

# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: ..... Cullowhee, N.C. 28723  
 Founded: ..... 1889  
 Enrollment: ..... 8,100  
 Nickname: ..... Catamounts  
 Colors: ..... Purple and Gold  
 Stadium: ..... E.J. Whitmire Stadium (13,742)  
 Field: ..... Bob Waters Field (AstroPlay)  
 Affiliation: ..... NCAA I-AA  
 Conference: ..... Southern  
 Chancellor: ..... Dr. John W. Bardo (Cincinnati '70)  
 Interim Athletics Director: .. Fred Cantler (W. Kentucky '78)  
 Athletic Department Phone: ..... (828) 227-7338  
 Ticket Office Phone: ..... (800) 34-60WCU

## FOOTBALL HISTORY

First Year of Football: ..... 1931  
 Seasons of Football: ..... 68  
 All-Time Record: ..... 289-375-23 (.420)  
 NCAA Postseason Appearances: ..... 2  
 Postseason Record: ..... 3-2  
 Best Finish: ..... 1983 Finalist (lost 43-7 to So. Illinois)  
 Last Appearance: ..... 1983

## HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Head Coach: ..... Kent Briggs (Western Carolina '79)  
 • Head Coaching Record at WCU: ..... 10-13 (2 years)  
 • Overall Record: ..... Same  
 Football Office Phone: ..... (828) 227-7395  
 Best Time to Interview Coach: ..... Contact SID

## ASSISTANT COACHES/STAFF

Geoff Collins (Western Carolina '94) – Def. Coord./DBs  
 Todd Varn (North Carolina State '92) – Off. Coord./QBs  
 Matt Rhule (Penn State '97) – Asst. Head Coach/LBs  
 Scott Frazier (Guilford '93) – Recruiting Coord./RBs & TEs  
 Myron Jackson (Florida State '98) – Defensive Line  
 Donnie Kirkpatrick (Lenoir-Rhyne '82) – Wide Receivers  
 David Napert (Troy State '82) – Offensive Line  
 Clayton White (North Carolina State '01) – Corner Backs  
 Mitch Hall (Western Carolina '02) – Graduate Assistant  
 Tobias Jacobi (Cumberland '00) – Head Strength Coach  
 Myles Christian (Alabama '01) – Asst. Strength Coach  
 Mike Taylor – Athletics Equipment Manager  
 Eleanor Lieberman – Football Secretary

## TEAM INFORMATION

2003 Record: ..... 5-7  
 Conference Record (Finish): ..... 3-5 (6th-4)  
 Final Ranking: ..... none  
 Basic Offense: ..... Spread  
 Basic Defense: ..... 4-3  
 Lettermen Returning/Lost: ..... 38/17  
 • Offense ..... 18/9  
 • Defense ..... 20/6  
 • Specialist ..... 0/3  
 Starters Returning/Lost: ..... 19/13  
 • Offense ..... 8/6  
 • Defense ..... 11/4  
 • Specialist ..... 0/3

## MEDIA RELATIONS

Asst. AD/Media Relations (Football Contact): .. Mike Cawood  
 • Cawood's Email: ..... cawood@email.wcu.edu  
 • Cawood's Office Phone: ..... (828) 227-2339  
 • Cawood's Home Phone: ..... (828) 227-0710  
 Media Relations Director: ..... Rebecca Vick  
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 • Vick's Office Phone: ..... (828) 227-2336  
 SID Fax: ..... (828) 227-7688  
 Football Press Box Phone: ..... (828) 227-2116  
 Website: ..... www.catamountsports.com  
 Athletics Mailing & Overnight Address: ..... WCU Athletics  
 Ramsey Center  
 Cullowhee, N.C. 28723

2004 Season Outlook ..... 1-10  
 Table of Contents/Quick Facts ..... 1  
 Media Information ..... 2  
 Catamount Broadcasts/Affiliates ..... 3  
 Travel Itinerary ..... 3  
 Media Outlets ..... 3  
 Directions to WCU ..... 4  
 Offensive Positional Preview ..... 5-6  
 Defensive Positional Preview ..... 6-7  
 Special Teams Preview ..... 7  
 Numerical Roster ..... 8  
 Alphabetical Roster ..... 9  
 2004 Personnel Breakdown ..... 10  
 Pronunciation Guide ..... 10

WCU Coaching Staff ..... 11-20  
 Kent Briggs ..... 12-13  
 Geoff Collins ..... 14  
 Todd Varn ..... 14-15  
 Matt Rhule ..... 15  
 Scott Frazier ..... 16  
 Myron Jackson ..... 16  
 Donnie Kirkpatrick ..... 17  
 David Napert ..... 18  
 Clayton White ..... 18  
 Mitch Hall/Tobias Jacobi/Myles Christian .. 19  
 Eleanor Lieberman/Mike Taylor ..... 20  
 WCU Medical Personnel ..... 20

WCU Player Profiles ..... 21-40  
 Returning Catamounts ..... 22-38  
 2004 Newcomers ..... 39-40

2004 Opponents ..... 41-46  
 WV State/Nicholls State/Alabama ..... 42  
 Gardner-Webb/Furman/Ga. Southern ..... 43  
 Wofford/UTC/Elon ..... 44  
 Old Mountain Jug History ..... 45  
 App State/Citadel ..... 45  
 Series Scores vs. 2004 Opponents ..... 46

2003 Season Review ..... 47-60  
 Game Summaries ..... 48-53  
 Season Highlights ..... 54  
 2003 Statistics ..... 55-57  
 2003 SoCon Standings/Honors ..... 58-59  
 2003 SoCon Statistical Leaders ..... 60

WCU Records and History ..... 61-96  
 Individual Records ..... 62-64  
 Opponent Team Records ..... 64  
 WCU Team Records ..... 65  
 Rushing Leaders ..... 66-67  
 Annual Rushing Leaders ..... 66  
 Passing Leaders ..... 68-69  
 Annual Passing Leaders ..... 69  
 Total Offense Leaders ..... 69  
 Annual Total Offense Leaders ..... 69  
 Receiving Leaders ..... 70-71  
 Annual Reception Leaders ..... 70  
 Kicking Leaders ..... 71  
 Annual Scoring Leaders ..... 71  
 Scoring Leaders ..... 72  
 Punting Leaders and Annual Leaders ..... 72  
 Annual Punt/Kick Return Leaders ..... 72  
 Defensive Leaders ..... 74  
 Annual Tackles & Interceptions Leaders .. 74  
 The Last Time/Yearly Team Stats ..... 75  
 E.J. Whitmire Stadium Records ..... 76  
 All-Time Series Records ..... 77  
 All-Time Scores ..... 78-82  
 Postseason Teams ..... 83  
 Coaching History ..... 84  
 Bob Waters Tribute ..... 85  
 All-Time Lettermen ..... 86-89  
 All-SoCon Individual Honorees ..... 90  
 All-SoCon Selections ..... 91  
 All-Americans/Other Honorees ..... 92-93  
 Cats in the NCAA/SoCon Records ... 94-96  
 Cats in the NFL ..... 96

Western Carolina University ..... 97-108  
 This is Western ..... 98-99  
 Chancellor Dr. John W. Bardo ..... 100  
 Interim AD Fred Cantler ..... 101  
 FAR Gibbs Knotts ..... 101  
 WCU Athletics Department/Coaches .... 102  
 WCU Athletics Mission Statement ..... 103  
 What is a Catamount? ..... 103  
 The Southern Conference ..... 104  
 Whitmire Stadium/Waters Field ..... 105  
 WCU Athletics Hall of Fame ..... 106-107  
 Super Careers Started at Western ..... 108

**The 2004 WCU Football Media Guide is a publication of the Catamount Department of Athletics. It was written, edited and designed by Mike Cawood. Special thanks to the WCU football staff and my predecessors in compiling information. Also, thanks to Nic Bowman, Rebecca Vick and Jason Cox for their assistance.**

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FOR ALL THE LATEST WCU ATHLETICS NEWS AND STATISTICS, PLEASE VISIT:

**WWW.CATAMOUNTSPORTS.COM**



# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

## MEDIA INFORMATION

### INTERVIEW POLICY

The Media Relations Office will assist media personnel with interview requests of WCU student-athletes, coaches or administrators. **To arrange interviews, please contact Mike Cawood at least 24 hours in advance.** Head Coach Kent Briggs will be available for interviews following each practice. Student-athletes will be available for interviews after practices through Wednesday. Unless special permission is granted well in advance, **the cutoff time for student-athletes during game week will be Noon on Thursday.** Practices are open to the media. Media members are asked to refrain from contacting student-athletes at their home or dormitory and student-athletes' phone numbers will not be released by the Media Relations Office. Out-of-town media may set up phone interviews to be conducted in the Department of Athletics. Coach Briggs may be reached weekday mornings, however, it is asked that a specific interview time be scheduled.

### WORKING CREDENTIALS

Newsprint and electronic media representatives planning to cover a football game at Western Carolina University are asked to request in written form working credentials from WCU's Media Relations Office. Season passes will be issued to those who cover the Catamounts on a permanent basis. Our limited working space on press row will be assigned by priority to WCU beat writers, beat writers of the opponents, metropolitan media filing for deadline and specialty publications. If time permits, credentials will be mailed. If not, credentials can be picked up on game day (two hours prior to kickoff) at the media will call on the upper plaza of the Ramsey Center at the south end of the stadium (nearest the press box side of Whitmire Stadium, across the street from media parking). Credentials will be issued only to those attending the game in a working capacity. Spouses, dates, children and other nonworkers will not be permitted in the press box.

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Credentials for sideline photographers will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis with agencies covering the participating schools on a regular basis receiving priority. Free-lance photographers may request credentials on a game-by-game basis. All free-lance photographers must submit a proofs featuring game or sideline action to the Media Relations Office no later than four days following the game. Each photographer must pick up a photo pass from the press box or media will call prior to the game. **No photographers or media personnel are permitted within the team area at any time.**

### MEDIA PARKING

Media parking for WCU football games is located in the church parking lot directly across the street and behind the press box of E.J. Whitmire Stadium on Forest Hills Road. The lot is identified and a media parking placard must be displayed to gain admittance.

### POSTGAME INTERVIEWS

The WCU locker room is closed at the end of all games played. However, following a 10-minute "cooling off" period, Coach Briggs and requested players will be brought to the media room, which is Room 1202 of the Ramsey Center. The availability of the visiting locker room will be announced in the press box after conferring with the visiting SID. The visiting locker room is located in the back portion of the Jordan-Phillips field House. A space for interviews will be available outside the locker room or up on the Field House patio if available.

### PRESS RELEASES/STATISTICS

The WCU Media Relations Department produces a weekly football release prior to a game during the season. Cumulative statistics will be updated no later than Noon Sunday following a contest. Media members may receive the releases and statistics by accessing the Athletics Department website at [www.catamountsports.com](http://www.catamountsports.com). Email service is available upon request. To be placed on Western Carolina's weekly fax or e-mail list, media members are asked to contact the Media Relations Office.



Mike Cawood



Rebecca Vick

### WESTERN CAROLINA MEDIA RELATIONS

#### Mailing/Overnight Address

Ramsey Center  
Western Carolina University  
Cullowhee, NC 28723  
Fax: (828) 227-7688

Mike Cawood, Assistant Athletics Director/Media Relations  
Office: (828) 227-2339 • Home: (828) 293-0710  
[cawood@email.wcu.edu](mailto:cawood@email.wcu.edu)

Rebecca Vick, Media Relations Director  
Office: (828) 227-2336  
[rvick@email.wcu.edu](mailto:rvick@email.wcu.edu)

### VISITING RADIO

The visiting radio station or network (limited to one crew only as designated by the visiting school's sports information director) is asked to request credentials through Western Carolina's Sports Information Office. Two B-1 dialtone lines will be provided at no charge to all Southern Conference opponents and others who wish to enter into a reciprocal agreement with WCU. Otherwise, the lines are available to visiting radio crews on a pro rata basis or special broadcast lines can be ordered through Verizon at (800) 483-4300.

### CATAMOUNTS ON THE WEB

The WCU football home page provides the latest information regarding the Catamounts, including updated statistics, a roster, game notes and press releases. Also on the department's main site is information on all of WCU athletics programs, lodging, directions to campus and the latest local weather forecast. For those unable to attend contests, the Catamount Sports Network will broadcast each game over the internet as well. At the conclusion of the contest, the audio will be archived on the website. All the current data you need on The Cats is as close as your computer at:

**[WWW.CATAMOUNTSPORTS.COM](http://WWW.CATAMOUNTSPORTS.COM)**

### SoCon MEDIA SERVICES

The Southern Conference maintains a comprehensive site on the world wide web at [www.SoConSports.com](http://www.SoConSports.com). In football, standings, notes, schedule/results and statistics for each league member are updated on a weekly basis. Similar information on the SoCon other 18 sports are available as well. Please contact Steve Shutt or Mandi Copeland at (864) 591-5100 in the Southern Conference Public Affairs Department for additional information.

### SoCon COACHES TELECONFERENCE

The Southern Conference will hold a coaches/media teleconference each week during the season. Western Carolina head coach Kent Briggs will be available from 10:49 a.m. to 10:56 a.m. each Tuesday. Contact Steve Shutt or Mandi Copeland in the Southern Conference Public Affairs Department at (864) 591-5100 or Western Carolina Media Relations Office to receive the number needed to access the teleconference, which is available to media only.

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## WCU RADIO TEAM

The Catamount Sports Network will once again have a two-man crew bringing you all the exciting action for the 2004 season.



Gary Ayers returns as the play-by-play voice of the football and Steve White, who hosts the pregame, halftime and postgame show, joins Ayers for color analysis.

Ayers has been behind the play-by-play microphone for WCU's football and basketball games in 18 of the past 19 years and has been a familiar voice to the region's sports fans for over three decades. In addition to serving as the "Voice of the Catamounts," the Swain County native has done play-by-play for Pisgah High, Tuscola High, Franklin High, Cherokee High and Swain High football and basketball broadcasts.

White served as WCU's sports information director for 28 years before his retirement in 1998. He has been involved with the radio broadcasts of WCU football and basketball games since he became sports information director in 1970 and has handled color analysis roles for former play-by-play men David Steele (Orlando Magic radio) and Stan Pamfilis (WLOS-TV) as well as for Ayers.



## CSN AFFILIATES

**WPEK - 880 AM, ASHEVILLE (DAY GAMES)**  
**WBHN - 1590 AM, BRYSON CITY**  
**WWCU - 90.5 FM, CULLOWHEE**  
**WFSC - 1050 AM, FRANKLIN**  
**WRGC - 680 AM, SYLVA**  
**WMXF - 1400 AM, WAYNESVILLE**

**WWW.CATAMOUNTSPORTS.COM**

## 2004 ROAD HEADQUARTERS

### ALABAMA

Sheraton Birmingham  
2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. North  
Birmingham, AL 335203  
(205) 324-5000

### GARDNER-WEBB

— Day Trip —

### FURMAN

Greenville Crowne Plaza  
851 Congree Rd.  
Greenville, SC 29607  
(864) 297-6300

### WOFFORD

Spartanburg Radisson  
9027 Fairforest Rd.  
Spartanburg, SC 29301  
(864) 584-0151

### ELON

Burlington Best Western  
770 Huffman Mill Rd.  
Burlington, NC 27215  
(336) 584-0151

### THE CITADEL

Howard Johnson Riverfront  
250 Spring St.  
Charleston, SC 29403  
(843) 722-4000

## PRIMARY MEDIA OUTLETS

### ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Bob Berghaus, Sports Editor  
Tyler Norris Goode, WCU Beat Writer  
George Porter, WCU Football Writer  
Keith Jarrett, Sports Writer  
14 O'Henry Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28802  
(828) 232-5866 - phone  
(828) 232-0429 - FAX

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dave Droshak, Sports Editor  
4020 W. Chase Blvd., Suite 300  
Raleigh, NC 27606-3933  
(919) 833-8687 - phone  
(919) 834-1078

### CASHIERS CHRONICLE

Sports  
P.O. Box 1040  
426 Highway 107 South  
Cashiers, NC 28717  
(828) 743-5101 - phone  
(828) 743-4173 - FAX

### CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Mike Persinger, Sports Editor  
PO Box 32188  
Charlotte, NC 28232  
(704) 358-5125 - phone  
(704) 358-5110 - FAX

### FRANKLIN PRESS

Nick Carter, Sports Editor  
PO Box 350  
Franklin, NC 28734  
(828) 524-2010 - phone  
(828) 524-8821 - FAX

### GREENSBORO NEWS-RECORD

Sports Editor  
PO Box 20848  
Greensboro, NC 27420-0848  
(336) 373-7047 - phone  
(336) 373-7067 - FAX

### HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS

Ron Wagner, Sports Editor  
PO Box 490  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
(828) 692-0505 - phone  
(828) 692-2319 - FAX

### JACKSON TRIBUNE

Editor  
PO Box 5615  
Asheville, NC 28813  
(828) 254-1311 - phone  
(828) 254-2464 - FAX

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES

Teddy Greene  
PO 730  
Bryson City, NC 28713  
(828) 488-2189 - phone  
(828) 488-0315 - FAX

### SYLVA HERALD & RULARITE

Carey Philips, Sports Editor  
Box 307  
Sylva, NC 28779  
(828) 586-2611 - phone  
(828) 586-2637 - FAX

### THE HIGHLANDER

Editor  
PO Box 249  
Highlands, NC 28741  
(828) 526-4114 - phone  
(828) 526-3658

### WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Tommy Bowman, Sports Writer  
PO Box 3159  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102  
(336) 727-7320 - phone  
(336) 727-4083 - FAX

### WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

TBA, Sports Editor  
Drawer 19  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
(828) 452-0661 - phone  
(828) 452-0665

### WESTERN CAROLINIAN

Sports Editor  
PO Box 66  
Cullowhee, NC 28723  
(828) 227-7267  
(828) 227-7043

### WLOS-TV (ABC)

Stan Pamfilis, Sports Director  
Jenny Dunn, Reporter  
Jen Markham, Reporter  
PO Box 1300  
Asheville, NC 28802  
(828) 651-4563 - phone  
(828) 651-4618 - FAX

### WSPA-TV (CBS)

Pete Yanity, Sports Director  
Box 1717  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
(864) 587-5452 - phone  
(864) 587-5430 - FAX

### WYFF-TV (NBC)

Geoff Hart, Sports Director  
Box 788  
Greenville, SC 29602  
(864) 240-5264 - phone  
(864) 240-5305 - FAX

### WHNS-TV (FOX)

Keith Scripic, Sports Director  
21 Interstate Court  
Greenville, SC 29615  
(864) 213-2223 - phone  
(864) 288-7025 - FAX

### WRGC RADIO (680 AM)

Sports  
Box 1044  
Sylva, NC 28779  
(828) 586-9742 - phone  
(828) 586-6834 - FAX

### WWCU

Sports Director  
Western Carolina University  
Moore Hall  
Cullowhee, NC 28723  
(828) 227-7173 - phone  
(828) 227-7099 - FAX

### CATAMOUNT SPORTS NETWORK

Steve White, Color Analyst  
PO Box 2464  
Cullowhee, NC 28723  
(828) 293-5785 - phone

### CATAMOUNT SPORTS NETWORK

Gary Ayers, Play-by-Play  
PO Box 571  
Balsam, NC 28707  
(828) 452-5315



# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

## DIRECTIONS TO WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

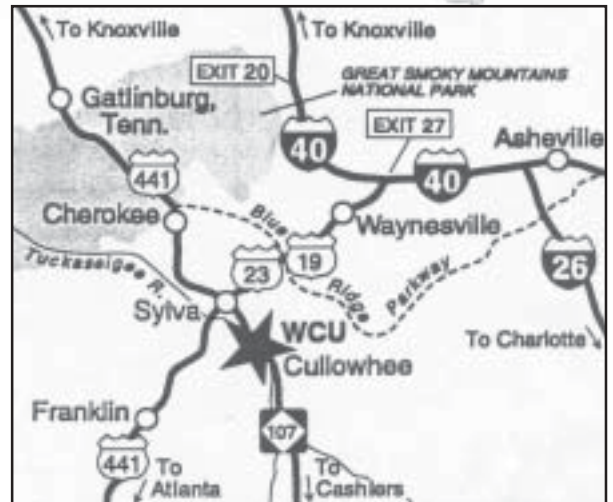
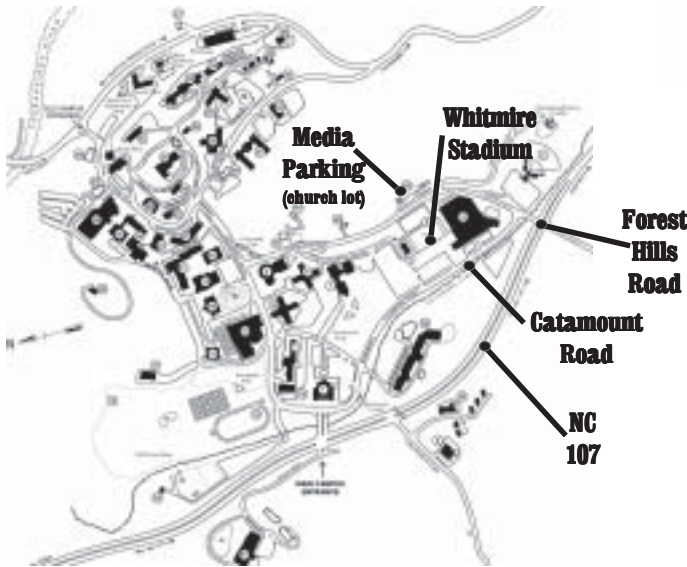
From Asheville, N.C. — Take I-40 West to Exit 27 onto HWY 74 West. Stay on 74W to Exit 85 in Sylva. Take a left at the second traffic light and follow Rt. 107 South to Cullowhee and WCU.

From Charleston, S.C. — Take I-26 West to Asheville and follow the same directions as listed above.

From Knoxville, Tenn. — Take I-40 East to Exit 27 onto HWY 74 West. Stay on 74W to Exit 85 in Sylva. Take a left at the second traffic light and follow Rt. 107 South to Cullowhee and WCU.

From Charlotte, N.C. — You have three options. 1. Take I-77 North to Statesville. Take I-40 West to Asheville and follow the same directions list above. 2. Take I-85 South to Spartanburg, S.C. Take I-26 West to Asheville and follow the directions from Asheville above. 3. Taking I-85 South, at Kings Mountain, take Highway 74 to I-26. Take I-26 West to Asheville and follow the directions from Asheville above.

From Atlanta, Ga. — Take I-85 North to Rt. 985 North. Stay on 985 until you reach 44. Stay on 441 until you get to Dillsboro, N.C. Take Rt. 107 South, which takes you into Cullowhee and WCU.



# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



## TEAM EMBRACES CHALLENGES FOR 2004 SEASON

At first glance, the 2004 Western Carolina football campaign looks to be a challenging one for head coach Kent Briggs and his staff.

The Catamounts lost seven All-Southern Conference seniors on a team that was 5-7 last season. However, two of those losses came to Atlantic Coast Conference schools North Carolina State and Duke, while three of the losses were by less than a touchdown, falling 19-13 to sixth-ranked Furman, 31-25 to 11th-ranked Georgia Southern and 26-18 to Appalachian State.

"We have two tremendous challenges this fall in that we have a tough schedule and have to replace seven all-conference players that were major factors in our program over the past two years," Briggs said. "To meet those challenges, we have brought in two solid recruiting classes over the past two years as well as transfers who bring experience and talent."



**Offensive lineman Morris Sanders will look to follow Jason Whaley as an All-Southern Conference selection in 2004.**

The good news for the Catamount faithful is that, while Western lost some great individual players, this year's installment may be a better team. Western is deeper at virtually every position than it was a year ago and has a core group of players that will be around for the next two-to-three years.

"We are coming off a good spring," Briggs said. "We have lots of competition at every position and will have many new faces in the lineup. I believe this team will provide a lot of excitement to the fans."

While the Cats did lose some key personnel, Western has several players who have the ability to end the season as all-conference performers, including the likes of offensive lineman Morris Sanders, wide receiver Michael Reeder, receiver and kick returner Xavier Godard, running back Nicholas Wishart, defensive tackle Felipe Foster and any number of defensive backs.

As Briggs continues to build his program, one key to this year's success and success down the road is the fact that all three coordinators – Todd Varn on offense, Geoff Collins on defense and Matt Rhule for the

special teams – return from last season, marking the first time that has occurred in this Briggs' third year.

Another key factor in this year's success, as well as the success for the future, is the new faces in the form of first time Catamounts and transfers. This past February, Western's recruiting class was ranked first in the Southern Conference by *SouthernPigskin.com*. Also, Western has two North Carolina first team All-State selections in Corey Ellison and Garret Baker, who each sat out last season, as well as highly touted first-year sophomores John Martin and Calvin Guinyard. Western also had three freshmen enter school in January and welcomed three college transfers at that time as well.

"We are bringing a very solid recruiting class," Briggs said. "This group of newcomers features players that have raw talent and will make an immediate impact on this year's team."

That onslaught on new talent, as well as a solid group of returning players, will be much needed as Western will once again play a daunting schedule. The Cats only play one Division I program (Alabama) this year, as compared to two last season. However, in addition to playing in one of the, if not the, toughest I-AA conference in the nation, the Cats will play Big South champion Gardner-Webb and Nicholls State, who finished one game behind perennial national power McNeese State for the Southland Conference title.

"Alabama is one of the premier football programs in the nation," Briggs said. "That game will provide our team and fans with memories that will last a lifetime as we play in the same place as some of the all-time greats in college football history, including legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. This game will a great experience for Catamount players, coaches, staff and fans.

"Our non-conference opponents will provide our team with a wide variety of highlights and challenges. The season opener on Thursday night (Sept. 2) versus West Virginia State will be a great atmosphere for our fans and students and an excellent start to the Labor Day weekend. The following weekend, we will defend Bob Waters Field and the pride of the Southern Conference when Nicholls State comes to Cullowhee. The Colonels come from the tough Southland Conference, whose high-caliber of play is comparable to that of the SoCon, and that game will be used as a measuring stick to see how competitive the Cats are in the I-AA nationally.

"Lastly, among our non-conference opponents, we will have a tremendous challenge on Sept. 25 at Gardner-Webb. Not only were the Bulldogs in the national rankings and Big South champions last season, but they currently own a 15-game home winning streak.

"As always, our conference schedule will be exciting, especially with home games versus Georgia Southern and Chattanooga. Also, it will be a new experience for everyone involved when Appalachian State comes to the newly expanded Whitmire Stadium, providing one of the best game-day atmospheres in the nation."

## OFFENSE

The offense lost three key components which helped Western lead the SoCon in passing for a second consecutive year. Offensive lineman Jason Whaley earned All-American honors for his play on the field and was a first team Academic All-America for his outstanding work

in the classroom as well. Quarterback Brian Gaither had one of the best seasons in WCU history. Had Jeff Gilbert not played 15 games in leading WCU to the 1983 I-AA championship game, Gaither would have set WCU single-season record for completions, while posting the third-highest, single-season total for passing yards. Gaither's top target was first team All-SoCon receiver Lamont Seward, who ended his career among the WCU and SoCon career top five in both receptions and receiving yards. Also lost was two-time All-SoCon tight end Todd Bargella and three-year starting tackle Jon Vaughan.

"This year's offense has the potential to be explosive with the players we have brought in," Briggs said. "The keys to success for our offense are to have consistency with our quarterbacks in the passing game, the ability of our offense to run the football and solidifying our offensive line."

## QUARTERBACK

South Carolina transfer Bennett Swygert got a lot of attention during the spring and summer as Gaither's replacement under center. However, Justin Clark has a full year in Western's system under his belt and Russell Hemby is an exciting athlete who can make plays equally with his arm and mobility.

"The quarterback situation was very competitive in the spring and any of the three should contribute well in our ability to move the football," Briggs said.

Clark completed 11-of-23 passes for 160 yards last season. He has a firm grasp on the offense and does not make many mistakes, keeping him in the mix for the starting spot.

"Justin (Clark) really impressed us this spring after serving as the backup last season," Briggs said. "He competes and is fundamentally sound."

Swygert was a highly touted prospect, but two knee injuries slowed his progress at South Carolina. A candidate to start in as a true freshman with the Gamecocks, his second injury forced him to redshirt in 2002. In 2003, he played in six games, completing 11-of-21 passes with two touchdowns.

"Bennett (Swygert) brings experience and can lead this offense," Briggs said. "He has a strong arm and very good ability to read coverages."

Hemby redshirted last season, but got experience as he dressed for all 12 games last season.

"Russell (Hemby) is a great leader that brings not only good a good arm, but good mobility, putting pressure on the defense in many ways," Briggs said.

## RECEIVERS

Whoever wins the quarterback battle will have an excellent group of receivers to throw to. Michael Reeder, who ranked 52nd nationally in receptions in 2003, ranked second on the team in both receptions (58) and receiving yards (638), while being the third-leading returning pass catcher in the league for 2004. Xavier Godard has the ability to score every time he touches the ball, scoring a team-high seven touchdowns in 2003. Not only is Godard a threat on offense, but he ranked as one of the best return men in the SoCon last season.

"Michael has tremendous potential to be an All-Southern Conference selection," Briggs said. "He has the ability to make both the long catch as well as the clutch catch. Xavier has made several big-time plays over his career and can impact a game. I feel this will be a breakout year for both Michael and Xavier."

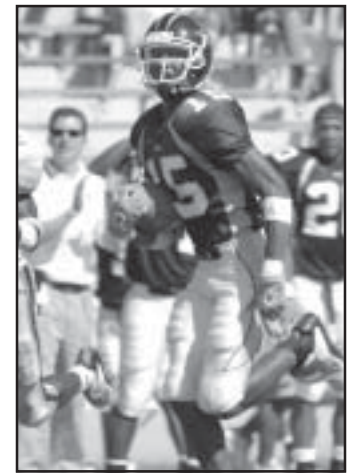
Also, J.C. Brown continues to make strides, while redshirt freshmen Michael Hines and Eddie Cohen each showed flashes of brilliance during the spring. Senior L.J. Williams, senior and converted cornerback Randy Thompson and track star T. Alford add depth to this talent group. First-year sophomore Calvin Guinyard could also step in and add quality depth. The 6-4, 180-pound Sumter, S.C., native was a first team All-State selection in both football and basketball.

"Our wide receiver corps will be our strong point on offense this year," Briggs said. "The group has depth and talent. Although we have lost good receivers over the past two years, we have been able to replace them with some quality athletes."

## RUNNING BACKS

While the Cats have made a name for themselves as one of the top passing teams in the nation, for the first time in his three years, Coach Briggs will have a stable of running backs to give the Cats the ability to move the ball on the ground as well this fall. Sophomore Nicholas Wishart led WCU in rushing last season. The Toronto, Ontario, native rushed 132 times for 639 yards for an impressive 4.8 yards per carry. He additionally accounted for six of WCU's 15 rushing TDs. Wishart showed last season that he can carry the team, rushing for 104 first-half yards with a touchdown at Georgia Southern to earn SoCon Freshman of the Week honors.

"The experience Nicholas (Wishart) gained last fall and during the spring can help make a difference for us this season," Briggs said. "He is quick, has good vision and has the agility to make plays at an all-star caliber level."



**Michael Reeder is the third-leading pass catcher returning in the SoCon for 2004.**



# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

Also look for converted defensive back Lamont Reid and sophomore Darius Fudge to be called upon to run the ball. Reid, a standout running back at Maiden High, showed this athleticism and explosiveness this past track season, scoring at the SoCon Indoor and Outdoor championships in both the long jump and high jump. Fudge was slated to enroll at Western in January of 2004, but came in August of 2003, putting him behind in learning the offense. However, he proved in high school to be one of the top running backs in the state of Georgia, earning all-area honors by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Mike Malone will battle for playing time as well. He, like Reid, had an impressive track season in 2004, proving to be one of the fastest runners in sprint events at the SoCon Indoors and Outdoors.

At fullback, John Bush returns, as does senior Scooter Dalton. Bush is a punishing blocker who served as Western's short-yardage specialist in 2003. Dalton is a capable blocker as well, but, as a former tailback, has the speed to reel off long runs.

"This past spring was the first time we had a full group of running backs participate in spring practice, which will put us in good shape come August," Briggs said. "Getting Nicholas (Wishart) and Darius (Fudge) more experience and moving Lamont (Reid) to offense has made us deeper at that position. Then you add John (Bush) and Scooter (Dalton) and our backfield has stability."



**Nicholas Wishart will headline a talented group of running backs in 2004.**



**Junior guard Kevin McAlmont**

## OFFENSIVE LINE

The offensive line has three starters returning in guards Morris Sanders and Kevin McAlmont as well as center Linden Ryan. Senior Adam Donaldson, who has been a starter in the past, will occupy one of the vacated tackle slots, while this past spring's offensive line "Most Improved" Wendell Singletary should hold down the other tackle spot.

"Mo (Sanders) could be one of the best guards in the conference," Briggs said. "He has size, strength, good feet and ability to be physical, allowing him to dominate a defensive lineman."

Sanders missed spring drills with an injury, but is expected to be full go when conference play begins. McAlmont was somewhat of a surprise last season. He made the move from defensive line to offense during preseason camp. He did not start the first three games of the season, but his early play forced the coaches to make room for him as a starter up front. Ryan enters his third season at center and continues to be the glue that holds the unit together. Donaldson emerged in the spring as a team leader and will use his extensive experience to set the example for the unit this fall.



**Junior center Linden Ryan**

Singletary is 6-7 and 280-pounds and will only get better as he continues to mature physically and with playing time.

Western's philosophy calls for its offensive linemen to rotate during games on a regular basis. With that, Jarret Wishon, Chase Patterson and Marcus Thomas are backups by definition only. Wishon and Patterson have virtually split time with the starters over the past two years and both can play either guard spot or center. Thomas and converted defensive tackle Luis Herron will battle for a starting spot and/or rotate at the tackle positions.

"It will be a challenge to replace All-American Jason Whaley and three-year starter Jon Vaughan," Briggs said. "However, we have an excellent foundation in Adam (Donaldson), Linden (Ryan) and Morris (Sanders) as well as Kevin (McAlmont), who emerged as a force up front last season. Wendell (Singletary) and Luis (Herron) provide a lot of potential based upon their results from this past spring."

## TIGHT ENDS

While the front five give WCU coaches a good feeling, the "X" factor will be at tight end. All four tight ends who played in 2003 are gone, leaving redshirt freshman Shamar Allen, converted quarterback Josh Lee, junior college transfer J.J. Neshweiwat and converted defensive end Jacob Hannah battling to fill the void.

"There is no doubt that our biggest loss was at tight end," Briggs said. "Todd (Bargella) and Brian (Rucker) were both considered starters over the past two years and will be missed both as blockers and pass catchers. Shamar (Allen) had an excellent spring, while Josh (Lee) and J.J. (Neshweiwat) should help solidify that position."

## DEFENSE

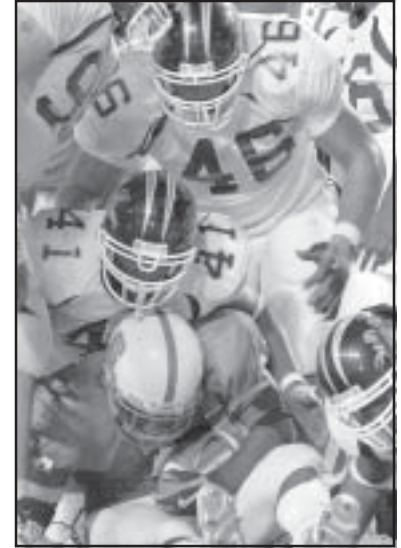
The Western Carolina defense showed tremendous progress last season. After ranking 116th nationally and seventh in the SoCon against the rush in 2002, the Catamounts led the SoCon in rushing defense for the first time ever, while ranking 14th nationally. A further look inside the numbers show WCU only allowed opponents to gain 2.65 yards per rush, which was the fourth-best total in the nation.

First, the bad news is the Western Carolina record book will show the caliber of players the Cats lost this past fall. Not only were Michale Spicer, Nick McNeil and Rod Dunlap named All-Southern Conference for a second consecutive season, but the trio each rank among the WCU all-time top five in career tackles for loss. Also, Dunlap paced the team in tackles each of the past two years, while McNeil and Spicer have ranked among the SoCon and nation's best in both sacks and tackles for losses over the past three years.

Now, the good news is most of the athletes that saw playing time last season return for 2004 as nine of the team's top 12 in tacklers return. The better news is that a majority of those nine are not seniors of this team. Linebackers Lamar Barnes, Jada Sullivan and James Conklin ranked among the WCU top six in tackles, while sophomore corner back Bruce Lee ranked fifth. Also back are Albert Reid, Ricky Rainey, Rico Reese, Felipe Foster and Francis Brown.

"Like on the offensive side of the ball, the challenge is to replace three leaders and all-conference players which played such a key role in our tremendously improved defense," Briggs said. "However, the unit really came together during the spring, embraces the team concept. They really improved on running to the football and tackling."

Also good news for Catamount fans is the team's depth in the secondary. Last year, that area may have been Western's weak spot, thanks to three season-ending injuries to starters and various injuries to key reserves. That forced then true freshman Mitchell Dukes to play early and often. When Dukes later went down with an injury, then true freshman Ryan Nesby, who was slated to redshirt in 2003, was forced to play and eventually start. Lee was the only Catamount defensive back to start all 12 games, while Andre Brown and Deonte Cook were



**Darvin Coffin (#46) will lead a defensive unit that showed dramatic progress last season and continued to come together this past spring.**

the only other defensive backs to play in all 12 games. Between the two safety spots and the corner spot opposite Lee, 11 different Catamounts, including linebackers Ricky Rainey and Jada Sullivan, started as did Lamont Reid, Otis Powell, Dukes, Nesby, B.J. Jessup, Randy Thompson, Cook and Francis Brown.

"Our biggest area of improvement from last year to now has been our secondary," Briggs said. "The play of Bruce Lee and the on-the-job training of (Mitchell) Dukes and Ryan (Nesby) last year, as well as the addition of five new defensive backs in the spring makes this group, along with our receiving corps, possibly our deepest and most talented."



**Senior defensive tackle Albert Reid had 11 tackles for losses in 2003.**

## DEFENSIVE LINE

Obviously, the absence of Nick McNeil and Michale Spicer makes the outlook of front four a question mark. Senior Albert Reid has established himself as a steady force in the league at defensive tackle. The Morganton, N.C., native had 38 stops in

# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



**Rico Reese was the primary backup for both Nick McNeil and Michale Spioer over the past two years but will be counted on as a starter in 2004.**

2003, one fewer than Spicer, with 11 tackles for losses, including two sacks. Although only a true freshman last season, Felipe Foster began to make a name for himself as an upcoming all-star candidate. He recorded eight TFLs last season including two sacks and showed to be just as dominant during the spring. Fellow sophomore Phillip Young also logged significant playing time last season. He is very quick and has good strength, giving him the ability to play both defen-

and Primus Glover, a gifted athlete that came to Western after East Tennessee State disbanded its football program. Also, three high school players joined the team in January, including Jabir Jones, Meko Watso and Carlton Bailey. Each went through spring drills and enters the fall as true freshmen with five years to play four.

"The safety positions will truly be important," Briggs said. "Ryan (Nesby), O.J. (Owens) and Primus (Glover) all play very physically and bring a good attitude. The experience of Mitchell (Dukes), Bruce (Lee) and Francis (Brown) will really give the secondary the potential to be one of the strongest assets on the team."



**Mitchell Dukes had an solid true freshman campaign on defense and special teams in 2003, starting at safety and scoring a touchdown on a punt block.**

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Last year, was a good year for the Catamount special teams. Stanton Horne ranked 11th in the nation in punting, while the Catamounts ranked fourth nationally in net punting. Also, Western's Xavier Godard and T. Alford ranked nationally in kick returns, while WCU ranked 38th nationally in the category. Michael Reeder proved not only to be an excellent receiver, but ranked nationally in yards per punt return.

Western lost its punter, placekicker and long snapper. However, the special teams area could still be a strong suit for the Catamounts. Sophomore Tim Mayse, who redshirted last season, could handle one-to-three duties on the special teams. He could punt, handle the placement kicks and/or kickoff. He has a strong leg and has game experience, handling the kickoff duties in 2002 as a true freshman. Battling Mayse for the kicking jobs will be senior Shon Rowser. The Beulaville, N.C., native also has a strong leg and has previous game experience. In 2001, Rowser, who made all three of his field goals 40-yards or longer, was the starting kicker most of the season, finishing third on the team in scoring with 27 points (4-of-7 field goals and 15-fo-18 PATs). Local products Stephen Brown (Cullowhee) and Kyle Garner (Franklin) will also be candidates to be a kicker.

In addition to Mayse being the front runner to be the punter, sophomore Alan Stayton concentrated solely on punting this past spring as he and Brown will add depth at the position.

For the third consecutive year, Western enters the season with little game experience at long snapper. Bubba Hamrick handled the snapping for PATs and field goals early before the departed Justin Frady took over all long snapping duties most of the season. With a year under his belt, Hamrick will once again vie for that spot. Grant Helms, who showed promise as a long snapper two years ago as a redshirt freshman, rejoined the team this past spring and could be counted on to handle the duties as well.

"We lost our kicker, punter/holder and snapper so that may be our biggest replacement challenge for this season," Briggs said. "Potentially, Tim (Mayse) can be our kicker, punter and placekicker, although we will work hard not to put him in that position.."

One area on the special teams where the Cats have no question marks are their return men. Xavier Godard returned both punts and kicks last season and he has kept the fans on the edge of their seats with his electric returns. In 2002, he returned a kick 90 yards for TD against Appalachian State. Last year, he answered a Georgia Southern TD with a 100-yard kick return for a touchdown. T. Alford will also get work as the kick returner. Alford solidified himself as one of the premier track athletes around this past spring as he won the Southern Conference 100-meters title to qualify for the NCAA East Regional. Sure-handed Michael Reeder will join Godard in the battle for punt returner.



**T. Alford, the 2004 Southern Conference 100-meters champion, uses his speed to be a dangerous kick returner. He, along with Xavier Godard, have the ability to take it the distance any time they touch the ball.**

sive tackle and defensive end.

Filling the void left by Spicer and McNeil will be senior Darvin Coffin and junior Rico Reese. Coffin came on strong at the end of last season and, by spring drills, had established himself as a leader for the unit. Reese has seen significant action, playing both end spots, over the past two years. Last year, he had seven TFLs with an interception, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Grant Helms, who sat out last season, originally came to Western as a tight end, but has bulked up and will add depth on defensive, as will senior tackle Dwain Johnson, who started six games last season prior to the emergence of Foster.

The defensive front figures to be a place where newcomers will get a chance to play early and often. Included in that group are first-year sophomores John Martin (6-3, 290) and Corey Ellison (6-1, 300).

"We lost major performers in (Nick) McNeil and (Michale) Spicer, who had unbelievable productivity over their careers," Briggs said. "However, Rico (Reese), Darvin (Coffin) and Felipe (Foster) should leave us in good shape. Newcomers John (Martin) and Corey (Ellison) as well as the experience of Albert (Reid) and Phillip (Young) will be valuable in solidifying the interior front."

## LINEBACKERS

Western lost its top linebacker in Rod Dunlap, but the corps returns three starters and two key reserves. Also, the Cats recruited an excellent group of linebackers for this fall, of which several could see early playing time.

Lamar Barnes started all 12 games at linebacker, while James Conklin, Jada Sullivan and Ricky Rainey each had starting roles. Sullivan and Conklin split the starting nod at one spot, while Rainey was forced to split time between linebacker and safety. Also, then true freshman Shleton Gaffney saw his fair share of playing time.

"The linebackers will be solid with the experience they bring," Briggs said. "The loss of Rod (Dunlap) will challenge someone to step up and fill his shoes as a playmaker. This position will be one where true freshmen will have the possibility to compete for playing time early."



**Lamar Barnes, a member of several leadership organizations off the field, is a leader on the field as well. He started all 12 games at middle linebacker in 2003 and he is the leading returning tackler.**

## SECONDARY

As previously stated, the Catamount secondary may have been Western's weak point last year. However, Bruce Lee was solid, ranking fifth on the team with 57 tackles and pacing the squad with five pass break ups. Also, when not injured, Mitchell Dukes and Francis Brown played well. Brown, despite missing four games with a broken arm, ranked 12th on the team with 28 tackles. Dukes also missed four games with two separate injuries. In their absence, Ryan Nesby was forced to forgo his redshirt year and finished with 21 tackles and an interception in eight games. Not only did Nesby improve with each game last season, but his growth as a player continued in the spring when he was named "Most Improved" by the coaches.

All the experience the group got last season will pay off this season. During the spring, the secondary got another boost when five newcomers joined the squad. Included in the group was O.J. Owens, a transfer from Tennessee and a former high school All-American,



# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

## 2004 WESTERN CAROLINA NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown (Previous School)
1	Nicholas Wishart	RB	5-9	195	So.	Toronto, Ontario (Central Tech HS)
2	Francis Brown	CB	5-10	180	Sr.	Camden, N.J. (Hudson Valley CC/Camden HS)
3	Bruce Lee	CB	5-9	155	So.	Camden, S.C. (Camden HS)
4	T. Alford	WR	5-11	175	Sr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Butler HS)
5	Brooks Robinson	QB	6-2	190	Fr.	Evans, Ga. (Greenbrier HS)
6	Mitchell Dukes	CB	6-1	175	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (North Atlanta HS)
7	Darius Fudge	RB	6-1	185	So.	Riverdale, Ga. (Jonesboro HS)
9	Eddie Cohen	WR	6-1	200	RFr.	Hilton Head, SC (Hilton Head HS)
10	Zach Cooper	QB	6-2	210	Fr.	Hendersonville, N.C. (East Henderson HS)
11	J.C. Brown	WR	5-11	185	So.	Murphy, N.C. (Murphy HS)
12	Josh Lee	TE	6-3	225	Jr.	Kannapolis, N.C. (A.L. Brown HS)
13	Bennett Swygert	QB	6-3	225	So.	Summerville, S.C., (Univ. of South Carolina/Summerville HS)
14	L.J. Williams	WR	6-0	185	Sr.	Shelby, N.C. (Crest HS)
15	Michael Reeder	WR	6-3	205	Sr.	Wagener, S.C. (Wagener-Salley HS)
16	O.J. Owens	S	6-0	205	Sr.	New London, N.C. (Univ. of Tennessee/North Stanly HS)
17	Russell Hemby	QB	6-1	190	RFr.	Orangeburg, S.C. (Orangeburg-Wilkerson HS)
18	Justin Clark	QB	6-2	190	So.	Gastonia, N.C. (North Gaston HS)
19	Randy Thompson	WR	5-10	175	RSr.	Gastonia, N.C. (North Gaston HS)
20	Lamont Reid	RB	6-1	215	Jr.	Maiden, N.C. (Maiden HS)
21	Primus Glover	S	6-3	190	Jr.	Springfield, Ga. (East Tennessee State Univ./Effingham HS)
22	Deonte Cook	CB	5-10	175	Jr.	Marietta, Ga. (Marietta HS)
24	Meko Watson	CB	5-9	180	Fr.	Gastonia, N.C. (Hargrave (Va.) Military Acad./North Gaston HS)
25	Tim Mayse	K/P	5-11	215	RSo.	Pine Mountain, Ga. (Columbus HS)
26	Jada Sullivan	LB	5-11	210	Jr.	Simpsonville, S.C. (Hillcrest HS)
27	Jabir Jones	S	6-2	205	Fr.	Durham, N.C. (Hugh M. Cummings HS)
28	Ryan Nesby	S	6-0	170	So.	Asheville, N.C. (T.C. Roberson)
29	Ricky Rainey	LB	6-1	215	Sr.	Gastonia, N.C. (Ashbrook HS)
30	Scooter Dalton	RB	6-0	230	Sr.	Lexington, N.C. (West Rowan HS)
31-D	Matt Davis	DB	5-10	180	Sr.	Lilburn, Ga. (Brookwood HS)
31-O	Joe Brown	FB	6-1	220	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C. (South Point HS)
32	Isaac Green	LB	6-2	220	Fr.	Sumter, S.C. (Sumter HS)
33	John Bush	FB	5-11	230	Jr.	Mableton, Ga. (Pebblebrook HS)
34	DeMakus Staton	LB	6-0	235	RFr.	Huntersville, N.C. (North Mecklenburg HS)
35	Carlton Bailey	CB	5-10	175	Fr.	Jonesboro, Ga. (Jonesboro HS)
36	John McEachin	RB	5-10	185	Fr.	Trinity, N.C. (Trinity HS)
37	Shon Rowser	PK	5-7	160	Sr.	Beulaville, N.C. (East Duplin HS)
38	Andre Brown	S	6-0	170	Jr.	Asheville, N.C. (Asheville HS)
39	Garret Baker	RB	5-11	185	So.	Robersonville, N.C. (Roanoke HS)
40	James Conklin	LB	5-11	235	Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. (West Lake HS)
41	Shelton Gaffney	LB	6-2	220	So.	Gaffney, S.C. (Gaffney HS)
42	Mike Malone	RB	5-10	175	RFr.	Gainesville, Ga. (Gainesville HS)
43	Darren Demus	LB	6-3	230	Fr.	Fayetteville, N.C. (E.E. Smith HS)
44	Lamar Barnes	LB/FB	6-0	235	Jr.	Clayton, N.C. (Clayton HS)
45	Albert Reid	DT	6-0	265	Sr.	Morganton, N.C. (Freedom HS)
46	Darvin Coffin	DE	6-4	265	Sr.	Bethlehem, Pa. (Lackawanna JC/Freedom HS)
48	Drew Walker	LB	6-2	235	Fr.	Lenoir, N.C. (Hibriten HS)
49	Josh Durm	CB	6-0	185	RFr.	Franklin, N.C. (Franklin HS)
50	Luis Herron	OT	6-3	290	Jr.	Morehead City, N.C. (West Cateret HS)
52	Chris Powell	LB	6-0	195	RFr.	Morganton, N.C. (Freedom HS)
51	Dan Lawrence	OT	6-6	265	Fr.	Roxboro, N.C. (Person HS)
53	John Martin	DT	6-3	290	So.	Cherokee, N.C. (Cherokee HS)
55	Mikael Scott	DE	6-3	240	RFr.	Candler, N.C. (Enka HS)
56	Phillip Young	DT	6-1	260	So.	Gainesville, Ga. (Gainesville HS)
57	Jarrett Wishon	C/OG	6-1	285	Jr.	Spencer, N.C. (North Rowan HS)
59	Buck Freeman	DE	6-3	230	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (South Forsyth HS)
60	Bubba Hamrick	LS	6-1	255	So.	Morganton, N.C. (Freedom HS)
61	John Cooper	OG	6-3	270	So.	Cherokee, N.C. (Cherokee HS)
62	Kevin McAlmont	OG	6-3	290	Jr.	Union City, Ga. (Creekside HS)
63	Marcus Thomas	OT	6-6	275	So.	Roxboro, N.C. (Person HS)
65	Linden Ryan	C	6-3	280	Jr.	Shawsville, Va. (Fork Union Military/Shawsville HS)
66	Stephen Brown	P/K	5-10	170	RFr.	Cullowhee, N.C. (Smoky Mountain HS)
68	Chase Patterson	OG	6-3	275	Jr.	Roswell, Ga. (Lassiter HS)
70	Grant Helms	DE/LS	6-3	255	So.	Monroe, N.C. (Piedmont HS)
71	Alan Stayton	P	5-8	175	So.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Green Valley HS/Hargrave Military)
72	Morris Sanders	OG	6-3	320	Sr.	Pineville, N.C. (Fork Union Military/S. Mecklenburg HS)
73	Adam Donaldson	OT	6-4	270	Sr.	Belmont, N.C. (South Point HS)
74	Ben Weisensel	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Granite Quarry, N.C. (East Rowan HS)
75	Taylor Hurst	OL	6-5	295	Fr.	Wendell, N.C. (East Wake HS)
76	Kyle Garner	PK	5-7	175	RFr.	Franklin, N.C. (Franklin HS)
77	Wendell Singletary	OT	6-7	280	Jr.	Whiteville, N.C. (SW Mississippi JC/W. Columbus HS)
78	Joe Patton	OT	6-7	340	Jr.	Cameron, N.C. (Central Carolina Univ./West Harnett HS)
79	Dwayne Liles	OT	6-5	285	So.	Roxboro, N.C. (Person HS)
81	Jacob Hannah	TE	6-3	230	So.	Canton, N.C. (Pisgah HS)
82	Calvin Guinyard	WR	6-4	180	So.	Cordova, S.C. (Edisto HS)
84	J.J. Nesheiwat	TE	6-3	250	So.	Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (Hudson [NJ] Valley CC/Arlington HS)
85	Xavier Godard	WR	5-10	165	Jr.	Athens, Ga. (Cedar Shoals HS)
86	Michael Hines	WR	6-3	190	RFr.	Asheville, N.C. (Asheville HS)
87	Salyd Gainey	WR	6-3	200	Fr.	Weddington, N.C. (Weddington HS)
88	Shamar Allen	TE	6-3	225	RFr.	Asheville, N.C. (A.C. Reynolds HS)
89	James Singletary	TE	6-2	245	Fr.	Kernersville, N.C. (Glenn HS)
90	Dwain Johnson	DT	6-1	275	Sr.	Huntersville, N.C. (North Mecklenburg HS)
91	Jeff Bradley	DL	6-3	225	Fr.	Lewisville, N.C. (West Forsyth HS)
92	Shun Blount	LB	6-2	245	Fr.	Marshville, N.C. (Forest Hill HS)
93	Randy Birch	DT	5-11	250	RFr.	Shelby, N.C. (Burns HS)
94	Felipe Foster	DT	6-2	280	So.	Athens, Ga. (Clarke Central HS)
95	Darren Curtis	DE	6-2	235	Fr.	Raleigh, N.C. (Southeast Raleigh HS)
96	Travis Hill	LB	6-1	225	Fr.	Rock Hill, S.C. (Northwestern HS)
98	Corey Ellison	DT	6-1	300	So.	New Bern, N.C. (West Craven HS)
97	LeVander Thomas	DE	6-0	235	Fr.	Hamlet, N.C. (Richmond Senior HS)
99	Rico Reese	DE	6-2	240	Jr.	Austell, Ga. (Pebblebrook HS)

# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



## 2004 WESTERN CAROLINA ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown (Previous School)
4	T. Alford	WR	5-11	175	Sr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Butler HS)
88	Shamar Allen	TE	6-3	225	RFr.	Asheville, N.C. (A.C. Reynolds HS)
35	Carlton Bailey	CB	5-10	175	Fr.	Jonesboro, Ga. (Jonesboro HS)
39	Garret Baker	RB	5-11	185	So.	Robersonville, N.C. (Roanoke HS)
44	Lamar Barnes	LB/FB	6-0	235	Jr.	Clayton, N.C. (Clayton HS)
93	Randy Birch	DT	5-11	250	RFr.	Shelby, N.C. (Burns HS)
92	Shun Blount	LB	6-2	245	Fr.	Marshville, N.C. (Forest Hill HS)
91	Jeff Bradley	DL	6-3	225	Fr.	Lewisville, N.C. (West Forsyth HS)
38	Andre Brown	S	6-0	170	Jr.	Asheville, N.C. (Asheville HS)
2	Francis Brown	CB	5-10	180	Sr.	Camden, N.J. (Hudson Valley CC/Camden HS)
11	J.C. Brown	WR	5-11	185	So.	Murphy, N.C. (Murphy HS)
31-O	Joe Brown	FB	6-1	220	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C. (South Point HS)
66	Stephen Brown	P/K	5-10	170	RFr.	Cullowhee, N.C. (Smoky Mountain HS)
33	John Bush	FB	5-11	230	Jr.	Mableton, Ga. (Pebblebrook HS)
18	Justin Clark	QB	6-2	190	So.	Gastonia, N.C. (North Gaston HS)
46	Darvin Coffin	DE	6-4	265	Sr.	Bethlehem, Pa. (Lackawanna JC/Freedom HS)
9	Eddie Cohen	WR	6-1	200	RFr.	Hilton Head, SC (Hilton Head HS)
40	James Conklin	LB	5-11	235	Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. (West Lake HS)
22	Deonte Cook	CB	5-10	175	Jr.	Marietta, Ga. (Marietta HS)
61	John Cooper	OG	6-3	270	So.	Cherokee, N.C. (Cherokee HS)
10	Zach Cooper	QB	6-2	210	Fr.	Hendersonville, N.C. (East Henderson HS)
95	Darren Curtis	DE	6-2	235	Fr.	Raleigh, N.C. (Southeast Raleigh HS)
30	Scotter Dalton	RB	6-0	230	Sr.	Lexington, N.C. (West Rowan HS)
31-D	Matt Davis	DB	5-10	180	Sr.	Lilburn, Ga. (Brookwood HS)
43	Darren Demus	LB	6-3	230	Fr.	Fayetteville, N.C. (E.E. Smith HS)
73	Adam Donaldson	OT	6-4	270	Sr.	Belmont, N.C. (South Point HS)
6	Mitchell Dukes	CB	6-1	175	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (North Atlanta HS)
49	Josh Durm	CB	6-0	185	RFr.	Franklin, N.C. (Franklin HS)
98	Corey Ellison	DT	6-1	300	So.	New Bern, N.C. (West Craven HS)
94	Felipe Foster	DT	6-2	280	So.	Athens, Ga. (Clarke Central HS)
59	Buck Freeman	DE	6-3	230	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (South Forsyth HS)
7	Darius Fudge	RB	6-1	185	So.	Riverdale, Ga. (Jonesboro HS)
41	Shelton Gaffney	LB	6-2	220	So.	Gaffney, S.C. (Gaffney HS)
87	Salyd Gainey	WR	6-3	200	Fr.	Weddington, N.C. (Weddington HS)
76	Kyle Garner	PK	5-7	175	RFr.	Franklin, N.C. (Franklin HS)
21	Primus Glover	S	6-3	190	Jr.	Springfield, Ga. (East Tennessee State Univ./Effingham HS)
85	Xavier Godard	WR	5-10	165	Jr.	Athens, Ga. (Cedar Shoals HS)
32	Isaac Green	LB	6-2	220	Fr.	Sumter, S.C. (Sumter HS)
82	Calvin Guinyard	WR	6-4	180	So.	Cordova, S.C. (Edisto HS)
60	Bubba Hamrick	LS	6-1	255	So.	Morganton, N.C. (Freedom HS)
81	Jacob Hannah	TE	6-3	230	So.	Canton, N.C. (Pisgah HS)
70	Grant Helms	DE/LS	6-3	255	So.	Monroe, N.C. (Piedmont HS)
17	Russell Hemby	QB	6-1	190	RFr.	Orangeburg, S.C. (Orangeburg-Wilkerson HS)
50	Luis Herron	OT	6-3	290	Jr.	Morehead City, N.C. (West Cateret HS)
96	Travis Hill	LB	6-1	225	Fr.	Rock Hill, S.C. (Northwestern HS)
86	Michael Hines	WR	6-3	190	RFr.	Asheville, N.C. (Asheville HS)
75	Taylor Hurst	OL	6-5	295	Fr.	Wendell, N.C. (East Wake HS)
90	Dwain Johnson	DT	6-1	275	Sr.	Huntersville, N.C. (North Mecklenburg HS)
27	Jabir Jones	S	6-2	205	Fr.	Durham, N.C. (Hugh M. Cummings HS)
51	Dan Lawrence	OT	6-6	265	Fr.	Roxboro, N.C. (Person HS)
3	Bruce Lee	CB	5-9	155	So.	Camden, S.C. (Camden HS)
12	Josh Lee	TE	6-3	225	Jr.	Kannapolis, N.C. (A.L. Brown HS)
79	Dwayne Liles	OT	6-5	285	So.	Roxboro, N.C. (Person HS)
42	Mike Malone	RB	5-10	175	RFr.	Gainesville, Ga. (Gainesville HS)
53	John Martin	DT	6-3	290	So.	Cherokee, N.C. (Cherokee HS)
25	Tim Mayse	K/P	5-11	215	RSO.	Pine Mountain, Ga. (Columbus HS)
62	Kevin McAlmont	OG	6-3	290	Jr.	Union City, Ga. (Creekside HS)
36	John McEachin	RB	5-10	185	Fr.	Trinity, N.C. (Trinity HS)
28	Ryan Nesby	S	6-0	170	So.	Asheville, N.C. (T.C. Roberson)
84	J.J. Nesheiwat	TE	6-3	250	So.	Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (Hudson [NJ] Valley CC/Arlington HS)
16	O.J. Owens	S	6-0	205	Sr.	New London, N.C. (Univ. of Tennessee/North Stanly HS)
68	Chase Patterson	OG	6-3	275	Jr.	Roswell, Ga. (Lassiter HS)
78	Joe Patton	OT	6-7	340	Jr.	Cameron, N.C. (Central Carolina Univ./West Harnett HS)
52	Chris Powell	LB	6-0	195	RFr.	Morganton, N.C. (Freedom HS)
29	Ricky Rainey	LB	6-1	215	Sr.	Gastonia, N.C. (Ashbrook HS)
15	Michael Reeder	WR	6-3	205	Sr.	Wagener, S.C. (Wagener-Salley HS)
99	Rico Reese	DE	6-2	240	Jr.	Austell, Ga. (Pebblebrook HS)
45	Albert Reid	DT	6-0	265	Sr.	Morganton, N.C. (Freedom HS)
20	Lamont Reid	RB	6-1	215	Jr.	Maiden, N.C. (Maiden HS)
5	Brooks Robinson	QB	6-2	190	Fr.	Evans, Ga. (Greenbrier HS)
37	Shon Rowser	PK	5-7	160	Sr.	Beulaville, N.C. (East Duplin HS)
65	Linden Ryan	C	6-3	280	Jr.	Shawsville, Va. (Fork Union Military/Shawsville HS)
72	Morris Sanders	OG	6-3	320	Sr.	Pineville, N.C. (Fork Union Military/S. Mecklenburg HS)
55	Mikael Scott	DE	6-3	240	RFr.	Candler, N.C. (Enka HS)
89	James Singletary	TE	6-2	245	Fr.	Kernersville, N.C. (Glenn HS)
77	Wendell Singletary	OT	6-7	280	Jr.	Whiteville, N.C. (SW Mississippi JC/W. Columbus HS)
34	DeMakus Staton	LB	6-0	235	RFr.	Huntersville, N.C. (North Mecklenburg HS)
71	Alan Stayton	P	5-8	175	So.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Green Valley HS/Hargrave Military)
26	Jada Sullivan	LB	5-11	210	Jr.	Simpsonville, S.C. (Hillcrest HS)
13	Bennett Swygert	QB	6-3	225	So.	Summerville, S.C., (Univ. of South Carolina/Summerville HS)
97	LeVander Thomas	DE	6-0	235	Fr.	Hamlet, N.C. (Richmond Senior HS)
63	Marcus Thomas	OT	6-6	275	So.	Roxboro, N.C. (Person HS)
19	Randy Thompson	WR	5-10	175	RSr.	Gastonia, N.C. (North Gaston HS)
48	Drew Walker	LB	6-2	235	Fr.	Lenoir, N.C. (Hibriten HS)
24	Meko Watson	CB	5-9	180	Fr.	Gastonia, N.C. (Hargrave (Va.) Military Acad./North Gaston HS)
74	Ben Weisensel	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Granite Quarry, N.C. (East Rowan HS)
14	L.J. Williams	WR	6-0	185	Sr.	Shelby, N.C. (Crest HS)
1	Nicholas Wishart	RB	5-9	195	So.	Toronto, Ontario (Central Tech HS)
57	Jarrett Wishon	C/OG	6-1	285	Jr.	Spencer, N.C. (North Rowan HS)
56	Phillip Young	DT	6-1	260	So.	Gainesville, Ga. (Gainesville HS)



# CATAMOUNT 2004 SEASON INFORMATION

2004 WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

## 2004 WESTERN CAROLINA ROSTER INFORMATION

### LETTERMEN RETURNING: 38

#### Offense (18):

T. Alford (WR); J.C. Brown (WR); John Bush (FB); Justin Clark (QB); Scooter Dalton (FB); Adam Donaldson (OT); Xavier Godard (WR); Darius Fudge (RB); Kevin McAlmont (OG); Chase Patterson (OG); Michael Reeder (WR); Linden Ryan (C); Morris Sanders (OG); Wendell Singletary (OT); Marcus Thomas (OT); L.J. Williams (WR); Nicholas Wishart (RB); Jarrett Wishon (OG/C).

#### Defense (20):

Lamar Barnes (LB); Andre Brown (S); Francis Brown (CB); Darvin Coffin (DE); James Conklin (LB); Deonte Cook (CB); Mitchell Dukes (DB); Shelton Gaffney (LB); Felipe Foster (DT); Buck Freeman (DE); Luis Herron (DT); Dwain Johnson (DT); Bruce Lee (CB); Ryan Nesby (DB); Ricky Rainey (LB); Rico Reese (DE); Albert Ried (DT); Jada Sullivan (LB); Randy Thompson (CB); Phillip Young (DT).

#### Specialist (0):

None

### LETTERMEN LOST: 17

#### Offense (8):

Todd Bargella (TE); Manny DeShauteurs (RB); Brian Gaither (QB); Brian Pesci (TE); Brian Rucker (TE); Lamont Seward (WR); Jon Vaughan (OT); Jason Whaley (OT).

#### Defense (6):

Rod Dunlap (LB); Nick McNeil (DE); Anwar Phillips (LB); Johnta Philyaw (LB); Otis Powell (S); Michale Spicer (DE).

#### Specialist (3):

Justin Frady (DS); Stanton Horne (P); Chris Vought (PK).

### CATAMOUNTS BY CLASS:

#### Seniors (14):

T. Alford (WR); Francis Brown (CB); Darvin Coffin (DE); Scooter Dalton (FB); Matt Davis (CB); Adam Donaldson (OT); Dwain Johnson (DT); O.J. Owens (S); Ricky Rainey (LB); Michael Reeder (WR); Albert Reid (DT); Shon Rowser (PK); Morris Sanders (OG); Randy Thompson (WR); L.J. Williams (WR).

#### Juniors (19):

Lamar Barnes (LB); Andre Brown (S); John Bush (RB); James Conklin (LB); Deonte Cook (CB); Primus Glover (S); Xavier Godard (WR); Bubba Hamrick (DS); Luis Herron (OT); Josh Lee (TE); Kevin McAlmont (OG); Chase Patterson (OG); Joe Patton (OG); Rico Reese (DE); Lamont Ried (RB); Linden Ryan (C); Wendell Singletary (OT); Jada Sullivan (LB); Jarrett Wishon (OG/C).

#### Sophomores (24):

Garret Baker (RB); J.C. Brown (WR); Justin Clark (QB); John Cooper (OG); Mitchell Dukes (CB); Corey Ellison (DT); Felipe Foster (DT); Buck Freeman (DE); Darius Fudge (RB); Shelton Gaffney (LB); Calvin Guinyard (WR); Jacob Hannah (TE); Grant Helms (DT/DS); Jeremy Hyatt (TE); Bruce Lee (CB); Dwayne Liles (OT); John Martin (DT); Tim Mayse (PK/P); Ryan Nesby (S); Alan Stayton (P); Bennett Swygert (QB); Marcus Thomas (OT); Nicholas Wishart (RB); Phillip Young (DT).

#### Redshirt Freshmen (12):

Shamar Allen (TE); Randy Birch (DT); Stephen Brown (P); Eddie Cohen (WR); Josh Durm (CB); Kyle Garner (PK); Russell Hemby (QB); Michael Hines (WR); Mike Malone (RB); Chris Powell (LB); Mikael Scott (DE); DeMakus Staton (LB).

#### Freshmen (21):

Carlton Bailey (CB); Shun Blount (LB); Jeff Bradley (DE); Joe Brown (FB); Zach Cooper (QB); Daren Demus (LB); Darren Curtis (DE); Saiyd Gainey (WR); Isaac Green (LB); Travis Hill (LB); Taylor Hurst (OL); Jabir Jones (S); Dan Lawrence (OT); John McEachin (RB); J.J. Nesheiwat (TE); Brooks Robinson (QB); James Singletary (TE); Levander Thomas (DE); Drew Walker (LB); Meko Watson (CB); Ben Weisensel (OT).

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

*T. Alford* ..... *All-Ford*  
*Shun Blount* ..... *BLUNT*  
*Daren Demus* ..... *Dee-Mus*  
*Felipe Foster* ..... *Fill-eep-Ay*  
*Saiyd Gainey* ..... *Sigh-eed*  
*Xavier Godard* ..... *Zave-ee-er GOD-ard*  
*Calvin Guinyard* ..... *(hard "G") Gin-Yerd*  
*Luis Herron* ..... *LEWIS*  
*Jabir Jones* ..... *Juh-Beer*  
*Tim Mayse* ..... *May-See*  
*Kevin McAlmont* ..... *Mic-Al-mont*

*J.J. Nesheiwat* ..... *Nesh-what*  
*Wendell Singletary* ..... *Win-DELL*  
*Jada Sullivan* ..... *JAY-da*  
*Bennett Swygert* ..... *S-why-gert*  
*Ben Weisensel* ..... *Wise-an-Sell*  
*Nicholas Wishart* ..... *WISH-art*  
*Jarrett Wishon* ..... *WISH-on*

#### COACHES

*Coach David Napert* ..... *NAY-pair*  
*Coach Matt Rhule* ..... *Matt RULE*