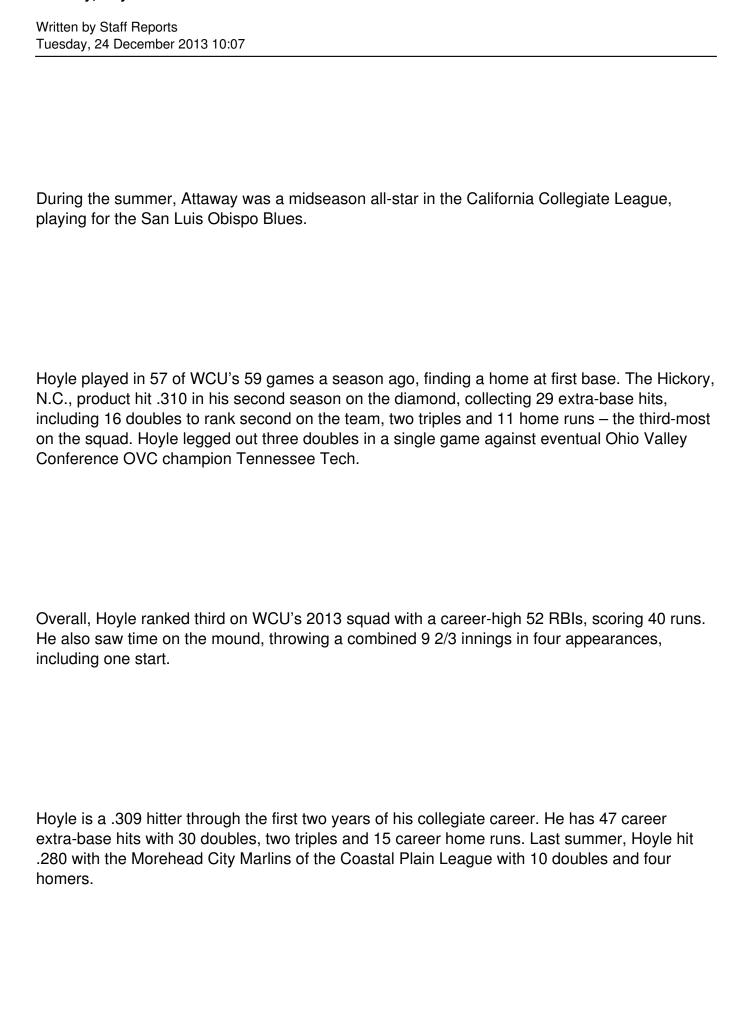


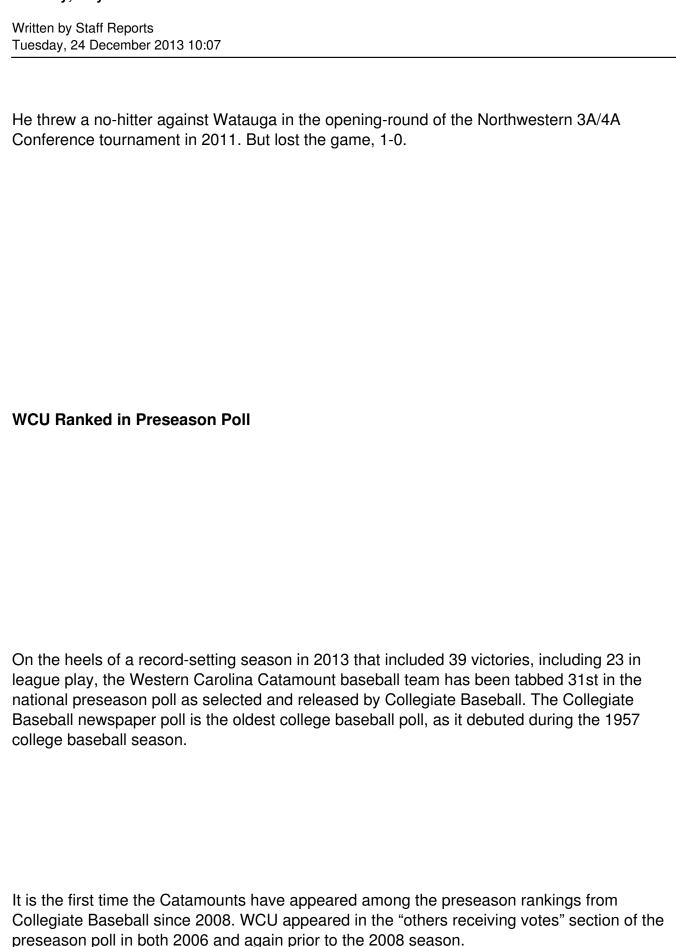
on the preseason publication's third team.

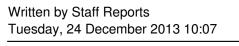
The Catamount duo are the lone selections from the Southern Conference on the trio of preseason squads and were among 80 players recognized nationally.

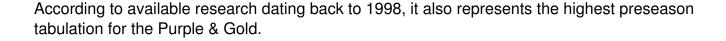
The preseason All-America honor from Collegiate Baseball is the second for Attaway, who was also dubbed third-team preseason All-America by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) in mid-December. It is the first preseason accolade for Hoyle, who was dubbed postseason Freshman All-America back in 2012.

Attaway was a first-team All-SoCon selection and garnered second-team all-state plaudits a season ago, pacing the Catamounts and league with 97 hits and 68 runs scored. The Morganton, N.C., native batted a career-best .363, raising his career batting average to .323 through 170 career games played. Attaway drove in 54 runs, giving him 117 career RBIs, while also amassing 15 doubles, five triples and 12 home runs.









WCU was joined in the poll by two fellow SoCon members as both Appalachian State and The Citadel earned nods in the "others receiving votes" portion of the poll. In addition to those two, five other of the Catamounts' opponents in 2014 appeared among the national rankings including No. 21 Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Washington State and East Tennessee State.

Western Carolina will gear up for the 2014 season by hosting the fourth "Celebration of Catamount Baseball Fundraising Banquet" on Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Hinds University Center. Former Catamount reliever and current Kansas City Royals closer Greg Holland is slated as the keynote speaker as WCU again celebrates its 2013 SoCon regular-season championship, introduces its 2014 squad and unveils this season's "Leggett No. 7 Legacy" recipient.

The Catamounts open their SoCon regular-season title defense on Feb. 14-16 by hosting the Ohio Bobcats at Childress Field / Hennon Stadium.