

WESTERN CAROLINA *Catamounts*



2002 FOOTBALL
Uniting the Past, Present and Future

2002 CATAMOUNT SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	Site
Aug. 31	at Liberty	3:30 pm	Lynchburg, Va.
Sept. 7	at Auburn	4:00 pm (CT)	Auburn, Ala.
Sept. 14	West Virginia Tech	6:00 pm	E.J. Whitmire Stadium/ Bob Waters Field
Sept. 21	at The Citadel *	2:00 pm	Charleston, S.C.
Sept. 28	East Tennessee State * (Mountain Heritage Day)	6:00 pm	E.J. Whitmire Stadium/ Bob Waters Field
Oct. 5	at Furman *	2:00 pm	Greenville, S.C.
Oct. 12	Georgia Southern * (Hall of Fame Weekend)	2:00 pm	E.J. Whitmire Stadium/ Bob Waters Field
Oct. 19	at Wofford *	1:30 pm	Spartanburg, S.C.
Oct. 26	Chattanooga * (Homecoming)	2:00 pm	E.J. Whitmire Stadium/ Bob Waters Field
Nov. 2	at VMI *	1:00 pm	Lexington, Va.
Nov. 9	Open		
Nov. 16	Appalachian State * (Fox Sports Net South TV)	3:30 pm	E.J. Whitmire Stadium/ Bob Waters Field

Bold - Home Games

* - Southern Conference Games



Kent Briggs enters his first season as Western Carolina's head football coach. However, the Asheville native is not new to the Cullowhee campus as he played quarterback for the Catamounts from 1976-79 and was an assistant coach under legendary coach Bob Waters from 1980-88.

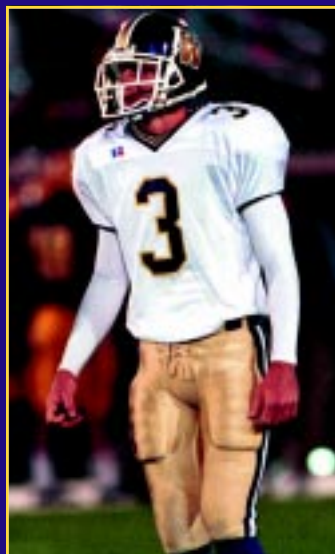
Western's Returning All-Southern Conference Selections



Michael Banks • WR
First Team All-SoCon
 WCU's three-time leader in receiving yards, receptions and touchdown receptions.



Fred Boateng • TB
Second Team All-SoCon
 Rushed for 1,225 yards and 12 TDs in 2001 to rank as the SoCon's top returning rusher.



Justin Fryer • FS
First Team All-SoCon
 Led WCU with 116 tackles in 2001 after leading the SoCon in interceptions in 2000.



Nick McNeil • DE
Second Team All-SoCon
 Led the SoCon in both solo sacks (9) and total sacks (11) while leading WCU in tackles for losses.



As the Catamount football program prepares to kickoff the Kent Briggs era in the fall of 2002, the look of the football helmets will also begin a new era. "The Cats" mark has been reborn with a look that reflects the significance of the past, a feel for the present and a look to the future. The new helmet mark displays the progressiveness of Western Carolina University, the Department of Athletics and the surrounding community.

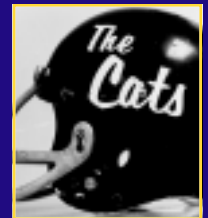
"The new mark symbolizes the importance of the tradition from the past with 'The Cats' being brought back to the helmet," Briggs said. "But this new design adds the 'cat eyes' which reflects the vision and our current direction, while the fangs in 'The Cats' represent the attacking mentality of the football program. We wanted to incorporate the past, the present and the future. One by itself would not have been as strong or as important as all three are together."

Prior to the 1971 season, Coach Bob Waters and his staff decided that the football helmets needed a new look. The Catamount football teams through the years had worn plain, purple helmets that adorned no logos or marks. It had to be simple, but different from what others had. It needed to set Western apart. "The Cats" written in script became the choice and, over time, the tradition of Western Carolina football. Although it changed in color – going from white to gold – "The Cats" remained on the Catamount football helmets for 26 of the next 28 years, until it was dropped in favor of the block "W" that has been worn during the past three seasons. (In 1989, the helmets resembled the current Louisiana State helmet as the shell was gold with "WCU" in purple arched over a gold Catamount head. The 1990 helmets were plain, purple helmets.)

"The long-standing tradition that is 'The Cats' is back, but the only place for the Catamounts to focus on is the future," Briggs said. "The bringing together the past, present and future is the only way we can truly be as good as we can be."

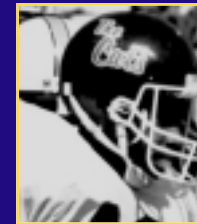
Prior to the arrival of legendary head coach Bob Waters, Western's helmets had many looks, ranging from all gold (1969) to all purple (1970) to some having a single stripe.

However, no helmets had a logo until Coach Waters and his staff first used "The Cats" for the 1971 season.



1971-81

In 1971, Coach Waters and his staff first used "The Cats." The script was white on a purple helmet.



1982-88

In 1982, "The Cats" saw its first change. While the helmet was still purple, the script was now gold with a white outline.



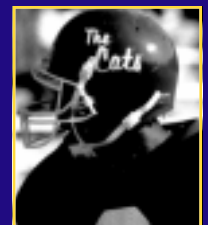
1989

The 1989 season saw a radical change in WCU's headgear, changing to a gold helmet with a purple decal.



1990

The 1990 helmet was similar to the helmets prior to Coach Waters' arrival as they were plain, purple helmets.



1991

The 1991 season saw "The Cats" return to its original script version. Like 1971, the helmet was purple with "The Cats" in white.



1992-98

In 1992, "The Cats" had a slight alteration, reverting from the design from 1982-88. "The Cats" were gold with white outline.



1999-2001

Western saw its second radical change in 1999, going to a gold block "W" with white outline. It also had white and gold stripes.

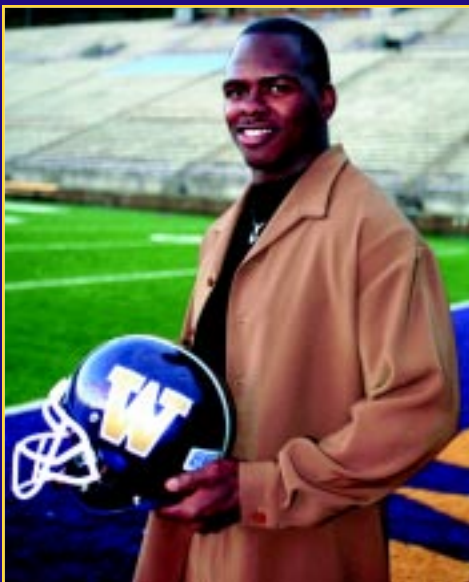
E.J. WHITMIRE STADIUM



BOB WATERS FIELD



This past fall, Western Carolina added a permanent reminder of its retired football jerseys. The numbers 54 (for Art Byrd) and 23 (for Jerry Gaines) were placed on the southeast side of Whitmire Stadium. Art Byrd's family (left) was on hand for the ceremony. Also pictured is Jerry Gaines (right) when his jersey was retired in the 1970's.



Former Catamount and current New England Patriot David Patten (left) was back on Western's campus this past March when he was honored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Last October, Patten became the first NFL player since Walter Payton 23 years ago to run, catch and pass for touchdowns in the same game. By the end of the game against the Indianapolis Colts, Patten had amassed 206 all-purpose yards, including four catches for 117 yards. Those exploits earned him AFC Offensive Player of the Week honors. In the Super Bowl, Patten scored the only offensive touchdown of the game in the Patriots' 20-17 upset win over the St. Louis Rams, and he also scored the lone touchdown the previous week in the AFC championship game.