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# Runnin' Bulldogs Prep for Season Opener Against Wofford

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Office of University Communications

August 14, 2012

## Football Season to Kick Off on Sept. 1

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – “No excuses.” That’s the team motto this year for the Gardner-Webb football program. And Head Football Coach Ron Dickerson believes his team will be better for it.

“Whatever it takes to be successful on and off the field, we have to find a way to get it done,” Dickerson says. “Our message to the guys is that we’re not going to have any excuses in anything we do. In the classroom, with our family, or with football, we’re just not going to have excuses.”

Members of the team are already hard at work as they prepare for the first game of the season in early September. Each afternoon, they can be found working the pigskin on the practice field known as the “Dawg Pound.” Over the weekend, the Bulldogs held their first scrimmage of the year. Dickerson says he and the other coaches are still discussing who will make the starting lineup on game day.

“There’s a lot of competition this year and that’s exactly what we as a coaching staff wanted,” he explains. “We don’t even know who will be the starters because there’s a ton of competition out there within all the positions.”

The excitement over the upcoming season is building with each day that passes. As students head back to campus and classes begin Aug. 22, Dickerson is hoping for both new and continued support for his athletes. “The thing that they’re trying to do is become better men,” he says. “And in that process, when they look up and see their biology or business professor up there (in the stands) supporting them, it helps them.”

The themes of family echo throughout the 2012-2013 Runnin' Bulldogs Football team. Dickerson’s vision for the future is closely tied to the idea of conveying support for one another.

“We’ve got to continue as a whole (university) family,” he explains. “I want those football games to be like a big-time family reunion. I want people cooking out. I want music playing. I want them down there having a good time. I know we have to put the product on the field, but it helps when the guys look up and see the stands packed out with Bulldog fans and family.”

The GWU Bulldogs will host the first game of the season on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 6 p.m. against Wofford College.



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/4Yf4TFqp3zQ>