



WESTERN CAROLINA

2026 CATAMOUNT FOOTBALL | GAME NOTES

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WESTERN CAROLINA ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS /// RAMSEY CENTER – 92 CATAMOUNT ROAD /// @CATAMOUNTS /// CATAMOUNTSPORTS.COM

• CATAMOUNT QUICK FACTS •

Location:..... Cullowhee, N.C., 28723
..... Pronounced "KULL - oh - whee"
Founded:..... 1889
Enrollment:..... 12,308 (Fall 2026)
Nickname:..... Catamounts
Colors:..... Purple & Gold
Stadium:..... E.J. Whitmire Stadium (14,000)
Field:..... Bob Waters Field (Artificial: TenCate Pivot)
Affiliation:..... NCAA Div. I – Championship Subdivision (FCS)
Conference:..... Southern Conference (SoCon)
Chancellor:..... Dr. Kelli R. Brown (Toledo, 1982)
Athletics Director:..... Kyle Pifer (Francis Marion, 1999)
Senior Woman Administrator:..... Ashleigh Simmons (ULM, 2014)

FOOTBALL HISTORY:

First Year of Football:..... 1931
Seasons of Football:..... 91st
All-Time / SoCon Record:..... 380-548-23 (.412) / 137-204-3 (.403)
NCAA Postseason Appearances (Div. I):..... 2 (1)
Postseason Record (Div. I):..... 3-2 (3-1)
Best Finish:..... 1983 National Finalist (lost 43-7 to So. Illinois)
Last Appearance:..... 1983
2025 Record:..... 7-5 (.583) (Home: 2-4 | Away: 5-1)
2025 SoCon Record (Finish):..... 6-2 (2nd) (Home: 2-2 | Away: 4-0)

WCU FOOTBALL COACHING STAFF:

Head Coach:..... Kerwin Bell (Florida, 1987)
• **Head Coaching Record at WCU:**..... 33-28 (.541, 6th yr)
• **Overall Record:**..... 126-70 (.643, 18 yrs)

ASSISTANT COACHES / SUPPORT STAFF

Rylan Wells Offensive Coord. / Recruiting Coord. / QBs
Nick Reveiz Defensive Coordinator
Kerry Webb Special Teams Coordinator
Mike Welch Assistant Coach / Defensive Line
Kyle Dickey Assistant Coach / Tight Ends
Malik Goodman Assistant Coach / Safeties
Malik Chevy Assistant Coach / Cornerbacks
Parish Metzger Assistant Coach / Quarterbacks
Jeremy King Assistant Coach / Offensive Line
Corey Headley Assistant Coach / Wide Receivers
Rudi Small Assistant Coach / Running Backs
Evan Dvorchik Director of Player Personnel – (Special Tms)
Nick Back Quality Control Coach – Offense (Asst. OL)
Jeremiah Judd Quality Control Coach – Offense (Asst. WR/TE)
Joseph Kieser Quality Control Coach – Defense (Asst. CBs)
Cale Matthews Quality Control Coach – Offense (Asst. WRs)
Austin Shealy Quality Control Coach – Defense (Asst. LBs)
Todd Shealy General Manager & Director of Football Ops
Braden Erwin Asst. General Manager
Madelyn Lee Director of Recruiting
Bailey Johnson Football Video Coordinator
Andrew Bates Director of Sports Performance

WESTERN CAROLINA MEDIA RELATIONS INFORMATION:

Associate AD/Media Relations (FB Contact):..... Daniel Hooker
• **Email Address:**..... dhooker@email.wcu.edu
• **Office / Cell Phone:**..... (828) 227-2339 / (828) 508-2494
Director of Media Relations (Secondary FB):..... Greg Hartlage
• **Email Address:**..... ghartlage@email.wcu.edu
Director of Media Relations:..... Joshua Ragsdale
• **Email Address:**..... jragdale@email.wcu.edu
Director of Video Operations:..... Roman Uglehus
Asst. Director of Video Operations:..... Rob Burlington
Football Press Box Phone:..... (828) 227-2116
Athletics Mailing & Overnight Address:..... WCU Athletics
92 Catamount Road – Ramsey Center
Cullowhee, N.C. 28723



GM5: ETSU BUCCANEERS (2-2, 0-0) vs. WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNTS (2-2, 0-0)
Sat., Sept. 26, 2026 • 3:32 pm • Nexstar / ESPN+ / Catamount Sports Network • Johnson City, Tenn. • William B. Greene, Jr. Stadium (7,694)

GAME COVERAGE:

BROADCAST:
  
TV TALENT: Pete Yanity, Jeremy Greene, & Dave Friedman
RADIO: Catamount Sports Network
RADIO TALENT: Gary Ayers, Daniel Hooker, & Jeff Bryson
ONLINE AUDIO: www.CatamountSports.com
TWITTER: @Catamounts, @CatamountsFB
SERIES HISTORY: Series tied, 27-27-1 (L-2)
In Cullowhee: WCU leads, 14-12 (L-1) MR: L, 52-35 (2025)
In Johnson City: WCU trails, 12-15-1 (L-1) MR: L, 24-21 (2024)



WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNTS

Head Coach: Kerwin Bell
Record at WCU: 33-28, 6th yr
Career Record: 126-70, 18th yr



ETSU BUCCANEERS

Head Coach: Will Healy
Record at ETSU: 9-7, 2nd yr
Career Record: 37-52, 9th year

2026 CATAMOUNT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE / RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME / SCORE	TV	NOTES
AUG. 29	EASTERN KENTUCKY	CULLOWHEE	W, 45-21	ESPN+	Catamounts rallied from 14-10 halftime deficit, outscored EKU 35-7 in 2nd half
Sept. 6	at Campbell	Buies Creek, N.C.	L, 28-19	FloCollege	Postponed to Sunday; Catamounts unable to rally from 28-10 halftime deficit
Sept. 12	at Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio	L, 62-10	ESPN+	Catamounts closed to 14-10 in 2nd qtr; Bearcats close with 48-straight points
SEPT. 19	PRESBYTERIAN (FW)	CULLOWHEE	W, 58-14	ESPN+	Josh Perry, 142 rush yds & 3 TDs, while defense pitches 2nd half shutout
Sept. 26	at ETSU * (BRBB)	Johnson City, Tenn.	3:30 pm	Nexstar/E+	Blue Ridge Border Battle; ETSU retained possession of "the Rock" last year
OCT. 3	TENNESSEE TECH* (AW)	CULLOWHEE	6 pm	Nexstar/E+	WCU Football Alumni weekend, first meeting since 2000 and first in SoCon
Oct. 10	at Mercer *	Macon, Ga.	3 pm	ESPN+	WCU looks to put the clamps on a 10-game series slide since 2016
OCT. 24	CHATTANOOGA * (HC)	CULLOWHEE	2:30 pm	Nexstar/E+	Homecoming; WCU has won four-straight, decided by an average of four pts
Oct. 31	at Furman *	Greenville, S.C.	2 pm	Nexstar/E+	Battle for Purple Supremacy; The Cats outscored Furman 104-27 in last two
NOV. 7	WOFFORD * (HERO/EBCI)	CULLOWHEE	1 pm	ESPN+	Catamounts have won five straight, last four in one-possession games
Nov. 14	at Samford *	Birmingham, Ala.	3:30 pm	ESPN+	WCU with three-game series win streak, longest in series history vs. SAM
NOV. 21	THE CITADEL * (SD)	CULLOWHEE	1 pm	ESPN+	WCU has won five of the last six meetings, including three-straight

* denotes Southern Conference game /// All times listed are Eastern

A WESTERN CAROLINA WIN WOULD:

- Give the Catamounts their first victory away from Cullowhee this season and move WCU above the .500 mark on the regular season;
- Extend WCU's win streak in SoCon openers to four in a row dating back to 2023 – WCU has wins over Samford (2023; 2025) and Wofford (2024) in league openers during the three-game streak;
- Return "The Rock" traveling trophy to Cullowhee for the first time since a dominant 58-7 victory over the Bucs in 2023 ... Pull WCU to 4-5 in the trophy series;
- Represent WCU's first win over ETSU in Johnson City since 2022;

A WESTERN CAROLINA LOSS WOULD:

- Mark a third-straight defeat in the series against ETSU, the longest skid in the series since dropping four in a row from 1994 through 1997 ... Would relegate WCU to 3-6 all-time in the trophy series.

CATAMOUNT QUICK SLANTS:

- Western Carolina's 2026 football roster features players from 13 different states and the District of Columbia, with a pair of international students from Ireland and Spain ... A combined 45 of the student-athletes are from Florida and 30 hailing from North Carolina ... Georgia is represented by 18 players and South Caro-

lina has 10 on roster. The others include Illinois (2) and one from Alabama, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia;

- With the NCAA's new participation models, this year's Catamount roster is predominantly underclassmen, featuring 32 freshmen and 35 sophomores (57%) ... the Catamounts have 25 juniors, eight seniors, and 17 players in their fifth-year of competition;

WESTERN CAROLINA – BY THE NUMBERS IN 2026:

- 29 victories since 2022
- 4 consecutive winning seasons
- 3 straight seven-win campaigns
- 5 consecutive 5,000-yard offensive seasons
- Nearly \$40 million in home facility enhancements
- The Catamount "pro-spread" offense has amassed 5,000 yards of total offense for five straight seasons, rewriting the program record books ... WCU passed for over 4,000 yards in back-to-back seasons, including a program benchmark 4,268 in 2025 ... Since 2021 during the **KERWIN BELL** coaching era in Cullowhee, the Catamounts **LEAD** the FCS with an average of **481.7** offensive yards per game;
- A combined 11 WCU football players SHARE a combined nine LAST names with just one set of brothers*:
DAVIS Da'Shawn (DL), Derrick (RB), Michael (WR)
JONES Braylon (S), Roman (TE)
McIVER Aaron (OL), Brayson (OL) *
WADDELL Beady (LB), Davis (TE)
YOUNG Caleb (S), Jake (TE)

THIS WEEK IN CATAMOUNT FOOTBALL /// SEPT. 21-27

21 Monday	22 Tuesday	23 Wednesday	24 Thursday	25 Friday	26 Saturday	27 Sunday
CATAMOUNT FOOTBALL WEEKLY – 6 PM Coaches Show @ Catamount Jaxe <i>Facebook LIVE and YouTube</i> PRACTICE: 7 pm	MEETINGS: 2:30 pm PRACTICE: 4:30 - 6:30 pm (full)	MEETINGS: 2:30 pm PRACTICE: 4:30 - 6:30 pm (uppers) MEDIA AVAILABILITY 4:15 PM	ESPN+ Broadcast Announcer Call 9:15 am MEETINGS: 2:30 pm PRACTICE: 4:30 - 6:30 pm (uppers)	'HAT DAY' No Media Availability MEETINGS: 2:30 pm PRACTICE: 4:30 - 6:30 pm (helmet only)	TRAVEL ON GAME DAY GAME DAY Western Carolina at ETSU 3:30 pm Johnson City, Tenn. Bell & requested players available after the game	PRACTICE: OFF DAY

WCU INTERVIEW POLICY

Western Carolina's Office of Athletics Media Relations will assist media personnel with interview requests of Catamount student-athletes, coaches and administrators. To arrange interviews, please contact **DANIEL HOOKER**, the Associate Athletic Director for Media Relations at least 24 hours in advance.

Head Coach **KERWIN BELL** will be available for interviews following each practice and following games – Wednesday's practice is the best media availability. Other interviews with Coach Bell must be set-up in advance and it is requested that the nature of the interview be submitted to WCU Media Relations in writing at least 24 hours prior.

Student-athletes will be available for interviews after practices through Wednesday. Unless special permission is granted well in advance, the cut-off time for student-athletes during game weeks will be Noon on Thursday.

WCU FOOTBALL PRACTICE POLICY

WCU football practices in 2024 are open to the public – though it is respectfully requested that attendees watch from the stands and avoid being on the field. Media members are asked to refrain from contacting student-athletes at their home or residence – 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 Bell may be reached weekday mornings, however, it is asked that a specific interview time be scheduled through the Media Relations office.

POSTGAME INTERVIEWS

The WCU locker room is CLOSED postgame. However, following a 10 minute "cooling off" period, head coach Kerwin Bell and requested players will be brought to the media room on the first floor 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.

WORKING CREDENTIALS

Media representatives planning to cover football games at Western Carolina University are asked to request in written form (e-mail) 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 in the press box will be assigned by priority to WCU beat writers, beat writers of the opponents, metropolitan media filing for deadline and specialty publications.

Credentials are assigned by zones and will outline designated areas of the stadium the pass will allow the bearer.

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 either with the parking attendant at the St. David's Church Lot or in the Larry & Mary Arbaugh Atrium in the Phillips Football Center. 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 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.

PHOTOGRAPHERS, VIDEOGRAPHERS & OTHER MEDIA PERSONNEL ARE NOT PERMITTED TO STOP OR STAND IN THE TEAM AREAS – PLEASE KEEP MOVING

MEDIA PARKING

Media parking for Western Carolina football home games is available in a designated parking areas – **BY PERMIT ONLY** – in the **ST. DAVID'S CHURCH PARKING LOT** located directly behind the East Side of E.J. Whitmire Stadium on Forest Hills Road. Media wishing to obtain media parking for

a home game in Cullowhee must contact the WCU Office of Athletics Media Relations in advance for more information on credential availability.

Entry to the St. David's Church Parking lot will be managed by a member of the WCU Athletics game day support staff, granting access with St. David's Church Lot passes and through a checklist of those authorized to park in the lot.

PRESS RELEASES/STATISTICS

The WCU Media Relations Department produces a weekly football release prior to each game during the season. Cumulative statistics will be updated as soon as possible after each contest. Media members may receive the releases and statistics by accessing the Athletics Department web site at www.CatamountSports.com.

CATAMOUNTS ON THE WEB

The WCU football home page at CatamountSports.com 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.

All the current data you need on the Catamounts is as close as your computer at **CatamountSports.com**.

Follow Catamount Athletics on Twitter: @Catamounts
Follow Catamount Football on Twitter: @CatamountsFB



CATAMOUNT SPORTS NETWORK 2026 FOOTBALL AFFILIATES:

105.7 FM / 540 AM WRGCSylva, NC
104.9 FM / 1050 AM WFSCFranklin, NC
1310 AM WISE Sports RadioAsheville, NC
103.9 FM WBRMMarion, NC

Streaming Audio Online at
CatamountSports.com

FOUR radio station affiliates across six frequencies in North Carolina are set to carry broadcasts of the **CATAMOUNT SPORTS NETWORK** during Western Carolina's 2026 football season. CSN has also partnered with Sidearm Sports to provide unlimited streaming audio through the athletics website, CatamountSports.com.

2026 BROADCAST CREW (HOME)

Play-by-Play: Gary Ayers
Color Analyst: Daniel Hooker / Jeff Bryson
Host / Producer: Jeff Bryson

2026 BROADCAST CREW (ROAD)

Play-by-Play: Gary Ayers
Color Analyst: Daniel Hooker
Host / Producer: Jeff Bryson



NOTES ENTERING SATURDAY'S GAME VS. EAST TENNESSEE STATE:

- **MOUNTAIN RIVALRY RENEWED:** Western Carolina travels to Johnson City, Tenn., to open its Southern Conference slate against mountain-rival East Tennessee State on Saturday afternoon at William B. Greene Jr. Stadium in the "Blue Ridge Border Battle" in this week's Ingles SoCon Game of the Week on Nexstar and ESPN+;
 - Western Carolina got back into the win column against NCAA FCS competition last Saturday with a 58-14 rout of Presbyterian to return to .500 overall ... It's the second 2-2 start under head coach **KERWIN BELL** – 2022 and 2026 – and the best four-game start for WCU since 2023 when the squad was 3-1;
 - Both Western Carolina and ETSU have seasonal losses to Campbell on their ledger this year – the Bucs dropping their season-opener at home to the Camels, 49-37, while WCU pitched a second-half shutout but could not overcome the 18-point halftime deficit in falling 28-19 on the road on a Sunday;
 - The two teams enter league play after home victories – ETSU earning a 35-27 win over West Georgia, while WCU upended Presbyterian, 58-14;
- **FIRST IN FLIGHT – SATURDAY AERIAL DISPLAY:** If seasonal numbers are any indication, Saturday's meeting between WCU and ETSU could be an aerial showcase, pitting WCU's **LEX THOMAS** against ETSU's MASON MIMS and the passing attack;
 - WCU and ETSU rank 1st and 2nd, respectively, in passing yards in the SoCon this year – WCU (1,147 yds) and ETSU (1,008 yds) ... Both have tossed seven passing TDs this season;
 - WCU ranks 14th (286.8 yds/gm) nationally in passing offense, while ETSU is 26th (252.0 yds/gm) ... WCU ranks FOURTH nationally with 157 pass attempts on the season and SECOND in the NCAA FCS with 104 pass completions;
 - WCU starter **LEX THOMAS** ranks SIXTH nationally in total passing yards (1,079) and 12th in passing yards per game (269.75) ... ETSU starter MASON MIMS ranks 21st nationally in passing average (247.75) and 14th in total passing yards (991) ... the duo has also been accurate through four games – Mims ranks seventh with a 71.8% completion rate, while Thomas is tied for 11th (68.8%);
- **PURPLE & 'GOLDEN SoCon ANNIVERSARY':** Western Carolina plays its 50th Southern Conference football opener on Saturday at ETSU ... the Catamounts joined the league in 1976, but did not play an official league schedule until 1977 ... the Bucs first joined the SoCon in 1978 and were a member until 2005 before officially rejoining in 2014;
 - WCU is 25-24 all-time in its first league game, riding a THREE-game win streak dating back to 2023... the Catamounts have wins over Samford (30-7, 2023), Wofford (21-17, 2024), and Samford (50-35, 2025) in the current streak;
 - WCU is just 8-18 when its league-opener is played on the road ... the Catamounts open their SoCon slate away from home for the first time since 2022 – a road loss at Samford (35-12) ... the Catamounts have lost FOUR-straight SoCon openers away from Cullowhee, last winning its league opener away from home in 2014 at Furman;
 - Saturday marks just the EIGHTH time that WCU opens its SoCon schedule against ETSU, with the Catamounts holding a 5-2 record against the Bucs in league-opening games ... Of the previous seven meetings, THREE have been decided in one-possession games – two wins by WCU (27-25, 1982; 17-16, 1983) and one for ETSU (34-31, 2016);
 - In the way of memorable league-opening road games, WCU opened SoCon play in helping welcome ETSU back to the conference in 2016 with the first league game played at Bristol Motor Speedway – the three-point, 34-31 ETSU win.
- **WHAT'S TRENDING:**
 - Western Carolina's defense pitched the **second** second-half shutout against an NCAA FCS team this season, shutting down Presbyterian after halftime ... the Catamounts only allowed 23 yards of total offense and one first down after the break;
 - Against **THREE NCAA FCS** opponents to date this season, the Catamounts have outscored the opposition **75-7 in the second half** – 35-7 against Eastern Kentucky, 9-0 in the Sunday loss at Campbell, and 31-0 in the home win over Presbyterian;
 - After entering the Presbyterian game 98th out of 116 NCAA FCS teams in rushing offense, the Catamounts vaulted to 55th in the country this week, improving by over 59 yards per game – from 87.7 to 147.0 yards per game;
 - Through two home games, Western Carolina **LEADS** the Southern Conference – and ranks 16th nationally in the NCAA FCS in average attendance at 12,647.
- **TAKE IT AWAY, CATAMOUNTS:** Western Carolina enters the week tied for 30th nationally with SIX turnovers gained on the season – one fumble and five interceptions, the latter tied for 11th in the FCS ... WCU's +4 turnover margin ranks tied for 11th in the NCAA FCS ... WCU has been held without a takeaway just once this year (at Cincinnati);

THE MATCH-UP

SCHOOLS:	WESTERN CAROLINA	EAST TENNESSEE ST.
LOCATION:	Cullowhee, N.C.	Johnson City, Tenn.
FOUNDED:	1889	1911
ENROLLMENT:	12,308	13,416
NICKNAME:	Catamounts	Buccaneers
CONFERENCE:	Southern (SoCon)	Southern (SoCon)
COLORS:	Purple & Gold	Navy Blue & Gold
HOME FIELD:	E.J. Whitmire Stadium	Greene Stadium
CAPACITY:	14,000	7,694
HEAD COACH:	Kerwin Bell	Will Healy
RECORD AT SCHOOL:	33-27 (6th year)	9-7 (2nd year)
OVERALL RECORD:	126-70 (18th year)	37-52 (9th year)
BASIC OFFENSE:	Pro Spread	Spread
BASIC DEFENSE:	4-2-5	Multiple
WEBSITE:	CatamountSports.com	ETSUBucs.com

- At Campbell, the Catamounts recorded three interceptions for the first time since picking off three Furman passes last October ... WCU's defense has four picks on the season after recording 12 all last season;
- Two of the interceptions were made by defensive linemen, **CALEB TURNER-ALLEN** and **FERNANDO JEANTY** ... the linemen INTs mark the **first for the Catamounts since 2008** when Gene Singletary intercepted a pass against Georgia Southern, returning the pick 31 yards for a TD;
- **SUNDAY SCORING STRUGGLES:** Western Carolina's offense was held to its lowest point total against NCAA FCS competition since the last meeting against Campbell, a 24-16 home loss back in 2024 ... Against like competition, WCU's 19 points were the sixth lowest under head coach Kerwin Bell during his tenure in Cullowhee:
 - 6 pts, at Mercer (2022); 12 pts, at Samford (2022); 16 pts, vs. Campbell (2024); 17 pts, vs. Furman (2023) and at Chattanooga (2021); 19 pts, at Campbell (2026)
 - WCU has lit the scoreboard for 103 points at home this season – 45 against ECU and 58 vs. PC – but has just 29 combined points away from Cullowhee.
- **TROUBLE WITH NUMBERS:** Dating back to 2023, WCU has **dropped its last 11 games as a nationally-ranked NCAA FCS team (WCU is CURRENTLY UNRANKED)**... WCU's last win with a number next to its name came in the "Blue Ridge Border Battle" with ETSU when the No. 17 Catamounts dismantled the Buccaneers, 58-7, at home on Nov. 11, 2023:

DATE	OPPONENT – SCORE	(RANK) WCU – SCORE
Sept. 6, 2026	(RV) Campbell – 28	(24/RV) Western Carolina – 19
Nov. 15, 2025	ETSU – 52	(25/RV) Western Carolina – 35
Nov. 8, 2025	(10/12) Mercer 49	(24/24) Western Carolina 47
Sept. 6, 2025	Wake Forest – 42	(25/RV) Western Carolina – 10
Aug. 30, 2025	Gardner-Webb – 52	(19/18) Western Carolina – 45
Nov. 9, 2024	(RV) ETSU – 24	(22) Western Carolina – 21
Oct. 26, 2024	(14) Mercer – 44	(24) Western Carolina – 34
Sept. 21, 2024	(10) Montana – 46	(24) Western Carolina – 35
Sept. 7, 2024	Campbell – 24	(17) Western Carolina 16
Aug. 29, 2024	(24 FBS) NC State – 38	(20) Western Carolina – 21
Nov. 18, 2023	VMI – 27	(14) Western Carolina – 24

NOTES ENTERING SATURDAY'S GAME VS. EAST TENNESSEE STATE:

- **WESTERN CAROLINA VS. ETSU – ALL-TIME SERIES:** Longtime rivals WCU and ETSU meet for the 56th time in series history that dates back to 1932, despite the series lying dormant from 2003 through 2016 when ETSU dropped its football program ... the last 10 series meetings have nearly been split evenly, though ETSU has a 6-4 edge;
 - The all-time series between WCU and ETSU stands tied at 27-27-1 ... **Five of the last eight series meetings have been decided in one-possession games;**
 - A combined SEVEN of the last 11 series meetings have been decided in a one-possession game – twice going to overtime – a 23-20 OT win for WCU back in 2019 and an epic 45-43 ETSU win in triple-OT in Johnson City back in 2018;
 - The traveling rivalry trophy, "the Rock" is up for grabs for the ninth time dating back to 2018 with the Bucs leading the series, 5-3.

2026 CATAMOUNT FOOTBALL PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:

0 ^(C) AJ COLOMBO	WR	cuh - LUMM - bo	38 Jayden JOSELIN	S	JOSS - uh - lynn
1 ^(C) JAI Boyd	WR	juh - EYE	41 BEADY WADDELL V	LB	BEE - dee WAD - dell
2 ^(C) NAKOMA Simpson	S	nuh - COMB - uh	43 BRAEDEN BARGER	LB	BRAY - den BARR - jurr
4 ^(C) KHA'LEAL Sterling	WR	kuh - LEEL	46 Noah McCLANAHAN	LB	mick - CLAN - uh - han
5 ^(C) Michael ROSSIN	WR	ROSS - sin	50 Xavier NOCCO	LS	NAH - koh (like taco)
7 ^(C) MARSEILLE Taylor	DB	marr - SAY	51 Aaron SANEZ	OL	SAN - ez
8 ^(C) Ryan McKINNIS	LB	mick - KEN - us	52 Brayson McIVER	OL	mick - KEY - vurr
9 ^(C) BODE Burns	TE	BO - dee	55 SECREA ALGIE	OL	suh - CRAY AL - gee
9 ^(C) ELDRICK Robinson II	LB	EL - drick	56 Aaron McIVER	OL	mick - KEY - vurr
10 ^(C) SANTANA Carlos	WR	san - TAN - nuh	58 Isaac BOULGER	OL	BOWL - jurr
10 ^(C) JABARI McWilliams	DL	juh - BAR - ree	60 Bryan McCOLLUM	K	mick - CALL - uhm
11 ^(C) Marco PATIERNO	LB	puh - TURN - no	63 Thomas GUERRERO	P/H	gurr - RARE - roh
12 ^(C) Julian QUINTERO	S	quin - TAIR - oh	67 Steven HAMBY	OL	HAM - bee
13 ^(C) Richard HOLLIS	WR	HALL - liss	68 AIDAN Cooper	OL	AY - den
14 ^(C) VANIER BAPTISTE III	DT	vuh - NEER BAPT - teest	72 Andrew THREATT	OL	like street or eat
15 ^(C) Hank BODINE	LB	bo - DEEN	73 Colin McCLELLAN	OL	mick - CLELL - luhn
17 ^(C) JA'TORIAN Mack	S	jah - TORE - e - uhn	75 RENARD Smith	OL	ruh - NARD
18 ^(C) Matthew KEENER	WR	KEY - nurr	78 J'VEON Bush	DL	JAY - vee - on
18 ^(C) TRYSTAN Anderson	DL	TRISS - tuhn	79 VITO MORIANA-SIGEL	OL	Veto more-e-AHN-no ZEE-gull
19 ^(C) MOUHAMADOU Mane	WR	moe - HAH - muh - doo	82 DAVON Washington	WR	DAY - vahn
20 JADARIUS DOBIE	RB	juh - DARE - e - us DOUGH - bee	84 JEMARIOUS Reaves	WR	juh - MARR - e - us
21 ^(C) NAS ASHENAFI	DB	NOZ osh - SEEN - ah - fee	86 Davis WADDELL	TE	WAH - dell
24 ^(C) TERRELL POYSER	CB	turr - RELL POI - surr	89 Ellis CHAPPELL	WR	like chapel
27 ^(C) JERMIYAH Douglas	SPUR	jer - uh - MY - uh	90 DA'SHAWN Davis	BAN	DAY - shawn
31 ALANT'E Reese	S	al - LAHN - tay	91 JAKOBY Diamond	DL	juh - COE - bee
32 A.J. MINTZE	S	like mints	94 MALACHI Hill	DL	MAL - uh - kye
33 Gavin ROWELL	DL	RAWL (like towel)	97 Fernando JEANTY	DL	JENN - tee
37 DEVON Wilson Jr.	CB	duh - VAHN	98 AIDEN Black	DL	AYE - den

► **LAST TIME WE MET – ETSU 52, WESTERN CAROLINA 35:** No. 25 Western Carolina overcame a 10-0 deficit with 21 straight points as part of a 28-point second quarter. However, the Catamounts were outscored 28-7 after halftime and were twice turned away inside the redzone in the fourth quarter as East Tennessee State retained possession of the traveling trophy, "the Rock," with a 52-35 victory at E.J. Whitmire Stadium / Bob Waters Field;

► WCU climbed out of the early 10-point hole before surrendering a pair of 11-point leads, 21-10 and 28-17;

► **NOTABLE RETURNERS:** WCU WR **MICHAEL ROSSIN** caught a 61-yard touchdown pass among his four receptions for 89 yards for the Catamounts ... ETSU RB **Jason Albritton** ran for 125 yards on 20 touches with a TD, while WR **Charlie Browder** had four catches for 52 yards ... On defense, ETSU's **Jivon Oggs** had eight tackles, including one for loss **Mike Jenkins** had seven ... **KEN MOORE JR.** had two tackles and two PBUs for WCU.

WESTERN CAROLINA – NOTES ENTERING 2026:

► **TRENDING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION:** Western Carolina won seven games in 2025 giving the Catamounts three-consecutive seven-win seasons ... WCU posted a final record above .500 for the fourth-straight season ... It was WCU's sixth seven-win season over the past 12 years – and third in three seasons (2014, 2015, 2017, 2023, 2024, 2025);

► WCU is riding the momentum of its **fourth-consecutive winning season** – (6-5 in 2023; 7-4 in 2024; 7-5 in 2024; 7-5 in 2025) – matching the program's longest string since 1976-79 (6-4 in 1976; 6-4-1 in 1977; 6-5 in 1978; 6-5 in 1979);

► The past four seasons have been the **BEST FOUR-YEAR STRETCH** in Western Carolina football history, as the Catamounts have won **29 games** since 2022, usurping the 24 win stretch from 1976-79.

► **COACHING STAFF CHANGES:** **NICK REVEIZ** (pronounced ruh-VASE), who spent the past three seasons as the defensive coordinator at Charleston Southern, was named to the same position at Western Carolina in late February ... Reveiz is a 13-year collegiate coaching veteran with additional stops at VMI (2022), Albany State, and Carson-Newman;

► **The Catamount defense has had FOUR different coordinators over the past FIVE seasons** – Justin Hinds, 2021; Chaz Scales, 2022-23; Jerry Odom, 2024-25; and **NICK REVEIZ** in 2026;

► WCU held ECU to just 21 points, the **fewest allowed by a WCU defense in a season opener** since holding Mars Hill to 14 points back in 2015 – and the fewest allowed to a NCAA Division I team in an opener since 2002, when the Catamounts held Liberty (then FCS) to just three points;

► WCU's defense held ECU to just seven points in the second half and limited the Colonels to 174 yards of total offense over the final two quarters ... **WCU pitched a second-half shutout at Campbell and vs. Presbyterian;**

► Reveiz is among FIVE new full-time assistant coaches on the Catamount staff entering 2026 – **DEFENSE: Malik Chevy** (cornerbacks), **Ty Phillips** (bandits), **Ross Pryor** (linebackers), and **Mike Welch** (defensive line / run-game coordinator) ... **OFFENSE: Parish Metzger** (quarterbacks), who assumed a full-time role ... WCU's offense moved **Corey Headley** (wide receivers) ... **Kerry Webb** (special teams) was elevated to Associate Head Coach;

► **HIT THE GAS WITH WCU'S RECORD-SETTING OFFENSE:** For a fifth-straight season in 2025, WCU eclipsed 5,000 yards of total offense – and a fourth-straight year it broke the program record, finishing the year with 5,920 total yards to edge the 2023 team (5,545) by 375 yards and 2024 squad (5,665) by 255 yards ... WCU's offensive average of 472.1 yards per game ranked THIRD in the NCAA FCS in 2024 and ranked SECOND in the NCAA FCS in 2025 with a 493.3 yards per game average;

2021: 5,181 yds | 2022: 5,339 yds | 2023: 5,545 yds | 2024: 5,665 yds | 2025: 5,920 yds

WHO'S UP; WHO'S DOWN

POSITION COACHES ON THE FIELD:

Kerwin Bell Head Coach

OFFENSE:

Rylan Wells Offensive Coordinator

Kyle Dickey Tight Ends

Jeremy King Offensive Line

Parish Metzger Quarterbacks

Rudi Small Running Backs

DEFENSE:

Nick Reveiz Defensive Coordinator

Malik Goodman Safeties

Ty Phillips Bandits

Mike Welch Defensive Line

SPECIAL TEAMS:

Kerry Webb Special Teams Coordinator

IN THE COACHES BOOTH:

Nick Back Offensive QC / TEs

Malik Chevy Cornerbacks

Corey Headley Wide Receivers

Ross Pryor Linebackers

Joe Kieser Special Teams QC

Braden Erwin Assistant GM

NOTABLE WCU FOOTBALL ALUM:

• **DEAN BIASUCCI**, PK – former NFL kicker, Indianapolis Colts (3rd all-time leading scorer, 783 pts from 1984-94) ... Pro Bowl in 1987 ... St. Louis Ram in 1995;

• **FRAN BROWN, DB** – Current head football coach at Syracuse, former first-team All-SoCon selection from 2003-06;

• **LOUIS COOPER**, LB – 11th round draft pick by Seattle in 1985 ... Seven-year career, mostly with Kansas City Chiefs;

• **KEION CROSSEN, DB** – 7th round draft pick by New England in 2018 ... Played with New England, helping the Patriots to Super Bowl LIII ... Also played with the Texans, Giants, and Dolphins;

• **TIGER GREENE, DB** – Played seven seasons in Atlanta (1985) and Green Bay (1986-91)

• **BRAD HOOVER, FB** – Former fullback for the Carolina Panthers (2000-10) ... Played in Super Bowl XXXVII;

• **ANDREW JORDAN, TE** – Drafted in the 6th round of the 1994 draft ... Played eight seasons with the Minnesota Vikings, Philadelphia Eagles, and Tampa Bay Bucs;

• **TONY JONES, OL** – 2-time Super Bowl champion, 12-year NFL veteran with the Denver Broncos;

• **EDDIE MCGILL, WR/TE** – Two seasons, with St. Louis Cardinals;

• **DAVID PATTEN, WR** – Played for four NFL teams, most notably winning three Super Bowl rings with the New England Patriots;

• **GENO SEGERS (FB)** – former Catamount football player, now actor ... Dwayne in NBC's "Perfect Harmony," Chayton Littlestone in Cinemax original Banshee; Yellowstone;

• **CLYDE SIMMONS, DL** – 9th round NFL Draft pick by Philadelphia ... 15-year NFL veteran, 2x Pro Bowl, Eagles Hall of Fame ... Eagles, Cardinals, Jaguars, Bengals, & Bears;

• **STEVE WILLIAMS, OL** – Drafted by 49ers, played two seasons in 1973-74 for the Baltimore Colts;

OTHER NOTABLE CATAMOUNT STUDENT-ATHLETES:

• **JT POSTON** – Four-time PGA TOUR winner, WCU all-time leading scorer and 2-time SoCon men's golf champion (2011-15);

• **KEVIN MARTIN, G** – Played in the NBA from 2004-2016, playing for the Sacramento Kings, Houston Rockets, Oklahoma City Thunder, Minnesota Timberwolves;

• **GREG HOLLAND, RHP** – 10th round draft pick in 2007, played in the MLB 2010 through 2022 ... 2-time All-Star ... 2014 Mariano Rivera Award ... On the KC Royals 2015 World Championship team ... Pitched for six MLB teams;

• **JARED BURTON, RHP** – 8th round draft pick by Oakland A's in 2002, made MLB debut with Cincinnati Reds in 2007 ... MLB with Reds and Minnesota Twins;

• **MANTEO MITCHELL** – United States Olympic silver medalist from the 2012 men's 4x400-relay, who is currently pursuing a run at the Olympic bobsled team;

• **MATT STILLWELL (BASE)** – independent country music singer and recording artist, currently with "Hometown House Party."

• *Among other WCU's graduates are former Navy & Georgia Tech football coach and SoCon Hall of Famer, **PAUL JOHN-SON**; former NFL referee and ESPN officiating analyst, **GERALD AUSTIN**; actress **BOBBI BAKER**, and CBS's *Big Brother* (BB) 13 winner & BB27 participant, **RACHEL REILLY**.*

BELL VS. OPPONENTS AT WCU

OPPONENT	W-L	STREAK
Arkansas	0-1	L-1
CAMPBELL	1-2	L-1
Charleston Southern	2-0	W-2
CINCINNATI	0-1	L-1
CHATTANOOGA	4-1	W-4
EASTERN KENTUCKY	2-1	W-2
Elon	1-1	L-1
ETSU	2-3	L-2
FURMAN	3-2	W-2
Gardner-Webb	0-2	L-2
Georgia Tech	0-1	L-1
MERCER	0-5	L-5
Montana	0-1	L-1
NC State	0-1	L-1
Oklahoma	0-1	L-1
PRESBYTERIAN	2-0	W-2
SAMFORD	3-2	W-3
THE CITADEL	4-1	W-3
VMI	4-1	W-2
Wake Forest	0-1	L-1
WOFFORD	5-0	W-5
TOTALS	33-28	W-1

BELL RECORD – BY UNIFORM:

JERSEY / PANT COLOR	RECORD
White / White (17x)	11-6 (W-3)
White / Gold (9x)	5-4 (W-4)
White / Purple (9x)	3-6 (L-1)
Purple / White (8x)	4-4 (W-2)
Purple / Gold (10x)	4-6 (L-2)
Purple / Purple (7x)	5-2 (L-1)
Black / Black (1x)	1-0 (W-1)

BELL RECORD YEAR-BY-YEAR

JACKSONVILLE	OVERALL	PFL	FINISH
2007	3-8	2-5	t-6th
2008	9-4	7-1	1st
2009	7-4	6-2	t-3rd
2010	10-1	8-0	t-1st
2011	7-4	6-2	3rd
2012	7-4	5-3	t-4th
2013	5-6	4-4	6th
2014	9-2	7-1	t-1st
2015	9-2	6-2	t-3rd
TOTALS	66-35	52-19	
VALDOSTA STATE	OVERALL	GSC	FINISH
2016	8-3	6-2	t-2nd
2017	5-4	5-3	t-2nd
2018	14-0	8-0	1st
TOTALS	27-7	19-5	
WESTERN CAROLINA	OVERALL	SoCon	FINISH
2021	4-7	4-4	4th-t
2022	6-5	4-4	5th
2023	7-4	5-3	4th
2024	7-5	6-2	2nd
2025	7-5	6-2	2nd
2026	2-2	0-0	
TOTALS	33-28	25-15	
ALL-TIME	126-70		

- ▶ **FOUR-SPOT IN SOCON PRESEASON:** Finishing as the runner-up the past two seasons, Western Carolina was picked fourth in the official preseason coaches' poll. After being picked third each of the past two seasons, this year's prediction is the lowest preseason selection for the Catamounts since a fifth-place pick in both the 2022 and 2023 polls.
- ▶ **TRIO NAMED PRESEASON ALL-SOCON:** Three Catamounts landed on the 2026 Preseason All-Southern Conference teams released as part of the SoCon Football Media Day festivities at the Hotel Hartness on July 21 ... Preseason All-America selection **KEN MOORE JR.** was named a first-team All-SoCon selection at defensive back, with wide receiver **AJ COLOMBO**, who returns from an injury that sidelined him in 2025, and offensive lineman **ZACH WATSON** earning second-team plaudits;
- ▶ **THRICE A PRESEASON ALL-AMERICAN:** Western Carolina fifth-year defensive back **KEN MOORE JR.** was a THREE-TIME FCS All-America selection entering 2026, including a first-team nod from FCS Football Central and second-team honors from Stats Perform and Phil Steele;
 - ▶ Moore Jr. was a first-team All-SoCon selection in 2025, finishing sixth on the WCU squad with 43 tackles, including 28 solo stops and a career-best 5.5 tackles for loss, including a sack ... He had three interceptions, tied for the third-most in the SoCon, returning a pick 64 yards for a TD in the home win over Furman, earning **SoCon Defensive Player of the Week** honors ... Moore added seven seasonal pass breakups, tied for sixth in the conference;
 - ▶ It's the fifth-straight season WCU has landed a player on the Stats Perform Preseason All-America team, joining QBs **Taron Dickens** (2025) and **Cole Gonzales** (2024), transfer linebacker **Antoine Williams** (2023), and **Calvin Jones** (2022) as a kick returner.
- ▶ **MORE FOR MOORE – NAMED TO BUCK BUCHANAN WATCH LIST:** **KEN MOORE JR.** was included on the preseason watch list for the **2026 Buck Buchanan Award**, given annually by Stats Perform FCS to the nation's top defensive player ... He is one of 30 defensive players on this year's watch list, which features five previous finalists, including last year's runner-up, Furman DL Joshua Stoneking, the only other SoCon player ... Moore Jr. is the third Catamount to land on the Buchanan Award Watch List, joining DB **Marvin Tillman** (2018) and LB **Antoine Williams** (2023).
- ▶ **YOU'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR FIRST** – Catamounts with first career TD on first career catch:
 - ▶ WCU has TWO players on its 2026 roster who scored their FIRST career touchdown on their FIRST collegiate career reception – RB **JOSH PERRY** and WR **TREY WALKER**;
 - ▶ RB **JOSH PERRY** caught his first career touchdown pass on a nine-yard strike from QB Taron Dickens in the second quarter of WCU's home win over Furman in 2025;
 - ▶ WR **TREY WALKER** caught a 25-yard TD pass from QB Bennett Judy late in the 2nd quarter against Gardner-Webb in 2025 ... It was Walker's first reception, first TD catch, and just the second TD pass for Judy on the exchange.

2026 GAME-BY-GAME – CATAMOUNT POSTGAME NOTES:

- ▶ **POSTGAME NOTES vs. PRESBYTERIAN (W, 58-14):**
 - ▶ **WE'RE GOING STREAKING:** The Catamounts extended their series win streak over Presbyterian to three in a row since 2015, while also giving WCU 11 victories in the past 12 series meetings with the Blue Hose ... WCU also improved to 3-3 all-time in 'White Out Whitmire' games under head coach **KERWIN BELL** – and improved to 5-1 on Family Weekend under Bell with a FIFTH-straight win;
 - ▶ **SEASON-HIGH IN SCORING:** Western Carolina scored a season-high 58 points in the home win over Presbyterian to remain unbeaten at home;
 - ▶ **FAMILY TRADITION:** Placekicker **BRYAN MCCOLLUM** finished with a career-high 16 points against PC, converting all seven of his PAT attempts and connecting on field goals of 39, a career-long 45, and 27 yards ... McCollum matched the single-game career-best of his older brother, former Catamount **Richard McCollum**, with 16 points – Richard finished second in WCU program history with 300 career points scored;
 - ▶ **JUST PUT IT IN THE BAG:** Western Carolina's defense recorded a season-high **10 tackles for loss**, including a **season-best four sacks** against Presbyterian ... **CHASE KERNS** was credited with a career-best two tackles for loss with a sack on a forced fumble, while **NASSOR ASHENAFI** recorded a career-high 1.5 TFLs, including half a sack ... **KEN MOORE JR.** posted his third career sack.
- ▶ **POSTGAME NOTES at CINCINNATI (L, 62-10):**
 - ▶ **FBS SKID CONTINUES:** WCU dropped to 0-65 all-time against teams from the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision ... Additionally, the Catamounts fell to 0-3 all-time against current Big 12 opponents, now 0-2 against Cincinnati and 0-1 against Kansas (1993);
 - ▶ Cincinnati's 62 points are the most conceded to an FBS opponent since #4 Oklahoma scored 76 against the Catamounts in 2021 ... Meanwhile, the Catamounts only managed 10 points for a second-straight year against its NCAA FBS opponent, falling at Wake Forest 42-10 last season;
 - ▶ The Bearcats closed the night on a 41-point scoring run, stretching their advantage after the Catamounts made it 14-10 with 6:23 in the second quarter on a rushing touchdown by **LEX THOMAS**.
- ▶ **POSTGAME NOTES at CAMPBELL (L, 28-19):**
 - ▶ **FCS ROAD WIN STREAK SNAPPED:** Western Carolina saw its road game winning streak snapped at five-straight, suffering its first road loss since falling at Wake Forest in 2025, while also ending a six-game FCS road win streak;
 - ▶ **SUNDAY RARITY:** With the weather delay and electrical issues at Barker-Lane Stadium, Western Carolina and Campbell played Sunday, Sept. 6 ... It was just the **second time WCU played on a Sunday** in program history, falling to 0-1-1 all-time ... WCU tied The Citadel at Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, S.C., back in 1989 following the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo;
 - ▶ **'GROUNDED' BY THE CAMELS:** Western Carolina was held to just **ONE RUSHING YARD** at Campbell when factoring in the yardage lost on three sacks ... It was by far the fewest rushing yards by a Catamount offense under head coach Kerwin Bell – previously, the low was just 34 rushing yards at Wake Forest in 2025 and the previous against

a FCS opponent was 46 against Chattanooga in 2021 ... WCU's one rushing yard on 18 carries are the lowest since 2014 when WCU was held to -8 yards on the ground on just 13 carries in a road loss to FBS Alabama ... It's WCU's lowest rushing output against NCAA FCS competition since Georgia Southern limited WCU to -12 yards on just 12 attempts back in 2009 when both were still members of the Southern Conference (GSU went FBS in 2014).

▶ POSTGAME NOTES vs. EASTERN KENTUCKY (W, 45-21):

- ▶ **OPENING NUMBER:** Western Carolina secured its first season-opening victory since a 52-38 road win over Charleston Southern back in 2022 ... the win over Eastern Kentucky was WCU's first season-opening win at HOME since a 33-26 win over Newberry back in 2018 – and the program's first season-opening home victory over an NCAA Division I team since a 23-3 victory over Liberty (then still in the NCAA FCS) on Aug. 31, 2002;
- ▶ **SPINNING 45s:** Western Carolina posted 45 points in its season opener in each of the past two seasons – winning 45-21 in 2026 against ECU and falling to Gardner-Webb last season, 52-45, at home;
- ▶ **NEW ON 'D':** ECU's 21 points were the fewest allowed by a WCU defense in a season opener since holding Mars Hill to 14 points back in 2015 – and the fewest allowed to a NCAA Division I team in an opener since 2002, when the Catamounts held Liberty (then FCS) to just three points;
- ▶ **SHINY AND NEW:** the official announced attendance was 13,478, represented the 10th-largest crowd in Whitmire Stadium history, as WCU unveiled its latest stadium improvements and enlarged overall capacity of 14,000.

▶ WESTERN CAROLINA FOOTBALL IN SEASON OPENERS:

Western Carolina improved to 19-32 in season openers since joining the SoCon in 1976 – though 26 of those 51 games were against NCAA I-A or now FBS competition ... WCU has only won FOUR of its last 13 season-openers – most coming against South Atlantic Conference members in Mars Hill (2012, 2015) and Newberry (2018) before this year's season-opening win over Eastern Kentucky ... Five of the seven losses have come to NCAA FBS competition;

- ▶ Since 1977, WCU has opened a season at HOME just 17 times, posting a 13-4 record – all four losses were to NCAA FCS opponents with just two of the 13 wins coming in the same division (VMI, 1980; ECU, 2026).

▶ WESTERN CAROLINA'S 2026 SCHEDULE: WCU's schedule features 12 games for a third-consecutive year, equally split between E.J. Whitmire Stadium / Bob Waters Field and six road contests that include four in SoCon play ... the Catamounts playing eight-straight league games from the end September through November, interrupted once by the Oct. 17 bye week ... WCU faces a pair of NCAA FCS playoff teams from a season ago and a pair of double-digit win teams, as seven of the 12 opponents finished .500 or better in 2025.

- ▶ WCU's six road games this span SIX different states – North Carolina (at Campbell), Ohio (at Cincinnati), Tennessee (at ETSU), Georgia (at Mercer), South Carolina (at Furman), and Alabama (at Samford) ... Last year, the Catamounts did not leave the Old North State until Week Six at Wofford, and visited just three states – South Carolina (at Wofford; at The Citadel), Tennessee (at Chattanooga), and Virginia (at VMI);
- ▶ WCU faces all but ONE team in SoCon play with an unbalanced league in 2026, missing its meeting with VMI ... the absence halts a streak of 12 straight seasons of playing, WCU leads in that stretch 10-2 – but it's not the first break in the series – the two did not play from 2003–2013 when the Keydets left the SoCon.
- ▶ WCU looks to halt a 43 year drought of advancing to the NCAA postseason, trying to return to the NCAA DI FCS playoffs for the first time since making a run to the national title game in 1983 – the **FIRST** SoCon team to play for the title. The SoCon regular season champion garners the league's automatic bid into the postseason field.

RECAPING WESTERN CAROLINA'S 2025 SEASON:

- ▶ For a third consecutive season, Western Carolina football watched with hope as the NCAA FCS Football Selection Committee unveiled the playoff Field of 24 on Selection Sunday in 2025. The Catamounts had hopes that winning seven of its last nine games after returning its starting quarterback and a second-straight second-place finish in a balanced but cannibalizing Southern Conference would lead to the end of a 42 year hiatus of postseason play. However, like in 2023 and 2024, WCU was left on the outside of the playoff field after the three early-season defeats and a consecutive late-season league losses extended Western Carolina's postseason drought;
- ▶ Western Carolina won seven games in 2025 giving the Catamounts three-consecutive seven-win seasons ... WCU posted a final record above .500 for the fourth-straight season ... It was **WCU's sixth seven-win season over the past 12 years** – and third in three seasons (2014, 2015, 2017, 2023, 2024, 2025);
- ▶ WCU finished in sole possession of second place in the SoCon – one of the nation's Top Five toughest NCAA FCS league – in consecutive seasons in 2024 and 2025 ... the Catamounts scored **a program-best six league victories** at 6-2 in SoCon play in 2024 and 2025 ... the squad's second-place finish was the best for WCU since 1986 when the Catamounts also finished second ... It was WCU's FIFTH runner-up finish since joining the league in 1976;
- ▶ WCU was among the national rankings OR received votes in NINE of the 13 weeks of 2025, carrying a number by its name for four games – twice in the Stats Perform FCS Top 25 and four times in the AFCA Coaches poll ... WCU ranked as high as No. 18 last year;
- ▶ In 2025, the Catamounts eclipsed the 3,000 passing yards mark for just the SIXTH time in program history – and for the **FIFTH consecutive season**, throwing for a **program single-season record 4,268 yards** – WCU's second-consecutive 4K passing total and the most in the NCAA FCS in 2025 ... WCU **LED THE NCAA FCS with 355.7 passing yards per game**, finishing as the NCAA Champion in 2025, its second-straight season ... the Catamounts tossed a program record 48 TD passes, a fifth-straight season with 24-or-more aerial scores;
- ▶ WCU eclipsed the 300 point plateau as a team for a FIFTH-straight season, finishing with a program-record 463 points ... the Catamounts averaged a SoCon-leading 38.6 points per game, SEVENTH in the NCAA FCS;

CATAMOUNT WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS:

AUG. 31.....OFFENSIVE.....LEX THOMAS, JR., QB

- ▶ Completed 27-of-35 passes, throwing for 320 yards and three touchdowns in WCU's 45-21 season-opening win over Eastern Kentucky. Also ran for a team-best 69 yards, including a game-sealing 15-yard scamper in the fourth quarter. Tossed each of his TD passes in the third quarter, with two scores going to running back Josh Perry and one to Bode Burns.

SEPT. 21.....OFFENSIVE.....JOSHUA PERRY, SO., RB

- ▶ Ran for a career-best 142 yards on 16 carries in WCU's 58-14 rout over Presbyterian. Logged a career-high three rushing touchdowns, scoring from 3, a career-long 62, and 14 yards out. Added three catches for 20 yards.

SEPT. 21.....SPECIAL TEAMS.....BRYAN McCOLLUM, SO., PK

- ▶ Scored a career-best 16 points in WCU's win over Presbyterian, finishing 3-for-3 on field goals, including a career-long 45-yarder, and was successful on all seven of his PAT attempts ... *Was also an honorable mention for the Stats Perform FCS National Special Teams Player of the Week.*



MISC. STATS / NOTES

WESTERN CAROLINA 2026 OPENING DRIVES:

OPP	RESULT	DETAILS
ECU	DOWNS.....	Stalled at ECU 29 yd line; 10–44 yds, 4:29
@CAMP	PUNT.....	M. Fitzgerald, 41-yd punt after 3-and-out
@Cincy	FG.....	B. McCollum, 33-yd FG; 12–60 yds, 6:03
PRESBY	TD.....	L. Thomas to J. Boyd, 36 yd pass; 10–79 yds, 3:38
@ETSU		
TN TECH		
@MER		
UTC		
@FUR		
WOF		
@SAM		
CIT		

WCU 2026 2ND HALF OPENING DRIVES:

OPP	RESULT	DETAILS
ECU	TD.....	L. Thomas to B. Burns, 18 yd pass; 6–75 yds, 2:13
@CAMP	PUNT.....	M. Fitzgerald 44-yd punt after 3-and-out
@Cincy	PUNT.....	M. Fitzgerald, 47-yd punt after 3-and-out
PRESBY	TD.....	J. Perry, 14-yd rush; 7–75 yds, 2:51
@ETSU		
TN TECH		
@MER		
UTC		
@FUR		
WOF		
@SAM		
CIT		

2026
SOUTHERN
CONFERENCE
FOOTBALL

»»» 2026 SoCon UPDATED STANDINGS «««

SoCon Team	SoCon	Overall
Tennessee Tech	1-0 1.000	3-0 1.000
Chattanooga	1-0 1.000	2-2 .500
Furman	1-0 1.000	2-2 .500
Wofford	1-1 .500	2-2 .667
ETSU	0-0 .000	2-2 .500
Western Carolina	0-0 .000	2-2 .500
VMI	0-0 .000	0-4 .000
Mercer	0-1 .000	2-2 .500
The Citadel	0-1 .000	1-2 .333
Samford	0-1 .000	0-3 .000

»»» 2026 SoCon RANKINGS – Week Four «««

SoCon Team	AFCA Coaches	STATS
Tennessee Tech	#10	#12
Mercer	#23	#25
Furman	RV (#30)	RV (#32)
Chattanooga	RV (#46)	NR
Wofford	NR	NR
WESTERN CAROLINA	NR	NR
The Citadel	NR	NR
ETSU	NR	NR
Samford	NR	NR
VMI	NR	NR

»»» SoCon WEEKEND SCHEDULE: «««

SEPTEMBER 26 (SATURDAY)

#10/12 Tennessee Tech at Wofford *	1:30 pm	Spartanburg, S.C.
(RV) Furman at (RV) Richmond	2 pm	Richmond, Va.
(RV) Chattanooga at The Citadel *	2 pm	Charleston, S.C.
Western Carolina at ETSU *	3:30 pm	Johnson City, Tenn.
VMI at Samford *	3:30 pm ET	Birmingham, Ala.
#23/25 Mercer at (RV) Abilene Christian	8 pm ET	Abilene, Texas

* Southern Conference game

WESTERN CAROLINA'S OVERTIME
RECORD SINCE 1977 (DIV. I)

YEAR	RESULT	OT	OPPONENT (DATE)
1991	L, 27-24	2OT	at Marshall (11/2)
1998	W, 331-24	2OT	ETSU (9/26)
1999	L, 35-32	OT	Samford (11/5)
2004	L, 26-20	OT	at Gardner-Webb (9/25)
2006	L, 17-14	OT	Chattanooga (11/14)
2006	L, 30-27	OT	at The Citadel (11/21)
2008	L, 38-31	OT	Georgia Southern (11/25)
2013	W, 27-24	OT	Elon (10/26)
2017	L, 35-38	OT	at #5 Wofford (10/7)
2018	L, 45-43	3OT	at ETSU (10/27)
2019	W, 23-20	OT	ETSU (11/9)

11 GAMES – 3-8 OVERALL (3-3 Home, 0-5 Road)

'PLAY FAST, SCORE FASTER' – MORE NOTES ON WESTERN CAROLINA'S OFFENSE:

- Under **KERWIN BELL**, the Catamounts have scored 30-or-more points in **38 of the 61 (62.3%)** games and have recorded 40-or-more points a combined 23 times ... Over the past SIX seasons, WCU has amassed 2,112 total points in 61 games (356 in 11 games in 2021; 351 in 11 games in 2022; 413 in 11 games in 2023; 397 in 12 games in 2024; 463 in 12 games in 2025; 132 in 4 games in 2026), averaging **34.6 points per game under Bell**;
- The Catamount offense has amassed 5,000+ yards in each of the five seasons under **KERWIN BELL**, eclipsing the school record each of the past three seasons, including **a program-best 5,920 total yards in 2025** (5,181 in 2021; 5,339 in 2022; 5,545 in 2023; 5,665 in 2024; **1,735 in 2026**) ... WCU has averaged 5,529.8 yards of total offense each season under the Bell offense – **and an average of 481.7 yards per game over the 61 total games**;
- WCU has recorded 500 or more yards of total offense a combined **31 times** under the Bell offense – averaging 5.8 games per season ... WCU has **10** games over 600 yards of offense and 700+ yards **THREE** times, including a school-record 801 yards at Furman (2024), 766 against Presbyterian in 2022, and a high of 733 in 2025:

YEAR	OPPONENT	RESULT	TOTAL OFF.	RUSHING	PASSING
2026	vs. Eastern Kentucky	W, 45-21	508 yds	188 yds	320 yds
	vs. Presbyterian	W, 58-14	659 yds	325 yds	334 yds
2025	vs. Samford	W, 50-35	733 yds	151 yds	582 yds
	vs. #10/12 Mercer	L, 49-47	599 yds	48 yds	551 yds
	at Campbell	W, 42-35	564 yds	76 yds	488 yds
	vs. ETSU	L, 52-35	529 yds	103 yds	426 yds
	vs. Furman	W, 52-7	522 yds	302 yds	220 yds
	at VMI	W, 48-6	519 yds	173 yds	346 yds
2024	at The Citadel	W, 45-38	515 yds	146 yds	369 yds
	at Furman	W, 52-20	801 yds	149 yds	652 yds
	at #17/14 Mercer	L, 44-34	582 yds	187 yds	395 yds
	vs. #25/18 Chattanooga	W, 38-34	548 yds	117 yds	431 yds
2023	vs. VMI	W, 58-28	534 yds	216 yds	318 yds
	vs. ETSU	W, 58-7	687 yds	174 yds	513 yds
	Charleston Southern	W, 77-21	683 yds	237 yds	446 yds
	at The Citadel	W, 49-14	569 yds	261 yds	308 yds
	at Eastern Kentucky	W, 27-24	551 yds	211 yds	340 yds
	at #20/24 Chattanooga	W, 52-50	551 yds	275 yds	276 yds
2022	vs. #7/8 Samford	W, 30-7	546 yds	284 yds	262 yds
	vs. Presbyterian	W, 77-21	766 yds	384 yds	382 yds
	at Furman	L, 47-40	691 yds	229 yds	462 yds
	at Charleston Southern	W, 52-38	616 yds	183 yds	433 yds
	vs. VMI	W, 38-17	521 yds	161 yds	360 yds
2021	vs. Wofford	W, 36-29	515 yds	247 yds	268 yds
	at Garner-Webb	L, 52-34	650 yds	223 yds	427 yds
	at VMI	W, 52-24	616 yds	217 yds	399 yds
	at The Citadel	W, 45-31	577 yds	176 yds	401 yds
	vs. ETSU	L, 56-35	544 yds	134 yds	410 yds
	vs. Furman	W, 43-42	538 yds	152 yds	386 yds
	vs. Samford	L, 42-37	503 yds	182 yds	321 yds
	vs. Eastern Kentucky	L, 31-28	501 yds	226 yds	275 yds



WHAT IS A CATAMOUNT?

Western Carolina University's unique mascot and nickname for its athletics teams seem to always bring about the same question when WCU plays on the road ... "What is a Catamount?" Webster's Dictionary defines "catamount" as "any of various wild cats, such as a cougar or lynx." Cats of the catamount variety, including the bobcat, roam the southern Appalachian Mountains where Western Carolina University is located.

The nickname evolved from a contest that was held on the Cullowhee campus in 1933. The school was called Western Carolina Teachers College at that time and its teams were known as "the Teachers."

Everyone on campus was invited to participate, and the usual names were suggested — Bears, Indians, Panthers. However, the college wanted an unusual name; a name that few others had and that everyone would not copy.

The contest came down to Mountain Boomers, a small ground squirrel that scampers about the woods and is extremely difficult to catch, and Catamounts. Catamounts was the favorite of Head Football Coach C.C. Poindexter and was the nickname chosen. Poindexter wanted his players to be Catamounts with "fierce spirit, savage attacks, and lightning quick moves."

Western Carolina University is the only football-playing school in the nation using the nickname, "Catamounts," with the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT, being the only other school playing under that moniker.

HISTORY OF THE CATAMOUNT LOGO





WESTERN CAROLINA AT ETSU BUCCANEERS



2026 WESTERN CAROLINA INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

RUSHING	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Josh Perry	4	43	213	15	198	4.6	3	62	49.5
Marlin Cochran	4	20	136	3	133	6.7	2	34	33.3
Lex Thomas	4	36	157	47	110	3.1	2	17	27.5
Jadarius Dobie	3	8	48	0	48	6.0	0	12	16.0
Anthony Benjamin	4	5	33	0	33	6.6	1	14	8.3

PASSING	GP	Effic	Cmp-Att-Int	Pct	Yds	TD	Lng	Avg/G
Lex Thomas	4	145.44	99-144-0	68.8%	1,079	6	48	269.8
Isaac Lee	3	109.20	5-11-1	45.5%	68	1	36	22.7

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
AJ Colombo	4	21	262	12.5	0	25	65.5
Jai Boyd	4	13	197	15.2	3	48	49.3
Michael Rossin	2	9	114	12.7	0	42	57.0
Bode Burns	3	10	99	9.9	1	18	33.0
Santana Carlos	4	5	93	18.6	0	36	23.5

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
AJ Colombo	5	42	8.4	0	12

KICK RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Richard Hollis	5	132	26.4	0	59
Jadarius Dobie	2	25	12.50	0	16
Anthony Benjamin	2	21	10.5	0	13

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TB	FC	I20	50+	Blkd
Mark Fitzgerald	17	722	42.47	52	0	7	5	3	0

SCORING	TD	FGs	Kick	Rush	Rcv	Pass	DXP	Saf	Points
Bryan McCollum	0	7-8	15-16	0	0	0-0	0	0	36
Josh Perry	5	0-0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	30
Jai Boyd	3	0-0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	18

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G
Lex Thomas	4	180	110	1,079	1,189	297.3

ALL PURPOSE	G	Rush	Rec	PR	KOR	IR	Tot	Avg/G
AJ Colombo	4	4	262	42	0	0	308	77.0
Josh Perry	4	198	60	0	0	0	258	64.5
Jai Boyd	4	0	197	0	0	0	197	49.3
Marlin Cochran	4	133	11	0	0	0	144	36.0

2026 WESTERN CAROLINA DEFENSIVE LEADERS:

Tackles Leaders:	GP	UA-AA = Total	Avg.
Joshua Collins	4	11-12 = 23	5.8
Ken Moore Jr.	4	7-13 = 20	5.0
Nassor Ashenafi	4	9-9 = 18	4.5
Andre Jackson Jr.	4	8-10 = 18	4.5
Jayden Cornelius	4	10-6 = 16	4.0
Braylon Jones	4	8-8 = 16	4.0
Ja'Torian Mack	4	3-13 = 16	4.0
Ryan McKinnis	4	7-7 = 14	3.5
Alant'e Reese	4	6-7 = 13	3.3
Na'koma Simpson-Nealy	4	8-4 = 12	3.0
Marco Patierno	4	6-4 = 10	2.5

TFL Leaders:	Total	Yds
Chase Kerns	3.5	12
Three tied	3.0	
..... Ken Moore Jr., Joshua Collins, Caleb Turner-Allen		

Sacks Leaders:	Total	Yds
Ken Moore Jr.	2.0	17
Joshua Collins	2.0	16
Caleb Turner-Allen	2.0	2

Interceptions Leaders:	Total - Return Yds
Five Catamounts tied	1 int

Fumbles Forced Leader:	Total
Nassor Ashenafi / Chase Kerns	1

Fumbles Recovered Leader:	Total - Return Yds
Nassor Ashenafi	1 - 0 yds

2026 ETSU INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

RUSHING	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
TJ Peyton	4	56	347	0	347	6.2	4	41	86.8
Jaiden Daniels	4	28	190	0	190	6.8	0	40	47.5
Jason Albritton	4	23	84	0	84	3.7	3	17	21.0
D'Marius Rucker	3	12	39	2	37	3.1	2	10	12.3

PASSING	GP	Effic	Cmp-Att-Int	Pct	Yds	TD	Lng	Avg/G
Mason Mims	4	159.27	84-117-2	71.8	991	7	88	247.8
Jadyn Davis	1	171.4	2-2-0	100.0	17	0	10	17.0

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Suderian Harrison	4	18	248	13.8	1	55	62.0
Brandon Winton	4	12	203	16.9	3	88	50.8
Charlie Browder	4	12	152	12.7	1	44	38.0
Tyler Griffin	4	9	128	14.2	0	32	32.0
Trey Weary	4	12	89	7.4	1	18	22.3

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Xavier Gaillardetz	5	79	15.8	0	33

KICK RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
TJ Peyton	6	153	25.5	0	41
Xavier Gaillardetz	3	61	20.3	0	23

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TB	FC	I20	50+	Blkd
Luke Stewart	13	571	43.9	69	1	0	4	3	0

SCORING	TD	FGs	Kick	Rush	Rcv	Pass	DXP	Saf	Points
TJ Peyton	4	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	24
Ewan Johnson	0	2-4	14-14	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	20
Jason Albritton	3	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	18
Brandon Winton	3	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	18

TOTAL OFFENSE	G	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G
Mason Mims	4	137	-26	991	965	241.3

ALL PURPOSE	G	Rush	Rec	PR	KOR	IR	Tot	Avg/G
TJ Peyton	4	347	12	0	153	0	512	128.0
Suderian Harrison	4	1	248	18	0	0	267	66.8
Jaiden Daniels	4	190	32	0	0	0	222	55.5
Xavier Gaillardetz	3	0	76	79	61	0	216	72.0

HEAD-TO-HEAD TEAM COMPARISONS:

WCU	Offense	ETSU
132	Scoring	123
33.0	Points Per Game	30.8
89	First Downs	82
1,735	Total Yards Gained	1,644
433.8	Yards Per Game	411.0
588	Rushing Yardage	636
147.0	Rushing Average per Game	159.0
1,147	Passing Yardage	1,008
286.8	Passing Average per Game	252.0

WCU	Team Stats	ETSU
29-265 (66.3)	Penalties-Yards	27-231 (57.8)
24-57, 42.1%	3rd Down Conversion	29-54, 53.7%
2-6, 33.3%	4th Down Conversion	1-5, 20%

WCU	Defense	ETSU
125	Points Allowed	125
31.3	Points Allowed Per Game	31.3
1,831	Total Yards Allowed	1,673
457.8	Yards Allowed Per Game	418.3
753	Rushing Yards Allowed	608
188.3	Rushing Average Allowed	152.0
1,078	Passing Yards Allowed	1,065
269.5	Passing Average Allowed	266.3

2026 ETSU DEFENSIVE LEADERS:

Tackles Leaders:	GP	UA-AA = Total	Avg.
Dre Delinois	4	15-25 = 40	10.0
Mike Jenkins	4	14-8 = 22	5.5
Jarvis Johnson	4	9-9 = 18	4.5
Charles Woodard	4	4-13 = 17	4.3
Jimmy Bowdry	4	11-4 = 15	3.8
Devin Hunter	4	6-8 = 14	3.5
CJ Gilmore	4	7-4 = 11	2.8
Qua Birdsong	4	5-4 = 9	2.3
Izziek Chandler	4	5-3 = 8	2.0
Josiha Mason	4	4-4 = 8	2.0
Tamajh Mitchell	4	5-3 = 8	2.0
Jivon Oggs	4	5-3 = 8	2.0
Eugene Ware	4	5-3 = 8	2.0

TFL Leaders:	Total	Yds
Jivon Oggs	1.5	5
Mike Jenkins	1.5	4

Sacks Leaders:	Total	Yds
3 players tied	1.0	

Interceptions Leaders:	Total - Return Yds
Mike Jenkins	1 - 25 yds

Fumbles Forced Leader:	Total
none	

Fumbles Recovered Leader:	Total
none	



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PLAYER, POSITION	2025 KEY STATISTICS	PREV. SCHOOL
Trystan Anderson, DL	All-Pioneer HM; 11 GS, 20 tckls (12 ua), 3 TFL	Drake (FCS)
Isaac Boulger, OL	2 yrs @Auburn, DNP	Auburn (FBS)
Da'Shawn Davis, DL	CAR: 37 GP, 57 tckls (25 solo), 13.5 TFL, 6 sacks	Georgia Southern (FBS)
Derrick Davis Jr., RB	2yrs @PITT, 19 GP, 78 rush yds, 2 TDs in 2024	Pittsburgh (FBS)
Jakoby Diamond, DL	6 GP @TUSK, 15 tckls (3 UA), 1.5 TFL, 1 sack	Tuskegee (NCAA Div. II)
Elijah Hadley, RB	All-MEC as DB; 31 tckls (28 UA), 5 INTs	West Liberty (NCAA Div. II)
Paul Hartman III, TE	3-star recruit; 2 yrs @CCU, 1 GP, 1 rec.	Coastal Carolina (FBS)
Andre Jackson Jr., CB	FR All-America; 12 GP, 49 tckls (30 UA), 3.5 TFL	Hampton (FCS)
Fernando Jeanty, DL	6 GP in 2025; 38 tckls (26 UA), 8.5 TFL, 4 sacks	Florida Memorial (NAIA)
Braylon Jones, S	3 yrs @REIN; 109 tckls (61 UA), 1 TFL, 4 INTs	Reinhardt (NAIA)
Chase Kerns, DL	11 GP in 2025 @GMC; 26 tckls (21 UA), 12 TFL	Georgia Military (NJCAA)
Ja'Torian "Duke" Mack	3-star recruit; 4 GP as FR @APP	Appalachian State (FBS)
Brayson McIver, OL	2 yrs @COAST; DNP, redshirted in 2024	Coastal Carolina (FBS)
Aaron McIver, OL	4 yrs @GAWB; 24 GS, 2nd Tm BS-OVC	Gardner-Webb (FCS)
Jabari McWilliams, DL	2 yrs @MGC; 20 GP, 57 tckls (20 UA), 8 TFL	Miss. Gulf Coast (NJCAA)
Marco Patierno, LB	FR All-America @Elon; 9 GP @EMU, 42 tckls	Eastern Michigan (FBS)
Kaden Powell, LS	10 GP as FR @Brevard in 2025	Brevard (NCAA Div. III)
Eldrick 'Draco' Robinson, LB	DNP @RMU; 14 GP @Wake; All-SBC @GaSou	Robert Morris (FCS)
Andrew Threatt, OL	25 GP, 19 GS @GAWB; 2nd Tm BS-OVC in 2025	Gardner-Webb (FCS)
Lex Thomas, QB	2 yrs @NCST; 4 GP, 7-of-15, 83 yds, TD pass	NC State (FBS)
Kale Woodburn, WR	2 yrs @Cincy; 2 GP, 3-star recruit	Cincinnati (FBS)
Jake Young, TE	4 rec, 30 yds @CHAR; 17 GP, 30 rec, 325 yds, 2 TDs	Charlotte (FBS)

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PLAYER, POSITION	2025 KEY STATISTICS	NEW SCHOOL
Jackson Banks, DL	12 GP, 14 tckls (6 UA), 1.5 TFL, 1.5 sack	Southern Miss (FBS)
Evan Carney, OL	11 GP / 10 GS; CAR: 18 GP / 11 GS	Tarleton State (FCS)
Elijah Collins, OL	1 yr @WCU in 2025: 9 GP / 5 GS	Sam Houston (FCS)
Ca'lique Cunningham, WR	4 yrs @WCU – CAR: 2 GP, 1 Rec, 17 yds, TD	Livingstone (NCAA Div. II)
Taron Dickens, QB	SoCon OFF POTY; Payton Finalist, 38 TD pass	Northern Illinois (FBS)
Richard Garrett, DE	3 GP, 3 tckls, 0.5 TFL	Tennessee State (FCS)
Malik Knight, WR	12 GP, 47 rec., 774 yds, 7 TDs	Pittsburgh (FBS)
Kenyon Partridge, LB	12 GP, 24 tckls (10 UA), 2.5 TFL	Tarleton State (FCS)
Emmet Rhoades, LS	12 GP, 2 tckls on SpTms	South Carolina (FBS)
Manasseh Ripert, OL	2 yrs @WCU; 14 GP, 9 GS	Florida International (FBS)
Bo Simpson-Nealy, DB	12 GP, 54 tckls (32 UA), 7 TFL, 3 PBU	Florida Atlantic (FBS)
Hasaan Sykes, DB	11 GP, 49 tckls (31 UA), 4 TFL, 2 sacks, 3 int.	Kentucky (FBS)
Jaylin Terzado, WR	4 GP, 8 rec., 168 yds, 1 TD	Delaware State (FCS)
Jordan Thompson, LB	12 GP, 93 tckls (47 UA), 7 TFL, 2 sacks	Coastal Carolina (FBS)
Josiah Thomas, TE	12 GP, 28 rec., 228 yds, 3 TDs	New Mexico State (FBS)
Markel Townsend, RB	12 GP, 70 rush, 322 yds, 6 TDs	West Florida (FCS)
James Tyre, WR	12 GP, 68 rec., 832 yds, 11 TDs	North Texas (FBS)
Justin Wallace, DL	12 GP, 30 tckls (17 UA), 5.5 TFL, 5.0 sacks	Memphis (FBS)
Zayveon Wells, DB	11 GP, 14 tckls (9 UA), 1.5 TFL	South Carolina State (FCS)



CATAMOUNT GAME CAPTAINS:

E. KENTUCKY	#0 AJ Colombo; #0 Blue Monroe; #1 Ken Moore Jr.; #56 Aaron McIver at Campbell	#1 Ken Moore Jr.; #33 Gavin Rowell; #75 Renard Smith; #87 Jake Young at Cincinnati
PRESBYTERIAN	#0 AJ Colombo; #18 Trystan Anderson, #44 Isaac McLellan, #56 Aaron McIver at ETSU	
TENNESSEE TECH	at Mercer	
CHATTANOOGA	at Furman	
WOFFORD	at Samford	
THE CITADEL		

PREGAME FLAG BEARERS:

E. KENTUCKY	USA: #44 Isaac McLellan NC: #41 Beady Waddell at Campbell	USA: #49 Bryce Hart NC: #52 Brayson McIver at Cincinnati
PRESBYTERIAN	.N/A (weather delays)	
TENNESSEE TECH	USA: NC:	
CHATTANOOGA	USA: NC:	
WOFFORD	USA: NC:	
THE CITADEL	USA: NC:	

ADDITIONAL 2026 TEAM BREAKDOWN:

STARTERS RETURNING:8 – (5 offense – 1 defense – 2 specialists)

OFFENSE (5):	DEFENSE (1):
AJ Colombo (2024).....WR	Ken Moore Jr.....DB
Steven Hamby.....OL	
Aaron Sanez.....OL	
Zach Watson.....OL	
Jake Young (2024).....TE	

SPECIALISTS (2):

Marcus Trout.....PK	Bryan McCollum.....PK
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STARTERS LOST:12 – (8 offense – 5 defense – 1 specialist)

OFFENSE (8):	DEFENSE (10):
Brayden Blackmon.....TE	Jahleel Anderson.....DE
Patrick Boyd Jr.....RB	Cam'Ron Dabney.....CB
Evan Carney.....OL	Samaurie Dukes.....CB
Taron Dickens.....QB	Caleb Fisher.....DE
Dominic Dutton.....WR	Hayward McQueen.....LB
Malik Knight.....WR	Kenyon Partridge.....DL
Manasseh Ripert.....OL	Bo Simpson-Nealy.....S
James Tyre.....WR	Hasaan Sykes.....CB
	Jordan Thompson.....LB
	Jamichael Wilson.....DL

SPECIALISTS (2):

Stephen Brantley.....P	Emmet Rhoades.....LS
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ADDITIONAL RETURNERS (57, *Italics* DNP in 2025): Secrea Algie, OL; Nassor Ashenafi, DB; Vanier Baptiste III, DT; Braeden Barger, LB; Anthony Benjamin, RB; *Trey Berry III, LB; Noah Best, RB;* Hank Bodine, LB; Jai Boyd, WR; Devin Brown, DB; Bode Burns, TE; *J'veon Bush, OL; Ellis Chappell, WR; Marlin Cochran, RB;* Ellis Chappell, WR; Joshua Collins, LB; *Cole Cooke, OL; Aidan Cooper, OL;* Jayden Cornelius, CB; Cole Craddock, TE; Austin Cunningham, WR; *Nicholas Foster, OL; Ian Grissom, QB;* Thomas Guerrero, P; *John Hammond, OL;* Bryce Hart, LB; *Konrad Henderson, OL; Chris Hobbs, CB;* Richard Hollis, WR; Cain Jefferson, DE; *Jeremy Johnson II, DL; Brandon Joseph II, DL; Matthew Keener, WR;* Isaac Lee, QB; Jordan Martin-Durham, DE; *Nolan McClanahan, LB; Camden McGill, CB;* Ryan McKinnis, LB; Isaac McLellan, TE; Jaden Meeks, DL; *AJ Mintze, DB;* Blue Monroe, LB; Vito Moriana-Sigel, OL; Josh Perry, RB; Julian Quintero, DB; Jemarious Reaves, WR; Christian Robbins, CB; Michael Rossin, WR; Gavin Rowell, DE; Na'koma Simpson-Nealy, DB; Renard Smith, OL; Kha'leal Sterling, WR; Adrian Stone, DL; Marcus Striggles, WR; Marseille Taylor, CB; Beady Waddell V, LB; Trey Walker, WR.

2026 CATAMOUNT FOOTBALL – SEASON GAME-BY-GAME PREVIEW IN BRIEF

GAME 1		EASTERN KENTUCKY Saturday, Aug. 29 CULLOWHEE W, 45-21	CULLOWHEE – Lex Thomas threw for 320 yards and three touchdowns, including a pair to Josh Perry, and added a fourth-quarter rushing score as Western Carolina rallied for a 45-21 season-opening victory over Eastern Kentucky at E.J. Whitmire Stadium / Bob Waters Field. WCU overcame a 14-10 halftime deficit, outscoring the Colonels 35-7 in the second half to earn its first season opening win since 2022. A crowd of 13,482, the 10th largest in Whitmire Stadium history, was on hand to witness the debut of the stadium's latest facility enhancements.
GAME 2		at Campbell Sunday, Sept. 6 Buies Creek, N.C. L, 28-19	BUIES CREEK, NC – Campbell QB Kamden Sixkiller threw for 330 yards and two touchdowns, Spencer Jones had a career-high 126 yards receiving and a score, and Campbell upset No. 24 Western Carolina 28-19 on Sunday in a game postponed after a power/lighting issue at Barker-Lane Stadium. Lex Thomas was 25-of-44 passing for 326 yards and two touchdowns for Western Carolina. Both of Jai Boyd's catches were for touchdowns. WCU was held to 1-yard rushing – the second fewest allowed in Campbell's program history. WCU was also 2 of 13 on third down.
GAME 3		at Cincinnati Saturday, Sept. 12 Cincinnati, Ohio L, 62-10	CINCINNATI, OHIO – Cincinnati quarterback JC French IV passed for 245 yards and two touchdowns, and four different running backs scored rushing touchdowns to lead Cincinnati to a 62-10 win over Western Carolina at Nippert Stadium. French completed 21 of 24 pass attempts before being pulled late in the third quarter. Cincinnati outgained WCU 690-241 in total yards and rushed for 418 yards as a team. Cincinnati pushed a 28-10 halftime lead to 49-10 in the third quarter. Lex Thomas completed 23 of 32 passes for 165 yards and scored his team's lone TD on a 1-yard run.
GAME 4		PRESBYTERIAN Saturday, Sept. 19 CULLOWHEE W, 58-14	CULLOWHEE – Western Carolina scored 31 second half points while suffocating the Presbyterian offense to pull away for a 58-14 victory on Family Weekend Saturday. Presbyterian twice closed the first-half gap to just 10 points, but Bryan McCollum's second of three field goals made it 27-14 at halftime. Josh Perry rushed for a career-high 142 yards and three touchdowns. Jai Boyd caught three passes for 103 yards. WCU's defense held PC to just one second-half first down and only 23 yards of offense, recording 10 TFLs with four sacks.
GAME 5		at ETSU * Saturday, Sept. 26 Johnson City, Tenn. 3:30 pm	The mountain-rivalry shifts to Johnson City when Western Carolina and ETSU close September in the "Blue Ridge Border Battle." The Bucs maintained possession of the traveling trophy, "the Rock," with last year's 52-35 win in Cullowhee, a week after WCU fell to Mercer in a first-place showdown. The all-time record in the highly-competitive head-to-head series stands tied at 27 wins, 27 losses apiece, with one tie. Five of the last eight series meetings have been decided in one-possession games, including a pair in overtime. WCU has won three-straight SoCon openers.
GAME 6		TENNESSEE TECH * Saturday, Oct. 3 CULLOWHEE 6 pm	October opens with Western Carolina hosting its football alumni weekend – and welcoming new chromatic conference counterpart, Tennessee Tech, in Cullowhee. The SoCon's newest member and the two-time defending OVC–Big South Association champion Golden Eagles visit as the two Purple & Gold squads rekindle a series that has lain dormant since 2000. TTU holds a slim, 7-6-1, edge in the all-time series with this year's meeting marking the eighth in Cullowhee with the home series tied, 3-3-1. Tech has won the last two meetings in 1998 and 2000.
GAME 7		at Mercer * Saturday, Oct. 10 Macon, Ga. 3 pm	The Catamounts look to put the clamps on a 10 game series losing skid when it visits two-time defending SoCon champion, Mercer. After winning the first two meetings in 2014 and 2015, WCU hasn't been able to solve the Bears, trailing 2-10 in the series. Last year in Cullowhee, QB Taron Dickens tied the SoCon single-game record with seven TD passes as the Catamounts rallied from a trio of double-digit second half deficits. However, No. 10/12 Mercer pulled in front in the final 90 seconds and WCU missed a last second FG before the third-largest Cullowhee crowd of 14,513.
GAME 8		CHATTANOOGA * Saturday, Oct. 24 CULLOWHEE 2:30 pm	Coming off the bye week (Oct. 17) for a second-straight season, the Catamounts host Chattanooga on Homecoming 2026. The last four series meetings – each WCU victories – have been decided by an average of four points and 16 total points. In 2022, WCU scored the game-winning TD in the final minute, 32-29. Richard McCollum nailed a walk-off 32-yard FG to cap an instant classic between two ranked teams in WCU's 52-50 win in 2023. Ken Moore in 2024 and Cam'Ron Dabney in 2025 intercepted red-zone passes to preserve wins. WCU is 16-6 after the bye under Kerwin Bell.
GAME 9		at Furman * Saturday, Oct. 31 Greenville, S.C. 2 pm	Western Carolina travels to Greenville, S.C., to face chromatic rival Furman in a Halloween edition of the "Battle for Purple Supremacy" in the Southern Conference. WCU has outscored the Paladins, 104-27 in the last two meetings, scoring 52 points in back-to-back seasons. Cole Gonzales threw for 620 yards as part of 801 yards of total offense in the 52-20 win in 2024. WCU rushed for 302 yards in last year's 52-7 win in Cullowhee. Though WCU has two-straight wins, Furman has won seven of the last nine series meetings. WCU trails in the series, 15-36-2.
GAME 10		WOFFORD * Saturday, Nov. 7 CULLOWHEE 1 pm	November opens with the Wofford Terriers making the short trip up the mountain to face WCU on Heroes and EBCI Day in Cullowhee. The Catamounts have won five-straight in the head-to-head series with Wofford, though the last four meetings have been decided in one-possession games and a combined 16 total points. It's WCU's longest series win streak between the two since Wofford joined the SoCon in 1997. WCU trails in the all-time series, 19-28, with the series standing 12-12 in Cullowhee. WCU downed Wofford, 21-17, without fans post Hurricane Helene in 2024.
GAME 11		at Samford * Saturday, Nov. 14 Birmingham, Ala. 3:30 pm ET / 2:30 pm CT	Western Carolina wraps up the road portion of its regular season with a trip to Birmingham to face Samford in mid-November. The Catamounts are riding their longest series win streak over the Bulldogs with three-straight victories, including an exciting 47-42 road win in 2024 in Birmingham, just the second for WCU and its first since 1969 that halted a 10 game road losing skid against the 'Dogs. Western Carolina has averaged 42.3 points on 538.7 offensive yards per game during its three-game series winning streak, amassing 733 yards (582 pass, 151 rush) last year.
GAME 12		THE CITADEL * Saturday, Nov. 21 CULLOWHEE 1 pm	The Catamounts close the regular-season on Hall of Fame and Senior Day in Cullowhee in the 51st series meeting and 26th overall in Cullowhee. WCU has won five of the last six head-to-head meetings, including three-straight victories – it's longest series win streak since 2001-03. During its three-game win streak, Western Carolina has averaged 493.3 total yards of offense, including 323.7 yards passing, while The Citadel has averaged 225 rushing yards per game against the Catamounts. Desmond Reid rushed for 5 TDs in 2023 and Jalynn Williams ran for three in 2024.

CAMPBELL

WCU trails 1-4-0 (L-1)

At WCU: WCU trails, 0-1

At CAMP: WCU trails, 1-3

Year	Site	Result	Score
1937	A	L	0 20
1939	A	L	6 7
2024	H	L	16 24
2025	A	W	42 35
2026	A	L	19 28

CHATTANOOGA

WCU trails 21-30-0 (W-4)

At WCU: WCU trails 12-14-0

At UTC: WCU trails 9-16-0

Year	Site	Result	Score
1973	H	W	14 0
1975	A	L	6 27
1976	H	L	14 28
1977	H	L	10 21
1978	A	W	38 21
1979	H	L	35 42
1980	A	L	14 39
1981	H	W	24 10
1982	A	W	20 0
1983	H	W	25 15
1984	A	L	6 10
1985	H	L	3 23
1986	A	L	7 34
1987	H	L	11 13
1988	A	L	14 19
1989	H	W	26 20
1990	A	L	21 23
1991	H	W	38 35
1992	A	W	44 13
1993	A	W	41 10
1994	H	W	53 15
1995	A	L	14 35
1996	H	L	6 20
1997	A	L	21 24
1998	H	W	24 21
1999	A	L	28 56
2000	H	W	41 36
2001	A	W	21 3
2002	H	W	45 28
2003	A	L	0 38
2004	H	L	24 27
2005	A	W	38 20
2006	H	L-OT	14 17
2007	A	L	21 39
2008	H	W	27 7
2009	A	L	20 24
2010	H	L	21 27
2011	A	L	7 51
2012	H	L	24 45
2013	A	L	21 42
2014	H	L	0 51
2015	A	L	13 41
2016	H	L	25 38
2017	A	W	45 7
2018	H	L	6 26
2019	A	L	36 60
2021	A	L	17 45
2022	H	W	32 29
2023	A	W	52 50
2024	H	W	38 34
2025	A	W	35 28
2026			

CINCINNATI

WCU trails 0-2-0 (L-2)

At WCU: n/a

At Cincy: WCU trails, 0-2

Year	Site	Result	Score
2005	A	L	3 7
2026	A	L	10 62

THE CITADEL

WCU trails 22-27-1 (W-3)

At WCU: WCU trails 12-13-0

At The Citadel: WCU trails 10-14-0

At Columbia: Series tied 0-0-1

Year	Site	Result	Score
1972	A	W	10 0
1977	A	L	0 20
1978	H	W	38 24
1979	A	L	19 21
1980	H	L	21 28
1981	A	L	3 12
1982	H	L	20 24
1983	A	W	44 17
1984	H	L	33 34
1985	A	L	3 10
1986	H	W	27 12
1987	A	L	24 38
1988	H	L	21 27
1989	N	T	22 22
1990	H	L	10 28
1991	A	L	13 38
1992	H	L	31 36
1993	H	W	38 18
1994	A	W	42 38
1995	H	W	31 14
1996	A	L	25 39
1997	H	W	45 25
1998	A	W	14 8
1999	H	W	24 17
2000	A	L	10 17
2001	H	W	28 25
2002	A	W	37 34
2003	H	W	28 21
2004	A	L	0 17
2005	H	L	7 17
2006	A	L-OT	27 30
2007	H	L	31 37
2008	A	L	14 34
2009	H	W	14 10
2010	A	W	24 13
2011	H	L	7 35
2012	A	L	31 45
2013	H	L	21 28
2014	H	W	29 15
2015	A	L	10 28
2016	H	L	14 37
2017	A	W	31 19
2018	H	L	24 38
2019	A	L	17 35
2021	A	W	45 31
2022	H	L	34 21
2023	A	W	49 14
2024	H	W	30 16
2025	A	W	45 38
2026			

N – played in Columbia, S.C.

EKU

WCU trails 4-5-0 (W-2)

At WCU: Series tied, 2-2

At ECU: WCU trails, 2-3

Year	Site	Result	Score
1988	H	L	14 32
1989	A	L	13 31
2006	H	W	20 17
2007	A	L	21 45
2009	A	W	24 7
2020	A	L	17 49
2021	H	L	28 31
2023	A	W	27 24
2026	H	W	45 21

ETSU

Series TIED 27-27-1 (L-2)

At WCU: WCU leads 14-12

At ETSU: WCU trails 12-14-1

Neutral: Series tied 1-1-0

Year	Site	Result	Score
1932	H	L	0 26
1933	A	L	0 26
1934	H	L	2 6
1935	A	L	0 13
1936	A	L	0 2

1937	A	L	0 12
1948	H	W	32 12
1949	A	W	14 0
1950	N	W	13 7
1951	A	W	7 6
1952	H	L	7 13
1953	A	L	7 34
1954	H	L	21 24
1955	A	T	7 7
1956	H	L	6 7
1957	A	L	6 7
1975	H	L	8 29
1976	A	W	14 0
1977	H	W	35 0
1978	A	L	14 21
1979	H	W	20 17
1980	A	W	20 17
1981	H	L	23 32
1982	A	W	27 25
1983	H	W	17 16
1984	A	W	31 17
1985	H	W	13 3
1986	H	W	43 16
1987	A	W	37 20
1988	H	W	33 23
1989	A	L	11 30
1990	H	W	21 17
1991	A	W	29 15
1992	H	W	41 12
1993	A	W	24 24
1994	H	L	31 34
1995	A	L	10 36
1996	H	L	10 49
1997	A	L	18 28
1998	H	W-2OT	31 24
1999	A	L	10 38
2000	H	W	39 27
2001	A	W	20 6
2002	H	L	7 27
2003	A	W	39 16
2016	A	L	31 34
2017	H	W	49 10
2018	A	L-3OT	43 45
2019	H	W-OT	23 20
20-21	A	L	17 24
2021	H	L	35 56
2022	A	W	20 17
2023	H	W	58 7
2024	A	L	21 24
2025	H	L	35 52
2026			

N – game played in Waynesville, N.C.
* – played at the Bristol Motor Speedway**FURMAN**

WCU trails: 15-36-2 (W-2)

At WCU: WCU trails 8-17-1

At FUR: WCU trails 7-19-1

Year	Site	Result	Score
1971	A	L	14 21
1972	H	W	24 15
1975	A	L	0 35
1977	A	T	24 24
1978	H	L	7 24
1979	A	L	14 23
1980	H	L	14 28
1981	H	L	27 31
1982	A	L	6 12
1983	H	T	17 17
1983	A	W	14 7
1984	A	W	20 19
1985	H	L	27 31
1986	A	W	19 13
1987	H	W	20 14
1988	A	L	0 31
1989	H	L	3 17
1990	A	L	9 42
1991	H	L	14 42
1992	A	W	29 27
1993	H	W	23 20
1994	A	W	35 24
1995	H	L	21 31
1996	A	L	30 45
1997	H	W	17 16
1998	A	L	7 31
1999	H	L	19 27
2000	A	L	14 38
2001	H	L	13 31
2002	A	L	23 24
2003	H	L	13 19
2004	A	L	10 31
2005	H	W	41 21

2006	A	L	7 42
2007	H	L	21 52
2008	A	L	21 28
2009	H	L	14 33
2010	A	L	17 31
2011	H	L	21 47
2012	A	L	24 45
2013	H	L	20 32
2014	A	W	35 17
2015	H	W	48 10
2016	A	L	21 49
2017	H	L	6 28
2018	A	L	38 44
2019	H	L	7 28
20-21	A	L	7 35
2021	H	W	43 42
2022	A	L	40 47
2023	H	L	17 29
2024	A	W	52 20
2025	H	W	52 7
2026			

MERCER

WCU trails 2-10-0 (L-10)

At WCU: WCU trails 1-5-0

At MER: WCU trails 1-5-0

Year	Site	Result	Score
2014	A	W	35 21
2015	H	W	24 21
2016	A	L	24 38
2017	H	L	33 35
2018	A	L	46 59
2019	H	L	27 49
20-21	A	L	28 45
2021	H	L	24 34
2022	A	L	6 49
2023	H	L	38 45
2024	A	L	34 44
2025	H	L	47 49
2026			

PRESBYTERIAN

WCU leads 12-9-0 (W-3)

At WCU: WCU leads 7-5-0

At PC: WCU leads 5-4-0

Year	Site	Result	Score
1950	H	L	6 20
1951	A	L	0 12
1952	H	L	6 44
1953	A	L	0 20
1965	H	W	8 7
1966	A	L	29 42
1967	H	L	0 10
1968	H	L	19 20
1969	H	L	17 28
1970	A	W	28 21
1972	A	W	24 14
1973	H	W	31 12
1974	A	W	28 10
1975	H	W	28 14
1976	A	W	19 7
2007	H	W	33 20
2008	A	W	23 21
2014	A	L	19 14
2015	H	W	33 21
2022	H	W	77 21
2026	H	W	58 14

SAMFORD

WCU trails 6-17-0 (W-3)

At WCU: WCU trails 4-7-0

At SAM: WCU trails 2-10-0

Year	Site	Result	Score
1969	A	W	47 13
1991	H	L	3 16
1992	A	L	6 30
1997	A	L	0 19
1999	H	L-OT	32 35
2008	H	L	6 21
2009	A	L	3 16
2010	H	L	7 38
2011	A	L	24 52
2012	H	L	21 25
2013	A	L	23 62
2014	A	L	20 34
2015	H	W	56 36

2016	A	L	
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HEAD COACH KERWIN BELL (6TH SEASON)



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

BORN:	June 15, 1965
HOMETOWN:	Mayo, Fla.
ALMA MATER:	Florida, 1987
FAMILY:	Bell and his wife Cosette Odom, have three children; Kade (<i>OC @Pitt</i>), Kolton, and Kenzley; and a grand children, Palmer and Beckett

PLAYING EXPERIENCE:

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, former walk-on, three-year starter at QB (1984-88); SEC Player of the Year (1984); First-Team All-SEC (1985) and Honorable mention All-America (1985, 1986)

- ▶ Florida-Georgia Hall of Fame, 1996 inductee
- ▶ Univ. of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame, 1997 inductee

MIAMI DOLPHINS (NFL), 7th-round draft pick (180), 1988

ATLANTA FALCONS (NFL), 1988

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (NFL), 1989

ORLANDO THUNDER (WFLA), 1991-92

SACRAMENTO GOLD MINERS (CFL), 1993-94

EDMONTON ESKIMOS (CFL), 1995

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (NFL), 1996-97

TORONTO ARGONAUTS (CFL), 1998

- ▶ CFL East All-Star (1998)

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS (CFL), 1999-2000

TORONTO ARGONAUTS (CFL), 2000-01

COACHING EXPERIENCE:

UNIV. OF FLORIDA, graduate assistant (1990)

TORONTO ARGONAUTS, offensive coordinator (2000-01)

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH, head coach (2002-06)

JACKSONVILLE UNIV., head coach (2007-15)

- ▶ Pioneer Football League Coach of the Year (2008)

VALDOSTA STATE UNIV., head coach (2016-18)

- ▶ Gulf South Conference Co-Coach of the Year (2018)
- ▶ Don Hansen NCAA Division II Co-Coach of the Year (2018)
- ▶ NCAA Division II National Champion (2018)

UNIV. OF SOUTH FLORIDA, offensive coordinator (2019)

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIV., head coach (2021-)

An accomplished player who worked his way from walk-on to All-American to the National Football League, and a 12-year veteran head coach who won a combined four conference championships and the 2018 NCAA Division II National Championship, **KERWIN BELL** was named the 14th head football coach at Western Carolina University on April 27, 2021.

Bell came to Cullowhee having served as the offensive coordinator at the University of South Florida under head coach Charlie Strong in 2019. He had most recently walked off the field as a head coach following the 2018 NCAA Division II national championship, leading the Valdosta State Blazers where he coached for three seasons, twice making playoff appearances.

- ▶ Bell enters with **126 career victories**, eclipsing the century mark with the 38-17 home win over VMI in Cullowhee on Oct. 2, 2022;
- ▶ Western Carolina posted a second-straight seven win season in 2024 – matching the most for the program since 2017, that included a school-record SIX Southern Conference wins ... His squad finished with five SoCon wins in 2023, matching the most since that same 2017 campaign;
- ▶ Bell scored his first victory as Catamount head coach on Oct. 23, 2021 – a 45-31 victory at The Citadel that halted a six-game seasonal slide in his first season in Cullowhee;
- ▶ Over a 12-year head coaching career prior to Cullowhee, Bell led the football programs at Valdosta State (2016-18) and Jacksonville University (2007-15). He did this coming on the heels of a 13-year playing career in professional football that included several stops in the NFL and the Canadian Football League;
- ▶ Bell served three seasons as the head coach at Valdosta State where he also guided the offense. He led the Blazers to a 27-7 record during his tenure including a school-record 15 straight victories, two Division II playoff appearances, and won both a conference and a national championship in 2018. He was **named the 2018 Don Hansen NCAA Division II Co-Coach of the Year** and the **Gulf South Conference Co-Coach of the Year** after leading VSU to a 14-0 record – the first unbeaten season in program history that included a thrilling 49-47 victory over Ferris State in the D-II National Championship game. Picked fifth in their conference in the preseason and the No. 3 seed entering the playoffs, the Blazers finished No. 1 nationally in the final AFCA Division II poll;
- ▶ Bell's 2018 offense led the nation in scoring (52.0 ppg), ranked second in first downs (341), and was fourth in total offense (523.9 ypg), red-zone offense (.901), and pass efficiency (167.37). The Blazers scored 728 points on the year, the most in NCAA Division II history, as they posted 7,334 yards (3,676 rushing/3,658 passing) and 7.9 yards per play on the year;
- ▶ Within Bell's system at Valdosta State, QB Rogan Wells finished as the runner-up for the Harlon Hill Trophy, presented to the Division II Player of the Year, and was named both the Region Two and Gulf South Conference Offensive Player of the Year. Wells accounted for 50 touchdowns on the year (including one receiving), led the nation in points responsible for (300), was second in passing touchdowns (38) and points responsible for per game (21.4 ppg), 10th in passing yards (3,075), 12th in passing efficiency (160.6) and 25th in total offense (271.9 ypg). He finished second on the team with 732 yards rushing and led the team with 11 rushing touchdowns;
- ▶ Bell led Valdosta State to runner-up conference finishes in his first two years guiding the program and went 8-3 with a playoff appearance in his first season at the helm in 2016 as the Blazers led the nation with 27 interceptions on defense;
- ▶ Prior to Valdosta, Bell led Jacksonville University for nine seasons, guiding the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) program to a 66-35 record and **three Pioneer Football League (PFL) championships**. Serving as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach as well as head coach, Bell was named the **2008 PFL Coach of the Year** and was a **finalist for the Eddie Robinson Award** after leading the Dolphins to a 9-4 seasonal record and conference title;
- ▶ He also led Jacksonville to a school-best 10-1 record and conference championship in 2010 as the Dolphins led the nation in total (486 ypg) and scoring (42.2 ppg) offense. JU also posted a 9-2 overall mark and won a conference title in 2014.
- ▶ Originally from Mayo, Fla., Bell was a quarterback at the University of Florida from 1983-87 where he completed over 57 percent of his 953 pass attempts for 7,585 yards and 56 touchdowns. A former walk-on, Bell concluded his collegiate career as the SEC Player of the Year in 1984 after leading Florida to a 9-1-1 record and a conference championship, and both a first-team All-SEC selection and All-America honorable mention in 1985, a season that saw the Gators earn the programs first-ever No. 1 national ranking in the Associated Press poll. Garnering a second honorable mention All-America honor in 1986, Bell was a 1987 team captain and earned the program's Fergie Ferguson Award.
- ▶ Bell was ranked the No. 26 Greatest Gator of all-time from the first 100 years of football at Florida in 2006 by The Gainesville Sun. Bell later served as a graduate assistant for the 1990 season under Steve Spurrier at Florida after earning a degree in psychology in 1987.
- ▶ Bell was selected in the seventh round (pick No. 180) of the 1988 NFL Draft by the Miami Dolphins, beginning his 13-year professional career that saw stops with NFL teams in Miami, Atlanta, Tampa Bay, and Indianapolis as well as stops in the Canadian Football League ... Passed for 19,538 yards and 101 touchdowns in nine seasons in the CFL ... Also played in the World League of American Football (WLAF).

RECORD AT JACKSONVILLE
66-35

RECORD AT VALDOSTA STATE
27-7

RECORD AT WESTERN CAROLINA
33-28

WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNTS – 2026 NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS COLLEGE / HIGH SCHOOL)
0	AJ Colombo	WR	5-8	170	5th	Waxhaw, N.C. (Cuthbertson HS)
0	Blue Monroe	LB	6-1	225	5th	Concord, N.C. (Jay M. Robinson HS)
1	Jai Boyd	WR	6-2	180	Sr.	Ridgeway, S.C. (Fairfield Central HS)
1	Ken Moore Jr.	SPUR	5-10	165	5th	Miami, Fla. (Christopher Columbus HS)
2	Lex Thomas	QB	5-11	205	Jr.	Raleigh, N.C. (NC State / Heritage HS)
2	Na'Koma Simpson-Nealy	S	5-10	175	Jr.	Altamonte Springs, Fla. (Seminole HS)
3	Josh Perry	RB	6-0	205	So.	Orlando, Fla. (Edgewater HS)
3	Joshua Collins	LB	6-1	225	Jr.	Bryson City, N.C. (Swain County HS)
4	Kha'leal Sterling	WR	5-9	170	So.	Miami, Fla. (Miami Central HS)
4	Andre Jackson Jr.	CB	5-10	180	So.	Charlotte, N.C. (Hampton / Corvian Community School)
5	Michael Rossin	WR	6-0	200	So.	Live Oak, Fla. (Suwannee HS)
5	Braylon Jones	S	6-1	205	Sr.	Rockmart, Ga. (Reinhardt Univ. / Rockmart HS)
6	Marcus Striggles	WR	5-9	180	Jr.	North Lauderdale, Fla. (Concord Univ. / Dillard HS)
6	Jayden Cornelius	CB	5-10	175	So.	Fort Meade, Fla. (Durant HS)
7	Trey Walker	WR	5-10	175	So.	Hoschton, Ga. (Mill Creek HS)
7	Marseille Taylor	CB	6-2	190	5th	Sanford, Fla. (Stephen F. Austin / USF / Riverside City / Seminole HS)
8	Marlin Cochran	RB	6-0	200	Sr.	Miami, Fla. (Miami Northwestern HS)
8	Ryan McKinnis	LB	6-2	220	Sr.	Buford, Ga. (Appalachian State / Buford HS)
8	Ian Grissom	QB	6-1	170	So.	Rock Hill, S.C. (Rock Hill HS)
9	Bode Burns	TE	6-5	245	Jr.	Dunnellon, Fla. (Dunnellon HS)
9	Eldrick Robinson II	LB	6-0	230	5th	Pensacola, Fla. (RMU / Wake / Ga. Southern / Washington HS)
10	Santana Carlos	WR	5-11	175	Fr.	Hollywood, Fla. (Flanagan HS)
10	Jabari McWilliams	DL	6-0	270	Jr.	Picayune, Miss. (Mississippi Gulf Coast / Picayune HS)
11	Isaac Lee	QB	6-4	190	Jr.	Concord, N.C. (Jay M. Robinson HS)
11	Marco Patierno	LB	6-1	230	5th	Wake Forest, N.C. (Eastern Michigan / Elon / Heritage HS)
12	Jake Morrow	QB	6-0	195	Fr.	Grand Blanc, Mich. (Grand Blanc Community School)
12	Julian Quintero	S	6-0	200	Jr.	St. Augustine, Fla. (St. Augustine HS)
13	Richard Hollis	WR	5-8	170	So.	Pompano Beach, Fla. (Blanche Ely HS)
13	Caleb Turner-Allen	BAN	6-2	250	Jr.	Miami, Fla. (Dr. Michael M. Krop HS)
14	Kale Woodburn	WR	5-8	170	Jr.	Warner Robins, Ga. (Cincinnati / Houston County HS)
14	Vanier Baptiste III	DT	6-3	280	Jr.	Fort Myers, Fla. (Dunbar HS)
15	Michael Davis Jr.	WR	6-0	170	Fr.	Leesville, La. (Leesville HS)
15	Hank Bodine	LB	6-0	230	So.	Velva, N.D. (Velva DAG HS)
16	Caleb Tucker	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	Woodbridge, Va. (Woodbridge HS)
16	Chase Kerns	DL	6-1	280	Jr.	Decatur, Ga. (Georgia Military / Iowa Western CC / Cedar Grove HS)
17	Patrick Harding	QB	6-3	190	Fr.	Zephyrhills, Fla. (Zephyrhills HS)
17	Ja'Torian "Duke" Mack	S	5-11	185	So.	Eatonville, Fla. (Appalachian State / Edgewater HS)
18	Matthew Keener	WR	6-2	200	Jr.	Pilot Mountain, N.C. (East Surry HS)
18	Trystan Anderson	DL	6-4	255	5th	Buffalo Grove, Ill. (Drake / Buffalo Grove HS)
19	Mouhamadou Mane	WR	6-2	180	Fr.	Kathleen, Ga. (Veterans HS)
19	Cain Jefferson	BAN	6-3	225	So.	Decatur, Ga. (Columbia HS)
20	Jadarius Dobie	RB	5-8	170	Fr.	Lakeland, Fla. (Lakeland HS)
20	Andre Stewart	CB	6-0	185	5th	Kennesaw, Ga. (Kentucky / Towson / Tennessee / North Cobb HS)
21	Joshua Balloon Jr.	RB	5-9	170	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. (Gaither HS)
21	Nassor Ashenafi	SPUR	5-9	170	So.	Washington, D.C. (Mallard Creek (N.C.) HS)
22	Derrick Davis Jr.	RB	6-1	210	5th	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Pittsburgh / LSU / Gateway HS)
22	Quency Grant III	CB	5-10	170	Fr.	Columbia, S.C. (Ridge View HS)
24	Anthony Benjamin	RB	5-10	170	Sr.	Fort Myers, Fla. (Jacksonville State / Dunbar HS)
24	Terrell Poyser	CB	6-3	170	Fr.	Wildwood, Fla. (South Sumter HS)
25	Noah Best	RB	5-11	195	So.	Charlotte, N.C. (Corvian Community HS)
25	Caleb Young Jr.	S	6-0	210	Fr.	Gainesville, Fla. (Buchholz HS)
26	Devin Brown	CB	5-10	160	So.	Miami, Fla. (Northwestern HS)
27	Jermiyah Douglas	SPUR	5-10	175	Fr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (St. Thomas Aquinas HS)
27	Elijah Hadley	RB	5-10	200	Sr.	Charlotte, N.C. (West Liberty / Mallard Creek HS)
28	Chris Hobbs	CB	6-2	180	So.	Decatur, Ga. (Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School)
29	Christian Robbins	CB	6-1	190	So.	Orlando, Fla. (Jones HS)
30	Jaden Meeks	DL	6-2	225	Jr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Julius L. Chambers HS)
31	Alant'e Reese	S	6-2	205	Fr.	Fort Walton Beach, Fla. (Choctawhatchee HS)
32	AJ Mintze	S	6-0	185	So.	Miami, Fla. (Miami Norland HS)

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS COLLEGE / HIGH SCHOOL)
33	Gavin Rowell	DL	6-3	255	5th	Melbourne, Fla. (Tusculum / Melbourne HS)
34	Jordan Martin-Durham	BAN	6-3	260	So.	Jacksonville, Fla. (Zarephath Academy)
35	Trey Berry III	LB	6-1	220	So.	Bartow, Fla. (Lakeland Christian HS)
37	Devon Wilson Jr.	CB	5-11	190	Fr.	Mauldin, S.C. (Mauldin HS)
38	Jayden Joselin	S	6-0	185	Fr.	North Lauderdale, Fla. (Monarch HS)
39	Jonathan Powell-Battle	S	6-0	170	Fr.	Wilson, N.C. (Wilson Prep Academy)
40	Landon Pope	RB	5-10	225	Fr.	Canton, N.C. (Pisgah HS)
41	Beady Waddell V	LB	6-0	220	Jr.	Summerville, S.C. (West Mecklenburg (N.C.) HS)
42	Luke Waters	K/P	6-2	205	Fr.	Toccoa, Ga. (Stephens County HS)
43	Braeden Barger	LB	6-1	230	So.	Weddington, N.C. (Weddington HS)
44	Isaac McLellan	TE	6-2	240	5th	Rock Hill, S.C. (Northwestern HS)
45	Honor Paxton	LB	6-3	215	Fr.	Apex, N.C. (Middle Creek HS)
46	Nolan McClanahan	LB	6-1	220	So.	Lake Mary, Fla. (Lake Mary HS)
47	Dylan Harris	DL	6-5	245	Fr.	Ocala, Fla. (Vanguard HS)
48	Roman Jones	TE	6-3	230	Fr.	Robbinsville, N.C. (Robbinsville HS)
49	Bryce Hart	LB	6-2	220	So.	Ringgold, Ga. (Ringgold HS)
50	Xavier Nocco	LS	6-1	200	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. (Jesuit HS)
51	Aaron Sanez	OL	6-2	295	5th	Clearwater, Fla. (Clearwater HS)
52	Brayson McIver	OL	6-2	280	Jr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Coastal Carolina / Butler HS)
53	Zach Watson	OL	6-1	295	Sr.	Waycross, Ga. (Ware County HS)
55	Secrea Algie	OL	6-5	320	Jr.	Snellville, Ga. (Brookwood HS)
56	Aaron McIver	OL	6-2	305	5th	Charlotte, N.C. (Gardner-Webb / Butler HS)
57	Kaden Powell	LS	6-8	270	So.	Woodstock, Ga. (Brevard College / Etowah HS)
58	Isaac Boulger	OL	6-2	295	Jr.	Northport, Ala. (Auburn / Tuscaloosa County HS)
60	Bryan McCollum	K	5-8	165	So.	Sanford, N.C. (Southern Lee HS)
61	Marcus Trout	K	5-11	175	So.	Cocoa, Fla. (Cocoa HS)
62	Brian Wheat	OL	6-3	285	Fr.	Callahan, Fla. (West Nassau HS)
63	Thomas Guerrero	P	5-9	160	Jr.	Greenville, S.C. (Greenville HS)
64	Konrad Henderson	OL	6-3	305	Sr.	Alpharetta, Ga. (Chattahoochee HS)
65	Nicholas Foster	OL	6-1	295	So.	Charlotte, N.C. (Indiana Land HS)
66	Steven Hamby	OL	6-5	325	Sr.	Statesville, N.C. (Statesville HS)
68	Aidan Cooper	OL	6-4	305	So.	Charlotte, N.C. (Butler HS)
69	Cole Cooke	OL	6-8	330	So.	Fort Myers, Fla. (Riverdale HS)
71	Sawyer Nelson	OL	6-3	280	Fr.	Lenoir, N.C. (Hibriten HS)
72	Andrew Threatt	OL	6-6	285	5th	Charlotte, N.C. (Gardner-Webb / Metrolina Christian Academy)
73	Colin McClellan	OL	6-3	265	Fr.	Plant City, Fla. (Durant HS)
75	Renard Smith	OL	6-4	325	5th	Dallas, Ga. (University of Pikeville / East Paulding HS)
77	John Hammond	OL	6-5	320	So.	Spartanburg, S.C. (Spartanburg HS)
78	J'veon Bush	OL	6-5	320	So.	Orlando, Fla. (Jones HS)
79	Vito Moriana-Sigel	OL	6-5	315	5th	Estepona, Spain (Miss. Valley State / Trinity Valley CC / Kiski School)
80	Corey Swint	WR	6-0	170	Fr.	Miami, Fla. (Killian HS)
81	Emanuel Palmer	WR	5-8	160	Fr.	Collierville, Tenn. (Collierville HS)
82	Davon Washington	WR	5-8	160	Fr.	Altamonte Springs, Fla. (Lake Brantley HS)
83	Austin Cunningham	WR	6-0	185	Jr.	Columbia, S.C. (White Knoll HS)
84	Jemarius Reaves	WR	6-1	190	Jr.	Hopkins, S.C. (Lower Richland HS)
85	Paul Hartman III	TE	6-5	240	Jr.	Springfield, Ill. (Coastal Carolina / Springfield HS)
86	Davis Waddell	TE	6-5	220	Fr.	Cartersville, Ga. (Cartersville HS)
87	Jake Young	TE	6-3	245	5th	Waxhaw, N.C. (Charlotte / Marvin Ridge HS)
88	Cole Craddock	TE	6-4	245	So.	Tarboro, N.C. (Tarboro HS)
89	Ellis Chappell	WR	6-0	185	So.	Hickory, N.C. (Hickory HS)
90	Da'Shawn Davis	DL	6-2	235	5th	Charlotte, N.C. (Georgia Southern / Hough HS)
91	Jakoby Diamond	DL	6-1	305	So.	Cedartown, Ga. (Tuskegee / Cedartown HS)
92	Brandon Joseph II	DL	6-3	275	So.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (St. Thomas Aquinas HS)
94	Malachi Hill	DL	6-3	295	Fr.	Burgaw, N.C. (Pender HS)
95	Mark Fitzgerald	K/P	6-1	210	Fr.	Dublin, Ireland (Clongowes Wood College SJ)
96	Jeremy Johnson II	DL	5-10	300	Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Concord University / Parkview HS)
97	Fernando Jeanty	DL	6-5	270	Jr.	North Miami Beach, Fla. (North Miami Beach HS)
98	Aiden Black	DL	6-1	295	Fr.	Concord, N.C. (Jay M. Robinson HS)
99	Adrian Stone	DL	6-3	290	Jr.	Fort Myers, Fla. (North Fort Myers HS)

WESTERN CAROLINA TWO-DEEP – AT ETSU

CATAMOUNTS OFFENSE (PRO SPREAD)

QB	2	LEX THOMAS	5-11	205	JR.
- or -	11	Isaac Lee	6-4	190	Jr.
- or -	17	Patrick Harding	6-3	190	Fr.
RB	3	JOSH PERRY	6-0	205	SO.
- or -	8	Marlin Cochran	6-0	200	Sr.
- or -	22	Derrick Davis Jr.	6-1	210	5th
WR-X	5	MICHAEL ROSSIN	6-0	195	SO.
- OR -	10	SANTANA CARLOS	5-11	175	FR.
WR-Y	0	AJ COLOMBO	5-8	170	5TH
	6	Marcus Striggles	5-9	180	Jr.
WR-Z	1	JAI BOYD	6-2	175	SR.
	18	Matthew Keener	6-2	200	Jr.
TE	87	JAKE YOUNG	6-3	245	5TH
	88	Cole Craddock	6-4	245	So..
OL	72	ANDREW THREATT	6-2	305	5TH
	58	Isaac Boulger	6-2	295	Jr.
OL	56	AARON McIVER	6-2	305	5TH
	79	Vito Moriana-Sigel	6-5	315	5th
OL	53	ZACH WATSON	6-1	295	5TH
	52	Brayson McIver	6-2	280	Jr.
OL	67	STEVEN HAMBY	6-5	325	SR.
	58	Isaac Boulger	6-2	290	Jr.
OL	55	SECREA ALGIE	6-5	310	JR.
	75	Renard Smith	6-4	325	5th

CATAMOUNTS DEFENSE (4-2-5)

DE	18	TRYSTAN ANDERSON	6-4	255	5TH.
- or -	33	Gavin Rowell	6-3	255	5th.
- or -	30	Jaden Meeks	6-2	225	Jr.
NT	91	JAKOBY DIAMOND	6-1	305	SO.
	99	Adrian Stone	6-3	290	Jr.
DT	16	CHASE KERNS	6-1	280	JR.
- or -	14	Vanier Baptiste III	6-3	280	Jr.
- or -	97	Fernando Jeanty	6-3	270	Jr.
BNDT	13	CALEB TURNER-ALLEN	6-2	250	JR.
	34	Jordan Martin-Durham	6-3	260	So.
LB	3	JOSHUA COLLINS	6-1	225	JR.
	8	Ryan McKinnis	6-2	220	Sr.
LB	0	BLUE MONROE	6-1	225	5TH.
- or -	15	Hank Bodine	6-0	260	So.
- or -	11	Marco Patierno	6-1	230	5th.
SPUR	1	KEN MOORE JR.	5-10	165	5TH.
	21	Nassor Ashenafi	5-9	170	So.
CB	4	ANDRE JACKSON JR.	5-10	180	SO.
	7	Marseille Taylor	6-2	190	5th.
SS	17	JA'TORIAN 'DUKE' MACK	5-11	185	SO.
- or -	2	Na'koma Simpson-Nealy	5-10	175	Jr.
- or -	31	Alant'e Reese	6-2	205	Fr.
FS	5	BRAYLON JONES	6-1	190	SR.
	12	Julian Quintero	6-0	195	Jr.
CB	6	JAYDEN CORNELIUS	5-10	175	SO.
	29	Christian Robbins	6-1	190	So.

CATAMOUNTS SPECIAL TEAMS

KO	95	MARK FITZGERALD	6-1	210	FR.
	42	Luke Waters	6-2	205	Fr.
PK	60	BRYAN MCCOLLUM	5-8	165	SO.
	95	Mark Fitzgerald	6-1	210	Fr.
H	63	THOMAS GUERRERO	5-9	160	SO.
P	95	MARK FITZGERALD	6-1	210	FR.
	63	Thomas Guerrero	5-9	160	So.
LS	57	KADEN POWELL	6-8	255	SO.
- OR -	50	XAVIER NOCCO	6-1	190	FR.
KOR	20	JADARIUS DOBIE	5-8	170	FR.
- AND -	24	ANTHONY BENJAMIN	5-10	170	SR.
PR	0	AJ COLOMBO	5-8	170	5TH
	6	Marcus Striggles	5-9	180	Jr.

WESTERN CAROLINA – THE LAST TIME IT HAPPENED

RETURNED A PUNT FOR A TD:

WCU: Daquan Patten at VMI – Nov. 20, 2021 (78 yards)
Opp: Isaiah Scott of Wofford – Oct. 6, 2025 (66 yards)

RETURNED A KICKOFF FOR A TD:

WCU: Dominic Dutton vs. Elon – Sept. 13, 2025 (97 yards)
Opp: Colton Hinton of Furman – Oct. 19, 2024 (96 yards)

RETURNED AN INTERCEPTION FOR A TD:

WCU: Ken Moore Jr. vs. Furman – Oct. 11, 2025 (64 yards)
Opp: Lance Wise of Mercer – Oct. 28, 2023 (9 yards)

SCORED ON A FUMBLE RECOVERY:

WCU: Cam'Ron Dabney vs. ETSU (43 yards) – Nov. 15, 2025
on offense: James Tyre vs. Elon (62 yards) – Sept. 13, 2025
Opp: Leroy Harris III of Chattanooga (75 yards) – Nov. 2, 2024

RECORDED A SAFETY:

WCU: TEAM vs. Samford – Oct. 24, 2015
Opp: Jordan Swain, #10/12 Mercer – Nov. 8, 2025

BLOCKED A PUNT:

WCU: Jacob Harris vs. Mercer – Oct. 9, 2021
Opp: Crosby Jackson of ETSU – Nov. 15, 2025

BLOCKED A FIELD GOAL ATTEMPT:

WCU: Ken Moore Jr., at #22 Elon – Sept. 14, 2024
Opp: Seth Foster of Wofford – Oct. 6, 2025

HAD A 100-YARD RUSHER:

WCU: Josh Perry (16–142 yds), vs. Presbyterian – Sept. 19, 2026
Opp: GiBran Payne of Cincinnati (12–102 yds) – Sept. 12, 2026

HAD A 100-YARD RECEIVER:

WCU: Jai Boyd (3–103 yds), vs. Presbyterian – Sept. 19, 2026
Opp: Spencer Jones (7–126, TD) of Campbell – Sept. 6, 2026

TEAMMATES RUSHED FOR 100 YARDS IN THE SAME GAME:

WCU: Tyrie Adams (12-for-106 yds) & Connell Young (14-for-105 yds)
..... at Gardner-Webb – Sept. 14, 2018
Opp: Nate Hampton (28–132) and Quasean Holmes (13–116 yds) & Chris Lofton (3–102 yds)
..... of Gardner-Webb – Aug. 30, 2025

TEAMMATES HAD 100 RECEIVING YARDS IN THE SAME GAME:

WCU: James Tyre (7–112 yds) and Malik Knight (5–103 yds), at The Citadel – Oct. 18, 2025
Opp: Jeremiah Harrison (5–139) and Hakeem Meggett (4–113) of ETSU – Nov. 15, 2025

TEAMMATES HAD 100 YDS RUSHING AND RECEIVING IN THE SAME GAME:

WCU: Branson Adams (17–110 rushing yds) &
..... Censere Lee (7-for-127) – vs. ETSU – Nov. 11, 2023
Opp: Jason Albritton (20–125 yds rush) and Jeremiah Harrison (5–138 yds rec.)
..... and Hakeem Meggett (4–113 yds rec.) of ETSU – Nov. 15, 2025

THREW AT LEAST FOUR TOUCHDOWN PASSES:

WCU: Taron Dickens (7) vs. #10/12 Mercer – Nov. 8, 2025
Opp: Chase Artopoulos of #20/24 Chattanooga (5) – Oct. 7, 2023

PLAYER SCORED AT LEAST FOUR TOUCHDOWNS:

WCU: Camury Reid (4), vs. Samford – Sept. 20, 2025 (1 rushing TD, 3 receiving TDs)
Opp: Nate Hampton of Gardner-Webb – Aug. 30, 2025 (4 rushing TDs)

PLAYER KICKED AT LEAST FOUR FIELD GOALS:

WCU: Richard McCollum, at Samford – Sept. 24, 2022 (4-for-4 FGs)
Opp: Ray Early of Furman – Nov. 16, 2013 (6 FGs)

TEAM SCORED AT LEAST 50 POINTS:

WCU: 52 vs. Furman – Oct. 11, 2025
Opp: 62 by Cincinnati – Sept. 12, 2026

TEAM SCORED AT LEAST 30 POINTS IN A HALF:

WCU: 31 (2nd Half – 17 in 3rd, 14 in 4th) vs. Presbyterian – Sept. 19, 2026
Opp: 34 by Cincinnati (2nd) – Sept. 12, 2026

TEAM SCORED AT LEAST 25 POINTS IN A QUARTER:

WCU: 29 vs. Samford (3rd) – Sept. 20, 2025
Opp: 21 by Cincinnati (2nd/3rd) – Sept. 12, 2026

TEAM WAS SHUTOUT:

WCU: by No. 4 Oklahoma (76-0) – Sept. 11, 2021
Opp: Shorter (35-0) – Aug. 28, 2008
SoCon Opp: Wofford (24-0) – Nov. 5, 2005

CATAMOUNT FOOTBALL – TOP PERFORMANCES

WESTERN CAROLINA – TOP TOTAL YARDS:

Team Single Game (All-Time):

801 yards	at Furman (149 rushing, 652 passing)	10/19/2024
766 yards	vs. Presbyterian (384 rushing, 382 passing)	9/17/2022
733 yards	vs. Samford (151 rushing, 582 passing)	9/20/2025
711 yards	vs. Lenoir-Rhyne	1969

Team Single Game (2026):

659 yards	vs. Presbyterian (325 rushing, 334 passing)	9/19/2026
508 yards	vs. Eastern Kentucky (188 rushing, 320 passing)	8/29/2026

WESTERN CAROLINA – TOP RUSHING GAMES:

Individual Single Game (All-Time):

288 yards	Detrez Newsome vs. Davidson	9/9/2017
277 yards	Detrez Newsome vs. Chattanooga	10/28/2016
251 yards	Brad Hoover vs. VMI	10/31/1998
243 yards	Anthony James vs. Marshall	11/14/1981
243 yards	Darrell Lipford vs. Presbyterian	10/4/1975

Individual Single Game (2026):

142 yards	Josh Perry vs. Presbyterian	9/19/2026
69 yards	Lex Thomas vs. Eastern Kentucky	8/29/2026

Team Single Game (All-Time):

483 yards	vs. Davidson	9/9/2017
464 yards	vs. Newberry	10/30/1993

Team Single Game (2026):

325 yards	vs. Presbyterian	9/19/2026
188 yards	vs. Eastern Kentucky	8/29/2026

WESTERN CAROLINA – TOP PASSING GAMES:

Individual Single Game (All-Time):

620 yards	Cole Gonzales at Furman	10/19/2024
582 yards	Taron Dickens vs. Samford	9/20/2025
551 yards	Taron Dickens vs. #10/12 Mercer	11/8/2025
474 yards	David Rivers vs. Wofford	10/14/2000
433 yards	Carlos Davis at Charleston Southern	9/3/2022
433 yards	Don Dalton vs. Emory and Henry	1969
431 yards	Taron Dickens vs. #10/9 Chattanooga	11/2/2024
428 yards	David Rivers vs. Tennessee Tech	11/18/2000
427 yards	Taron Dickens at Campbell	9/27/2025
427 yards	Rogan Wells at Gardner-Webb	9/25/2021
427 yards	Tyrie Adams vs. Gardner-Webb	9/10/2016
426 yards	Taron Dickens vs. #10/12 Mercer	11/8/2025

Individual Single Game (2026):

326 yards	Lex Thomas at Campbell	9/6/2026
320 yards	Lex Thomas vs. Eastern Kentucky	8/29/2026

Team Single Game (All-Time):

652 yards	at Furman	10/19/2024
582 yards	vs. Samford	9/20/2025
551 yards	vs. #10/12 Mercer	11/8/2025
513 yards	vs. ETSU	11/11/2023
488 yards	at Campbell	9/27/2025
474 yards	vs. Emory & Henry	1969
474 yards	vs. Wofford	10/14/2000

Team Single Game (2026):

334 yards	vs. Presbyterian	9/19/2026
326 yards	at Campbell	9/6/2026
320 yards	vs. Eastern Kentucky	8/29/2026

WESTERN CAROLINA – TOP RECEIVING GAMES:

Individual Single Game (All-Time):

235 yards	Jon Reed vs. Appalachian State	11/18/1989
232 yards	Craig Aiken vs. The Citadel	10/24/1992
229 yards	De'Andre Tamarez at #10/9 Montana	9/21/2024
212 yards	Karnorris Benson vs. Mars Hill	9/21/2013
212 yards	Eddie Cohen vs. Georgia Southern	9/29/2007
209 yards	Jerry Gaines vs. Florida A&M	11/3/1973

Individual Single Game (2026):

103 yards	Jai Boyd vs. Presbyterian	9/19/2026
94 yards	Michael Rossin vs. Eastern Kentucky	8/29/2026
91 yards	AJ Colombo at Campbell	9/6/2026
90 yards	AJ Colombo vs. Eastern Kentucky	8/29/2026

WCU VS. NCAA FBS TEAMS SINCE 1979

YEAR	OPPONENT	STADIUM	CAPACITY	ATT.	RESULT
2026	at Cincinnati	Historic Nippert	38,088	34,827	L, 62-10
2025	at Wake Forest	Allegacy Federal Credit Union	31,500	28,239	L, 42-10
2024	at #24 NC State	Carter-Finley	56,919	56,919	L, 38-21
2023	at Arkansas	War Memorial*	57,583	44,397	L, 56-13
2022	at Georgia Tech	Bobby Dodd	55,000	36,486	L, 35-17
2021	at #4 Oklahoma	Gaylord Family Memorial	80,126	83,538	L, 76-0
2020	at #17 North Carolina	Kenan Memorial	63,000	3,535*	L, 49-9
2020	at #22 Liberty	Williams	25,000	1,000*	L, 58-14
2019	at #5 Alabama	Bryant-Denny	101,821	101,821	L, 66-3
2019	at NC State	Carter-Finley	57,600	55,681	L, 41-0
2018	at North Carolina	Kenan Memorial	63,000	41,151	L, 49-26
2017	at North Carolina	Kenan Memorial	63,000	43,000	L, 65-10
2017	at Hawai'i	Aloha	50,000	25,472	L, 41-18
2016	at South Carolina	Williams-Brice	80,250	76,650	L, 44-31
2016	at East Carolina	Dowdy-Ficklen	50,000	44,161	L, 52-7
2015	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	102,577	101,583	L, 41-17
2015	at Tennessee	Neyland	102,455	102,136	L, 55-10
2014	at #1 Alabama	Bryant-Denny	101,821	101,325	L, 48-14
2014	at South Florida	Raymond James	65,857	31,642	L, 36-31
2013	at Auburn	Jordan-Hare	87,451	84,171	L, 62-3
2013	at Virginia Tech	Lane	65,632	61,335	L, 45-3
2013	at Middle Tenn.	Johnny "Red" Floyd	30,788	20,011	L, 45-24
2012	at #4 Alabama	Bryant-Denny	101,821	101,126	L, 49-0
2012	at Marshall	Joan C. Edwards	38,019	25,317	L, 52-24
2011	at Georgia Tech	Bobby Dodd	55,000	42,132	L, 63-21
2010	at NC State	Carter-Finley	57,583	56,417	L, 48-7
2009	at Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt	39,773	36,350	L, 45-0
2008	at Florida State	Doak Campbell	82,300	73,024	L, 69-0
2007	at #23 Georgia	Sanford	92,138	92,138	L, 45-16
2007	at Alabama	Bryant-Denny	90,233	90,233	L, 52-6
2006	at #3 Florida	Ben Hill Griffen	90,233	90,233	L, 62-0
2005	at Cincinnati	Nippert	35,000	22,637	L, 7-3
2004	at Alabama	Bryant-Denny	83,818	77,306	L, 52-0
2003	at NC State	Carter-Finley	53,800	53,800	L, 59-20
2003	at Duke	Wallace Wade	33,941	18,800	L, 29-3
2002	at Auburn	Jordan-Hare	86,063	80,067	L, 56-0
2001	at #26 Louisville	Papa John's	42,000	35,214	L, 31-7
2000	at LSU	Tiger	91,600	87,188	L, 58-0
1999	at Maryland	Byrd	48,055	36,376	L, 51-10
1998	at Duke	Wallace Wade	33,941	22,460	L, 24-10
1995	at Clemson	Clemson Memorial	65,000	L, 55-9	
1994	at Georgia Tech	Bobby Dodd	40,012	L, 45-26	
1993	at Kansas	Memorial	31,500	L, 46-3	
1992	at Georgia Tech	Bobby Dodd	41,911	L, 37-19	
1991	at Wake Forest	Groves	22,352	L, 40-24	
1991	at Georgia	Sanford	78,512	L, 48-0	
1990	at NC State	Carter-Finley	42,700	L, 67-0	
1989	at Georgia Tech	Bobby Dodd	28,821	L, 34-7	
1989	at South Carolina	Williams-Brice	62,000	L, 24-3	
1988	at South Carolina	Williams-Brice	68,800	L, 38-0	
1988	at NC State	Carter-Finley	40,300	L, 31-13	
1987	at South Carolina	Williams-Brice	66,563	L, 31-6	
1987	at Clemson	Clemson Memorial	77,000	L, 43-0	
1986	at NC State	Carter-Finley	39,200	L, 31-18	
1986	at South Carolina	Williams-Brice	65,731	L, 45-24	
1985	at Florida State	Doak Campbell	52,773	L, 50-10	
1984	at Boston College	Alumni	32,000	L, 44-22	
1983	at Wake Forest	Groves	21,351	L, 21-0	
1983	at Clemson	Clemson Memorial	71,500	L, 44-10	
1982	at Wake Forest	Groves	25,476	L, 31-10	
1982	at Clemson	Memorial	61,000	L, 21-10	
1981	at East Carolina	Dowdy-Ficklen	24,983	L, 42-6	
1981	at Florida State	Doak Campbell	52,721	L, 56-31	
1980	at Clemson	Clemson Memorial	59,000	L, 17-10	
1979	at East Carolina	Dowdy-Ficklen	25,000	L, 31-6	

WESTERN CAROLINA – INDIVIDUAL CAREER PASSING STATS

#2 LEX THOMASQB

2024 (AT NC STATE)	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
Clemson	4	6	0	66.7	53	1	40	0	0
Stanford	1	2	1	50.0	12	0	12	0	0
SEASON.....	5	8	1	46.7	65	1	40	0	0

2025 (AT NC STATE)	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
vs Campbell.....	2	6	0	33.3	18	0	12	0	0
vs Memphis	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
SEASON.....	2	7	0	28.5	18	0	12	0	0

2026	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
Eastern Kentucky.....	27	35	0	77.1	320	3	42	2	- 6
at Campbell	25	44	0	56.8	326	2	48	3	- 23
at Cincinnati	23	32	0	71.9	165	0	25	0	0
Presbyterian	24	33	0	72.7	268	1	41	0	0
SEASON.....	99	144	0	68.8	1,079	6	48	5	- 29
CAREER	106	159	1	66.7	1,162	7	48	5	- 29

#11 ISAAC LEEQB

2024	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
Did Not See Game Action									

2025	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
Gardner-Webb	3	9	0	33.3	82	1	69	0	- 0
at Wake Forest	8	10	0	80.0	49	0	11	1	5
Elon.....	19	31	2	61.3	132	1	20	2	-14
VMI	1	4	0	25.0	16	0	16	0	0
SEASON.....	31	54	2	57.4	279	2	69	3	- 19

2026	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
at Cincinnati	1	3	1	33.3	2	0	2	0	0
Presbyterian	4	8	0	50.0	66	1	36	0	0
SEASON.....	5	11	1	45.5	68	1	36	0	0
CAREER	36	65	3	55.3	347	3	69	3	-19

#12 JAKE MORROWQB

2026	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
SEASON.....									

#16 CALEB TUCKERQB

2026	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
SEASON.....	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	- 0

#17 PATRICK HARDINGQB

2026	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
at Cincinnati	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	-0
SEASON.....	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	-0

IAN GRISSOM.....QB

2025	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
Did Not See Game Action									

2026	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
SEASON.....	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	- 0
CAREER									

#5 MICHAEL ROSSIN.....WR

2025	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sack	- Yds
at VMI	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	- 0
SEASON.....	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	- 0

WESTERN CAROLINA – INDIVIDUAL CAREER RUSHING STATS

#2 LEX THOMASQB

2024

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Clemson	1	9	0	9	0	9	9.0
SEASON.....	1	9	0	9	0	9	9.0

2025 – Did not record rushing statistics

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Eastern Kentucky.....	14	83	14	69	1	17	4.9
at Campbell	8	13	24	(-11)	0	7	(-1.4)
at Cincinnati	5	19	1	18	1	8	3.6
Presbyterian	9	42	8	34	0	14	3.8
SEASON.....	36	157	47	110	2	17	3.1
CAREER.....	37	166	47	119	2	17	5.2

#3 JOSH PERRYRB

2025

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Furman	9	43	5	38	0	7	4.2
at The Citadel	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0
SEASON.....	10	44	5	39	0	7	4.2

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Eastern Kentucky.....	16	38	7	31	0	11	1.9
at Campbell	4	8	7	1	0	5	0.2
at Cincinnati	7	25	1	24	0	7	3.4
Presbyterian	16	142	0	142	3	62	8.9
SEASON.....	43	213	15	198	3	62	4.6
CAREER.....	53	257	20	237	3	62	4.5

#5 MICHAEL ROSSIN..... WR

2025

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
ETSU	1	6	0	6	0	6	6.0
SEASON.....	1	6	0	6	0	6	6.0

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Eastern Kentucky.....	2	2	0	2	0	2	1.0
SEASON.....	2	2	0	2	0	2	1.0
CAREER.....	3	8	0	8	0	6	2.7

#8 MARLIN COCHRAN.....RB

2023

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
at Arkansas.....	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
Charleston Southern	2	31	0	31	1	31	15.5
Mercer	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
ETSU	4	13	0	13	0	5	3.3
SEASON.....	8	47	2	45	1	31	5.6

2024

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
at #24 NC State.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Campbell	3	9	0	9	0	6	3.0
at #22 Elon	4	8	0	8	0	3	2.0
at #10/9 Montana.....	2	12	0	12	0	10	6.0
The Citadel	8	25	1	24	0	6	3.0
at Furman	3	17	1	16	0	14	5.3
at #17/14 Mercer	3	1	9	(-8)	0	1	(-2.7)
#25/18 Chattanooga.....	9	16	2	14	0	6	1.6
at ETSU	4	19	0	19	0	8	4.8
VMI	9	48	1	47	0	17	5.2
at Samford.....	2	7	0	7	0	4	3.5
SEASON.....	48	162	14	148	0	17	3.1

2025 - Did not play

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Eastern Kentucky.....	5	60	0	60	1	34	12.0
at Campbell	3	8	3	5	0	5	1.7
at Cincinnati	3	25	0	25	0	21	8.3
Presbyterian	9	43	0	43	1	12	4.8
SEASON.....	20	136	3	133	2	34	6.7
CAREER.....	76	345	19	326	3	34	4.3

#11 ISAAC LEE.....QB

2024 – Did not play

2025

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Gardner-Webb	4	8	9	(-1)	0	7	-0.3
at Wake Forest	5	45	5	40	0	31	8.0
Elon.....	7	38	15	23	0	21	3.3
Furman	2	66	2	64	1	66	32.0
Presbyterian	3	25	0	25	0	15	8.3
SEASON.....	21	182	31	151	1	66	7.2

#20 JADARIUS DOBIERB

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
at Cincinnati	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
Presbyterian	7	45	0	45	0	12	6.4
SEASON.....	8	48	0	48	0	12	6.0

#21 JOSHUA BALLOONRB

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
at Cincinnati	1	4	0	4	0	4	4.0
Presbyterian	1	6	0	6	0	6	6.0
SEASON.....	2	10	0	10	0	6	5.0

#22 DERRICK DAVIS JR.....RB

2021 - Did not record rushing statistics

2022 - (at LSU)

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
vs UAB	5	29	1	28	0	16	5.6
vs Purdue	6	29	0	29	1	12	4.8
SEASON.....	11	58	1	57	1	16	5.1

2023 - (at Pittsburgh)

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
vs Wofford	2	8	0	8	0	7	4.0
SEASON.....	2	8	0	8	0	7	4.0

2025 - (at Pittsburgh)

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
vs Kent St.....	5	12	0	12	1	3	2.4
at Cincinnati	3	8	0	8	0	6	2.6
vs West Virginia.....	2	3	0	3	1	2	1.5
vs Youngstown St.....	6	22	1	21	0	12	3.5
at SMU	1	0	2	-2	0	-2	-2.0
vs Clemson	4	8	1	7	0	6	1.7
at Boston College.....	5	23	2	21	0	12	4.2
SEASON.....	27	76	6	70	2	12	2.6

2026 - (at Western Carolina)

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
at Campbell	3	6	0	6	0	2	2.0
at Cincinnati	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Presbyterian	4	19	0	19	1	9	4.8
SEASON.....	9	25	0	25	1	9	2.8
CAREER.....	49	161	7	154	4	16	3.1

#24 ANTHONY BENJAMIN...RB

2025

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
vs Furman	3	21	0	21	0	14	7.0
SEASON.....	3	21	0	21	0	14	7.0

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Eastern Kentucky.....	3	26	0	26	1	14	8.7
at Cincinnati	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Presbyterian	1	7	0	7	0	7	7.0
SEASON.....	5	33	0	33	1	14	6.6
CAREER.....	8	54	0	54	1	14	6.7

#25 NOAH BESTRB

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
SEASON.....							

#27 ELIJAH HADLEYRB

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
SEASON.....							

#34 JORDAN MARTIN-DURHAMQB

2025

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
ETSU	2	1	0	1	1	1	0.5
SEASON.....	2	1	0	1	1	1	0.5

#40 LANDON POPE.....RB

2026

Game	No	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
SEASON.....							

WESTERN CAROLINA – INDIVIDUAL CAREER RECEIVING STATS

#0 AJ COLOMBO..... WR

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Presbyterian	1	4	0	4
VMI	1	5	0	5
at #12 Mercer	1	1	0	1
The Citadel	2	26	0	19
SEASON.....	5	36	0	19

2023

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
#7/8 Samford.....	5	79	1	24
at Eastern Kentucky	3	46	0	21
Charleston Southern	3	95	2	50
at The Citadel	5	40	1	22
at #20/24 Chattanooga.....	3	60	0	39
#3/4 Furman.....	2	27	1	18
Mercer	7	56	0	21
at Wofford.....	0	0	0	0
at VMI	3	35	0	18
SEASON.....	31	438	5	50

2024

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at #24 NC State.....	9	97	1	25
Campbell	4	59	0	26
at #22 Elon	5	51	0	22
at #10/9 Montana.....	5	44	1	21
Wofford.....	7	32	0	11
The Citadel	4	34	0	14
at #17/14 Mercer	5	66	1	24
#25/18 Chattanooga.....	6	37	1	12
at ETSU	3	25	0	15
VMI	4	29	0	14
at Samford.....	9	116	1	28
SEASON.....	61	590	5	28

2025

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
INJURED				

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Eastern Kentucky.....	6	90	0	25
at Campbell	6	91	0	23
at Cincinnati	2	17	0	13
Presbyterian	7	64	0	15
SEASON.....	21	262	0	25
CAREER	118	1,326	10	50

#1 JAI BOYD..... WR

2023 – Did not record stats

2024

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Wofford.....	2	16	0	9
The Citadel	2	16	0	11
at Furman	3	102	0	56
at #17/14.....	2	20	0	19
#25/18 Chattanooga.....	2	19	0	12
at ETSU	2	37	0	34
VMI	3	77	0	56
at Samford.....	3	20	0	10
SEASON.....	19	307	0	56

2025

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
#10/12 Mercer.....	2	21	1	11
SEASON.....	2	21	1	11

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Eastern Kentucky.....	2	13	0	8
at Campbell	2	49	2	48
at Cincinnati	6	32	0	9
Presbyterian	3	103	1	41
SEASON.....	13	197	3	48
CAREER	34	525	4	56

#3 JOSH PERRY RB

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Furman	1	9	1	9
at The Citadel	1	(-2)	0	0
SEASON.....	2	7	1	9

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Eastern Kentucky.....	6	29	2	12
at Cincinnati	2	11	0	9
Presbyterian	3	20	0	9
SEASON.....	11	60	2	12
CAREER	13	67	3	12

#4 KHA'LEAL STERLING..... WR

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Did not record any statistics				
SEASON.....				

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Cincinnati	1	12	0	12
Presbyterian	3	25	0	13
SEASON.....	4	37	0	13

#5 MICHAEL ROSSIN WR

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Samford	3	90	0	64
at Campbell	3	88	0	53
at Wofford.....	2	27	0	15
Furman	2	59	1	50
at Chattanooga.....	2	28	1	18
#10/12 Mercer.....	3	65	2	27
ETSU	4	89	1	61
at VMI	3	16	1	11
SEASON.....	22	462	6	64

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Eastern Kentucky.....	6	94	0	42
at Campbell	3	20	0	12
SEASON.....	9	114	0	42
CAREER	31	576	6	64

#6 MARCUS STRIGGLES..... WR

2024 (at Concord University)

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
SEASON.....	48	600	1	51

2025 (at Western Carolina)

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Gardner-Webb	2	24	0	16
at Wake Forest	4	21	0	10
Elon.....	2	22	0	17
Samford	1	24	0	24
at Campbell	1	32	1	32
Furman	1	13	0	13
SEASON.....	11	136	1	32

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Campbell	1	21	0	21
SEASON.....	1	21	0	21
CAREER	60	757	2	51

#7 TREY WALKER.....WR

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Gardner-Webb	1	25	1	25
Elon.....	2	10	0	6
SEASON.....	3	35	1	25

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
SEASON.....				
CAREER	3	35	1	25

#8 MARLIN COCHRAN..... RB

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Arkansas.....	1	0	0	0
SEASON.....	1	0	0	0

2024

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at #24 NC State	2	19	0	10
Campbell	2	10	0	9
Wofford.....	2	23	0	13
The Citadel	3	22	0	14
at Furman	1	5	0	5
at #17/14 Mercer	1	6	0	6
#25/18 Chattanooga.....	2	31	0	26
at Samford.....	1	11	0	11
SEASON.....	14	127	0	14

2025

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
INJURED				

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Presbyterian	4	11	0	6
SEASON.....	4	11	0	6
CAREER	19	138	0	14

#9 BODE BURNS.....TE

2024 – Did not record stats

2025

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Campbell	1	23	0	23
SEASON.....	1	23	0	23

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Eastern Kentucky.....	4	51	1	18
at Campbell	5	42	0	11
at Cincinnati	1	6	0	6
SEASON.....	10	99	1	18
CAREER	11	122	1	23

#10 SANTANA CARLOS..... WR

2026

Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Eastern Kentucky.....	1	36	0	36
at Campbell	1	15	0	15
at Cincinnati	2	26	0	25
Presbyterian	1	16	0	16
SEASON.....	5	93	0	36

WESTERN CAROLINA – INDIVIDUAL CAREER RECEIVING STATS

#13 RICHARD HOLLIS..... WR

2025				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Furman	1	4	0	4
SEASON.....	1	4	0	4

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
SEASON.....				
CAREER.....	1	4	0	4

#14 KALE WOODBURN..... WR

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Cincinnati	2	5	0	5
Presbyterian	1	36	1	36
SEASON.....	3	41	1	36

#15 MICHAEL DAVIS JR..... WR

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
SEASON.....				

#18 MATTHEW KEENER..... WR

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Campbell	4	53	0	22
SEASON.....	4	53	0	22

#19 MOUHAMADOU MANE... WR

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
SEASON.....				

#20 JADARIUS DOBIE..... RB

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Presbyterian	1	9	0	9
SEASON.....	1	9	0	9

#21 JOSH BALLOON JR..... RB

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Presbyterian	1	12	0	12
SEASON.....	1	12	0	12

#22 DERRICK DAVIS JR..... RB

2024 – (at Pittsburgh)				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Cincinnati	1	3	0	3
Youngstown State	1	14	0	14
at Boston College.....	1	(-2)	0	0
SEASON.....	3	15	0	14

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Campbell	2	32	0	26
at Cincinnati	2	7	0	7
SEASON.....	4	39	0	26
CAREER.....	7	54	0	26

#24 ANTHONY BENJAMIN..... RB

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Campbell	1	3	0	3
Presbyterian	1	9	0	9
SEASON.....	2	12	0	9

#80 COREY SWINT..... WR

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
SEASON.....				

#83 AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM.. WR

2024				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Did not record any statistics.....				
SEASON.....				

2025				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Did not record any statistics.....				
SEASON.....				

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Cincinnati	1	2	0	2
SEASON.....	1	2	0	2

#87 JAKE YOUNG..... TE

2023				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at The Citadel	1	0	0	0
ETSU	1	4	0	4
SEASON.....	2	4	0	4

2024				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at #24 NC State.....	3	31	1	13
Campbell	3	41	0	18
at #22 Elon.....	3	31	0	13
at #10/9 Montana	1	8	0	8
Wofford	2	21	0	13
The Citadel	1	10	0	10
at Furman	4	38	0	17
at #17/14 Mercer	1	15	0	15
#25/18 Chattanooga.....	1	22	0	22
at ETSU	2	19	1	11
VMI	6	74	0	21
at Samford	1	11	0	11
SEASON.....	28	321	2	22

2025 (at Charlotte)				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Army	2	12	0	6
at East Carolina	2	18	0	12
SEASON.....	4	30	0	12

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
at Cincinnati	5	49	0	19
Presbyterian	2	23	0	13
SEASON.....	7	72	0	19
CAREER.....	41	427	2	22

#88 COLE CRADDOCK..... TE

2025				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Did not record any statistics				
SEASON.....				

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Presbyterian	1	6	0	6
SEASON.....	1	6	0	6
CAREER.....	1	6	0	6

#89 ELLIS CHAPPELL..... WR

2025				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
Did not record any statistics				
SEASON.....				

2026				
Game	No	Yds	TD	Long
SEASON.....				
CAREER.....				

CATAMOUNT CAREER, SINGLE-GAME HIGHS – OFFENSE & SPECIAL TEAMS (AT WCU)

JAI BOYD

Receptions..... 6, at Cincinnati (2026)
 Receiving Yards 103, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receiving TDs..... 2, at Campbell (2026)
 Long Reception 56 yds, 2x MR VMI (2024)

JOSHUA BALLOON

Rushes..... 1, twice – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Rushing Yards..... 6, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receptions..... 1, vs. Presbyterian
 Receiving Yards 12, vs. Presbyterian

ANTHONY BENJAMIN

Rushes..... 3, vs. ECU (2026)
 Rushing Yards..... 26, vs. ECU (2026)
 Rushing TDs..... 1, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receptions..... 1, twice – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receiving Yds 9, vs Presbyterian (2026)

BODE BURNS

Receptions..... 5, at Campbell (2026)
 Receiving Yards 51, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receiving TDs..... 1, vs. ECU (2026)

SANTANA CARLOS

Receptions..... 2, at Cincinnati (2026)
 Receiving Yards 36, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receiving TDs.....

MARLIN COCHRAN

Rushes..... 9, 3x – MR vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Rushing Yards..... 60, vs. ECU (2026)
 Rushing TDs..... 1, 3x – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receptions..... 4, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receiving Yards 31, CHATTANOOGA (2024)

AJ COLOMBO

Receptions..... 9, 2x - MR at Samford (2024)
 Receiving Yards 116 yds, at Samford (2024)
 Receiving TDs..... 2, CHA.SOUTHERN (2023)
 Punt Returns..... 5, twice – MR: at #22 Elon (2024)
 Punt Return Yards.. 80 yds, CHA.SOUTHERN (2023)
 Long Punt Return..... 40, CHA.SOUTHERN (2023)

AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM

Receptions..... 1, at Cincinnati (2026)
 Receiving Yards 2, at Cincinnati (2026)

DERRICK DAVIS JR.

Rushes..... 4, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Rushing Yards..... 19 yds, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receptions..... 2, twice - MR: at Cincinnati (2026)
 Receiving Yards 32, at Campbell (2026)

JADARIUS DOBIE

Rushes..... 7, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Rushing Yards..... 45, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receptions..... 1, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receiving Yards 9, vs. Presbyterian (2026)

MATTHEW KEENER

Receptions..... 4, at Campbell (2026)
 Receiving Yards 53, at Campbell (2026)
 Long Reception 22 yards, at Campbell (2026)
 Receiving TDs.....

ISAAC LEE

Completions 19, vs ELON (2025)
 Attempts 31, vs ELON (2025)
 Passing Yards 132, vs ELON (2025)
 Passing TDs 1, 3x – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2025)
 Long Pass 69 yds, GARDNER-WEBB (2025)
 Rushes..... 7, vs ELON (2025)
 Rushing Yards..... 64, FURMAN (2025)

JORDAN MARTIN-DURHAM

Rushes..... 2, ETSU (2025)
 Rushing Yards 1 yd, ETSU (2025)
 Rushing TDs..... 1, ETSU (2025)

ISAAC McLELLAN

Rushes..... 1, at The Citadel (2025)
 Rushing Yards..... 22, at The Citadel (2025)

JOSH PERRY

Rushes..... 16, twice – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Rushing Yards..... 142, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Rushing TDs..... 3, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receptions..... 6, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receiving Yards 29, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receiving TDs..... 2, vs. ECU (2026)

MICHAEL ROSSIN

Receptions..... 6, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receiving Yards 94, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receiving TDs..... 2, MERCER (2025)

KHA'LEAL STERLING

Receptions..... 3, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receiving Yards 25, vs. Presbyterian (2026)

MARCUS STRIGGLES

Receptions..... 4, at Wake Forest (2025)
 Receiving Yards 32, at Campbell (2025)
 Receiving TDs..... 1, at Campbell (2025)

LEX THOMAS

Rushes..... 14, vs. ECU (2026)
 Rushing Yards..... 69, vs. ECU (2026)
 Rushing TDs..... 1, twice - MR: at Cincinnati (2026)
 Pass Attempts..... 44, at Campbell (2026)
 Pass Completions..... 27, vs. ECU (2026)
 Passing Yards 326, at Campbell (2026)
 Passing TDs 3, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receptions..... 1, vs. ECU (2026)
 Receiving Yards 4 yds, vs. ECU (2026)

TREY WALKER

Receptions..... 2, vs ELON (2025)
 Receiving Yards 25 yds, GARDNER-WEBB (2025)
 Receiving TDs..... 1, GARDNER-WEBB (2025)

KALE WOODBURN

Receptions..... 2, at Cincinnati (2026)
 Receiving Yards 36, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Receiving TDs..... 1, vs. Presbyterian (2026)

JAKE YOUNG

Receptions..... 6, vs. VMI (2024)
 Receiving Yards 74, vs. VMI (2024)
 Receiving TDs..... 1, twice – MR: at ETSU (2024)

– WCU SPECIALISTS –

MARK FITZGERALD

Kickoffs..... 8, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Touchbacks..... 8, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Punts..... 6, twice - MR: at Cincinnati (2026)
 Punting Yards 266, at Cincinnati (2026)
 Punting Avg. 45.8, vs. ECU (2026)

BRYAN McCOLLUM

FGM 3, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Long FG Made 45 yds, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Long FGA 45 yds, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 PATs 7-of-7, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
 Consecutive Made PATs 13 (ended 9/6/26)
 Points Scored 16 pts, vs. Presbyterian (2026)

MARCUS TROUT

Field Goals..... 1, 4x MR: vs The Citadel (2025)
 Long FG Made 44 yds, vs Furman (2025)
 Long FGA 44 yds, vs Furman (2025)
 PATs 7-7, vs Furman (2025)
 Consecutive Made PATs 47 (active)
 Points Scored 10 pts, vs. Furman (2025)

ALL-TIME TOP WHITMIRE STADIUM ATTENDANCE FIGURES

1.	vs. Appalachian State	1994	15,247
2.	vs. Appalachian State	2004	14,714
3.	vs. #10/12 Mercer	2025	14,510
4.	vs. Appalachian State	2008	14,213
5.	vs. Appalachian State	2010	14,004
6.	vs. Appalachian State	1983	13,924
7.	vs. Appalachian State	1998	13,785
8.	vs. Furman	1978	13,778
9.	vs. Appalachian State	2006	13,742
10.	vs. EASTERN KENTUCKY	2026	13,482
11.	vs. Georgia Southern	1987	13,460
12.	vs. Charleston Southern	2023	13,357
13.	vs. The Citadel	2014	13,323
14.	vs. Appalachian State	2012	13,279
15.	vs. Furman	1989	13,227
16.	vs. Appalachian State	1989	13,118
17.	vs. VMI	2024	13,022
18.	vs. The Citadel	1992	12,818
19.	vs. VMI	2018	12,759
20.	vs. Furman	1985	12,635
21.	vs. Campbell	2024	12,506
22.	vs. Furman	1991	12,445
23.	vs. Samford	2023	12,410
24.	vs. Mars Hill	2015	12,348
25.	vs. The Citadel	2016	12,283
26.	vs. Appalachian State	1978	12,232
27.	vs. Appalachian State	1985	12,218
28.	vs. The Citadel	1984	12,204
29.	vs. Mercer	2023	12,154

CATAMOUNT CAREER, SINGLE-GAME HIGHS – DEFENSE (AT WCU)

TRYSTAN ANDERSON

Tackles..... 4, vs. ECU (2026)
Tackles for Loss 1.0, vs. ECU (2026)
Sacks 1.0, vs. ECU (2026)

NASSOR ASHENAFI

Tackles..... 5, twice - MR: at Cincinnati (2026)
Tackles for Loss 1.5, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
Sacks 0.5, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
Fumbles Forced..... 1, vs. ECU (2026)
Fumbles Recovered..... 1, vs. ECU (2026)
PBU..... 1, three times – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2026)

BRAEDEN BARGER

Tackles..... 4, at Cincinnati (2026)

VANIER BAPTISTE III

Tackles..... 3, at Chattanooga (2025)

HANK BODINE

Tackles..... 5, vs. FURMAN (2025)
Tackles For Loss 1.0, vs. ELON (2025)

DEVIN BROWN

Tackles..... 3, at Cincinnati (2026)

JOSHUA COLLINS

Tackles..... 9, at Campbell (2026)
Tackles For Loss 1.5, vs. ECU (2026)
Sacks 1.0, twice – MR: at Campbell (2026)
Interceptions 1, vs. Presbyterian (2026)

JAYDEN CORNELIUS

Tackles..... 7, at Campbell (2026)
Interceptions 1, at Campbell (2026)
Interception Return 47 yds, at Campbell (2026)

JAKOBY DIAMOND

Tackles..... 1, three – MR: at Cincinnati (2026)

JERMIYAH DOUGLAS

Tackles..... 4, at Cincinnati (2026)

QUENCY GRANT III

Tackles..... 1, vs. ECU (2026)

ANDRE JACKSON JR.

Tackles..... 8, at Campbell (2026)
Pass Break Ups..... 3, vs. ECU (2026)

FERNANDO JEANTY

Tackles..... 4, at Campbell (2026)
Interceptions 1, at Campbell (2026)

BRAYLON JONES

Tackles..... 8, at Campbell (2026)
PBU..... 1, at Campbell (2026)

CHASE KERNS

Tackles..... 3, at Campbell (2026)
Tackles for Loss 2.0, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
Sacks 1.0, vs. Presbyterian (2026)
Fumble Forced 1, vs. Presbyterian (2026)

JAI'TORIAN MACK

Tackles..... 6, at Cincinnati (2026)

JORDAN MARTIN-DURHAM

Tackles..... 2, twice - at Cincinnati (2026)
Tackles for Loss 1.0, vs. Presbyterian (2026)

RYAN MCKINNIS

Tackles..... 10, at Chattanooga (2025)
Sacks 2, at Chattanooga (2025)
Tackles for Loss 2, at Chattanooga (2025)

ISAAC MCLELLAN

Tackles..... 2, GARDNER-WEBB (2025)
Forced Fumbles 1, at #10/9 Montana (2024)

JADEN MEEKS

Tackles..... 4, at Cincinnati (2026)
Tackles for Loss 0.5, twice - at Cincinnati (2026)

AJ MINTZE

Tackles..... 1, vs. ECU (2026)

BLUE MONROE

Tackles..... 8, at Furman (2024)
Tackles for Loss 2.0, CAMPBELL (2024)
Sacks 1.0, at Samford (2024)

KEN MOORE JR.

Tackles..... 10, at The Citadel (2025)
Tackles for Loss 2.0, THE CITADEL (2024)
Sacks 1.0, 3x – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2026)
Forced Fumble 1, at #22 Elon (2024)
Interceptions 2 vs FURMAN (2025)
Blocked Kicks 1, at #24 Elon (2024)
Touchdowns 1, 2x - MR: FURMAN (2025)
Double-Digit Tackles 1x

MARCO PATIERNO

Tackles..... 3, twice – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2026)
Tackles for Loss 1.0, vs. Presbyterian (2026)

TERRELL POYSER

Tackles..... 1, twice - MR: at Cincinnati (2026)

JULIAN QUINTERO

Tackles..... 3, twice – MR: at Campbell (2026)
Tackles for Loss 0.5, at Campbell (2026)
Forced Fumble 1, at Wofford (2025)

ALANT'E REESE

Tackles..... 7, at Cincinnati (2026)

CHRISTIAN ROBBINS

Tackles..... 1, twice - MR: at Cincinnati (2026)
PBU..... 1, at Campbell (2026)

GAVIN ROWELL

Tackles..... 3, at Campbell (2026)

NA'KOMA SIMPSON-NEALY

Tackles..... 4, at Cincinnati (2026)

ADRIAN STONE

Tackles..... 3, at Campbell (2026)

MARSEILLE TAYLOR

Tackles..... 4, GARDNER-WEBB (2025)
Tackles for Loss 1.5, vs FURMAN (2025)
Sacks 1.0, at VMI (2025)
Interceptions 1, vs. ECU (2026)
Pass Break Ups..... 1, vs. ECU (2026)

CALEB TURNER-ALLEN

Tackles..... 3, twice - MR: at Cincinnati (2026)
TFL..... 1.0, 3x – MR: vs. Presbyterian (2026)
Sacks 1.0, twice – MR: at Campbell (2026)
Interceptions 1, at Campbell (2026)

BEADY WADDELL V

Tackles..... 4, at Cincinnati (2026)

CALEB YOUNG JR.

Tackles..... 4, at Cincinnati (2026)

GAME ONE • SAT., AUG. 29, 2026 • CULLOWHEE • ATT: 13,482

	EASTERN KENTUCKY	21
	RV/RV WESTERN CAROLINA	45

CULLOWHEE – Lex Thomas threw for 320 yards and three touchdowns, including a pair to Josh Perry, and added a fourth-quarter rushing score as Western Carolina rallied for a 45-21 season-opening victory over Eastern Kentucky on Saturday night at E.J. Whitmire Stadium / Bob Waters Field.

The Catamounts rallied from seven-point deficits twice and erased a 14-10 halftime deficit, outscoring the Colonels 35-7 after intermission to secure their first season-opening victory since 2022. A crowd of 13,482 fans, the 10th-largest in E.J. Whitmire Stadium history, was on hand to witness the debut of the stadium's latest facility enhancements, including the new playing surface, new lights, updated videoboard, and premium seating additions.

Thomas, who earned the starting nod out of fall camp, connected on 10 of his first 11 passes on the night on the way to finishing 27-of-35 through the air. Despite the early completion success, the Raleigh, N.C., transfer had just 67 passing yards at the break. He found his rhythm after halftime, completing 11-of-15 passes in the third quarter for 180 yards and three touchdowns on the way to a career-best 320-yard passing performance.

Thomas added a team-best 69 yards rushing with a score, and even recorded a reception and four receiving yards as he collected a batted ball for the completion.

Eight different receivers caught passes with three posting six receptions apiece. Michael Rossin finished with six catches for a team-best 94 yards, while AJ Colombo made his return to the turf, going for 90 yards on six touches. Perry caught six passes, including two touchdowns, finishing with 29 receiving yards while adding 31 yards rushing. Bode Burns finished with four catches for 51 yards.

Behind Thomas on the ground, Marlin Cochran ran five times for 60 yards and rumbled 34 yards for WCU's first touchdown of the season. Anthony Benjamin capped the scoring with a 14-yard sprint in the game's final minute to provide the final tally.

Western Carolina amassed 508 yards of total offense, including 320 through the air and 188 on the ground, while recording 28 first downs.

For Eastern Kentucky (0-1), quarterback Tyler Travers finished 22-for-34 with three touchdown passes and one interception that came on a deflection in his first collegiate start. He targeted receiver Elijah Caldwell 12 times, completing six for a game-high 102 yards and a touchdown, with Jarvis Hayes finishing with 47 yards and a score on five catches.

Joshua Collins led all Catamount defenders with seven total stops, including 1.5 tackles for loss with a QB sack. Ken Moore Jr. and Alant'e Reese were both credited with five stops apiece, with Moore halving a TFL. Transfer defensive lineman Trystan Anderson and Ashenafi both had four tackles in the win, Anderson adding the second of two WCU sacks and Ashenafi recovering a fumble.

Transfer corner Andre Jackson Jr. impressed in his Catamount debut, recording three pass breakups and four tackles. Marseille Taylor collected his first interception in a Catamount uniform.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Score	Record: (0-1)
RV Eastern Kentucky	7	7	7	0	21	Record: (0-1)
RV/RV Western Carolina	7	3	21	14	45	Record: (1-0)

Scoring Summary:

1st	9:38	EKU	Elijah Caldwell 18 yd pass from Tyler Travers (Buzz Flabiano kick) – 10 plays, 75 yds, 5:22	EKU 7	WCU 0
	0:15	WCU	Marlin Cochran 34 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 7 plays, 89 yds, 3:08	EKU 7	WCU 7
2nd	1:57	EKU	Brayden Latham 9 yd pass from Tyler Travers (Buzz Flabiano kick) – 12 plays, 81 yds, 6:28	EKU 14	WCU 7
	0:00	WCU	Bryan McCollum 20 yd field goal – 8 plays, 39 yds, 1:49	EKU 14	WCU 10
3rd	12:47	WCU	Bode Burns 18 yd pass from Lex Thomas (Bryan McCollum kick) – 6 plays, 75 yds, 2:13	EKU 14	WCU 17
	8:31	WCU	Josh Perry 12 yd pass from Lex Thomas (Bryan McCollum kick) – 6 plays, 60 yds, 2:50	EKU 14	WCU 24
	3:38	WCU	Josh Perry 6 yd pass from Lex Thomas (Bryan McCollum kick) – 7 plays, 50 yds, 2:27	EKU 14	WCU 31
	0:37	EKU	Jarvis Hayes 15 yd pass from Tyler Travers (Buzz Flabiano kick) – 7 plays, 75 yds, 3:01	EKU 21	WCU 31
4th	2:27	WCU	Lex Thomas 15 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 5 plays, 53 yds, 0:56	EKU 21	WCU 38
	0:47	WCU	Anthony Benjamin 14 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 3 plays, 26 yds, 0:49	EKU 21	WCU 45

	EKU	WCU
FIRST DOWNS	20	28
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	29-65	40-188
PASSING YDS (NET)	305	320
Passes Comp-Att-Int.	22-34-1	27-35-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	63-370	75-508
Fumble Returns-Yards	1-1	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	2-8
Kickoff Returns-Yards	4-230	6-387
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	1-8
Punts (Number-Avg)	5-41.2	4-45.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	9-74	8-80
Possession Time	27:45	32:15
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 13	8 of 14
Fourth-Down Conversions	2 of 3	0 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	6-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-11	3-18

RUSHING: EKU – Brayden Latham 16-41; Cortez Stone 2-19; Brady Hensley 6-15; Tyler Travers 5-(-10); WCU – Lex Thomas 14-69; Marlin Cochran 5-60; Josh Perry 16-31; Anthony Benjamin 3-26; Michael Rossin 2-2.

PASSING: EKU – Tyler Travers 22-34-1, 305; WCU – Lex Thomas 27-35-0, 320.

RECEIVING: EKU – Elijah Caldwell 6-102; Jarvis Hayes 5-47; Jackson House 2-37; Caeleb Schlachter 2-37; Brady Hensley 2-36; Cameron Hergott 3-29; Brayden Latham 2-17; WCU – Michael Rossin 6-94; AJ Colombo 6-90; Bode Burns 4-51; Santana Carlos 1-36; Josh Perry 6-29; Jai Boyd 2-13; Lex Thomas 1-4; Jake Young 1-3.

INTERCEPTIONS: EKU – none; WCU – Marseille Taylor 1-8.

FUMBLES (FF-FR): EKU – none; WCU – Nassor Ashenafi 1-1;

SACKS (UA-A): EKU – Caleb Redd 1-0; Miller Payne 0-1; Nasir Spruill 0-1; WCU – Joshua Collins 1-0; Trystan Anderson 1-0; Caleb Turner-Allen 1-0.

TACKLES (UA-A): EKU – Jeff Kinley 7-5; Derek Taylor 3-7; Aden Tagaloa-Nelson 4-3; Cameron Jesse 3-4; Jack McGrath 4-2; Daviyon Hawkins-Ingram 2-3; Jayden Marable 2-2; Kaden Smith 1-3; Nasir Spruill 1-3; Caleb Redd 2-2; Keshawn Hayden 1-2; Brock Driver 2-1; Jackson Marshall 1-1; Payne Miller 0-2; DJ Galva 0-1; Cristian Conyer 0-1; Jackson House 1-0; Kaleb Neal 1-0; Jack Chappell 1-0; Braylen Newcomb 1-0. WCU – Joshua Collins 4-3; Ken Moore Jr. 1-4; Nassor Ashenafi 3-2; Alant'e Reese 3-2; Trystan Anderson 4-0; Na'koma Simpson-Nealy 2-1; Andre Jackson Jr. 3-0; Jayden Cornelius 3-0; Marco Patierno 2-1; Julian Quintero 2-1; Ryan McKinnis 1-1; Caleb Turner-Allen 1-1; Hank Bodine 1-1; Fernando Jeanty 1-1; Braylen Jones 0-1; Marseille Taylor 0-1; Chase Kerns 0-1; Ja'Torian Mack 0-1; Quincy Grant III 0-1; Terrell Poyser 0-1; AJ Mintze 1-0; Gavin Rowell 0-1; Jordan Martin-Durham 0-1; Jakoby Diamond 0-1; Adrian Stone 0-1.

GAME TWO • SUN., SEPT. 6, 2026 • BUIES CREEK, NC • ATT: 4,212

	#24/RV WESTERN CAROLINA	19
	-/RV CAMPBELL	28

BUIES CREEK, NC – Western Carolina's defense pitched a second-half shutout Sunday afternoon and intercepted reigning FCS National Offensive Player of the Week Kamden Sixkiller three times, but No. 24 Western Carolina couldn't overcome a slow start, falling 28-19 to Campbell at Barker-Lane Stadium.

Jai Boyd hauled in two touchdown receptions, while Bryan McCollum connected on field goals of 23 and a career-long 40 yards. However, the Catamounts were held to their lowest scoring output against an NCAA FCS opponent since Campbell limited WCU to 16 points in 2024.

The Catamount defense picked off Sixkiller three times, including two interceptions by defensive linemen, but Western Carolina was unable to turn those takeaways into a road victory.

The teams were forced into a rare Sunday contest after weather delays Saturday kept both squads in their locker rooms following pregame warmups. With a night kickoff anticipated, Campbell officials then discovered an electrical issue affecting the stadium lights, forcing the game to be postponed until Sunday morning.

It was just the second Sunday game on record for the Catamounts. Western Carolina previously played on a Sunday in October 1989, when Hurricane Hugo damage in Charleston forced The Citadel's game against WCU to be relocated to Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, S.C., where the teams played to a 22-22 tie.

Quarterback Lex Thomas finished 25-of-44 passing for 326 yards and two touchdowns, both to Boyd from 48 and 1 yard out. AJ Colombo led the Catamounts with six receptions for 91 yards, while tight end Bode Burns added five catches for 42 yards. Matthew Keener recorded career highs with four receptions and 53 receiving yards.

Western Carolina struggled to establish the run, managing just one net rushing yard on 18 attempts. Looking to rally late, the Catamounts did not record a rushing attempt in the fourth quarter. WCU was outgained in the road loss, 528-to-327, including a decisive 197-yard edge on the ground, 198 to just one-yard for the Catamounts.

Defensively, Joshua Collins posted a career-high nine tackles, including his second sack of the season. Braylon Jones, who missed much of the season opener due to an early disqualification, finished with eight tackles and a pass breakup. Andre Jackson Jr. also collected a career-best eight tackles while adding a pass breakup, giving him four through two games.

Caleb Turner-Allen secured the first takeaway after Ken Moore Jr. pressured and hit Sixkiller in the backfield, forcing an errant throw. Both Turner-Allen and Moore Jr. also recorded sacks. Jayden Cornelius nearly took his first career interception to the house, returning it 47 yards, while Fernando Jeanty's interception at the 2-yard line halted a potential fourth-quarter scoring drive.

Sixkiller finished 29-of-44 passing for 330 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions. Spencer Jones caught seven passes for a game-high 126 yards and a score, while Brady Ambrose added three receptions for 52 yards and a touchdown. Stevie Keener totaled six catches for 47 yards for the Camels.

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Score	Record: (1-1)
#24/RV Western Carolina	0	10	3	9	19	Record: (1-1)
Campbell	14	14	0	0	28	Record: (2-0)

Scoring Summary:

1st	9:25	CAM	Brady Ambrose 6 yd pass from Kamden Sixkiller (Alex Crabb kick) – 10 plays, 91 yds, 5:29	WCU 0	CAMP 7
	4:00	CAM	Sixkiller, Kamden 8 yd run (Alex Crabb kick) – 7 plays, 53 yds, 3:28	WCU 0	CAMP 14
2nd	14:49	WCU	Bryan McCollum 23 yd field goal – 7 plays, 39 yds, 2:02	WCU 3	CAMP 14
	10:17	CAM	Ethan Lawrence 1 yd run (Crabb, Alex kick) – 5 plays, 64 yds, 1:21	WCU 3	CAMP 21
	2:57	WCU	Jai Boyd 48 yd pass from Lex Thomas (Bryan McCollum kick) – 7 plays, 73 yds, 3:11	WCU 10	CAMP 21
	0:18	CAM	Spencer Jones 32 yd pass from Kamden Sixkiller (Alex Crabb kick) – 5 plays, 82 yds, 0:30	WCU 10	CAMP 28
3rd	9:49	WCU	Bryan McCollum 40 yd field goal – 4 plays, (-14) yds, 1:57	WCU 13	CAMP 28
4th	9:24	WCU	Jai Boyd 1 yd pass from Lex Thomas (PAT failed) – 11 plays, 65 yds, 3:16	WCU 19	CAMP 28

	WCU	CAMP
FIRST DOWNS	16	26
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	18-1	39-198
PASSING YDS (NET)	326	330
Passes Comp-Att-Int.	25-44-0	29-44-3
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	62-327	83-528
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-10
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-40	1-18
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	1-8
Punts (Number-Avg)	6-38.8	2-46.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-70	5-49
Possession Time	23:58	36:02
Third-Down Conversions	2 of 13	6 of 16
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 1	1 of 4
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	3-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-14	3-23

RUSHING: WCU – Derrick Davis Jr. 3-6; Marlin Cochran 3-5; Josh Perry 4-7; Lex Thomas 8-(-11); CAMP – JJ Cowan 11-83; Ethan Lawrence 14-67; Jon Gullette 3-35; Kamden Sixkiller 9-19.

PASSING: WCU – Lex Thomas 25-44-0, 326; CAMP – Kamden Sixkiller 29-44-3, 330.

RECEIVING: WCU – AJ Colombo 6-91; Matthew Keener 4-53; Jai Boyd 2-49; Bode Burns 5-42; Derrick Davis Jr. 2-32; Marcus Striggles 1-21; Michael Rossin 3-20; Santana Carlos 1-15; Anthony Benjamin 1-3; CAMP – Spencer Jones 7-126; Brady Ambrose 3-52; Stevie Keener 6-47; Evan Austin 4-32; Jyron Waiters 2-23; Jon Gullette 2-21; JJ Cowan 3-17; Chinua Ezeigbo 2-12.

INTERCEPTIONS: WCU – Jayden Cornelius 1-47; Fernando Jeanty 1-0; Caleb Turner-Allen 1-0.

FUMBLES (FF-FR): WCU – none; CAMP – none.

SACKS (UA-A): WCU – Joshua Collins 1-0; Ken Moore Jr. 1-0; Caleb Turner-Allen 1-0; CAMP – AJ JBenton 1-0; Tavales Curry 1-0; Justin Garza 1-0.

TACKLES (UA-A): EWCU – Joshua Collins 6-3; Andre Jackson Jr. 2-6; Braylon Jones 3-5; Jayden Cornelius 5-2; Ken Moore Jr. 1-5; Ryan McKinnis 1-4; Ja'Torian Mack 1-4; Nassor Ashenafi 2-2; Fernando Jeanty 0-4; Julian Quintero 1-2; Caleb Turner-Allen 1-2; Chase Kerns 0-3; Trystan Anderson 1-2; Gavin Rowell 1-2; Adrian Stone 1-2; Na'koma Simpson-Nealy 0-2; Marco Patierno 1-1; AJ Mintze 1-1; Jordan Martin-Durham 0-2; Blue Monroe 0-1; Marseille Taylor 0-1; Christian Robbins 1-0; Jaden Meeks 0-1; Alant'e Reese 0-1; Jakoby Diamond 0-1; CAMP – AJ Benton 3-5; Kareem Williams 2-4; Vance Shepperd 2-3; O'Marion Lewis 1-4; Charles Battaglia 1-4; Tavales Curry 1-3; Justin Garza 3-1; Logan Wright 2-1; Jordan Jones 1-2; Ebenezer Bedada 1-1; Kalen Villanueva 0-2; Kaleb Simpkins 0-2; Michael Gilliam 2-0; Devon Thomas 2-0; Jyron Waiters 1-0; Stevie Keener 1-0; Khalil Price 0-1; Gavin Harris 1-0; Jon Gullette 1-0; Christian Campbell 0-1; Mario Kijajic 1-0.

GAME THREE • SAT., SEPT. 12, 2026 • CINCINNATI, OH • ATT: 34,827



RV/RV WESTERN CAROLINA

10

CINCINNATI

62

CINCINNATI, OHIO – Quarterback Lex Thomas scored on a one-yard touchdown run late in the second quarter to pull Western Carolina within four points, but Cincinnati responded with a pair of touchdowns before halftime and never looked back in a 62-10 nonconference victory Saturday night at historic Nippert Stadium.

After Thomas capped an 11-play, 75-yard drive with his rushing score to trim the deficit to 14-10, the Bearcats scored twice in the final four minutes of the first half to take a 28-10 lead into the locker room. Cincinnati then dominated the second half, outscoring the Catamounts 34-0 while piling up 690 yards of total offense.

Western Carolina struck first on Bryan McCollum's 33-yard field goal to cap the game's opening possession, taking an early 3-0 lead. Cincinnati answered with a 75-yard touchdown drive before adding another score late in the opening quarter to build a 14-3 advantage.

The Catamounts responded with their most sustained drive of the night, marching 75 yards in 11 plays. Cincinnati, however, scored on each of its first-half possessions and closed the half with consecutive touchdown drives to seize control.

Thomas completed 23-of-32 passes for 165 yards while adding 18 rushing yards and the team's lone touchdown. Isaac Lee was 1-for-3 passing with an interception in reserve duty, while freshman Patrick Harding made his collegiate debut in the closing minutes.

Jai Boyd led the Catamount receivers with six catches for 32 yards, while tight end Jake Young recorded five receptions for a team-best 49 yards. Santana Carlos (26 yards), AJ Colombo (17), Josh Perry (11), Derrick Davis Jr. (7), and Cincinnati transfer Kale Woodburn (5) each added two receptions.

Western Carolina rushed for 74 yards, led by Marlin Cochran's 25 yards on three carries and Josh Perry's 24 yards on seven touches.

Cincinnati quarterback JC French IV completed 21-of-24 passes for 245 yards and two touchdowns, connecting with JV Gibson five times for 79 yards and a score. Lyviel Waters also caught a touchdown pass.

The Bearcats' ground game proved to be the difference, as nine players combined for 418 rushing yards and seven touchdowns. Gi'Bran Payne paced the attack with 102 yards and two scores on 12 carries, while Zylan Perry added 76 yards and a touchdown on five attempts. Cole Tabb rushed for 72 yards and a score, while Samaj Jones, Zion Johnson, and Liam O'Brien also found the end zone.

Defensively, Andre Jackson Jr. and Alant'e Reese led Western Carolina with seven tackles each. Ken Moore Jr. and Ja'Torian Mack added six tackles apiece, while Nassor Ashenafi recorded five stops, including a tackle for loss.

Seven Catamount defenders combined to record tackles for loss. Terrell Poyser was credited with a full tackle for loss, while Jackson Jr., Moore Jr., Jaden Meeks, Joshua Collins, Marco Patierno, and Chase Kerns each registered a half tackle for loss.

Score by Quarters

	1	2	3	4	Score	
RV/RV Western Carolina	3	7	0	0	10	Record: (1-2)
Cincinnati	7	21	21	13	62	Record: (2-0)

Scoring Summary:

1st	8:57	WCU	Bryan McCollum 33 yd field goal – 12 plays, 60 yds, 6:03	WCU 3 CIN 0
	3:34	CIN	JV Gibson 5 yd pass from JC French IV (Stephen Rusnak kick) – 13 plays, 75 yds, 5:23	WCU 3 CIN 7
2nd	12:35	CIN	Lyviel Waters 2 yd pass from JC French IV (Stephen Rusnak kick) – 12 plays, 75 yds, 4:30	WCU 3 CIN 14
	6:23	WCU	Lex Thomas 1 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 11 plays, 75 yds, 6:12	WCU 10 CIN 14
	3:00	CIN	Cole Tabb 36 yd run (Stephen Rusnak kick) – 7 plays, 81 yards, 3:18	WCU 10 CIN 21
	0:38	CIN	Zion Johnson 3 yd run (Stephen Rusnak kick) – 6 plays, 85 yards, 1:06	WCU 10 CIN 28
3rd	9:10	CIN	Gi'Bran Payne 40 yd run (Stephen Rusnak kick) – 2 plays, 49 yards, 0:32	WCU 10 CIN 35
	5:03	CIN	Gi'Bran Payne 17 yd run (Stephen Rusnak kick) – 3 plays, 73 yards, 0:47	WCU 10 CIN 42
	2:02	CIN	Zylan Perry 40 yd run (Stephen Rusnak kick) – 3 plays, 61 yards, 1:30	WCU 10 CIN 49
4th	11:51	CIN	Liam O'Brien 11 yd run (PAT failed) – 8 plays, 59 yds, 3:10	WCU 10 CIN 55
	0:43	CIN	Samaj Jones 4 yd run (Stephen Rusnak kick) – 12 plays, 57 yds, 5:12	WCU 10 CIN 62

	WCU	CIN
FIRST DOWNS.....	13	32
RUSHES-YARDS (NET).....	20-74	49-418
PASSING YDS (NET).....	167	272
Passes Comp-Att-Int.....	24-37-1	28-31-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS.....	57-241	80-690
Fumble Returns-Yards.....	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards.....	0-0	3-22
Kickoff Returns-Yards.....	3-51	2-42
Interception Returns-Yards.....	0-0	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg).....	6-44.3	1-53.0
Fumbles-Lost.....	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards.....	5-45	11-105
Possession Time.....	27:23	32:37
Third-Down Conversions.....	2 of 12	8 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions.....	1 of 2	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances.....	2-2	6-7
Sacks By: Number-Yards.....	0-0	0-0

RUSHING: WCU – Marlin Cochran 3-25; Josh Perry 7-24; Lex Thomas 5-18; Josh Balloun Jr. 1-4; Jadarius Dobie 1-3; Derrick Davis 2-0; Anthony Benhamin 1-0; CIN – Gi'Bran Payne 12-102; Zylan Perry 5-76; Cole Tabb 5-72; JC French IV 7-52; Samaj Jones 8-52; Zion Johnson 5-26; Liam O'Brien 4-23; James Lewis 2-11; Jayzon Thompson 1-4.

PASSING: WCU – Lex Thomas 23-32-0, 165; Isaac Lee 1-3-1, 2; Patrick Harding 0-2-0, 0; CIN – JC French IV 21-24-0, 245; Liam O'Brien 5-5-0, 18; Samaj Jones 2-2-0, 9.

RECEIVING: WCU – Jake Young 5-49; Jai Boyd 6-32; Santana Carlos 2-26; AJ Colombo 2-17; Khaleal Sterling 1-12; Josh Perry 2-11; Derrick Davis Jr. 2-7; Bode Burns 1-6; Kale Woodburn 2-5; Austin Cunningham 1-2; CIN – Malachi Henry 3-87; JV Gibson 5-79; Isaiah Johnson 5-20; Cade Wolford 4-18; Gi'Bran Payne 2-14; Gavin Grover 1-12; Zion Johnson 1-11; Devyn Zahursky 1-9; Giyahni Konsolis 1-8; Elijah Jones 1-5; Kellen Davis 1-5; Larenzo Fenner 2-2; Lyviel Waters 1-2.

INTERCEPTIONS: WCU – none; CIN – Marquavious Saboor.

FUMBLES (FF-FR): WCU – none; CIN – Simeon Coleman (1-0)

SACKS (UA-A): WCU – none; CIN – none.

TACKLES (UA-A): WCU – Andre Jackson Jr. 3-4; Alant'e Reese 3-4; Ken Moore Jr. 3-3; Ja'Torian Mack 0-6; Nassor Ashenafi 2-3; Na'koma Simpson Nealy 4-0; Braylon Jones 2-2; Ryan McKinnis 1-1; Caleb Young 1-3; Jermiah Douglas 3-1; Jaden Meeks 0-4; Beady Waddell V 0-4; Braeden Barger 1-3; Joshua Collins 1-2; Jayden Cornelius 1-2; Caleb Turner-Allen 2-1; Devin Brown 2-1; Marseille Taylor 1-1; Marco Patierno 0-2; Trystan Anderson 1-1; Jordan Martin-Durham 0-2; Jayden Joselin 1-1; Hank Bodine 1-0; Chase Kerns 0-1; Terrell Poyser 1-0; Christian Robbins 0-1; Dylan Harris 1-0; Jakoby Diamond 1-0; Brandon Joseph II 0-1. CIN – Damaine Wilson 4-3; Simeon Coleman 0-7; Jacob Finley 3-3; Jonathan Thompson 5-1; Antwan Peek Jr. 2-3; Filip Maciorowski 1-3; Thomas Johnson 1-3; Kenny Worthy 3-0; Marquavious Saboor 1-1; Patrick Bauer 1-1; KK Meier 1-1; Jasper Beeler 0-2; Keegan Horn 0-2; Josh Hough 0-2; MJ Cannon 0-1; Marquaze Parker 1-0; Zay Johnson 1-0; Chidera Otutu 0-1; Jaylon White-McLain 0-1; CJ Crite 1-0; Cameron Roetherford 0-1; D'Angelo Hutchinsin 1-0; Montay Weedon 1-0; Jonathan Rulo 1-0.

GAME FOUR • SAT., SEPT. 19, 2026 • CULLOWHEE, NC • ATT: 11,811



PRESBYTERIAN

14

WESTERN CAROLINA

58

CULLOWHEE – Josh Perry rushed for a career-high 142 yards and three touchdowns, while Western Carolina's defense turned in a dominant second-half performance, limiting Presbyterian to just 23 yards of offense and one first down after halftime as the Catamounts rolled to a 58-14 nonconference victory Saturday at E.J. Whitmire Stadium / Bob Waters Field.

Western Carolina totaled a season-best 659 yards of offense, including 325 rushing yards and 334 through the air, while piling up 32 first downs in a complete team effort. Meanwhile, the Catamount defense limited Presbyterian to two second-quarter touchdowns and 243 yards of offense, including just 72 yards rushing.

Lex Thomas completed 24-of-33 passes for 268 yards and a touchdown, connecting with 12 different receivers. Jai Boyd led the group with a career-high 103 receiving yards on three catches, including a 36-yard touchdown reception on WCU's opening drive. AJ Colombo added a game-high seven receptions for 64 yards. Reserve quarterback Isaac Lee closed the scoring with a 36-yard touchdown pass to Kale Woodburn.

Perry accounted for 162 yards of total offense, adding three catches for 20 receiving yards. The Orlando, Fla., product scored on runs of three, a career-long 62, and 14 yards in the winning effort. Marlin Cochran ran for four yards and a five-yard touchdown, while Derrick Davis scored from a yard out on one of his four touches.

Adding to WCU's complete team effort, Bryan McCollum accounted for 16 points in the victory with seven PATs and three field goals. The Sanford, N.C., product split the uprights from 39, a career-long 45, and 27 yards.

WCU recorded four sacks and eight tackles for loss while frustrating Presbyterian throughout the second half. Nassor Ashenafi collected four tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, and half a sack, while Joshua Collins posted four tackles and recorded the first interception of his career. Ken Moore Jr., Braylon Jones, Chase Kerns, and Hank Bodine all contributed to the Catamounts' four-sack effort.

Western Carolina (2-2) capitalized on a missed field goal on the game's opening drive, marching 79 yards in 10 plays with Thomas connecting with Boyd to pull in front 7-0. Perry's first of three rushing scores and McCollum's first of three field goals gave the Catamounts a 17-0 lead midway through the second quarter.

The Scotsmen cut the deficit to 10 points twice in the second quarter at 17-7 and again at 24-14 inside the final minute of the first half, the latter coming on the heels of Perry's career-long scoring romp of 62 yards. But WCU capped scoring in the opening stanza, moving into field goal range with McCollum's second boot pushing the Catamounts in front 27-14 at halftime.

Any thoughts of a Presbyterian comeback were erased after halftime as the Catamount defense slammed the door shut and the offense continued to pile on. WCU outgained the Blue Hose 341-23 over the final 30 minutes and scored 31 unanswered points.

Saturday's game endured two weather delays, one before the start and a second just before the end of the first quarter.

Score by Quarters

	1	2	3	4	Score	
Presbyterian	0	14	0	0	14	Record: (1-2)
Western Carolina	14	13	17	14	58	Record: (2-2)

Scoring Summary:

1st	6:11	WCU	Jai Boyd 36 yd pass from Lex Thomas (Bryan McCollum kick) – 10 plays, 79 yds, 3:38	PC 0 WCU 7
	0:15	WCU	Josh Perry 3 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 9 plays, 47 yds, 3:06	PC 0 WCU 14
2nd	9:26	WCU	Bryan McCollum 39 yd field goal – 9 plays, 57 yds, 3:11	PC 0 WCU 17
	4:28	PC	Caleb Johnson 5 yd pass from Landon Sharpe (Kade Bailey kick) – 5 plays, 54 yds, 1:44	PC 7 WCU 17
	3:15	WCU	Josh Perry 62 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 3 plays, 70 yds, 1:09	PC 7 WCU 24
	0:59	PC	Damion Moate 6 yd run (Kade Bailey kick) – 7 plays, 75 yds, 2:16	PC 14 WCU 24
	0:00	WCU	Bryan McCollum 45 yd field goal – 8 plays, 42 yds, 0:54	PC 14 WCU 27
3rd	12:09	WCU	Josh Perry 14 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 7 plays, 75 yds, 2:51	PC 14 WCU 34
	6:55	WCU	Bryan McCollum 27 yd field goal – 11 plays, 38 yds, 3:59	PC 14 WCU 37
	5:38	WCU	Marlin Cochran 5 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 4 plays, 23 yds, 1:06	PC 14 WCU 44
4th	12:18	WCU	Derrick Davis Jr. 1 yd run (Bryan McCollum kick) – 8 plays, 37 yds, 2:42	PC 14 WCU 51
	9:17	WCU	Kale Woodburn 36 yd pass from Isaac Lee (Bryan McCollum kick) – 4 plays, 56 yds, 1:33	PC 14 WCU 58

	PC	WCU
FIRST DOWNS.....	13	32
RUSHES-YARDS (NET).....	30-72	52-325
PASSING YDS (NET).....	171	334
Passes Comp-Att-Int.....	20-28-1	28-41-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS.....	58-243	93-659
Fumble Returns-Yards.....	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards.....	0-0	5-50
Kickoff Returns-Yards.....	0-0	2-28
Interception Returns-Yards.....	0-0	1-12
Punts (Number-Avg).....	7-38.0	1-40.0
Fumbles-Lost.....	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards.....	4-33	9-70
Possession Time.....	25:42	34:18
Third-Down Conversions.....	4 of 13	12 of 18
Fourth-Down Conversions.....	0 of 1	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances.....	2-3	5-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards.....	0-0	4-18

RUSHING: PC – Damion Moate 9-43; Landon Sharp 15-24; Jackson Burleson 6-5; WCU – Josh Perry 16-142; Jadarius Dobie 7-45; Marlin Cochran 9-43; Lex Thomas 9-34; Isaac Lee 3-25; Derrick Davis Jr. 4-19; Anthony Benjamin 1-7; Joshua Balloun Jr. 1-6; AJ Colombo 2-4.

PASSING: PC – Landon Sharpe 19-27-1, 162; Thatcher Hutton 1-0, 9; WCU – Lex Thomas 24-33-0, 268; Isaac Lee 4-8-0, 66.

RECEIVING: PC – Jackson Burleson 2-54; Jalen Patrick 5-33; Ethan Medley 3-29; Caleb Johnson 4-24; Damion Moate 2-18; Bryce Johnson 3-12; Sean McNamara 1-1; WCU – Jai Boyd 3-103; AJ Colombo 7-64; Kale Woodburn 1-36; Kah'leal Sterling 3-25; Jake Young 2-23; Josh Perry 3-20; Carlos Santana 1-16; Joshua Balloun Jr. 1-12; Marlin Cochran 4-11; Jadarius Dobie 1-9; Anthony Benjamin 1-9; Cole Craddock 1-6.

INTERCEPTIONS: PC – none; WCU – Joshua Collins.

FUMBLES (FF-FR): PC – Tymaries Durant (1-0); Levi Hoss (0-1); WCU – Chase Kerns (1-0).

SACKS (UA-A): PC – none; WCU – Ken Moore Jr. (1-0); Chase Kerns (1-0); Braylon Jones (1-0); Nassor Ashenafi (0-1); Hank Bodine (0-1).

TACKLES (UA-A): PC – Ryan Largin 9-0; Tymaries Durant 4-3; Noah Taylor 5-1; Shyne Johnson 5-1; Debo Hall 5-1; Andrew Ruppe 3-2; RJ Pooler 4-1; Luke Armstrong 4-1; Chris Glover 0-4; Caleb Makovsky 4-0; Langston Cook 3-0; Nick McGill 3-0; Carson Freese 2-1; Brock Feinberg 3-0; Bryce Stringer 1-1; Jalyn Turner 2-0; Gerald Danner 1-0; Braylon Carstarphen 1-0; Damari Heller 0-1; Ameer Elghazaly 0-1; Eric Nelson 0-1; Levi Hoss 0-1; Ethan Medley 1-0. WCU – Joshua Collins 0-4; Ja'Torian Mack 2-2; Nassor Ashenafi 2-2; Jayden Joselin 2-2; Blue Monroe 2-1; Ken Moore Jr. 2-1; Na'koma Simpson-Nealy 2-1; Braylon Jones 3-0; Jayden Cornelius 1-0; Marquavious Saboor 1-1; Patrick Bauer 1-1; KK Meier 1-1; Jasper Beeler 1-0; Hank Bodine 1-1; Jermiah Douglas 2-0; Marseille Taylor 1-0; Caleb Turner-Allen 1-0; Christian Robbins 1-0; Jaden Meeks 0-1; Jordan Martin-Durham 1-0; Dylan Harris 1-0; Bryce Hart 1-0; Fernando Jeanty 1-0.

GAME FIVE • SAT., SEPT. 26, 2026 • JOHNSON CITY, TN • ATT:				
	WESTERN CAROLINA			
	EAST TENNESSEE STATE			

JOHNSON CITY, TENN. –

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Score	Record: ()
Western Carolina						Record: ()
East Tennessee State						Record: ()

Scoring Summary:

GAME SIX • SAT., OCT. 3, 2026 • CULLOWHEE, NC • ATT:				
	TENNESSEE TECH			
	WESTERN CAROLINA			

CULLOWHEE –

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Score	Record: ()
Tennessee Tech						Record: ()
Western Carolina						Record: ()

Scoring Summary:



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Results and Comparison
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Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	Conf	Time	Attend
08/29/2026	Eastern Ky.	W	45-21	1-0	0-0	3:28	13482
09/06/2026	at Campbell	L	19-28	1-1	0-0	3:12	4212
09/12/2026	at Cincinnati	L	10-62	1-2	0-0	3:09	34827
09/19/2026	Presbyterian	W	58-14	2-2	0-0	3:37	11811

Opponent	Score	First Downs				Rushing Number-Yards	Passing		Total Offense Plays-Yards	Return Yards	Turn- Overs
		Total	Rush	Pass	Pen		Comp-Att.-Int	Yards			
Eastern Ky.	45-21	28 / 20	9 / 3	15 / 16	4 / 1	40-188 / 29-65	27-35-0 / 22-34-1	320 / 305	75-508 / 63-370	75 / 39	0 / 2
Campbell	19-28	16 / 26	1 / 9	14 / 14	1 / 3	18-1 / 39-198	25-44-0 / 29-44-3	326 / 330	62-327 / 83-528	87 / 28	0 / 3
Cincinnati	10-62	13 / 32	4 / 19	8 / 11	1 / 2	20-74 / 49-418	24-37-1 / 28-31-0	167 / 272	57-241 / 80-690	51 / 64	1 / 0
Presbyterian	58-14	32 / 13	15 / 5	16 / 7	1 / 1	52-325 / 30-72	28-41-0 / 20-28-1	334 / 171	93-659 / 58-243	90 / 0	1 / 1
Totals	132-125	89 / 91	29 / 36	53 / 48	7 / 7	130-588 / 147-753	104-157-1 / 99-137-5	1147 / 1078	287-1735 / 284-1831	303 / 131	2 / 6



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Overall Team Statistics
All games

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Team Statistics

	WCU	OPP
Scoring	132	125
Points per game	33.0	31.3
Points Off Turnovers	27	7
First Downs	89	91
Rushing	29	36
Passing	53	48
Penalty	7	7
Rushing Yardage	588	753
Yards gained rushing	653	832
Yards lost rushing	65	79
Rushing attempts	130	147
Average per rush	4.5	5.1
Average per game	147.0	188.3
TDs Rushing	9	10
Passing Yardage	1147	1078
Comp-Att-Int	104-157-1	99-137-5
Average per pass	7.3	7.9
Average per catch	11.0	10.9
Average per game	286.8	269.5
TDs Passing	7	8
Total offense	1735	1831
Total plays	287	284
Average per play	6.0	6.4
Average per game	433.8	457.8
Kick returns: #-Yards	9-178	5-99
Punt returns: #-Yards	7-58	4-32
Int returns: #-Yards	5-67	1-0
Kick return average	19.8	19.8
Punt return average	8.3	8.0
Int return average	13.4	0.0
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	29-265	29-261
Average per game	66.3	65.3
Punts-Yards	17-722	15-618
Average per punt	42.5	41.2
Net punt average	41.2	38.0
Kickoffs-Yards	24-1543	22-1321
Average per kick	64.3	60.0
Net kick average	40.1	38.7
Time of possession / game	29:28	30:31
3rd-down conversion	24/57	23/53
3rd-down pct	42%	43%
4th-down conversion	2/6	4/10



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
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All games

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	WCU	OPP
4th-down pct	33%	40%
Sacks by-Yards	10-50	6-35
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	16	18
Field goals - attempts	7-8	0-1
On-Side kicks	1-1	0-0
Red-zone scores	(16-17) 94%	(14-17) 82%
Red-zone touchdowns	(11-17) 65%	(14-17) 82%
PAT-attempts	(15-16) 94%	(17-18) 94%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-0) 0%	(0-0) 0%
Attendance	25293	39039
Games / Avg per game	2/12647	2/19520
Neutral site games	-	0/0

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Western Caro.	24	33	41	34	0	132
Opponents	28	56	28	13	0	125



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Individual Statistics
All games

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Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Josh Perry	4	43	213	15	198	4.6	3	62	49.5
Marlin Cochran	4	20	136	3	133	6.7	2	34	33.3
Lex Thomas	4	36	157	47	110	3.1	2	17	27.5
Jadarius Dobie	3	8	48	0	48	6.0	0	12	16.0
Anthony Benjamin	4	5	33	0	33	6.6	1	14	8.3
Derrick Davis Jr.	3	9	25	0	25	2.8	1	9	8.3
Isaac Lee	3	3	25	0	25	8.3	0	15	8.3
Joshua Balloon Jr.	2	2	10	0	10	5.0	0	6	5.0
AJ Colombo	4	2	4	0	4	2.0	0	3	1.0
Michael Rossin	2	2	2	0	2	1.0	0	2	1.0
Total	4	130	653	65	588	4.5	9	62	147.0
Opponents	4	147	832	79	753	5.1	10	40	188.3

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Lex Thomas	4	145.4	99-144-0	68.8	1079	6	48	269.8
Isaac Lee	3	109.2	5-11-1	45.5	68	1	36	22.7
Patrick Harding	1	0.0	0-2-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	4	141.0	104-157-1	66.2	1147	7	48	286.8
Opponents	4	150.3	99-137-5	72.3	1078	8	58	269.5

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
AJ Colombo	4	21	262	12.5	0	25	65.5
Jai Boyd	4	13	197	15.2	3	48	49.3
Josh Perry	4	11	60	5.5	2	12	15.0
Bode Burns	3	10	99	9.9	1	18	33.0
Michael Rossin	2	9	114	12.7	0	42	57.0
Jake Young	4	8	75	9.4	0	19	18.8
Santana Carlos	4	5	93	18.6	0	36	23.3
Derrick Davis Jr.	3	4	39	9.8	0	26	13.0
Marlin Cochran	4	4	11	2.8	0	6	2.8
Matthew Keener	4	4	53	13.3	0	22	13.3
Kha'leal Sterling	2	4	37	9.3	0	13	18.5
Kale Woodburn	2	3	41	13.7	1	36	20.5
Anthony Benjamin	4	2	12	6.0	0	9	3.0
Lex Thomas	4	1	4	4.0	0	4	1.0
Austin Cunningham	4	1	2	2.0	0	2	0.5
Marcus Striggles	3	1	21	21.0	0	21	7.0
Cole Craddock	4	1	6	6.0	0	6	1.5
Jadarius Dobie	3	1	9	9.0	0	9	3.0
Joshua Balloon Jr.	2	1	12	12.0	0	12	6.0
Total	4	104	1147	11.0	7	48	286.8
Opponents	4	99	1078	10.9	8	58	269.5

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
AJ Colombo	5	42	8.4	0	12
Marcus Striggles	2	16	8.0	0	8
Total	7	58	8.3	0	12
Opponents	4	32	8.0	0	12

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Marseille Taylor	1	8	8.0	0	8
Joshua Collins	1	12	12.0	0	12
Caleb Turner-Allen	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jayden Cornelius	1	47	47.0	0	47
Fernando Jeanty	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	5	67	13.4	0	47
Opponents	1	0	0.0	0	0

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Richard Hollis	5	132	26.4	0	59
Anthony Benjamin	2	21	10.5	0	13
Jadarius Dobie	2	25	12.5	0	16
Total	9	178	19.8	0	59
Opponents	5	99	19.8	0	24

Fumbles Recovered

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Nassor Ashenafi	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	1	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	1	0	0.0	0	0



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Individual Statistics
All games

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Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT						pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	
Bryan McCollum	-	7-8	15-16	-	-	-	-	-	36
Josh Perry	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Jai Boyd	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Lex Thomas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Marlin Cochran	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Derrick Davis Jr.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Anthony Benjamin	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Kale Woodburn	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Bode Burns	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	16	7-8	15-16	0	0	0	0	0	132
Opponents	18	0-1	17-18	0	0	0	0	0	125

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Lex Thomas	4	180	110	1079	1189	297.3
Josh Perry	4	43	198	0	198	49.5
Marlin Cochran	4	20	133	0	133	33.3
Isaac Lee	3	14	25	68	93	31.0
Jadarius Dobie	3	8	48	0	48	16.0
Anthony Benjamin	4	5	33	0	33	8.3
Derrick Davis Jr.	3	9	25	0	25	8.3
Joshua Balloon Jr.	2	2	10	0	10	5.0
Aj Colombo	4	2	4	0	4	1.0
Michael Rossin	2	2	2	0	2	1.0
Total	4	287	588	1147	1735	433.8
Opponents	4	284	753	1078	1831	457.8

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Bryan McCollum	7-8	87.5	0-0	3-3	2-2	2-3	0-0	45	0
Opponents	0-1	0.0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Mark Fitzgerald	17	722	42.5	52	0	7	5	3	0
Total	17	722	42.5	52	0	7	5	3	0
Opponents	15	618	41.2	59	0	5	5	3	0

FG Sequence

Team Name	Western Caro.	Opponents
Eastern Ky.	(20)	
Campbell	(23),(40),43	
Cincinnati	(33)	
Presbyterian	(39),(45),(27)	38

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made

Kickoffs

Player	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydl
Mark Fitzgerald	22	1413	64.2	13	2			
Luke Waters	2	130	65.0	2	0			
Total	24	1543	64.3	15	2	5	40.1	24
Opponents	22	1321	60.0	10	2	9	38.7	26



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Individual Statistics
All games

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All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
AJ Colombo	4	4	262	42	0	0	308	77.0
Josh Perry	4	198	60	0	0	0	258	64.5
Jai Boyd	4	0	197	0	0	0	197	49.3
Marlin Cochran	4	133	11	0	0	0	144	36.0
Richard Hollis	4	0	0	0	132	0	132	33.0
Michael Rossin	2	2	114	0	0	0	116	58.0
Lex Thomas	4	110	4	0	0	0	114	28.5
Bode Burns	3	0	99	0	0	0	99	33.0
Santana Carlos	4	0	93	0	0	0	93	23.3
Jadarius Dobie	3	48	9	0	25	0	82	27.3
Jake Young	4	0	75	0	0	0	75	18.8
Anthony Benjamin	4	33	12	0	21	0	66	16.5
Derrick Davis Jr.	3	25	39	0	0	0	64	21.3
Matthew Keener	4	0	53	0	0	0	53	13.3
Jayden Cornelius	4	0	0	0	0	47	47	11.8
Kale Woodburn	2	0	41	0	0	0	41	20.5
Marcus Striggles	3	0	21	16	0	0	37	12.3
Kha'leal Sterling	2	0	37	0	0	0	37	18.5
Isaac Lee	3	25	0	0	0	0	25	8.3
Joshua Balloon Jr.	2	10	12	0	0	0	22	11.0
Joshua Collins	4	0	0	0	0	12	12	3.0
Marseille Taylor	4	0	0	0	0	8	8	2.0
Cole Craddock	4	0	6	0	0	0	6	1.5
Austin Cunningham	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.5
Total	4	588	1147	58	178	67	2038	509.5
Opponents	4	753	1078	32	99	0	1962	490.5



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Overall Defense Statistics
All games

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Team Defense

			Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
##	Player	gp	ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
3	Joshua Collins	4	11	12	23	3-18	2-16	1-12	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	Ken Moore Jr.	4	7	13	20	3-19	2-17	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
4	Andre Jackson Jr.	4	8	10	18	0.5-0	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.
21	Nassor Ashenafi	4	9	9	18	2.5-10	0.5-2	.	3	.	1-0	1	.	.
5	Braylon Jones	4	8	8	16	1-1	1-1	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
17	Ja'Torian Mack	4	3	13	16	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Jayden Cornelius	4	10	6	16	.	.	1-47	.	.	.	.	.	.
8	Ryan McKinnis	4	7	7	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
31	Alant'e Reese	4	6	7	13	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Na'koma Simpson-Nealy	4	8	4	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11	Marco Patierno	4	6	4	10	1.5-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
13	Caleb Turner-Allen	4	5	4	9	3-6	2-2	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.
18	Trystan Anderson	4	6	3	9	1-6	1-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	Julian Quintero	4	4	4	8	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	Chase Kerns	4	2	6	8	3.5-12	1-5	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
97	Fernando Jeanty	4	2	5	7	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.
38	Jayden Joselin	4	3	3	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
27	Jermiyah Douglas	3	5	1	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
34	Jordan Martin-Durham	4	1	5	6	1.5-3	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
30	Jaden Meeks	4	.	6	6	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Hank Bodine	4	3	2	5	0.5-1	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7	Marseille Taylor	4	3	2	5	.	.	1-8	1	.	.	.	.	.
99	Adrian Stone	4	1	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
43	Braeden Barger	2	1	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
25	Caleb Young Jr	2	1	3	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
41	Beady Waddell V	3	.	4	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0	Blue Monroe	4	2	2	4	1-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
33	Gavin Rowell	4	1	3	4	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
91	Jakoby Diamond	4	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
29	Christian Robbins	4	2	1	3	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
32	AJ Mintze	2	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
26	Devin Brown	1	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
24	Terrell Poyser	3	1	1	2	1-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
47	Dylan Harris	4	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	Quency Grant III	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
92	Brandon Joseph II	4	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	Derrick Davis Jr.	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
49	Bryce Hart	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Totals	4	135	160	295	25-84	10-50	5-67	12	2	1-0	2	0	0
	Opponents	4	154	130	284	18-65	6-35	1-0	16	20	1-0	2	0	0



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Team Game Highs
All games

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Western Caro. - Game Highs

RUSHES	52	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
YARDS RUSHING	325	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
YARDS PER RUSH	6.3	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
TD RUSHES	5	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS	44	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS	28	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
YARDS PASSING	334	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
YARDS PER PASS	9.1	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
TD PASSES	3	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
TOTAL PLAYS	93	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
TOTAL OFFENSE	659	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
YARDS PER PLAY	7.1	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
POINTS	58	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
SACKS BY	4	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
FIRST DOWNS	32	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
PENALTIES	9	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
PENALTY YARDS	80	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
TURNOVERS	1	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
	1	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
PUNTS	6	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
	6	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PUNTING AVG	45.8	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG PUNT	52	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
	52	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	2	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	2	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN	12	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Opponent Match Highs
All games

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Opponent - Game Highs

RUSHES	49	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
YARDS RUSHING	418	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
YARDS PER RUSH	8.5	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
TD RUSHES	7	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS	44	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS	29	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
YARDS PASSING	330	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
YARDS PER PASS	9.0	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
TD PASSES	3	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
TOTAL PLAYS	83	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
TOTAL OFFENSE	690	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
YARDS PER PLAY	8.6	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
POINTS	62	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
SACKS BY	3	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
FIRST DOWNS	32	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
PENALTIES	11	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
PENALTY YARDS	105	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
TURNOVERS	3	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PUNTS	7	Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
PUNTING AVG	53.0	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
LONG PUNT	59	at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	2	Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN	12	at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Individual Game Highs
All games

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Western Caro. - Individual Game Highs

RUSHES	16	Josh Perry vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
	16	Josh Perry vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
YARDS RUSHING	142	Josh Perry vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
TD RUSHES	3	Josh Perry vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
LONG RUSH	62	Josh Perry vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS	44	Lex Thomas at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS	27	Lex Thomas vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
YARDS PASSING	326	Lex Thomas at Campbell (09/06/2026)
TD PASSES	3	Lex Thomas vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG PASS	48	Lex Thomas at Campbell (09/06/2026)
RECEPTIONS	7	AJ Colombo vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
YARDS RECEIVING	103	Jai Boyd vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
TD RECEPTIONS	2	Jai Boyd at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	2	Josh Perry vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG RECEPTION	48	Jai Boyd at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PUNTS	6	Mark Fitzgerald at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
	6	Mark Fitzgerald at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PUNTING AVG	45.8	Mark Fitzgerald vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG PUNT	52	Mark Fitzgerald at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
	52	Mark Fitzgerald vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	2	Mark Fitzgerald at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	2	Mark Fitzgerald vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN	12	AJ Colombo vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
LONG KICKOFF RETURN	59	Richard Hollis vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
TACKLES	9	Joshua Collins at Campbell (09/06/2026)
SACKS	1	Ken Moore Jr. vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
	1	Braylon Jones vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
	1	Chase Kerns vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
	1	Ken Moore Jr. at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	1	Joshua Collins at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	1	Caleb Turner-Allen at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	1	Trystan Anderson vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
	1	Joshua Collins vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
	1	Caleb Turner-Allen vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
TACKLES FOR LOSS	2	Chase Kerns vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Opponent Individual Match Highs
All games

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Opponent - Individual Game Highs

RUSHES	16	Brayden Latham vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
YARDS RUSHING	102	Gi'Bran Payne at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
TD RUSHES	2	Gi'Bran Payne at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
LONG RUSH	40	Gi'Bran Payne at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
	40	Zylan Perry at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS	44	Kamden Sixkiller at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS	29	Kamden Sixkiller at Campbell (09/06/2026)
YARDS PASSING	330	Kamden Sixkiller at Campbell (09/06/2026)
TD PASSES	3	Tyler Travers vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG PASS	58	Landon Sharpe vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
RECEPTIONS	7	Spencer Jones at Campbell (09/06/2026)
YARDS RECEIVING	126	Spencer Jones at Campbell (09/06/2026)
TD RECEPTIONS	1	Caleb Johnson vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
	1	Lyviel Waters at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
	1	JV Gibson at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
	1	Spencer Jones at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	1	Brady Ambrose at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	1	Elijah Caldwell vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
	1	Jarvis Hayes vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
	1	Brayden Latham vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG RECEPTION	58	Jackson Burleson vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
FIELD GOALS	none	
LONG FIELD GOALS	none	
PUNTS	7	Thatcher Hutton vs Presbyterian (09/19/2026)
PUNTING AVG	53.0	Max Fletcher at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
LONG PUNT	59	Brandon Bowman at Campbell (09/06/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	2	Jettson Brown vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN	12	Cade Wolford at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
LONG KICKOFF RETURN	24	Zylan Perry at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
TACKLES	12	Jeff Kinley vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
SACKS	1	Marquaze Parker at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)
	1	AJ Benton at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	1	Tavales Curry at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	1	Justin Garza at Campbell (09/06/2026)
	1	Caleb Redd vs Eastern Ky. (08/29/2026)
TACKLES FOR LOSS	2	Justin Garza at Campbell (09/06/2026)
INTERCEPTIONS	1	Marqavious Saboor at Cincinnati (09/12/2026)



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
Red-Zone Results
All games

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Western Caro. Inside Opponent Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times		Total	Rush		Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Scored		Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half Game
08/29/2026	Eastern Ky.	W 45-21	6	6	38	5	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
09/06/2026	at Campbell	L 19-28	3	3	12	1	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
09/12/2026	at Cincinnati	L 10-62	2	2	10	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
09/19/2026	Presbyterian	W 58-14	6	5	31	4	4	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Totals 16 of 17 (94.1%)			17	16	91	11	7	4	5	5	5	0	0	0	1

Opponents Inside Western Caro. Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times		Total	Rush		Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Scored		Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half Game
08/29/2026	Eastern Ky.	W 45-21	3	3	21	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09/06/2026	Campbell	L 19-28	4	3	21	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
09/12/2026	Cincinnati	L 10-62	7	6	41	6	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
09/19/2026	Presbyterian	W 58-14	3	2	14	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Totals 14 of 17 (82.4%)			17	14	97	14	7	7	0	1	1	1	0	0	0



2026-27 Western Caro. Football
By Quarter Statistics
All games

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3rd-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/29/2026	Eastern Ky.	W 45-21	8-14 57.1	1-2 50.0	2-4 50.0	2-3 66.7	3-5 60.0	0-0 0.0
09/06/2026	at Campbell	L 19-28	2-13 15.4	0-2 0.0	1-5 20.0	0-3 0.0	1-3 33.3	0-0 0.0
09/12/2026	at Cincinnati	L 10-62	2-12 16.7	1-4 25.0	1-2 50.0	0-4 0.0	0-2 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/19/2026	Presbyterian	W 58-14	12-18 66.7	4-4 100.0	3-6 50.0	1-3 33.3	4-5 80.0	0-0 0.0
Western Caro.			24-57 42.1	6-12 50.0	7-17 41.2	3-13 23.1	8-15 53.3	0-0 0.0
Opponents			23-53 43.4	9-13 69.2	9-17 52.9	1-9 11.1	4-14 28.6	0-0 0.0

4th-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/29/2026	Eastern Ky.	W 45-21	0-2 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/06/2026	at Campbell	L 19-28	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/12/2026	at Cincinnati	L 10-62	1-2 50.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/19/2026	Presbyterian	W 58-14	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0
Western Caro.			2-6 33.3	1-2 50.0	0-1 0.0	0-2 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0
Opponents			4-10 40.0	0-1 0.0	1-3 33.3	1-1 100.0	2-5 40.0	0-0 0.0

Time of Possession

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/29/2026	Eastern Ky.	W 45-21	32:15	07:37	05:13	09:38	09:47	00:00
09/06/2026	at Campbell	L 19-28	23:58	02:48	08:32	07:18	05:20	00:00
09/12/2026	at Cincinnati	L 10-62	27:23	07:32	08:06	08:41	03:04	00:00
09/19/2026	Presbyterian	W 58-14	34:18	06:44	06:56	10:05	10:33	00:00
Western Caro.			Total	24:41	28:47	35:42	28:44	00:00
			Avg.	06:10	07:12	08:55	07:11	00:00
Opponents			Total	30:58	35:34	22:07	33:27	00:00
			Avg.	07:44	08:54	05:32	08:22	00:00