

Meet the candidates

The student body will vote at their respective polling locations across campuses, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or online March 2-5.

Peter Radulovic and Thomas Knudsen

By Devin Perry
NEWS EDITOR

Student body presidential candidate Peter Radulovic and vice presidential candidate Thomas Knudsen are reaching out to students to make sure their voices are the driving force behind initiatives.

Core to their campaign is implementing an "advocacy council," a group comprised of representatives chosen by Radulovic and Knudsen that can act on behalf of students and marginalized groups.

"The council would consist of people

knowledgeable about internal university workings," Radulovic said. "It's not like you just go to Student Government and you can get things done, it's like we'll have people whose job is to personally figure out how to solve your problems."

Knudsen, who was added to the ticket last Sunday, wants to focus on addressing the ongoing traffic issue on campus. A bus initiative was added once Knudsen joined the ticket.

"The absolute main thing that I care about is the bus

See RADULOVIC on PAGE 3



Peter Radulovic.
ORACLE PHOTO



Thomas Knudsen.
ORACLE PHOTO

Trevor Martindale and Darnell Henderson

By Leda Alvim
MANAGING EDITOR

As the only non-Tampa ticket running in this year's presidential election, candidates Trevor Martindale and Darnell Henderson from the St. Pete campus advocate for accessibility and uniformity with their platform "4 All."

With accessibility and uniformity leading their campaign, their platform incorporates four initiatives focused on specific issues across all three campuses, including student success, health, the environment

and consolidation.

Under their "4 Consolidation" initiative, Martindale and Henderson plan on implementing a "trolley system" for students to travel to all three campuses — Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee — free of charge. The initiative would be based on a partnership with a bus company, consequently, leading to more campus resources accessibility, according to Martindale.

"So if we're going to be one USF, we need to have resources available for the

See MARTINDALE on PAGE 3



Trevor Martindale.
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE



Darnell Henderson.
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

Claire Mitchell and Gustavo Spangher

By Alyssa Stewart
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Presidential campaigning for Claire Mitchell could be considered a déjà vu moment. However, for running mate Gustavo Spangher it's an entirely new playing field.

After former presidential candidate Yusuf Fattah withdrew from the election last week, the new ticket started the second week of campaigning by rebuilding their website and initiatives.

As a compromise, the two

decided to create or keep initiatives that they were passionate about and would benefit a consolidated university.

Their new initiatives are outlined in their "Go for G.O.L.D." platform which stands for growth, opportunity, loyalty and development.

This meant other initiatives had to go, like advocating to remove the +/- system on a student's GPA.

"There were so many amazing initiatives that I

See MITCHELL on PAGE 3



Claire Mitchell.
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE



Gustavo Spangher.
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

Kuchari and Hyelampa Thlala Kolo

By Jorgelina Manna-Rea
CORRESPONDENT

For presidential and vice presidential candidates Kuchari and Hyelampa Thlala Kolo, sharing family and status as international students is what sets their campaign apart from the others.

"We've experienced different types of places, so we have a different leadership mentality," said Hyelampa, referring to growing up in Nigeria.

The campaign has six

goals on their platform. Some of these goals stand out from the rest of their platform as well as the other candidates including subsidizing housing, expanding Bulls Media and building a center to house Tedx talks for USF students.

"The price of housing is skyrocketing," said Kuchari. "As student government, we should be able to cut a due or subsidize housing for students on all campuses."

There is also talk by their campaign to create a "USF

See KOLO on PAGE 3



Kuchari Thlala Kolo.
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Hyelampa Thlala Kolo.
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Editor in Chief
Alyssa Stewart
@AlyssaKStewart

Managing Editor
Leda Alvim
@thats.leda

News Editor
Devin Perry

Opinion Editor
Nathaniel Sweet

Sports Editor
Brian Hattab
@BrianHattab33

Copy Editor
Haley Wirth

Staff Writers
Jared Sellick
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Hannah Halili
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Graphic Artists
Aysia Hixenbaugh
Kennedy Murdock

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Kennedy Murdock
Katelyn Williams

BY PHONE

Editor	974-5190
News	974-1888
Advertising	974-2620
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NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020 THE ORACLE

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KOLO

Continued from PAGE 1

Tedx Center.”

“We want students to come together and show how brilliant we are at USF,” said Hyelampa.

They also want to expand Bulls Media so that it is accessible to all three of USF’s campuses — Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee — and elevate it as a medium for students to express themselves.

They want students to be comfortable calling in to discuss concerns and promote events they are involved in on their respective campuses.

The other goals of their campaign include



Hyelampa and Kuchari Thlala Kolo.
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

addressing parking issues, maintaining what each campus’s Student Government (SG) has previously set forth and rewarding the leaders of student organizations for their work.

With all of these goals, the Kolo siblings have kept

consolidation in mind. They intend to be inclusive of USF’s three campuses.

“I want to make sure that the campuses with the smaller population [Sarasota-Manatee and St. Pete] aren’t being starved,” said Kuchari.

MARTINDALE

Continued from PAGE 1

people who may be able to afford cars have a cheap ride to each campus,” Martindale said. “If they’re going to be paying all these extra fees in the future, then they should be able to enjoy it regardless of wherever they are.”

In regard to Student Government (SG) elections, Martindale and Henderson want to work on reshaping the way campaigning works.

Martindale and Henderson plan to implement finance reform by imposing donation caps for presidential and gubernatorial elections. For presidential campaigns, the cap would be a max of \$2,500 while gubernatorial and



Trevor Martindale and Darnell Henderson.
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

senatorial would be \$1,500 and \$500, respectively.

“We want people to not be intimidated and think it’s impossible to attain a position just because they don’t spend like thousands of dollars on their campaign,” Martindale said.

Although both candidates are from St. Pete, Henderson said they hope to create a united front to bring uniformity

and accessibility to all three campuses, especially after consolidation going into effect on July 1.

“Coming from St. Pete, we are a smaller campus and Tampa is the majority, but I do believe that we should come together as a whole and be a united front together, making sure that all campuses have the resources other campuses have,” Henderson said.

MITCHELL

Continued from PAGE 1

was working on with Yusuf that it was really hard to narrow it down to ones I felt strongly about, but we have a limited time in office so we don’t want to have anything on our platform that we can’t follow through on,” Mitchell said.

However, an initiative that the ticket believes is worth expanding is Bulls Country — a service that provides discounts to stores in the local area — so that it’s accessible universitywide.

For example, Spangher said Tampa-based restaurant discounts, such as Grain and Berry



Gustavo Spangher and Claire Mitchell.
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

— located near Bruce B. Downs and Fowler Avenue — are only granted to Tampa students and not St. Pete or Sarasota-Manatee students.

Even given the late campaign start, Spangher said this week has allowed him to catch up.

“The first two days were super stressful for me because I needed to catch up,” Spangher said. “I was watching consolidation and [Student Government] from afar so after I became involved with this, I really had to dig deep and do my research.”

RADULOVIC

Continued from PAGE 1

system and how awful it is at the current moment,” Knudsen said.

He said his plan is to introduce “smarter bus routes.”

“Have you looked at the bus map? It doesn’t make any sense. I’m sure someone tried to think through it, but it doesn’t work at all.”

While buses on campus are a concern for the vice presidential candidate, the presidential candidate is looking at the public transportation systemwide.

“We came up with this intercampus transit exchange system,” Radulovic said. “Essentially, what we’ll have is something like a twice-daily charter bus



Thomas Knudsen and Peter Radulovic.
ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

system that goes around to each campus, one in the morning and one in the evening.”

The initiative would run through partnerships with USF to supply the buses and operations.

Another way they hope to connect with students is by implementing an “engineering commission,” which is a program dedicated to funding ideas students have to fixing issues on campus.

Funded by part of

the existing tech fee students pay per credit hour, Knudsen, a third-year engineering student, proposes block funding, which is allocated funding for specific programs, to entice students’ creativity and innovation on campus.

“[We’d] ask the students how they would like these issues solved, and if you come up with a solution, propose it,” said Knudsen. “If we like it, they can get compensation and build on their portfolios.”



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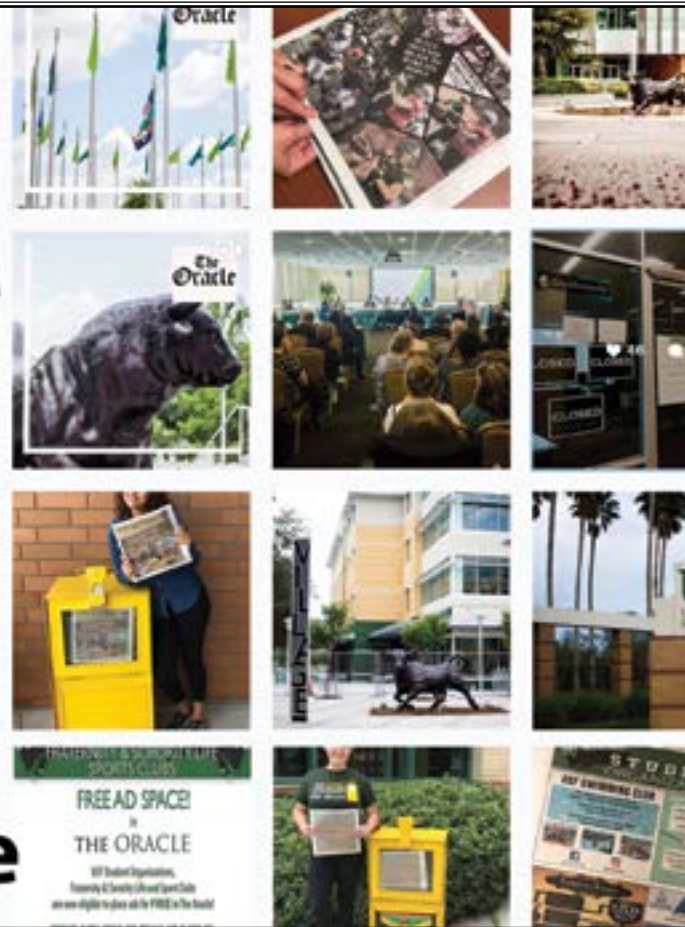
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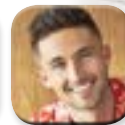
The Oak Ridge Boys
Thu. Feb. 27, 3:30
\$25



Rascal Flatts
Thu. Feb. 27, 7:30
\$51



Tommy James
& The Shondells
Fri. Feb. 28, 3:30 \$25



Michael Ray
Fri. Feb. 28, 7:30
\$35



Roots & Boots-Aaron Tippin, Sammy Kershaw & Collin Raye
Sat. Feb. 29, 3:30
\$30



An Evening with 98°
Sat. Feb. 29, 7:30
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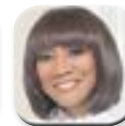
Bobby Bones
& the Raging Idiots
Sun. Mar. 1, 3:30 \$35



REBA McENTIRE
Sun. Mar. 1, 7:30
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Mon. Mar. 2, 3:30
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Mon. Mar. 2, 7:30
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Tue. Mar. 3, 3:30
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Tue. Mar. 3, 7:30
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Thu. Mar. 5, 10:30 FREE



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Thu. Mar. 5, 3:30 \$30



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Thu. Mar. 5, 7:30
\$40



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Fri. Mar. 6, 3:30
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Darci Lynne & Friends:
Fresh Out of the Box Tour
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Sat. Mar. 7, 3:30
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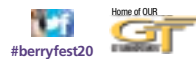
Charlie Wilson
Sat. Mar. 7, 7:30
\$45



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\$35



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Sun. Mar. 8, 7:30
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SG presidential debate features shallow questions and conflicts of interest



Nathaniel Sweet

OPINION EDITOR

On Feb. 24, students got their first and last formal chance to hear from the Student Government (SG) presidential candidates.

The SG presidential debate was the first in which candidates from the entire USF system came head to head. It was also the only debate for the entire election cycle — in recent years, SG had held at least two.

The diversity of the candidates on stage was unprecedented. Among the eight candidates for president or vice president, four had never served in SG before. Three were international students and two were from the St. Pete campus.

One ticket even saw a sudden shake-up. Former presidential candidate Yusuf Fattah dropped out, Claire Mitchell took Fattah's place and Gustavo Spangher stepped up to run as Mitchell's vice president.

The combination of international versus domestic, Tampa versus St. Pete, and SG insiders versus outsiders could have led to a lively and productive debate about critical issues facing USF students, especially with consolidation around the corner.

Instead, candidates were fielded softball questions and



When substantive issues entered the equation, questions were vague and repetitive. **ORACLE PHOTO**

were offered few opportunities to interact.

The first 30 minutes were exclusively personal questions, covering their regrets, weaknesses and conflict-resolution styles. These are great things to ask during a job interview, but with limited time and bigger topics at hand, they felt like a waste.

When substantive issues entered the equation, questions were vague and repetitive. Candidates were asked multiple times how they would balance the needs of different campuses, without any specifics on where that balancing act might be needed.

Meanwhile, distributing funds from the Activity and Service Fee — the key function of SG and a major question mark going into consolidation — was only mentioned once, by Darnell Henderson from the St. Pete campus.

While it's not clear exactly why the questions were structured this way, one possible reason is the choice of moderators. Rather than a neutral outside actor, SG selected each of the student body presidents from Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee to

moderate the debate.

This choice had obvious symbolic value — all three SGs coming together under one roof. Unfortunately, it also opened the door for clear conflicts of interest.

With four of the candidates having served in SG, some could've had personal and professional relationships with the moderators. Those relationships create the possibility for bias in the Q&A process.

Those conflicts might have been even worse if Fattah hadn't dropped out, considering his position in the Executive Branch. He serves as the Tampa campus's Chief Financial Officer, a direct subordinate of Student Body President Britney Deas.

It's worth mentioning that there wasn't any apparent favoritism during the event, but even introducing the possibility is ill-advised.

Overall, this debate was a poor showing on SG's part. Both the candidates and the students deserved better.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

Rubio's evolution on climate offers change in GOP



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

On Feb. 7, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) announced he would join the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus.

This move signifies a change in approach to environmental issues in some parts of the GOP. With luck, real climate action can come out of this caucus, created last October.

The caucus consists of six Republicans, five Democrats and one Independent, including known moderates like Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE).

The caucus was founded to create a bipartisan dialogue about climate change and aims to pass legislation that'll tackle the threatening issue of climate change.

This change from Rubio is curious considering his past comments on climate change.

"There is a lot of debate about the causes and what percentage of it is due to human activity versus something else," he said during an August 2019 CBS interview and has often been critical of "climate alarmism."

However, after joining the caucus he released a statement with a different tone.

"Changes in our climate, such as the rise of sea levels,

are measurable facts," he said. "Many communities in Florida are already dealing with the consequences of these changes and will have to adapt to and mitigate against their impact for decades to come."

Rather than seeing climate solutions as a hindrance to the economy, Rubio should continue to learn about the ways in which the Florida economy can expand with green jobs.

The solar industry alone generated \$17 billion in the US economy in 2018. Florida would be wise to ensure that some of those future jobs are created in the Sunshine State.

If GOP senators are moving in a new direction when it comes to dependence on fossil fuels, they'll be facing an uphill battle. An analysis from the Center for American Progress found that 60 percent of Republican congresspeople are skeptical about climate change.

They also have financial incentives to be skeptical. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, a research group that tracks money in U.S. politics, oil and gas industries contributed an average of \$61,200 to each Republican congressperson in the 2018 election cycle alone.

Rubio should work with this new caucus to advocate for reform in the Republican Party to support green energy initiatives.

Jared Sellick is a senior studying political science.

INJURIES

Continued from **PAGE 8**

Mihaela Lazic and Maria Alvarez have gone down for the season, while sophomore point guard Elisa Pinzan, junior forward Bethy Mununga and freshman wing Kristyna Brabencova have all missed multiple games due to injury — Pinzan and Mununga going down in the same game, even (Dec. 6 vs. Alabama State).

"You definitely look at those first five games, and we're definitely not the team that we were, but throughout the year, you just have to evolve," Fernandez said. "Definitely, it's not like what we went through last year. But it's getting close to it."

It's actually eerily close. Four Bulls were lost for the season last

wing Luize Septe transferred for similar reasons prior to the Dec. 30 game against Brown.

As terrible an ordeal as last season was, it might have mitigated the damage this year.

Despite a rough nonconference stretch that saw USF win zero games away from Tampa until Jan. 16 at Temple, the Bulls are sitting at 17 wins with two games to play in the regular season, plus the conference tournament and a potential WNIT bid looming.

"As bad as it was at the time, it still helped us for this year, because a lot of guys got good minutes that we usually don't get," junior center Shae Leverett said. "Having that time and actually working on what we need to work on and then being able to bring the freshmen and help them out, that really helped



From left to right: Silvia Serrat, Maria Alvarez, Kristyna Brabencova and Mihaela Lazic. Alvarez and Lazic are out for the season, Serrat has medically retired, while Brabencova has missed playing time as well. **ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB**

year, with the final being senior wing Laura Ferreira before the UCF game Jan. 8. Three players are out for the year, with the most recent, Alvarez, coming Jan. 5, three days shy of the one-year anniversary of the first game the Bulls played without Ferreira.

In another similarity, sophomore guard Vanessa Blagmon requested her release days before last season tipped off due to a lack of playing time, or at least a concern of such in the preseason. Sophomore

us.

"So it was a positive and a negative."

The Bulls clearly managed to navigate through worse last year. They've been able to do it this year as well.

"Same like it was last year. All we have is all we need," Leverett said. "We're going to just keep pushing no matter what. If we've only got eight people to dress out, we're going to give our best and do our hardest we can with eight people no matter what."

MBB

Continued from **PAGE 8**

today," Gregory said. "There was a couple of things today — we make some hustle plays and get some loose balls and falling out of bounds or kick it out and they get it. I was sitting there saying, 'Can we catch a break right now?'"

Perhaps the time USF (12-15, 5-10) needed one of those breaks the most was midway through the first half. A 1-of-8 stretch from the field turned what was a 14-11 USF lead into a 25-16 ECU lead.

Gregory called timeout, and after the ensuing break, the Bulls went on a 14-4 run, cutting the deficit to one.

"Basically, [Gregory said] we just had to pick up the intensity," junior guard Justin Brown said, "play harder on the defensive end. Don't let our shots on offense show themselves on defense. If we miss a shot on offense, we can't go back down and have a bad defensive possession. He just kept engraving that in our mind.

"We know what we can do, we know what we're capable of. We've had a lost season so far and we just keep pushing. We don't quit."

Prior to the timeout, USF was shooting 27 percent (6-of-22). The Bulls finished the half 4-of-10 and 23-of-61 (38 percent) for the game.

Ultimately, the teams traded blows: There were 10 lead changes, with neither team leading for more than 20 minutes. But ECU started to pull away toward the end of regulation, leading by as many as seven with under six minutes to play.

But the Bulls did what they weren't able to do last week against Wichita State and UConn and kept up with the Pirates. USF went on a 9-2 run, tying the game at 57.

"Out of the 80 minutes last week, the only time I think we didn't play good against Wichita State was the last five minutes,"

Gregory said. "Against UConn, probably the last seven minutes. ... We got the same looks in overtime that we did previous, in regulation, in overtime. ... We've just got to keep producing good shots and just got to keep believing that they're going to go in."

USF also effectively shut down ECU's leading scorer in the first half. Sophomore forward Jayden Gardner, who finished with a game-high 19 points, only scored four during the first 20 minutes.

"The one thing that we were able to do, we turned him into more of a perimeter player," Gregory said. "And because he was on the perimeter, he didn't get any offensive rebounds. And he's good enough, he's still going to get 19 on you, but we forced him into 15 shots and we forced him into three turnovers. ... But he's going to get 20, we just had to make him work."

Most notably, the Bulls were 4-of-25 in regulation from 3-point range, but shot 3-of-5 during overtime, including what ultimately proved to be the game-winner from Brown with just over 2:30 remaining. Sophomore guard Xavier Castaneda and senior guard Laquincy Rideau also hit 3s, with Rideau's icing the game with 18 seconds left.

Ultimately, despite the poor shooting in the first half, four Bulls finished in double figures: Brown (18), sophomore forward Michael Durr (15), Rideau (14), and junior guard David Collins (11). Brown also had four of the Bulls' seven 3-pointers.

Gregory is hopeful the shots that fell late in the game and in overtime can buy the Bulls some momentum.

"Hopefully it builds a little confidence," Gregory said. "In the UConn game (on Sunday), our offensive efficiency was off the chart. ... So I didn't expect to come in here at home and not shoot as well."

InBrief

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(Senior Night)
Yuengling Center

Softball

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Rutgers - Fri 2 p.m.

Texas A&M CC - Fri 4:30
p.m.

Syracuse - Sat 11:30 a.m.

TBD - Sat 4:30 p.m.

TBD - Sun 11:30 a.m.

USF Softball Stadium

Men's Soccer
Tampa Bay Rowdies

Friday 7:30 p.m.
Corbett Stadium

Baseball
Northwestern

Friday 7 p.m.
Saturday 6:30 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m.
USF Baseball Stadium

InBrief

Wilcox receives combine numbers

Mitchell Wilcox has his measurements.

The former USF tight end, who has been projected to be a mid-to-late round selection in April's NFL Draft, checked in at 6 foot 3 inches and weighed 247



Mitchell Wilcox
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/
USF ATHLETICS

pounds at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis.

The Tarpon Springs native, who told the Tampa Bay Times on Tuesday that he believes his decrease in targets didn't help his draft potential, was rated a 5.5 prospect by NFL.com. In other words, Wilcox has a "chance to make [the] end of [a] roster or practice squad."

Wilcox's listed strengths include blocking and catching with "some toughness" and being "above-average as a ball tracker," while his weaknesses are having "very small hands for his size" and needing to get stronger for "in-line duties" in professional football.

Tight ends, along with quarterbacks and wide receivers, work out at the NFL Combine on Thursday, which will air at 4 p.m. on NFL Network.

Men's Basketball



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

Coach Brian Gregory said Tuesday the Bulls didn't play complete, 40-minute games in their two losses last week.

It's debatable if they did Wednesday night against East Carolina (11-18, 5-11) at the Yuengling Center, but it was more than enough to put up a 73-68 overtime win.

"It's funny. There were stretches where we played better in both those games than we did

Bulls battle with ECU in OT win



Justin Brown finished with a team-high 18 points in USF's overtime victory over ECU on Wednesday night. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/USF ATHLETICS

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Women's Basketball

Powering through another injury-filled season



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

It was late in the third quarter of what became an 88-39 blowout of Bethune-Cookman on Nov. 15, 2018.

Senior wing Kitija Laksa went down awkwardly trying to reach a transition pass — and stayed down.

You could hear a pin drop in the newly renamed Yuengling

Center for the minutes — which felt like hours — the preseason All-American candidate was lying near the baseline until she eventually was helped off the court.

Laksa missed the rest of the season, and her injury basically spelled the end of the then-No. 21 Bulls' NCAA Tournament hopes. Not because of how significant her loss was — though it was — but because it was the first of many more that led to USF suiting up as few as eight players most nights during conference play.

But the Bulls still won 19 games and made it to the second round of the WNIT. Laksa declined

a medical redshirt for a fifth year, but coach Jose Fernandez put together arguably the best recruiting class in his two-decade tenure and had his team "reloaded," as he tweeted over the summer.

Big things were expected, too. The Bulls received votes in both the AP and Coaches preseason polls and were picked to finish second in the AAC, behind usual favorite UConn.

Things were going well, even. The Bulls pulled off an upset of No. 15 Texas in the second game of the season and effectively took No. 2 Baylor to the wire in the fifth. USF cracked the top 25 in both polls after the Texas win

and stayed in them for several weeks.

But it happened again.

Sophomore guard Sydny Harvey missed the first 10 games due to an undisclosed injury and redshirt sophomore forward Silvia Serrat went down with another lower body injury after missing all of 2017-18 and 2018-19 for similar reasons.

All that happened before the season. Harvey eventually returned and has started 12 of the 18 games she's played in. Serrat medically retired earlier this month due to the constant injuries.

Since then, freshmen guards

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