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From: Mark Cohen cohenm@wofford.edu
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Date: February 18, 2002 at 10:40 AM

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The Wofford College Athletic Department has announced the hiring of Gary Purinton as head track coach.

Purinton will handle the men's and women's outdoor track programs as well as the women's indoor team.

A 1987 graduate of Coastal Carolina, Purinton also holds a M.Ed. degree from Converse College. Before transferring to Coastal Carolina, Purinton ran track at Francis Marion, competing in the high jump, long jump, and sprints. The Marion, SC, native was an All-State track performer at Pee Dee Academy and a former SCISA state champion in the 100 meters, 200 meters, high jump, 4 x 100, and 4 x 200 relays. He was also a Junior Olympics regional high jump champion.

Purinton has coaching experience on the high school level at Boiling Springs, Rock Hill, and Socastee. He has also created and maintained a website for the South Carolina Track and Cross Country Coaches Association.

"I'm very much looking forward to working with the student-athletes at Wofford," Purinton said. "I hope to develop a stronger and deeper track program to complement the other athletic teams on campus."

Purinton will make his Wofford coaching debut when the women's indoor team competes tomorrow and Saturday at the Southern Conference Indoor Championships in Johnson City, TN.

"We are very excited to have Gary joining our staff," Wofford Athletics Director David Wood said. "He had an excellent coaching record on the high school level and will be a positive influence on our student-athletes as we look to upgrade our track programs."