

IT'S GAME TIME!



BULLS FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2019

THE ORACLE

Starting quarterback Blake Barnett and offensive coordinator Kerwin Bell.

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The persistent visionary



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

It might be fair to say USF's offense wasn't persistent enough when it had the football last season.

After all, the Bulls finished seventh in the 12-team AAC and 69th in the 130-team FBS in total offense.

Fortunately, USF's new offensive coordinator has been persistent his entire career.

Meet Kerwin Bell, the persistent visionary.

Bell came to USF after leading Division II Valdosta State to an undefeated national championship season in 2018. In the process, the Blazers broke the Gulf South Conference's scoring record with 728 points.

His success didn't start in southern Georgia, however.

Bell was the star quarterback at Lafayette County High School in his North Central Florida hometown of Mayo, leading his team to a state championship in 1981.

However, he did not receive any collegiate scholarships out of high school.

Ever determined, Bell

walked-on at Florida — and found himself eighth on the quarterback depth chart his freshman season of 1983, which he wound up redshirting. Bell eventually worked his way to the top, finishing his collegiate career as one of the most decorated Gators of all time, throwing for 7,585 yards and 56 touchdowns during his four years with the Gators.

Bell's never-quit mentality has served him well, not just during his time at Florida, but in all his stops since, including coaching stints in the CFL, Trinity High School in Ocala and now at three different levels of college football.

"That's sort of been my m.o. is that I'm not probably the most

talented guy, not the smartest guy, not the best looking guy," Bell said. "I've always told people how I've made it, really, is I've just been persistent."

"I'm a visionary, I believe. I've always been a visionary guy ... I can see a goal way off, and I can focus on that goal. And I'll do whatever I had to do to reach that goal with persistence."

If you ask anyone who knows Bell what they think of him, you'll get nothing but praise for the persistent visionary.

"He's everything you'd want in a coach in terms of he's fair," quarterback Blake Barnett said. "If he's going to be hard on you, he's hard on everyone the same ... There's give and take. We're going

to be coached really hard, but that's what we want. We didn't come out here to be told that we're great at everything."

Bell's competitive spirit can be traced to his playing days, according to head coach Charlie Strong, who has known Bell since they were both at Florida in the mid-80s — Bell the eventual starting quarterback and Strong a graduate assistant.

"Kerwin is positive and the guys know that he's a competitor," Strong said. "Anytime you play quarterback, you're going to be a competitor. And it's just how he goes about it. How he and the relationship that he has developed with our players —

See BELL on PAGE 5



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BELLContinued from **PAGE 4**

not only on offense, but on defense, as a team. He's done a great job of coming in and just setting us up in place, which has been really good."

Like Strong, Bell served as a graduate assistant with the Gators. However, Bell had the opportunity to work under one of the most legendary coaches of all time — Steve Spurrier. If not for the "Head Ball Coach," Bell may never have entered the coaching realm.

"I had never seen a guy coach with such great detail," Bell said. "His whole thought process when he went to practice or when he was trying to develop a system or with his players, it was trying to obtain perfection on the field. And I had never seen that before ... And that intrigued me. I didn't even want to be a coach until I was around him and seeing that

kind of detail and that kind of coaching ... that's what triggered

record and three conference championships.

a lot of work. Understand the detail that you've got to coach

setbacks at USF. There always are when something new is tried. But don't worry about Bell if and when those failures happen. After all, despite all the success he's had, it's not like he hasn't experienced falling down before.

"I've been a failure a lot more times than I've been successful," Bell said. "I got cut seven times by NFL teams and kept getting back up and giving it another try. I just believe the big thing about if you're trying to obtain a goal and you have the vision of where you want to take this offense, there's going to be a lot of failures along the way.

"But you can't be afraid of those failures. If it happens, you've just got to continue to grind and eventually good things will happen."

That's just the kind of thing you'd expect to hear from the persistent visionary.



USF offensive coordinator Kerwin Bell has been persistent throughout his entire football career. **PHOTO COURTESY OF USF ATHLETICS**

me to become a coach."

Since the spring, Bell has been installing his offense for the third time at the collegiate level — prior to Valdosta State, he led FCS Jacksonville for nine years, leading the Dolphins to a 66-35

Installing an offense is not an easy task, though, but thanks to his unlikely rise, Bell knows to trust the process and keep things in perspective.

"Just don't get frustrated," Bell said. "Understand that there's

at every day ... As I've gone through my career, that's sort of been my philosophy is that you get knocked down, just get back at work a little bit harder and things will work their way out."

But there are sure to be



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Get ready for game day with these tips from the Dean of Students Office.

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Student Government sponsors transportation to the game!

- You must bring a USF Student ID
- Those under 17 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to sign the waiver at the pickup location
- Buses depart from the MSC bus loop starting 3 hours prior to the game
- There is limited space so arrive early. Buses are first come, first served
- Visit usf.edu/sg for times

Tailgating Safety

- Sun safety – wear sunblock, hats, and stay hydrated
- Be aware of surroundings and watch for vehicles that might not see you in the parking lots

Stadium Safety

- Text 33607 to report safety concerns to Raymond James
- Be CLEAR on game day. Read the Bag Policy at <http://raymondjamesstadium.com/stadium-fan-policies/>
- Don't leave drinks and food unattended

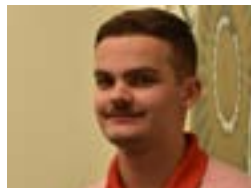


Stay hydrated.
Drink water!



Blake Barnett and his wife, Maddie, are finding the balance between sports and family. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/NOLAN BROWN

The family man under center



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

If someone were to tell a young Blake Barnett that at age 23 he'd be married, have a son and be playing college football, he'd probably tell them they were crazy.

But now in his senior year at USF, he's doing just that.

About four years ago, Barnett, who was a recent graduate of

Santiago High School in Corona, California, at the time, met his now-wife Maddie Barnett at the 2015 Under Armour All-America Game at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.

"We had connected over Instagram at the time like every young kid does nowadays," Blake said. "I let her know I was going to be there and ironically, she was going to be in Bradenton because her grandmother lives there."

Maddie, deep into her professional surfing career at the time, was sponsored by Under Armour and was invited to be a spokesperson at the event. She reached out to her team manager

and was able to get tickets to the game.

Blake and Maddie met at the game and began dating shortly after. After a year of a mostly long-distance relationship, Blake proposed to Maddie and they became engaged in 2016.

"He was so supportive from a distance," Maddie said. "I think the main thing I learned was that distance definitely made the heart grow fonder."

Two years later, the Barnetts tied the knot.

Blake and Maddie, who were in their early 20s at the time of their marriage, faced a considerable amount of criticism

See **BARNETT** on **PAGE 7**

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JULIA BEATS | LEE K. | MCTURNAN | NHEKIS | OBIE FERNANDEZ | RELIGIARY | SCALES | SUNOVA

SUNDAY 9/22

MARSHMELLO
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BLACK V NECK | DADDY DOUGH | DOBBS | ERNESTO | GALS | HUNTER REID | JOHNNY GOODTIME | MARK STARR
MC HURZ | MC WOND | MONTE PANDA | OTICA | RICHIE RICH | THOMAS B. | YVVO | ZEN SELEKTA

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SULLIVAN KING B2B KAI WACHI B2B KOMPANY | BLUNTS & BLONDES
THROWDOWN

STAGE TAKEOVERS:

GRAVEDANCER

TECHYES

BARNETT

Continued from PAGE 6

for their relatively early union. Both Maddie and Blake's parents supported their decision, however.

"Our parents approved, which was important," Blake said. "At the same time, we're both adults ... if we wanted to do it we were going to do it regardless. But both of our families were welcoming." Seven months after their marriage, the Barnetts had their son Brooks. For Maddie in particular, the journey wasn't easy in the beginning.

"I think the hardest part was going from a professional athlete, constantly on the road and traveling to living in Tempe, Arizona, not knowing anybody and having faith that everything was going to turn out fine," Maddie said. "But I was just nine months pregnant in Arizona."

Adding Brooks to the mix has been a worthwhile endeavor for

the Barnetts and has certainly spiced up their lives.

"He's a really good baby, he's very happy, but he's at the stage right now where he always has to be moving and running around going nuts," Blake said.

Having a baby in the house led to a career change for Maddie. She has temporarily put her surfing career on hold while trying to balance motherhood and the pursuit of her career. She knows that the door is always open for her to return but is waiting for the right time.

"I think I'm starting to learn that it's super important, being a mom, going from a very independent professional sport to going where you give your whole life to one little tiny human," Maddie said. "I'm learning how to balance that."

Blake also understands the struggle that came with balancing football, going to college, being a faithful husband and supporting

his family.



Blake Barnett signs autographs with his son, Brooks, at USF Fan Fest at the Yuengling Center on Aug. 10. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

"We both pretty much understood that while we were

kind of in the peaks of our careers at that moment, we understood it was going to be long-distance and we pretty much understood that from the very beginning," Blake said. "Luckily, in the early stages of our relationship, we were able to find the little times off that we had to spend time together."

As relatively notable figures — Blake is especially in the limelight with his plans to play professionally, plus both Maddie and Blake have more than 40,000 followers on Instagram — the next challenge for the Barnetts is upholding a reputation in the public eye while also keeping private lives.

"I try to be genuine," Blake said, "I'm the same person every day through and through, as with [Maddie]."

Being transparent and genuine on social media is the

goal for Blake.

"We're not trying to be someone we're not, we're just trying to show the lives that we live," Blake said. "We're very happy, we live an awesome life. We're extremely fortunate and we're very happy."

Starting a family is often hard for a lot of young couples, especially when the two parents are also living as athletes. But Maddie is in it for the long haul.

"I'm 21 and he's 23," Maddie said. "One day we're going to be hanging out in our 40s, so it's not going to be as hard in our later years."

Despite the trials and tribulations the Barnetts have faced, Maddie is optimistic about the future.

"I feel like it's been so chaotic, but it's been so awesome to see the growth of both Brooks and Blake," Maddie said. "The joys outweigh the chaos."

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2019 Football Schedule

Friday, Aug. 30 — 7 p.m. — ESPN
vs. Wisconsin — Raymond James Stadium

Saturday, Sept. 7 — 2 p.m. — ACC Network
@ Georgia Tech — Atlanta

Saturday, Sept. 14 — 6 p.m. — ESPN3
vs. South Carolina State — Raymond James Stadium

Saturday, Sept. 28 — TBA — TBA
vs. SMU — Raymond James Stadium

Saturday, Oct. 5 — TBA — TBA
@ UConn — East Hartford, Conn.

Saturday, Oct. 12 — TBA — TBA
vs. BYU — Raymond James Stadium *HOMECOMING*

Saturday, Oct. 19 — 3 p.m. — CBS Sports Network
@ Navy — Annapolis, Md.

Saturday, Oct. 26 — TBA — TBA
@ ECU — Greenville, N.C.

Thursday, Nov. 7 — 8 p.m. — ESPN
vs. Temple — Raymond James Stadium

Saturday, Nov. 16 — TBA — TBA
vs. Cincinnati — Raymond James Stadium

Saturday, Nov. 23 — TBA — TBA
vs. Memphis — Raymond James Stadium

Friday, Nov. 29 — TBA — ESPN Networks
@ UCF — Orlando



2019 ROSTER

#	Name	Position	Year
2	Jordan Cronkrite	RB	Sr.
4	Greg Reaves	DE	Gr.
5	Randall St. Felix	WR	So.
7	Mike Hampton	DB	Jr.
8	Devin Studstill	DB	Gr.
9	KJ Sails	DB	Jr.
10	Daquan Evans	DB	Fr.
10	Kelley Joiner Jr.	WR	Fr.
11	Blake Barnett	QB	Sr.
11	Dwayne Boyles	LB	So.
12	Jordan McCloud	QB	R-Fr.
12	Zion Roland	WR	So.
13	Eddie McDoom	WR	Jr.
14	Vincent Davis	DB	So.
14	Jah'Quez Evans	QB	Fr.
15	Jayden Curry	DB	Fr.
15	Jernard Phillips	WR	Jr.
16	Kaden Frost	QB	Fr.
16	Brock Nichols	DB	Jr.
17	Kirk Rygol	QB	So.
17	Kyle Trina	QB	So.
18	Augie DeBiase	QB	So.
18	DeVontres Dukes	WR	Jr.
19	Bryce Miller	WR	So.
20	Johnny Ford	RB/WR	So.
20	Bentlee Sanders	DB	So.
21	McArthur Burnett	DB	Jr.
21	Dave Small	LB	So.
22	Mekhi LaPointe	DB	So.
23	Josh Berry	RB	Fr.
24	Nick Roberts	DB	So.
24	Coby Weiss	K	Jr.
25	Eugene Bowman	DB	R-Fr.
25	Kenny Scribner	K	Fr.
26	Keyon Helton	S	R-Fr.
27	Leonard Parker	DB	Fr.
28	Trevon Sands	RB	Sr.
29	Brian Norris	LB	R-Fr.
29	Spencer Shrader	K	Fr.
31	Cody Gentry	DB	Jr.
33	Odunayo Seriki	RB	Jr.
34	Christian Helms	WR	Fr.
35	Jabreel Stephens	DE	So.
36	Tyler Schlegel	P	So.
37	Camp Gobler	LB	Fr.
38	Sean Atkins	WR	Fr.
38	Randal Copeland	LB	R-Fr.
39	Trent Schneider	P	Jr.
39	Trent Shaw	DB	Sr.
40	Jason Vaughn	DE	Fr.
41	Demaurez Bellamy	LB	Fr.
42	Darius Slade	DE	Gr.
43	Darius Williams	LB	Fr.
44	Antonio Grier	LB	So.
45	Darrien Grant	DE	So.
46	Ryan Thaxton	DL	So.
47	Tae'Aviion Gray	LB	Fr.
48	Andrew Beardall	LS	R-Fr.
49	Ian Deneen	LS	So.
51	Stacy Kirby	DL	R-Fr.
52	Michael Wiggs	OL	Jr.
53	Dakota Trice	LB	Jr.
54	Nico Sawtelle	LB	Gr.
55	Patrick Macon	LB	Gr.
56	Tyrik Jones	DE	Jr.
57	Joshua Blanchard	OL	Fr.
57	AJ Franco	LB	So.
58	Trey Laing	LB	R-Fr.
59	Andrew Mims	LB	So.
61	Troy Fields	OL	Jr.
62	Matthew McDuffie	OL	Fr.
64	Demetris Harris	OL	So.
66	Matt Nelson	OL	Jr.
67	Hal Roberson	OL	Sr.
68	Antonio Spanolios	OL	Jr.
70	Sebastian Sainterling	OL	R-Fr.
71	Jeremiah Stafford	OL	So.
72	Ethan Watson	OL	R-Fr.

73	Donovan Jennings	OL	So.
74	Brad Cecil	OL	So.
75	Jean Marcellus	OL	So.
76	Jarrett Hopple	OL	Jr.
77	Marcus Norman	OT	Sr.
78	William Atterbury	OG	Sr.
79	Dustyn Hall	OL	Fr.
80	Terrence Horne	WR	R-Fr.
81	Kevin Purlett	TE	Sr.
82	Latrell Williams	WR	Jr.
83	Logan Berryhill	WR	Fr.
84	Xavier Weaver	WR	Fr.
85	Jacob Mathis	TE	Jr.



86	Stanley Clerveaux	WR	Gr.
87	Frederick Lloyd	TE	So.
88	Chris Carter	DE	R-Fr.
89	Mitchell Wilcox	TE	Sr.
90	Kevin Kegler	DT	Jr.
91	Rashawn Yates	DL	So.
92	John Waller	D	TR-Fr.
93	Tyrone Barber	DT	So.
94	Kirk Livingstone	DE	Sr.
95	Thomas Nance	DE	Fr.
96	Kelvin Pinkney	DT	Jr.
97	Armon Williams	DT	R-Fr.
98	Blake Green	DT	Jr.

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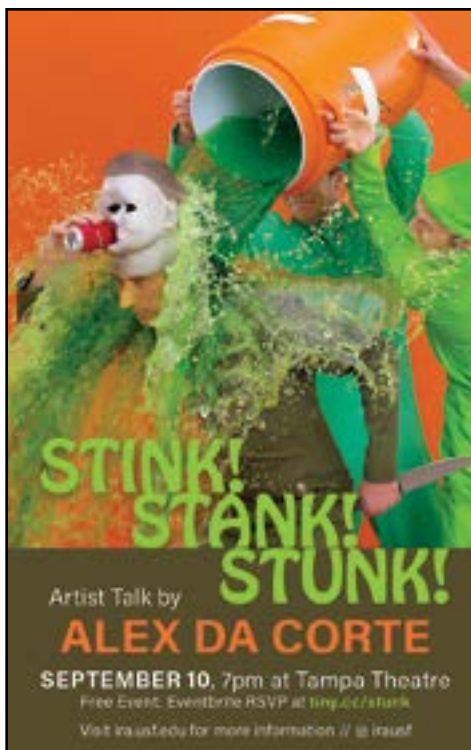
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- MEET & GREET
SEP 6**

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THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

- Sep (TBD) Open Day (DSP vs USF)
- Sep (TBD) College Tournaments (Round Robin)
- Oct 25-26/27 (Hawkeye Bowl/Regional # 17)
- Nov (TBD) DSP Open T & F Tournament # 18

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7:00pm-8:30pm - MSC 3704 |
| AUGUST 29TH | ULTIMATE FRISBEE
4:00pm - Magnolia Fields |
| AUGUST 30TH | RUF TAILGATE AGAINST WISCONSIN
4:30pm - Raymond James Stadium |
| SEPTEMBER 3RD | FIRST RUF LARGE GROUP
7:30pm - MSC 3704 |
| SEPTEMBER 9TH | START OF RUF SMALL GROUPS |
| OCTOBER 11-13 | RUF FALL CONFERENCE
Warren W. Willis Camp |

Contact **Andrew Newman** at **336.317.4433** or **andrew.newman@ruf.org** for more information.



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Charlie Strong, Kerwin Bell and Blake Barnett met Bulls fans of all ages at the Yuengling Center on Aug. 10.

Photos taken by Brian Hattab

USF football fan fest: Fun for the whole family





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Away games ideal for Bulls on parade



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

Over the course of a semester — especially the fall semester — everyone needs a break from their routine.

What better way to shake things up than a weekend trip, and what better excuse to take a weekend trip than a USF football road game?

This season, all away games but UCF fall on Saturdays, meaning you can leave Tampa early Friday morning and return sometime Sunday and, depending on your

class schedule, not miss any classes in the process.

There aren't as many exciting trips on this year's football schedule as there were last year — 2018 included trips to Chicago, Houston and Philadelphia — but that doesn't mean there isn't anything worthy in 2019.

Here are USF's away cities ranked by the best bang for your buck.

Sept. 7 @ Georgia Tech — Atlanta

This is by far the easiest weekend trip to make.

It's a six-hour drive from USF or an hour flight from Tampa International Airport with public transit in Atlanta being more than sufficient to get you to Bobby

Dodd Stadium from Hartsfield-Jackson Airport.

You know you want to go to World of Coca-Cola. It's an hour or so to see the entire thing, and at the end, you can drink as much foreign soda as you want for as long as you want. I'm not giving any recommendations on which drinks are the best, though. Why spoil the surprise?

Sports-wise, the Braves are playing the Washington Nationals that weekend at SunTrust Park, so you can take in multiple games.

Oct. 19 @ Navy — Annapolis, Md.

This may be the most expensive trip on the schedule, and perhaps the most complex

in getting from the airport to the stadium, but it's hard to argue against this trip being worth it.

You'll have to fly into one of the Washington airports — either Baltimore-Washington, Dulles or Reagan-National — and then find a way to get to Annapolis, which is about an hour drive from any of the airports.

But once you're there, you'll have an opportunity to see the U.S. Naval Academy, which is an experience most people don't get. From the Main Chapel to the Trighton Light, the campus is a beautiful testament to the United States Navy.

You could also spend the day before the game sightseeing in D.C. itself.

Either way, there's plenty to do on this trip that more than makes

up for its cost and complexity.

Oct. 26 @ ECU — Greenville, N.C.

Flights to Raleigh-Durham from Tampa as of Wednesday were under \$200 roundtrip, which is definitely a perk of going to this game. However, once you land in Raleigh, you're about 90 minutes away from ECU.

Unlike the Navy trip, however, you aren't going through an urban area for 90 minutes to get where you're going. If you rideshare, it's basically like taking an Uber or Lyft from Tampa to Orlando or vice versa.

Greenville does have its own airport, but flights are limited and it's way more expensive to fly

n See AWAY TRIP on PAGE 17





USF faces back-to-back Power Five opponents to start the 2019 season. The Bulls went a perfect 2-0 against Power Five opponents in 2018. ORACLE FILE PHOTO

Bulls open season with 'Powerful' opponents



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

"To be the best, you have to play the best."

USF football tweeted out a graphic with those words May 24, lauding its future nonconference schedule, which includes a number of Power Five opponents, including Alabama, Florida and Miami.

A few months later, at the onset of the 2019 season, the Bulls will immediately check a few of those teams off their proverbial to-do list.

USF opens the season Friday evening at Raymond James Stadium with a primetime matchup against No. 19 Wisconsin, then follows up with a trip to Atlanta to face the ACC's Georgia Tech.

"That's two Power Fives that you're playing right out of the gate," coach Charlie Strong said. "But the thing is, we want those games, and in order for us to take this program where we need to take it, you're going to have to play those teams — you're going to have to play very well against those teams."

"And our guys, they understand that challenge and they understand what's in it and what's in front of them, but we're going to have to play well."

Wisconsin is objectively USF's biggest home opener in program history. The Badgers are the highest ranked home-opening opponent ever and USF's highest season-opening opponent since beating No. 16 Notre Dame in South Bend in 2011.

"I think it sets the standard right away," quarterback Blake Barnett said. "It's a heavy hitter for the first one. Last year, we played Elon, and I'm not talking down upon Elon, but it's a different game when you're going the first week against Wisconsin. It's going to set the standard for the season, and we want to get the ball rolling in the right direction."

If recent history is any indicator, the Bulls should be able to do just that. USF has performed well against Power Five opponents in recent years, having won seven of their last eight games against Power Five teams, dating back to a 2015 victory against Syracuse.

It's not going to be easy, though. The Bulls' defense, which struggled against the run last season, will be tasked with figuring out how to stop explosive running back Jonathan Taylor. The back-to-back Heisman Trophy candidate rushed for 2,194 yards last season, averaging just over 7 yards a carry.

"If you look at the explosive runs that Taylor had, he'd break tackles at the line of scrimmage," Strong said, "and he's fast enough where he can outrun the second level. So we're going to have to play great defense. We're going to have to win upfront."

In fact, the entire Wisconsin offense is a force to be reckoned with.

"You just walk out there and watch them in pregame warmups," defensive coordinator Brian Jean-Mary said. "I think they're going to have one of the more impressive

offensive lines that you're going to see. And if you're a good tight end, Wisconsin's probably a great place to go. I think their tight ends are probably going to be, as a group, probably collectively the best group we'll face."

Jean-Mary's defense will have to do it without senior linebacker Nico Sawtelle, however. Sawtelle, who missed the last half of the 2018 season with a neck injury, was "banged up" in practice last week, according to Strong. The current injury is a reaggravation of what is being described as a "chronic" injury, according to The Daily Stampedee.

Friday's opener will also be the first time new offensive coordinator Kerwin Bell's offense goes up against actual opposition since Bell was hired in January.

A big factor in whether the Bulls will have success offensively will be staying disciplined, according to Bell. In fact, taking too many penalties was one of the few things Strong consistently mentioned after each scrimmage during fall camp.

"They're going to make you earn it," Bell said. "So as a first year offense, you've got to now

put together five, six, seven play drives, and that's going to be a big key for us. How disciplined within that system, seeing different things for the first time on a game situation, how we're going to react, how we're going to make sure that we can continue to keep positive plays back-to-back-to-back-to-back to be able to score."

No matter what happens Friday, it'll happen in front of a near-capacity crowd. USF is nearing a lower bowl sellout, with 10,000 seats total being reserved for students.

While Raymond James Stadium's upper deck will still be closed, if the lower bowl sells out, Friday's announced attendance would be 48,007, which would be a larger crowd than any game USF played last season, home or away, with the exception of Black Friday's War on I-4 game against UCF.

"We're getting right into it, playing a Power Five school," Barnett said. "It's going to be a big stage, big stage, Friday night game, ESPN. It's going to be big time."

The Bulls and Badgers kickoff 7 p.m. on Friday.

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CORRECTIONS

The Oracle will correct or clarify factual errors. Contact Editor in Chief Alyssa Stewart at 974-5190.

AWAY TRIP

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into it than RDU. But it does exist, however impractical it may be.

Driving straight from USF — nine hours each way — may be the best method if you choose to go this game, but that's a lot of driving in a short span of time.

The weather in North Carolina that time of year is typically very pleasant though.

Oct. 5 @ UConn — East Hartford, Conn.

Unless you have family in the area you want to see or stay with, there's little reason to do this trip.

Flights are reasonable in price and Rentschler Field is not far from the airport, which is more than can be said about traveling to the Navy or ECU games.

But what are you going to do in Hartford? The most exciting thing nearby is ESPN, 30 minutes away in Bristol. But the Worldwide Leader doesn't do tours, so it may as well not be there.

If you really want to see USF play an away game against UConn, save it for another sport. At least then you'll get to see a team from UConn that hasn't embarrassed the AAC for the last six years.

Not mentioned: Nov. 29 — @ UCF — Orlando

Do we need to discuss the various transportation methods for this trip? Shall we evaluate how far Orlando International Airport is from UCF's campus?

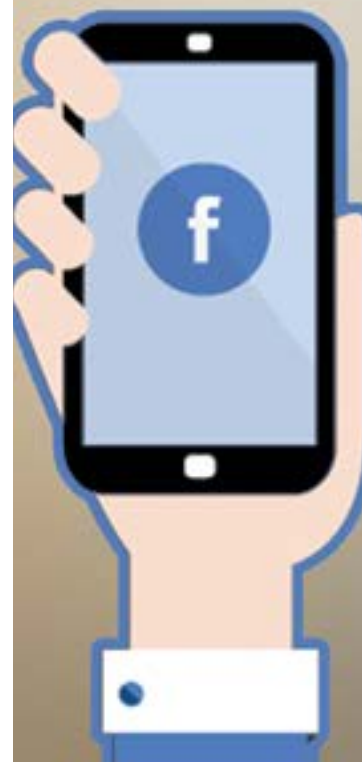
None of that seems necessary here. Just get in your car or find a ride with a friend and drive up I-4 until you hit SR 417. (That's actual advice. Do not take SR 408 from I-4 to UCF.)

With any luck, you'll be there in slightly less than the nine hours it'd take to drive to ECU.

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COMING
THURSDAY

A new flavor for the offensive line



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

When offensive line coach Jeremy Darveau followed Kerwin Bell from Valdosta State to USF, he was given the task of creating an impenetrable wall. With the resources at hand, he had to construct a cohesive unit of five men to protect the line.

Naturally, the offensive line went through intense training together. But Darveau knew that

building chemistry off the field was just as important.

In January, Darveau began the tradition of touring local food spots. Since then, Darveau and his offensive line have feasted at Jerk Hut, Portillo's, Mission BBQ — and, of course, all-you-can-eat restaurants such as Koizi Endless Hibachi & Sushi Eatery and Golden Corral.

"I'll go ahead and give them a shoutout. Koizi is the No. 1 spot," Darveau said. "We've been there two or three times and every time we go it's a two-to-three hour ordeal. I mean, we just can't get out. I'm sure they hate us at this point."

What started as a fun, occasional get-together quickly

turned into an important part of the Bulls' football culture off the field. The Twitter hashtag #FatBoyFridays made it official.

And thus, Fat Boy Friday was born.

"They're fat boys so they love food," Darveau said.

Fraternity through food is the goal Darveau set out to achieve.

"I like just at least every couple of Fridays being able to get together and do some fellowship," Darveau said.

Senior offensive tackle Marcus Norman, who stands at 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 315 pounds, said that the Fat Boy Fridays have done their job of building trust

See **BBQ** on **PAGE 19**



Jeremy Darveau and his offensive line feast at Mission BBQ. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/JEREMY DARVEAU

Narcolepsy



Have you been diagnosed with narcolepsy type 1 (narcolepsy **with** cataplexy)? Are you between the ages of 18-65 years? If so, you may be interested in this clinical research study.

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- ★ Study-related costs included (laboratory tests, study visits, etc.)
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BBQ

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within the ranks of the team.

"We talk, we have good conversations and it builds more of a trust," Norman said. "And overall, it translates on the field. I don't have to worry about 'Does he know what he's doing on this play? Do they know what they're doing?' because I already know their style ... so I have to trust

them."

Regardless of what happens this season, Norman is confident his team will remain a tight-knit group through Fat Boy Fridays.

"It's not just for the fat boys. It's for everybody that wants to gel in with the offensive line," Norman said.

For the offensive line, it was something unprecedented. But for Darveau, it was a no-brainer.

After over seven months of Friday feasts, Darveau has seen noticeable changes in his line.

"Well, I've seen a lot of weight gains," Darveau joked. "It was a tight-knit group when I got here and I think we've only increased upon that ... I'd say we've definitely seen ourselves trust each other more and love each other more."

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