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Volleyball Press Releases August-September 2003

Wofford College. Sports Information Office

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Terrier Volleyball Predicted to Finish 10th in Preseason SoCon Poll
Aug. 28, 2003

Following a vote of the league's head coaches, the Wofford volleyball team has been selected to finish 10th out of the 12 teams in the preseason Southern Conference standings.

Lindsay Lyman returns as the lone senior on this year's squad. Last season, she served as the inaugural libero for the Terriers.

"I'm not totally surprised," said Wofford head coach Corey Helle. "When the top four teams are from our division year in and year out, it makes it tough. But, we lost 75 percent of everything from a year ago, including three seniors. I definitely feel fortunate to be ranked 10th, but I know we won't finish 10th. Respect is definitely earned and it's something this young group will need to learn. Overall, I'm excited about the season and how this young group of players will mature throughout the year."

The Terriers will enter 2003 under the guidance Helle and will open their season with a trio of matches this weekend at the Winthrop Invitational in Rock Hill, S.C. Wofford opens its home slate with a non-conference matchup against Savannah State Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. in Benjamin Johnson Arena.

Preseason Southern Conference Standings
1. Georgia Southern
2. College of Charleston
3. Davidson
4. Furman
5. Western Carolina
6. Appalachian State
7. Chattanooga
8. Elon
9. East Tennessee State
10. Wofford
11. UNC Greensboro
12. The Citadel
Wofford Volleyball Opens Season at Winthrop Invitational
Aug. 28, 2003

The Wofford volleyball team will open its 2003 season by traveling to Rock Hill, S.C., to take part in the Winthrop Invitational. The Terriers begin action in the tournament Friday and will conclude with two matches Saturday.

On Friday, Wofford faces Mercer at 4:30 p.m., before squaring off against the host Eagles Saturday at 12:30 p.m. The Terriers wrap up the invitational with a match against UNC Wilmington Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

"We're looking forward to seeing where we stack up against these three teams," said Terrier head coach Corey Helle. "We should stack up well with Mercer and UNC Wilmington. Winthrop is a team that reached the NCAA Tournament last year, and it will be a good experience to see how we do against them. We just need to go up there and do our thing. That means staying positive, keep looking ahead and compete and learn the best we can. All these are key to a young team like ours."

Wofford enters 2003 led by captain Lindsay Lyman, the lone senior on the squad, and the designated libero. Following the graduation of three seniors and the loss of nearly 75 percent of the offense, defense and overall performance, the Terriers will count on the underclassmen to step up and perform. Wofford also welcomes back junior Andrea Duke, who took a year off of school last year.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Volleyball Begins Home Schedule Thursday Afternoon
Sept. 3, 2003

After finishing second at the Winthrop/Hilton Garden Inn Invitational this past weekend with a 2-1 record, the Wofford volleyball team will open its 2003 home slate Thursday afternoon with a match against Savannah State. The contest is slated to begin at 4 p.m. at Benjamin Johnson Arena.

Second-year head coach Corey Helle’s squad picked up wins over Mercer and UNC Wilmington in its opening weekend. The Lady Terriers defeated Mercer in four games Friday before holding off a late charging Seahawk team in five games Saturday evening.

For their efforts in the three games, sophomores Rhea deJesus and Katie Sobcyzk were named to the all-tournament team, while junior Andrea Duke broke two school records, single-match kills (35) and single-match total attacks (106).

"We're looking forward to being at home for the match against Savannah State," said Helle. "We've always had a good relationship with its program. They will be much improved over past seasons, so we'll need to be prepared ourselves the best we can."

The Lady Terriers also received strong support from Katie Laser and three freshmen (Shana Glenn, Erin Bailey and Megan Propst) throughout the tournament.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Volleyball Match Rescheduled for 5 p.m.
Sept. 3, 2003

The Wofford - Savannah State volleyball match slated for Thursday afternoon at Benjamin Johnson Arena has been pushed back one hour. The match will now begin at 5 p.m., instead of the scheduled 4 p.m. start.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
The Wofford Lady Terrier volleyball team opened its 2003 home campaign with a 3-0 sweep over visiting Savannah State Thursday evening at Benjamin Johnson Arena. After taking a commanding 30-16 triumph in the first game, the Lady Terriers won games two and three, 30-21 and 30-19, respectively.

Junior Andrea Duke proved to be the catalyst on which Wofford relied on for most of its points. Duke finished the match with game-highs 23 kills, 46 total attacks, 17 digs and 26.5 points. Sophomore Rhea deJesus finished with 42 assists to pace all players, while freshman Megan Propst led with a .455 hitting percentage. Junior Katie Laser also registered a hitting percentage over .400, as she notched a .417 behind six kills and 12 total attacks. Sophomore Katie Sobczyk was second on the team with 11 kills, 25 total attacks, 10 digs and 11 points.

Patricia Ortiz paced Savannah State with a .286 hitting percentage and eight digs. Teammate Satin Kinsey recorded 9.5 points to lead the club.

"I'm very pleased to being our home schedule with a victory," said Wofford head coach Corey Helle. "Their coach, Alvin Jones, did a tremendous job preparing his team and making them much improved over past years. We had a great all-around effort from everyone tonight. Our freshmen really stepped up and played well in addition to our veterans."

Wofford improves to 3-1 with the victory, while Savannah State drops to 0-5. The Lady Terriers will take the next week off before resuming action Sept. 12 versus Florida Atlantic at the Coastal Carolina Tournament in Conway, S.C.
Volleyball Announces Schedule Changes for Birmingham-Southern Tournament
Sept. 10, 2003

Host Birmingham-Southern has announced schedule changes for its upcoming volleyball tournament Sept. 19-20. The Lady Terrier program will be affected twice by the new times.

Wofford will now open the tournament 9 a.m. Friday against South Alabama before taking on Troy State at 5 p.m. later in the day. Saturday's action will open with the Lady Terriers in action again at 9 a.m. facing Memphis, while they will conclude the two-day competition against the host Panthers at 7 p.m. in the final match of the tournament Saturday night.

Revised Wofford schedule at the Birmingham-Southern Tournament:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Birmingham-Southern</td>
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Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC  29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Lady Terriers Hit the Beach for the Coastal Carolina Classic
Sept. 11, 2003

The Wofford Lady Terrier volleyball team will travel across the state for the Coastal Carolina Classic this weekend in Conway, S.C., beginning Friday and continuing through Saturday.

On the docket for the 3-1 squad will be matches against Florida Atlantic Friday at 4:30 p.m. and in-state rivals Coastal Carolina and Clemson at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m., respectively, Saturday.

"This weekend will be a challenge," said head coach Corey Helle. "But, it gives us a great opportunity to see what we are made of this early in the season. I still think we have a good shot of going there and getting at least one win. We have had a good week of practice leading up to the weekend, and the team is excited about the opportunity to play these three teams, as they are a step up from what we have faced so far."

The Lady Terriers have garnered wins in three of their first four matches of the season, including a second place finish at the Winthrop/Hilton Garden Inn Invitational to open the season Aug. 29-30 and a 3-0 game sweep over Savannah State in their home opener Sept. 4.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC  29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Duke Among Volleyball's National Leaders
Sept. 11, 2003

Junior outside hitter Andrea Duke has earned a place among the national leaders in the initial 2003 season national statistics released by the NCAA.

Duke, who returned to the court this season for the Lady Terriers after sitting out all of last season, is ranked sixth in kills per game (6.07). Against UNC Wilmington in the final match of the season opening Winthrop/Hilton Garden Inn Invitational Aug. 30, she broke the school record for kills in a match with 35.

She is also among the leaders nationally in digs per game with 4.53. Against Mercer in the same tournament on Aug. 29, her total of 25 digs notched a career best tally.

Duke and the rest of the Wofford volleyball team will travel to Conway, S.C., this weekend for the Coastal Carolina Classic. The Lady Terriers will face Florida Atlantic Friday before tangling with the host Chanticleers and Clemson Saturday afternoon.
Wofford Falls to Florida Atlantic in First Match at the Coastal Carolina Classic
Sept. 12, 2003

The Wofford volleyball team fell in its opener at the Coastal Carolina Classic in a three-game sweep to Florida Atlantic. The Lady Terriers dropped the three games by scores of 30-25, 30-20 and 30-23.

Junior outside hitter Andrea Duke led all players with 16 kills and 41 total attacks for a hitting percentage of .171, while junior middle blocker Katie Laser had eight kills and 30 total attacks for a hitting percentage of .222. Duke also posted a game high nine digs. Sophomore setter Rhea deJesus registered 30 assists for the Lady Terriers.

Wofford will continue play in the tournament with two matches Saturday. At 12 p.m., the Lady Terriers will battle the host Chanticleers before tangling with Clemson at 2 p.m.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Lady Terriers Drop Two Saturday Afternoon at the Coastal Carolina Classic
Sept. 13, 2003

The Wofford Lady Terrier volleyball team dropped its two matches Saturday afternoon at the Coastal Carolina Classic to the host Chanticleers and Clemson. In the first match, the Lady Terriers fell 30-22, 30-12, 30-19 to Coastal Carolina, before being defeated by the Tigers.

Against the Chanticleers, junior outside hitter Andrea Duke continued to post the top numbers on the team as she paced the squad with 13 kills, 46 total attacks, 13 digs and 14 points. Sophomore right side player Katie Sobczyk registered 10 kills, 30 total attacks and 11 points for the Lady Terriers.

Wofford battled Clemson hard in the first game only to lose 30-27 before dropping games two, 30-15, and three, 30-19. Once again, Duke was the top performer for the Lady Terriers as she notched 18 kills, 42 total attacks, four service aces, 10 digs and 22 points. Sobczyk continued to play well against the Tigers, recording 12 kills and 21 total attacks for a .476 hitting percentage.

With the two losses, Wofford falls to 3-4 on the season and will next open up its Southern Conference slate with a home matchup against Furman. The match against the Lady Paladins is scheduled to begin Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Benjamin Johnson Arena.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Lady Terriers Open SoCon Play Versus Furman
Sept. 16, 2003

The Wofford Lady Terrier volleyball team will return to Benjamin Johnson Arena Wednesday evening it takes on Southern Conference rival Furman in the league opener for both schools. The match is slated to begin at 7 p.m.

The Lady Terriers are coming off a weekend spent in Conway, S.C., at the Coastal Carolina Classic in which they faced formidable opponents of Florida Atlantic and Clemson, in addition to the host Chanticleers.

Junior outside hitter Andrea Duke continues to be the catalyst on which the Wofford offense is built, as she leads the team in several categories, including kills (138/5.75 pg), total attacks (371), service aces (13), digs (100) and points (154.5).

"We're looking forward to playing the Paladins because they are a rival," said head coach Corey Helle. "Since it's our first conference match, we want to see how we stack up against a program that's near the top of the preseason conference standings. They are playing really well right now, so it should be a good test for us. Last weekend was a good learning experience for us, and we saw glimpse of what this team is capable of doing. We're working on improving all aspects and elements of the game and really focusing on the first contacts, like the serve, serve receive and defense."

Furman enters the match with a 4-6 mark, including garnering a win in the New England Challenge last weekend.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Duke Remains in Top Ten for Kills Per Game
Sept. 16, 2003

Junior outside hitter Andrea Duke has remained in the top 10 nationally for kills per game for the second straight week according to the latest NCAA volleyball statistics released this afternoon. Her average of 5.75 places her eighth on the list and tops among Southern Conference players.

Duke and the rest of the Lady Terriers (3-4) will return to action Wednesday night, as they host Furman in the league opener for both schools at 7 p.m. at Benjamin Johnson Arena.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
P: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Wofford Falls to Furman in Volleyball SoCon Opener
Sept. 17, 2003

The Wofford Lady Terrier volleyball program fought hard to take games two and four, but it was not enough as the Furman Lady Paladins prevailed with a five game victory in volleyball action Wednesday night at Benjamin Johnson Arena. Furman garnered the win by winning every other game, 30-28, 26-30, 30-25, 19-30, 15-10.

Continuing her dominance as the leading offensive threat for Wofford was junior outside hitter Andrea Duke, who finished with team highs of 22 kills, 59 total attacks, four service aces and 26.5 points. Sophomore Katie Sobczyk also posted double figures in kills (10), total attacks (22) and points (12.0). Sophomore Angela Berry (13.0) and junior Katie Laser (11.5) also posted double digit totals for points.

Sophomore Julia Fredrickson was the leading Lady Paladin, as she registered 12 kills and 15.0 points, while freshman Whitney Purser recorded 36 total attacks and 10.5 points, while fellow freshman Ally Hock garnered 11 kills, 26 total attacks and 14.0 points.

With the loss, the Lady Terriers fall to 3-5, 0-1 in the Southern Conference, while Furman improves to 5-6, 1-0 in league play.

Wofford will next play in the Birmingham-Southern Tournament this weekend in Birmingham, Ala. The Lady Terriers are scheduled to play four games in two days, including the first game Friday morning against South Alabama.

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Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Lady Terriers Travel to Birmingham This Weekend
Sept. 18, 2003

The Wofford Lady Terrier volleyball team will hit the road for the Birmingham-Southern Tournament this weekend in Alabama. Wofford enters the tournament with a 3-5 record and will be looking to fare well against South Alabama, Troy State, Memphis and the host Panthers.

The Lady Terriers fell in their Southern Conference opener yesterday against Furman in five games. In a match that saw the teams exchange game wins, Wofford fought hard behind the efforts of junior outside hitter Andrea Duke and sophomore Katie Sobczyk. Duke finished the match as the overall leader in kills (22), total attacks (59), points (26.5) and tied for the lead in service aces (four). Sobcyzk posted 10 kills and 22 total attacks for 12 points on the evening.

"We played well last night and feel we can take many things away from it into this weekend's competition," said Wofford head coach Corey Helle. "South Alabama and Birmingham-Southern we should match up well against, while Troy State and Memphis may test us a little bit. It should be a good learning experience to play four quality teams in one weekend. Overall, our play has improved, and now we have to put all the little things together."

Wofford will open the tournament with a 9 a.m. match against South Alabama before facing Troy State later in the day at 5 p.m. Saturday's slate has the Lady Terriers facing Memphis at 9 a.m. followed by their second match of the day against host Birmingham-Southern at 7 p.m.
Lady Terriers Garner Split to Snap Five Match Losing Streak
Sept. 19, 2003

With a five game victory against Troy State in its second match of the day, the Wofford Lady Terrier volleyball team snapped a five match losing streak on day one of the Birmingham-Southern Tournament. Earlier in the day, Wofford dropped a four game decision to South Alabama.

Against Troy State, junior outside hitter Andrea Duke plastered the Trojans with 19 kills, 82 total attacks, 20 digs and 22.5 points to pace all players. Junior middle blocker Katie Laser finished with 44 total attacks and 17.0 points, while sophomore middle blocker Angela Berry posted 26 total attacks and 13.0 points. Sophomore setter Rhea deJesus notched 37 assists as the Lady Terriers won the match by scores of 24-30, 30-28, 30-28, 14-30, 15-12.

Earlier, against South Alabama, Duke again was the top offensive player for Wofford, as she registered 22 kills, 68 total attacks, three service aces, 16 digs and 25.0 points to pace the Lady Terriers in each category. After taking game one, 30-27, Wofford dropped the next three games by scores of 26-30, 26-30, 27-30.

Duke passed the 200 kill mark for the season in the Troy State match with a season total of 201 and carries an average of 5.29 per game.

Wofford improves to 4-6 with the victory over the Trojans, while Troy State stands at 6-3 and South Alabama is 3-6. The Lady Terriers will wrap up play in the tournament with another pair of matches Saturday. At 9 a.m., Wofford will face Conference USA foe Memphis before tangling with the host Panthers of Birmingham-Southern in the tournament's final match at 7 p.m.
Wofford Concludes Play at the Birmingham-Southern Tournament
Sept. 20, 2003

On the second and final day of competition at the Birmingham-Southern Tournament, the Wofford volleyball team suffered 3-0 losses to Memphis and Birmingham-Southern.

In the match versus Memphis, junior outside hitter Andrea Duke was the lone offensive threat for the Lady Terriers, as she posted 15 kills, 49 total attacks, 17.0 points to go along with nine digs. Sophomore setter Rhea deJesus recorded 19 of the team’s 23 assists, as Wofford dropped the three games, 30-23, 30-19, 30-11.

The nightcap featured the Lady Terriers battling the host Panthers. Wofford kept the scores closer, 30-22, 30-27, 30-26, but could not prevail. Duke again paced all players with 16 kills, 44 total attacks, 20.5 points and led Wofford with 11 digs. Junior middle blocker Katie Laser (11.5), sophomore middle blocker Angela Berry (10.0) and freshman outside hitter Megan Propst (10.0) also notched double figures in points, while deJesus finished with a match high 38 assists.

The Lady Terriers fall to 4-8 on the season with the two defeats and will next face new Southern Conference rival Elon, Friday night in Burlington, N.C.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Duke Named to the All-Tournament Team in Birmingham
Sept. 18, 2003

Junior outside hitter Andrea Duke represented Wofford on the 10 player BSC Volleyball Challenge All-Tournament Team it was announced following the conclusion of competition Saturday evening.

Duke undoubtedly was the Lady Terriers best player in the four games. She paced the team in nearly every category, leading in kills (72), total attacks (243), service aces (11), digs (56) and points (85.0).

The last two weeks, Duke has ranked among the top 10 nationally in kills per game and finished the tournament with an average of 4.80 to lead the team.

She becomes the third Lady Terrier to be named to an all-tournament team this season, as Katie Sobczyk and Rhea deJesus garnered recognition following the season opening Winthrop/Hilton Garden Inn Invitational.

Duke and the rest of the Wofford volleyball team will next compete Friday evening in Burlington, N.C., as they take the Phoenix of Elon.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Wofford volleyball player, Andrea Duke, remained in the top 25 for kills per game in the latest NCAA statistics released Wednesday afternoon. The junior outside hitter ranks 21st with an average of 5.27 per game.

Duke, the top offensive threat for the Lady Terriers, currently leads the team in nearly every category, including kills (232), total attacks (673), service aces (28), digs (160) and points (266.0).

The Wofford volleyball team will continue its season by traveling to Burlington, N.C., Friday evening for a match up with new SoCon opponent Elon at 7 p.m.
Lady Terriers Head to the Triangle This Weekend  
Sept. 25, 2003

The Wofford volleyball team will travel to the area known as the Triangle (Raleigh, N.C.-Durham, N.C.-Greensboro, N.C.) this weekend for a pair of matches against Southern Conference opponents Elon and UNC Greensboro.

First up for the Lady Terriers is new SoCon foe, Elon, Friday. Wofford last faced the Phoenix in 2001 while they were still a member of the Big South Conference. In those two matches at the season opening Hampton Labor Day Tournament, the Lady Terriers proved victorious with back-to-back wins of 3-1, 3-0.

UNC Greensboro will host the Lady Terriers Sunday afternoon. Against the Spartans, Wofford has won the last five match ups dating back to a 3-0 win Oct. 11, 2000.

"We've had a great week of practice," said Lady Terrier head coach Corey Helle. "The girls have worked really hard. As a team, we came back from Birmingham with a resolve to play better everyday, put ourselves in better positions to win some matches and hold ourselves a little more accountable and responsible. The players have done a great job sticking to it.

"Both schools this weekend are on the same level as us as far as skill level and playing experience. We're looking forward to starting the rival with Elon. UNC Greensboro is much improved over last year. Neither game will be a walk over since both are on the road and in conference."

This weekend marks the first full weekend of conference matches for every school. Wofford faced Furman in its first SoCon match of the year Sept. 17 in Spartanburg.

The Lady Terriers will be looking to garner victories this weekend their overall record fell to 4-8 after last weekend's Birmingham-Southern Tournament.

Travis Woods  
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director  
Wofford College  
429 N. Church St.  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
O: (864) 597-4092  
P: (864) 597-4129  
H: (864) 585-6724
Volleyball Falls to New SoCon Member Elon Friday Night
Sept. 26, 2003

The Wofford volleyball team lost to new Southern Conference opponent Elon Friday evening, 3-1, in Burlington, N.C. After winning the first game, 31-29, Wofford fell 18-30, 21-30, 28-30 to close the match.

Leading the charge for the Lady Terriers was junior outside hitter Andrea Duke. Duke finished the match with match-highs of 19 kills, 60 total attacks, six service aces and 26.0 points. Her 13 digs were one behind team leader, senior captain Lindsay Lyman. Sophomore setter Rhea deJesus posted 34 assists for the Lady Terriers and also reached double figures in digs with 11. Sophomore Angela Berry was the only other Wofford player to reach double figures in points, as she totaled 14.0 on 11 kills and 27 total attacks. Sophomore Katie Sobczyk recorded 21 total attacks and freshman Megan Propst tallied 20 total attacks in the total team effort.

The Phoenix had four players reach double digits in points, while six posted at least 10 total attacks.

With the loss, the Lady Terriers fall to 4-9, 0-2 SoCon, while Elon improves to 7-9, 1-1 in league play.

Wofford will continue its season Sunday afternoon as it plays at UNC Greensboro in another league match at 2 p.m.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29303
O: (864) 597-4092
F: (864) 597-4129
H: (864) 585-6724
Wofford Volleyball Falls at UNC Greensboro
Sept. 28, 2003

In Lady Terrier volleyball action Sunday afternoon, they lost at UNC Greensboro, 3-0, in their third SoCon match of the season.

Wofford dropped a 30-17 decision in the first game before losing games two (30-21) and three (30-15) to the Spartans.

Sophomore Katie Sobczyk garnered six kills to pace the team, while fellow classmates Angela Berry and Rhea deJesus tied for second on the team with five kills. The 17 assists by deJesus lead the squad. Berry finished with 25 total attacks, one shy of the match high shared by Wofford's Andrea Duke and UNCG's LaJean Morrow. Libero Lindsay Lyman registered 13 digs on the defensive end.

With the loss, the Lady Terriers fall to 4-10, 0-3 in league action, while UNC Greensboro improves to 5-9, 2-1 in the SoCon.

Wofford will return home to Benjamin Johnson Arena for its next match, facing league foe the College of Charleston at 7 p.m. Friday evening.

Travis Woods
Assistant Athletic Media Relations Director
Wofford College
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC  29303
O: (864) 597-4092
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