Wofford College punter Jimmy Miner has been named a preseason honorable-mention All-America by The Sports Network.

Also ranked as the third-best punter in Division I-AA by The Sports Network, Miner has received All-SoCon honors in each of his first three seasons with the Terriers. He was also an honorable-mention All-America in 2002.

A senior from Kennesaw, Ga., Miner ranked 12th nationally last year as he set a single-season Wofford record with his 42.2 average. He is also the Terriers' career leader in average at 41.0.

Miner received Wofford Player of the Week honors in last year's 7-6 win at South Carolina State. He averaged 47.8 yards per attempt as he was instrumental in the Bulldogs having an average starting field position of their own 14-yard line. Two of his five punts in the game were downed at the S.C. State one-yard line. He then came back the next week with another 47.8 average, including four punts of at least 50 yards, in the 14-7 win at Georgia Southern.
Wofford College punter Jimmy Miner has been tabbed a second-team preseason All-America by Lindy's.

Miner has also received preseason All-America honors from The Sports Network in addition to being ranked by TSN as the third-best punter in Division I-AA. The senior from Kennesaw, Ga., has received All-SoCon honors in each of his first three seasons with the Terriers and was also an honorable-mention All-America in 2001 and 2002.

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Wofford College sophomore halfback Gabriel Jackson and inside linebacker Jim Thurman have been named Southern Conference Rising Stars by [www.I-AA.org](http://www.I-AA.org).

A native of Dahlonega, Ga., Jackson received SoCon Freshman of the Week honors last season after his 61-yard touchdown run with 1:36 to play provided the winning points in a 26-19 win at Appalachian State. He rushed for a season-best 80 yards, including a five-yard touchdown carry, in the 31-24 victory over Western Carolina.

For the season, Jackson placed fifth on the Terriers with 305 yards rushing on a 7.6 per carry mark.

Thurman received Wofford Rookie of the Year honors after a stellar freshman campaign in 2002. He was a two-time SoCon Freshman of the Week, including his performance in the 14-7 win at Georgia Southern when he totaled 13 tackles. He also garnered league rookie of the week accolades when he recovered two fumbles, one in overtime, to go with 10 tackles in a 27-21 win against Chattanooga.

A native of Hixson, Tenn., Thurman placed fourth on the Terriers with 75 tackles. He had 13 tackles, including nine solo stops, against Maryland.
Seven Wofford College football players have received preseason All-SoCon honors from www.I-AA.org.

Offensive tackle Chad Bentley and offensive guard Eric Deutsch are first-team selections with defensive tackle Lee Basinger, fullback J.R. McNair, punter Jimmy Miner, free safety Matt Nelson, and inside linebacker Jim Thurman being named to the second team.

Bentley, the Terriers' lone fifth-year senior, was an All-SoCon selection by the league coaches last season. The Pickens, S.C., native totaled 74 knockdown blocks in the 2002 campaign.

A preseason All-America by Street & Smith's, Deutsch received All-SoCon honors last year from the league coaches and media. He was also a third-team All-America by the National Football Gazette as he recorded a team-best 125 knockdown blocks.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Deutsch received Wofford Offensive Player of the Week accolades when he totaled 20 knockdowns in a 26-19 win at Appalachian State. His performance that afternoon was instrumental in the Terriers rushing for a single-game opponent record 472 yards against the Mountaineers.

Basinger (Kannapolis, N.C.) was a two-time Wofford Defensive Player of the Week last season and a Verizon Academic All-District performer. He placed second on the Terriers with 20 tackles for loss and nine sacks. His 64 total stops placed first on the defensive line and fifth overall on the team.

McNair (Jonesboro, Ga.), also a Phi Beta Kappa student and Wofford's student body president, rushed for 707 yards and nine touchdowns on a 4.8 per carry average. He topped the 100-yard mark in two of the Terriers' final three contests and is a two-time member of the Verizon Academic All-District team.

Miner is a three-time All-SoCon selection and a preseason All-America by The Sports Network and Lindy's. He is ranked by The Sports Network as the third-best punter in Division I-AA. The senior from Kennesaw, Ga., set a single-season Wofford record last year with a 42.2 average that placed 12th nationally. He's also the Terriers' career leader in average at 41.0 yards.

Miner was key in the field position game throughout last season. He had a 47.8 average as the Terriers posted 7-6 and 14-7 road wins over South Carolina State and Georgia Southern, respectively.

Nelson, rated by The Sports Network as the ninth-best safety in the nation, received first-team All-SoCon honors last fall and was a first-team All-America by the National Football Gazette.
The Grove City, Ohio, native topped the Terriers while placing second in the SoCon with 131 tackles. He had 114 stops in the 2001 campaign, giving him Wofford's two highest single-season tackle totals since 1987. With 285 career tackles, he ranks third on the Terriers' all-time list and will challenge for the top spot this fall.

Thurman received Wofford Rookie of the Year honors after a stellar freshman campaign in 2002. He was a two-time SoCon Freshman of the Week, including his performance in the 14-7 win at Georgia Southern when he totaled 13 tackles. A native of Hixson, Tenn., Thurman placed fourth on the Terriers with 75 stops.

Miner and Terrier free safety Matt Nelson place 11th and 12th, respectively, as senior NFL prospects in the Southern Conference.

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The Wofford football team will make two television appearances during the coming season with a possibility for a third game to be aired.

The Terriers' Sept. 20 home game with Georgia Southern will be seen regionally on FOX Sports Net South. Kickoff will remain at 7 p.m. at Gibbs Stadium.

Fox Sports Net South, a regional cable affiliate of Fox Sports Television, reaches 10.5 million cable and satellite subscribers in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Wofford could also make a second FOX Sports Net South appearance with its Nov. 15 game at Furman. Depending on potential SoCon title and playoff implications, FSNS will decide during the season whether to televise the Terriers and Paladins on that day or Western Carolina at Appalachian State.

The Terriers' Oct. 25 home game with Appalachian State will be broadcast by The Football Network, a new national television network which will launch prior to the start of the 2003 season. Kickoff against the Mountaineers has been moved from 1:30 p.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Four Wofford College football players have received preseason All-America honors from the *National Football Gazette*.

Offensive guard Eric Deutsch and free safety Matt Nelson are first-team selections while punter Jimmy Miner was named to the third team. Fullback J.R. McNair received honorable-mention accolades.

Also a preseason All-America by *Street & Smith’s*, Deutsch received All-SoCon honors last year from the league coaches and media. He was also a third-team All-America by the *National Football Gazette* as he recorded a team-best 125 knockdown blocks.

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