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Wofford center Tyler Berg is a second-team All-SoCon selection by the Southern Conference Sports Media Association (SCSMA).

Berg received SoCon Player of the Week honors (Feb. 15-21) after averaging 19.3 points and 11.0 rebounds, including two double-doubles, in wins over College of Charleston, Furman and Georgia Southern. Berg has five double-doubles in the last nine games.

In 11 games as a starter since All-SoCon forward Howard Wilkerson was sidelined for the season, Berg is averaging 13.1 points and 8.7 rebounds.

A junior from Mt. Holly, N.C., Berg ranks fifth in the SoCon in field-goal percentage (53.4). His numbers across the board are up for SoCon games only, ranking third in field-goal percentage (56.2), seventh in rebounding (7.5) and 21st in scoring (11.8). For the season, he's averaging a career-high 10.5 points and 6.0 rebounds.

During Wofford's recent four-game winning streak (Feb. 14-21), he averaged 17.0 points and 9.8 rebounds while shooting 64.9 percent from the field and 83.3 at the line.

Berg posted a season-high 22 points, six in overtime, and a career-best 14 rebounds in the 81-79 win over Georgia Southern (Feb. 21). His 3-point play with 1:43 to play gave Wofford the lead for good in a 77-70 victory versus Furman (Feb. 19). Berg sealed the game by going four-of-four at the line in the final 25 seconds. He was 6-of-9 from the field and 6-of-6 at the charity stripe.

Berg's two free-throws with seven seconds left in overtime secured the 87-83 victory over Charleston (Feb. 17). He had 18 points and 12 boards in a win over East Tennessee State (Feb. 5).
Wofford battled back from an 11-point second-half deficit to take a lead, before Elon pulled away down the stretch for a 64-58 victory Wednesday in first-round action at the SoCon Tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Terriers (14-14) close the season with their first .500 or better record in 10 years on the Division I level.

The Phoenix (8-22) were ahead 32-24 at the intermission and took their largest lead of the game at 35-24 when Chris Chalko opened the second half with a 3-pointer.

Wofford then went on a 25-13 run, keyed by six points from Eric Marshall, to grab a 49-48 advantage with 7:29 to play when Greg Taylor scored on a layup off a fast-break feed from Adrien Borders. It was the Terriers' first lead since 2-0.

Wofford's final advantage came at 53-51 on a Byron Fields' layup with 4:23 remaining. The Terriers were tied for the final time at 55-55 on a Tyler Berg layup with 2:18 left.

Helping seal its fate was Wofford missing all four of its free-throw attempts in the final 2:53, including two front ends of one-and-ones.

Elon's Steve Harvin hit a pair of free-throws to give the Phoenix the lead for good at 57-55 at the 1:36 mark. Wofford then missed the front end of a one-and-one with 1:17 to play. A Scottie Rice jumper extended the Elon advantage to 59-55 with 53 seconds left. The Terriers then missed another front end of a one-and-one.

After two free-throws by Le'Vonn Jordan gave Elon a 61-55 lead, Wofford closed the deficit to 61-58 on a Marshall 3-pointer with 17 seconds remaining. That would be as close as the Terriers would get. The Phoenix made three-of-four attempts at the line down the stretch to provide the final margin.

Elon, the SoCon's worst free-throw shooting team at 60.1 percent entering the game, hit 19-of-23 attempts (82.6 percent). Colin Wyatt, a 47.8 percent shooter at the line for the season, was 12-of-15 at the charity stripe in topping the Phoenix with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

"Elon was the better team today," Wofford coach Mike Young said. "They were better in all aspects. It's a disappointing way to end our season, but it doesn't take away from the accomplishments of our team and the contribution made by our five seniors."

Borders topped the Terriers with 15 points as he closed his career as Wofford's 28th-leading scorer with 1,087 points. He was two points shy of David Murphy (1,089, 1970-74) for the No. 27 spot. Fellow senior Jeff Tarr grabbed a team-high six rebounds.

After hitting just 36.4 percent of its field-goal attempts in the opening 20 minutes, Wofford shot 45.5 in the second half to finish at 41.8 for the game. The Terriers were outrebounded 34-33.

Marshall had 14 points for Wofford. Freshman Drew Gibson had five assists.

After scoring the game's opening bucket, the Terriers saw Elon go on an 11-2 spurt to lead throughout the first half en route to a 32-24 advantage at the break.
Wofford men's basketball standout Tyler Berg has been named the SoCon Player of the Month for February.

A 6-foot-9 center, Berg averaged 14.6 points and 9.4 rebounds in leading the Terriers to a 5-3 record. The junior from Mt. Holly, N.C., posted four double-doubles while shooting 61.6 percent from the field.

Berg, a second-team All-SoCon selection, scored a season-high 22 points while grabbing a career-best 14 rebounds in an 81-79 overtime victory over Georgia Southern (Feb. 21). He tallied six points in the extra period. The 22 points were one shy of a career-best 23 he scored as a freshman in a victory over Georgia Southern.

In a 77-70 win versus Furman (Feb. 19), Berg's 3-point play with 1:43 remaining broke a tie game and gave Wofford the lead for good. He was also four-of-four at the line in the final 25 seconds to preserve the victory. He totaled 18 points and seven boards that night.

Berg had 18 points and 12 rebounds in an 87-83 overtime decision over College of Charleston (Feb. 17). He secured the win with a pair of free-throws with seven seconds left.

He also had 18 points and 12 boards in a 68-64 victory over East Tennessee State (Feb. 5).
The Wofford men's basketball program has announced the signing of 6-foot-8 post players Ralph Hegamin (Virginia Beach, Va.) and Matt O'Connor (Council Bluffs, Iowa) to National Letters of Intent.

Hegamin is from Kellam (Va.) High School. O'Connor has played the last two seasons at Iowa Western Community College after a standout prep career at St. Albert (Iowa) High School.

Hegamin was a first-team All-Beach District selection as a junior and senior. He was also an All-Region pick his senior year when he averaged team-best totals of 17.5 points, 8.3 rebounds and 3.2 assists. He was named a Commonwealth Classic and Eastern Invitational All-Star.

Hegamin had per game marks of 16.8 points, 8.3 rebounds and 3.2 assists over his junior and senior seasons in serving as a Team Captain and Most Valuable Player.

Hegamin totaled 986 points in his prep career as Kellam posted a 70-28 record over his four years on the varsity. Kellam also captured its first-ever city tournament championship.

"Ralph is a big kid who's not afraid of contact," Wofford coach Mike Young said. "He possesses outstanding hands and is a young man with very athletic feet, which is essential for quality post play.

"Ralph has been very well coached by Ken Zecchini at Kellam High School."

A four-year member of the Honor Roll, Hegamin was a recipient of an Academic Excellence Award as well as a President's Award for Academic Achievement.

O'Connor was a key part of this year's 33-7 Iowa Western team that placed fifth under coach Jim Morris at the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament. During his freshman season, Iowa Western was a Region IX finalist with a 25-8 record.

O'Connor led St. Albert High School, under coach Shad Coppock, to two consecutive Iowa State Tournament appearances. As a senior, O'Connor averaged 21 points and eight rebounds. He had a career-high 33 points to go with 12 rebounds in a state tournament semifinal game.

A first-team All-State selection, O'Connor was a three-time All-City player while twice being selected as the Player of the Year. He was a four-year Honor Roll student.

"With the graduation of Sam Daniels and Jeff Tarr, it was our feeling that we had to have an experienced forward that was prepared to help immediately," Young said. "Matt is a very good perimeter shooter."
"We recruited Matt out of high school. We followed his progress and are fortunate to have him out of an Iowa Western program that finished fifth in the country.

"Matt is an outstanding student who will be yet another quality young man for our basketball program."

During the spring period, Wofford has also signed 6-foot-9 center Tyler Whatley from Auburn, Ga. The Terriers inked 6-foot-3 guard Matt Estep (Ruppert, W.Va.) in November.

The 2005-06 Wofford team will return three starters with rising seniors Tyler Berg and Howard Wilkerson having both been All-SoCon selections.
The Wofford men's basketball team has secured a Dec. 30 date at Notre Dame in the 2005-06 season.

It will be the first meeting in any sport between the Terriers and Fighting Irish.

"We always want to play the best competition possible," Wofford coach Mike Young said. "With the academic excellence of Notre Dame, this game is a positive for Wofford College.

"Coach (Mike) Brey has done a great job in building the program at Notre Dame, and we look forward to making the trip to South Bend."

Wofford posted a 14-14 record this past season for its best mark in 10 years on the Division I level. With rising seniors Tyler Berg and Howard Wilkerson, Wofford has two returning All-SoCon players on its roster for the first time.

Notre Dame went 17-12 in advancing to the NIT in the 2004-05 campaign.

The Fighting Irish compete in the Big East Conference in men's basketball. Wofford has not faced a Big East team since going 1-1 against the league in the 2002-03 campaign. The Terriers posted a 79-77 win at Virginia Tech before falling 79-69 to West Virginia.

Wofford's complete 2005-06 schedule will be announced later this summer.
Wofford athletic media relations intern Kyle Seay recently sat down with Terrier basketball star Howard Wilkerson for a Q&A on the 2005-06 hoops campaign. Wilkerson was a SoCon Player of the Year candidate before seeing his season come to a close with a Jan. 17 knee injury.

Wilkerson was a two-time SoCon Player of the Week and the Terriers' top scorer (13.8) and rebounder (7.8). He averaged 19.8 points and 9.2 boards in five games versus SEC and ACC competition.

Wilkerson was named the SoCon Player of the Week for a second straight week on Dec. 14. A 6-foot-6, 250-pound native of Eden, N.C., Wilkerson became the first Terrier to receive back-to-back Player of the Week honors since Wofford began SoCon play in the 1997-98 campaign. He now has a Terrier record three career league Player of the Week awards. Ian Chadwick (1997-01) and Mike Lenzly (1999-03) received the honor twice.

Wilkerson posted his second double-double of the season when he totaled 19 points and 12 rebounds in a 75-66 victory over Appalachian State (Dec. 11). He added two assists and two steals with no turnovers in 34 minutes.

Wilkerson also received SoCon Player of the Week accolades Dec. 1 for all games played to that point in the season. He averaged 16.3 points and 8.0 rebounds in the opening six contests, including 19 points and eight rebounds in the 85-78 win at Auburn (Dec. 5).

Q: In Tyler Berg and yourself, Wofford will return two previous All-Southern Conference selections for the first time. Also, transfer guard Shane Nichols will get a chance to show what he can do. What is your outlook on your senior year and what do you feel the team is capable of this season?

A: The outlook for my senior year is just to get healthy and get my knee back to where it needs to be so I can help the team. We have Tyler Berg coming back, and we have people stepping in and filling shoes from the five seniors that graduated. We have a chance to be really good.

Q: After a stellar start with two consecutive Southern Conference Player of the Week awards, how tough was it to sit out the rest of last season with an injury?

A: It was really tough. It was hard on me. We lost a few in a row, and it got harder. Not being able to participate, and seeing things that are going wrong on the court and unable to do anything, hurt.

Q: How has rehab gone so far, and will you be fully recovered for the upcoming season?
A: Rehab is going well. I had surgery again four weeks ago, and I’ve been rehabbing ever since. I’ll be here all summer rehabbing. I’m going to work hard to try to get my knee where it needs to be, and hopefully next year I’ll be ready.

Q: Other than rehab, how have you spent your summer and how are you preparing for next season?

A: I work every day at American Storage. I lift, run and try to get back in shape from the many months that I’ve been out and get back to where I need to be. I lift and try to shoot everyday.

Q: What is it like playing for Coach (Mike) Young?

A: I love it. He’s a sincere guy. I really like his enthusiasm and what he brings to the table. He’s a really good guy and he’s done tremendous things for me. I can’t thank him enough.

Q: What was the deciding factor in your decision to play basketball for Wofford College?

A: I was playing at Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy. Wofford was the only school that was ready to offer me, so I signed early. I went on to have a pretty good year at Fork Union, but I’ve not regretted my decision to come here.

Q: What is your major and what are your plans after graduation?

A: My major is business economics. After college, I’d like to keep playing basketball somewhere.

Q: What are your goals for the team this season?

A: My goals are the Southern Conference championship and above. After that, the sky is the limit.

Q: How do you like to spend your time when you’re not studying or playing basketball?

A: I relax, talk on the phone and watch TV. I go out and have fun. I love to just lay back, have fun and play cards with my friends.

Q: Wofford always plays a very tough non-conference schedule. You excelled in these games last season, averaging 19.8 points and 9.2 rebounds in five contests against ACC and SEC opponents.
A: I’m very excited. I love playing against those kinds of guys, and I love the competition. It’s something about the big teams that makes me want to play harder. I like playing away more than playing at home, because I like when the odds are against us.

Q: Do you have a nickname? If so, how did you get it?

A: I got my nickname freshman year. They called me “hitman” because I play rough, and it stuck. They’ve been calling me “hitman” ever since.

Q: What do you do to get focused for a game?

A: I have a routine that starts when I get up in the morning. Once I get to the gym, I like to shoot. When we get back in the locker room, I keep to myself and think. I really don’t listen to music, joke around or stuff like that. I just like to be by myself to think about what’s going on and what I have to do.

Q: What is your favorite sport other than basketball, and who is your favorite team in that sport?

A: I’m a sporty guy. I played almost every sport in high school. I would have to say my second favorite sport is football. I like the Dallas Cowboys. For college, I like the Florida Gators but I love all sports.

Q: Is there any part of your game that you feel can be improved, and how will you work to get better?

A: There’s always room for improvement. I need to work on almost every aspect of my game. It’s not just one thing or another, it's everything from the low block, outside ball handling and shooting. I will work on every aspect of my game this summer and not just focus on one thing. I’m going to be in the best shape I’ve ever been in playing basketball and be ready to go, even after this injury.

Q: What makes the Benjamin Johnson Arena such a tough place for opponents to play?

A: We have some great crowds. I like our crowds. Our student section is crazy. I love them. It’s not too big. It’s kind of compact, so everything is right up on you and I don’t think our opponents like that too much. I just love the atmosphere it brings.
The Wofford men's basketball team will open the 2005-06 season in Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky., as part of the Guardians Classic.

Sixteen teams from 16 conferences comprise this year’s field in the Guardians Classic. Created in 2001 for the National Association of Basketball Coaches, the two-week event tips off across the country with four regional sites each hosting mini-tournaments at the home venues of some of the nation’s highest-profile teams. The winner of each regional advances to Kansas City, where three games of the event – the semifinals and championship game – will be nationally televised on ESPN2.

In addition to the Terriers and host Wildcats, the Lexington site also includes Lipscomb and South Dakota State.

Wofford will face Lipscomb in the Nov. 13 season opener in Rupp Arena. Kentucky and South Dakota State will play immediately afterwards. The winners of those two games will face each other the next day, Nov. 14, for the right to advance to Kansas City. There will also be a consolation game for the losers of the first-round contests.

"We played in the Guardians Classic a couple of years ago (2001-02) in Memphis and it was great for our players," Wofford coach Mike Young said. "We really look forward to participating in this event.

"It will allow us an opportunity to get an early jump on the season. We'll have to really pack in some things during the first month of practice with our preparation time reduced.

"We also look forward to playing two games at one of the more tradition-rich venues in the country in Rupp Arena."

The other regional sites are being hosted by Iowa, Texas and West Virginia.

Wofford returns three starters and six lettermen from last year's team. With rising senior post players Tyler Berg and Howard Wilkerson, the Terriers have two returning All-SoCon players on their roster for the first time.