Football Press Releases January 2004

Wofford College. Sports Information Office
The Wofford football team ranked ahead of 30 Division I-A programs in the final Sagarin Ratings that were utilized for the Bowl Championship Series.

The Terriers were No. 97 out of 240 I-A and I-AA teams. Wofford (12-2, 8-0) set a single-season school record for victories in capturing its first Southern Conference championship and advancing to the semifinal round of the Division I-AA playoffs.

Delaware, the I-AA champion who defeated Wofford in the semifinals, is ranked No. 40 -- the highest rating for any I-AA team in at least the last six seasons. The 2003 Blue Hens finished above 78 I-A teams (67 percent), including 17 I-A programs who earned bowl bids. The next closest I-AA team to the Blue Hens was Western Illinois at No. 77.

The creator of the Sagarin Ratings is Jeff Sagarin, an MIT graduate. He produces computer ratings for many professional and collegiate sports and his work is published regularly in the USA Today. The Sagarin football ratings have been included in the BCS formula since its creation, and his basketball ratings have been used by the NCAA Division I men's basketball committee for the last 20 years.

Listed below are the I-A programs who ranked below Wofford:

98. Troy State
101. Arizona
103. Rice
104. Kent State
105. Vanderbilt
106. Iowa State
108. Ball State
109. Tulane
111. Mississippi State
116. Illinois
119. Middle Tennessee
120. Temple
121. Indiana
124. Baylor
125. Utah State
126. Central Florida
127. San Jose State
131. Idaho
132. Central Michigan
133. Eastern Michigan
134. Ohio
136. Louisiana-Lafayette
142. New Mexico State
143. East Carolina
147. Arkansas State
155. Buffalo
160. UTEP
171. Army
172. Louisiana-Monroe
174. SMU
Wofford consensus All-Americas Eric Deutsch and Matt Nelson have been selected as the SoCon Offensive and Defensive Players of the Month for December.

A senior from Cincinnati, Ohio, who will return for a fifth season of eligibility next year, Deutsch totaled 55 knockdown blocks in the Terriers’ two playoff games during the month.

Deutsch had a career-high and Wofford season-best 35 knockdowns in the 34-17 quarterfinal-round victory over defending national champion Western Kentucky. He was instrumental in the Terriers rushing for 311 yards against a Hilltopper defense that entered the game allowing just 117.3 on the ground. Wofford had touchdown drives on its first three possessions in taking a 21-7 first-quarter lead.

Deutsch came back the next week with a team-high 20 knockdowns in the semifinal-round contest versus Delaware.

He recorded 182 knockdown blocks on the season as he captured the SoCon's Jacobs Blocking Trophy. He'll be one of four returning starters on next year's Terrier offensive line.

Nelson totaled a team-best 21 tackles (11 solo) in the Terriers' two December contests. He had four pass breakups to go with 12 stops, including one for a loss, in the victory over Western Kentucky. He posted nine tackles at Delaware as Wofford held the eventual national champion Blue Hens to their lowest point total in four playoff games.

The senior from Grove City, Ohio, was named the SoCon Defensive Player of the Year by the league media and was a unanimous first-team All-SoCon selection from the coaches. Nelson also placed third in voting for The Sports Network's Buck Buchanan Award, signifying the nation's top defensive player in Division I-AA.

Nelson posted a team-best 167 tackles as he concluded his career with a Terrier record 452 stops. He had six interceptions for Wofford's highest total since 1993. Nelson also led the Terriers with 16 pass breakups while forcing two fumbles and recovering one. He had three red-zone takeaways.

Nelson was key in Wofford topping all of Division I football (I-A and I-AA) in turnover margin at 1.64 (+23). The Terriers were also third nationally in I-AA in scoring defense, allowing just 14.8 points per game.
Wofford offensive guard Eric Deutsch and free safety Matt Nelson have been named to the www.i-aa.org All-Star team.

Deutsch, the recipient of the SoCon's Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the league's top offensive lineman, has received first-team All-America honors from The Sports Network, Associated Press, and CSTV. A first-team All-SoCon pick by the coaches and media, he will return next fall for a fifth season of eligibility. Deutsch topped Wofford in knockdown blocks with 182.

The Cincinnati, Ohio, native garnered team Offensive Player of the Week honors for the second time this year when he totaled a Terrier single-game high 35 knockdowns in the 34-17 quarterfinal-round playoff win over defending national champion Western Kentucky. He had 20 knockdowns in the semifinal game versus eventual national champion Delaware.

Nelson, who finished third in voting for the Buck Buchanan Award as the nation's top defensive player, additionally earned first-team All-America accolades from The Sports Network, Associated Press, the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA), and CSTV.

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The Spartanburg County Council, at its meeting last night, passed a resolution in recognition and appreciation for the pride and honor bestowed upon Spartanburg County by the achievements of the 2003 Wofford College football team.

The Terriers captured their first Southern Conference championship and advanced to the Division I-AA national semifinals. Wofford (12-2, 8-0) set a single-season school record for victories while posting the SoCon's first undefeated league season since 1998. The Terriers concluded the campaign with a No. 3 national ranking.
Wofford defensive line coach/recruiting coordinator Jack Teachey and his wife, Dawn, have announced the arrival of Emma Kate Teachey, born Jan. 16 at 1:03 p.m. at Spartanburg Regional. Emma Kate weighed seven pounds and 14 ounces at delivery.
Deane Rast Richer, the grandmother of Wofford safety Shane Fast, has been named the South Carolina Mother of the Year.

Fast earned Academic All-District honors for the Terrier football team this fall. The Union, S.C., native totaled 21 tackles, including one for a loss, to go with a pass breakup. He was a second-team performer in the secondary and a special teams standout.

Fast is one of five seniors off this year's team who will return next fall for a fifth season of eligibility. The others are consensus All-America offensive guard Eric Deutsch, starting strong safety Ryan Steele, first-team cornerback Craig Thomas, and defensive tackle Bill Pryor.

Included below is the story on Risher from the Camden Chronicle-Independent.

Camden's Risher named S.C. Mother of the Year

By FRANK JOHNSON, C-I staff reporter January 19, 2004

Each year, the S.C. Mother of the Year Search Committee asks for help in finding the woman "who represents the highest degree of motherhood and family values in her own life and in the lives of her children."

This year, that woman was found in Camden.

Deane Rast Risher was named the S.C. Mother of the Year for 2004 at a ceremony on the Camden Military Academy campus Friday morning.

Search Committee spokesperson Gwen Howell made the announcement at Friday's ceremony.

Howell told a roomful of supporters and family members that this year's selection was no contest.

"We could never have come up with a better candidate," Howell said as Risher looked on in the CMA Administration Building. "Deane has five daughters ... and thousands of young men who graduated from Camden Military Academy who also think of her as their Camden mom.

"On behalf of the search committee, I present to you one of the most outstanding ladies we have ever learned about."

For years, Risher was the "first lady" of CMA, where her husband, Lt. Lanning Risher, was headmaster from the school's inception in 1958 until 1995. She was instrumental in CMA's growth during the years from a privately owned school to the internationally recognized military academy it is today.

Current CMA Headmaster Eric Boland submitted her name to the non-profit Mother of the Year Search Committee last fall.

"She's been a mother to a lot of us," Boland said.

Risher said she was overwhelmed when told of the honor.

"To say I was surprised, was a vast understatement," she said. "I was speechless ... and completely humbled. Thank you all for coming. There is not one of us who has not been blessed by a mother."

Risher, who will be honored in March at Gov. Mark Sanford's office in Columbia, thanked Howell's...
Risher, who will be honored in March at Gov. Mark Sanford’s office in Columbia, thanked Howell’s organization for standing for the values that make us so strong.

In a written philosophy on parenting, Risher called duty to family, community and country as hallmarks. Her parenting centers on Christian focus through faith in God and service to mankind.

Risher’s daughter, Mary Osteen, who lives outside of Charlotte, was in attendance Friday.

``I think it’s a great and honorable (award),’’ Osteen said. ‘’Mothering is the hardest -- and most important -- job anyone can do. When she first heard the news, my mom was very overwhelmed.‘’

Risher’s ambitions today include “fulfilling a life ambition to lead and foster Christian growth in the greater Camden community.”

Born in Calhoun County, Risher was a valedictorian graduate of Winthrop College. She was married in 1953.

From community boards and organizations to a host of church related activities, Risher has spent a lifetime of being actively involved in causes she believes in, in addition to playing crucial roles in every aspect of Camden Military’s growth.
Wofford consensus football All-America Matt Nelson was selected by the Orangeburg (S.C.) Touchdown Club as the 2003 recipient of the Harry Carson Award, honoring the National Collegiate Defensive Player of the Year.

The award was presented to Nelson by Carson last night before a gathering of more than 400 people at The Cinema in the Orangeburg Mall. It was part of the second-annual Orangeburg Touchdown Club Awards Banquet.

Carson, a former South Carolina State standout, played 13 seasons at linebacker in the National Football League and received All-Pro honors with the New York Giants.

Last year's Harry Carson Award went to University of Georgia All-American David Pollack.

"That's a great honor, just being awarded with the Harry Carson Award, you can't say enough about the guy," Nelson said. "(Carson) was an unbelievable player and is an unbelievable person. It shocked me when I found out that David Pollack won this award last year. It's just a great honor."

Nelson helped lead Wofford (12-2, 8-0) to its first Southern Conference championship and a trip to the Division I-AA national semifinals. He topped the Terriers with 167 tackles and six interceptions. The senior from Grove City, Ohio, is Wofford's career leader with 452 stops.

"What our football team took on this season was the leadership of the senior class," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "We've always tried to bring a great deal of intensity to the table and play hard.

"To go undefeated in the conference was a tribute to the seniors and our coaching staff. The big thing that stood out about Matt was that he competed when they were behind. He has that competitive heart and that spirit. He's very intense and he hits as well as anybody."
The Southern Conference champion Wofford Terriers have announced that spring football practice will begin on Feb. 23.

"We're looking forward to finishing the recruiting and getting back to football," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "That's the fun part for us as coaches and, to a certain extent, our kids have a great deal of fun when they go out there and get to compete again.

"Our offseason program has been going very well. We have some young guys that will hopefully step up and fill slots that have been vacated by some outstanding players.

"We're trying to take that next step. We won the conference championship. That was one of our goals and we made it to the national semifinals. Our goal this coming year will be the same as far as winning a Southern Conference championship, getting into the playoffs, and winning a national championship.

"There's a lot of work to be done and a long road to travel. A big part of that step toward achieving our goals is having a great spring and we're looking forward to it."

Wofford returns 17 of 22 starters (nine offensive, eight defensive) while losing just nine players off this past season's squad which posted a 12-2 overall record and an 8-0 mark in the SoCon.
The Wofford College football team, coming off a Southern Conference championship season and a trip to the Division I-AA national semifinals, has announced the signing of 15 high school seniors to National Letters-of-Intent.

The Terriers’ signees represent eight states. The 15 players include four defensive backs, four defensive linemen, three offensive linemen, two running backs, an outside linebacker, and a quarterback.

“We very much like all the guys who have signed,” Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. “It’s been a very productive year and we believe we’ve filled a bunch of needs.

“We have kids that are outstanding football players and excellent students as well. It’s a quality group and some of these kids have the ability to help us immediately. Ultimately, the test of whether we’ve done our job is when they report to camp in August. We then have four years after that to determine how good this class is.”

Wofford loses just nine players to graduation off last year’s squad that set a single-season school record for victories with its 12-2 mark. The Terriers also posted an 8-0 SoCon record to become the league’s first undefeated team since 1998.

Listed below are Wofford’s 2004 football signees:

**Layton Baker** (DT, 6-2, 280, St. Augustine, Fla.; St. Augustine High School)
All-Conference and All-Region as a senior … played in the Florida Shrine Bowl and North-South All-Star Game … earned All-County honors as a junior and senior … totaled 78 tackles his senior year … had 14 stops for a loss with 10 sacks … forced three fumbles while recovering three.

**Joey Bryant** (QB, 6-0, 185, Cincinnati, Ohio; Glen Este High School)
Comes from the same high school as Wofford coach Mike Ayers … completed 91-of-171 pass attempts (53.2 percent) for 1,365 yards and 11 touchdowns … rushed for 554 yards … three-year starter.

**Michael Combest** (DE, 6-1, 250, Cincinnati, Ohio; St. Xavier High School)
A first-team Greater Catholic League selection and its Defensive Lineman of the Year … honorable-mention All-City and All-Southwest Ohio … totaled 63 tackles with seven sacks and three forced fumbles in being named St. Xavier’s Defensive Lineman of the Year … two-year starter … also played baseball.

**Maurice Faulk** (S, 6-2, 190, Blackshear, Ga.; Pierce County High School)
First-team All-Region and second-team All-Area on defense … earned All-Area and honorable-mention All-Region honors as a return specialist … totaled 46 solo tackles and 15 assists as a senior … had one interception … rushed for 241 yards and two touchdowns on an 8.3 per carry mark … also had six receptions for 126 yards (21.0 avg.) and two
touchdowns … averaged 13.8 yards on punt returns with one touchdown … had a 16.0 mark on seven kickoff returns … also lettered in basketball and track.

**Brian Ford** (S, 6-3, 185, Wildwood, Ga.; Hamilton Heights Academy)
Four-year letterman in football and basketball while also lettering twice in track … recipient of a Captain’s Award in football … basketball honors include being named to the All-Tournament team at Lee College … averaging 19.2 points, 6.7 assists, 6.4 rebounds, 3.1 steals, and 1.4 blocks per game.

**Zach Grey** (DB, 5-11, 175, Salem, Ohio; Salem High School)
First-team All-State … also named first-team All-Northeast Ohio and All-MAC … set single-season school records with 54 receptions, 1,024 yards, and 14 touchdowns … averaged 19.0 yards per catch … placed second in receiving in the MAC … totaled 102 career receptions for 1,618 yards (15.9 avg.) and 16 touchdowns … all three of those numbers were also career school marks … had eight interceptions on defense with two of those picks returned for touchdowns … also lettered in basketball and baseball … ranked 10th academically out of 216 in his senior class.

**Jonathan Hathaway** (OG, 6-1, 345, Nashville, Tenn.; Pearl-Cohn High School)
First-team All-Mid-State and All-Region … Region 4-A Most Valuable Lineman … second-team All-State … All-City Offensive Most Valuable Player … named to the Tennessee-Kentucky All-Star Game … recipient of the William E. Hume Award as the top Nashville Metro football player who also excels in academics and sportsmanship … also garnered the Real Sports Leadership Award.

**Michael Hobbs** (RB, 5-10, 195, Andalusia, Ala.; Straughn High School)
Rushed for over 1,600 yards as a senior in earning All-County and honorable-mention All-State honors … also received All-County accolades his junior year in addition to being a Team Captain … three-year varsity letterman … served as Straughn’s senior class president.

**Jason Leventis** (OLB, 5-10, 205, Greenville, S.C.; Eastside High School)
Shrine Bowl selection and Region Player of the Year for Greenville County … named All-County, All-Region, and All-State … led Eastside with 155 total tackles his senior year … had 22 stops for a loss and 14 sacks … also posted 65 quarterback hurries, four caused fumbles, three recoveries, and three pass breakups … started at strong safety, tailback, fullback, wide receiver, and on special teams … rushed for 750 yards and 12 touchdowns on an 8.9 per carry mark … also had eight receptions for 128 yards (16.0 avg.) with two touchdowns … scored a touchdown on every 6.6 touches … four-year starter … Team Captain … received Defensive Player of the Week and All-Academic honors from the Greer Touchdown Club … All-Region as a junior and All-County as a sophomore … Eastside’s Defensive Most Valuable Player both seasons as he topped the team in tackles … also lettered in track.

**Corey McKenna** (C, 6-2, 265, Cincinnati, Ohio; Elder High School)
A first-team All-State selection … also received All-League, All-City, and All-District honors … a two-year starter for back-to-back state championship teams … voted a captain and Elder’s Best Offensive Lineman by his teammates … played at Elder with current Terrier offensive and Mormon Bowl head coach Taylor.

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*Briefly mentioned:*

- Real Sports Leadership Award
- Terrier offensive and Mormon Bowl head coach Taylor
Terrier offensive guard Marty Bauer … also lettered in track.

**Dan Tavani** (FS, 6-0, 200, Green Pond, Pa.; Notre Dame High School)
Broke every rushing record for Notre Dame … first-team All-Area as a defensive back and a unanimous All-Star team selection by the league coaches … first-team All-Conference on offense and defense … second-team All-State … set school career rushing (4,459 yards) and touchdown (59) records … also holds the single-game (304 yards) and season mark (1,574 yards) in rushing … totaled a team-best 25 touchdowns as a senior … had three consecutive 1,000-yard seasons … played at tailback, safety, and punter … posted a team-high 115 tackles as a senior … helped lead his school to a 9-2 record and berth in the District 11 Class 2-A playoffs his senior year … placed third in voting for the Maxwell Award which covers northeast Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey … two-year Team Captain and three-time Most Valuable Player … a three-sport athlete who also lettered in basketball and baseball … ranked 13th in his graduating class … his father, Frank Tavani, is the head football coach at Lafayette College.

**Justin Treece** (DE, 6-3, 250, Jacksonville, Fla.; Bartram Trail High School)
Ranked as the No. 75 recruit in the state of Florida by the *Orlando Sentinel* … first-team All-Florida Defense for all classifications … second-team All-State on the 5-A level … also named All-First Coast and All-County … named the Top Defensive Player in St. John’s County … a CSA Prepstar postseason All-America nominee … Shrine Bowl starter … also selected to Rivals Top 75 in Florida and Insiders Top 160 in Florida … broke school single-game (19) and season (157) records for tackles as a senior … had 34 stops for a loss and nine sacks … forced three fumbles while making one recovery … added a blocked field goal … played at middle linebacker in addition to defensive end and fullback … three-year starter … also lettered in track and weightlifting … competed in the discus and shot … an All-District, All-Region, and All-State selection in the discus.

**Derek Wooten** (OL, 6-7, 270, Rock Hill, S.C.; Northwestern High School)
Starter in the North-South All-Star Game … All-Area and All-Region … also named to the All-*Observer* team … voted Northwestern’s Best Blocker … member of the National Honor Society.

**Adrian Young** (RB, 5-11, 190, Hickory, N.C.; St. Stephens High School)
Earned first-team All-Conference honors as a senior when he rushed for 1,600 yards and 21 touchdowns … received Player of the Week honors for the state of North Carolina when he set conference records with 41 carries and 310 yards rushing versus F.T. Foard … also scored four touchdowns in that game … rushed for over 150 yards on six occasions during the year … totaled six Player of the Week honors from various Hickory media outlets during his senior season … three-year letterman and starter … team Most Valuable Player as a junior and senior … recipient of Golden Helmet and Paul Miller Awards … also lettered three years in basketball … named his team’s Defensive Player of the Year as a sophomore and junior … earned one letter in track.

**Ryan Young** (DE, 6-4, 235, Cincinnati, Ohio; St. Xavier High School)
A second-team All-Greater Catholic League selection … mentioned prominently in a *USA Today* piece on the St. Xavier defense … a two-year letterman in football … also lettered in track.
Seven Wofford College football players have been named to the National Football Gazette All-South Region team.


The Terriers captured the 2003 Southern Conference championship while advancing to the Division I-AA national semifinals. Wofford (12-2, 8-0) set a single-season school record for victories as it posted the SoCon's first undefeated league mark since 1998.
The Wofford football team will continue its series with South Carolina State as the schools have reached an agreement to play in each of the next two seasons.

The Terriers will travel to Orangeburg, S.C., on Sept. 11 this coming fall. The Bulldogs will play at Wofford on Sept. 3 in 2005. After not having met since 1977, Wofford and S.C. State renewed their series by playing the last two seasons.

The SoCon champion Terriers now have nine contests slated for the 2004 campaign. A complete 11-game schedule will be announced at a later date.

In addition to S.C. State, Wofford has a Nov. 20 non-conference date at VMI. In SoCon action, the Terriers have home games versus Chattanooga (Oct. 2), Western Carolina (Oct. 16), The Citadel (Oct. 30), and Furman (Nov. 13). The Terriers will travel to Georgia Southern (Sept. 18), Elon (Oct. 9), and Appalachian State (Oct. 23). Wofford has one less conference game this season due to East Tennessee State dropping its football program.
The defending Southern Conference champion Wofford Terriers have announced the signing of punter/kicker Josh Syria to a National Letter-of-Intent.

Syria (6-3, 220) was a three-year letterman and starter for Wenatchee High School in Wenatchee, Wash. He earned second-team All-Conference honors as a junior and was an honorable-mention All-Conference selection his senior year.

Named as Wenatchee's Special Teams Player of the Year, Syria had a single-season school record 40.0 average as a senior with eight punts downed inside the 20-yard line. He also holds the career punting mark for Wenatchee. As a junior, he had a career long 46-yard field goal. He was also 9-of-9 on extra-points in one game.
Wofford's 2003 Southern Conference championship football team will be honored Thursday, Feb. 12, in a special campus convocation at 11 a.m. in Leonard Auditorium.

Terrier coach Mike Ayers, recipient of the Eddie Robinson Award as Division I-AA's National Coach of the Year, will be the featured speaker.

In addition to capturing their first SoCon title, the Terriers advanced to the Division I-AA national semifinals. Wofford (12-2, 8-0) set a single-season school record for victories as it posted the SoCon's first undefeated league mark since 1998.
Wofford football team to be honored in special campus convocation
Feb. 11, 2004

Wofford's 2003 Southern Conference championship football team will be honored Thursday, Feb. 12, in a special campus convocation at 11 a.m. in Leonard Auditorium. The public is invited.

Terrier coach Mike Ayers, recipient of the Eddie Robinson Award as Division I-AA's National Coach of the Year, will be the featured speaker.

In addition to capturing their first SoCon title, the Terriers advanced to the Division I-AA national semifinals. Wofford (12-2, 8-0) set a single-season school record for victories in posting the SoCon's first undefeated league mark since 1998.

Read up on Wofford football at http://athletics.wofford.edu
The South Carolina General Assembly has honored the 2003 Wofford College football team for an “outstanding season as the Southern Conference champions” and coach Mike Ayers for his selection as the 2003 winner of The Sports Network's Eddie Robinson Award, signifying Division I-AA's National Coach of the Year.

“This outstanding finish of the 2003 Wofford football season brought deserved recognition and pride to the college, its administration, staff, faculty, students and loyal fans, and also to the State of South Carolina as well,” said the joint resolution.

The resolution was passed unanimously on Feb. 3 and presented to Ayers on the floor of the House of Representatives yesterday. Ayers, Wofford president Benjamin Dunlap, athletic director Richard Johnson, offensive coordinator Wade Lang and defensive coordinator Nate Woody received a standing ovation at the conclusion of the presentation.

Presiding over the House and introducing the group was Speaker Pro Tem Doug Smith, a Wofford alumnus and Representative from Spartanburg County. Also extending a special welcome to the Terriers were Rep. Brenda Lee, whose district includes the Wofford campus, and alumni members of the General Assembly, Sen. John Hawkins (Spartanburg), Rep. Phil Sinclair (Spartanburg), Rep. Fletcher Smith (Greenville), Rep. Murrell Smith (Sumter) and Rep. Scott Talley (Spartanburg).

Ayers guided the Terriers to the Southern Conference championship with an 8-0 record. Wofford went on to win two playoff games to reach the national semifinals. Ayers became the first Terrier football coach to win 100 games with a 7-6 victory at Furman in this year's regular-season finale. His record at Wofford is now 102-77-1.
The defending Southern Conference champion Wofford Terriers return to the gridiron Monday at 6:30 p.m. for the start of spring practice.

The Terriers return 17 of 22 starters (eight offensive, nine defensive) and all but nine players off this past year's squad that went undefeated in SoCon play (8-0) and advanced to the Division I-AA national semifinals with a 12-2 overall record.

"The big thing that we're going to be concerned with is trying to find some young guys to step in and be ready to play in the fall," Wofford coach and 2003 Eddie Robinson Award winner Mike Ayers said. "We have nine guys that left the program through graduation and some of them were excellent players.

"It's an opportunity for young guys to be able to work up into the lineup and get into a starting position. As always, we'll continue to try to get better from a fundamental standpoint and a knowledge standpoint of our schemes both offensively and defensively."

The first scrimmage is set for next Saturday, Feb. 28, with spring drills concluding Mar. 17.
A commemorative DVD highlighting the 2003 Wofford football team's Southern Conference championship season is now available for purchase.

The DVD provides a weekly recap of the Terriers' run to the Division I-AA national semifinals and exclusive locker room footage. The cost is $15. An additional $3 is added for mailing and shipping. The DVDs can be purchased in the Wofford athletic office or by ordering over the phone (864-597-4090) via a credit card.
The defending Southern Conference champion Wofford football team began spring drills last night with a nearly two-hour practice.

"Things went well and the kids were very excited," Terrier coach and 2003 Eddie Robinson Award winner Mike Ayers said. "We threw the ball very well and the receivers caught it well.

"We had a lot of enthusiasm. The kids are looking for that challenge that we've put in front of them. Our goal is to win the Southern Conference championship again. We understand and they understand that it's going to take a lot of hard work. Last night was a first step and a good start. We just need to continue to build each week."

The Terriers return to the practice field tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. and Friday at 3 p.m. The first scrimmage is set for Saturday at 10 a.m.
The defending Southern Conference champion Wofford football team will hold its first spring scrimmage tomorrow at 10 a.m. in a snow-covered Gibbs Stadium.

Spartanburg and the entire Upstate of South Carolina has been hit with nearly eight inches of snow in the last few days.

"This gives us an opportunity, in case we ever get into a snow game, to see how we can execute," Terrier coach and 2003 Eddie Robinson Award winner Mike Ayers said. "If you look at this past year's playoffs, several teams played in driving snowstorms and you have to be prepared for it.

"We don't have a whole lot of snow this way. This is an opportunity for us to see what we can do in this type of environment. As coaches, we're looking forward to it and hopefully the players are."

Ayers has definite goals in mind for his team tomorrow morning.

"We're going to see if we can execute at a high level the things that we've installed," Ayers said. "We're still trying to find some young guys who are going to step in and find out who the players are."
Trey Rodgers had scoring runs of 34 and 38 yards to highlight a two-hour scrimmage for the Wofford football team on a snow-covered Gibbs Stadium field this morning.

A rising senior from Spartanburg, S.C., Rodgers was the Terriers' leading ground gainer with 83 yards on 12 carries. He also completed 5-of-8 passes for 82 yards.

"I thought it was a very productive morning," Terrier coach Mike Ayers said. "It was the first time we hit this spring and the first opportunity to scrimmage.

"The playing conditions were outstanding. It was a beautiful day with a lot of sunshine. The only problem was that we had about five inches of snow on the field.

"I thought the kids competed hard and got into it. For the first time of operating the offense and defense versus each other in a live scenario, it was pretty good."

Colby Harris, a rising sophomore from Ashville, N.C., led the receiving corps with three catches for 55 yards. Rodgers and fellow quarterbacks Jeff Zolman and Josh Collier combined to complete 9-of-17 passes for 120 yards.

"Trey made a bunch of big plays that stood out," Ayers said. "I liked the way we threw the ball. We did some good things in the passing game and Colby did a great job catching the football.

"The young guys in the offensive line had some problems with pass protection. The older guys did pretty well. Defensively, some young guys are still learning. Craig (Thomas) made some nice open-field tackles in space from the free safety position. He's knew to that. There were a lot of good things that went on today."

Thomas started all 14 games at left cornerback last year, totaling 88 tackles, and is now at free safety to fill the void left by the graduation of consensus All-America Matt Nelson.

A defensive highlight was a goal-line interception by inside linebacker Josh Smith.

After participating in the scrimmage, Terrier defensive back Alex Love immediately departed for Johnson City, Tenn., to compete in the 3:30 p.m. preliminaries for the 60 meter hurdles at the Southern Conference Indoor Track Championships. He was being escorted to East Tennessee State by Wofford running back coach Freddie Brown, who doubles as the Terriers' track coach.

Halfback Gabriel Jackson was Wofford's second-leading ground gainer in the scrimmage with five carries for 39 yards.

Upon leaving Gibbs Stadium at the conclusion of the scrimmage, several Terrier players took part in a snowball fight.
The Terriers return to the practice field Monday at 6:30 p.m. Wofford will also practice Tuesday at 3:45 p.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 3:45 p.m. The next scrimmage is set for two weeks from today, Mar. 13, at 10 a.m.
After participating in a two-hour football scrimmage on a snow-covered Gibbs Stadium field this morning, sophomore cornerback Alex Love immediately departed for Johnson City, Tenn., to compete in the 3:30 p.m. preliminaries for the 60-meter hurdles at the Southern Conference Indoor Track Championships.

Love is believed to be the first Wofford student-athlete in recent memory to compete in two different sports on the same day.

A native of Decatur, Ga., Love totaled 38 tackles last season. He had an interception and 47-yard return in the Terriers' 34-17 quarterfinal-round playoff win over Western Kentucky. He also blocked two punts on the season.

Love is splitting time this spring between corner and free safety. He and Craig Thomas, who started all 14 games at left cornerback last season, are the top two candidates to fill the free safety position vacated by the graduation of consensus All-America Matt Nelson.

Love was being driven to Johnson City by Wofford running back coach Freddie Brown, who doubles as the Terriers' head track coach.