The Wofford baseball program has announced the signing of infielder Scott Russell.

Russell batted .525 as a shortstop/pitcher for Asheville High School this spring, earning All-State and first-team All-Western Carolina Region honors. He had one home run, 21 RBI and 23 stolen bases. On the mound, he posted a 6-1 record with a 2.29 ERA, striking out 61 and walking 16 in 45 innings.

As a junior, Russell had a .390 average with three home runs, 21 RBI and 21 steals. He posted a .485 mark at the plate his sophomore year, totaling two home runs, 14 RBI and 18 thefts.

Russell was a three-time All-Conference, All-Region and team Most Valuable Player for Asheville. He was also named his school's Top Scholar-Athlete as a senior.
Wofford College baseball player Jesse Cole has received Most Valuable Player honors from the Cranberry Summer League.

Cole posted a 6-2 record on the mound with a 1.19 ERA for the Brockton (Mass.) Tigers. He struck out 49 and walked eight in 53 innings while limiting opposing batters to just 35 hits and a .179 batting average. Cole was also the starting pitcher in the Cranberry League All-Star Game played at Fenway Park.

At the plate, he batted .359 with four home runs, eight doubles and 28 RBI. The Plymouth, Mass., native had a team-best .615 slugging percentage.
Nineteen games against teams that advanced to last year's NCAA Tournament highlight the 2005 schedule for the Wofford baseball team.

The Terriers will have 35 home dates in their second season at Russell C. King Field.

Wofford's 56-game schedule opens with a three-game SoCon series at Elon (Feb. 5-6). The Terriers and Phoenix will play a Feb. 5 noon doubleheader and a 1 p.m. single game Feb. 6.

The Terriers make their 2005 Russell C. King Field debut the following weekend versus Dayton (Feb. 12-13).

Stony Book comes to Wofford for three games Feb. 26-27, marking the first of five three-game series for the Terriers against teams that reached postseason play last season. Four of those sets are at home.

Wofford also hosts 2004 NCAA Tournament teams Youngstown State (March 5-6), Western Kentucky (March 11-13) and College of Charleston (March 25-26).

Wofford welcomes South Carolina to Russell C. King Field on March 16 at 7 p.m., while traveling to Columbia to face the Gamecocks in single games March 2 and May 18. The Terriers also visit Clemson April 27. Rounding out the contests against 2004 postseason teams is a three-game series at The Citadel (April 1-3).

Wofford hosts Davidson (April 8-10), Furman (April 22-24), UNC Greensboro (May 6-8) and Western Carolina (May 20-22) in SoCon play. The Terriers travel to Appalachian State (March 19-20), East Tennessee State (April 15-17) and Georgia Southern (April 29-May 1).

"We've always tried to play a competitive non-conference schedule," Wofford coach Steve Traylor said. "The SoCon is demanding every year and we've tried to prepare for that by playing the likes of Clemson and South Carolina.

"The best way to evaluate your non-conference schedule is by looking at the number of regional appearances by your opponents."

Last year's schedule saw Wofford face six teams that advanced to postseason play with 14 of the 47 games (29.8 percent) coming against those squads. The 2005 slate has 33.9 percent (19-of-56) of its contests against NCAA Tournament participants.

The 2005 Terriers return five position starters (catcher Scott Holloway, first baseman David
Long, second baseman Anthony Dinardo and outfielders Stephen Johnson and Zach Pittman) from last year's squad that posted Wofford's second-highest victory total in nine years of Division I play. It was accomplished with the Terriers playing their fewest games since 1998.

Wofford also returns six of its top eight pitchers from a year ago. Nearly 40 percent of Wofford's innings came from freshmen in 2004.

The SoCon Tournament will again be held at Joe Riley Park in Charleston, S.C (May 25-28).

The complete 2005 Wofford baseball schedule can be found at the following site:

http://www.wofford.info/athletics/schedule.asp?sport=BBALL&season=0405
The Wofford baseball program and coach Steve Traylor have announced the signing of outfielder Chuck Eller (Great Falls, Va.), pitcher Reid McElveen (Georgetown, S.C.) and third baseman/pitcher J.D. Melton (Myrtle Beach, S.C.) to National Letters-of-Intent.

Eller batted .438 with three triples, 11 RBI and 12 stolen bases in earning All-Liberty District and All-Northern Region honors for Langley High School last year. He was also second-team All-Northern Virginia Journal and honorable-mention Washington Post All-Met team as he posted a .538 on-base percentage.

Eller helped lead his 2004 Virginia Barnstormers summer team to a third-place finish at the National Amateur Baseball Federation (NABF) World Series in Jackson, Miss. The 2003 team won the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC) North Atlantic Regional title and advanced to the AABC World Series in Dallas, Texas.

McElveen posted a 5-4 record with a 2.44 ERA for Georgetown High School last spring. He recorded 89 strikeouts in 71 2-3 innings.

McElveen is a Wendy's High School Heisman Award nominee and a 2004 recipient of a student-athlete award.

Melton earned All-Region and All-State honors on the diamond last spring as he batted .389. A starter on the varsity since the eighth grade, Melton received team Most Valuable Player honors last year. He was a Toast of the Coast selection as a sophomore and junior.

As a quarterback for Myrtle Beach High School, Melton is one of five finalists this year for the Mr. Football Award in South Carolina. He completed 349-of-598 career attempts (58.4 percent) for 4,651 yards and 53 touchdowns. He will play in the North-South Game.
Wofford baseball players Jesse Cole, Scott Holloway, David Long and Charles Vartanian have been selected by Collegiate Baseball magazine as Players to Watch in the 2005 season.

Cole, a righthanded pitcher/designated hitter, posted a 5-6 record with a 6.65 ERA in a team-best 13 starts in 2004. The Scituate, Mass., native had a .286 average with five RBI at the plate.

Holloway (Marietta, Ga.) will be in his fourth year as the Terriers' starting catcher. He hit .270 with two home runs and 23 RBI last season. He's started all but one game over the previous three campaigns.

A senior first baseman from Coeburn, Va., Long ranked among the SoCon leaders with 15 home runs and 51 RBI while batting .285 in his first season as a Terrier. He played his first two years at Walters State Community College.

Vartanian was 5-7 with four saves and a 4.66 ERA in 58.0 innings. The Charlotte, N.C., native struck out 53 while walking 19 and holding opposing batters to a .234 average.