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Wofford College. Sports Information Office

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The Wofford football team is ranked 12th and 16th, respectively, in preseason Top 25 Division I-AA rankings by Lindy's and Street & Smith's.

With a 29-8 overall record and 18-5 league mark, the Terriers are the SoCon's winningest team over the last three seasons. Wofford captured the 2003 SoCon championship while advancing to the Division I-AA national semifinals.

At No. 18 in the final 2004 regular-season poll by The Sports Network, 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.

The 2005 Terriers return six offensive starters and seven on defense from last year's squad that posted an 8-3 record.

Wofford reports to campus Aug. 8 for the start of preseason drills. The Terriers open the campaign Sept. 3 versus Georgetown (Ky.) College, alma mater of Wofford coach Mike Ayers.
Wofford two-time All-SoCon selection Katon Bethay is projected by [www.football.com](http://www.football.com) as the No. 4 defensive tackle in a listing of 2006 NFL draft prospects from non-Division I-A members.

A senior from Milton, Wis., Bethay placed fourth on the Terriers last season with 71 stops. Also a two-time Academic All-District selection, Bethay had 11 tackles for a loss, 2.5 sacks and a forced fumble. He returned an interception seven yards for a touchdown in a victory over Western Carolina.

Bethay is the only Wofford student-athlete to receive All-SoCon honors in more than one sport. He's also a two-time All-SoCon performer in the shot put for the Terrier indoor track & field team.

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The Wofford football team will have new game jerseys this season.

The attached photo, taken outside Gibbs Stadium, shows Terrier outside linebacker Derek Newberry (left) and halfback Aaron Johnson in the home jersey that will make its official debut Sept. 3 when Wofford opens the 2005 campaign against Georgetown (Ky.) College, alma mater of Terrier coach Mike Ayers.

The home jersey no longer features the gold trim around the neckline and sleeves, while the numerals appear in a different font.

Wofford will also don a new road white jersey this fall.

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Wofford athletic media relations intern Kyle Seay recently sat down with Terrier inside linebacker Justin Franklin for a preseason Q&A. A junior from Jacksonville, N.C., Franklin topped Wofford with 116 tackles last year.

Q: What is your outlook on the upcoming season? Do you see any players that could have a breakout year?

A: My outlook is always going to be positive. We have a good team. We lost some great players, but we have a lot of good players coming back. I’m hoping to win the conference championship and make the playoffs. We got a cornerback, Brian Kemp, who's going to have an outstanding year. He was young last season, but he made a lot of plays. Brandon Berry is someone to watch at wide receiver. Josh Collier, in his first year taking over at quarterback, should be fun to watch.

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

A: I like the small school atmosphere and Wofford has a strong football tradition. I can receive a great education and play a high level of football. It’s an outstanding opportunity.

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

A: He wants the most you can give him at all times. It’s demanding, but you know you’re going to be better for it.

Q: The coaches have said that you have the chance to be one of the top linebackers Wofford has ever had. How do you feel about that, and what will it take for this to happen?

A: That’s an honor. There have been a lot of great linebackers that came from here, including Timmy Thrift and Robert Mathis. I feel like we have some good coaches and if I can play to my ability, I can hopefully be one of the best here.
Q: Your weight has increased to 245 pounds. What did your workout routine consist of, and how will this affect your play?
A: In college, you get three meals a day and you workout. I didn’t do anything extra. I think I’ll be able to move the same. I'm just a little stronger and a little heavier.

Q: Is there any part of your game that you feel you can improve? If so, how will you work to accomplish this?

A: There's a lot I can improve. Mostly, it's just watching film and studying a lot. Speed is always something you can improve, but mostly I would say it’s watching a good bit of film. I wasn’t going into the games as prepared as I could have last year. I’m going to do that this season.

Q: What makes Wofford’s football program so unique from other schools?

A: We have great facilities and great coaches but as far as the number of players we have and the number of scholarships, it's small. You have to make sure the recruits are quality students and players.

Q: Have you set any goals for yourself for the upcoming season?

A: My No. 1 goal is to have this team win the Southern Conference championship and go to the playoffs. I hope to also be All-Southern Conference.

Q: Describe living in Japan. What did you learn there and how fluent are you in Japanese?

A: I lived there for about eight years. You learn to adapt. Some people don’t like to think of themselves having to change for other people, but it's exciting to learn new cultures. I like Japanese food. I used to be pretty fluent, but I've forgotten some of my Japanese. I still know little sayings, so I can go to a restaurant and converse a little bit.

Q: What is your major at Wofford and your aspirations after graduating?

A: I’m a business finance major. I just hope to go into some kind of business, maybe real estate. If I come out and still don’t know what to do, I’ll probably go into officer’s training in the Air Force. Both of my parents were in the military.

Q: Who is your role model and why?

A: I have a couple of role models. There’s a vice principal, Shawn Foster, at Dorman High School (Spartanburg, S.C.) who is a real good friend of mine. We’re in the same fraternity. He’s a young guy and really doing well for himself. He’s already a vice principal there. He has big things planned for himself and he’s also a big guy.
principal and only 27. He’s working to be a principal at his own school someday. My parents are role models and were both in the military for over 28 years. I just hope one day to be able to make enough money so they won’t have to work anymore. They’ve been working too hard.
Wofford offensive tackle Kevin Hodapp is a first-team selection on Lindy's 2005 Division I-AA preseason All-America squad.

A senior from Cincinnati, Ohio, Hodapp received All-SoCon honors last season when he totaled 85 knockdown blocks. He was instrumental in Wofford placing second in the nation in team rushing with an average of 305.1 yards per game.

Hodapp posted season-high knockdown totals of 16 and 15, respectively, in wins over VMI and Western Carolina. He was also Wofford's Offensive Player of the Week after grading out at 94.7 percent in a victory over Johnson C. Smith. He had a 93.0 grade on the year.

Hodapp started all 14 games during Wofford's 2003 SoCon championship season and was a two-time team Offensive Player of the Week. He had a career-best 25 knockdown blocks while grading out at 96.5 percent in the 34-17 Division I-AA quarterfinal-round playoff win over defending national champion Western Kentucky.

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The Sports Network has ranked Wofford's Katon Bethay as the fourth-best defensive tackle in the nation with Kevin Hodapp No. 5 among offensive tackles.

A senior from Milton, Wis., Bethay placed fourth on the Terriers last season with 71 stops. Also a two-time Academic All-District selection, Bethay had 11 tackles for a loss, 2.5 sacks and a forced fumble. He returned an interception seven yards for a touchdown in a victory over Western Carolina.

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Wofford athletic media relations intern Kyle Seay conducted a Q&A with Terrier offensive lineman Davy Olmsted. A senior from Raleigh, N.C., Olmsted is competing for a starting job at left tackle. He spent the spring semester studying in Spain. Olmsted is related to Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture.

Q: What is your outlook on the upcoming season, and who do you see stepping up this year?

A: I’m excited about the upcoming season. I have a lot of confidence in the group of guys returning. I wasn’t here for spring because I was in Spain, but I know that everybody was getting the job done. I see a lot of seniors stepping up. Because I've been with them for the last three years, I know they want to go out with a bang.

Q: What attracted you to play football for Wofford College?

A: I like the small school size and the academic standards here. It really attracted me that Wofford didn’t make any exceptions to the players and they were integrated into the school and campus life with the other students.

Q: What is it like to play for Coach (Mike) Ayers?

A: It’s great. He’s one of the best motivators. As far as schemes go, he knows what he’s talking about. With Coach Ayers working with part of the offensive line (tight ends), we get special work with him everyday. We receive extra attention because he's with us more than anybody else during practice.

Q: Wofford will be without graduated All-America offensive linemen Eric Deutsch and Bobby Gibbs. How do the returning linemen plan on trying to fill this void, and do you feel any pressure to do so?

A: There's a little pressure. (Offensive line) Coach (Eric) Nash told me they were going to move me to guard before I went to Spain. That’s why I’m on campus this summer, to get caught up on things I missed in the spring. As far as whether they’re actually going to put me at guard, I don’t know. They've also talked with Kevin Hodapp, another offensive tackle, about maybe moving to guard. Basically, those two guys (Deutsch and Gibbs) were great players for us, but we’ve all learned a lot from them and I think we’ll be able to fill those shoes pretty well.

Q: You recently spent a semester studying in Spain. Describe your experience there, and do you feel like missing spring practice will affect you?
A: My experience in Spain was great. I was in a program studying cultural arts and landscape. I learned everything there is to know about Spain as far as architecture, art and artisans. It was a wonderful experience. I definitely did miss out on the spring. The reason for spring ball is so people don’t get rusty and have to wait a whole year to play again. I’m trying to catch up this summer, but you really can’t replace slapping on the pads and knocking heads.

Q: How have you spent your summer so far, and how are you preparing for the upcoming season?

A: I’m working in Old Main doing construction and living with running back Aaron Johnson and linebacker Derek Newberry. We’ve been working out. The coaches have a summer program for us with weightlifting and running. It got me ready last year, so it’s been a little bit of the same this season.

Q: Josh Collier will get the nod at quarterback this year. Will the offense be any different and will your job change because of this?

A: As far as athleticism and intelligence goes, Josh is one of the best. He’s a great guy and a great player. I heard he did really well in the spring. I think the main difference, as far as the offensive linemen, will be when we’re in the huddle. Instead of looking for encouragement from a veteran guy like Jeff Zolman or Trey Rodgers, we’ll be trying to give Josh encouragement and let him know we have confidence in him.

Q: What parts of your game do you feel can be improved, and how will you work to accomplish this?

A: I have a knee problem that I’m working on right now. There’s damage under my kneecap and I have some bursitis, but it’s nothing serious. The x-rays and MRIs were negative, so I’m working on getting that better. I’m also going to try to put on 10 pounds and bulk up a little bit.

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

A: I’m double majoring in psychology and Spanish, and I’ve had thoughts about going to grad school for psychology when I’m done.

Q: What are your team and individual goals this season?

A: I know we’re one of the best teams in the nation and I want to show that to everybody else. As long as we just focus on one game at a time and don’t worry what others do and worry about what we do, winning will take care of itself. As far as individual goals, I just
worry about what we do, winning will take care of itself. As far as individual goals, I just want to serve the team however I can.

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

A: When we won the Southern Conference championship and went to the semifinals two years ago, I grew a beard during the winning streak and it lasted 12 weeks. A couple of people called me Grizzly Adams.

Q: Do you have any special pre-game routines or favorite pre-game meals?

A: We always eat chicken and pasta as a team. I just like to be around the guys in the locker room. Everybody pretty much keeps within themselves and focuses on the game. I actually like to take a shower before the game.

Q: Who is your role model and why?

A: My parents are my role models. They’ve done so much for me, and I’m very proud of who they are and who they’ve raised me to be.

Q: You’re related to Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of landscape architecture in America. He designed Central Park in New York, the Biltmore House in Asheville and Stanford University. How does it feel to be related to someone of this importance?

A: It feels pretty normal to me because there's not a huge circle of people who know Frederick Law Olmsted very well, but it’s nice. I’ve been to the Biltmore Estate and it's beautiful. My grandmother always talks about him. You can be related to a lot more famous people than Frederick Law Olmsted, but you can’t negate what he’s done as far as landscape and architecture.
Wofford football games versus Georgia Southern and Furman have been ranked by *Lindy's* as among the Top 25 in Division I-AA this season.

The Terriers host the Eagles Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. Wofford has defeated Georgia Southern in two of the last three meetings.

The Terriers travel to Furman Nov. 12. In its last visit to Greenville, SoCon champion Wofford posted a 7-6 victory in 2003 to complete the league's first perfect season (8-0) in five years. The Terriers also became the first team since 1992 to hold the Paladins without a touchdown in their home stadium.

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The 2005 Wofford College football team will look to continue the momentum that has seen it become the SoCon’s winningest football team over the last three seasons.

The Terriers have a 29-8 (.784) overall record and 18-5 (.783) league mark since the start of the 2002 campaign. No SoCon team has won a higher percentage of its games during that stretch. Wofford captured the 2003 league championship while advancing to the Division I-AA national semifinals.

At No. 18 in the final regular-season poll by The Sports Network, the Terriers hold the nation’s second-longest streak for consecutive appearances in the Division I-AA Top 25. Wofford has been ranked in 36 straight polls since Oct. 21, 2002. Only Montana (93 polls) has been ranked longer.

Terrier coach Mike Ayers, set to begin his 18th season, was the 2003 Eddie Robinson Award winner as Division I-AA National Coach of the Year. He was the runner-up in 2002. Ayers has been named SoCon Coach of the Year three times in the last five seasons. He is Wofford’s career leader in victories with 110.

The 2005 Terriers return 13 starters and 41 lettermen from last year’s 8-3 squad. Wofford has returning All-SoCon selections in offensive tackle Kevin Hodapp and nose tackle Katon Bethay. Hodapp, a preseason All-America this fall, has been ranked by The Sports Network as the No. 5 offensive tackle in the nation. Bethay is listed No. 4 among defensive tackles.

Wofford will again feature a potent wingbone attack. The Terriers placed second nationally in team rushing last season with an average of 305.1 yards per game (5.3 per attempt). Senior halfback Gabriel Jackson is the SoCon’s second-leading returning rusher after gaining 647 yards in 2004. His 7.0 per carry mark ranked first.

The Terrier defense has led the SoCon in turnover margin in each of the last two seasons. In addition to Bethay, inside linebacker Justin Franklin returns after topping Wofford in tackles last year. His 116 stops were 38 more than the next closest Terrier.

This year’s schedule is again formidable. A Sept. 10 game at West Virginia will represent Wofford’s ninth Division I-A opponent in the last seven seasons. After playing five of their first seven games at home, the Terriers will be on the road for their final four regular-season contests.

Quarterback
With the graduation of Jeff Zolman and Trey Rodgers, Josh Collier (6-2, 195, So.) takes over as the Terriers’ signal caller.

A native of Bonaire, Ga., Collier was outstanding in spring practice as he was the lone quarterback and received all the reps. In the final spring scrimmage, he connected with wide
receiver Brandon Berry on an 80-yard touchdown pass.

Collier was also impressive in his limited action last season, leading the Terriers on several touchdown drives. He has a very good understanding of the Wofford offense and has patiently waited his turn to run it.

Backing up Collier will be newcomers Dane Romero (6-1, 190, Fr.) and Ben Widmyer (6-0, 195, Fr.).

Romero, who hails from Cincinnati, was first-team All-Southwest Ohio and second-team All-Ohio at Lakota West High School. He was also selected to play in the Southwest Ohio Football Coaches Association East/West All-Star Game. Romero led Lakota West to single-season records for points scored (288) and total offense (3,674 yards).

Widmyer, a native of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, was also pursued by Navy as an option quarterback during the recruiting process. He was named the North Idaho Male Athlete of the Year in addition to being ranked as the No. 5 in-state prospect. Widmyer had a Lake City High School record 5,488 career yards in total offense while playing on the 5-A level, the largest classification in the state.

Running Back
The halfback position is marked by experience, while the fullback spot features a pair of talented young players vying for the starting job.

Veterans Gabriel Jackson (5-9, 185, Sr.), Corey Dunn (5-11, 205, Sr.) and Aaron Johnson (5-10, 180, Sr.) have played a lot of snaps for the Terriers.

After totaling 647 yards in 2004, Jackson is the second-leading returning rusher in the SoCon. He ranked first with his 7.0 per carry average.

Jackson, who scored eight touchdowns last season, has the ability to change a game with his speed and quickness. He has been a game breaker since arriving on campus. As a freshman, his 61-yard touchdown carry with 1:36 to play provided the winning points in a 26-19 win at Appalachian State.

Jackson is also an outstanding student, posting a 3.42 grade-point average in the Spring 2005 semester.

Dunn brings tremendous size and power to the backfield. He is also explosive with great acceleration. Dunn came into his own last season as he rushed for 239 yards and three touchdowns on a 5.7 per carry average. The Lexington, Ky., native should have an outstanding senior year.

Johnson has been an outstanding blocker in his Terrier career and was the 2004 recipient of the Terriers’ Unsung Hero Award for running backs. Johnson (Bowling Green, Ky.) is also an excellent receiver. Two of his three receptions last season went for touchdowns. He also received All-Academic honors.
tossed for a score on a halfback option pass.

Terrance Ware (5-9, 180, Jr.) is another returnee who will compete for playing time at halfback. A slashing-type runner, Ware lettered last season as he rushed for 53 yards.

Michael Hobbs (5-10, 195, So.) and Adrian Young (5-11, 200, So.) will compete for the starting fullback job.

Hobbs, who has a natural knack for football, possesses great power and excellent feet. He also catches the ball well. The Andalusia, Ala., native had an impressive rookie season as he averaged 6.9 yards per carry in rushing for 104 yards.

Young (Hickory, N.C.) is an explosive runner whose style has been compared to former Wofford standout Melvin Jones (1999-02). Young placed sixth on last year’s team with 141 yards on the ground. He catches the ball extremely well and will see his share of snaps this fall.

Wide Receiver
The Terriers return a solid core of receivers while adding an intriguing newcomer in Adrien Borders (6-0, 170, Sr.).

A three-time SoCon track and field champion as well as a 1,000-career points scorer in basketball, Borders joined the Terrier football team during spring drills. He will have just one season of eligibility before graduating.

An exceptional athlete, Borders played football at Berkmar High School in Lilburn, Ga. He was recruited by several Division I-A programs but chose Wofford for the opportunity to play basketball.

In the Terriers’ final spring scrimmage, Borders scored on a 50-yard reverse. He has great ball skills and explosiveness. He also runs well and is physical.

Matt Beavin (5-10, 170, Jr.) topped the Terriers with 12 receptions for 219 yards last season but missed spring practice due to offseason surgery.

Beavin’s 123 receiving yards against Furman represented the highest single-game total by a Terrier in 12 seasons. The Lexington, Ky., native will be heavily counted on by the Wofford coaches this fall. He runs well and is an excellent blocker.

Brandon Berry (5-8, 160, Jr.) and Colby Harris (5-10, 165, Jr.) are returnees at receiver who also figure prominently into the mix.

Berry (Knoxville, Tenn.) captured the Terriers’ Best Receiver Award last season. A big-play weapon, he averaged 15.1 yards each time he touched the ball via a catch, run or return. Berry scored on a 30-yard run and a 30-yard reception in an 11:33 stretch of the first half in the 49-17 win over Gardner-Webb.
Harris had a 15-yard touchdown reception at Georgia Southern. The Asheville, N.C., native has outstanding hands and blocks well.

Jimbo Robinson (5-10, 180, So.), Tripp Smith (5-10, 175, So.) and converted placekicker Ryan Hoover (5-10, 165, Fr.) will also compete for playing time.

Tight End
Cody Garland (6-4, 255, Sr.) is the lone returning tight end with game experience.

A three-year letterman, Garland had a solid spring and needs to have a great senior year for the Terriers to be successful.

As a sophomore, Garland was on the receiving end of a 14-yard touchdown pass from holder Brandon Smith on a fake field goal in the 24-14 victory over Appalachian State.

Justin Pinckney (6-1, 205, So.) provides depth at the position. Pinckney showed tremendous improvement in the spring and has excellent ball skills.

Newcomer Fenn Allen (6-5, 215, Fr.) will also contend for playing time.

Offensive Line
Despite graduating All-America offensive guards Eric Deutsch and Bobby Gibbs, the Terriers still return a strong nucleus with three returning starters on the offensive line.

Right tackle Kevin Hodapp (6-3, 280, Sr.) is a preseason All-America and a 2004 All-SoCon selection.

A wily fifth-year senior from Cincinnati, Hodapp posted a 93.0 percent blocking grade last season to tie for second on the team behind Gibbs. Hodapp totaled 85 knockdown blocks despite missing three games due to injury. The Sports Network has ranked Hodapp as the fifth-best offensive tackle in the nation. He is a great leader who commands the highest respect from his teammates.

Will Rutherford (6-5, 260, So.) will help provide depth behind Hodapp. One of five recipients of scholarships provided by the family of 1959 Wofford graduate and Carolina Panther owner/founder Jerry Richardson, Rutherford has made outstanding progress. He has a great understanding of the Terrier system and really uses his athleticism and intelligence to get the job done.

Tim Beckner (6-3, 275, Sr.) and Derek Wooten (6-7, 270, Fr.) also add depth at tackle.

Center Brad Anderson (6-2, 285, Jr.) will contend for All-SoCon honors as he enters his third year in the starting lineup. The Tomball, Texas, native will carry a big responsibility this season as he is expected to make a lot of the calls.
Anderson is one of the stronger players on the team. He amassed 98 knockdown blocks a year ago. The Terrier coaches are expecting big things from him this season as he looks to take the next step in his development and become a signature member of the offensive line.

Corey McKenna (6-2, 270, So.) is slated to be Anderson’s backup at center. McKenna had an outstanding spring in picking up the Terriers’ system. A great pass blocker, McKenna is also very athletic and a smart player.

Left tackle Brad Birrenkott (6-5, 280, Sr.) is the third returning starter on the offensive line.

Birrenkott (Tampa, Fla.) has outstanding size and athletic ability while doing a great job of getting downfield. His 110 knockdown blocks a year ago placed third on the team behind Deutsch and Gibbs. Birrenkott has the ability to be an All-SoCon player.

Back from Spain, Davy Olmsted (6-4, 295, Jr.) will push Birrenkott for the first-team job at left tackle.

Olmsted missed spring practice as he studied overseas. He also has outstanding size, strength and athletic ability. Olmsted’s 93.0 percent blocking grade last year tied for second on the team. He was fifth with 95 knockdown blocks.

Marty Bauer (6-2, 290, Jr.) is set to become a full-time starter at right guard. Bauer has played a lot of snaps in his first two seasons with the Terriers, including filling in as an occasional starter. As a freshman in 2003, Bauer was in the lineup for an injured Deutsch and collected 13 knockdown blocks in a win at Furman which capped Wofford’s 8-0 SoCon season.

Bauer can be a dominating blocker and will compete for postseason honors. The Cincinnati native is a very good leader and one of the stronger players on the team. He is expected to have his best season.

Derek Tiller (6-0, 275, So.) came out of the spring as the starter at left guard. He just outsmarts people and does whatever is needed to succeed. Tiller (Lawrenceville, Ga.) is a true scrapper who totaled 53 knockdown blocks while grading out at 90.6 percent last season.

Travis Andrews (6-2, 270, So.), Jonathan Hathaway (6-1, 335, Fr.) and Ben Friday (5-10, 250, So.) will push for playing time at guard behind Bauer and Tiller.

Andrews enters the fall in a second-team position at left guard and has all the physical tools to be successful.

Hathaway is a very promising young lineman who has been slowed by injuries. He just needs to stay healthy to provide needed depth on the right side behind Bauer. Friday is also in the mix on the right side as he continues to pick up the offense.
Defensive Line
Two-time All-SoCon nose tackle and All-America candidate Katon Bethay (6-2, 285, Sr.) anchors a defensive front that will rebuild after the loss to graduation of Lee Basinger and Ben Whitney.

Basinger was a consensus All-America and Buck Buchanan Award finalist, while Whitney was an Academic All-America selection.

Under assistant coach Jack Teachey, the Terrier defensive line has a strong tradition. Wofford has produced four different All-SoCon selections in the last three years as well as five All-SoCon and four All-America picks over the past five seasons.

Additionally, the Wofford defensive front has had two Academic All-Americans (Brian Bodor, 2000; Whitney, 2004) in the last five years.

Bethay is the only Wofford student-athlete to receive All-SoCon honors in more than one sport. He is also a two-time All-SoCon performer in the shot put for the Terrier indoor track and field team.

A native of Milton, Wis., Bethay is finally healthy. He had a great spring after previously playing with a torn ACL in each knee. Bethay is the best overall pass rusher on the team. The Terrier coaches will look for ways to get him in one-on-one situations which could see him play some at defensive end.

Bethay placed fourth on the Terriers last year with 71 tackles. He had a team-best 20 stops for a loss during Wofford’s 2003 SoCon championship season.

Backing up Bethay at the nose is fellow veteran Gaby Dibo (6-0, 284, Sr.). The Poland, Ohio, product has played a lot of snaps in his Terrier career and could see increased action if Bethay is moved to defensive end in certain situations.

Dibo had an outstanding spring. He is extremely strong with a good punch.

Fifth-year senior Erik Hutchinson (5-11, 245, Sr.) and converted nose tackle Bryan Blair (5-9, 255, Jr.) came out of the spring as the first-team defensive ends.

The most experienced member of the defensive front, Hutchinson is a confident and tremendous leader who always gives a great effort. He has unbelievable heart and attitude. The Woodbine, Ga., native played in all 11 games last season and tied for second on the team with six quarterback hurries.

Blair, who came to Wofford as a walk-on, had a great spring in making the transition from nose tackle to defensive end. He has the model example of desire and heart in addition to being explosive. Blair (Bennettsville, S.C.) will play a lot of snaps and will surprise people with how well he does despite being undersized.

Veterans James Gonsoulin (6-0, 250, So.) and Alex Schaefer (6-2, 240, Sr.) enter the fall in second-team positions at defensive end.
Gonsoulin improved as much as anyone during the spring. He just needs to stay healthy and gain experience. Schaefer has now acquired an understanding of defensive end play after being moved from linebacker. He will see a lot of snaps this fall.

Returning letterman Josh Dorr (6-1, 250, So.), who had three tackles for a loss among 16 stops last season, will also compete for playing time at defensive end.

Nose tackle Layton Baker (6-2, 280, Fr.) and defensive end Justin Treece (6-3, 250, Fr.) are young linemen who could figure prominently this fall. They have a ton of ability and just need reps and experience.

Linebacker
While Justin Franklin (6-1, 245, Jr.) and Jim Thurman (6-2, 214, Sr.) return as starters on the inside, the outside positions will feature new faces.

Franklin will contend for All-SoCon honors this fall. The Jacksonville, N.C., native topped Wofford with 116 tackles last season. The Terrier coaches are looking for him to be a major playmaker.

Franklin has increased his weight to 245 pounds and is just coming into his own. He has a chance to be one of the top linebackers Wofford has ever produced. He reached double figures in tackles in each of the final six games and in seven of the last eight, including a career-best 19 stops (13 solo) against Furman.

Thurman is a true veteran. From Hixson, Tenn., he has played more snaps than any current player on the Terrier defense and already ranks among Wofford’s top five all-time tacklers.

Thurman has also taken part in a large amount of turnovers by the Terrier defense the last three seasons, making him an integral part of the team’s success. He has great reaction within the scheme of the defense.

Justin Bell (6-0, 230, So.) and Josh Smith (6-0, 224, Sr.) will provide depth at inside linebacker.

Bell made a lot of plays in the spring and is expected to step up and be a solid part of the two-deep this fall. He has great focus and does a good job of understanding and fitting the scheme of the defense.

Smith, a fifth-year senior who carries the highest grade-point average (3.86) on the team, is a leader by example. He does everything that is asked of him in preparation for an opponent. Smith plays as hard in the tackle box as anyone on the team.

Jason Leventis (5-10, 205, So.) has earned a starting job at outside linebacker after a very good freshman campaign. He saw significant action and played every snap when he started the season finale at VMI. The Greenville, S.C., native had an outstanding spring in learning the Terriers’ defensive scheme. He is hardnosed with a great work ethic.
Leventis adds speed to the outside linebacker position and should be a staple of the Wofford defense over the next three seasons. He is also an outstanding special teams player as his punt block in the final minutes led to a victory over Western Carolina.

Derek Newberry (6-2, 218, Jr.) and Kyle Horne (6-2, 195, So.) will compete for the first-team outside job opposite Leventis.

Newberry started two games last year and brings experience to the defensive unit. Also an accomplished pass rusher, Newberry (Austin, Texas) has outstanding speed, size and athletic ability.

Horne is arguably the fastest player on the Wofford team. His tremendous athleticism gives him big-play capability. The Jacksonville, Fla., native is a natural pass rusher and a relentless pursuer of the ball and quarterback.

Derek Swindall (6-1, 215, Jr.) is a returning letterman who will push for playing time at outside linebacker, while Libertyville, Ill., native Matt Norcia (6-0, 205, Fr.) headlines a list of newcomers who will look to crack the two-deep.

Secondary
The Terriers return three starters in the secondary.

Dan Tavani (5-10, 200, So.) has won the strong safety job. As a freshman last season, he was named Wofford’s Defensive Back of the Year as well as Freshman of the Year. The Easton, Pa., native tied for fifth on the team with 69 tackles and is very physical.

Tavani, the son of Lafayette football coach Frank Tavani, possesses great hands and a nose for the ball. He is really developing as a team leader and has a great knowledge of the Terriers’ defensive scheme.

Brian Ford (6-3, 195, So.) earned the first-team nod at free safety during spring practice. An extremely fluid athlete, Ford has the ability to be a big playmaker. He is very rangy with good hands. The Terrier coaches believe Ford (Wildwood, Ga.) could develop into an All-SoCon player.

Geno Thompson (6-2, 185, So.) enters the fall in a second-team position behind Tavani. Thompson, who will also contribute on special teams, has shown tremendous improvement in learning to play strong safety after being moved from outside linebacker.

Fifth-year senior Shaun Bennett (6-0, 200, Sr.) is the backup to Ford at free safety while also being able to play strong safety.

Bennett received a medical hardship in 2004 as his season came to end one hour into the opening practice when he suffered a ruptured left Achilles’ tendon. Very physical and a big hitter, Bennett is also a great special teams player who blocked three kicks in 2003. He will
provide leadership as someone who has been in the program a long time.

Brian Kemp (5-11, 175, So.) and Dedrick Stuckey (5-10, 180, Sr.) are returning starters at cornerback.

Kemp is an All-SoCon candidate after gaining valuable experience as a starter last year. Extremely talented and a very active playmaker, Kemp is expected to have a breakout season as he continues to grow and progress.

The Bowling Green, Fla., native totaled 56 tackles, including six for a loss, to go with two interceptions and six pass breakups last year.

Stuckey started all 11 games and recorded a team-best 10 PBUs while tying for fifth with 69 stops.

Stuckey (Lyons, Ga.) will be in his third year as a starter. He is extremely physical and a great athlete with the highest vertical jump on the team at 41 inches. Stuckey has shown the ability to make plays and is very explosive.

Alex Love (6-0, 185, Sr.), who started at free safety last year, will provide needed depth at that position in addition to pushing Kemp and Stuckey for a first-team job at corner.

Love is a great special teams player with five blocked kicks in his Terrier career. A very smooth and fluid athlete, Love is a two-time All-SoCon selection in the hurdles for the Wofford track and field team.

Maurice Faulk (6-2, 190, Fr.) and Zac Grey (5-11, 175, Fr.) are young players who will compete for playing time at cornerback in addition to contributing heavily on special teams.

Faulk brings outstanding size to the corner position. Grey is extremely fast and possesses the best hands in the secondary. He could be utilized as a return man.

Special Teams
Wofford has always taken pride in its special teams and last year was another example. The Terriers blocked four kicks and now have 10 blocks in the last two seasons. Wofford also led the SoCon in net punting.

Placekicker Nick Robinson (5-10, 180, Jr.) returns but will be challenged for his job by freshman Chris Tommie (6-0, 175, Fr.), who will handle the punting duties.

Robinson, who had never played football until walking-on to the Terriers just prior to his freshman year, is 89-of-94 on extra-point attempts and nine-of-18 on field goals over his two seasons.

Robinson showed increased strength with his kickoffs in the spring and was also more consistent on his placekicks.
Tommie (Greenwood, S.C.) played in the Shrine Bowl and was a consensus All-State selection after a standout senior year at Emerald High School. He was also named the State Kicker/Punter of the Year by the South Carolina Coaches’ Association.

Tommie had touchbacks on 30 of his 35 kickoffs, including five through the goal posts. He had a 58-yard field goal for the fourth-longest kick in South Carolina history. Tommie averaged 41.6 yards per punt with a hang time that surpassed five seconds. His season-best punt of 73 yards ranks as the fifth longest in the state high school record book.

Returnee Patrick Mugan (5-10, 170, Fr.) will challenge Robinson and Tommie for the kickoff duties.

Chris Collins (6-2, 250, So.) and Greg German (6-3, 225, So.) had very solid seasons last year in their debut as the Terriers’ short and long snappers, respectively.

Wide receiver Brandon Berry (5-8, 160, Jr.) is a top candidate to handle the Terriers’ punt return duties. The Knoxville, Tenn., product had 39 and 37-yard returns last year in averaging 17.5 yards on eight attempts.

Defensive backs Zac Grey (5-11, 175, Fr.) and Brian Kemp (5-11, 175, So.) are among the possibilities on kickoff returns. Both are outstanding athletes with playmaking ability.
Nose tackle Katon Bethay and halfback Gabriel Jackson will represent Wofford when the Southern Conference holds its annual football rouser July 24-26 at the downtown Marriott in Spartanburg, S.C.

The rouser brings the league's head coaches and two players from each team together for a three-day media kickoff to the upcoming season.

Prior to their interview session, Bethay and Jackson will take part in a visit to the pediatric unit at Spartanburg Regional Hospital in addition to playing golf with SoCon officials and media.

A senior from Milton, Wis., Bethay has been ranked by The Sports Network as the No. 4 defensive tackle in the nation and is a second-team preseason All-America.

A two-time All-SoCon and Academic All-District selection, Bethay placed fourth on the Terriers last season with 71 stops. He had 11 tackles for a loss, 2 1/2 sacks and a forced fumble. He returned an interception seven yards for a touchdown in a victory over Western Carolina.

Bethay topped the Terriers' 2003 SoCon championship team with 20 tackles for a loss.

Bethay is the only Wofford student-athlete to receive All-SoCon honors in more than one sport. He's also a two-time All-SoCon performer in the shot put for the Terrier indoor track & field team.

Jackson is the SoCon's second-leading returning rusher after totaling 647 yards and eight touchdowns last year. His 7.0 per carry average ranked first in the league.

A senior from Dahlonega, Ga., Jackson recorded a 3.42 grade-point average in the Spring 2005 semester.

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Wofford reports to campus Aug. 8 for the start of preseason drills. The Terriers open the campaign Sept. 3 versus Georgetown (Ky.) College, alma mater of Wofford coach Mike Ayers. The Terriers travel to Morgantown the following week, Sept. 10, to face West Virginia.
The Sports Network has tabbed Wofford nose tackle Katon Bethay a second-team preseason All-America with offensive tackle Kevin Hodapp an honorable-mention selection.

A senior from Milton, Wis., Bethay was previously ranked by The Sports Network as the No. 4 defensive tackle in the nation.

A two-time All-SoCon and Academic All-District selection, Bethay placed fourth on the Terriers last season with 71 stops. He had 11 tackles for a loss, 2 1/2 sacks and a forced fumble. He returned an interception seven yards for a touchdown in a victory over Western Carolina.

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A preseason All-America by Lindy's, Hodapp has also been ranked by TSN as the No. 5 offensive tackle in the nation. He received All-SoCon honors last year when he totaled 85 knockdown blocks as Wofford placed second in the country in team rushing with an average of 305.1 yards per game.

Hodapp posted season-high knockdown totals of 16 and 15, respectively, in wins over VMI and Western Carolina. He was also Wofford's Offensive Player of the Week after grading out at 94.7 percent in a victory over Johnson C. Smith. The senior from Cincinnati, Ohio, had a 93.0 grade on the year.

Hodapp started all 14 games during Wofford's 2003 SoCon championship season and was a two-time team Offensive Player of the Week. He had a career-best 25 knockdown blocks while grading out at 96.5 percent in the 34-17 Division I-AA quarterfinal-round playoff win over defending national champion Western Kentucky.

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Wofford football season-ticket holders wishing to renew their same seats for the 2005 campaign must do so by July 15 before tickets go on sale to the general public.

The deadline was extended from July 1. Season-ticket packages will be released to the general public July 18. Individual game tickets will be available Aug. 8.

The Terriers' 2005 home schedule includes three Southern Conference contests - Sept. 17 vs. Georgia Southern, Oct. 8 vs. Elon (Homecoming) and Oct. 22 vs. Appalachian State (Parents Weekend). Wofford hosts Georgetown (Ky.) in the Sept. 3 season opener, while the Oct. 15 VMI contest will be the annual "Youth Football Day" at Gibbs Stadium.

Season-ticket holders are invited to a special tailgate prior to the Sept. 3 home opener. More information on this event will be sent with the tickets in August. The season-ticket tailgate will be held alongside TerrierLand, the interactive kids zone which returns for a second season.

TerrierLand opens two hours prior to kickoff and is located adjacent to Cummings Street in front of Gibbs Stadium. The area will once again feature interactive games for the kids, a chance to meet Wofford student-athletes, cheerleaders and mascots and pick up giveaway items.

For more information or to order season tickets today, call the Wofford Athletic Ticket Office at (864) 597-4090.
The Wofford football team will have two games televised this season.

The Terriers' Nov. 12 contest at Furman will be seen nationally on College Sports Television (CSTV). Kickoff has been changed from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In its last visit to Furman, Wofford posted a 7-6 victory to conclude an 8-0 league season in capturing the 2003 SoCon championship. The Terriers also became the first team since 1992 to hold the Paladins without a touchdown in their home stadium.

Wofford's Sept. 17 home game with Georgia Southern will be broadcast on Comcast/Charter Sports Southeast (CSS). Kickoff will remain at 7 p.m.

The Terriers have defeated the Eagles in two of the last three campaigns.

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Wofford nose tackle Katon Bethay has been named a second-team preseason All-America by I-AA.org.

A senior from Milton, Wis., Bethay was named last week to The Sports Network preseason All-America squad. He is ranked by TSN as the No. 4 defensive tackle in the nation.

A two-time All-SoCon and Academic All-District selection, Bethay placed fourth on the Terriers last season with 71 stops. He had 11 tackles for a loss, 2 1/2 sacks and a forced fumble. He returned an interception seven yards for a touchdown in a victory over Western Carolina.

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A 6 p.m. kickoff time has been announced for Wofford's Sept. 10 football game at West Virginia.

The contest in Morgantown will represent the Terriers' first game on the gridiron against a Big East opponent.

West Virginia will be Wofford's ninth Division I-A opponent in the last eight seasons.

The Mountaineers were 8-4 last year in earning a Gator Bowl appearance against Florida State.

Wofford coach Mike Ayers and West Virginia coach Rich 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.

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The Wofford football team received high praise from columnist Gene Sapakoff in a recent edition of The Post and Courier (Charleston, S.C.).

In a July 13 column, discussing the season outlooks for the state's Division I football programs, Sapakoff wrote the following:

WOFFORD

Pound-for-student, Mike Ayers runs the nation's best football program.

Record: 8-3 and a I-AA playoff berth.
Wofford's Oct. 22 home football game with Appalachian State will be televised regionally on CSS with the kickoff time now at noon.

The Terriers have defeated the Mountaineers in two of the last three seasons.

With Wofford's final four regular-season games on the road, the Oct. 22 date represents the Terriers' final scheduled Gibbs Stadium appearance in the 2005 campaign. Five of Wofford's opening seven contests are at home.

The Terriers now have three televised games this fall. The Sept. 17 home meeting with Georgia Southern is also on CSS, while a Nov. 12 date at Furman will be seen nationally on CSTV.

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Included below are some thoughts from Wofford football coach Mike Ayers on the 2005 Terrier season.

Q: Wofford's 2005 roster features 40 freshmen and 23 sophomores. Sixty-three of the 95 players are in their first or second year in the program. If there was one word to describe this year's Terriers, would it be youth?

A: I would say that would hit the nail on the head. We’re a very young football team. We graduated 25 players, and there were three consensus All-Americans (defensive end Lee Basinger and offensive guards Eric Deutsch and Bobby Gibbs) within that group. There’s inexperience in a lot of places, but they’re a group of kids that are willing to work and willing to compete. We know we face a big challenge. We have a tough schedule again and just about everyone in the league is going to be better. It’s definitely one of those years that we’re going to have to work extremely hard and stay healthy, because there’s a lot of young guys once we get behind that initial group who have experience. We’re young enough as it is. We have to make progress game by game and get the younger kids some experience as we go along and try to become a better football team each week.

Q: With the graduation of Jeff Zolman and Trey Rodgers, how will it be going from two veteran quarterbacks to one (Josh Collier) who hasn’t seen a lot of game action?

A: We have a lot of faith in Josh. He doesn’t have much game experience, but he’s shown time after time that he’s a worker. He’s a competitor and a guy who studies football. We feel he can lead our football team, lead the offense and do the things we need done. He runs the ball well, reads the option well and throws the ball well. I think the big thing for Josh will be us keeping him healthy.

Q: The Southern Conference is always one of the toughest football leagues in the country. Does it seem even stronger this year with most teams having a lot of returnees?

A: Year in and year out, Georgia Southern and Furman are going to be outstanding teams because they have the programs with the great tradition. Appalachian State returns a lot of players and Western Carolina is a team that also has just about everybody back. Every team in the league has an opportunity to be much better because of the number of folks they’re returning in terms of starters, veterans and guys who have played a lot of football. On the other hand, we’re young. As a coaching staff, we just have to give our kids what they can handle and ask no more.

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Wofford football coach Mike Ayers was a key contributor to his foursome that placed third at Monday's SoCon Golf Classic at the Carolina Country Club in Spartanburg, S.C.

The golf outing was part of the three-day SoCon Football Rouser which serves as the league's media kickoff to the 2005 season.

Ayers was paired with Associated Press sportswriter Pete Iacobelli, Appalachian State sports information director Mike Flynn and Furman quarterback Ingle Martin.

Terrier preseason All-America nose tackle Katon Bethay played in a foursome that included WSPA-TV sports reporter Ken Griner, Georgia Southern coach Mike Sewak and I-AA.org columnist David Coulson.
Wofford nose tackle Katon Bethay and offensive tackle Kevin Hodapp have received first-team preseason All-SoCon honors from the league's head coaches, while halfback Gabriel Jackson and inside linebacker Jim Thurman were named to the second team.

A senior from Milton, Wis., Bethay is a preseason All-America by The Sports Network. He is ranked by TSN as the No. 4 defensive tackle in the nation.

A two-time All-SoCon and Academic All-District selection, Bethay placed fourth on the Terriers last season with 71 stops. He had 11 tackles for a loss, 2 1/2 sacks and a forced fumble. He returned an interception seven yards for a touchdown in a victory over Western Carolina.

Bethay topped the Terriers' 2003 SoCon championship team with 20 tackles for a loss.

Bethay is the only Wofford student-athlete to receive All-SoCon honors in more than one sport. He's also a two-time All-SoCon performer in the shot put for the Terrier indoor track & field team.

A preseason All-America by Lindy's, Hodapp has been ranked by TSN as the No. 5 offensive tackle in the nation. He received All-SoCon honors last year when he totaled 85 knockdown blocks as Wofford placed second in the country in team rushing with an average of 305.1 yards per game.

Hodapp posted season-high knockdown totals of 16 and 15, respectively, in wins over VMI and Western Carolina. He was also Wofford's Offensive Player of the Week after grading out at 94.7 percent in a victory over Johnson C. Smith. The senior from Cincinnati, Ohio, had a 93.0 grade on the year.

Hodapp started all 14 games during Wofford's 2003 SoCon championship season and was a two-time team Offensive Player of the Week. He had a career-best 25 knockdown blocks while grading out at 96.5 percent in the 34-17 Division I-AA quarterfinal-round playoff win over defending national champion Western Kentucky.

Jackson is the SoCon's second-leading returning rusher after totaling 647 yards and eight touchdowns in the 2004 campaign. The senior from Dahlonega, Ga., had a 7.0 per carry average that ranked first among the Top 10 rushers in the league.

Jackson was a two-time Wofford Offensive Player of the Week last season. His 24.3 per carry average (7 carries, 170 yards) in a 38-17 win over The Citadel places third all-time for a single game in SoCon history. Included in that total was an 83-yard gain for the Terriers' longest run from scrimmage since 1994.

Thurman (Hixson, Tenn.) ranks fifth on Wofford's career tackles list with 262 stops. In the Division I-AA era (1995-present), Thurman is second behind only consensus All-America
Matt Nelson (452, 2000-03).

In his first three seasons, Thurman has totaled six forced fumbles, five fumble recoveries and four interceptions.

Thurman tied for second on last year's Wofford team with 78 tackles in 10 games. He was the Terriers' Defensive Player of the Week in a 49-17 victory over Gardner-Webb.

With a 29-8 overall record and 18-5 league mark, Wofford is the SoCon's winningest team over the last three seasons.

At No. 18 in the final regular-season poll by The Sports Network, 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 straight polls since Oct. 21, 2002. Only Montana (93 polls) has been ranked longer.

Wofford reports to campus Aug. 8 for the start of preseason drills. The Terriers open the campaign Sept. 3 versus Georgetown (Ky.) College, alma mater of Wofford coach Mike Ayers. The Terriers travel to Morgantown the following week, Sept. 10, to face West Virginia.
Kickoff time for the Wofford football team's Nov. 12 nationally-televised (CSTV) game at Furman has been changed to 12:30 p.m. It was originally at 3:30 p.m.

In its last visit to Furman, Wofford posted a 7-6 victory to conclude an 8-0 league season in capturing the 2003 SoCon championship. The Terriers also became the first team since 1992 to hold the Paladins without a touchdown in their home stadium.

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The Wofford football team's Oct. 29 game at The Citadel will be televised statewide by SC-ETV. Kickoff will remain at 4 p.m.

SC-ETV is a Columbia-based public television network.

The Terriers now have four televised games this season. A Nov. 12 date at Furman will be seen nationally on CSTV. The Sept. 17 and Oct. 22 home contests with Georgia Southern and Appalachian State, respectively, will be broadcast on CSS.

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