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Football Press Releases July-August 2007

Wofford College. Sports Information Office

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From: Shutt, Steven J ShuttSJ@wofford.edu
Subject: Wofford announces four football television games
Date: July 2, 2007 at 4:04 PM
To: Shutt, Steven J ShuttSJ@wofford.edu
For Immediate Release  
Contact: Steve Shutt, Assoc AD/Media Relations  
(864) 597-4093  
Monday, July 2, 2007  
Wofford announces four football games on TV  
SPARTANBURG, SC – Four Wofford football games will be televised this fall including two games on SportSouth and one on ESPNU.  
Wofford’s game at Western Carolina, originally scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27, has been moved to Thursday, Oct. 25 for the ESPNU telecast. This will mark the first-ever ESPNU broadcast for the Terrier football team, and its first game on ESPN since the national I-AA semifinal in December, 2003. Kickoff for the Western Carolina game will be at 7:30 p.m. The Terriers will play two games on SportSouth. Wofford’s Sept. 22 home game with Appalachian State will begin at 3:00 p.m. at Gibbs Stadium. The game at The Citadel on Oct. 6 is slated for a 2:00 p.m. start at Johnson Hagood Stadium. ESPNU is a 24-hour college sports network which launched in March, 2005. SportSouth is a regional cable network headquartered in Atlanta. Formerly known as Turner South, SportSouth re-launched in Oct. 2006 and reaches approximately 8.2 million cable and satellite subscribers in South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and parts of North Carolina. ESPN360.com is a robust, multi-feature broadband service, free to fans that get high-speed broadband service from an ESPN-affiliated provider. Through ESPN's new multimedia player, ESPN360.com delivers hundreds of hours of live games, analysis and exclusive content on-demand. The game times for all other Wofford games this fall have also been settled.  

2007 Wofford Football Schedule  

Sept. 1 GEORGETOWN, KY 7:00  
Sept. 8 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 7:00  
Sept. 15 at North Carolina State (ESPN 360) 6:00  
Sept. 22 APPALACHIAN STATE* (SportSouth) 3:00  
Sept. 29 at Furman* 6:00  
Oct. 6 at The Citadel* (SportSouth) 2:00  
Oct. 13 GARDNER-WEBB 1:30  
Oct. 20 ELON* 1:30  
Oct. 25 at Western Carolina* (ESPNU) 7:30  
Nov. 3 GEORGIA SOUTHERN* (HC) 1:30  
Nov. 10 at Chattanooga* 2:00  
* indicates Southern Conference game  

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Tuesday, July 17, 2007
Wofford earns #6 preseason national ranking
SPARTANBURG, SC – The Wofford football team has received a number six national ranking in USA Today Sports Weekly’s college football preview issue.
The Terriers were ranked fifth earlier this summer in the Lindy’s preseason poll.
Andy Gardiner of USA Today has defending national champion Appalachian State as the preseason number one team followed by Massachusetts, Youngstown State, Montana, New Hampshire and Wofford. Rounding out the top ten are number seven North Dakota State followed by Illinois State, McNeese State and James Madison.
Wofford returns 53 lettermen and 16 starters (eight on offense, eight on defense) from last year’s 7-4 team that finished the season with five straight wins. The Terriers open the season on Sept. 1 against Georgetown College of Kentucky.
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Tuesday, July 24, 2007  
Wofford picked third in SoCon poll  
GREENVILLE, SC – Wofford has been picked to finish third in the Southern Conference football race this year by a panel of media members attending the SoCon Football Rouser. Two-time defending national champion Appalachian State was a unanimous choice of the 27 media members in attendance to repeat as SoCon champion. Furman was picked second with the Terriers selected third. Georgia Southern was picked to finish fourth followed, in order, by The Citadel, Elon, Chattanooga, and Western Carolina.  
This marks the highest preseason prediction for Wofford since 2004 when the Terriers were picked second.  
“We were picked (third) because of what we’ve done in the past,” said Wofford head coach Mike Ayers. “Appalachian State is the defending national champion and Furman has been very successful as well. Where we’re picked is irrelevant. We have 11 ball games to prove ourselves and it will be more important where we finish at the end than where we were picked at the beginning.”  
Wofford returns 16 starters (8 on offense, 8 on defense) from last year’s 7-4 team that closed the year with a five-game winning streak. The Terriers have been ranked as high as fifth in the nation in a preseason poll from Lindy’s. Wofford was also ranked sixth in the USA Today Sports Weekly preseason poll.  
The complete Southern Conference Media Poll follows.  
Place Team (1st) Points  
1 Appalachian State (27) 216  
2 Furman 180  
3 Wofford College 160  
4 Georgia Southern 120  
5 The Citadel 119  
6 Elon 74  
7 Chattanooga 68  
8 Western Carolina 35  
Preseason Offensive Player of the Year: Kevin Richardson, Appalachian State  
Preseason Defensive Player of the Year: Corey Lynch, Appalachian State  
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Wednesday, July 25, 2007  
Seven Terriers earn preseason All-SoCon honors  
SPARTANBURG, SC – Senior safety Dan Tavani headlines a list of seven Wofford football players named to the Southern Conference Coaches Preseason All-Conference team. Tavani was the lone Terrier selected to the first team. Wofford’s second team selections included halfback Kevious Johnson, center Corey McKenna, offensive tackle Derek Wooten, defensive end James Gonsoulin, safety Brian ford and punter Chris Tommie. Tavani, a 5-10, 205-pound senior from Easton, PA (Notre Dame HS) was a second-team all-SoCon pick last year after recording 68 tackles. He also owns four career interceptions. Johnson, a 5-9, 205-senior from Fitzgerald, GA (Fitzgerald) enters his senior season as the sixth-ranked rusher in school history with 2,588 career yards. His career average of 6.1 yards per carry is the fourth-best in the nation in the Football Championship Subdivision among active players. McKenna, a 6-2, 280-pound senior from Cincinnati, OH (Elder) is expected to start at center for the second straight season. He finished third on the team in knockdown blocks last year with 121. Wooten, a 6-6, 300-pound junior from Rock Hill, SC (Northwestern), returns as Wofford’s starter at right tackle. He recorded 67 knockdown blocks last year and was a member of the Academic All-SoCon team. Gonsoulin is a 6-0, 250-pound senior from Tulsa, OK (Jenks) who had a breakout season as a junior. He was a second team All-SoCon selection and was fourth in the league with 6.0 sacks. He recorded 3.5 sacks in a 28-20 win over The Citadel on Oct. 7. Ford, a 6-3, 205-pound senior from Wildwood, GA (Hamilton Heights Academy) is Wofford’s active career leader with seven interceptions. He has started 22 consecutive games at free safety and was sixth on the team last year with 45 tackles. Tommie is a 6-0, 195-pound junior from Greenwood, SC (Emerald) who averaged 41.1 yards per punt as a sophomore. He was fourth in the league in punting average. Wofford opens the 2007 season on Sept. 1 at home against Georgetown College of Kentucky.  
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Wofford football set to kick-off 20th campaign under Ayers
August 5, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- The Wofford football team, ranked as high as No. 5 in the early Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) rankings, will open its 2007 preseason camp with a 4 p.m. practice Monday, August 6 at the campus's intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium.

"We are excited about getting started," head coach Mike Ayers said. "We are excited about the potential of the team.

"The kids that are returning have hopefully continued to work at the pace they had while they were here. At the end of May, we were probably the most fit football team we have been since we've been here.

"The new faces coming in can definitely help us. We need to have a great camp and accomplish all our goals which we have set for ourselves."

The Terriers, who finished 2006 ranked No. 23 with a 7-4 mark, begin their 20th season under Ayers this fall. He is the school's all-time leader in victories with 123 and is now the longest-serving head coach in any sport in school history.

Sixteen starters, eight offensive and eight defensive, return to the Wofford squad in 2007. In addition, three out of the four specialists are back for a team which will make four TV appearances.

Wofford has been picked to finish third in the Southern Conference by both the league's coaches and media. The Terriers will open their 2007 campaign Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. against Ayers' alma mater, Georgetown (Ky.).
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2007 Wofford football practice opens
August 6, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- The 2007 edition of the Wofford football team opened its preseason camp with a two-hour afternoon session Monday on the campus’ intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium. The Terriers, who are ranked as high as No. 5 in the early listings, opened their 20th season under head coach Mike Ayers.

"I think for the first day, they did alright," said Ayers. "There was nothing spectacular, but I do believe we have a ways to go. The proof will be in the pudding whether we have the team to do it day after day for 29 practices.

"If we can end up saying we won every day, then we have a chance to be a good football team. I think we have the talent, although we have some guys who are not in the shape they need to be in and we have to work hard on getting them in shape. Overall, we put a good bit of stuff to them today and I thought they did a nice job of picking it up and are working at it."

Wofford battled through high-90s heat and humidity during the practice. Much of the time was spent doing drills within the respective positions and position coaches. Near the end of it, the offense and defense went through individual drills as units.

The Terriers will resume practice with a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday outing, also at the intramural field.

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Offense battles heat through early practices
August 7, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- The Wofford football team continued its preseason practice Tuesday afternoon with another two-hour set on the intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium. The Terriers worked out battling the heat wave that has hit the Upstate with temperatures in the high 90s.

Offensive coordinator Wade Lang said his unit has done well thus far, "It's been pretty good so far. We're only two days in and so far we are way ahead because of the older guys, which allows us to push the envelope as far as what we are putting in scheme-wise. The younger guys are picking it up pretty well.

"Obviously, once things get going and the pads are put on, there may be a wrong direction here and there, but right now they are doing a good job of picking things up at a fast pace."

The offense, which returns eight starters, including the entire backfield finished No. 2 nationally a year ago with 2,899 rushing yards. All but 108 yards of that production is back for 2007, a 96.3 percent rate, for the unit which averaged 263.5 yards per game.

The top eight rushers return and 10 of the top 11, including halfback Kevious Johnson who paced the squad with 730 yards on the ground.
Defense continues to improve as Terriers don shoulder pads for first time
August 8, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – The Wofford defense, a unit which returns eight starters from a year ago, has been progressing well during the first three days of preseason camp according to defensive coordinator Nate Woody. The Terriers, who were able to wear shoulder pads for the first time this afternoon, continued their efforts Wednesday with a two-hour session on the intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium on Wofford's campus.

Woody noted, "I think our two-deep that came back is in really good shape. They are chasing the ball well.

"Something that did surprise me a little bit was how the freshmen have quickly picked up our scheme. The guys were coached well in high school and are stepping in. Normally, when freshmen come in you think it is going to take awhile because they are having to through a thinking process and not just react naturally; however, these guys are running hard, playing football and having fun. Right now, it is definitely fun coaching."

Leading the defensive unit will be preseason All-Southern Conference picks Dan Tavani (secondary), James Gonsoulin (defensive line) and Brian Ford (secondary). The trio was selected to the all-league team by the SoCon coaches last month.

The squad will continue its one-a-day practices in high 90s temperatures Thursday afternoon at 3:30.
Depth helps Terriers fill holes on O-Line  
August 9, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- Wofford offensive line coach Eric Nash knows having a large number of able bodies in camp helps as the Terriers battle through plus-100 degree temperatures during the early preseason camp held on the campus's intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium.

Three of the offensive line's five starters return from a year ago, including preseason All-Southern Conference selection Corey McKenna at center.

"We certainly have a lot of guys," remarked Nash. "We have three young ones, whose heads are still kind of swimming because they are freshmen. Then, we have a lot of sophomores who are coming through and looking a lot better than they did in the spring.

"I've been real impressed with Pat Illig, who has done a great job during these last few days. All the starters plus Kyle Lanham and Clark Bishop have stood out so far. We're working on finding a backup center and keep working to see who will step up."

The Terriers must replace all-league honoree Will Rutherford and Marty Bauer on the line, both of whom graduated in the spring. The unit helped pave the way for Wofford to finish second in the nation with a 263.5 yards per game average and 2,899 total yards on the ground.

Making an appearance at Thursday's practice was James R. Kennedy, also known as Radio. A movie, starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Ed Harris was made about Radio's life in 2003.

The squad will return to the intramural field for a 3:30 p.m. Friday session, which will be the first time it will don full gear. The team is preparing for its first two-a-day outing, which will take place Saturday and will be capped by a 6:15 p.m. intrasquad scrimmage.
Defensive line battles heat, tough Terrier offense

August 10, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- The Wofford football team went through its first practice in full gear Friday afternoon with a two-hour session at the campus’s intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium. The Terriers continued to fight through the heat wave which has swept through much of the country this past week with today’s temperatures topping 100 degrees for the third-straight day.

Defensive line coach Jack Teachey has six players with starting experience returning in 2007 despite the unit suffering through numerous injuries a year ago. James Gonsoulin, a preseason All-Southern Conference selection, along with Layton Baker, who was named the squad's Defensive Freshman of the Year in 2005, head the set of down-linemen who will be looking to stop opposing offenses.

"We're working hard as we have a long way to go," Teachey said. "It's still early, so thank goodness we don't play tomorrow."

"We have some good leadership from guys like Gonsoulin and some other guys. We're also trying to recover from some of the injuries we suffered a year ago. Everyone is working really hard and I'm pleased where they are at right now."

Other players with a chance to receive significant game action include Mitch Clark, Jared McCollough, Doug Thompson, Ryan Young and Michael Combest.

The Terriers will continue practice Saturday with their first two-a-day session. Following a morning practice at 8:45, Wofford will hold its first intrasquad scrimmage of the preseason at 6:45 p.m.
Football concludes first two-a-day with intrasquad scrimmage
August 11, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- The Wofford football team went through its first two-a-day of the preseason camp Saturday and concluded the day with a near two-hour intrasquad scrimmage on campus.

The team hit the field for the evening session at approximately 6:15 p.m. and spent the first 20-25 minutes running through kickoff coverage, kickoff return, point after touchdown and punt situations. All three kickers in camp, preseason All-SoCon pick Chris Tommie, Patrick Mugan and Landon Bennett participated in the drills.

The Terriers then ran short offensive sets, which featured a few highlights. Jeremy Marshall completed a halfback pass to tight end Joseph Inman, while rookie quarterback Mitch Allen completed two crossing passes across the middle to running back Adrian Young.

Defensively, cornerback Filmon Dawkins made a diving interception near the sideline.

Then, Wofford began its scrimmage at roughly 7:10 p.m. The Terriers played nearly everyone on the roster and sat their starters after the first couple series to see how the other guys would react to game situations.

Arsenio Parks carried the ball for nine yards on the first play of the scrimmage with fellow freshman Mike Rucker breaking free for a 43-yard touchdown scamper. He made numerous cuts and dodged defenders during the run.

Tight end Fenn Allen hauled in a pair of passes for long distance, including a 38-yard touchdown catch from Mitch Allen (no relation). Fenn Allen also was on the receiving end of another halfback pass from Marshall that went for 30 yards.

Stev Davitte had one catch for 32 yards, while Michael Scott, Matthew Boggs and Justice Joslin each had three receptions.

Starting quarterback Josh Collier was 5-of-5 for 26 yards before allowing Ben Widmyer, Travis Boyd and Mitch Allen time behind center. Boyd attempted the most passes with 16 for a team-high 79 yards.

Defensively, 33 different Terriers had at least one tackle. Brad Miller, Derek Swindall, Anthony Naylor, Layton Baker, Ryan Young, Jared McCullough and Justin Treece posted a sack apiece. McCullough's sack was part of a back-to-back play sequence in which he also had a pass break-up by sticking his hand in the air to knock down a pass attempt at the line of scrimmage.

Jessie Kontras forced a fumble while recovering another. Aaron Scott and Michael Combest also had fumble recoveries, while Gary Blount hauled in an interception.

“I think our kids flew around and got after it,” said head coach Mike Ayers. “We took a lot of our starters out and just did not play them. The reason is we wanted to find out about the young ones we felt like we could plug in in a hurry. I think we saw some guys we can add to the mix. I think we’re in a situation where if we stay healthy, then we can be a very competitive football team.

“I think everyone played hard. I think our young kids are learning how to play. When you just come out of high school, there is that learning process. They have to learn the tempo, the speed of the game and they have to understand that the people we play and compete against within this football team are going to bring it faster, quicker and stronger.
“We’re not where we need to be, no doubt about that. But, I saw a lot of really good things today.”

Wofford will take Sunday off from practice and will return to the intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium Monday for another two-a-day period, beginning at 8:45 a.m. The second practice of the day is slated to take place at 6:15 p.m.
Freshmen fitting in well to Terrier football
August 13, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- Twenty new faces are wearing Wofford football jerseys this fall, including 11 on the offensive side of the ball, as the team kicks off week two of its preseason camp Monday with another two-a-day outing.

"First of all, I think everyone is learning," said head coach Mike Ayers. "The more knowledge they get, the faster they are playing. There's a bunch of them that are showing they can play and that they will be really good players for us.

"Tonight was the ninth practice and we have 20 more to go. If they can progress at the same pace, then those guys should be ready to help us in the opener.

"It seems as if the defensive line has been hit with some injuries, but somehow, someway, we have to be able to go hard and practice hard and be able to do the physical part of football. We backed off a little tonight as the heat wasn't too bad, and the kids came out and did a nice job. What we tried to do was basically work on assignments and understanding what your job is. I think everyone made some progress in that direction."

While still doing their best to learn the collegiate game and pick up the Wofford schemes, the group has acclimated itself well with the veterans on the squad.

Senior guard Derek Tiller said, "all three are really picking up the offense well. It's a tough system, but they have been here all summer which puts them really ahead of the game," regarding the three new faces (Martin Padgett, Nate Page and Ben Wilmoth) on the offensive line.

Three other newcomers (Tommy Irvin, Jonathon Sharpe and Keaton Thompson) have joined the linebacker corps and have impressed senior outside linebacker Kyle Horne thus far. "Keaton has great fundamentals and you can tell he is a student of the game already," noted Horne. "Jonathon is just an incredible athlete and reads fast. Tommy is just a fun-loving guy, who is also a great athlete. He has picked things up so quickly as well. All three are being put into positions where we need them if called upon. They are stepping up but at the same time, staying humble. They will probably see playing time."

The Terriers will continue their practice on the campus's intramural field with a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday session.

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Veterans set pace at outside linebacking corps
August 14, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- A number of veterans, including a trio of fifth-year seniors, headline the outside linebacking corps in 2007 for the Wofford football team. The unit is being coached by former Terrier All-America nose tackle Nathan Fuqua, who had overseen the inside linebacking group in each of the past two seasons.

"I got lucky that we have such a veteran group," said Fuqua. "I think this group is probably in the best shape I've ever seen them in. We're working hard to get the older guys to lead by example. We have a lot of speed at the position which makes for a solid group."

Returning to the outside linebacking group are fifth-year seniors Kevin Adleman, Kyle Horne and Derek Swindall. Adleman and Horne were the starters from a year ago with Adleman returning an interception for a 76-yard touchdown and Horne placing second in the Southern Conference with 7.5 sacks.

Swindall and Matt Norcia will provide support to the corps. Also in the mix will be sophomore Jesse Kontras, second-year freshman Brad Miller and junior Aaron Scott.

The Terriers will return to a two-a-day period Wednesday with practices slated for 8:45 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. on the campus’s intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium.
Woody impressed with inside linebacking corps
August 15, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- Wofford football defensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach Nate Woody has been impressed with what he has seen from his unit through the early practices during the Terriers' preseason camp, held on the campus's intramural field behind Gibbs Stadium.

"I think we have really good leadership," said Woody. "We have some guys that played a bunch of snaps last year, including Seth Goldwire and James Mitchell. Those two guys are really stepping up and showing the other guys how to get it done. That kind of leadership helps us not just at that position, but throughout the defense."

Goldwire is the team's top returning tackler from a year ago with 74, including 27 solo stops. He finished among the top 10 in the Southern Conference in total tackles, including a game-high 16 versus The Citadel Oct. 7 on Homecoming. Mitchell is the front runner to replace departed all-league product Justin Franklin at the other interior spot. He had 29 tackles in 2006.

Other guys who have been "stepping up, include Gary Blount, who is very close to a starting position. We have a number of guys who have performed well, including Jonathon Sharpe and Keaton Thompson on the outside. Both of them will help us in some situations."

The Terriers concluded Wednesday's two-a-day session and will be back to a one-a-day Thursday with a 3:30 p.m. practice.
Secondary's depth vital to Wofford football
August 16, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- A number of players who have seen significant playing time in the defensive backfield return in 2007 for the Wofford football squad. Leading this group are 2007 Preseason All-Southern Conference selections Dan Tavani and Brian Ford. Tavani was the program's only first-team honoree, while Ford picked up second-team accolades.

"Tavani is a guy that we expect big things out of," said defensive backs coach Terry Lantz about the all-conference safety. "Jason Leventis is someone who is really making a lot of strides in learning the position. He will press for a starting position. We have really good competition at both safety positions. Buck Brown is also in the mix."

Leventis is making the move to safety after having previously played at linebacker for the Terriers. Buck Brown made an impact as a rookie last fall when he was named Wofford's Best Defensive Freshman.

The cornerback position is also filled with a number of returners, which will allow the Terriers to match up well against multi-receiver sets any opponent attempts.

"At the corners, Filmon Dawkins and Brian Kemp are both solid performers. Zac Grey is someone who will press for playing time as well. Jordan Ingman will as well. Mychael Johnson will help us with our depth."

In addition to the returners, Lantz has been impressed by the freshmen thus far in camp.

"We have some really impressive freshmen (Tommy Irvin, Preston Roseboro and Jordan Ingman). Each of those guys are ones we think will be really good football players down the road for us."

Wofford will hold a two-a-day session on the intramural field Friday with practices at 8:45 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.
Conklin enjoying first Wofford football camp
August 17, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- New Wofford assistant football coach Josh Conklin has been on campus for just over a month but the past two weeks he has been like one of the freshmen Terriers in that he is enduring his first preseason camp at Wofford.

Conklin joined the Terriers in July 2007 and is serving as the assistant secondary coach, being mentored by Terry Lantz. Conklin had been the secondary and special teams coach the last two seasons at South Dakota State. He also served as a two-year graduate assistant with the Jackrabbits since initially joining the staff in 2003.

"It has been a real positive experience," said Conklin. "I've enjoyed being around the guys, who all have a lot of passion for playing. They all have heart and play hard. That has been the most rewarding experience thus far. You can coach them up as far as mentally just because of the academics and the fact they are smart guys.

"Another thing that has been great has been the staff. Not only the administration, but the whole football staff as well. Everybody has been real helpful and that made it a very smooth and easy transition."

Wofford will hold its second scrimmage of camp at 7 p.m. Saturday at Gibbs Stadium to conclude week two of practice.
Passing game shines at Terriers' scrimmage Saturday
August 18, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- A solid performance by all four quarterbacks in camp highlighted the second intrasquad scrimmage by the Wofford football team during its preseason camp Saturday night at Gibbs Stadium.

The Terrier signal-callers finished a combined 32-of-43 for 379 yards, two touchdowns and zero interceptions, including a 35-yard halfback scoring pass from freshman Michael Rucker to sophomore wide receiver Justice Joslin. Starter Josh Collier led the unit by completing 10-of-11 for 161 yards and a 7-yard touchdown strike to junior Andy Strickland.

Second-string Ben Widmyer tossed for 151 yards on 6-of-8 attempts, which was highlighted by a 34-yard completion to senior Tripp Smith who made a diving catch near the 50 to corral the pass. On the next play, Widmyer hooked up with rookie Michael Scott on a 25-yarder thread through three defenders.

Junior Travis Boyd also played well at the position, hitting on 13-of-20 throws for 144 yards. The only catch of the night for senior fullback Michael Hobbs was a one-armer behind his back for 25 yards from Boyd.

"I thought we did some really good things tonight," said head coach Mike Ayers. "As far as throwing the football, we are probably further ahead at this time than at any time since we've been here. I think we have receivers that can do it, tight ends that can do it and the quarterbacks are throwing it well. The offensive staff (Coach Lang, Coach Nash, Coach Wood, Coach Antoine) has done a great job of getting those guys ready."

Strickland led all receivers with nine catches for 79 yards and the touchdown reception from Collier. Joslin finished with four catches and 89 yards, while tight end Fenn Allen collected three passes for 47 yards. Smith, Scott, Rucker and Matthew Boggs had two receptions apiece.

Rucker also paced the ground attack with 27 yards on six carries. Fellow rookie Arsenio Parks had 23 yards on four rushes before being hurt and not returning. Collier registered 16 yards, including an 8-yard touchdown scamper.

Freshman quarterback Mitch Allen, Widmyer and Frank Domonousky each recorded 13 yards on the ground.

Defensively, freshman Keaton Thompson led the squad with seven tackles, including a sack. James Mitchell had five stops, while Brian Ford, Zac Grey, Drew Parks, Tommy Irvin, Jordan Ingman and Kevin Adleman each tallied four tackles.

Freshman defensive back Preston Roseboro recovered a fumble from Joslin and returned it 56 yards for a touchdown.

"Defensively, I think our guys are physical. They will chase after the ball. I think they are in great shape. Talking to the kids, they said they all feel great.

"It was a hot, humid night, but these guys kept getting after it. I think we have a chance."

The kicking game saw the three kickers in camp attempt four field goals, from 45, 22, 18 and 43 yards. Junior Patrick Mugan nailed all three attempts as did freshman Landon Bennett. Junior Chris Tommie made 3-of-4, missing the 43 yarder. Each kicker also made a point-after-touchdown attempt on the
made 3-of-4, missing the 43 yarder. Each kicker also made a point-after touchdown attempt on the evening.

Wofford will take Sunday off from practice before returning to the field at 8:45 a.m. Monday for another two-a-day session on the campus's intramural field. The second outing of the day will be held at 6:15 p.m.
Offensive backfield preparing for season
August 20, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- The Wofford football offense, with its wingbone formation, is typically set around the performance of a strong core of halfbacks and fullbacks. Luckily for the Terriers in 2007, 96.3 percent of its attack from a year ago returns and the group is ready to lead the pack this fall.

"Good depth is always a tricky thing," said running backs coach Ron Antoine. "As long as we have our guys (healthy), we have our backs. We have some good ones, ones who have experience."

Early-season favorites to start in the backfield include halfback Kevious Johnson, a former Southern Conference Freshman of the Year; fullback Michael Hobbs, who scampered 99 yards for a touchdown last year at Georgia Southern; and halfback Dane Romero, who has a 97-yard touchdown run under his belt. Combine the trio with returners Adrian Young, Jeremy Marshall, Frank Domonousky, Brian Whitehurst, Rickey Bunton and Austin Palmer, and Wofford has a lot of depth at the position.

"It is going to be fun coaching them because I don't have to do a whole lot of coaching, like every little thing about the offense and the techniques," noted Antoine. "A lot of it will be, 'ok, a little bit better with that step', or 'a little more physical'. Those types of things those guys who played last year know what to do."

Freshmen have also contributed early in this year's preseason camp. Those factoring into the offense include Michael Scott, Matthew Boggs, Sean Lees, Arsenio Parks and Mike Rucker.

"They are coming along great," said Antoine. "They are all really good with the ball in their hands. The thing that makes a good running back in this offense, though, is being good without the ball -- blocking, carrying out your fakes -- and as is the case in most offenses. But, they are all good with the ball, no doubt. They are all good football players and we are working to get them better without the ball in their hands."

Wofford will continue its preseason camp with a 3:30 p.m. session Tuesday on the lower practice fields.
Quarterbacks sharing reps as camp progresses  
August 21, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- The Wofford football team, with four quarterbacks in preseason camp, has been trying to find a way to get each one a share of the repetitions through each practice. Two players, starter Josh Collier and backup Ben Widmyer, return at the position with Travis Boyd and Mitch Allen also in the mix.

"I think all of them have done extremely well," said quarterbacks coach Wade Lang. "I think we have as good of a group as we have ever had. When Shawn Graves (1989-92) was here, that was a good group. But, if you put all three or four together, we aren't worried about which one is out there right now because all of them can get it done."

Allen, being a freshman, has been particularly impressive through the first two-and-a-half weeks of camp. The Cincinnati, Ohio, native has stepped in and provided quality depth behind the three returners.

"Mitch has done a great job," continued Lang. "He will be a really good football player, who has great instincts and he reacts to things naturally. He probably has learned what we are trying to do quicker than anyone we've had in awhile."

Wofford return to the practice fields with a two-a-day session Wednesday beginning at 8:45 a.m. The Terriers will hit the field on the lower practice fields.
Wide receivers learning under Wood
August 22, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- First-year wide receivers coach Shiel Wood, a 2006 Wofford graduate, is preparing the Terrier wide receivers for the upcoming season as Wofford progresses through its preseason camp.

"Blocking is a big part of what we do in this offense," said Wood, a former wide-out himself. "We are also working on leverage on the defensive back, hand placement and keeping a wide base.

"Then, we also teach route running, whether it be in and out of cuts or breaking from a defensive back. We also work on pushing coverage on that sort of thing. But, the main thing with all that stuff is still catching the ball and continuing to practice hard. All of our guys are doing that."

The corps played an integral part in the Terriers passing for 379 yards in last Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage. Junior Andy Strickland paced the group with nine catches, 79 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore Justice Joslin hauled in four receptions for a team-high 89 yards. Senior Tripp Smith, the only

"I think the returners I am most impressed with thus far are Smith and Strickland. Both of those guys have come out and done a great job from day one from a knowledge and work ethic standpoint. The leadership from our upperclassmen has really helped bring the younger guys along, not only physically, but also mentally. All the younger guys have come out and worked hard and are grasping things better. Tripp and Andy, though, are the two guys we can really hang our hats on as a group to use that leadership."

Wofford will continue its preseason camp with a 2 p.m. Thursday scrimmage in preparation for its season opener September 1 against Georgetown (Ky.).
Collier leads offense at final preseason scrimmage
August 23, 2007

SPARTANBURG, S.C. -- Senior quarterback Josh Collier completed all six of his passes for 64 yards and a touchdown, while also adding another score on the ground to lead Wofford through its final preseason scrimmage Thursday afternoon at Gibbs Stadium.

The incumbent signal caller for the Terriers led the offensive attack. He converted a 24-yard strike to freshman Michael Scott for his longest pass of the afternoon. Collier finished with 11 yards rushing on just two carries.

Ben Widmyer also threw a touchdown pass, on this third completion, via a 15-yarder to halfback Rickey Bunton. Widmyer finished as the team's leading passer with 74 yards, including a 38-yard play-action play to Justice Joslin across the middle.

Junior Andy Strickland collected a nine-yard touchdown reception off the hands of Collier, while Jeremy Marshall completed a halfback pass for a 25-yard score to Stev Davitte.

Bunton paced a plethora of running backs with 24 yards, one more than Frank Domonousky. Kevious Johnson (17 yards), Brian Whitehurst (16) and Mike Rucker (11) also topped the double-figure plateau.

Dan Tavani was the top tackler on the defensive unit with six stops. Derek Swindall had five, and Preston Roseboro and Keaton Thompson tallied four apiece.

Jessie Kontras had the team's only sack, while Brian Kemp had an interception return for 45 yards. Kemp also dropped another potential pick.

"Offensively, execution-wise, I think we were pretty sharp," said head coach Mike Ayers. "Defensively, I'm sure the guys wanted to cut loose a little bit more but we are trying to be smart and keep everybody healthy.

"For the most part, I think the first group is fitting where they need to fit. I think it's just a matter of putting all the pieces together with the functioning of different teams moving on and off the field and the execution with the little things in the kicking game. There are still several things we need to cover. We have a to-do list that we are marking things off of. We are getting close to the end of that list.

"I think the effort today was good. Heat wise, it was pretty hot out here today. I think the bottom line is, that if we stay healthy and play with the guys that are juniors and seniors and sprinkle in some of the young kids, then we have a chance to be a pretty good team."

Wofford will return to the practice field at 10 a.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday before beginning game week preparations Sunday for its first regular-season contest, Sept. 1 against Georgetown (Ky.).