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FALL 2021

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USF health experts, students wary of return to campus during new wave

By Isabella Rabadi
CORRESPONDENT

USF Health experts predict the peak of COVID-19 cases caused by the delta variant is approaching, however, despite the inevitable downward slope that will follow, some believe the impact will be bigger than previous waves.

From his research, Edwin Michael, an epidemiologist at USF Health has predicted Florida will reach its peak in cases by the end of August, but as more people get vaccinated, the cases will begin to drop by mid October.

“There will be a peak around Aug. 31, but then it will begin to decline,” said Michael. “By the middle of October, we will have gotten closer to herd immunity and, by the end of December, this new wave of the pandemic will end.”

Professor from the College of Public Health Jill Roberts also predicted there will be an intense increase in not only the number of cases, but also an increase in the overall impact of the virus due to a lack of urgency in the nation’s initial response to the delta variant.

“I think we should have turned back to the prevention guidelines we used in 2020 weeks ago and it’s probably too late,” she said. “So, what’s going to happen at this point is the delta variant is going to rage badly. It’s going to peak very high, at which point it will do a significant amount of damage in terms of hospitalizations, deaths and even economic impact.”

Roberts said the likelihood of potential outbreaks on campus happening is based on how each individual person handles the situation.

“It’s hard to tell if there will be any outbreaks because it all depends on how serious people take the spread of the delta variant when they get back to campus and what personal precautions each person takes,” said Roberts.

One of the major risks of returning to campus this fall, according to Roberts, is dealing with students who may potentially get infected with the delta variant since the university is not allowing students to quarantine.

“USF does not have the capacity to quarantine this fall since we do not have the space,” said Roberts. “If a student ends up getting exposed to another infected person they are going to have to quarantine off campus, which is going to be extremely difficult for out-of-state students.”

The university will not accommodate any students who test positive in an isolation hall, Assistant Vice President of Housing and Residential Education Ana Hernandez said during a town hall Aug. 10. Students with a positive COVID-19 test will have to make their own arrangements and bear the costs of isolation off campus.

If the student is vaccinated, however, Hernandez said they won’t be required to quarantine.

“At this time, the guidance



With the delta variant spreading and making Florida the epicenter for the pandemic, USF health experts and students weighed in on how they want the school to prepare as students return to campus in the fall. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

may change, but if they are unvaccinated and exposed, then they would be required to quarantine,” she said. “Quarantining would require the student to leave campus and that’s whether they are a residential student or a nonresidential student, they would not be permitted on campus and the dining halls ... so they will be it will be up to them to make those arrangements for an off-campus location to fulfill the up to 10 days of that quarantine period.”

Despite the rising numbers in COVID-19 cases across the state, USF’s plans to reopen at

full capacity remain in place, with face masks no longer a requirement and classrooms without social distancing.

If an outbreak of cases were to occur, Dean of the College of Public Health Donna Petersen said classes would be shifted online temporarily until all students and faculty were cleared to return. She said faculty has been advised to be prepared to shift to online instruction at any moment in the semester.

“In every case, our intention is that it would be temporary,” Petersen said. “We are not looking to say the whole fall will

be online. We’re not looking to empty out the residence halls, we’re not going to do what we did in March of 2020. We know more now, we have more tools [and] a proportion of our student body has gotten the vaccine ... so, that just means we have different parts of the puzzle that we can work with, but the faculty have been working on this and preparing.”

Michael Teng, associate dean of internal medicine at the Morsani College of Medicine, believes USF administrators are in a difficult position as they are limited on what they are able to

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'This will be a difficult time:' Faculty set expectations for future president

By Dylan Cohen
CORRESPONDENT

Following former USF President Steven Currall's unexpected resignation July 19, faculty and staff have certain expectations for what they hope his eventual permanent successor will accomplish.

Former Chair of the USF Board of Trustees (BOT) Rhea Law's appointment was approved by the BOT on Aug. 2 to serve as interim president, with no plans to take on the permanent role. Throughout the year, the BOT and Law will be searching for a replacement for the position alongside search firms and committees which have yet to be selected.

The presidential search committee will be led by BOT Vice Chairperson Mike Griffin, who will begin creating a firm for a full-scale national search to identify Law's potential successor.

Alongside Griffin, regional chancellors of the St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee campuses Martin Tadlock and Karen Holbrook, Interim Vice President of institutional equity Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman and Chief Human Resources Officer Angela Sklenka will also join the search committee to find USF's 8th president.

Faculty Senate President Timothy Boaz said the BOT faces a few hurdles within the presidential search due to the timing of the announcement and current climate of the university.

"We have some challenges to deal with, somewhat more than you might see at other universities," said Boaz. "We're still evolving in consolidation, and we've just gone through extensive review of our budget in

addition to the pandemic."

Due to these factors, Boaz said the board will be searching for a person who can deal with these added challenges on top of the expected responsibilities of a university president.

"We have pretty high aspirations [for the eventual president] at USF," said Boaz. "We need a new president who has proven experience in higher education and is familiar with what it takes to be in those positions and understands the infrastructure of the university."

Faculty, such as professor of Russian studies Victor Peppard, want the new president to resist pressures from the state government to ease up on COVID-19 policies and guidelines, as well as facilitate more transparent discussions between faculty and USF administration regarding these changes.

"All over the country, universities and colleges are mandating, not suggesting, vaccines and masks," said Peppard. "This is a very serious situation. [The delta variant] is so transmissible and there's no reason why we should be exposed to it at this level when we have already proven remote learning to be a viable alternative."

For Peppard, the president should also be someone with a strong will and who's aided by science, health and safety guidelines.

"The [COVID-19] guidelines that we have right now are certainly not adequate," said Peppard. "This is a major crisis that requires more action than what we currently have."

The main priority of continuing USF's climb up the college rankings should be



As Interim President Rhea Law and the BOT begin their search for a new university president, some faculty feel the choice will be difficult with the current climate the university is in. **ORACLE PHOTO**

placed on hold until the current situation regarding COVID-19 guidelines is adequately solved, according to Peppard.

Kevin Hawley, instructor in the Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications, similarly stated his belief that this period of presidential shifting will be a challenging one for the university.

Law's presidential introduction video stated she's focused on retaining the "upward momentum" of the university, which Hawley believes is a good endeavor. However, he also feels Law will have to do some "damage control" as a short-term goal to repair the reputation of the university to the USF community as well as politicians in Tallahassee.

"I think this will be a difficult time," said Hawley. "The last president was hired after a high-profile national search, and he would be known as the guy to

continue our momentum and upward trajectory, and he didn't last two years."

While Currall's official resignation announcement claimed the reasoning behind his decision was due to health reasons and to spend more time with his family, Hawley said Currall's short tenure might make any potential replacements wary.

"We had the best candidate pool we were going to get when Currall was hired," said Hawley. "We might not get the same kind of qualified people this time around."

"It says something about the position, that this highly qualified person was in the role for only two years. I think that Interim President Law is going to have to do some kind of autopsy on what exactly happened that may have led to his resignation."

Peppard said he thinks the new president should negotiate with the Board of Governors, as

he believes it isn't giving Florida universities, including USF, enough autonomy on how to deliver instruction in the face of the delta variant, which has caused cases in Florida to be at an all-time high.

"I believe a president has to make some potentially unpopular decisions when they see what they're being told to do is fundamentally wrong and potentially dangerous," said Peppard. "That's what leadership is about."

With pandemic guidelines, budget cuts and consolidation efforts to worry about, Boaz said the new president

"I think we have to do a very good job with this search and make a good, solid hire to continue on the trajectory we want to be on," said Boaz. "Every presidential search is important, but this one feels even more so."

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Please, wear a mask this fall

By Marcelene Pilcher
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 21-175 on July 30 that bans schools from enforcing mask mandates, despite the recent surge in COVID-19 cases caused by the delta variant.

COVID-19 hospitalizations in Florida have reached a record high. New cases have increased almost eightfold during the month of July and have more than doubled in the past three weeks, federal data shows, from a surge in cases brought on by the delta variant.

With USF returning to in-person classes for the fall, the delta variant remains a looming threat for the health of students and faculty, aggravated by a decrease in immunizations, lax mask usage and poor implementation of social distancing. Observing these safety guidelines is crucial to stomping out the pandemic.

This recent mutation has hit Hillsborough County hard, with weekly case averages increasing from 110 in late June to over 1600 this past week.

Some are still skeptical of the vaccine, with less than 50% of Hillsborough County's population vaccinated. Parts of the USF population also may not be wearing masks come Monday, which could exacerbate COVID-19 levels combined with the low levels of vaccinated residents.

A recent social media poll from the USF subreddit showed 21%, or over 200 of the nearly 1,000 USF students polled, weren't planning to wear masks on campus.

Florida, which has a



Members of the USF community need to get vaccinated and wear masks if we are to achieve herd immunity and move on from this pandemic. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

vaccination rate of 52%, has recorded 600,000 new cases in the past month (a record high). New York, with a comparable population and a vaccination rate of 58%, reported only 97,000 cases for the same period of time.

As such, immunizations are crucial to ending the spread, and USF students need to continue to get vaccinated and wear masks to more quickly achieve herd immunity, according to USF epidemiologist Edwin Michael.

"You're not out of the woods, because anytime people drop their guard we are further from herd immunity with [mutations like] the delta variant," said Michael.

"We are calculating that around 90% of people need to be immune to get herd immunity. In Florida, we are about 75% immune as a result of vaccinations and naturally

through infection. Another 15% needs to be vaccinated. If vaccination immunity was generated long term, then this could be the last significant wave, and we will see the back of this pandemic early next year."

USF makes it easy for students to do their part, offering free vaccinations to students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Argos Study Lounge. The university has also encouraged students to wear masks on campus, according to an Aug. 13 universitywide email.

The end of the pandemic is in sight, and USF students and faculty can do their part to stomp out the pandemic by taking these precautionary measures while on campus this fall.

Marcelene Pilcher is a sophomore studying mass communications.

USF should defy DeSantis, mandate masks and vaccine passports

By Brielle Lopez
CORRESPONDENT

Norwegian Gem was the first cruise to directly challenge Gov. Ron DeSantis' vaccine passport ban and win Aug. 8, setting a precedent not only for future cruise lines, but all Florida institutions restricted by ridiculous legal actions from the governor.

This could rightfully pave the way for other institutions, like USF, to prioritize the safety of its population by ensuring attendees to large events be fully vaccinated or wear masks, such as Week of Welcome events, college football games and Homecoming festivities.

On May 3, the vaccine passport ban SB 2006 was officially signed and enacted by DeSantis, which he said was to prevent unequal treatment of vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers. To enforce this upon institutions, offenders could be fined up to \$5,000 per violation, or for every person that has their vaccine card checked.

Judge Kathleen Williams, who presided over the case, wrote in a 60-page ruling Florida failed to "provide a valid evidentiary, factual or legal predicate" that would constitute prohibiting proof of vaccinations.

USF currently is unable to require or enforce masks because of Executive Order 21-175 that prohibits mask mandates at public institutions. The university opted to say students and faculty are "expected" to

wear one instead, according to an Aug. 13 universitywide email.

However, with the new variants such as delta emerging, USF and other institutions should use this ruling from Norwegian Gem as an opportunity. Winning such a case against the state of Florida is a huge win for the cruise line, and it will undoubtedly set a precedent for upcoming legal battles.

Broward and Alachua County Schools are already defying the executive order and requiring masks in K-12 classrooms with verbal support from President Joe Biden. He called Broward Interim Superintendent Vickie Cartwright on Aug. 13 and offered financial resources to her county if DeSantis withholds funding, according to the Miami Herald.

USF could also consider defying the order and force a mask mandate or force vaccine passports to be required for certain events if Biden takes action to support Florida public schools.

The university should either defy the executive order or take the state of Florida to court to ensure students can safely enjoy festivities the upcoming fall semester has in store for them.

Brielle Lopez is a senior studying English.

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'The sky's the limit:' Interim President Rhea Law sees bright future for USF

Editor in Chief of The Oracle Leda Alvim sat down virtually with USF Interim President Rhea Law to discuss her new role as head of the university, her goals moving forward and who she hopes will take her place permanently to lead USF.



How has the past few weeks been in this new role?

Well, it's been very busy. We have a lot of the issues that are ongoing right now, but we have such tremendous promise and opportunity. And so all I can say is, go Bulls.

What went through your mind the moment you accepted the job of interim president?

Well, my first thought when asked is, "Am I the best person to do this?" Because USF deserves to have the very best that we can put forth.

I guess I'm blessed that [Board of Trustees Chair] Will Weatherford had enough faith and the Board of Trustees

unanimously selected me. So I'm honored, I'm truly humbled. And I will just try my hardest to do what we need to do to keep up our trajectory, to keep up our momentum, and really bring the university to the highest level that we possibly can.

With all your previous leadership roles, have you ever thought you would be taking such a big role of leading a university?

It would never have even crossed my mind.

What are some priorities you hope to have during your time in office?

Well, my focus is on enabling

those that are here in the university so that they can absolutely do their very best work. My focus is on preparing for the new president, whoever he or she might be, to create a glide path so that when they get here to the university, they can hit the ground running and be able to immediately move forward. A lot of my thoughts now are around preparing the glide path.

What are some of your hopes and expectations for the fall semester?

Well, my hope is ... that there will be a dramatic decrease [in COVID-19 infections], and that that will come sooner as opposed to later in COVID infections. And if that's true, we can quickly return to a normal student experience.

Our classes are prepared to proceed, our graduations are prepared to proceed along the lines that they were originally proposed with some modifications. We're looking to make this a wonderful experience for our students ... and an opportunity for future growth in research and other activities. We're looking for athletes to be able to return to a regular schedule, and we're looking to celebrate the fact that we're back together again. I mean, it's been a while and I think it's joyous when we can finally pull everybody together and celebrate the educational process.

Within your leadership,

what would you say are some values that describe you?

Well, I'm very collaborative, and that's been a trait of mine, no matter what business or organization I might be a part of. And I think hopefully, that will be beneficial to the university community as a whole as we start to move together. I think that the whole is much better than the sum of the parts. If we act in concert with each other, we win, and I like to win.

What are some of the pressing issues that you would like to address during this time in office?

There's a lot of things that were already in the works and I will just continue to move those initiatives forward. I am not here to change direction, or to make any abrupt changes, but rather, those things that need to be pushed forward, we can't just stop and wait for a permanent president, we have to be able to move forward efficiently and effectively and put those plans in place and make sure that we don't lose anything in the transition.

What are some of the things you've learned from the challenges posed by COVID-19 that you attributed to your life?

I would say that one of the things that I have seen through COVID is how resilient we are. We can move quickly, we can be efficient, we can pivot quickly, we can be innovative, we can

identify solutions to problems that we might not have thought of otherwise. But COVID has taught us that, and that's a lesson that we can take forward and use it in the things that we seek to do in the future and the goals that we set for ourselves.

What message would you send to the incoming freshmen that are being on campus for the first time as well as other classes that have never stepped foot on campus?

Welcome to USF. We care about you, we want you to have the educational experience that will benefit you moving forward in your life. We look forward to having more interpersonal connections, instead of buying masks, but we're going to wait for that until it's safe. And once it's safe, we will all celebrate together.

As we go into the search for a new president, what qualities do you hope that he or she would have?

I'm looking for somebody who's excited about USF. Somebody who really sees the potential, who wants to roll up their sleeves, come to this university and really focus on what we can do together. I think the sky's the limit. We are an urban university, we have all of the components [and] we have a supportive community. It's time to move, it's time to show the fact that we can be at the very top of the educational game.

DELTA

Continued from **PAGE 4**

say and do.

“The university administration is in a tough position as they do not want to explicitly say something that would be counter to the guidance that we got from the Board of Governors,” said Teng. “On top of that, the Board of Governors in turn was pretty careful about not saying anything explicitly contradicting the governor.”

Teng said the statewide policies put in place by Gov. Ron DeSantis are diminishing the importance of the state’s public health, which provides university administrators with few options to ensure the safety of students and faculty.

“The administrators are, in a way, hamstrung by policies that have nothing to do with public health, and with that in mind, I think they’re doing the best they can,” said Teng.

As the delta variant made its way to Florida, cases started rising at staggering rates, with 100,000 cases in Florida the week of July 30, according to the Florida Department of Health. In response, DeSantis issued an executive order July 30 to ban mask mandates and threatened to defund schools that refuse to follow this order.

Director of the Center for Leadership in Public Health Practice Marissa Levine questioned DeSantis’ executive order as she believes it is counterproductive to fighting a pandemic.

“I don’t understand the rigidity of Gov. DeSantis’ approach because a pandemic is a continuously evolving situation that requires us to adapt with it,” said Levine. “If a leader’s policies result in more people getting sick and dying, then you really should rethink them.”

Amid DeSantis’ recent decisions regarding the



While the university can’t mandate masks, it’s expecting students to wear masks and practice other mitigation measures to stop the spread of the delta variant of COVID-19. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

pandemic, Roberts addressed how the pandemic is not a political issue, rather a public health issue that needs to be dealt with as such.

“No matter what the political environment is, the virus does not care,” said Roberts. “We have to take the strong line against it as a united front or we will simply continue to get overwhelmed and face the detrimental consequences.”

In contrast with previous semesters, masks are no longer required but will be “expected” across campuses. Roberts said because of this, USF is putting its trust in students and faculty with the hopes they will follow health guidelines to protect themselves and others.

“We can’t legally make people use masks because universities cannot make laws. So what we’re doing is appealing to the intelligence of our students and

hope they will read between the lines and see that this is the safest thing for you to do that is both socially responsible and a way to protect yourself,” said Roberts.

Petersen said the expectation is set, and the university will continue to push for a larger portion of the student population to get vaccinated as a way to prevent the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases.

“So we’re going forward with our class schedule as posted, we’re going forward with our events, but we are making clear what we expect for the health and safety of the entire university community,” she said. “We urge people to get a vaccine and we expect people to wear a mask.”

With vaccines readily available across campus and the state, Levine said there’s a chance the spread of the delta variant can be limited. However, according to Levine, outbreaks of COVID-19

cases are still possible as students return to full in-person classes.

“I think there is a really good opportunity to control the delta variant because everybody on campus is potentially eligible to be vaccinated,” said Levine. “But do not forget, although we have vaccinations, we do not have mitigation efforts in place, which could lead to outbreaks on campus.”

Michael said he doesn’t foresee any major outbreaks occurring on campus due to the fact that the majority of those who are getting sick are unvaccinated.

“If you look at the vaccination rates alongside the new cases, about or less than 5% of those infected are among the vaccinated. This then means that around 95% of those infected are those who are unvaccinated,” said Michael. “So it is very clear that it is those who are unvaccinated that are driving this resurgence.”

Teng continues to encourage those who have not gotten vaccinated to do so and to also continue adhering to previous mitigation measures in order to decrease the number of cases of the delta variant and to protect the USF community.

“It is honestly just really important that people get vaccinated so we can work as a team to block transmission,” said Teng. “If you are already vaccinated or have just now decided to do so, it is crucial that you still wear your masks and physically distance in order to stop the spread.” a

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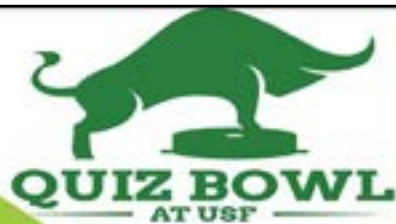
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Quarterback options for Bulls as Week 1 approaches

By Richard Silva

SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The USF football program is set to kick off its 25th season Sept. 2 against NC State, and time is running out for second-year coach Jeff Scott and company to make a decision on who will be the team's starting quarterback come kickoff against the Wolfpack.

Out of the five quarterbacks currently on the roster, four appear to be in the running for the starting spot. Those four include freshman Timmy McClain, sophomores Katravis Marsh and Jarren Williams and junior Cade Fortin.

As it currently stands, Fortin appears to be the favorite based on comments made by Scott about the quarterback throughout spring practice and fall camp. Scott also said in a press conference March 9 "Cade and Jarren have been going back and forth with the ones and twos," in practice.

Marsh and Fortin are returning to the team from last season, while McClain and Williams are both in their first years within the program. McClain is a true freshman coming to the Bulls from Seminole High School in Florida, and Williams is transferring in after spending two years at Miami.

As of an Aug. 21 press conference, Scott said he hasn't named the starting quarterback to his team yet, but will look to do so soon.

"I have not named a quarterback to the team yet, that's something that we'll be talking about here over this weekend,"



Quarterback Cade Fortin (above) is one of four quarterbacks jockeying for the starting gig in 2021.

USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

Scott said Saturday. "Really, I wanted to finalize fall camp, and tomorrow we will, with our meetings and evaluations and all that. As we kind of turn the page to NC State on Monday I'll visit with coaches and decide how we want to do that moving forward.

"We're not going to be trying to trick anybody or create any suspense, we've got a lot of other things to worry about, but as soon as we do name a starter I'll be more than happy to do that publicly and move on. I don't think it's going to be a big deal or a big surprise."

Looking to bounce back after a disappointing 1-8 season in 2020, selecting the right starting quarterback will be imperative. Here is a breakdown of the four players competing for the starting job.

Cade Fortin

Fortin, who transferred to

USF from UNC last offseason, is heading into his second year within the program.

In a very limited sample, he appeared in two games in 2020 where he went 4-of-8 throwing the ball for 39 yards to go along with no touchdowns and no interceptions. He also ran for an additional 39 yards on the ground.

In his second appearance, however, where most of the aforementioned production came from, Fortin sustained a shoulder injury that effectively ended his season, as he never saw the field again in 2020.

Throughout spring practices and into fall camp, Fortin has drawn rave reviews from Scott, citing his progression from last year. One potential reason for that improvement is Fortin's familiarity with the offense, which he discussed in an Aug. 10 press conference.

"It's great having the whole

offseason [to train in the same offense]," Fortin said. "It's funny, probably since my junior year of high school, this is the first time I've had the same offense in back-to-back years. So I've had a different coach, or going into college, having a different scheme, learning different terminologies, working with different coaches, working with different players.

"So, it's definitely been great for me through the offseason, just working with the guys, working with the same scheme and kind of getting my second year to work with coach [Charlie Weis Jr.] and some of the players we've got out here. It's definitely helped me develop a lot of confidence."

Jarren Williams

Williams, a former Miami Hurricane, transferred into USF this offseason after spending

two years at the "U." He also had a brief stint in junior college between his time at Miami and USF where he saw no on-field action due to the season being canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Out of all the quarterbacks currently competing for the starting role, Williams is by far the most statistically accomplished.

At Miami in 2019, he appeared in 12 games and started the majority of contests for the Hurricanes. By season's end, he was 169-of-276 throwing the ball for 2,187 passing yards and 19 touchdowns, along with seven interceptions.

Since it's Williams' first year in the offense, he may have to work a little harder to grasp the system and get on par with his peers. Williams said, however, he felt pretty good with the scheme back in the spring, and getting mistakes out of his game was about improving physically.

"I felt like in spring I was getting [the offense] pretty good," Williams said. "In film meetings I had a couple mistakes out there on the field, and that was just me cleaning up my mechanics, being able to make the throws and being accurate, also getting my weight down. I came in at 240 [pounds], now I'm down to 210, so just being able to move better in the pocket and be able to make those throws."

Katravis Marsh

Along with Fortin, Marsh is returning to the program for his

QUARTERBACKS

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second season.

The 6-foot-5-inch signal caller appeared in four games in 2020, starting one, where he went 14-of-31 for 92 passing yards and three interceptions.

All of those interceptions came against Cincinnati, which was his lone start on the season.

Although appearing to be raw during his freshman season, Marsh's big-time arm strength has been something Scott has gushed about previously, and fans got a chance to see it on full display during this year's spring game.

Marsh connected with senior receiver Bryce Miller on a 67-yard dime and sophomore receiver Garret Reynolds hauled in a 48-yard pass as well.

Although he struggled in his start against the Bearcats, Marsh said the experience taught him a valuable lesson about how he has to prepare for the college game.

"I think I could have approached [the Cincinnati game] in a different way," he said. "I just went out there thinking it was going to be like high school, the game was going to be played how I played it. But the game was much faster in college, so I just

had to have a different approach to it."

Even if Marsh doesn't see the field in 2021, he may be an integral part of USF's future, given that he is only entering his sophomore season.

Timmy McClain

A three-star dual-threat quarterback coming out of high school, per 247Sports, McClain has the ability to beat teams both with his arm and with his legs.

During his senior season with the Warhawks, McClain went 110-of-176 throwing the ball for 1,529 yards and 16 touchdowns over 11

games, according to MaxPreps. He also added 577 rushing yards and 10 rushing touchdowns on 98 carries to lead Seminole High School to an undefeated 11-0 record in 2020-21.

He also only threw two interceptions.

For McClain's high school success to transfer to the collegiate game, he has to get caught up on the differences between the two levels. Although not much is brand new, the duty he has to call protections is something he is still working out.

"It's just different terminology really, nothing's really new it's just different terminology,"

McClain said. "Now I've got to call the protection, in high school I didn't really have to call the protections ... [I have to] know the protections on certain plays and stuff."

As a true freshman, McClain still has all of his eligibility left to use. His tenure with the Bulls is just getting started.

Fall sports to watch and cheer on

By Francisco Rosa
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Football

In its second season under coach Jeff Scott, the Bulls are looking to make a big leap forward following a year in which they won just one game, went winless in conference play and finished the season on an eight game losing streak.

Scott has yet to name a starting quarterback but has several worthy options in junior Cade Fortin, sophomores Jarren Williams and Katravis Marsh and freshman Timmy McClain, all of whom performed well in the spring game in March.

Notable games on this year's schedule include NC State in the season opener Sept. 2, No. 13 UF on Sept. 11 which will be broadcasted on ABC, reigning AAC champs No. 8 Cincinnati on Nov. 12 and the War on I-4 against UCF on Nov. 26.

Men's Basketball

Following a tumultuous offseason that saw multiple key

players transfer from the program due to inappropriate comments made by former associate head coach Tom Herrion, coach Brian Gregory has a mostly new roster to work with made up of a couple freshman and transfer players.

After an up and down freshman campaign, Caleb Murphy, the highest rated player in program history, is returning for his second year and looks to take the reins following the departure of longtime guard David Collins. Also returning from last year's team is junior Jamir Chaplin, who improved in his sophomore season, Russel Tchewa and Mark Calleja.

Men's Soccer

With no seniors, in terms of eligibility, on this year's roster, coach Bob Butehorn is working with one of the younger teams of his tenure since taking over the men's soccer program in 2017.

In their conference-only 2020 schedule the Bulls went 4-6 and ended the season on a four game losing streak. The team struggled offensively getting shut out four times including a 7-0 loss to No.



After adding some quality talent in the offseason, the USF women's basketball is gearing up for another run at an AAC tournament title. **USF ATHLETICS PHOTO**

8 SMU in the third game of the season.

USF will return a few key players from last year including freshman forward Oscar Resano who had the second-most points on the team (5), sophomore defender Salvatore Mazzaferro, a Preseason All-AAC selection and starting junior goalkeeper Kazuna Takase, who ranked

fourth in the conference in save percentage (67.9%).

Volleyball

Tabbed to finish seventh in the conference behind UCF, Houston, SMU, Tulane, Cincinnati and Temple, respectively, the Bulls are looking to continue to develop

under second year head coach Jolene Shepardson who led the team to a 6-8 record, 3-5 in the conference.

USF will return freshman Marta Cvitkovic, a preseason All-Conference selection, who led the team in kills with 214 and ranked third in the conference in kills/set (3.69).

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FALL

Continued from PAGE 17

Women's Basketball

Likely to be the odds-on favorite to repeat as AAC regular season and tournament champs, the USF women's basketball team has the makings of a squad that could make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

The Bulls return their entire starting lineup from last season with All-AAC First Team forward Bethy Mununga and center Shae Leverett returning for a super senior season, gaining an extra year of eligibility due to COVID-19.

Coach Jose Fernandez also added a pair of front court transfers that'll add talent and depth to the Bulls roster in Odeth Betancourt, who's coming in from Panola College and Memphis transfer Dulcy Fankam Mendjiadeu.

Also transferring to the Bulls from Memphis is Aerial Wilson, a point guard, who finished second in the AAC in assists with 6.1

Women's Soccer

Coach Denise Schilte-Brown's squad opened up the season with a dominant performance against UF on Thursday night and they have a loaded non-conference schedule that includes home games against several more SEC teams in LSU, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Considering the level of talent returning to the pitch at all positions, it should be another exciting season for Schilte-Brown and her team.

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