

WOFFORD TERRIERS



POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

QUARTERBACKS - Wofford ran the triple option offense. In spring of '21 they had to replace their top QB who threw for 1,150 and was the team's #1 rusher with 889. Jimmy Weirick led with 553 (57%, 3-2) and App St transfer Peyton Derrick threw for 131 (57%, 1-2). Last year they also added in true frosh Bryce Corriston. Four different QB's started at least 1 game with Derrick leading the way with 7 starts. He threw for 814 (55.2%) and only rushed for 262 (7.1). Weirick started 1 and was #2 with 234 (55.3%, 0-1) and only rushed for 74 (4.9). Corriston started 2. He threw for 179 and only hit 43.9% with 129 rush (5.2). Kyle Pinnix also started 1 game and threw for 30 yards (33.3, 1-0, 68 rush, 3.2). This year they lose Derrick. They added South Dakota St transfer rFr Cade Rice. With better health and more consistent play this unit should be much better and new OC Shawn Watson switching to a pro-style offense their pass production will naturally go up.

RUNNING BACKS - In spring Wofford had to replace their top 3 rushers (incl QB) with the RB's that were gone rushing for 751 (5.2) and 528 (10.2) Irvin Mulligan led with 342 (6.7) and Ryan Lovelace was #2 with 267 (4.8) while Nathan Walker was #3 with 219 (4.9). Last year the top 3 were back and do only have 6 RB's on the roster which seemed a little light for a triple option team. Mulligan topped 100 yards in 6 of his 10 games (missed finale). He led with 854 (6.9) and was 3rd Tm All-SoCon. Jamari Broussard was #2 with just 288 (3.8) which was extremely low for an option team. Nathan Walker added 254 (3.4) and Ryan Ingram had 253 (4.7). The Terriers get Mulligan back. The only loss is Broussard. With their top guy back they are improved but will need someone to step up and give better production as a #2.

RECEIVERS - Much like the service academies of the FBS, Wofford's triple option uses their WR's more for blocking than pass catching. TE Landon Parker led the team with just 8 receptions in the spring (19.4). They lost their top 3 WR's but they combined for just 320 total yards. HC Conklin called it the best WR group he has had so we said look for more production. Alec Holt led with 458 (20.8) and had 5 td's. RJ Khayo was #2 with 189 (11.8). Jim Welsh added 175 (9.2). Holt and Khayo both return and they get 4 of their top 5 back with Welsh departing. Look for even better production and the transition away from the option makes this their most improved unit.

OFFENSIVE LINE - Wofford rushed for 306 (6.0) in '19 but dropped a whole ypc and 232 ypg in their spring season. Three starters returned on the Oline led by 1st team preseason SoCon Tyler Smith and 2nd team AL Hogan. The Terriers only increased to 209 rush ypg and 5.1 ypc (8 sk). This year they lose 3 starters on the Oline. Gone are

LG Zack Kurz (8 st), RG Chad Gardner (9 st) and RT Quashon Greenlee (6 st). They do have 5 back with starting experience but are going away from the option and only have 2 on the roster that are over 300 lbs. It will take time for this unit to adapt to the new offense.

DEFENSIVE LINE - Wofford had just 5 available DL during their spring season as they were ravaged by injuries. Impressively they still only allowed 152 (3.8). Last year they had some of their injured players return and were led by DE Michael Mason. Once again injuries played a part as Mason missed 3 games and DE Tanner Barnes was OFY after starting the first 2. They fell to 230 rush ypg allowed (5.4) and recorded just 12 sacks. 10 different DL started at least 1 game. This year their top 7 DL all return including Mason. If they can finally stay healthy this would be their most improved group.

LINEBACKERS - Last year Wofford returned their entire unit including Super Senior LB's Joe Beckett and John Beckley. Beckett led with 80 tackles while Beckley was a distant #2 with 48. Both Beckett (2nd Tm All SoCon) and Beckley depart. The Terriers also lose TJ Neal (1 st, #13 tk'l'r), Camden Gray (6 st, #14 tk'l'r) and Zay Abercrombie (2 st, #16 tk'l'r). The only starter returning is OLB Harrison Morgan (9 st, #8 tk'l'r). With their top 4 of their top 5 LB's all gone this is their most depleted unit, and the biggest concern on the entire team.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - In '19 this was Wofford's most improved unit when they allowed just 53% completions and 175 pass ypg. In the spring they allowed 359 and 375 pass yards in back-to-back games but only gave up 228 ypg (61.6%) overall. Last year the whole unit returned. They allowed 66% and a 21-2 ratio which put them a distant last in the SoCon in pass defense efficiency. This year CB Donovan Anderson (9 st, #10 tk'l'r, 5 pbu), S Rhett Russell (#17 tk'l'r) and S Isaiah Walker (4 st, 12 tk'l). Three starters return and 7 have starting experience. They won't reach '19's level but this unit should surely be improved, plus they can only do better than 2 interceptions.

SPECIAL TEAMS - K Walker Gliarmis hit 5-5 FG's with a long of 43 and P Landon Parker had a super 45.0 avg with a net of 38.3 in the spring. Both returned last year. They did lose their top PR (just 3 yds) and top KR (29.8). Gliarmis made 8-12 fg's with a long of 48. Robert Atkins took over as punter and had 53 attempts for a 38.9 average but their net dropped to 36.9. RJ Khayo averaged 10.8 PR and Cagan Campbell had a 23.8 KR average. This year they lose both Gliarmis and Atkins. Parker is still on the roster so they do have some experience at punter. Campbell also departs so this unit is less experienced and down a notch.

COACHES - Josh Conklin is in his 5th season as head coach of Wofford. He came here after spending 3 years as DC at Pittsburgh and was also the DC at FIU in '13-'14 and The Citadel from '10-'11. He led the Terriers to FCS playoff berths and shares of the SoCon Title in each of his first 2 years but they've since gone just 2-14 the last 2 seasons. OC Shawn Watson has over 35 years of coaching experience and will lead the Terriers away from the triple option into a pro-style attack. He was OC at Pitt ('17-'18), Texas ('14-'15), Louisville ('12-'13), Nebraska ('07-'10) and Colorado ('00-'05). Watson also served as Head Coach at his alma mater, Southern Illinois from '94-'96. Last year he was OC at Northern Iowa and spent '19 as

an offensive assistant at Georgia. The Co-OC is Tyler Carlton who was co-OC at Western Carolina in '19 and spent 4 years at Clemson as an analyst. The co-DC's are Rob Greene who coached DB's here since '18 and was promoted before spring of '21 and Andrew Warwick who spent the last 3 years as LB Coach at Troy.

FORECAST

OFFENSE - Josh Conklin was hired here in '18 and kept the Terriers running the triple option. They put up 30 ppg and 427 ypg in his first year. In '19 Wofford averaged 32 ppg and 413 ypg. They were even better vs SoCon, putting up 36 ppg/443 ypg. Things started to go sour in the spring season of '21. They averaged just 26 ppg and 369 ypg. Last year they had 6 starters back but fell to 20 ppg and just 323 ypg so HC Conklin made the decision to go away from the triple option this year. New OC Shawn Watson has a ton of Power 5 experience but will have his work cut out for him. They didn't add any significant experience through the Portal prior to spring so this first year might be like placing a square peg in a round hole until they get the personnel to run the new offense.

DEFENSE - In '16 Wofford allowed just 287 ypg and 17 ppg. In '17 the Terriers allowed 327 ypg and 22 ppg. Conklin started here in '18 after being a Power 5 DC for 3 years at Pitt. They allowed just 19 ppg and 301 ypg. In '19 they dipped to 22 ppg and 335 ypg but only 18 ppg and 306 ypg vs SoCon foes. In their spring season they battled injuries and fell to 28 ppg and 381 ypg. Last year things went completely off the rails as Wofford allowed 35 ppg and 457 ypg. This year Wofford loses their top 2 tacklers but #3-9 are all back and they get 13 of their top 20 back. 7 starters return and Conklin should right the ship and get this defense back to playing solid ball.

2022 - Wofford won shares of 3 straight conference titles from '17-'19. In '17 they went 10-3, losing in the 2nd round of the FCS playoffs to NDSU. HC Mike Ayers retired after the season with the most wins in Wofford history (207). They hired former Pitt and FIU DC Josh Conklin. All Conklin did was lead the Terriers to two more playoff berths. They went 9-3 in '18, losing to Kennesaw St in the 2nd round of the FCS Playoffs and finished +126 ypg. In '19 they started 0-2 then won 8 of their next 9 games. They lost a rematch to Kennesaw St 28-21 and dipped to +78 ypg but were +136 ypg vs SoCon foes. The Spring season wasn't kind to the Terriers. They won their opener they lost 4 straight with 3 coming by 6 points or less and were 1-4 but only -12 ypg. Last year they won their opener against Elon 24-22. They lost their next 10 games with only 4 coming by single-digits. Wofford was -134 ypg and a 1-10 finish was their worst since 1987. This year they are switching away from the triple option. They have 13 starters back but this is the first time we've ever seen a sitting head coach depart from the option in the middle of his tenure. They travel to UTC, Virginia Tech and Kennesaw St in 3 of their first 4 games. They do get 3 winnable home games against Elon, The Citadel and VMI so they could top last year's 1 win total but it's hard to expect much more going through such a transition.