

CONQUER & PREVAIL WOFFORD COLLEGE



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Breitenstein named to SoCon Hall of Fame



Eric Breitenstein '12 was named to the SoCon Hall of Fame along with athletes who've been inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, an NCAA pioneer, an NCAA record holder and a 10-year Major League Baseball veteran.

"This is an incredible honor, Breitenstein says. "I am thrilled to be listed alongside some of the greatest athletes of all time, not just in our conference, but in the history of sports. Seriously, Steph Curry! Arnold Palmer! The Southern Conference has had a storied history, and as it nears the 100th year of existence, I am proud to say I had the opportunity to play in this league. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from Mike Ayers and the entire coaching staff at Wofford College, to study at Wofford College and to work with my teammates." ([CLICK HERE](#) to read Breitenstein's full statement, which includes reflections on equity.)

Breitenstein played football at Wofford from 2008-12. He was a first-team All-American in each of his final three seasons. Breitenstein, who played fullback, finished his career as Wofford's career rushing leader with 5,734 yards, a mark that ranks second in SoCon history. He set the SoCon's single-game rushing mark with 321 yards in a win over Elon in 2012 and surpassed his own single-season college record with 2,035 rushing yards that season, second-most in league history.

Breitenstein, who first set the college record with 1,639 rushing yards in 2010, finished his career with 32 games with at least 100 yards rushing, including an NCAA-record-tying 11 straight in 2012. He ranks fifth in SoCon history in career rushing yards per game (114.6) and all-purpose yards (5,843) and is second in career carries with 912. Breitenstein is also third in SoCon lore with six 200-yard rushing games, 65 touchdowns scored and 65 rushing touchdowns and is fifth in career scoring (390) and seventh in yards per carry (6.3). A two-time SoCon Offensive Player of the Year and the 2012-13 SoCon Bob Waters Male Athlete of the Year, Breitenstein helped the Terriers reach the FCS playoffs and finish in the top 15 in the national rankings in each of his four full seasons. Breitenstein was inducted into Wofford's Hall of Fame in 2017 and had his No. 7 jersey retired by the school in 2019.

The SoCon, which is preparing for its 100th season, established its Hall of Fame in 2009. Former Wofford football coach Mike Ayers is the only other Terrier in the conference's Hall of Fame.

Rodriguez drafted by Seattle Mariners



Brett Rodriguez, a student-athlete who played infield on the Wofford baseball team, has signed a free-agent contract with the Seattle Mariners.

Rodriguez, a senior from Queensbury, New York, started all 17 games in 2020 at third base. He was batting .250 with 16 hits, 13 runs scored and four RBI, along with 10 stolen bases. He was ranked third in the SoCon in stolen bases.

"I am so thankful for the memories I have made over the past four years at Wofford," Rodriguez says. "I have created lifelong relationships with my coaches and teammates. I am grateful for the opportunity to play with the Mariners and excited to start this next chapter."

For his career, he played in 184 games with 164 starts, primarily in the infield. He posted a .294 batting average with 183 hits, 140 runs scored and 93 RBI. He holds the college record for career stolen bases with 85. In 2017 he was named to the SoCon All-Freshman Team. He graduated from Wofford in May, majoring in finance and accounting and was named to the SoCon Academic Honor Roll twice.

"We are extremely happy for Brett to get this well-deserved opportunity," says Wofford head baseball coach Todd Interdonato. "It's a culmination of how hard he has worked to develop his game to a professional level. Coach (J.J.) Edwards did a tremendous job in recruiting him, developing him and coaching him through his career. The Mariners got a great player who will represent them with class and dedication through his professional career."

Anti Racism 101

If you missed recent teach-ins led by Wofford faculty and staff with diversity and inclusion leaders from other campuses as well as the ACLU and the Detroit Justice Center, recordings from both virtual events are online. [CLICK HERE](#) for Anti Racism 101: Speaking Truth to Power. [CLICK HERE](#) for Anti Racism 101: An Antiracist Toolkit.

Suggested reading

Sandor Teszler Library is closed for renovations, but library staff will continue hosting circulation services in Daniel Building Room 221 on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. [CLICK HERE](#) to request books.

Here are three titles available through the Sandor Teszler Library that reflect issues being discussed nationally:

Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations about Race by Beverly Tatum

Tatum observes that people are reluctant to talk about race, but these conversations are essential to a diverse society. A psychologist by training, she details the development of racial identity in young adults.

White Fragility: Why It's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism by Robin J. DiAngelo

DiAngelo describes how white communities have long been insulated from racial stress and are unsure how to cope when confronted with situations that place that stress upon them. She argues that all citizens must overcome white fragility to respond constructively to racial inequities in the United States.

How to Be Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi

Using himself as a case study, Kendi describes the difficulty of reorienting one's perspective and actions to be antiracist to take meaningful action to create a more equitable society.

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