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Wofford football's two-time consensus All-America Eric Deutsch has been named to the 2004 I-AA.org All-Star team.

An offensive guard, Deutsch graduated last month with a degree in computer science. The Cincinnati, Ohio, native is one of just six players this year to earn a repeat selection on the I-AA.org All-Star team.

Deutsch led Wofford in knockdown blocks for the third straight season, posting 427 in that stretch. His 2004 total of 120 knockdowns helped the Terriers place second in the nation in team rushing with an average of 305.1 yards per game.

Deutsch was the 2003 recipient of the SoCon's Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the league's top offensive lineman.
Perseverance pays off for Clark
by Drew Timmons '08
Jan. 21, 2005

It took one phone call to effectively change Knoxville, Tenn., native Chris Clark's baseball future.

Now a senior lefthanded pitcher at Wofford, Clark began playing baseball when he was nine years old. At 10, he began to pitch. His dad, Mike, then decided to make a phone call to a local baseball player to see if he could get Chris personal training time.

The local player was Steve Searcy, who pitched professionally for the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Phillies from 1988-92.

Searcy agreed to work with Clark, who has yet to look back.

Admiring professional hurlers Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux because of their pitching style, Clark began to improve as a player. Watching Glavine and Maddux taught Clark to pitch with control, taking the focus off of speed.

"I have never been one to light up the radar gun," Clark said. "I have to learn to pitch with control."

Though Clark's career at Farragut High School ended successfully, it did not begin that way. Clark did not make his high school team his freshman year. Instead of giving up, he persevered and eventually made the squad. He was 10-2 as a senior, earning a selection to the All-District team and helping lead Farragut to the Tennessee state finals.

After graduating high school, Clark was invited by UNC Asheville to walk-on to its baseball team. After going through fall practice, Clark was cut. The coaches claimed he did not throw hard enough to compete at the collegiate level.

"(Their reason) seemed funny to me considering, through the whole fall practice, I did not give up one earned run," Clark said.

Following the example he set for himself after being cut from his high school team, Clark kept his head up and began pursuing other options. He located a junior college, Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland, Tenn., outside of his native Knoxville.

After speaking with coach Mike Policastro, he joined the team as its newest pitcher. He was sixth in the rotation. Initially, he did not receive very many starts.

Perseverance, though, prevailed again. By the end of the season, he worked his way into the top spot on the staff and was named the starter at the Tennessee Junior Community College Athletic Association (TJCCA) tournament.

In his second year, Clark led the TJCCA in regular-season wins and was named Conference Pitcher of the Year. He had a 9-3 record, one save, a 3.19 ERA, three shutouts and four complete games.

Clark also succeeded academically, receiving the George L. Mathis Scholarship Achievement Award for having the highest grade-point average among student-athletes at Cleveland State.

Following that stint, he was recruited by Wofford. However, elbow problems necessitated surgery and he was sidelined his first season on campus.

In 2004, Clark posted a 2-4 record with a 5.90 ERA. He started 12 of the 17 games in which he appeared.

The Terriers open the 2005 season with a three-game SoCon series at Elon (Feb. 4-6).
With the southpaw now entering his senior season, baseball is not the only thing on his mind. He must begin to plan his future. A physics major, Clark has several options after graduation in May.

“I hope to get a chance to play professional ball after graduation,” Clark said. “However, I believe that I will be back to school to work on a graduate degree of some kind.”

Regardless of what path he chooses, the experience of playing baseball will be beneficial.

“The most important lesson I learned from organized sports is how to deal with all kinds of people in a competitive environment,” Clark said. “It also gives you a sense of what it takes to be a real leader. If you think you have what it takes to be a leader, this is a good place to start. These are the kinds of things that athletes bring with them into the real world.”

Even though choosing a career path will be very important for Clark, his senior season will also be a time for reflection.

Clark’s favorite part of playing baseball is the confrontation aspect. While he lives for the battle between a pitcher and batter, he also appreciates the camaraderie among his teammates.

“The thing I’m going to miss most is the guys,” Clark said. “I have spent a lot of time with them over the years and some I will see again, and some I may not.”

With Clark’s talent level and dedication to improvement, he will not be the only one missing something after graduation. Terrier fans will miss his perseverance and presence on the mound.

Read up on Wofford baseball at http://athletics.wofford.edu
The Wofford football team has announced the signing of 19 high school seniors to National Letters of Intent.

The 19 signees are from 12 different states (Georgia 3, South Carolina 3, North Carolina 2, Ohio 2, Tennessee 2, Alabama 1, Florida 1, Idaho 1, Illinois 1, Pennsylvania 1, Texas 1, West Virginia 1).

Wofford signed four defensive backs, four linebackers, four offensive linemen, two defensive linemen and a placekicker/punter, quarterback, running back, tight end and wide receiver.

"We think we've been able to recruit a good class," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "The class is not finished, though. We still have a couple more needs.

"We really like the guys we've signed. We had some needs that we feel we met. Linemen wise, we've had an excellent class. We've got some guys with bigger size. They are kids we feel are very athletic and can help us upfront on both sides of the ball.

"We were able to get some kids that will increase our team speed. That's always a way to get better and be more explosive offensively and defensively. We also addressed our need in the special teams with an All-State punter and placekicker."

With a 29-8 overall record (.784) and 18-5 league mark (.783), the Terriers are the SoCon's winningest football program over the last three seasons. Wofford captured the 2003 SoCon championship and advanced to the Division I-AA national semifinals.

Included below is Wofford football's 2005 recruiting class:

Fenn Allen (TE, 6-5, 215, Concord, N.C., J.M. Robinson High School)
First-team All-Conference, All-Area and All-Piedmont as a tight end his senior year … had 44 of his team’s 79 receptions … totaled seven touchdowns and 778 yards … his top game saw him garner nine catches for two scores and 211 yards … saw action throughout the season at tight end, wide receiver and cornerback while also being used as a punt returner … returned an interception for a touchdown … team Offensive Most Valuable Player … Team Captain and a four-year letterman in football and basketball … a four-year North Carolina Scholar-Athlete … started six games at quarterback his junior year … completed 67-of-123 attempts for 874 yards … also started five games at tight end/wide receiver that season, totaling 13 receptions for 162 yards and two touchdowns.

Mitch Clark (DE, 6-2, 252, New Philadelphia, Ohio, New Philadelphia High School)
Received first-team All-East Central Ohio League honors … the ECOL Defensive Lineman of the Year … was also All-District and All-Region as well as special mention All-State … totaled 59 tackles, including 37 solo stops … had six tackles for a loss, 11 sacks, 21 quarterback hurries, five forced fumbles, five pass breakups and two safeties … Team
Filmon Dawkins (CB/PR/KR, 5-9, 165, Charlotte, N.C., Christ School)
Received Conference Player of the Year and North Carolina Offensive Player of the Year honors ... an All-State selection on both offense and defense ... totaled 2,103 yards of offense while recording 108 tackles his senior year ... played quarterback in addition to being a return specialist ... rushed for 716 yards and 19 touchdowns while passing for 689 yards and eight scores ... had nine pass breakups, three forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and an interception ... helped lead his team to an 8-3 record as a senior ... had 225 yards of offense with two touchdowns and 15 total tackles in the conference championship game versus Asheville School ... Team Captain and Most Valuable Player ... attended Christ School his final two seasons after transferring from West Charlotte High School ... also excelled in basketball ... ranked second in Western North Carolina with his average of 7.3 assists per game ... ran a 4.4 in the 40 with an 11.2 in the 100 for the track team ... elected to serve as a Student Perfect, the highest student leadership position at Christ School ... won the Phillip Tillman Award his junior year, recognizing him for having the most positive influence on campus by a first-year Christ School student.

Frank Domonousky (HB, 5-9, 185, Atlanta, Ga., Greater Atlanta Christian)
All-County and All-State selection as a senior ... rushed for 1,874 yards (156.2 per game) and 22 touchdowns on an 11.3 per carry average ... had a long run of 80 yards ... ran for 259 yards and three touchdowns on 24 carries in a second-round playoff game ... totaled 42 tackles with a sack, quarterback pressure, forced fumble, fumble recovery and an interception returned for a touchdown ... Team Captain ... rushed for 971 yards as a junior ... ran for six touchdowns in one game his junior year ... three-year letterman.

Greg Gasparato (DB, 5-9, 185, State College, Pa., State College High School)
Selected to the Pennsylvania East-West All-Star Game ... rushed for 1,139 yards and 17 touchdowns on a 6.1 per carry average ... averaged 22.3 yards per punt return ... squats 450 pounds, benches over 360 and power cleans 270 ... his older brother is a running back at Penn State ... his father coached football at South Carolina and Penn State and is now a head coach on the high school level in Florida.

Seth Goldwire (ILB, 5-11, 215, Guyton, Ga., Effingham High School)
A first-team All-Region selection ... Team Captain and Most Valuable Player ... recipient of an Effingham Gridiron Award ... an honorable-mention All-Region pick as a junior ... named his team’s Best Linebacker ... a track and field standout ... captured the Region 3-5A championship while finishing third in the state in the shot put ... placed first in the Southeast Iron Man Competition ... active member of the Calculus Club.

Jared McCollough (NT, 6-2, 275, Valley, Ala., Valley High School)
Totaled 95.5 tackles, including 12 for a loss, his senior year ... also started all 11 games on the offensive line.

Ben Miller (OL, 6-3, 305, Cincinnati, Ohio, LaSalle High School)
Earned first-team All-Greater Cincinnati League honors as a senior ... was a second-team All-Cincinnati selection and member of the All-Southwest Ohio selection ...
pick his junior year … an honorable-mention All-Southwest Ohio selection … Team Captain … received Pitcher of the Year honors as a junior for the LaSalle baseball team … his grandfather, Melvin Buesing, was a captain of the University of Toledo football team.

James Mitchell (ILB, 6-2, 220, Oak Ridge, Tenn., Oak Ridge High School)
An All-Region 2-5A selection as well as being named All-State by the Tennessee Football Coaches Association and the Tennessee Sportswriters Association … totaled 128 tackles, including four for a loss of 15 yards … forced eight fumbles with six knockdowns and two interceptions his senior year … closed his career as Oak Ridge’s career tackles leader with 361 … also ranked first with 432 career total hits … a three-year starter at inside linebacker.

Matt Norcia (OLB, 6-0, 205, Libertyville, Ill., Libertyville High School)
First-team All-Conference, All-County and All-Area … a special mention All-State selection … received Defensive Player of the Week honors four times in helping lead Libertyville to a 14-0 record and the 7-A state championship … totaled 95 tackles, including 56 solo … had 13 stops for a loss with 6.5 sacks, six hurries and a fumble recovery … only lost one game in his last five seasons of prep football.

Brent Owen (OL, 6-2, 265, Carrollton, Texas, Creekview High School)
A two-time All-District selection and a Best of Northwest Dallas pick … selected as a Dallas Morning News Player to Watch and a three-time Offensive Player of the Week … named Most Valuable Offensive Lineman for Creekview … an All-State Academic honoree in 2004 … received a bronze medal in the 2001 World Finals Creative Problem Solving.

Drew Parks (DB, 6-0, 170, Dalton, Ga., Dalton High School)
First-team All-Region and All-Area … the runner-up for Region 7-4A Defensive Player of the Year … named to the All-Regional team by Prepstar Magazine … received a Best of Preps selection from the Chattanooga Times Free Press … tabbed for North Georgia first-team defense accolades … named as a Top Prospect by the Georgia High School Football Magazine … totaled 105 tackles and six interceptions … returned two of the picks for touchdowns (54 and 24 yards) … added 12 pass breakups, two forced fumbles and a recovered fumble … rushed for 481 yards and four touchdowns on an 8.6 per carry average … added 12 receptions for 144 yards and three touchdowns … averaged 17.2 yards on kickoff returns and 9.0 on punt returns … voted a Defensive Team Captain by his teammates … recipient of WDNN Scholar-Athlete of the Week and Coca-Cola Golden Helmet Awards … posted a team-high three interceptions his junior year … was also a point guard in basketball and shortstop in baseball.

Ben Quick (OL, 6-3, 280, Athens, W.Va., University of San Diego High School)
A first-team All-New England Prep School Conference selection for Worcester Academy in 2004 … a three-time All-League pick on both the offensive and defensive lines for University of San Diego High School … named the Lineman of the Year his junior and senior seasons … was also All-California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) … Team Captain … an Academic All-League and National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete … his father, Greg Quick, played on a national championship team at Baldwin-Wallace College and is head football coach at Concord College … his brother, Phil Quick, was an offensive lineman at Concord.
Aaron Scott (OLB, 5-11, 190, Conway, S.C., Conway High School)  
All-Region and All-Area as a senior … totaled 110 tackles, including four for a loss … had two defensive touchdowns … recorded three interceptions, two sacks, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and a pass breakup.

Jake Simmons (OL, 6-1, 270, Athens, Tenn., Baylor School)  
A two-time All-State selection … also received All-City and All-Conference honors as a junior and senior … named to the Tennessee/Kentucky All-Star team … graded out at 85 percent with 18 pancake blocks as an offensive guard and tackle his senior year … also recorded 63 solo tackles with 22 assists, four sacks and three forced fumbles as a defensive tackle … a unanimous selection for Team Captain as a senior … a three-year starter including two seasons on both sides of the ball … posted a 29-6 record in wrestling his senior year … has a bench press of over 400 pounds.

Andy Strickland (WR, 6-0, 185, Gaffney, S.C., Gaffney High School)  
A Shrine Bowl selection his senior year … named All-State by the High School Sports Report … also received All-Region and All-Area honors … a two-time Academic All-Area selection … had 39 receptions for 592 yards and four touchdowns despite missing five games due to injury … also played cornerback, totaling 49 tackles and three interceptions … also had three picks as a junior and five his sophomore year … a Wendy’s High School Heisman candidate … an All-Area and All-Region selection in baseball … Gaffney’s leading hitter his sophomore year … carries a 3.94 grade-point average … his father, Phil Strickland, is the head football coach at Gaffney and a former player at Gardner-Webb.

Chris Tommie (PK/P, 6-0, 175, Greenwood, S.C., Emerald High School)  
Shrine Bowl participant … All-Region and a consensus All-State selection his senior year … named State Kicker/Punter of the Year by the South Carolina Coaches’ Association … had touchbacks on 30 of 35 kickoffs, including five through the goal posts … averaged 41.6 yards per punt … his season-best effort of 73 yards was the fifth-longest in South Carolina history … 34 of his 51 punts were not returned with 19 going inside the 20-yard line … reached up to 5.02 seconds in hang time … had five field goals, including one from 58 yards for the fourth-longest kick in South Carolina history … also earned All-Region and All-State honors as a junior … tabbed All-Region at punter his sophomore year … named to the Ray Guy National Talent Search List … was also a two-time All-Region selection in soccer.

Rashad Vance (DB, 5-10, 160, Zolfo Springs, Fla., Hardee High School)  
Comes from the same high school as current Wofford starting cornerback Brian Kemp … selected to play in the South Central Florida All-Star Game … a first-team All-Area selection at wide receiver and defensive back … totaled 57 tackles and 14 pass breakups … scored two defensive touchdowns … had a 65-yard interception return for a score on one of his three picks … also returned one of his three fumble recoveries for a touchdown … had 13 receptions for 339 yards (26.1 per catch) and three touchdowns … scored touchdowns on six of his eight rushing attempts, averaging 30.3 yards per carry in totaling 242 yards on the ground … named Hardee’s Most Outstanding Defensive Player and Most Valuable Defensive Back his senior year … recipient of the prestigious Bob Martin Award … four-year letterman in basketball and a three-year letterman in track, earning team Most Valuable Player honors his sophomore year.
Ben Widmyer (QB, 6-0, 195, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, Lake City High School)
Listed as the No. 5 in-state prospect by Scout.com … a two-year starter as Lake City
competed on the 5-A level, the largest classification in the state … received League Player
of the Year honors as a senior … first-team All-League his junior and senior seasons … led
Lake City to a state title as a sophomore and the state playoffs his junior and senior seasons
… Team Captain and Most Valuable Player … a three-year letterman … had a school record
5,488 career yards in total offense … also set a Lake City mark with a 63.8 completion
percentage (298-of-467) … passed for 4,108 yards and 30 touchdowns … had 1,380 career
yards rushing and 24 touchdowns on a 6.8 per carry average … ran for 827 yards (6.1 avg.)
and 12 touchdowns as a senior … completed 62.7 percent (143-of-228) of his pass attempts
for 1,878 yards and 14 touchdowns … a two-year starter and three-year letterman in
basketball … also lettered in track … has 4.56 speed in the 40 … his hometown is
pronounced CORE-duh-LEAN.
The Wofford football team has added a Sept. 10 game at West Virginia to its 2005 schedule.

It will be the Terriers' first game against a Big East opponent. A kickoff time is TBA. Wofford's complete 2005 slate will be announced at a later date.

The game in Morgantown will represent Wofford's ninth contest against a Division I-A opponent in the last eight seasons.

The Terriers did not have a I-A foe on the schedule last year for the first time since 1997. Wofford faced Air Force in 2003 and Maryland in 2002. The Terriers also played at Clemson and South Carolina in 2001.

Wofford's last visit to the state of West Virginia was a 29-27 loss at Marshall in 1998.

West Virginia was 8-4 in the 2004 campaign. The Mountaineers faced Florida State in the Gator Bowl.

"West Virginia is an outstanding football team with a great tradition," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "(Mountaineer head coach) Rich Rodriguez has done a fabulous job.

"They were a coat of paint away from being in a BCS game. Athletically, they're outstanding. I had the opportunity to watch them on television several times this season. They do some great things.

"Rich is the guy that's started this new trend of shotgun, no-huddle and running option and zone together. They're ahead of the curve. It will be a tremendous challenge. It's one that we like and will help our kids. It will hopefully motivate them to take their workouts, spring practice and offseason programs to another level.

"We're fortunate to play a team like West Virginia with the quality of their program and tradition. It will allow us to go out there and hopefully improve our program."

Ayers and Rodriguez have faced each other as head coaches before. In 1988, Ayers' first season with the Terriers, Wofford played a Salem College (W.Va.) team coached by Rodriguez. The Terriers won 45-0 in the season finale for both teams. At 24, Rodriguez was the youngest head coach in the nation at the time. It was also the final game for Salem's football program.

West Virginia was a member of the Southern Conference from 1950-68.

With a 29-8 overall record (.784) and 18-5 league mark (.783), the Terriers are the SoCon's winningest football program over the last three seasons. Wofford captured the 2003 SoCon championship and advanced to the Division I-AA national semifinals.
The Wofford football team has announced that spring practice will begin Feb. 28 at 6 p.m.

With a 29-8 overall record and 18-5 league mark, the Terriers are the SoCon's winningest program over the last three seasons.

"The best thing about coaching is coaching," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "Finally, we're able to get back on the field. We enjoy that.

"We have a young football team. We graduated 25 seniors. We've got a lot of young kids that we've got to get ready for a challenging schedule. It's been a lot of work to this point as far as the offseason program.

"I feel our kids will be excited about getting out there and getting better."

Wofford returns seven starters on both sides of the ball.

Ranked 18th in the final regular-season poll, the Terriers hold the nation’s second-longest current streak for consecutive rankings in the Division I-AA Top 25. Wofford has appeared in 36 consecutive polls since Oct. 21, 2002. Only Montana (93 polls) has been ranked longer than the Terriers.

The complete 2005 schedule will be announced soon. The Terriers have secured a Sept. 10 game at West Virginia. It will be Wofford's ninth game against a Division I-A opponent in the last eight seasons.
Wofford football announced its 2004 award recipients at tonight's team banquet in the Verandah Room of the Richardson Building.

The Terriers posted an 8-3 record in the 2004 campaign as they continue to be the SoCon's winningest football team over the last three seasons with a 29-8 overall record and 18-5 league mark.

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Consensus first-team All-America and Buck Buchanan Award finalist Lee Basinger was named the Terriers' Best Defensive Lineman. The senior from Kannapolis, N.C., totaled 78 tackles, including 16 for a loss. He had 7.5 sacks with eight quarterback hurries.

Fellow All-Americas Eric Deutsch (Cincinnati, Ohio) and Bobby Gibbs (Corbin, Ky.) shared Best Offensive Lineman honors.

Dan Tavani, named Wofford's Best Freshman, was also selected as the Best Defensive Back. The Easton, Pa., native placed fifth on the team with 69 tackles. He had two interceptions, two pass breakups, two forced fumbles, a recovered fumble and a blocked kick.

After rushing for 1,035 yards, Kevious Johnson (Fitzgerald, Ga.) garnered Best Running Back honors. Tight end Adam Regenthal (Clemmons, N.C.) and Brandon Berry (Knoxville, Tenn.) were co-recipients of the Best Receiver Award.

Jimmy Freland was named Best Linebacker. The senior from Cincinnati, Ohio, totaled 67 tackles with 11.5 for a loss.

Best Special Teams accolades went to Trey Rodgers (Spartanburg, S.C.) on offense and Alex Love (Decatur, Ga.) on defense.

Rodgers, also a quarterback, averaged 38.5 yards on 21 punts. He had a long of 57 yards with six of his attempts downed inside the 20-yard line. Love blocked two kicks in addition to starting at free safety.

Jonathan Wheeler received the Academic Award. The senior from Columbia, S.C., has a 3.78 grade-point average while majoring in accounting.

Receiving Unsung Hero Awards were the following:

Defensive Back - Jonathan Wheeler (Columbia, S.C.)
Defensive Line - Katon Bethay (Milton, Wis.), Ben Whitney (Greensboro, N.C.)
Defensive Line - Katon Bethay (Milton, Wis.), Ben Whitney (Greensboro, N.C.)
Inside Linebacker - Josh Smith (Greer, S.C.)
Offensive Line - Kevin Hodapp (Cincinnati, Ohio)
Outside Linebacker - Steve Hoover (Austin, Texas)
Quarterback - Jeff Zolman (Dayton, Ohio)
Running Back - Aaron Johnson (Bowling Green, Ky.)
Lee Basinger, Katon Bethay and Ben Whitney, the starting defensive line for the 2004 Wofford football team, averages a 3.38 GPA with all three players receiving postseason honors.

Basinger was a consensus first-team All-America selection. The senior from Kannapolis, N.C., was also a finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award as Division I-AA's National Defensive Player of the Year.

Whitney (Greensboro, N.C.) received second-team Academic All-America honors. The squad combines players from Division I-A and I-AA. Whitney, a senior, is majoring in mathematics.

Bethay was an All-SoCon selection for the second straight season from his nose tackle position. The junior from Milton, Wis., is the only student-athlete at Wofford to ever receive All-SoCon honors in two different sports. He has been All-SoCon in the shot put for the Terrier indoor track and field team.

"We always try to recruit the best student-athlete that we can," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "Katon, Lee and Ben are all outstanding players, great leaders and very bright guys.

"We've been very blessed to have some kids who understand what it's all about as far as academics. That's first and foremost when they come to Wofford.

"Those guys are the real success stories. One's a consensus All-America, another is All-Southern Conference and the other is an Academic All-America. We've been very blessed to have some great guys.

"It can be done. Those guys are out there and those are the type we are searching for to bring to Wofford."

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The 2005 Wofford team will return seven starters on both sides of the ball.
The Wofford football program has announced the signing of quarterback Dane Romero to a National Letter of Intent.

Romero (6-1, 190) played quarterback and strong safety for Lakota West High School in West Chester, Ohio. He was a first-team selection to the All-Cincinnati Enquirer, All-Greater Miami Conference and All-Southwest Ohio Football Coaches Association teams.

The Associated Press tabbed Romero first-team All-Southwest Ohio and second-team All-Ohio. He was selected to play in the Southwest Ohio Football Coaches Association East/West All-Star Game.

Romero rushed for 845 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior while setting single-season school records for passing yards (878) and touchdown passes (nine). He set an additional Lakota West record for longest touchdown run from scrimmage (89 yards). Romero directed an attack that set single-season school marks for points scored (288) and total offense (3,674).

Defensively, Romero was the Butler County Defensive Player of the Year. He totaled 63 tackles, including three for a loss. He added three interceptions, three pass breakups and a forced fumble. He set a Lakota West mark for longest fumble recovery for a touchdown with an 80-yard return.

Romero helped lead Lakota West to a school record seven consecutive wins as a senior. He was a three-year letterman and two-way starter, setting a school record for most plays in a career.

Romero also lettered four years in basketball, establishing Lakota West career marks in assists and steals. He was Team Captain as a senior.
The Wofford football team begins spring practice tonight at 6.

The Terriers posted an 8-3 record in the 2004 campaign and are the SoCon's winningest football team over the last three seasons with a 29-8 overall mark and 18-5 league record. Wofford captured the 2003 SoCon championship and advanced to the Division I-AA national semifinals.

The 2005 Terriers will return seven starters on both sides of the ball.

"We're excited about getting started," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "The offseason program has gone very well.

"Our kids are ready to get out there and start the process of truly becoming a football team, learning the offense and defense. We're going to have a big emphasis on special teams as well this spring. We have some young guys that are looking forward to earning their slot as a No. 1 or No. 2.

"We have some things we want to look at from both sides of the ball that are a little bit new. We hope to improve the throwing game. Defensively, we have some young guys that just need a lot of repetition and we need to get in as much practice time as possible for them."

Following tonight's opening practice, Wofford will return to the field Wednesday at 6 p.m.

At No. 18 in the final 2004 regular-season poll, the Terriers hold the nation's second-longest current streak for consecutive rankings in the Division I-AA Top 25. Wofford has appeared in 36 consecutive polls since Oct. 21, 2002. Only Montana (93 polls) has been ranked longer than the Terriers.
Former Wofford All-America nose tackle Nathan Fuqua has joined the Terrier football coaching staff, assisting defensive coordinator Nate Woody with the inside linebackers.

Fuqua replaces Joe Lesesne on the Wofford coaching staff. After serving four years as the tight ends coach, Lesense is now the Terriers' director of football operations. Lesesne was Wofford's president for 28 years (1972-2000).

A native of Danville, Ky., Fuqua assisted the Terriers as an equipment manager last season. A four-time All-SoCon selection, he earned first-team All-America honors as a senior in the 2002 campaign. He was a Team Captain in 2001.

Fuqua totaled 218 stops in his career while ranking among Wofford's all-time leaders in tackles for a loss (50) and sacks (11).

"Nate is going to do a great job for us," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "He has gone through the system as a player and truly wants to be a football coach.

"He has been studying the game since he graduated. I think he can add a great deal to our staff. He's not that far removed from being a player, so he understands that aspect of it. That will help him as far as knowing how to handle guys and how far to push them.

"Nate is a guy with an excellent knowledge of football. He was a student of the game even when he was a player. We're looking forward to getting him out there and letting him coach. That's what he wants to do. Hopefully, we can help him reach his goal and dream."

In his new role as director of football operations, Lesense will assist Ayers with the budget, travel, scheduling and organization of the team's support staff. He will also advise Ayers on campus matters.

"Doc (Lesesne) is such a tremendous guy," Ayers said. "We still want him involved with the program, and we're fortunate that he's going to help us with our day-to-day operation, planning and helping me stay organized.

"He's been able to run a college for 28 years, so we feel he'll do a great job in this role as well."
The Wofford football team completed its first week of spring drills with a two-hour practice this morning.

It was the Terriers' second day of contact.

"We have a long way to go," Terrier coach Mike Ayers said. "We have a lot of young kids and we're a young football team in a lot of spots.

"We're making progress. It seems like everybody looks good in shorts, but then you put the pads on and everything changes."

Rising 6-foot-2 sophomore Josh Collier is the Terriers' lone returning quarterback. The Bonaire, Ga., native saw action in eight games last season as he also contributed on special teams.

Collier rushed for 140 yards and two touchdowns on a 5.8 per carry average. He also completed four-of-11 passes for 32 yards and a touchdown.

"After four days, I think we'll be all right," Ayers said. "The biggest concern is having one quarterback (Collier), and we've got to keep him healthy. I'm concerned about him possibly getting too many reps as far as throwing the football. He's done well so far.

"The kids are enthusiastic. We had a little contact today, and they bounced around pretty good.

"We just need to stay healthy through the spring. If we can do that, teach a little better and look at a couple new things and get those to where our kids understand it, it would have been a pretty good spring practice."

Wofford, which returns seven starters on both sides of the ball, will be back on the practice field Monday at 6 p.m.

The Terriers posted an 8-3 record in the 2004 campaign and are the SoCon's winningest football team over the last three seasons with a 29-8 overall mark and 18-5 league record. Wofford captured the 2003 SoCon championship and advanced to the Division I-AA national semifinals.

At No. 18 in the final 2004 regular-season poll, the Terriers hold the nation’s second-longest current streak for consecutive rankings in the Division I-AA Top 25. Wofford has appeared in 36 consecutive polls since Oct. 21, 2002. Only Montana (93 polls) has been ranked longer than the Terriers.
The Wofford football team completed its first week of spring drills with a two-hour practice this morning.

It was the Terriers' second day of contact.

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A Sept. 10 date at West Virginia and home games versus Georgia Southern and Appalachian State highlight the 2005 Wofford football schedule.

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All five of Wofford's home dates will occur in the opening seven games. The final four contests will be on the road with the longest trip being just three hours to Charleston (Oct. 29, at The Citadel).

"There's no doubt it's an outstanding schedule," Terrier coach Mike Ayers said. "It was a tough one for us to acquire.

"It took a long time to find that 11th game and we were able to get one of the best teams in the country in Georgetown (Ky.) College. They've competed for the national championship several times and have an outstanding program.

"The schedule is tough from top to bottom. We're a young football team and we lost 25 guys. Out of that 25, there were three All-Americans and several others that were All-Conference.

"We have a tremendous challenge ahead, but we've got a young group of guys that are working hard. Hopefully, we'll get them ready and be able to go out there and compete against the best."

Wofford opens the 2005 campaign with a Sept. 3 home date versus Georgetown, alma mater of Ayers. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

Ayers holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgetown. He is also a member of its Athletic Hall of Fame after competing on the football, baseball, gymnastics and wrestling teams. Ayers began his collegiate coaching career at Georgetown in 1974.

Over the last six seasons, the NAIA Division I Tigers have captured two national championships and been national finalists twice. Georgetown was 12-1 in 2004 as it won its seventh straight Mid-South Conference title.

"Anytime you face a school that you played at, there's always going to be something special," Ayers said. "Georgetown (Ky.) is where I was born and went to college.

"Georgetown afforded me an opportunity to do something that I truly love and that's coach. I was able to start coaching there.

"When we open up that first weekend (Sept. 3), there's going to be a great deal of emotion
When we open up that first weekend (Sept. 3), there's going to be a great deal of emotion that you have anytime you're in conflict with a place that you love. That particular day, there will be two places that I love - Georgetown College and Wofford.

Following the Georgetown game, the Terriers will head to Morgantown, W.Va., to face West Virginia (Sept. 10). It will be Wofford's ninth game in the last eight seasons against a Division I-A opponent.

The Mountaineers were 8-4 in the 2004 campaign as they earned a trip to the Gator Bowl. It will be the Terriers' first contest against a Big East opponent.

Wofford's ninth SoCon season will begin Sept. 17 with a 7 p.m. home game against Georgia Southern. The Terriers have defeated the Eagles in two of the last three years.

After an open date Sept. 24, Wofford returns to action Oct. 1 at Chattanooga.

The Terriers will then begin a three-game homestand with Gibbs Stadium visits from Elon (Oct. 8), VMI (Oct. 15) and Appalachian State (Oct. 22). All three of those contests will kickoff at 1:30 p.m. The ASU game will be Wofford's final regular-season home appearance. Wofford will be looking for its third victory in the last four years over the Mountaineers.

The Terriers have won 13 of their last 14 home games and are 17-2 in their last 19 Gibbs Stadium dates going back to the start of the 2002 campaign.

The final four contests are road dates at The Citadel (Oct. 29), Western Carolina (Nov. 5), Furman (Nov. 12) and Gardner-Webb (Nov. 19).

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2005 Wofford football schedule
Sept. 3 - vs. Georgetown (Ky.), 7 p.m.
Sept. 10 - at West Virginia, TBA
Sept. 17 - vs. Georgia Southern, 7 p.m.
Oct. 1 - at Chattanooga, TBA
Oct. 8 - vs. Elon, 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 15 - vs. VMI, 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 22 - vs. Appalachian State, 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 29 - at The Citadel, TBA
Nov. 5 - at Western Carolina, TBA
Nov. 12 - at Furman, TBA
Nov. 19 - at Gardner-Webb, TBA
The Wofford football team will hold its first spring scrimmage at 3 p.m. tomorrow in Gibbs Stadium.

"The biggest thing is seeing how our kids are going to execute at the offensive and defensive level," Terrier coach Mike Ayers said. "We've installed a lot and, to a certain extent, there's a great deal of thought process on a lot of young kids.

"Hopefully, we'll clear out the cobwebs and have a great scrimmage.

"We have young guys who we've got to see under fire and how they react to the speed of the game. Some of them haven't played in a college football game. Those are the type that we need to get out there, go live and full speed to see how they read, react and respond."

The Terriers return seven starters on both sides of the ball, including 2004 All-SoCon selections Katon Bethay (nose tackle), Kevin Hodapp (offensive tackle) and Kevious Johnson (running back).
Both touchdowns came in the overtime period as the Wofford football team held its first scrimmage of spring practice Friday afternoon in Gibbs Stadium.

Rising sophomore Josh Collier, the lone quarterback for the Terriers, had a 20-yard touchdown pass to Jimbo Robinson while All-SoCon running back Kevious Johnson scored on an eight-yard run.

Nick Robinson was successful on a 31-yard field goal earlier in the scrimmage.

Cornerback Brian Kemp had an interception while also blocking an extra-point attempt. Fellow defensive back Alex Love blocked a 51-yard field goal try. Inside linebacker Justin Franklin, last year's leading tackler with 116 stops, recorded a sack and several tackles for a loss.

Wofford coach Mike Ayers was not pleased, though, with his team's effort.

"I didn't like our intensity," Ayers said. "We got about 100 reps which is a lot for 57 guys.

"We have a lot of guys who I'm not really sure understand things the way they should, which is causing them to not execute at the level they should. We gave up some deep passes which we've got to get corrected.

"Our pass protection was good and bad. We didn't really have anybody to break one. We're just not where we need to be from a mental standpoint.

"The preparation prior to this was outstanding. The kids had worked hard. I'm not sure if they were a little tired, but we just didn't come out here with the intensity and spark that I thought we would have. We've still got some time to go, and our job is to get better."

The Terriers return to the practice field Monday at 6 p.m.
From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford defensive coordinator Woody pleased with unit's progress
Date: March 17, 2005 at 9:41 AM
To:
With the Wofford football team in its third week of spring practice, defensive coordinator Nate Woody likes the continued improvement of his young unit.

The Terriers return seven defensive starters from last year's squad.

Two-time All-SoCon nose tackle Katon Bethay is the lone first-team returnee on the defensive front.

The inside linebacker corps welcomes back Justin Franklin and Jim Thurman. As a sophomore in the 2004 campaign, Franklin was Wofford's top tackler. His 116 stops were 38 more than the next closest Terrier. Thurman, a rising senior, has 262 stops over his first three seasons to rank second on the Terriers' career tackles list for the Division I-AA era (1995-present).

The secondary returns cornerbacks Brian Kemp and Dedrick Stuckey as well as free safety Alex Love. Strong safety Dan Tavani started four games as a freshman last year and was named the Terriers' Best Defensive Back and Rookie of the Year.

"The guys are playing hard," Woody said. "We're getting better at our assignments, but we're not there yet.

"A lot college coaches will tell you during spring ball that you're not to the point you'd really like to be, but we're pleased as long as we're making progress. We're trying to move through and go a little slower than we have in years past because we have a bunch of young guys on defense. We need them to understand the basics before we move on to something else.

"As we continue to go through spring ball, we'll see how much we can accomplish, get in and do it right."

Franklin recorded eight tackles for a loss, including a sack, in last Friday's opening scrimmage.

"Justin made a lot of plays," Woody said. "We've always known that he could be a playmaker for us.

"In this last scrimmage, he got better at seeing his keys, going on to the next progression and making plays for us in the run game."

Woody has also been pleased with the play of defensive linemen Bethay, Bryan Blair and Erik Hutchinson. A 5-foot-9, 250-pound rising junior from Bennettsville, S.C., Blair came to Wofford as a walk-on. Hutchinson (Woodbine, Ga.) will be a fifth-year senior. He received a medical hardship due to an injury in the 2002 campaign.

The Terriers will hold their second spring scrimmage Saturday at 10 a.m.
The Wofford football team will hold its second spring scrimmage tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Gibbs Stadium.

"We'd like to get some more live reps with our young guys," Terrier coach Mike Ayers said. "There are a few things we're trying to look at offensively and defensively and get that on film.

"The biggest thing we can accomplish is getting through the scrimmage healthy. We're down to 50-some guys that are able to practice. When you're in a competitive situation, you'd like to have more people.

"The kids have gone hard and are in great shape. At the same time, we just don't have the depth that we need right now. We've just got to be careful, going out and executing as hard and long as we can.

"We still have another week left as far as the spring preparation. If we can get the looks on film and get some more young guys reps at full speed, we'll have had a good day."

Ayers has been pleased with the work ethic he's seen through three weeks of spring practice.

"We're not where we want to be, but the kids have come to work every day," Ayers said. "Anytime you're willing to work, you have an opportunity to make progress.

"We have young guys that didn't play last year. To get them where they need to be and for us to be successful, it's going to take additional work.

"Some guys are making progress and others we'd like to see make progress, for whatever reason, are not quite there. Hopefully, this next week will allow them to finally get it and help us to become a good football team next year."

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Defense dominated in the Wofford football team's second scrimmage of spring practice this morning in Gibbs Stadium.

With rising sophomore Josh Collier the only returning quarterback on the roster, wide receivers David LaBorde and Tripp Smith took snaps under center to provide a break for Collier.

Collier engineered an eight-play, 70-yard drive on his first possession, which ended with halfback Corey Dunn scoring on an 18-yard run. LaBorde also connected with Colby Harris for a 42-yard touchdown pass.

Wofford had just two scoring drives on 16 possessions.
Interceptions were made by linebacker Justin Franklin, safety Geno Thompson, safety Dan Tavani, cornerback Brian Kemp, linebacker Jason Leventis and cornerback Maurice Faulk.
"We're still not where we need to be from an assignment standpoint," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "We made too many mental mistakes. But there's a lot of effort out here and that's really important. As long as we've got that, we can continue to work to get better."

The Terriers have one more week of spring drills, which are scheduled to conclude with another scrimmage on Saturday.

Without graduating seniors, incoming freshmen and injured players, Wofford dressed only about 50 for the workout.

"You try to get through this as fast and hard as you can do it, but it's tough," Ayers said. "We're so thin in numbers. Some of the guys are getting too many reps at this point."

Gabriel Jackson led the rushing attack with 37 yards on five carries, while Dunn picked up 40 yards on eight attempts. Kevious Johnson had five receptions for 41 yards.

Fullback Michael Hobbs picked up a fourth-and-1 up the middle, then ripped off a 17-yarder to set up Dunn's touchdown on the next play.
The Wofford football team has announced the signing of running back Ricky Bunton from Richardson, Texas.

Bunton (6-foot-1, 192 pounds) was the team captain and second-leading rusher as a senior for Richardson High School. He totaled 653 yards and two touchdowns in his first year on offense. He added six receptions for 63 yards.

As a linebacker his junior year, Bunton totaled a team-best 49 tackles to go with an interception. He was a three-year letterman.

A cousin of University of Kansas basketball star Keith Langford, Bunton received a Presidential Award for Academic Excellence.
The Wofford football team will close spring practice tomorrow with a 3:30 p.m. scrimmage in Gibbs Stadium.

"We're just going to try to execute the offense and defense and hopefully get out of the thing healthy," Terrier coach Mike Ayers. "We had a rash of injuries in our last scrimmage.

"We're going to hopefully get about 50-to-60 plays and get everybody out of the game healthy. We'll then evaluate the film, rank them and get back in the offseason lifting program."

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Wofford men's basketball and track standout Adrien Borders scored on a 50-yard reverse to highlight the final spring scrimmage for the Terrier football team this afternoon in Gibbs Stadium.

A native of Lilburn, Ga., Borders will have one season of eligibility as a wide receiver for the Wofford football team. Earlier this month, he concluded a standout basketball career that saw him rank 28th on the Terriers' career scoring list with 1,087 points. Borders has also been a SoCon outdoor track and field champion in the triple jump and long jump.

Borders added a reception for four yards on the only ball thrown his way. He made an acrobatic catch on a pass delivered behind him. He's playing football for the first time since a standout prep career at Berkmar High School saw him receive scholarship offers from Division I-A schools.

"Adrien can help us," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "He made plays today and has worked hard in practice. He's making progress and has had a great attitude. We're glad to have him."

The long play from scrimmage was an 80-yard touchdown pass from Josh Collier to Brandon Berry.

A rising sophomore, Collier completed 14-of-17 passes for 207 yards. Eleven different Terriers had at least one reception. Berry had three catches for 100 yards.

Collier was also on the receiving end of a 15-yard halfback pass from Aaron Johnson.

"We threw the ball well and were also solid in our pass protection," Ayers said. "The guys did a nice job today especially when you consider we're at the end of a very tough spring practice."

"We got a lot done but still have a ways to go. The important thing is our young kids were able to get some needed reps."

Rising junior Justin Bell recovered a fumble and had a pass breakup from his inside linebacker position. Rising sophomore Brian Ford, a candidate to start at free safety, recorded an interception.

Terrance Ware had 24 yards rushing on six carries while Collier added 22 yards on three attempts.

To help an injury-decimated fullback position, Wofford defensive ends Erik Hutchinson and Alex Schaefer moved to offense and both had 1-yard touchdown runs.

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