

New Morsani College of Medicine worth the wait for students



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

In Downtown Tampa, USF medical students are walking down hallways with paint fresher than some of their lab coats.

USF Health students are over a week into their M.D. program at the newly opened Morsani College of Medicine located in Tampa's Water Street district. Students were not only eager to catch a glimpse of the \$110 million facility but were ready to explore all that it has to offer.

Gary Rabenold, a first-year medical student, had only seen the outside of the building from the promotional advertising

but he said he was pleasantly surprised when he received a tour a couple of weeks ago.

"We knew what it was going to look like from the outside but we had no clue about the inside," Rabenold said. "We heard a lot about how there was going to be an auditorium on the second floor and how it can support all this important research on the top floor but we didn't know how that was going to translate into how the building actually looks."

P.A. student Javen Threatt was most surprised by the magnitude of the 395,000-square-foot facility.

"As soon as you get out of the ground level from the parking lot, you look up and you see this massive building," Threatt said. "I believe they compared the steel to the weight of a jumbo jet."

The building is made up of 47,000 tons of concrete, which is comparable to the weight of 155

Boeing 747 jets, according to the USF Health website.

The 13-story building also shares a space with Tampa General Hospital where students will collaborate on projects such as urgent care, cardiology and imaging.

Ariel Perry-Mills, a first-year medical student, said she has enjoyed exploring the downtown area during her breaks from studying.

"I didn't realize how much is out here until I started walking around and exploring last week," Perry-Mills said. "We're close to Crunch [Fitness] and Channelside is right across the street. You can go and study by the cruise ships, so that's pretty cool."

On the other hand, some students have found the Downtown Tampa location frustrating.

"Traffic and parking were kind



The building is made up of 47,000 tons of concrete, which is comparable to the weight of 155 Boeing 747 jets, according to the USF Health website. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

of horrendous, to be honest, but I'm sure they will eventually find new solutions to make the building easier to access," Threatt said.

P.A. student Rachel Hileman

also had issues with parking this week, but she said it's worth it given the location.

"Parking has been difficult but

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Currall works to build bridges with Senate



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Student success echoed throughout the Student Government (SG) Senate meeting on Tuesday after a

speech from USF President Steven Currall and the Dean of the Judy Genshaft Honors College Charles Adams about building connections between students and administration.

Currall spent an hour talking to senators about issues and concerns they raised regarding the USF community and how the administration will be tackling issues such as international student concerns, mental health and institutional funding moving forward.

Senate President Salud Martinez said that the purpose of Currall's first ever visit to the Senate was to build and strengthen connections between SG and administration for the upcoming years.

"It's always really important to have a healthy relationship, just so that we're working together and not working against each other," Martinez said. "And within the first year of Currall's presidency, it's going to help set the pace of what that relationship is going

to look like. So the stronger we build the foundation, the better off we will be as an institution."

During the discussion, Currall said that one of the most crucial factors affecting students' educational experience is the quality of the faculty inside the classrooms.

"If we have great faculty, you will have a great experience in the classroom," Currall said. "If you have a great experience in the classroom, you [will be] successful in your careers and,

as future citizens, in a position to support the university, financially or in other ways."

Student success played a big role throughout the discussion, especially on opportunities and resources available to students from different demographics. During the meeting, Sen. Junayed Jahangir brought to Currall's attention the struggles and hardships faced by international students when looking for job and internship opportunities due

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The Oracle

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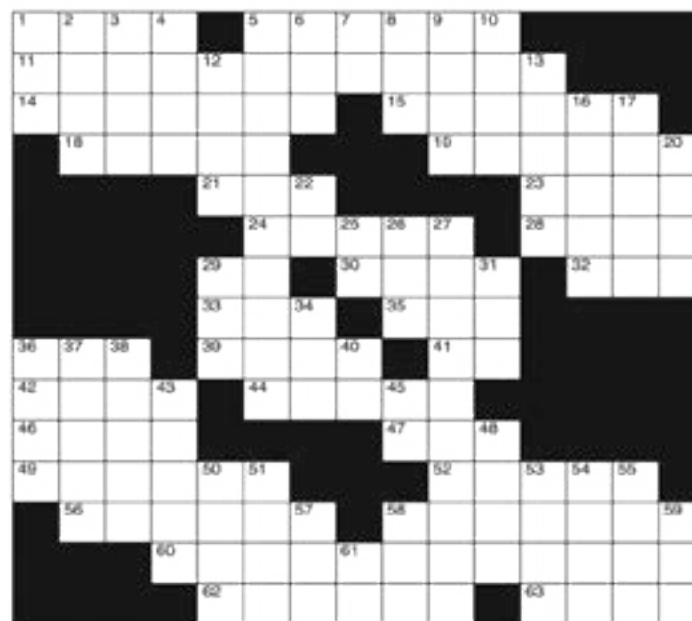
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- Dabbling ducks
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- Actress Spelling
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- Concurs
- Latin term for charity
- The number below the line in a fraction
- Reddish browns
- This (Spanish)

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- Parent-teacher groups
- Puts in place
- Editing
- In the course of
- Helps injured people (abbr.)
- OJ trial judge
- Resist authority (slang)
- Formerly alkenols
- "Cheers" actress Perlman
- Jewelled headdress
- Viking Age poet
- Vanuatu island
- Wish harm upon
- Unit of length
- Blood type
- Drain
- Do-gooders
- Advanced degree
- Business designation
- Chinese-American actress Ling
- Performs on stage
- Slang for money
- Puts in place
- Large Russian pie
- The Mount Rushmore State
- Narrow inlet
- News organization (abbr.)
- Scarlett's home
- Micturates
- Monetary unit
- Any customary observance or practice
- Sons of Poseidon
- Facilitates grocery shopping
- Standard operating procedure
- Former OSS
- Midway between south and southeast
- The Wolverine State

See Monday's paper for answers



LOOK
FOR THE

NEXT
ISSUE

ON
MONDAY





In a first-time meeting with the Senate, Currall discussed with senators issues raised by students, such as international student concerns, mental health and institutional funding moving forward. **ORACLE**

FILE PHOTO

SG

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to restrictions on their visas.

As an international student, Jahangir spoke about his personal challenges when he attended last year's on-campus career fair and was rejected by several employers due to his international status. While there were more than 200 job opportunities available during the career fair, Jahangir said that his options went down to three.

"Because of all the hardships that come with hiring international students, under the current national administration, a lot of career services that international students go to, we come across employers ready to reject us on the spot saying that they've stopped offering internships and jobs to international students," Jahangir said.

Currall highlighted that while he doesn't have the power to change national policy, he encouraged students to vote for a society where job opportunities are available to all people living in the U.S.

"One of the things I love about USF is that it is an institution that is an engine of the American dream," Currall said. "It really is so compelling in terms of the diversity of our student body. My wife immigrated to this country, so I've been through the process. She's now a U.S. citizen, but she wasn't when she came here.

"I have a lot of sympathy and empathy on that issue, however, in terms of changing, you can't really change national policy, but we can vote."

While the topic shifted to funding student resources, Sen. Gary Lopez-Perea emphasized the importance of the discussions about mental health on campus.

He questioned the ways in which the university was working toward supporting students and delivering the services available to minimize the issue.

"This is a topic that's going to continue to require sustained resources to continue to buy what our students need in terms of counseling and support," Currall said. "So we're going to be mindful of this and in terms of our resource allocation ... I will be talking to others who oversee those services to try to understand whether or not we're really delivering on those services and what else we need to do to further strengthen our capability."

Currall continued his answer to Lopez-Perea by reflecting on his years in college and the challenges and pressures he faced in regard to mental health.

"One of the things that I love

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MORSANI

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at the end of the day, what's parking compared to all the other things available," Hileman said.

Students from all over aspects of USF Health have expressed an interest in the technology used throughout the building.

The largest technological change has been the incorporation of Microsoft Teams in almost every room in the new building. It is predicted by next fall that the software will be implemented in the curriculum, according to Deborah DeWaay, associate dean for undergraduate medical education.

The use of Microsoft Teams will allow professors to teach patient scenarios in a more collaborative manner with the use of video chat, shared files and Microsoft interactive whiteboards.

DeWaay said augmented reality may also be introduced down the line.

"You can put on a pair of glasses and be able to see a patient," DeWaay said. "The building is supposed to be very flexible with flipping between interactive and traditional teaching."

This was an important aspect for Rabenold as he said he enjoys the elements of traditional teaching.

"It will be fun to see how they'll integrate the use of cadavers," Rabenold said. "We get a lot of use out of that from the old building so it will be interesting to see how they'll transfer over those older methods."

DeWaay said she has found joy in watching all the "mind-

blowing" reactions from students to the facility, especially because of the five-year construction process.

"I have had several third-year and fourth-year students comment and say that they are very jealous because they aren't going to be able to spend much time there," DeWaay said.

This is why, Juan Carlos Delgado, a second-year medical student, is trying to use every second in the building wisely.

"I'm a little disappointed because I was hoping it would be done a little earlier because the third and fourth year is a lot more clinical so I won't be using the building as much," Delgado said. "I'll only be getting a few more months out of it."

First-year medical student Daniela Moino has already found her favorite spot in the facility — the Osler Collegium room.

"It's definitely one of the nicest since it's at the corner and all the windows are along the entire room," Moino said.

Eventually, the P.A. program, Taneja College of Pharmacy and other programs will make the transition to the new building. In the meantime, DeWaay said deans and faculty are working on creating a smooth transition with the curriculum.

"What we are doing in the spring is not a dress rehearsal," DeWaay said. "What we have is very well planned. But, this will be the first time we are using these materials in the new building and seeing how it works best.

"We're test driving the building, essentially, to see what it can do."

WILCOX

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"Seeing three different offenses was very beneficial for me," Wilcox said, "and just learning as much about this great game as I can."

Projected to go in the mid to late rounds in the upcoming NFL Draft, Wilcox used the week leading up to the Shrine Bowl to gauge where he stands heading into all the madness that leads up to the main event — including Pro Day and the NFL Combine.

"I learned a lot of different languages as far as football goes," Wilcox said. "Football is football at the end of the day, but the terminology is different at the next level and just adjusting on the fly and learning as much as I can."

"I've learned a lot. I need to keep my shoulders down, especially in the run game, and sustain blocks for longer. That's a common thing with tight ends, but it's something I'm very focused on. And just continuing to run good routes, and just be good at the top of my route."

Whatever NFL team Wilcox lands likely will ask him to do a number of different things, so the versatility he displayed this season is no small thing.

"[I need to] just continue to be a well-rounded tight end," Wilcox

said. "Just focusing on as many areas of being a split-out wide receiver or fullback or an inline blocker. I just think the better I'm able to do that, the better off I'll be."

Wilcox also displayed his willingness to be versatile during the Shrine Bowl when he was called upon to be the long snapper on the punt team. While he never had to do it at USF — though he was the backup — he did it all four years of high school.

"They sprung that on me, but I was happy to step up for it," Wilcox said. "They didn't bring any long snappers ... so I had to step up for it, and I thought I did well."

What happens next for the "Bay Made" tight end remains to be seen, but at least he has an idea of where he stands.

"I've heard a lot of good things as far as my route running and the fluidity and being an instinctual player," Wilcox said. "Weakness, of course, definitely just need to work on sustaining blocks for longer — just longer throughout the duration of the play and stuff like that."

USF's Pro Day date has yet to be announced while the NFL Draft takes place in Paradise, Nevada, from April 23-25.

WAR ON I-4

Continued from PAGE 8

staff that let that happen is gone. That's not to say you should expect a USF win when

for a good portion before falling by only one point. If that doesn't inspire at least a little bit of hope for the rematch Feb. 1 at the Yuengling Center, there might not be much that will, short of

around for a WNIT bid, though. Three points against UCF in Orlando on Feb. 19 would certainly help toward that.

Incidentally, the one sport that has earned points for USF



Since the official inception of the War on I-4 in 2016, USF has not won the all-sport trophy, nor has it won the football trophy (pictured) since 2016. But it's important to take a closer look at things every once in a while. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

the Knights come to Raymond James Stadium in November — just that the necessary changes have been made.

The basketball losses count for three points each, and it's arguable that questionable foul calls late in both games aided UCF's victories. But even without the fouls, perspective is important.

The men's team is in the third year, or "Year 0," as coach Brian Gregory calls it, of a rebuild of what was basically a dormant — actually, check that — a doormat program. Losing isn't fun, losing to your rival also isn't fun, and losing to your rival because of a terrible call especially isn't fun.

But the Bulls were in the game until the bitter — like sucking a lemon with a cut on your lip bitter — end and led

actually beating UCF.

Much like last season, the women's team is suffering from a short bench. Freshman Maria Alvarez is out for the season after sustaining a knee injury against Cincinnati earlier this month. At the time, she was the Bulls' second-leading scorer.

Meanwhile, junior Enna Pehadzic, who was supposed to be USF's veteran leader, has struggled, averaging just over six points. Pehadzic, who didn't even see the floor against UCF on Sunday, has played a combined 16 minutes in AAC play prior to Wednesday night's game at Wichita State.

It's rare that a Jose Fernandez-led team misses out on a postseason appearance, but this might just be one of those years. There's still time to turn it

in the War on I-4 is the one where a coaching change has already gone into effect: cross-country. Coach Erik Jenkins' team finished ahead of UCF in the AAC Championship for the first time since the series began.

In addition to the upcoming basketball rematches, softball, baseball, women's track and field, women's tennis, men's tennis, men's golf and women's golf all have the opportunity to bring the Bulls back into this year's series. That's 48 points still up for the taking.

None of this is excuse making, mind you. The results have to be there eventually, especially against a rival as vocal as UCF.

But it's important to critically analyze these scores every now and then.

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SG

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about being at USF is it has a field that's similar to where I first started college," Currall said. "I remember back when I was 18 and the issues about academic achievement and identity, political identity, faith, social identity and connectedness to other groups on campus.

"There are all of these pressures that just get focused on you all and it's really hard. There are always ups and downs and there really should be no stigma about the need for services. So don't feel like you're alone, because you're not. We've all gone through these kinds of experiences."

As the senators and Currall were discussing funding for USF resources, the senators expressed appeals for more allocated money from the

state government.

Sen. Yousef Afifi touched base on the "white elephants" of higher education in Florida, referring to UF and FSU, when talking about the investments made by the state government in those universities compared to USF.

Every year, public universities across the state submit to the Board of Governors (BOG) a legislative budget request for investments from the State University System of Florida. For the 2020-21 academic year, USF has requested a total of \$37.4 million in additional state resources, compared to \$25 million from FSU and \$3.8 million from UF.

Currall said that while the BOG controls how much will be invested in higher

education in Florida, USF deserves a higher investment across the state compared to other universities.

"If ever there was a university that deserves more investment by the state of Florida, it's USF," Currall said. "We have done more with resources... compared to UF and FSU. Our return on investment is astronomical."

The final allocation will be announced between March and April, according to Currall. Until then, he reinforced the importance of showcasing support for USF's case.

"All we can do is be up there and be seen while arguing for our case," Currall said.

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Sanders and Warren have strongest college affordability plans



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

The Democratic presidential primary is just around the corner, with Florida voting on March 17 and the first caucuses taking place in Iowa on Feb. 4.

According to an aggregate of polls by RealClearPolitics, the top four candidates in a crowded field are former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

There are many pressing issues that college students are concerned about, but one issue on every student's mind is college loan debt. How do the presidential candidates measure up when comparing their plans?

Biden's college affordability plan would double the maximum value of Pell Grants, giving students more money to pay tuition that they will not have to pay back. Students with loans who make \$25,000 or less a year postgraduation would not be obligated to make payments and their loans would not accrue interest.

Biden's plan would also give Americans two years of tuition-free community college.

Buttigieg's plan, by comparison, would make public



Cancellation of student debt would do wonders for graduates. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

colleges tuition-free for families who make less than \$100,000 a year. It also calls for "income-based repayment," where graduates pay a fixed percentage of their income toward their student loans. After 20 years of payments, their remaining student loans would then be forgiven.

Warren's plan calls for "the cancellation of \$50,000 worth of debt for 42 million Americans," per her website. Three in four Americans with student loan debt would have their loans forgiven, leaving 20 percent of students with debt partially alleviated.

Warren couples this student debt cancellation with tuition-free public college available to all Americans.

Sanders' plan would cancel all \$1.6 trillion worth of student loan debt and would cap interest on any future student loans at 1.66 percent. He couples this plan with tuition-free public colleges and trade schools in order to ensure the student debt crisis doesn't pop up again.

All the candidates pay lip service to the huge obstacle student loan debt can be to financial security. However, many of these plans do not exemplify

that sense of urgency.

Additional Pell Grants, as the Biden plan provides, fail to alleviate the burden of students who are already overwhelmed by student loans, and even those making more than \$25,000 a year may still find themselves set back by their loans.

Biden's free community college plan also ignores the fact that a four-year college is often required to be competitive in today's economy.

Buttigieg's plan, meanwhile, would require individuals to engage in repayments for 20 years, a clear potential hindrance to financial success.

By far the most comprehensive and beneficial plans for graduates with student loan debt come from the Warren and Sanders campaigns, with Sanders' plan being the most ambitious.

Outright cancellation of student debt, or even a cancellation of 75 percent of student loan debt, would do wonders for graduates' financial freedom. These plans should be critical when it comes to who college students support in the upcoming Florida primary.

Jared Sellick is a senior studying political science.

Florida GOP is attacking abortion rights



Nathaniel Sweet

OPINION EDITOR

At the start of the 2020 Florida legislative session, Republican lawmakers are already on a fast track to undermine abortion rights.

Senate Bill 404, sponsored by Sen. Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland), requires doctors to get written consent from parents or guardians before providing abortion services to minors. In rare cases, minors could seek a judicial waiver from a court.

The new bill comes on the heels of an emerging strategy for eroding abortion access. In early 2019, 10 states including Georgia and Alabama passed legislation outlawing or severely limiting abortion, with the intent of drawing a legal challenge in the U.S. Supreme Court.

With a new conservative majority on the bench, anti-abortion activists hope to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that effectively legalized abortion across the U.S.

If SB 404 is passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, a smaller version of that scenario could play out in Florida.

Abortion rights are currently protected under Article I, Section 23 of the Florida Constitution, which establishes a right to

privacy from government intrusion. A 1989 ruling by the Florida Supreme Court found that parental consent laws violate this privacy provision. If SB 404 passes, it will likely face a legal challenge on these exact grounds.

Unlike previous years, however, the Florida Supreme Court has a solid conservative majority. At minimum, the new bench could overturn years of precedent and permit parental consent laws. At maximum, they could overturn privacy protections for abortion in general, opening the door to new anti-abortion bills like those in Georgia and Alabama.

On the merits, this legislation is intrusive and unnecessary. If a minor seeks out abortion services, doctors are already required by law to notify parents. Just the same, families and medical professionals already negotiate this issue in their own homes and doctors' offices. There is little reason for the state government to get in the middle.

More importantly, the issue of parental consent obscures the larger principle at stake. Unless abortion access is free and unmitigated, people in this state will necessarily be forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term, a deeply harmful and unsettling outcome that abridges the right to bodily autonomy.

SB 404 is a damaging intrusion and a trojan horse for attacking abortion rights. The Florida Senate should reject this legislation outright.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

Mentoring incarcerated girls: An-Chi Liu's compassion

By Maddie Moure
CORRESPONDENT

An-Chi Liu thought she was volunteering to help troubled youth discover their passions and carve out a future.

But through the mentorship, she ended up doing exactly that for herself.

Liu is a recent graduate from USF with a master's degree in rehabilitation and mental health counseling. Upon graduation, she had goals to put her knowledge of counseling to good use — that she did.

Liu soon discovered a volunteer opportunity in the Steadfast Mentoring Program.

The Steadfast Mentoring Program allows adult volunteers to mentor incarcerated youth (ages 12-18). The program offers young men and women the social support they need to pursue post-secondary education and residential living.

Two buildings, or correctional facilities, house what the program labels as "at-risk" youth, with one building for boys and one for girls.

Volunteers are paired with a girl or boy to mentor for a long period of time. Liu served as a mentor to two girls at their facility.

Even after the mentee is discharged from the correctional facility, the program expects volunteers to keep in contact with their mentees for three months in order to instill a lasting relationship. This three-month window helps the mentor maintain a positive influence on the youth's character development.

Liu made it clear that her role was more than just being a mentor. "It's literally like friendship,"

said Liu, smiling. "The thing that you provide them with is therapeutic. They're not allowed to have any outside contact except for their parents. Not even their siblings."

Liu recounts how the girls in the facility would mention how much they missed their brothers and sisters. But because Liu was there for these girls, even multiple days a week (which is more than the program requires), many girls felt like they had a big sister to look up to, helping them feel less alone.

The alumna's days were filled with laughter, card games and arts and crafts. Through Liu's spirit, she helped the girls deal with various problems in peaceful, constructive ways.

"The way they act can be pretty aggressive ... They were exposed to different kinds of violence [in their childhood]," Liu said.

Liu trained the girls to deal with feelings of hopelessness in positive ways.

Liu remembers one of her mentees as being a sweet 13-year-old girl who loved to do arts and crafts. Liu helped her handle friendship problems.

Her second mentee, she said was a serious 18-year-old high schooler who felt immense responsibility and pressure to leave the correctional facility so she could help with her mom's tough financial situation. Though she had a big and dutiful heart, Liu encouraged her mentee to first attend college before attempting to help her mother.

The girls and boys at these facilities go through a lot emotionally, according to Liu. Through her volunteering, Liu

wanted these kids to know that there are people out there who care about them and want to see them thrive.

"You can still seek support and help," she said. "You are not alone in this journey."

Liu said she absolutely believes there is a stigma surrounding incarcerated youth.

"Instead of thinking about what happened to them, we always think, 'What's wrong with you?'"

"It's because of the rooted trauma that they act in this way."

Liu said she felt intimidated walking into the girl's correctional facility, but not in the way that one would think. She did not feel intimidated by the other girls' behavior, but rather felt intimidated by their use of language. Because Liu grew up speaking Mandarin Chinese in Taiwan, conversational English is sometimes difficult for her to grasp.

As a solution, however, Liu gave herself "homework" — she'd listen to her mentees' favorite musical artists at home to further understand and connect with them. Even though Liu came from a completely different culture, she was able to bridge the cultural gap between herself and the girls.

Liu's volunteer work greatly influenced her career choice. Today, she works as a mental health counselor for female victims of human trafficking.

Liu explained how others can help support these incarcerated young men and women. She asserts that compassion is key.

"Know that your presence can make a difference in their lives," Liu said.



Liu helped her mentees deal with various problems in peaceful, constructive ways to help alleviate feelings of hopelessness. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/AN-CHI LIU

Football

Taking the next step toward the NFL



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

"I didn't think about it too long," Wilcox said after Saturday's East-West Shrine Bowl at Tropicana Field. "It was really a simple decision for me. I think I wanted to prove myself a bit more this year, and I just thought an extra year of maturity and polishing up some things, just with my game, was really in order, and that's what I went out there to do."

Wilcox wasn't targeted as often in 2019, though. His total number of targets (44) was 20 fewer than in 2018.

But that doesn't mean he took it any easier, even despite the lack of receptions.

"I really just focused on beating the guy in front of me," Wilcox said. "Just learn more about different schemes as far as coach [Kerwin] Bell's different pro-style offense, and I think it was very beneficial for me to go through that installation process of some new schemes and route concepts."

That may have actually helped his development as a player. Not just because



Mitchell Wilcox was targeted twice during the East-West Shrine Bowl on Saturday, but much like his season at USF, he contributed in other ways in the annual college football all-star game. **ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB** he was playing in a pro-style offense, but is something he'll obviously have to do no because in his time at USF, he had to matter where he lands in the NFL. learn multiple offensive systems — which

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Analysis

Losing the battle, not the 'War'



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

Apologies to the faint of heart for making you look at the standings anyway.

But that number, as well as UCF's three straight wins since the all-sport rivalry officially began in 2016, has Bulls fans riled up and upset on social media.

Rightfully so, especially given last year's 70-14 blowout — and especially considering none of the proverbial revenue sports (football, men's basketball and women's basketball) have defeated the school out east since at least 2016.

However, before we get on the #FireEveryone train — which doesn't seem to have left the station yet, thankfully — let's actually break down that 30-6

scoreline.

Volleyball accounts for six of the Knights' points thanks to 3-1 and 3-0 victories back in the fall. Volleyball has been an easy six points for UCF since the inception of the series for several reasons. UCF has been really good in recent years while USF has been mediocre to awful. The Bulls haven't even beaten UCF in the entire time they've been conference rivals.

But that may change in the near future with the hire of new coach Jolene Shepardson, whose coaching career is highlighted by her ability to turn programs around. Shepardson turned San Jose State from a four-win team into one that won

17 matches three seasons into her tenure. That's after turning a winless Cal State Bakersfield team into a 21-match winner in her third season.

The Knights gained 12 points in 1-0 victories in men's and women's soccer, respectively. The UCF men were ranked in the top 10 at the time, while the UCF women did a good job shutting down Bulls striker Evelyne Viens. (The USF women got the last laugh in the conference tournament, for what it's worth.)

Another six points were awarded to UCF following its 34-7 victory in football back on Black Friday. The entire coaching

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Don't look at the current War on I-4 standings if you're faint of heart.

It's not a pretty sight.

After both USF men's and women's basketball lost to the Knights over the weekend, UCF leads the 2019-2020 series 30-6.