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Football Press Releases Spring 2006

Wofford College. Sports Information Office

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February 1, 2006
Contact: Steve Shutt, Associate AD/Media Relations

Wofford Announces 15 Football Signees

SPARTANBURG, SC -- Wofford College head football coach Mike Ayers today announced the signing of 15 prospective student-athletes to National Letters of Intent to attend Wofford. Wofford’s class of 2010 includes nine offensive players, five defensive players and one athlete. Six of the signees are from Georgia and three from North Carolina. “We added a lot of team speed, both offensively and defensively,” said Ayers. “We have some quality offensive linemen which we desperately needed. Overall, it’s a great group and ultimately, it will be proven in four years.”

Wofford’s five defensive signees include linebackers Gary Blount of St. Marys, GA (Camden County HS) and Paul Miller of Evans, GA (Lakeside), safeties Ronald Flott of Statesboro, GA (Southeast Bulloch) and Jesse Kontras of London, OH (Jonathan Alder) and cornerback Mychael Johnson of Fayetteville, NC (Jack Britt).

On offense, the Terriers added a pair of linemen in 6-2, 270-pound Clark Bishop of Leesburg, GA (Lee County) and 6-2, 280-pound Grant Duren of Pace, FL (Pace). Wofford recruited three wide receivers including Charles “Buck” Brown of Wrens, GA (Jefferson County), Izel Jenkins III of Wilson, NC (Beddingfield) and Justice Joslin of Johnson City, TN (Science Hill).

The Terriers signed two running backs including Jeremy Marshall of Hawkinsville, GA (Hawkinsville) and Brian Whitehurst of Fort Meade, FL (Worcester, MA Academy).

Wofford also picked up quarterback Steven Davitte of Columbia, SC (Irmo) and tight end Johnson Richardson of Charlotte, NC (Providence Day). Richardson is the grandson of former Wofford standout Jerry Richardson.

Brad Miller of Plain City, OH (Jonathan Alder) was recruited as an athlete. In high school, he was a standout at both a running back and linebacker. Miller and Kontras were high school teammates at Jonathan Alder High School.

2006 Wofford Football Signees

Name Pos Ht Wt Hometown (High School)

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Gary Blount LB 6-0 190 St. Marys, GA (Camden County HS)

Charles “Buck” Brown WR 6-3 185 Wrens, GA (Jefferson County HS)

Steven Davitte QB 5-9 168 Columbia, SC (Irmo HS)
Grant Duren OL 6-2 280 Pace, FL (Pace)

Ronald Flott S 5-10 185 Statesboro, GA (Southeast Bulloch)

Izel Jenkins III WR 5-6 157 Wilson, NC (Beddingfield HS)

Mychael Johnson CB 5-10 170 Fayetteville, NC (Jack Britt HS)

Justice Joslin WR 6-1 180 Johnson City, TN (Science Hill HS)

Jesse Kontras S 5-11.5 188 London, OH (Jonathan Alder HS)

Jeremy Marshall RB 5-10 175 Hawkinsville, GA (Hawkinsville HS)

Brad Miller ATH 6-3 210 Plain City, OH (Jonathan Alder HS)

Paul Miller LB 6-1 200 Evans, GA (Lakeside HS)

Johnson Richardson TE 6-2.5 217 Charlotte, NC (Providence Day)

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Steve Shutt  
Associate AD/Media Relations  
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- MORE -
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Wofford’s schedule includes four non-conference games against teams that were a combined 30-15 overall last year and finished no worse than third place in their respective conference.

Eight of Wofford’s 11 opponents in 2006 finished above .500 last year.

Wofford opens play at home against Coastal Carolina on Sept. 9. The Chanticleers were 9-2 and finished tied for first in the Big South Conference last fall. The Terriers then visit South Carolina on Sept. 16, a Southeastern Conference member which finished second in the SEC East Division and advanced to the Independence Bowl.

The Terriers will play three straight in Gibbs Stadium starting on Sept. 23 with Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference member South Carolina State, last year’s league runner-up to Hampton.

Wofford opens Southern Conference play on Sept. 30 at home against Furman, the SoCon runner-up in 2005 and a team that advanced to the national semifinals of the Division I-AA playoffs. The homestand ends with a Homecoming contest against The Citadel on Oct. 7.

Wofford will face Division I-AA national champion Appalachian State in Boone, N.C. on Oct. 14 and then travel to Elon on Oct. 21. The Terriers host Western Carolina on Oct. 28 and then visit I-AA playoff participant Georgia Southern on Nov. 4.

The Terriers will play their final home game of the season on Nov. 11 against Chattanooga, and then close the campaign at Gardner-Webb on Nov. 18.

2006 Wofford Football Schedule

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Sept. 23 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
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Oct. 7 THE CITADEL (HC)
Oct. 14 at Appalachian State
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Oct. 28 WESTERN CAROLINA
Nov. 4 at Georgia Southern
Nov. 11 CHATTANOOGA
Nov. 18 at Gardner-Webb

- 30 -

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February 9, 2006
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February 22, 2006
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Wofford Adds Five Football Signees

SPARTANBURG, SC -- Wofford College head football coach Mike Ayers today announced the signing of five prospective football student-athletes in addition to the 15 that committed to the program on February 1.

The quintet features three offensive linemen including Matt Vick of Columbiana, AL (Shelby County); Joe Fornadel of Pittsburgh, PA (Mt. Lebanon), and Pat Illig of Pittsburgh, PA (Central Catholic) as well as linebacker Cody Van Der Linden of Carlsbad, CA (Carlsbad) and tight end Joseph Inman of Stilwell, OK (Stilwell).

The Terriers have now received a National Letter of Intent from 20 incoming members of the freshman class.

Matt Vick OL 6-2 240 Columbiana, AL (Shelby County HS)
Team captain and four-year letterwinner at Shelby County High. ... Starter on both the offensive and defensive lines ... Earned All-County honors as a junior and senior from the Shelby County Reporter ... Played for coach Bruce Breland ... Led the Wildcats to the first round of the state playoffs in 2005 ... Made 146 tackles in his final two seasons ... Also had 12 sacks, an interception and a blocked field goal attempt ... Squad was fourth in the region his senior year and third as a junior ...

Joe Fornadel OL 6-2 255 Pittsburgh, PA (Mt. Lebanon HS)
Two-year letterman on the offensive line at Mt. Lebanon High in Pittsburgh ... Reached the WPIAL AAA semifinals against McKeesport as a senior ... Played for Coach Chris Haering ... Posted playoff wins over Connellsville in the first round and Trinity in the quarterfinals before falling to McKeesport in 2005 ... Member of the National Honor Society ... His father, Ed, played at West Virginia while his grandfather played at Pittsburgh ... Also has two uncles who played at James Madison and an uncle that played at Penn State.

Pat Illig OT 6-4 309 Pittsburgh, PA (Central Catholic HS)
A big, strong offensive lineman who is the largest member of Wofford’s incoming class ... Earned honorable mention All-State honors in 2004 and was an all-conference and all-state pick in 2005 ... Blocked for Eugene Jarvis who became only the fifth WPIAL AAAA runner to surpass 4,000 rushing yards in a career ... Helped Central Catholic to a pair of WPIAL AAAA championships ... Two-year starter ... Listed among the top 50 recruits in Pennsylvania by Rivals.Com ... Attended the same high school as former Dolphin Dan Marino.

Cody Van Der Linden LB 6-2 230 Carlsbad, CA (Carlsbad HS)
Earned second team All-Avocado League honors as a junior at Carlsbad High School ... Helped the team to a 9-2 record as a junior ... Played for coach Bob McAllister ... Named second team All-CIF San Diego Section as a senior ... Led the Lancers to the CIF-SDS Division I championship with a 17-6 win over Torrey Pines ... Squad defeated Poway 19-6 in the quarterfinals and Bonita Vista 28-0 in the semifinals ... Team finished 13th in the state ... Collected 100 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and two sacks as a senior ... Picked up 90 tackles and 14 tackles for loss along with four sacks as a junior ... Named team defensive MVP three years ... Named to the All-Academic Team in 2004 and ‘05 ... Also ran the 400 meters in track.

Joseph Inman TE 6-4 248 Stilwell, OK (Stilwell HS)
Earned All-State honors at Stilwell High School in Stilwell, OK ... Selected for the KURM Arkansas/Oklahoma Dream Team in football ... Three-year letterman ... Led the Indians in receiving as a senior ... Earned all-district honors as a tight end ... Also lettered in basketball and baseball ... Will graduate second in his class this spring ... Member of the Oklahoma Honor Society and the Superintendent’s Honor Roll

EDITOR’S NOTE: Fornadel is pronounced for-NAH-dell, not FORN-a-dell.

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March 1, 2006

Wofford to open spring football practice

SPARTANBURG, SC – The Wofford football team will open spring practice today in preparation for the 2006 season.

The Terriers will practice this evening at 6:30 and again on Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

Head coach Mike Ayers will lead the Terriers through their 15 allowable spring practices on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Wofford will generally practice at 6:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday, at 3:30 on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday.

The Terriers plan to practice during the week and scrimmage on Saturday mornings.

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Wofford moves Saturday scrimmage to 1:30

SPARTANBURG, SC – The Wofford football team will scrimmage in Gibbs Stadium on Saturday, March 11 at 1:30 p.m. The Terriers had originally planned to scrimmage at 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

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Wofford football holds 95 minute scrimmage
March 11, 2006

SPARTANBURG, SC – The Wofford football team went through a 95-minute intraquad scrimmage Saturday afternoon at Gibbs Stadium.

The Terriers ran 70 offensive plays with quarterback Ben Widmyer accounting for all four touchdowns. Widmyer, who backed up starter Josh Collier in 2005, scored on two short
runs as well as a long run in excess of 50 yards. Widmyer also threw a 70-yard scoring pass
to wide receiver Jimbo Robinson.

“We ran the ball hard and we made some plays,” said offensive coordinator Wade Lang.

Tight end Fenn Allen was also impressive in the scrimmage, making several catches in
heavy traffic over the middle.

“Fenn’s as good a tight end as we’ve had in a long time,” said Lang. “We’re trying to find
ways to get him the ball.”

Cornerback Rashad Vance had an interception and a key pass breakup on a fourth down play
while linebacker Justin Franklin caught the eye of defensive coordinator Nate Woody.

“There were times where Justin reached a level where we think he can play,” said Woody.
“Rashad had a couple of breaks on the ball that were the kind of plays that can help turn a
game for us.”

The Terriers are scheduled to scrimmage again on Saturday, March 18.

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**Wofford Announces Change to 2006 Football Schedule**

SPARTANBURG, SC – Wofford College has announced a change in its 2006 football schedule. The Terriers were originally scheduled to host South Carolina State on Saturday, Sept. 23 in Spartanburg. That game will be moved to Saturday, Sept. 2 and will remain at Gibbs Stadium. The change will provide the Terriers with an open date prior to their first Southern Conference game of the year against Furman on Sept. 30.

**2006 Wofford Football Schedule**

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Wofford to hold final spring football scrimmage

SPARTANBURG, SC – The Wofford football team will hold its final scrimmage of the spring season on Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m. at Gibbs Stadium. The squad will also go through a regular practice session at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 24.

The Terriers will have utilized 13 of the available 15 spring practice dates. Head coach Mike Ayers and his staff have not yet determined how best to utilize the two remaining sessions.

Ayers has just one goal for Saturday’s scrimmage: “Come out healthy.”

Wofford will open the 2006 football season when it hosts South Carolina State on Saturday, September 2.

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Wofford holds final spring football scrimmage

SPARTANBURG, SC – The Wofford football team went through its final scrimmage of the spring season on Saturday morning. Head coach Mike Ayers put the Terriers through a one hour and 22 minute workout inside of Gibbs Stadium.

Ayers was pleased with the team’s performance on Saturday.

“I don’t think we’re ready for prime time but we’re getting better,” said Ayers. “We have a lot of young kids that we put into some tough situations. I like the way we came out and got after each other.”

The Wofford offense rushed for one touchdown and threw three scoring passes. Halfback Dane Romero scored on a 64-yard run on the third offensive series of the controlled scrimmage. Quarterback Josh Collier followed with a 60-yard scoring pass to Andy Strickland.

The Terrier offense stalled near midfield giving the placekickers an opportunity to try some long field goals. Patrick Mugin was successful on a pair of 47 yard attempts and Chris Tommie also connected from 47 yards out.

The offense added two more passing touchdowns. Romero threw a 23-yard halfback pass to Tripp Smith while Collier added his second scoring toss, a 19-yarder to tight end Fenn Allen.

The defense scored once when cornerback Brian Kemp intercepted a pass and returned it 22 yards for a touchdown.

Wofford has two more practice opportunities remaining from its allotment of 15 sessions. The Terriers will most likely utilize those practices this week.

Ayers believes that the spring season has been a success.

“Our kids were fired up. They gave a great effort throughout the spring. We had some tough weather but they came out and got after it.”

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Antoine joins Wofford football coaching staff
May 9, 2006

Wofford head football coach Mike Ayers has named Ron Antoine as the Terriers’ running backs coach. Antoine replaces Freddie Brown who resigned last month to become the head football coach at Woodruff High School.

Antoine joins the Terrier program after spending the 2005 season coaching the wide receivers at Elon University. He has also coached at Ohio University and Fayetteville State.

A former wide receiver at Colorado State, Antoine was recruited by Earle Bruce and played his four years under the direction of Sonny Lubick. The wide receiver coach at CSU during Antoine’s tenure was Urban Meyer, currently the head coach at the University of Florida.

While with the Rams, Antoine earned honorae mention All-Western Athletic Conference honors and was CSU’s Receiver of the Year in 1996. He helped Colorado State win two WAC championships and advance to the Holiday Bowl in both 1994 and ‘95. Antoine also received the Rams’ Ironman Award for not missing a single practice or game. A dean’s list student, Antoine graduated from CSU in 1997 with a bachelor of science degree in exercise and sport science. He earned a master’s degree in higher education (educational administration).

A native of Beaumont, Texas, Antoine was a wide receiver at Westbrook Senior High School where he was named to the Super Goal Team and earned second team all-district honors.

Following his graduation from CSU, Antoine remained in Fort Collins as a student assistant coach in 1997 before becoming a graduate assistant coach at Ohio in 1998 and ‘99. He became the wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator at Fayetteville State for two seasons before returning to Ohio for a four-year stint as the wide receivers coach and academic coordinator from 2001-04.

Last year, Antoine mentored Michael Mayers, Elon’s top wide receiver, who led the Southern Conference in receiving yards per game and was second in the conference in receptions per game. At FSU, Antoine helped wide receiver Andregus Holmes earn second team All-CIAA honors in 1999. At Ohio, he supervised wide receiver Scott Mayle who led the Bobcats in all-purpose yards in 2003 and ‘04.

Antoine is married to Zenarae Antoine, an assistant women’s basketball coach at the University of Louisville. Zenarae played her college basketball at Colorado State and has served as an assistant coach at Ohio University and the College of Charleston.