The dedication game for the opening of Wofford's new on-campus baseball facility, Russell C. King Field at Switzer Stadium, has been changed from Feb. 7 to Mar. 23. The opponent for that 7 p.m. contest will remain No. 7 South Carolina.

Wofford will now play its opening game at Russell C. King Field at Switzer Stadium on Feb. 14 versus Dayton at 1 p.m.

The Terriers' scheduled Feb. 8 home doubleheader against North Carolina A&T has been moved to Apr. 6. Instead, Wofford will travel to N.C. A&T for a pair of single games Feb. 7-8.

Wofford was previously slated to play USC in Columbia on Mar. 24. That game won't take place since the Gamecocks will be coming to Spartanburg instead for the Mar. 23 dedication game.

The Feb. 14-15 Dayton series will begin a 13-game homestand for Wofford that will also include a Mar. 10 visit by No. 11 Clemson.

Wofford's complete 2004 schedule can be accessed from the following link:

<http://www.wofford.edu/athletics/baseball/2004schedule.htm>
The Wofford College baseball program enters a new era in 2004 as the Terriers return to campus with a new facility.

Since beginning Division I play in 1996, Wofford had been playing its home games off campus at Duncan Park.

The Terriers will make their debut at Russell C. King Field at Switzer Stadium on Feb. 14 when they host Dayton. Thirteen of the first 15 games are at home as well as 30 of the 51 dates on the 2004 slate.

Wofford will host 2003 College World Series participant South Carolina on Mar. 23 in the dedication game at Russell C. King Field at Switzer Stadium. The first-ever night contest on campus will be Mar. 10 when Clemson visits. The home schedule also includes an Apr. 13 meeting with Tennessee.

The Terriers return six position starters and eight of nine pitchers from last year’s squad. Wofford has a blend of experience and new faces with the 2004 team. There are eight seniors along with 12 newcomers on the 28-man roster.

Shortstop Tony Carbone, first baseman Steve Casey, and catcher Scott Holloway have been tabbed by Collegiate Baseball as Top Players to Watch in the SoCon this spring. They are part of 15 lettermen back from last season’s team.

Carbone, Casey, Holloway, and Nick Hewitt will serve as team captains.

Steve Traylor, who ranks 45th among active college coaches in victories with 692, will enter his fifth season at the helm of Wofford. He received ACC Coach of the Year honors in 1992 when he led Duke to a single-season school record for victories and a national ranking.

Pitcher

After starting three freshmen on conference weekends last season, the Terriers will send a more seasoned staff to the mound this spring.

Sophomores Jesse Cole (1-9, 7.57 ERA) and Jarrod Rampey (3-10, 5.36 ERA) led Wofford in innings pitched in 2003 at 90.1 and 84.0, respectively. The next closest Terrier was at 58.2 innings.

Cole topped Wofford with 15 starts as he struck out 62 and walked 32. Among his strong efforts was a 3-2 complete-game victory over Niagara when he fanned 10 batters without issuing a walk. He also went 2-for-4 with a pair of doubles at the plate in that game.

Cole should build on the experience he gained from his number of innings as a freshman. He’s a hard thrower with good command. The Plymouth, Mass., native is also a tremendous competitor and candidate to fill the designated hitter duties. He batted .300 last year with three home runs and 17 RBI.
Rampey was the winning pitcher in both ends of a doubleheader sweep of Davidson. He made 12 starts with six relief appearances as he recorded 53 strikeouts and 40 walks. The Pittsford, N.Y., native went seven innings to earn the victory in a 7-3 win over Georgia Southern. He also posted nine strikeouts with no walks in 6.2 strong innings versus The Citadel.

Rampey has up to five pitches he can throw for strikes. He has good velocity and command. He’s also an outstanding athlete.

Cole and Rampey will be expected to again anchor a starting staff that will be bolstered by the return to health of 6-foot-3 southpaw Chris Clark.

Expected to lend a veteran presence to last year’s staff after transferring from Cleveland State Community College, Clark was sidelined last spring after undergoing elbow surgery. He will have two seasons of eligibility for the Terriers.

Clark has a tremendous pickoff move. He’s a very smart pitcher with great command. He has a good breaking ball and above average velocity.

Also in the mix is Andrew Hewitt (0-2, 13.74 ERA). His final three appearances last season were starts against Western Carolina, Texas Tech, and Appalachian State. The local performer from Dorman High School in Spartanburg, S.C., struck out 14 batters in just 19.0 innings.

Freshman righthander Charles Vartanian (6-foot-6, 240 pounds) is projected to push for a job in Wofford’s starting rotation. The newcomer from South Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, N.C., was arguably the Terriers’ top pitcher in fall ball. He has an outstanding breaking ball and could also be utilized as a closer.

Senior lefthanders Keith Sturkie (0-4, 8.25 ERA), Steve Casey (1-3, 10.34 ERA), and Nick Hewitt (2-0, 10.68 ERA) lend experience to the bullpen. Wofford will also be more balanced with the addition of several newcomers on the right side, enabling it to do more situational pitching.

Sturkie bounced back from an injury that limited him to just two appearances in 2002, pitching in 19 games last season. He ranked fifth on the staff with 48.0 innings. He is now healthier than ever and should provide quality innings this spring.

Casey, normally the Terriers’ starting first baseman, appeared in 10 games on the mound. Included in that total were two starts. He struck out 23 batters in 15.2 innings and picked up a win in relief over Furman. He has great stuff and gives the Terriers added depth in the bullpen as another option from the left side.

Hewitt, the older brother of Andrew Hewitt, has pitched in 46 games over his three campaigns. He made a team-best 16 relief appearances last year. He will specialize in pitching to lefthanded batters while providing the Terriers with an experienced arm.

Freshman Jim Zimmer (Lexington, S.C.) gives Wofford a fourth lefthander in the bullpen. He has an outstanding future and could possibly see action as a starter. He’s projected to make an immediate contribution.

Chad McGill (0-3, 10.15 ERA), who has pitched 114.2 innings in his Terrier career, is an experienced arm from the right side. The senior from Taylors, S.C., placed fourth on last year’s squad with 49.2 innings. A hard thrower, he’ll be counted on to provide a veteran presence to the bullpen.
Greenville, S.C., native Ryan Beaton (0-0, 13.97 ERA) is a sophomore who recorded eight strikeouts in 9.2 innings over his eight appearances last season. With his improved health and added strength this spring, he will provide increased depth to the staff.

Freshman righthanders John Brandt (West Union, S.C.), Lance Player (Lancaster, S.C.), and Austin Redwine (Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.) will also compete for innings. Brandt didn’t see much action in the fall due to arm problems but should be able to catch up and vie for innings this spring.

Player had a very good fall. He pounds the strike zone with good velocity and an above average breaking ball. He knows how to pitch and should see significant action.

Redwine is a big, strong righthander who throws very hard. He has an extremely bright future ahead of him.

Catcher

All-SoCon candidate Scott Holloway (.326, 4 HR, 16 RBI) defines Ironman behind the plate for the Terriers.

Arguably the top player at his position in the league, Holloway started all 49 games last season while catching all but five innings on the year. He improved his batting average by over 100 points and has been behind the plate for virtually every inning over his two seasons.

The Marietta, Ga., native placed second on the Terriers in batting while tying for the team lead in hits with 60. He has good speed and has been utilized as a leadoff man in the past. He’s also a solid run producer with power.

Holloway batted safely in 18 of 20 games at one stretch in the season while putting together a 4-hit game at Texas Tech and collecting three hits versus Clemson.

Holloway provides the Terriers with outstanding defense, leadership, and toughness. He’s simply an outstanding player.

Senior D.J. Rhodes (.235, 0 HR, 1 RBI) is a veteran receiver who also provides the Terriers with a strong bat off-the-bench. He had a pinch-hit game-winning grand slam in a 2002 victory over Purdue.

Rhodes has battled injuries. When healthy, though, he’s a quality backup to Holloway.

When not on the mound, freshman John Brandt will provide added depth behind the plate. He swings the bat well, is solid defensively, and is just a good all-around player. He will help the Terriers in a lot of capacities this spring.

Infield

The Terrier infield is anchored by a pair of All-SoCon candidates in first baseman Steve Casey (.341, 6 HR, 25 RBI) and shortstop Tony Carbone (.255, 2 HR, 14 RBI).
Casey put together a team-best 18-game hitting streak last season as he hit .336 in league play. A native of Marietta, Ga., and a former Pope High School teammate of Terrier catcher Scott Holloway, Casey had 19 multiple-hit games on the year including a pair of 4-hit efforts.

His game-winning homer in the bottom of the 10th inning, on his 21st birthday, gave Wofford a 4-3 victory over UNC Greensboro. Also exceptional defensively, he went 9-of-15 at the plate in a late season three-game series at Texas Tech.

Lending support to Casey at first will be newcomer David Long (Coeburn, Va.). The transfer from Walters State Community College has a very strong bat and is projected to occupy the designated hitter role while batting in the middle of the lineup. Casey could move to the outfield when Long sees action at first.

Long was a productive power hitter at the junior college level with impressive home run and RBI totals.

Carbone battled through an injury-plaqued 2003 campaign. An excellent glove man, he earned All-SoCon honors the previous year when he batted .319. He placed second on last season’s team with 13 doubles while his six sacrifice bunts topped the club.

The Columbia, S.C., native has previously been named by Baseball America as the “Best Defensive Shortstop” in the SoCon. As the lone fifth-year senior on the team, he provides a great deal of leadership.

Freshman Eric Sturkie will add depth at short behind Carbone while also vying for playing time at third. Highly recruited out of Lexington (S.C.) High School, he is excellent defensively with the ability to play all infield positions. He has a very bright future at Wofford.

The second base position will be held by junior college transfer Anthony Dinardo (Snellville, Ga.)

Excellent with the glove and bat, Dinardo played the last two seasons at Chattanooga State Community College. He and Carbone will team to provide arguably the top double-play combination in the SoCon. Dinardo is an outstanding player who can run, steal bases, and hit for average. He could be the consummate leadoff hitter for Wofford.

Sophomore Casey Dwyer (.247, 0 HR, 9 RBI) will back up Dinardo. Dwyer began his rookie campaign last season by hitting safely in his first seven games. The Little Rock, Ark., native made 19 starts and had 3-hit games versus UNC Asheville and College of Charleston.

Freshman Bert Parker and veteran Matt Davis (.174, 1 HR, 10 RBI) will compete for the starting third base job.

Parker is a switchhitter from Supply, N.C. He can put the ball in play from both sides of the plate, has a good eye, and is an excellent bunter. He had a very good fall, playing well defensively as he made the transition from being a shortstop in high school.
Davis fills a utility role for the Terriers. He has played throughout the infield during his time at Wofford. After battling injuries much of his career, he is now healthy.

The Seneca, S.C., native started 33 games last season and had some key moments. His two-out double in the bottom of the ninth tied the game in an eventual 4-3 10-inning win over UNC Greensboro. He also homered in a victory over Davidson.

Outfield

Centerfielder Zach Pittman (.212, 2 HR, 11 RBI) is the lone returning starter in the outfield.

A converted second baseman, Pittman started 38 games last season and homered against Wake Forest and Georgia Southern. The Simpsonville, S.C., native also tied for third on the team with four sacrifice flies.

Pittman is one of the fastest players on the Terriers. He tracks the ball well and can run down balls in the gaps. He made some outstanding catches a year ago. While still learning the position, the experience he gained last season should help develop him further this spring.

Pittman will be challenged for playing time in center by freshman Bradford Eaves (Columbia, S.C.).

Eaves is very good defensively and also runs well. Slowed some by injury in the fall, he has a very bright future at Wofford.

Newcomers Stephen Johnson and Steven Fusaro have made strong bids for the open slots in left and right, respectively.

Johnson batted .286 as a starting second baseman for Drexel last season. He then transferred to Wofford after Drexel dropped baseball.

A native of Toms River, N.J., Johnson had a great fall. He showed the ability to be a run producer as well as getting on base. He’s a very competitive player and the frontrunner in left.

Fusaro, also a former football standout at nearby Chapman High School in Inman, S.C., battled some injury problems in the fall but is expected to be at full strength this spring. He has good power and is excellent defensively. Very competitive, he also has a tremendous understanding of how to play the game.

Veteran David Dufour (.221, 0 HR, 8 RBI) will challenge for playing time and should provide quality depth at all three outfield positions.

Dufour started 26 games last season and placed among the team leaders with a .377 on-base percentage, making second on the team with 26 walks. The senior from Morrow, Ohio.
percentage, ranking second on the team with 26 walks. The senior from Morrow, Ohio, opened last year with a 3-hit, 4-RBI game versus North Carolina A&T. He also walked twice to reach base in all five plate appearances.

He gives Wofford a lefthanded bat off-the-bench or in a platoon situation.

Steve Casey, when not at first base or on the mound, could also see action in rightfield.
Scott Brickman, assistant coach for the Wofford baseball team, has been named head coach of the Florence RedWolves in the Coastal Plain League.

The CPL is a top summer collegiate baseball league utilizing wooden bats. In 1999, the CPL received official certification from the NCAA and Major League Baseball.

Jeff Bagwell, Frank Thomas, Mo Vaughn, and Charles Nagy are just a few of the major leaguers who played in the CPL on their way to a pro career.

Rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible to play. Coaches from the top programs in the Southeast and across the nation lead their teams through a season from late May to August.

Brickman, who will continue in his Terrier duties, will be in his first head coaching position when he takes over Florence. Brickman is in his second year at Wofford. He serves as the Terriers’ pitching coach.

"This is a tremendous opportunity and I'm very grateful to the RedWolves' organization," Brickman said. "Working with Coach (Steve) Traylor at Wofford has helped prepare me for this new challenge."

The Terrier program has been represented well in past years in the CPL. Current Terrier assistant Brandon McKillop served as head coach of the Spartanburg Stingers last summer. Sophomore pitcher Andrew Hewitt will play for the Stingers this year.

Wofford first baseman Steve Casey played for Thomasville this past summer, while former Terrier All-SoCon performer George Lehr pitched for Durham in the 2001 campaign.
The Wofford baseball program has announced that shortstop Tony Carbone, first baseman Steve Casey, pitcher Nick Hewitt, and catcher Scott Holloway will serve as team captains for the 2004 season.

Carbone (Columbia, S.C.), Casey (Marietta, Ga.), and Hewitt (Moore, S.C.) are three of the Terriers' eight seniors while Holloway (Marietta, Ga.) is a junior.

Carbone, Casey, and Holloway have been cited by Collegiate Baseball as SoCon Players to Watch this spring.

Carbone, previously named by Baseball America as the "Best Defensive Shortstop" in the SoCon, earned All-SoCon honors in 2002. Casey and Holloway topped the Terriers in batting last season with averages of .341 and .326, respectively. Holloway was the Terriers' ironman as he started all 49 games and was behind the plate for all but five innings.

Hewitt is joined on the Terriers by his younger brother, Nick Hewitt, who is a sophomore pitcher. They both played locally at Dorman High School.
Wofford senior Steve Casey has been recognized by *Baseball America* as the "Best Defensive First Baseman" in the Southern Conference.

The Marietta, Ga., native had a .995 fielding percentage last season as he committed just two errors in 429 chances. He set a Wofford single-season record for putouts with 403 while also establishing a new Terrier career mark (1,050) in that category with one season still remaining.

A strong contender for All-SoCon honors, Casey topped the Terriers with a .341 batting average last season to go with six home runs, 11 doubles, and 25 RBI.
Talking Wofford baseball with Coach Traylor
Jan. 29, 2004

How much of an impact will the opening of Russell C. King Field at Switzer Stadium have on the Wofford baseball program?
“We certainly believe it will have a significant impact on our program from several standpoints, especially with recruiting. High school and junior college kids want to see a quality facility that will be an enjoyable place to spend the kind of hours needed to be a great player. We will have as nice a playing surface and environment as you could hope for with a school our size. From a fan standpoint, it should have an even bigger impact with the students being able to walk to the ballpark. Faculty and staff will also be able to participate more. This will give us a better environment for a home game than we’ve had in the past. It really should help us in all areas.”

What makes Wofford special?
“What makes Wofford special more than anything is the people. We have outstanding faculty and staff, a great coaching staff, and administrators. Plus, the caliber of education that you receive here is second to none. The people are caring individuals who will go that extra mile to help anyone who needs assistance with their academic pursuits. We have the same thing in our athletic department, where the coaches have a commitment to the success of our student-athletes. That is a tough combination to beat when you look at the academics and the athletics.”

What’s the most important thing you stress to a recruit about coming to Wofford?
“The most important thing is that you are going to receive a quality education and the opportunity to play at a Division I program that is on the rise. You are going to have a faculty that cares about your success, will give you the help you need, and coaches who are willing to help as well. In the way we schedule our games and practices, I believe the coaches put our student-athletes in the best possible situation to be successful in the classroom and on the field.”

How would you describe your coaching style?
“I believe it’s probably flexible more than anything. We try to bring in quality people with high character that put the team first and the individual second. We are going to be flexible in that if we have the personnel to play a certain way, we will adjust. We hope to become a top flight pitching and defensive program. That is how you win games.”

What are your thoughts on this year’s team?

Wofford opens the 2004 season on Feb. 7 at North Carolina A&T. The Terriers will make their debut at Russell C. King Switzer Stadium on Feb 14 when they host Dayton at 1 p.m.
“We will be a much improved and deeper team. We will still be relatively young, but we’ll be talented. I believe we’ll show great improvement over the course of the year. We should be very competitive with everyone on our schedule. We will have competition for jobs which will make everyone at much better. It is a hardworking team that I believe has great chemistry. We are very optimistic about this year.”

What is the key for Wofford to be successful this season?
“The key for our team is to get quality pitching. I think we will play good defense and create some offense and score some runs, but it always comes back to having quality pitching. We have the potential to be a solid staff as we gain more experience. I believe we will improve as we make our way through the spring.”

The Terriers’ starting rotation last season consisted of all freshmen. How will that experience a year ago benefit the team this spring?
“We did struggle at times last year but our pitchers received a lot of innings. We threw our young guys against some unbelievable competition with three games at Texas Tech and playing Clemson, Wake Forest, Tennessee and South Carolina. It was a difficult schedule for a very young pitching staff. We believe that will help them immensely this season. There is a comfort level with our pitchers this spring that comes with the experience they gained last year and the situations they faced.”

Senior shortstop Tony Carbone has earned All-SoCon honors and has been referred to by Baseball America as the “Best Defensive Shortstop in the SoCon.” He’s also an outstanding student. What does it mean to have a student-athlete like him in the program?
“It means a lot. Tony has been through the wars. He has been through things injury-wise and has had to transfer from one program to another (Carbone attended Duke his freshman year but did not play on the baseball team). He has experience and maturity that is a vital part of our program this year. He will provide a lot of leadership as well as outstanding physical skills. He can run, hit, throw, and field. He can help teach the younger guys as well. The experience he brings to the table is hard to beat. We are thrilled to have him.”

Scott Holloway caught all but five innings last season. Do you expect him to contribute in his “Ironman” role again this year?
“Yes, we do expect that. We believe we have some depth at catcher, but he is as good as there is. He wants to be out there every inning and he is probably going to get the chance to do that. He will have the opportunity to call his own game this year. After two years of experience in the program, we think he is capable of doing that and we look forward to him having another great year.”

What type of contribution do you expect from the 12 newcomers on this year’s club?
“We expect significant contributions. Steven Fusaro, Stephen Johnson, and Bradford Eaves in the outfield give us three newcomers who will compete for jobs. We will have new faces at third with Bert Parker and Eric Sturkie. At second base, Anthony DiNardo is a new addition who will give us quality work. David Long is competing for a job at first and should provide key offensive production. Our pitching will be deeper with the addition of Chris Clark, Charles Vartanian, Jim Zimmer, Lance Player, Austin Redwine, and John Brandt. We look for all 12 of our newcomers to make contributions in providing us more depth and better competition for playing time. We believe that will result in more success.”

Read up on Wofford baseball at http://athletics.wofford.edu