College nose tackle Nathan Fuqua and punter Jimmy Miner have received preseason honors from The Sports Network.

Fuqua, a three-time All-Southern Conference selection, has been ranked as the fourth-best defensive tackle in Division I-AA. In just three seasons, Fuqua has become Wofford's career leader in tackles for loss (39), including 16 last year. His 61 total stops placed fourth on the Terriers.

A senior from Danville, Ky., Fuqua had at least two stops for negative yards in seven of Wofford's 11 games last season. He had two sacks at Clemson in a dominant performance in last year's opener.

Miner is listed as the No. 5 punter in the nation. The junior from Kennesaw, Ga., topped the SoCon and ranked eighth nationally with his 42.0 average last season. He has been an All-SoCon selection in each of his first two years at Wofford.
Wofford College nose tackle Nathan Fuqua has been named a second-team preseason All-America by The Sports Network.

A three-time All-Southern Conference selection, Fuqua has become Wofford's career leader in tackles for a loss (39) in just three seasons.

Fuqua's 61 total stops, including 16 behind the line of scrimmage, placed fourth on the Terriers a year ago. The Danville, Ky., native had at least two stops for negative yards in seven of Wofford's 11 games, including two sacks at Clemson in a dominant performance in last year's opener.
The Wofford College football team will open the 2003 season on Aug. 30 at The United States Air Force Academy, coached by 1960 Wofford graduate Fisher DeBerry.

The game in Colorado Springs, Colo., will represent the farthest a Terrier football team has traveled and the first time it has played west of the Mississippi River. It will also be Wofford's eighth Division I-A opponent in six years and the first game against a member of the Mountain West Conference.

DeBerry, a member of Wofford's Athletic Hall of Fame, lettered in football and baseball for the Terriers. He then returned to campus to serve two years (1969-70) as an assistant coach under Jim Brakefield. Wofford won a school record 20 consecutive games and earned a No. 1 national ranking, before seeing the streak come to a close with a loss in the 1970 NAIA national championship game.

"I'll probably have a lot of mixed emotions, but it's just another football game for everybody else around here," DeBerry said. "I always pull for Wofford, with the exception of this one game.

"It's my school. I'm so appreciative that Wofford let me come there and even more appreciative that they let me out -- with a degree. I've got a shingle here on my wall to attest to that."

DeBerry is in his 19th season as head coach at Air Force and is the Falcons' all-time winningest coach with a 141-78-1 record. He has produced 15 winning seasons since taking over in 1984 and guided the Academy to three conference championships. DeBerry stands second in Mountain West Conference history in career wins with 84. He has three victories over Notre Dame, including a 20-17 overtime thriller in South Bend in 1996.

DeBerry has dominated service academy football. He is 30-6 against Army and Navy in his career and has led the Academy to 13 of its 15 Commander-in-Chief's trophy titles. In 1999, he became the winningest coach in service academy football history when AFA knocked off Washington in Seattle.

Wofford coaches, including Head Coach Mike Ayers, have made several trips to Colorado Springs in recent years to talk option football with the Air Force staff.

"We are very appreciative of Coach DeBerry for the opportunity to play this game," Ayers said. "It's a positive for our program in many areas.

"We know our team and a lot of the Wofford community will look forward to making the trip. Air Force has an outstanding program and it will be a tremendous challenge."
The Wofford College football team will report Aug. 8 for the start of preseason camp.

Head Coach Mike Ayers, the Terriers' all-time winningest coach with 81 victories, and his assistant coaches have begun staff meetings in preparation for the arrival of 90 players. Following two days of conditioning and weight tests, Wofford will practice for the first time on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 11. The Terriers will hold their Picture Day that same morning.

"We're very excited about this coming season and the kids we have," Ayers said. "It's a busy time. There's a lot of things to do when you look at all the practice organization, practice plans, scripts, and everything that's required for a successful preseason camp.

"We have a short time and we need to be ready as a staff to make sure we have a great camp."

The Terriers open their first-ever 12-game regular season with an Aug. 31 home date versus Newberry. Wofford begins SoCon play on Sept. 21 at Georgia Southern. Included in this year's non-conference slate is a Sept. 28 contest at defending ACC-champion Maryland.
Wofford College nose tackle Nathan Fuqua and punter Jimmy Miner have received first-team preseason All-Southern Conference honors from the league coaches.

Fuqua is a three-time All-SoCon selection and a second-team preseason All-America by The Sports Network. In just three seasons, he has become Wofford's career leader in tackles for loss (39), including 16 last year. The senior from Danville, Ky., had 61 total stops to place fourth on the Terriers.

Miner, an All-SoCon selection in each of his first two seasons, topped the SoCon and ranked eighth nationally with his 42.0 average last year. The junior from Kennesaw, Ga., is the Terriers' career leader in average with a 40.4 mark.

The Terriers were picked to finish seventh in the coaches' poll. Appalachian State was the unanimous first-place selection with Georgia Southern second and Furman third. East Tennessee State and Western Carolina tied for fourth. The Citadel was sixth while Chattanooga and VMI placed eighth and ninth, respectively.

The media poll mirrored the coaches' selections with the exception of Western Carolina edging East Tennessee State by one vote for fourth place.
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