

Speir, Catamounts Aim Their Sights On 2013

Written by Daniel Hooker
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The Western Carolina football team took to the turf for two hours at E.J. Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters for the first practice of the 2013 season on Friday evening, August 2. "It was great to be back on the field after all the planning and preparation during the summer," said head coach Mark Speir. "I heard Tony Dungy speak this summer and he said the last thing the umpire says is play ball. It was fun to get out and play ball. We had a lot of tempo and excitement and saw some good things today. We had a great first day."

The Catamounts worked out in helmets per the NCAA acclimation period rules for roughly two hours starting at 5:30 p.m. The team spent the majority of practice broken up in position groups but did come together to work on special teams. They warmed up the opening session with some conditioning work.

"It is a great time out here today flying around the field," said preseason All-Southern Conference Second Team punter Clark Sechrest. "The team looks great and the freshmen are doing a great job transitioning into the system and becoming a part of this program." WCU's preseason schedule features 20 practices prior to the start of fall classes on Mon., Aug. 19, and a combined total of 29 sessions before the season-opener at Middle Tennessee on Aug. 29. Though each practice will feature scrimmage-like scenarios, there are three intrasquad scrimmages on the preseason docket including Aug. 10, Aug. 14 and Aug. 17.

"We started off with special teams and position meetings to get our plays down," said preseason All-SoCon Second Team defensive back Ace Clark. "We really wanted to come out and get the execution of our plays down."

2013 Catamount Football

Important Catamount Football Dates to Remember:

Sat., August 10 - Catamount Tailgate Kickoff (Catamount Club members)

Mon., August 19 - First day of fall classes at WCU

Mon., August 19 - Football single-game tickets go on sale

Thurs., August 29 - 2013 Catamount Football season-opener at Middle Tennessee; Murfreesboro, Tenn. (6:30 pm CT / 7:30 pm ET)

Fri., September 13 - The Bob Waters Memorial golf tournament; High Vista Country Club in Mills River, N.C.

Sat., September 14 - 2013 Catamount Football home opener vs. The Citadel (3:30 pm)