

## Michael Griffin's commitment to family, USF reflected in his work over the years



Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

On their way to a last-minute trip to Melbourne, Board of Trustees Vice Chair Michael Griffin and his wife Melanie pulled into a parking lot to record a video of him giving a speech as he was inducted as chair of the Tampa Bay Chamber — the same day their adoptive son Maverick was born.

The luncheon, attended by more than 1,000 people,



After getting married in 2009, Michael and Melanie Griffin decided to expand their family and adopt their son Maverick. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/MELANIE GRIFFIN

including top community and business leaders, featured Griffin's video announcing the birth of his son.

"That was the day that Maverick decided to make his entrance into the world and ... Mike had to miss [the luncheon],"

Melanie said. "I honestly felt bad ... [because] that was a big moment for him, something that he has been working for so many

years, and he wasn't able to be there."

The moment Griffin held his son in his arms for the first time, however, nothing else mattered as much.

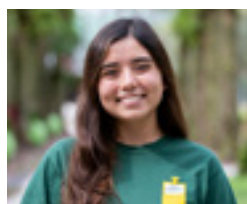
"I held him like he was my own," Griffin said. "It was, second to our wedding, by far the best moment of my life. Never looking back, just excited about being a dad to him."

The same commitment Griffin has toward his family is reflected in his dedication and service to the Tampa Bay area. Now, he is leading the university in the search for its next president.

"This is by far the most important job I've had at USF, or volunteer position I've had

■ See GRIFFIN on PAGE 3

## Muma tests HyFlex class modality for future semesters



Angela Cordoba Perez

NEWS EDITOR

The Muma College of Business has been experimenting with a HyFlex modality of teaching, where students can take a course synchronously online or in the classroom, which will be

extended to spring for further evaluation.

The pilot is being held in 55 sections across the college, and it involves 40-45 professors since some are teaching more than one HyFlex course. In a hybrid course, there could be alternate ways of delivery, such as field trips or online meetings, which are scheduled in the syllabus. HyFlex courses have simultaneous dual delivery, online and in person, continuously throughout the semester.

Jacqueline Reck, associate dean for the college, said unless

the professor requires students to go in person, students can go back and forth from virtual to face-to-face instruction. They can be in the classroom one week and take the class online the following one without an excuse, according to Reck.

"We've actually had students who have started online and then come to class," Reck said. "It could be because of connectivity issues, or internet issues, or they just decided they wanted to be in class."

Reck said there isn't a lot of data available yet regarding

the success of the modality, but received initial surveys from professors who noted strengths and weaknesses with it.

"Some of them like the flexibility, some of them would rather see their students in person so that they could read their students a little better," Reck said.

Besides the flexibility, Reck said the HyFlex modality allows professors to require students to be in the classroom for specific reasons, such as an exam or a lecture from a guest speaker.

Some professors prefer

interacting with all of their students in person, according to Reck. She said they feel some disconnect when they can't see the students' body language.

"Even if you've got a student in the classroom who doesn't talk, you can still see them and you can still see how they're reacting and what they're doing," Reck said. "So that kind of bothers the faculty members, that they don't really know how their students are reacting to the material."

The HyFlex modality also brings the challenge of teaching

■ See HYFLEX on PAGE 2

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The Oracle is published on Mondays during the fall, spring and summer semesters

The Oracle allocates one free issue to each student. Additional copies are \$.50 each and available at The Oracle office (SVC 0002).

BY PHONE	
Editor .....	974-5190
News .....	974-1888
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## TULSA

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Tulsa up to win the game.

What Mangham did aside from that, however, carries more weight. The 6-foot-2-inch, 221 pound Colorado transfer displayed some elusiveness that he hadn't previously shown.

Mangham is known for being a strong, short-yardage type of runner, but his 5.8 yards per carry may have been a preview of what's to come in the future.

### Schrader is more than just a power kicker

Junior kicker Spencer Shrader spent all of last season splitting the kicking duties with senior Jared Sackett. Sackett took care of business with kicks 39 yards or under, and Shrader came in for kicks of 40+ yards.

This season has been different, Shrader has attempted, and made, all seven of USF's field goals. He

is 4-of-4 from the 39-yard line in, and 3-of-3 between 40-49 yards.

### Avoidable mistakes are unaffordable

Committing penalties and turning the ball over is never good for any team, but for a program like USF that is looking to turn a corner, those types of missteps are especially troublesome.

Tulsa turned the ball over three times against the Bulls, allowed sophomore running back Brian Battie to return a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown and gave up a 54-yard punt return score to junior receiver Xavier Weaver.

The issue, however, is a USF fumble just before the half and a roughing the punter penalty on Weaver's return negated some of the positives that could've been taken from the big plays. The Bulls are in no position to help another team beat them.

## HYFLEX

Continued from PAGE 1

and making sure two different audiences, one in person and one online, are understanding the content.

"It's harder for them to follow both audiences, the face-to-face audience, and then the chat audience, because a lot of times, the students that are online don't talk, so they don't really know if those students are getting it until an exam," Reck said.

"Some of them will write something in the chat, so monitoring that chat and trying to take care of the classroom that's in front of them at the same time, that can be a little bit more of a challenge."

Reck said the college wanted to try the modality to make sure students from all campuses have access to classes, even if they are not offered in their home campus.

Professors are broadcasting classes from St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee to Tampa and vice versa, according to Reck. She said this has been an advantage because of the big footprint Muma has across all campuses.

"That's why we wanted to try [the modality], to help make sure that we were increasing the accessibility of our courses to our students across the three campuses, particularly for something like an elective that may only be offered in one section so you want to make sure that as many people can participate in it as possible," Reck said.

For students, the HyFlex modality is particularly beneficial because of the ongoing pandemic, according to Reck.

"I think that it allowed students some flexibility and really some sense of security, many of the students opt in to be online because of concerns for health and safety reasons," Reck said.

Students haven't evaluated the

modality this far since midterm grades haven't been posted yet. Reck said it is hard to know how beneficial HyFlex has been for them and how they feel about it until the grades are submitted and performances are evaluated.

The college has decided to extend the pilot for the spring semester as class registration approaches Nov. 1. During the Sept. 29 faculty meeting, Provost Ralph Wilcox said the university would monitor the performance of students under HyFlex classes.

"[HyFlex classes] effectively challenge instructors to deliver dual modality instruction," Wilcox said. "It's hard, hard work as those of you who are teaching utilizing a HyFlex modality, understand. So we're not at this time going to expand beyond the Muma College [of Business]."

At the end of the semester, Reck said the college will do an assessment of the modality although Reck said in teaching there is no final result.

"Innovative education is already working with us on that, we'll probably go out and do some student surveys and find out. I know some of the faculty have been doing intermittent surveys throughout the semester to try and get a feel for what did the students like, what don't they like, why are they choosing to attend, why are they choosing not to attend," Reck said.

"Even with the likes and the dislikes, sometimes the rationale, or the reason for attending or not attending can help us with our decision process."

The decision to move forward with the HyFlex modality will be made by USF and not only Muma, according to Reck.

"We don't know exactly how it's going to go forward in the future," Reck said. "We see some strengths, we see some weaknesses ... but it is definitely a different way than we've done it in the past."

### Oracle Editor Applications Being Accepted

Applications are being accepted for editor in chief of The Oracle for spring 2022 . Applications will be received from undergraduates who meet the following criteria: minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 at the time of application; successful completion of college-level courses Beginning Reporting, Advanced Reporting and News Editing, or the equivalent in experience related to the position. Applicants should submit a letter of recommendation, addressed to the Director of Student Publications, from a professional or teacher confirming the experience and quality of the applicant's performance.

Application forms may be obtained in the Office of Student Publications, SVC 0002, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The deadline for submitting applications is noon, October 29, 2021. The Director of Student Publications will certify whether each applicant meets the minimum criteria. Eligible applicants will be interviewed individually by the news staff members of The Oracle beginning at 10 a.m., November 5, 2021, followed by a vote on the applicant's qualifications and program proposals. The results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President/Dean of Students, who will approve the new editor.

USF is an equal opportunity, equal access academic institution that embraces diversity in the workplace.

## THE ORACLE



## GRIFFIN

Continued from PAGE 1

chairing the search committee and I feel like everything that I've done has prepared me for this role," Griffin said.

From representing the student body as SG president to leading the Presidential Search Committee, Griffin said his commitment to the community goes beyond titles.

"Sometimes you seek leadership positions and sometimes they find you," Griffin said. "I love the university community and I'm going to keep stepping up until I can't anymore, or until people don't want me around anymore.

"I'm a big believer in everything we're doing, but I think more importantly, what else we can be doing that we haven't done yet, and to be part of a team is extremely exciting."

His leadership roles and involvement in the region started at USF as an undergraduate student when he was elected as student body president in 2001, and reelected in 2002. The connections made during his time at USF helped with Griffin's involvement at the Tampa Bay Chamber in 2003 after graduation.

Within a year, he was selected to serve as the charter co-chair of Emerge Tampa Bay, a young professional leadership program for 21-35 year olds.

Griffin credits his drive to learn and make the best of the opportunities presented to him as one of the reasons behind his continuous growth and success in the field.

"I never really asked for permission on these kinds of roles, I just kind of put myself out there to say 'Hey I want to lead, I

want to go do that. Well, let's do this together.' And I think that one of the best things I learned is don't wait to be tapped on the shoulder, sometimes you just got to rush to the door," Griffin said.

"I was able to get involved very quickly with the community here in Tampa Bay [and] I just haven't looked back."

His leadership goes beyond what's in front of the public eye, according to Melanie. Besides juggling roles and administrative business, Griffin also dedicates time out of his busy schedule to have one-on-one mentorship sessions with students.

"He is deeply passionate [and] loves to mentor," Melanie said. "What is impressive about him is that he's not only giving back in big impactful roles, but I can't tell you the number of times that he goes to coffee or lunch with a student or takes a call.

"Sometimes when people get to bigger roles, I get it, they're really busy. It's easy to let the smaller ways that you get back go, and so the fact that he continues to give back in a smaller way simultaneously, I think, is extra impressive."

Alum Rhondel Whyte was among those students mentored by Griffin, and as a result, found a family outside of his home island of Trinidad and Tobago. He met Griffin in 2015 as part of a mentorship program connecting USF Ambassadors and its alumni, and from the first meeting onward, they connected and started building a strong friendship.

"Once that happened, it wasn't just the relationship, professional-mentor. He was just someone who was invested in me as a person, invested in all of the different areas of my life from a



Over the years, Griffin has consolidated his leadership in the Tampa Bay area and wants to inspire his son to become involved in the community. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/MELANIE GRIFFIN

growth perspective," Whyte said.

Not having a father figure while growing up, Whyte said Griffin was someone he looked up to as a father, and the relationship they cultivated over the years was instrumental for his personal and professional growth.

"I recall on that first Thanksgiving, we were outside just in the gallery having a conversation about everything. I told him, 'You are like a father figure to me, and I appreciate you for being a part of my life because I don't think my life trajectory would look the way it did had you not stood in a role for me,'" Whyte said.

Griffin's involvement with the Tampa Bay community was imminent since he was growing up. All along, Griffin knew he wanted to stay in Tampa to help the city grow and raise his family.

He met his wife Melanie during a student government conference in high school, but they didn't start dating until years

later when she was attending Law School at FSU. They got engaged in November 2007 and got married in February 2009.

As they started building their life together, they began thinking about expanding their family. They decided to adopt since they were unable to conceive.

"I always really wanted to adopt and I was really grateful that Mike, early on, I think really was hopeful that we'd have a biological child, but when that didn't come to fruition, he was just so accepting," she said.

"[He] was really the one who ran with our application and brought it over the finish line and ... he really played such a pivotal role in that and I'm so grateful."

The couple made the decision to go through adoption a year and a half before Maverick was born. Just 10 days before his birth, the couple got matched to Maverick's birth parents.

"I'm a man of faith and I'm a believer that God brought us

together," Griffin said.

Despite the wait and the anticipation created during the adoption process, Melanie admired the way Griffin was supportive and embraced the new journey they were about to venture on.

"From day one, I think he was born to be a dad, I mean he absolutely loves Maverick ... Mike loves doing all that kinds of stuff with Maverick and I know that will only continue to grow," Melanie said.

Griffin said his responsibilities were elevated the moment he became a father, and he hopes his son follows in his footsteps as he grows up and becomes more involved in the community.

"So much of what we do and so much that we fight for is for [Maverick]," Griffin said. "I want him to be proud of the community [and] be proud of his dad for what he's doing to the community that he's going to grow up in."

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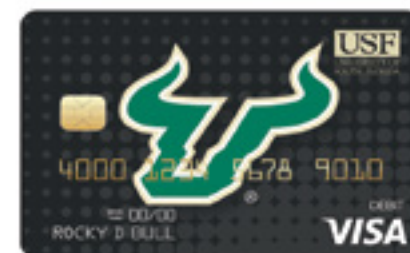
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## Statement of the USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida Concerning the Presidential Search



*The University of South Florida Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida represents approximately 1,600 USF faculty and professionals by bargaining and enforcing the contract between them and the USF Board of Trustees.*

*The University of South Florida is conducting a search for a new president. On September 28, the Executive Committee of the USF Chapter composed the following statement concerning the search.*

The University of South Florida is a global research university serving the Tampa Bay Area, the state of Florida, the United States of America, and the world. Paraphrasing former UC Berkeley Chancellor Clark Kerr, as USF increasingly engaged the community, the university was and will continue to be inspired and strengthened by the opportunities of that participation. USF is dedicated to preparing students for the future, conducting research and developing solutions for the problems of the future, and engaging the community for success in the future.

**We are seeking a new president**, one who has the same spirit as former President Judy Genshaft expressed when she arrived and said, "I would say that the Legislature and the people of Tampa made a very savvy investment fifty years ago" when they created USF.

**We need an administrator with the academic credibility and strength of character to provide directions to the USF Board of Trustees and the SUS Board of Governors to move USF forward on the global stage.** We would strongly prefer a president with an earned doctorate degree, at least ten years of higher level administrative experience at the university level, and at least five years' experience as a leader at a Carnegie Mellon Research I university.

Arthur Shapiro, W. Steve Lang, Greg McColm, Sonia Ramirez Wohlmuth, Robert Welker, Karin Braunsberger  
Executive Committee of the USF Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida

Follow the search via the Search Committee's web-page at  
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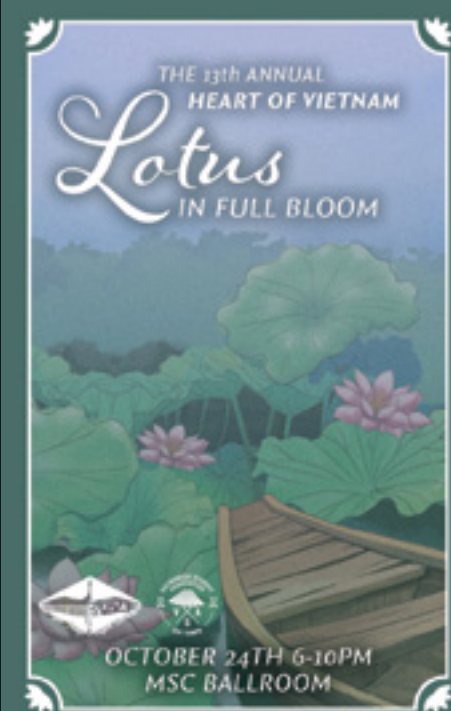
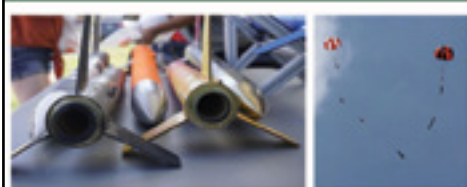
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## JOZWIAK

Continued from PAGE 8

father's] triumphs and his mistakes," Jozwiak said. "I've also had the privilege of getting coached by many great coaches at USF. Obviously, [I came] through an era where we had a lot of coaching turnover, but I always thought about [how] coaching is [like] I have a toolbox, or as a player, I had this toolbox, and everybody can add to that toolbox."

Although Jozwiak, 28, is on the younger side when it comes to coaching, he didn't immediately make the jump from player to coach upon leaving USF.

He graduated with degrees in communications and psychology but was admittedly lost when deciding what he wanted to do after college. He briefly spent some time as a sideline broadcaster for the Bulls and even stepped away from football entirely for a couple years.

The itch to get back into the game never left him, and a phone call with his father pushed him to take the risk and jump back in.

"I remember the day [Thor] called me," Brian said. "He said, 'Dad, I just don't want to do this anymore,' and I said 'Well what do you want to do? ... If you don't make the decision now, then you're going to be locked into something you're not happy doing.'"

Jozwiak wasn't sure what path he wanted to take, but he knew he wanted to be around football and have the ability to make a positive impact on a younger generation.

He took his shot and began reaching out to local coaches in Pinellas County in search of an opportunity. Coach Don Mesick, the coach of Clearwater at the time, gave him just that and added him on as an offensive line coach as well as a reading teacher.

"The love of football and what



A left guard for the Bulls, Jozwiak was a second-team all-AAC member in 2015 when he helped USF post a single-season school rushing record. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

it does, and what it means to be a student-athlete, what it means to have a sense of culture and a brotherhood, and to be able to take that and use it on and off the field is what drove me to this profession," Jozwiak said. "[But] while I was educated, I was not trained to be a teacher.

"But coaching and teaching are one in the same. I teach reading, so instead of coaching football, I get to coach reading. Instead of talking X's and O's, I get to talk sentence structure and how to analyze a text."

That drive to educate is something common not only in Jozwiak himself, but also in his family. Brian, who had been an educator in Florida since 1998, recently retired from teaching in July. Jozwiak's mother is also a principal and his sister is a teacher, both in Polk County.

Before making an impact in the classroom, Brian was making plays on the field as an All-American offensive lineman at West Virginia in the 1980s en route to being a first-round NFL draft pick in 1986.

A hip injury three years into

his career ended his playing days and forced him to call an audible in his own life. The sudden change allowed him to find a career in teaching where he could also be around what he knows best — football — but this time, as a coach.

"I never sugarcoated anything with either one of my kids, I told them straight up," Brian said. "Thor would have a bad practice or something and we'd get into the psychology of it, the molding of the mind to maintain a positive attitude no matter what.

"You can be neck deep in it and so long as you're breathing you can still be in the battle, no matter what that is. We got to do that every day. How do you put a price tag on that? That's so special."

In his first season on Clearwater's staff in 2019, Jozwiak worked alongside Rob Montie in coaching the offensive line, but in 2020 the responsibility fell solely on him.

Mesick stepped down Dec. 17 after leading the Tornadoes to six straight playoff appearances and an overall record of 45-21,

and suddenly the top position was open for the taking.

Just two years into his coaching career, Jozwiak put his name in the ring for the job and ultimately came out with the gig.

Handing over the keys to a successful football program at a school with as much history as Clearwater, built in the early 1900s, to someone with relatively little experience can be jarring,

“

It was just that 'no-quit' mentality. You've got to continue to push. - Jozwiak

”

but Jozwiak's life has forged him for this moment.

"I think I have the biggest medical book over at USF. That thing can probably stop a bullet at point-blank range," Jozwiak said. "[I] was always in the training room, always injured and always finding a way back. ... Coaching, climbing, it's all about perseverance."

Jozwiak's medical book isn't just filled with bumps and bruises. In early 2013, he started

to develop heart issues and had to go on four different medications in an attempt to regain control.

That was just the start of the issue, however, as he collapsed at practice during the second day of fall camp and was taken to Tampa General Hospital for further evaluation.

He had a cardiac ablation in October 2013 to restore a normal heart rhythm, but it took Jozwiak a year to fight his way back onto the field and eventually win the starting job he was scheduled to have before the debacle.

"[That] was a rough year in my life, but without going through that, you don't end up who you are," Jozwiak said. "This game, and the life lessons you learn, picking yourself up over and over and over again, that's what brought me back to being a player at a high level.

"It was just that 'no-quit' mentality. You've got to continue to push, even when it's at its hardest, you've got to continue to push."

Although he's just starting at Clearwater, Jozwiak already has some lofty goals, including winning Pinellas County's first state title, and he's digging deep into his toolbox to shape the

program in his vision.

"I don't have to use [everything in my toolbox] all at once, but for different situations you can pull whatever you need out from something you've learned from somewhere," Jozwiak said. "And that's what I find myself doing in this position.

"I want to be able to win by doing it the right way. Winning is great, but when you do the little things the right way, winning comes."



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# Jozwiak digs into toolbox to continue legacy of education through athletics



Richard Silva

SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Car rides home after a strenuous football practice can be tough. From the physical toll to the mental strain, sitting idle after hours of hard work and perhaps coming up short can be a lot to handle, especially for a teenager in high school.

Compound the aforementioned situation with a

dad who doubles as your coach and who now has a few minutes to give a lecture, and that trip home may seem like an eternity.

For former USF offensive lineman Thor Jozwiak, however, those after-practice rides home couldn't have been better.

A second-team all-conference member in 2015 who made 26 starts at guard in his career with the Bulls, Jozwiak took his father's messages to heart, specifically his teachings in connection to football.

He had good reason to do so, as his father, Brian Jozwiak, is a former NFL offensive lineman.

"The times that [my father and I] spent in that car, I'll never [forget]," Jozwiak said. "I'll

cherish [them] forever because he knew what it was like to make it all the way. He knew what it took to have that success."

Roughly a decade later, Jozwiak now has the opportunity to take what he has learned and pass it onto the next generation. He's currently in the midst of his first season as head coach of the Clearwater High School football team.

The Tornadoes have hit the ground running to open Jozwiak's stint as leader of the program with a 6-1 start, including six consecutive victories after dropping the first game of the season.

"I got to learn from [my

■ See JOZWIAK on PAGE 6



Thor Jozwiak and the Clearwater Tornadoes have started the season 6-1 and are winning games by an average of just over 15 points. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/BOB PUTNAM

## Takeaways: Offense leaves some to be desired, defense can't stop the run against Tulsa



Richard Silva

SPORTS CO-EDITOR

USF looked well on its way to winning its first game against an FBS opponent since 2019 for the majority of Saturday's contest against Tulsa, but the Golden Hurricane punched in the game-winning score with just 47 seconds remaining.

The losing streak against opponents in the top division of college football is now up to 17 games, but the most recent loss at the hands of Tulsa was about as close as it gets. There were a number of plays to be made that could've set the Bulls up for victory, but it was evidently not to be.

Here are five things we learned from USF's 32-31 loss to Tulsa.

### The offense isn't a finished product

Despite the Bulls putting up 31 points in the loss, their second-

highest total of the season, little of that had to do with the offense.

A score on special teams by sophomore running back Brian Battie and a pick-6 by senior linebacker Antonio Grier gave USF 14 points, and a forced fumble by Grier to open the second quarter set the Bulls up on Tulsa's 12-yard line, which later led to a score.

The offense looked like the strength of this team through the first five games of the season, but that script was flipped against the Golden Hurricane.

Playing complimentary football and succeeding in all

three phases of the game is what the Bulls need to get back in the win column over the latter half of the schedule.

### Run defense is a problem

USF hasn't been able to stop the run much all season long, and the game against Tulsa was no different.

The Golden Hurricane tallied 269 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 49 attempts, good for 5.5 yards per carry. The Bulls give up an average of 226.2 rushing yards per game, fifth worst in the nation.

Allowing opponents to rack up so many yards each contest doesn't bode well for USF moving forward. Whether it be an adjustment to the scheme or personnel, the run defense currently in place isn't a sustainable model for victory.

### Mangham is the lead back

Some fans may only remember junior running back Jaren Mangham's performance for getting stuffed on back-to-back plays to end USF's second to last offensive series, which set

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