



Game 5 — October 3, 1998
Furman Paladins (3-1; 1-0 SoCon) vs. Western Carolina Catamounts (2-1; 2-0 SoCon)
Greenville, South Carolina, Paladin Stadium (16,000 — Natural Grass)
1:30 P.M. Kickoff (EDT)/Parents' Weekend



Furman Football SID: Hunter Reid (864) 294-2061
Furman Football Web Site: www.furman.edu/athletics

Western Carolina Football SID: Craig Wells (828) 227-7171
Western Carolina Football Web Site: www.wcu.edu/athletics

THE GAME

Saturday's Furman-Western Carolina game is a key Southern Conference matchup for the Paladins and Catamounts and will highlight Parents' Weekend at Furman University.

THE SERIES

In a series that got its start in 1971 with a 21-14 Furman win in Greenville, Furman holds a 14-9-2 advantage over Western Carolina. The Paladins are 7-5-1 versus the Catamounts in Greenville and are 7-4-1 against Western Carolina in all games played in Cullowhee.

1971	W	21-14	GREENVILLE
1972	L	15-20	Cullowhee
1975	W	34-0	GREENVILLE
1977	T	24-24	GREENVILLE
1978	W	24-7	Cullowhee
1979	W	23-14	GREENVILLE
1980	W	28-14	Cullowhee
1981	W	31-27	Cullowhee
1982	W	12-6	GREENVILLE
1983	T	17-17	Cullowhee
1983	L	7-14	GREENVILLE
1984	L	19-20	GREENVILLE
1985	W	31-27	Cullowhee
1986	L	13-19	GREENVILLE
1987	L	14-20	Cullowhee
1988	W	31-0	GREENVILLE
1989	W	17-3	Cullowhee
1990	W	42-9	GREENVILLE
1991	W	42-14	Cullowhee
1992	L	27-29	GREENVILLE
1993	L	20-23	Cullowhee
1994	L	24-35	GREENVILLE
1995	W	31-21	Cullowhee
1996	W	45-30	GREENVILLE
1997	L	16-17	Cullowhee

In Greenville: Furman leads 7-5-1
In Cullowhee: Furman leads 7-4-1

THE COACHES

Furman: Bobby Johnson (Clemson '73)
 28-22-0 (.560), 5th Year at Furman
 28-22-0 (.560), 5th Year Overall
 Johnson vs. Western Carolina (2-2)

WCU: Bill Bleil (Northwestern College '81)
 5-9 (.357), 2nd Year at WCU
 5-9 (.357), 2nd Year Overall
 Bleil vs. Furman (1-0)

THE OFFENSES

Furman: Multiple I
 '98 Points/Game — 28.0
 '98 Yards/Game — 317.3
 191.3 Rushing
 126.0 Passing

Western Carolina: Multiple
 '98 Points/Game — 18.3
 '98 Yards/Game — 266.7
 184.3 Rushing
 102.3 Passing

THE DEFENSES

Furman: 43
 '98 Points/Game — 22.5
 '98 Yards/Game — 316.5
 142.3 Rushing
 164.3 Passing

Western Carolina: 43
 '98 Points/Game — 18.6
 '98 Yards/Game — 293.3
 136.3 Rushing
 157.0 Passing

1998 RESULTS AND SCHEDULE

Furman (3-1, 1-0 Southern)
 Sept. 5 Clemson 33, Furman 0
 Sept. 12 Furman 27, South Carolina State 19
 Sept. 19 Furman 34, VMI 24
 Sept. 26 FURMAN 51, VMI 14
 Oct. 3 WESTERN CAROLINA, 1:30
 Oct. 10 @ Appalachian State, 3:30
 Oct. 17 THE CITADEL, 1:30
 Oct. 24 @ East Tennessee State, 2:00
 Nov. 7 GEORGIA SOUTHERN, 1:30
 Nov. 14 @ Wofford, 2:00
 Nov. 21 CHATTANOOGA, 1:30

Western Carolina (2-1; 2-0 SoCon)
 Sept. 5 Duke 24, Western Carolina 10
 Sept. 19 Western Carolina 14, The Citadel 6
 Sept. 26 Western Carolina 31, ETSU 24 (2OT)
 Oct. 3 @ Furman, 1:30
 Oct. 10 GEORGIA SOUTHERN
 Oct. 17 @ Wofford
 Oct. 24 CHATTANOOGA
 Oct. 31 @ VMI
 Nov. 7 ELON
 Nov. 14 @ Tennessee Tech
 Nov. 21 APPALACHIAN STATE

1998 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Team	SoCon	Overall
Georgia Southern	2 0	4 0
Appalachian State	2 0	3 0
Western Carolina	2 0	2 1
FURMAN	1 0	3 1
The Citadel	1 2	1 3
East Tennessee State	1 2	1 3
Chattanooga	0 1	1 3
Wofford	0 2	1 2
VMI	0 2	1 3

September 26

Georgia Southern 42, Chattanooga 25
 Furman 51, VMI 14
 Appalachian State 26, The Citadel 11
 Western Carolina 31, E. Tenn. St. 24 (2OT)
 Wofford 20, Charleston Southern 0

October 3

VMI @ Georgia Southern, 1:00
 Western Carolina @ Furman, 1:30
 Chattanooga @ Wofford, 2:00
 Appalachian State @ Wake Forest, 6:30
 The Citadel @ South Florida, 7:00

**1998 FURMAN PALADINS
 PRE-SEASON HONORS**

Coaches All-Southern Conference

- C Mark Foster (1st Team)
- OG Ben Hall (1st Team)
- PK Jason Wells (1st Team)
- LB Orlando Ruff (1st Team)
- SS John Keith (1st Team)
- FLK Desmond Kitchings (2nd Team)
- DT B.J. Pate (2nd Team)

Southern Conference Coaches
 Defensive Player-of-the-Year

LB Orlando Ruff

Sports Network All-America

C Mark Foster

Southern Conference Polls

Southern Conference Head Coaches (4th)
 Southern Conference Media (4th)

LAST WEEK

LEXINGTON, VA. — Furman quarterback Justin Hill passed for a career high 215 yards and two touchdowns, and backup signal caller Brent Rickman came off the bench to throw another pair of scoring strikes to lead Furman to a 51-14 Southern Conference rout and the Paladins 17th straight win over VMI.

Hill, who completed 11-of-17 passes on the day, connected with Stuart Rentz on an 8-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter to help the Paladins post a 17-0 halftime lead, and early in the second half the Paladin signal caller hooked up with flanker Desmond Kitchings on an 87-yard scoring toss, the fourth longest passing play in school history, to highlight a 20-point Furman third quarter.

Rickman took over for Hill late in the third period and promptly connected with split end Tyron Berrian on a 60-yard touchdown pass, and later added a 26-yard aerial tally to tight end Trent Sansbury at the 11:16 mark of the fourth quarter to put the Paladins ahead 44-7.

Hill and Rickman combined to throw for 301 yards, and Furman's ground game, which featured nine ball carriers, accounted for 199 yards to give the Paladins 500 yards in total offense against the Keydets.

Led by freshman linebacker Will Bouton's 13 tackles and caused fumble, Furman's defense accounted for three VMI turnovers, including a pair of fumbles and an interception.

Furman's special teams also shined, with punt returner Zach Smerdzinski returning five kicks for 100 yards, including one for 56 yards to the VMI 1-yard line to set up a Furman score.

CULLOWHEE, N.C. — Western Carolina quarterback Justin Cella's 2-yard touchdown run in the second overtime period lifted the Catamounts to a 31-24 upset win over East Tennessee State at in front of 10,166 fans E.J. Whitmire Stadium.

Cella, sophomore transfer from the University of Illinois, also threw for 165 yards and two touchdowns for the Catamounts, who claimed their second league victory in as many weeks.

Fullback Brad Hoover paced Western Carolina's ground game, rushing for 147 yards and one touchdown as the Catamounts rolled up 350 yards in total offense.

The Catamounts' defense, meanwhile, sacked East Tennessee State quarterback Todd Wells five times and limited the Buccaneers' talented offense to only 276 total yards.

LAST MEETING

CULLOWHEE, N.C.. (Oct. 4, 1997) — Western Carolina jumped to an early 10-0 lead, overcame a 13-10 halftime deficit, and held on to a 17-16 upset win over nationally 18th-ranked Furman after Paladin placekicker Jason Wells' 47-yard field goal try sailed just wide of the upright in the game's final seconds.

In a game that included three turnovers by each team, Western Carolina exacted an early

and costly toll on a pair of Furman miscues, as the Catamounts converted an interception into a 27-yard field goal by Ken Hinsley with 7:32 left in the first quarter to take a 3-0 lead. Less than an minute later, the Catamounts' Marcus Bradley gathered in Furman quarterback Brent Rickman's batted pass and returned it 20 yards for a touchdown and a 10-0 lead with 6:44 left.

Furman bounced back in the second quarter by converting three Western Carolina turnovers into 13 points. A pair of interceptions by Furman All-Southern Conference linebacker Orlando Ruff led to a Jason Wells 27-yard field goal and a 15-yard touchdown pass from Brent Rickman to Desmond Kitchings to knot the game at 10-10. Then, just before halftime Furman's Stuart Rentz pounced on a Western Carolina fumble at the Catamount 28. five plays later Furman's Jason Wells kicked a 41-yard field goal to give the Paladins a 13-10 lead.

In the third quarter, Western Carolina put together the game's most impressive offensive series, moving 79 yards in 11 plays to score what proved to be the game winning touchdown on an 18-yard run by Tracy Biggs with 9:06 left in the period.

Furman managed to close to within one point at 17-16 following a 35-yard field goal by Jason Wells, but Wells' fourth field goal attempt of the afternoon with 0:54 remaining in the game missed.

The Catamounts' efficient ground game, led by fullback Brad Hoover's 80 yards, proved to critical as Western Carolina rolled up 236 yards on Furman's defense. The Paladins managed just 127 on the ground and 287 total yards on the afternoon.

NOTING THE PALADINS

✓ **STREAKING PALADINS...**Furman's 51-14 rout of VMI on Saturday extended the Paladins' season winning streak to three games and improved Furman's series winning streak over the Keydets to 17 games dating back to the 1980 season. The victory was also Furman's eighth straight win in Lexington.

✓ **HOME HOT STREAK TO GET TEST...**When Western Carolina pays a visit to Paladin Stadium this Saturday, Furman is sure to receive a stern test in its bid to extend its four-game home winning streak. For the Paladins, who in all have won 12 of their last 13 home games dating back to the 1996 season, Western Carolina is unique in its ability to play on equal terms in Paladin Stadium, as the Catamounts own the best record (5-4) of any Furman opponent in Paladin Stadium history. That's quite a peg to hang one's hat on because Furman has fashioned an 85-23-1 record (.784) in Paladin Stadium since moving into the facility in 1981, having claimed seven Southern Conference championships along the way. Against all other current and past Southern Conference foes who have played in Paladin Stadium, Furman has posted a 41-13 record (.759). While Western Carolina's success in Greenville is well documented, the Paladins have had similar success in

FURMAN RADIO

Furman football action can be heard throughout the Upstate over the Paladins' radio network, headed up by flagship station WPCI-AM (1490) of Greenville, and affiliates WKDY-AM (1400) of Spartanburg and Greenville's WHYZ-AM (1070). In addition, WPEK-FM (98.1) will carry selected games this year.

Calling the play-by-play action will Chuck Hussion, now in his fifth year year as "Voice of the Paladins." Joining him in the booth for his fifth season of color commentary will be John Ingles. Gordon Higgins will again serve as Furman's sideline reporter, and Dave Cohen will host the pre-game show and again deliver halftime and post-game highlights.

FURMAN ON TEAMLINE

Furman football radio broadcasts will again be available to fans on the TEAMLINE telephone service. Fans can access Furman games by dialing 1-800-846-4700 and entering Furman's four-digit access code (1109).

FURMAN TELEVISION

Furman will make one television appearance this year when it takes on Appalachian State in Boone, N.C., on Oct. 10 in a live broadcast over Fox SportSouth. Kickoff is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

1998 Furman Football Television Schedule
Oct. 10, Appalachian St., Fox SportSouth - Live

FURMAN ON THE INTERNET

The Furman University sports information office maintains an athletics home page on the Internet. Furman's football web site includes program quick facts, coaches' biographies, season outlook, current roster and two-deep, schedule and game statistics, cumulative statistics, press releases, ticket information, as well as information on Furman's radio network and links to the Southern Conference and NCAA.

Furman's athletics home page address:

<http://www.furman.edu/athletics>.



the Catamounts' back yard, having posted a 7-4-1 record in Cullowhee.

✓ **HIGH ANXIETY...**There is a strong probability this Saturday's Furman-Western Carolina game will be a close, down-to-the-wire affair. That's because in the 25 previous meetings between the two schools 14 games have been decided by a touchdown or less, including last year's 17-16 result that saw Furman placekicker Jason Wells' 47-yard game winning field goal attempt sail just wide of the upright in the game's final minute.

✓ **PASSING GAME COMES ALIVE...**After throwing for only 203 yards and one touchdown in its first three games, Furman quarterbacks **Justin Hill (Greer, S.C.)** and **Brent Rickman (Rome, Ga.)** combined to throw for 301 yards and four touchdowns in Saturday's 51-14 win over VMI. For Hill, who completed 11-of-17 passes for 215 yards and two touchdowns, his performance against VMI marked a career high and included a career long 87-yard touchdown pass to junior flanker **Desmond Kitchings (Wagener, S.C.)**. Rickman, meanwhile, came off the bench in the second half and completed 2-of-4 passes for 86 yards and two touchdowns against the Keydets, including a career tying 60-yard scoring strike to junior split end **Tyron Berrian (Tallahassee, Fla.)**. Rickman, who started in six contests and passed for 943 yards as a true freshman in 1997, has now passed for 1,029 yards and nine touchdowns in his career. Hill, in seven career starts, has thrown for 630 yards and four touchdowns.

✓ **INTO THE RECORD BOOKS...**Furman's 301 passing yards against VMI marked the eighth best passing total and ninth 300-yard passing effort in school history. Ironically, big passing performances haven't resulted in many wins for Furman, which is a combined 3-6 in the nine games it has totaled at least 300 yards through the air.

✓ **KITCHINGS, BERRIAN MAKING THE "BIG" PLAYS...**Furman's two starting receivers, junior flanker **Desmond Kitchings (Wagener, S.C.)** and junior split end **Tyron Berrian (Tallahassee, Fla.)**, don't have an abundance of catches through Furman's first four games, but they do have some that have gone for big yardage. In Furman's 51-14 win over VMI, Kitchings caught five passes for 102 yards, including one that went for a career long 87 yards and a touchdown. Kitchings, a pre-season All-Southern Conference pick, leads Furman in receiving with 11 catches for 203 yards (18.5 yards/catch) and a touchdown, and is the Paladins' leader in all-purpose yardage with 419, including 175 yards in kickoff returns (21.9/return) and 41 yards rushing (8.2/rush). Berrian, meanwhile, is coming off the best performance of his career after totaling four receptions for 136 yards and a touchdown against VMI. Berrian, who two weeks ago caught a 55-yard touchdown pass in a 34-24 win over Samford, hooked up with backup quarterback Brent Rickman for a 60-yard scoring strike against VMI. He has seven catches for 205 yards (29.3 yards/catch) and two touchdowns

through four games.

✓ **MAKING 'EM PAY...**For the second straight week Furman made an opponent pay dearly for turning the ball over. In forcing three VMI miscues (two fumbles and an interception), Furman converted the two Keydet fumbles into 14 points. The interception (in the end zone) halted a VMI scoring threat. In its last two games against VMI and Samford, Furman has been the recipient of nine turnovers, which it has converted into 45 points. That's quite a turnaround from the Paladins' first two games, where three Furman turnovers led directly to 20 points for Clemson (33-0 loss) and South Carolina State (27-19 win). Furman heads into the Western Carolina game leading the Southern Conference in turnover margin (+1.25), having forced 11 opponent turnovers while suffering six miscues through four games.

✓ **WHERE HAVE THE SACKS GONE?...**A year ago Furman's veteran defense, led by All-America defensive end Bryan Dailer's 17.5 sacks, paced the Southern Conference with 32 quarterback takedowns. This year, with an all new defensive front and nine new starters on defense, the Paladins have managed only three sacks through its first four games, and head into this Saturday's Western Carolina game ranked sixth in the league in that category. The Catamounts, meanwhile, are displaying a strong pass rush in the early going, having racked up 11 sacks in their first three games to rank second in the league.

✓ **NOTING FURMAN'S OFFENSIVE LINE...**Redshirt freshman guard **Marty Priore (Cincinnati, Ohio)** gained the first career start of his career in Saturday's 51-14 win over VMI, taking over for sophomore **Mark Batluck (Carlisle, Pa.)**, who sustained a season ending knee injury early in the Paladins' 34-24 win over Samford on Sept 19. Redshirt freshman tackle **Donnie Littlejohn (Gaffney, S.C.)** gained his second straight start at left tackle, stepping in ahead of junior **Ryan Kineard (Blakely, Ga.)**. Kineard, who missed the Samford game with an ankle sprain, returned as a backup against VMI and logged 18 plays en route to a winning performance. Littlejohn also garnered a winning grade of 1.90 (.804%) on 41 plays. Three Paladin regulars, tackle **Josh Moore (Cross Hill, S.C.)**, guard , and center **Mark Foster (Williamston, S.C.)**, each earned "exceptional" grades in the win over VMI. Moore led the way with a mark of 2.04 (.936%) on 47 plays; Foster registered a 2.03 (.891%) on 37 plays; and Hall polled a 2.00 (.931%) on 37 plays. All 11 Furman offensive linemen who dressed for the VMI game saw action.

✓ **FRESHMEN CORNERS CONTINUING TO DELIVER...**After starting redshirt freshman cornerback **Richie Jackson (Cincinnati, Ohio)** picked off a pair of passes in a 27-19 win over South Carolina State on Sept. 12, Furman's other starting redshirt freshman cornerback, **Daniel Roberson (Plant City, Fla.)** upped the ante the

FURMAN ON INFO CONNECTION

Sport Systems Fax-On-Demand is an automated, 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week service that instantly sends the latest information and releases from the Southern Conference to your fax machine. To access Sports Systems Fax-On-Demand, call (201) 461-5726. You must call the system from the handset of your fax machine. Select the information you are interested in from the directory numbers listed below. Once you have made your selection(s), push the start button on your fax machine. Your information is on its way immediately.

File	Furman	SoCon
Directory	2400	3000
Football Stats	2401	3001
Football Facts & Game Notes	2402	3002
Football Previous Game Stats	2403	3003
Football Roster(s)	2404	3004
Football Breaking News	2405	3005
SoCon Football Standings		3006
SoCon Player-of-the-Week		3007
NCAA I-AA Football Statistics		3008
NCAA I-AA Football Polls		3009

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE COACHES' TELECONFERENCE

The Southern Conference will conduct a weekly teleconference throughout the 1997 season featuring the league's nine football coaches. The weekly teleconference is open to members of the media each Tuesday (September 1 - November 17) from 10:00 a.m. — 11:03 a.m. EST. Each coach will have seven minutes to make an opening statement and answer questions. The number to call is (913) 981-5508.

1998 SoCon Teleconference Schedule	
10:00 a.m. —	Jerry Moore, Appalachian State
10:07 a.m. —	Don Powers, The Citadel
10:15 a.m. —	Paul Hamilton, E. Tenn. St.
10:21 a.m. —	Bobby Johnson, Furman
10:28 a.m. —	Paul Johnson, Ga. Southern
10:35 a.m. —	Buddy Green, Chattanooga
10:42 a.m. —	Ted Cain, VMI
10:49 a.m. —	Bill Bleil, Western Carolina
10:56 a.m. —	Mike Ayers, Wofford



next week by earning league freshman-of-the-week honors after totaling three tackles and two interceptions, including one he returned 40 yards for a touchdown, in the Paladins' 34-24 win over Samford.

Not to be overshadowed, Richie Jackson picked up his third interception of the year in the win over Samford (to set up Furman's first touchdown of the second half), and he also made perhaps the biggest defensive play of the game when, early in the fourth quarter and with Samford driving (trailing 27-17), he stripped the ball from Bulldog receiver Jon Pointer at the Furman 22 after a 17-yard gain and it was recovered by John Keith.

"The turnover on the first drive of the fourth quarter really hurt," said Samford head coach Pete Hurt. "I thought if we could have taken that on in the game could have gone down to the wire. But, that fumble took the wind out of us."

This past Saturday, in the Paladins' 51-14 win over VMI, Jackson and Roberson continued their surprising seasons with another strong outing, where they combined for five tackles, a fumble recovery, and a pass deflection.

In four games, Furman's two starting redshirt freshmen cornerbacks have accounted for 25 tackles, five of the Paladins' six interceptions, four pass deflections, a fumble recovery, and one forced fumble. Jackson and Roberson were not even listed as probable starters in Furman's pre-season depth chart, but injuries to projected starters **Andre Stroman (Plantation, Fla.)** and **Bryant Huguley (Valley, Ala.)** forced Jackson and Roberson into the starting lineup.

✓ **RENTZ TO THE RESCUE...**When **Stuart Rentz (Pickens, S.C.)** joined Furman's football program two years ago as a walk-on, the coaching staff didn't even ask him to have a mug shot taken for TV games, believing he had little, if any, chance to play. A little over two years later, Rentz once again demonstrated that early assumptions are often times wrong. Stepping in ahead of senior tailback **Ernest Crosby (Greenville, S.C.)** in the Samford game, Rentz rushed 22 times for 133 yards in helping the Paladins to the 34-24 win over the Bulldogs. The 100-yard rushing performance was the third of his career, which now covers five starts. In Saturday's 51-14 win over VMI, Rentz led Furman's nine-man rushing effort, running eight times for 61 yards and a touchdown, which covered 20 yards. Rentz also scored the Paladins' second touchdown of the game on an 8-yard pass from quarterback Justin Hill.

One of Furman's finest students, Rentz, a double major in business and Spanish who sports a 3.92 GPA, burst on the scene as a freshman two years ago when, in his first career start, he rushed for a Furman freshman record 166 yards and a touchdown in a 31-14 win over VMI in Lexington. The following week he ran 18 times for a 125 yards in a 45-30 win over Western Carolina. Not blessed with great speed, the 5-foot-8, 185-pound Rentz does, however, run with impressive desire. He is averaging 6.5 yards per rush in his career (100 att., 651 yds., 5 TDs).

✓ **KEITH ON TRACK TO RETURN...**On Monday Furman head athletic trainer Brian Reese upgraded junior All-Southern Conference strong safety John Keith's status to "probable" for this Saturday's clash with Western Carolina. Keith, who sustained a sprained foot late in the the Paladins' 34-24 win over Samford on Sept. 19, did not dress in Saturday's win over VMI after totaling a team leading 36 tackles in Furman's first three games. Keith's return would be a huge boost to Furman's defense, as he ranks alongside senior All-Southern Conference linebacker Orlando Ruff as one of the squad's top defensive performers. Keith opened the year with a career high 19 tackles in a 33-0 loss at Clemson, and in his last action against Samford, he totaled eight tackles, a sack, a caused fumble, a fumble recovery, and a pass deflection.

In Keith's absence against VMI, the Paladins moved senior **Rocco Adrian (Deltona, Fla.)** from free safety to strong safety, and junior started junior **Walter Booth (Hartwell, Ga.)** at the free safety slot.

✓ **DITTO FOR IVORY...**In rushing 23 times for 161 yards and two touchdowns in Furman's 27-19 win over South Carolina State on September 12, freshman fullback **Louis Ivory (Fort Valley, Ga.)** fashioned the finest rushing performance by a Furman fullback since the 1989 season when Dwight Sterling ran for 166 yards in a 42-7 win over Wofford. Ivory, whose scoring runs against the Bulldogs covered 54 and 25 yards, captured Southern Conference Freshman-of-the-Week honors for his work against South Carolina State but sustained a mild ankle sprain early in the Paladins' 34-24 win over Samford on Sept. 19. Ivory, who rushed for 3,100 yards and 37 touchdowns at Peach County High School and who was a participant in the Georgia-Florida All-Star Game this past summer, did not dress for the VMI game, but he is expected back for this Saturday's game against Western Carolina.

✓ **BOBBY JOHNSON: YEAR FIVE...**The 1998 season marks Furman head coach Bobby Johnson's fifth year at the helm of a Paladin program and 21st season of service to the university. After suffering through a 3-8 season in 1994 (the program's first losing season since 1979 and worst record since 1972), Furman rebounded in 1995 to finish 6-5. A year later Johnson directed the Paladins to a 9-4 record and into the NCAA I-AA playoffs — the program's first playoff appearance since 1990. Furman went 7-4 last year and finished third in the Southern Conference for the third consecutive year. Johnson's four-year head coaching record is 28-22 (.560), and his last three teams have combined to post a 25-14 slate (.641). Johnson's 21-year tenure at Furman includes work as defensive backs coach, assistant head coach, defensive coordinator, and head coach. The Paladins' record during that span (1976-80; 82-92; 94-present) is 160-75-7 and includes 17 winning seasons, eight Southern Conference championships and one NCAA I-AA title.

✓ **SOUTHERN CONFERENCE PRE-SEASON POLLS...**Furman was a consensus fourth place pick in a pair of Southern Conference pre-season polls conducted by league head coaches and media.

SOCON HEAD COACHES

Pos.	Team	Points
1)	Georgia Southern (6.5)	71.5
2)	East Tennessee State (1.5)	65.5
3)	Appalachian State	65
4)	Furman	55
5)	Chattanooga (1)	50
6)	The Citadel	36
7)	Western Carolina	29
8)	Wofford	19
9)	VMI	14

SOCON MEDIA

Pos.	Team	Points
1)	Georgia Southern (17)	161
2)	Appalachian State	130
3)	East Tennessee State	125
4)	Furman (1)	115
5)	Chattanooga	92
6)	The Citadel	62
7)	Western Carolina	58
8)	Wofford	44
9)	VMI	19

(#) — first place votes

✓ **SEVEN PALADINS NAMED PRE-SEASON ALL-SOCON...**In balloting by Southern Conference head coaches, seven Paladins were selected to the pre-season all-league team. They include senior center **Mark Foster (Williamston, S.C.)**, junior offensive guard **Ben Hall (Royston, Ga.)**, junior placekicker **Jason Wells (Lawton, Okla.)**, senior linebacker **Orlando Ruff (Winnsboro, S.C.)**, and junior strong safety **John Keith (Newnan, Ga.)**, who were named to the first team. Named to the second team were junior flanker **Desmond Kitchings (Wagener, S.C.)** and senior defensive tackle **B.J. Pate (Inman, S.C.)**.

✓ **RUFF PRE-SEASON DEFENSIVE POY PICK...**Senior linebacker **Orlando Ruff (Winnsboro, S.C.)** was selected by Southern Conference head coaches as the league's defensive player-of-the-year. If he captures the honor, Ruff, a two-time all-conference selection, will become the second straight Paladin and sixth Furman player to earn Southern Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year honors since the conference initiated the award in 1986 (prior to 1986 only one "player-of-the-year" award was accorded). Furman's five previous Southern Conference Defensive Player-of-the-Year honorees include: LB Jeff Blankenship (1988), DE Kelly Fletcher (1989), LB Kevin Kendrick (1990), NG Allen Edwards (1991), DE Bryan Dailer (1997).

✓ **RUFF ON THE CHARTS...**Furman senior linebacker **Orlando Ruff (Winnsboro, S.C.)**, who entered the 1998 season ranked seventh on the

Paladins' career tackles chart with 391 stops, heads into this Saturday's VMI game with 438 career tackles following an 11-tackle performance in the Paladins' 51-14 win over VMI on Saturday.

FURMAN CAREER TACKLES LEADERS

Rank	Player	Years	Tackles
1)	Jeff Blankenship	1985-88	580
2)	Kevin Kendrick	1987-90	574
3)	Kota Suttle	1989-92	556
4)	Jay Thier	1994-97	452
5)	Bernard Scott	1993-97	447
6)	Milan Sterling	1990-93	445
7)	Orlando Ruff	1995-	438
8)	Steve O'Neill	1978-81	389
9)	Bruce Gheesling	1978-81	387
10)	Rock Hurst	1981-84	364
11)	Frank Moses	1974-77	360
	Darryl Gardner	1984-87	360
12)	Jerry Scott	1977-80	348

✓ **FOSTER PRE-SEASON ALL-AMERICA...**Furman senior center **Mark Foster (Williamston, S.C.)** was selected to the Sports Network Pre-Season All-America team. A second team All-Southern Conference pick a year ago and pre-season all-league pick this year, Foster earned winning grades in 10 of the Paladins' 11 games a year ago and earned the highest blocking percentage (.841) of any Paladin offensive lineman in 1997. Foster has also served as Furman's long snapper the last three years.

✓ **CROSBY SETS SIGHTS ON 2,000...**Senior tailback **Ernest Crosby (Greenville, S.C.)** came into the 1998 season bidding to become only the ninth player in Furman history to rush for 2,000 yards in a career. Crosby, a product of Greenville's Christ Church Episcopal School who has totaled 1,745 yards and 12 touchdowns in his career, rushed for 30 yards on six carries in the Paladins' 51-14 win over VMI on Saturday.

FURMAN CAREER RUSHING LEADERS

Rank	Player	Years	Yards
1)	Carl Tremble	1982-85	4,746
2)	Stanford Jennings	1980-83	4,016
3)	Robbie Gardner	1982-86	3,213
4)	Larry Robinson	1973-76	3,038
5)	Mike Glenn	1978-80	2,446
6)	John Bagwell	1984-88	2,183
7)	Dinky Williams	1981-84	2,110
8)	Mark Moore	1994-97	2,061
9)	Dwight Sterling	1986-89	1,983
10)	Steve Crislip	1969-71	1,938
11)	Brothel Cole	1969-71	1,752
12)	Ernest Crosby	1995-	1,745
13)	Kennet Goldsmith	1985-88	1,713
14)	Leonardo McClarty	1991-95	1,712
15)	Tom Campbell	1958-61	1,699
16)	Steve Bishop	1977-80	1,692

✓ **WELLS MAKING HIS MARK...**Junior placekicker **Jason Wells (Lawton, Okla.)** heads into the Western Carolina game ranked fifth on Furman's all-time kick scoring chart with 146

points. A pre-season first team All-Southern Conference selection, Wells connected on a 24-yard field goal and all six PATs Saturday in the Paladins' 51-14 win over VMI on Saturday. He is coming off a strong 1997 campaign that saw him convert 11-of-14 field goals (.785%) and 30-of-32 PATs. Wells has made 21-of-37 field goal attempts and 83-of-87 PATs in three seasons of action.

FURMAN CAREER KICK SCORING LEADERS

Rank	Player	Years	Points
1)	Mike Wood	1986-89	225
2)	Keven Esva	1982-85	214
	Jim Richter	1992-95	214
3)	Glen Connally	1988-90	188
4)	Tim Tanguay	1980-82	177
5)	Jason Wells	1996-	146
6)	Andy Goss	1974-76	125

INJURY REPORT (for Western Carolina game)

FB Louis Ivory , ankle (probable)
 OG Mark Batluck, knee (out for season)
 NG Luke Kosman, neck (retired)
 CB Tarick Khadra, knee (doubtful)
 CB Bryant Huguley, leg (probable)
 CB Andre Stroman, hamstring strain (doubtful)
 SS John Keith, foot (probable)

FURMAN PALADINS VS. WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNTS DEPTH CHART

FURMAN OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
FLK	4	DESMOND KITCHINGS	5-9	180	Jr.
	87	Kevin Stewart	6-2	198	Gr.
LT	71	DONNIE LITTLEJOHN	6-3	265	R-Fr.
	60	Ryan Kineard	6-3	258	Jr.
LG	75	MARTY PRIORE	6-0	278	R-Fr.
	54	Chris Stewart	6-0	271	R-Fr.
C	73	MARK FOSTER	6-2	290	Sr.
	54	Chris Stewart	6-0	271	R-Fr.
RG	59	BEN HALL	6-4	274	Jr.
	65	Tye Crews	6-2	282	R-Fr.
RT	77	JOSH MOORE	6-4	290	So.
	74	Tim Pouyer	6-4	265	So.
TE	85	MICHAEL OWINGS	6-3	248	Jr.
	89	Trent Sansbury	6-3	234	R-Fr.
SE	2	TYRON BERRIAN	5-7	147	Jr.
	33	Zach Smerdzinski	5-10	182	So.
QB	15	JUSTIN HILL	6-0	190	So.
	17	Brent Rickman	6-4	182	So.
FB	34	LOUIS IVORY (or)	5-8	194	Fr.
	23	Derek Russell	6-0	233	So.
TB	21	STUART RENTZ (or)	5-8	186	Jr.
	22	Ernest Crosby	6-1	201	Sr.

FURMAN DEFENSE

RUE	55	BOBBY HUBBARD	6-3	226	Jr.
	99	Hershal Pleasant	6-2	230	So.
ST	76	FAAMATA FONOIMOANA	6-1	270	R-Fr.
	78	Ryan Spencer	6-3	290	R-Fr.
NG	90	B.J. PATE	6-5	287	Sr.
	76	Faamata Fonoimoana	6-1	270	R-Fr.
WT	97	STEVE KUPCHINSKY	6-4	246	So.
	48	Brian Conner	6-2	257	Jr.
OLB	46	COLIN ROGERS	6-2	228	Sr.
	11	Brad Redmond	6-0	207	R-Fr.
SLB	47	ORLANDO RUFF	6-3	262	Sr.
	9	John Thrift	6-1	217	R-Fr.
WLB	20	WILL BOUTON	6-2	219	R-Fr.
	9	John Thrift	6-1	217	R-Fr.
LCB	8	RICHIE JACKSON	6-0	175	R-Fr.
	28	Tarick Khadra	5-10	162	So.
RCB	26	DANIEL ROBERSON	5-9	171	R-Fr.
	32	Rodney Johnson	5-9	171	Fr.
SS	10	JOHN KEITH (or)	6-0	212	Jr.
	29	Rocco Adrian	6-2	202	Sr.
FS	29	ROCCO ADRIAN	6-2	202	Sr.
	24	Walter Booth	5-11	184	Jr.

FURMAN SPECIALISTS

P	80	LEE WILLIS	5-10	154	R-Fr.
PK	16	JASON WELLS	6-2	200	Jr.
HO	21	STUART RENTZ	5-8	186	Jr.
SSN	73	MARK FOSTER	6-2	290	Sr.
LSN	73	MARK FOSTER	6-2	290	Sr.
KO	16	JASON WELLS	6-2	200	Jr.
KOR	4	DESMOND KITCHINGS	5-9	180	Jr.
PR	33	ZACH SMERDZINSKI	5-10	182	So.

PROBABLE FURMAN STARTERS BY CLASS

	Offense	Defense	Total
Seniors	1	4	5
Juniors	5	2	7
Sophomores	2	1	3
Freshmen	3	4	7

WESTERN CAROLINA OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
FL	21	LAMONT WILLIAMS	5-7	173	Jr.
	11	Aaron Wright	6-0	183	So.
LT	75	DAN BEST	6-5	305	Sr.
	73	Michael Suddreth	6-3	272	Jr.
LG	76	BOO ROBINSON	6-2	276	Sr.
	61	Jason Jones	6-3	274	Fr.
C	63	JOE BARRINGER	6-4	265	Jr.
	55	Greg Taylor	6-2	266	Sr.
RG	74	DAVID ABERNETHY	6-2	310	Sr.
	71	Thomas Pruett	6-1	293	Fr.
RT	65	JAMIE MILLER	6-3	258	So.
	70	Joel McLelland	6-4	254	Fr.
TE	85	TRAVISE PITMAN	6-5	232	Jr.
	96	Joe Dan Gudger	6-3	204	Fr.
SE	15	MARDELL MILLER	5-10	180	Sr.
	13	Caesar Campana	6-0	170	So.
QB	17	JUSTIN CELLA	6-4	215	So.
	7	Darren Miller	6-4	182	Fr.
TB	41	BRAD HOOVER	6-2	220	Jr.
	1	Tracy Biggs	5-9	188	Jr.
FB	8	DAVID RUNNER	5-10	232	Sr.
	30	Walter Gary	5-10	225	So.

WESTERN CAROLINA DEFENSE

DE	81	BRANDON HOLLOWAY	6-4	228	Sr.
	93	Ryan Lawrence	6-4	248	So.
DT	92	JEFF CHAMBERS	6-0	276	Fr.
	78	Antonio Dyson	6-3	252	So.
DT	79	ANTHONY JENKINS	6-1	277	Sr.
	99	Andre Miller	6-2	256	So.
DE	52	JOHN SCOTT	6-3	236	Sr.
	50	Steve Rhodes	6-2	229	Jr.
WLB	5	BRETT CHAPPELL	6-0	210	Sr.
	53	Damien Luce	6-1	210	Fr.
MLB	56	COREY JACKSON	6-1	238	So.
	45	James Bernard	6-0	246	Jr.
SLB	33	CEDRIC CRUDUP	5-10	234	Jr.
	32	LaRon Shipp	6-0	219	Fr.
FS	16	ERIC JOHNSON	6-2	206	Jr.
	14	Jamie Suber	5-10	189	Sr.
SS	2	CRANSTON JOHNSON	5-11	193	Sr.
	24	Tovarus Oates	5-9	193	Fr.
CB	6	RANDY SHAW	5-8	169	So.
	9	Lamont Ransby	5-9	164	Jr.
CB	10	DeNORRISE BURTON	5-9	184	Sr.
	20	Kamarco Butler	5-10	179	Jr.

WESTERN CAROLINA SPECIALISTS

P	31	KEN HINSLEY	6-4	221	Sr.
PK	31	KEN HINSLEY	6-4	211	Sr.
HO	13	CAESAR CAMPANA	6-0	170	So.
LSN	68	SHANE PURVIS	6-2	236	Jr.
KO	22	JOSH JONES	5-10	154	So.
KOR	1	TRACY BIGGS	5-9	188	Jr.
	18	DARIUS HOOKS	5-10	198	Jr.
PR	21	LAMONT WILLIAMS	5-7	173	Jr.

PROBABLE WESTERN CAROLINA STARTERS BY CLASS

	Offense	Defense	Total
Seniors	5	6	11
Juniors	4	2	6
Sophomores	2	2	4
Freshmen	0	1	1

FURMAN STARTING LINEUPS

	<i>CLEM</i>	<i>SCST</i>	<i>SAM</i>	<i>VMI</i>	<i>WCU</i>	<i>ASU</i>	<i>CIT</i>	<i>ETSU</i>	<i>GSU</i>	<i>WOFF</i>	<i>UTC</i>
SE	Stewart	Berrian	Berrian	Berrian							
LT	Kineard	Kineard	Littlejohn	Littlejohn							
LG	Batluck	Batluck	Batluck	Priore							
C	Foster	Foster	Foster	Foster							
RG	Hall	Hall	Hall	Hall							
RT	Moore	Moore	Moore	Moore							
TE	Owings	Owings	Owings	Owings							
FLK	Kitchings	Kitchings	Kitchings	Kitchings							
QB	Hill	Hill	Hill	Hill							
FB	Ivory	Ivory	Ivory	Russell							
TB	Crosby	Rentz	Rentz	Rentz							
RUE	Hubbard	Hubbard	Hubbard	Hubbard							
ST	F'oana	F'oana	F'oana	F'oana							
NG	Kosman	Pate	Pate	Pate							
WT	Kup'sky	Kup'sky	Kup'sky	Kup'sky							
OLB	Rogers	Rogers	Rogers	Rogers							
SLB	Ruff	Ruff	Ruff	Ruff							
WLB	Bouton	Bouton	Bouton	Bouton							
LCB	Jackson	Jackson	Jackson	Jackson							
RCB	Johnson	Roberson	Roberson	Roberson							
SS	Keith	Keith	Keith	Adrian							
FS	Booth	Booth	Adrian	Booth							