

# ***Homecoming***

***Fall 2021***



# ***THE ORACLE***

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# USF prepares to drop ‘low’ for T-Pain

By Madison Reedy  
CORRESPONDENT

Homecoming Week will have a special treat for fans of R&B, hip-hop and rap as artist of famous songs “Buy U a Drank” and “Low” T-Pain will headline this year’s concert — 14 years after his first appearance on campus.

T-Pain will be performing Thursday at Lot 35, located across the street from Maple Hall on Genshaft Drive, starting at 8 p.m. with doors opening at 7 p.m.

Tickets went on sale Oct. 28 and are available until Thursday at 7 p.m. on Universe. As of Oct. 29, 781 tickets had been sold.

Students can purchase tickets for \$10 and they can bring one guest for \$15. Staff, faculty and alumni tickets are \$20 while community members, who are not affiliated with the university, have to pay \$25, according to Student Programs Coordinator Isabelle Arroyo-Acevedo.

For the concert, \$110,000 was allotted for entertainment. Production and the venue each had \$20,000, and marketing, supplies and food each got \$1,000. The final payment to T-Pain can’t be shared until the contract is fully executed, according to Arroyo-Acevedo.

The rapper, singer and record producer reached commercial success in 2008 after the release of his third album “Three Ringz,” which had numerous hit singles such as “Buy U a Drank (Shawty Snappin’),” “Bartender,” “I’m ‘n Luv (Wit a Stripper),” “5 O’Clock” and “Can’t Believe It.”

Throughout his career, T-Pain won two Grammys, one with Kanye West for “Good Life” in 2007 and the second with Jamie Foxx for “Blame It” in 2009. He popularized the use of Auto-tune

in music and has been featured in over 50 chart-topping singles.

While his stage name is T-Pain, his real name is Faheem Rasheed Najm. The stage name is a nod to his hometown, according to a 2019 interview with the Tallahassee Democrat. The “T” is for Tallahassee and the “Pain” stands for the pain of the hardships he faced there.

About 3,000 to 4,000 students are expected to attend the concert, although Lot 35 could hold up to 10,000 people, according to Arroyo-Acevedo. She said attendees are encouraged to follow USF’s COVID-19 safety guidelines at the event.

“For the full week, we’re encouraging mask usage and encouraging people to get vaccinated and get their boosters. That’s really what we’ve been encouraging and we’re going to continue to promote,” said Arroyo-Acevedo.

Arroyo-Acevedo said when selecting an artist to perform, Campus Activities Board (CAB) worked with an agent who provided a list of artists who want to perform at colleges and are within the department’s budget.

Students were able to vote on which artist they wanted to see through a survey created by CAB. The results influenced the decision, but the budget was also a big factor, according to Arroyo-Acevedo.

T-Pain was the third-most voted in the survey, according to Arroyo-Acevedo. The increasing prices of the first and second-ranked artists — Lil Nas X and A Boogie wit Da Hoodie — ultimately made the decision.

“The first and second choice’s budgets or fees essentially had increased,” said Arroyo-Acevedo.

“I would say one increased



T-Pain will give a special homecoming performance for students and community members, marking his return to USF since his last appearance in 2007. [WIKIMEDIA COMMONS](#)

about \$110,000, which is double what our budget is and then ... the second option’s budget increased by about \$80,000.”

While T-Pain was not the first choice in the survey, Arroyo-

Acevedo said she still expects students to enjoy the show.

“That’s really why we did bring our third choice, mostly because we have to be able to afford them, [but] because they are our third

choice we know students will be excited about it, which is what influenced that decision [too],” she said.



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# Homecoming festivities back in person

By Katherine Mailly  
CORRESPONDENT

The celebratory spirit is back on campus as students, faculty, staff and alumni get ready for the start of homecoming festivities featuring an in-person comedy show, concert and parade, as well as tournaments and carnival rides.

This year's budget for the weeklong celebrations totaled \$276,75, compared to \$234,739 in 2019. The events will take place across all three campuses and bring back face-to-face celebrations for the first time since 2019.

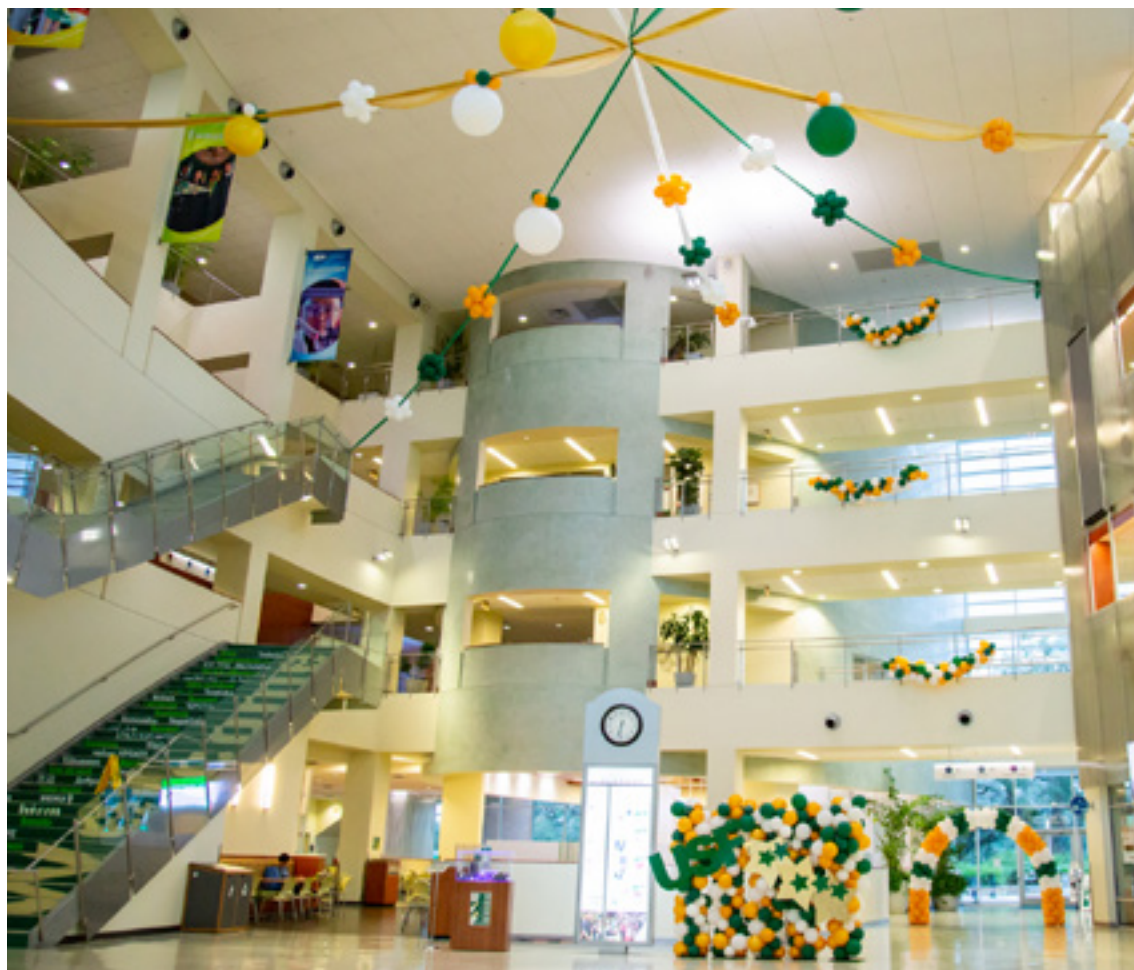
Homecoming Week at the Tampa campus kicked off Sunday at 10 a.m. with Color the Campus, an event where students painted the windows of the Marshall Student Center (MSC) and The Fit with green and gold paint.

The week continues with Homecoming Kickoff and the Stampede Comedy Show at 6:30 p.m. on Monday at the National Pan-Hellenic Council Plaza lawn. Comedian and writer Opey Olagbaju will open the Stampede Comedy Show before actor and comedian T-Murph takes the stage to charm the audience with his jokes.

At kickoff, which will feature speeches from coach Jeff Scott, Vice President of Student Success Paul Dosal and Alumni Association Director Bill McCausland, students will be welcomed by Rocky and cheerleaders.

The night will end with the crowd favorite, "mascot smashing," where a replica mascot of the Houston Cougars will be smashed on stage in anticipation of Saturday's game.

Four teams of 10-11 students will compete in Tuesday's Bull's



Homecoming Week kicked off with Color the Campus on Sunday morning as students painted the windows of the Marshall Student Center and The Fit. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

World Cup on Tuesday. The Green and Gold will take place from 4-6 p.m. at the Alumni Center where students race around campus to learn about USF traditions before time runs out.

Later that night, the teams will showcase their skills in activities including soccer and dodgeball during Field Night at 7 p.m. in Fowler Fields.

Students will crown royalty on Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in the MSC Amphitheater during the Homecoming Ball. This year, 11 students are competing in Tampa, eight in St. Pete and two

in Sarasota-Manatee.

T-Pain, who first performed at USF in 2007, will headline Thursday's Homecoming Concert. The event will take place in Lot 35 at 8 p.m. The event, with a \$124,000 budget, will cost \$153,000.

Sales for the concert tickets began Oct. 28 and will run until Thursday at 7 p.m. Students can purchase tickets for \$10 and one guest ticket for \$15.

Family and Friends weekend, beginning Friday and extending into Saturday, will allow loved ones to visit USF and experience some of the Bull pride.

To participate, students have to pay \$20, and all other attendants aged 12 and older can register for a \$40 fee and those under 11 are free. Participants will receive promotional items and participate in activities across campus, including a canoe and kayak ride at the USF Riverfront Park.

Students will be able to enjoy carnival rides for free as part of the Homecoming Carnival Bull Friday at 5 p.m. in Lot 35. Rides include a ferris wheel, "Scrambler," "Leap of Faith Rock Wall," "Giant Fun Slide with LED Light Show." A budget of \$58,194

was allocated for the carnival.

The Running of the Bulls Parade will travel along USF Holly, Genshaft and Alumni Drive starting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, featuring floats representing departments and organizations across the USF community. In total, CAB received 47 entries for cars, trucks, golf carts, floats and walking groups that will showcase their USF spirit throughout the parade.

The Grand Marshall, who leads the parade, will be George Selvie, a former USF football player, representing the 25th football season. Selvie, who was a defensive end during his time at USF, played for the St. Louis Rams, Carolina Panthers, Jacksonville Jaguars, Dallas Cowboys, New York Giants and Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"We really wanted to tie back in the 25 years of football because that's what we're celebrating this year with [USF Athletics]," said Fuentes.

The final Friday event will be the men's soccer game against Temple from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Corbett Stadium. Tickets can be purchased on TicketMaster.

The USF vs. Houston game at Raymond James Stadium on Saturday will end the celebrations. Students and community members will be able to watch the game, starting at 7:30 p.m. and join in the tailgating festivities.

The Bulls Blitz will be available to take students from the MSC to the stadium starting three hours before kick off. In order to ride on the buses, students are required to have a mask, student ID, government ID and BullsConnect downloaded onto a mobile device.



<p><b>October 26 - 28</b></p> <p><b>Charit-a-Bull</b> 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM   MSC 1300 (CLCE)</p> <p><b>Sunday, October 31</b></p> <p><b>Color the Campus</b> 10:00 AM   1st Floor MSC</p> <p><b>Monday, November 1</b></p> <p><b>Kickoff &amp; Stampede Comedy Show</b> 6:30 PM   NPHC Plaza Lawn</p> <p><b>Tuesday, November 2</b></p> <p><b>Bull's World Cup Green &amp; Gold Rush</b> 4:00 PM   Alumni Center</p> <p><b>Field Night</b> 7:00 PM   Fowler Fields</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, November 3</b></p> <p><b>Homecoming Ball &amp; Royalty</b> 8:30 PM   MSC Amphitheater</p> <p><b>Thursday, November 4</b></p> <p><b>Homecoming Concert</b> 8:00 PM   Lot 35</p> <p><b>Friday, November 5</b></p> <p><b>Running of the Bulls Parade</b> 6:30 PM   USF Holly, Genshaft, &amp; Alumni Dr.</p> <p><b>Homecoming Carni-Bull</b> 5:00 PM   Lot 35</p>
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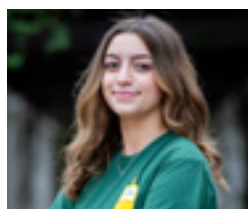


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# A palette of school spirit



The Beef Studs and Babes host tailgates at every home USF football game completely free to students who choose to paint their bodies before the game. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



Lanie De La Milera

STAFF WRITER

Alum Brandon Faza, along with his friend Ryan Capahi, noticed two men at USF football games in 2002 painted in the school's colors calling themselves "The Green and Gold Guys," and were interested in joining them.

After being notified it was more of a two-man show and not being satisfied with the answer, they decided to create their own group, a team of rowdy USF

fans willing to paint their bodies green and gold in an effort to support the football team.

"[Capahi] and I debated what to call ourselves," Faza said. "We wanted it to be related to USF or Bulls. My dad is a large animal veterinarian, and all the cattle owners have the 'BEEF' license plates, so I suggested we use beef for part of the name.

"Ryan suggested beef steaks or beefcakes, then I said 'Those don't sound very studly' ... So then we decided on Beef Studs. Later, when girls joined, we realized we had to make the name more inclusive, so then it became the Beef Studs and Babes."

Faza and Capahi approached Stuart Silverman, the dean of the Honors College at the time, who gave the group their first \$50 to

buy paint.

Not long after, the group developed a following, and away it went.

The Beef Studs and Babes, currently led by co-presidents Gaby Arias and Miranda Maldonado, are still going strong with participating members from both current students and alumni. Getting "painted up" is something anyone can do, whether it be just a one-time thing or a full-time commitment.

Dedicated to amplifying the game day experience, the Beef Studs and Babes are present at every home game in support of the Bulls through all the highs and lows.

"My initial reaction [when I saw the Beef Studs and Babes was,] 'Oh my goodness, this is



The Beef Studs and Babes remain standing for the entirety of the game. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



Beef Studs and Babes allows students to make friends at football games, according to co-president Miranda Maldonado. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

such a fun group," Arias said. "Personally, I like watching football, but the moment I started getting painted up, it was just a completely different experience.

"I'm the type of person that likes to get up and get loud, and a lot of times people just kind of sit around at the game and don't do that much, but with the Beef Studs, it gives me the opportunity to be loud and be crazy and have fun. It's what we're supposed to do."

The front row seats in the student section at Raymond James Stadium are sectioned off for the Beef Studs and Babes so they can show their support in the fullest sense. The most important mission of the members is to create a fun and exciting atmosphere for others to

emulate.

Whether it be by jumping around to energize those around them, or rooting for the Bulls audibly, the Beef Studs and Babes make their presence felt.

"I think we have a huge impact," current Beef Stud Kyle Muffoletto said. "Just seeing other people as hyped [as] the front row people will create [a] more competitive atmosphere ... You can see everyone's beaming, and then basically the stadium's loud and the whole football team hears and I think it has a huge effect."

Arias said the Beef Studs and Babes have an impact on those on the football team's roster, no matter how great or poor the attendance is.

■ See BEEF STUDS on PAGE 9

## BEEF STUDS

Continued from PAGE 8

“No matter if there’s only like 10 fans at the game or there’s like 100, we’re there regardless,” Arias said. “I know the players definitely love our support. After every game we win, they come and high-five us and they thank us for all our support.

“I definitely know it makes them feel appreciated.”

To be a Beef Stud or Babe, it starts with going to their tailgate tent before entering the stadium to get painted up. They’ll take green, gold and white paint and make a bulls logo stencil in the center of their chest with a green stripe down the middle, as well as adding gold on their sides with a paintbrush.

The traditional style has been kept intact since the first Beef Studs and Babes appearance in 2002.

Once in the game, the Beef Studs and Babes sit in their designated first row and cheer on the Bulls. While there, the group must stay standing during the entirety of the game, except for halftime. Committed members are not allowed to use their phones so they are ready for the next play. Booming of any kind is also frowned upon, as the Studs and Babes like to maintain a positive attitude.

There are also a few traditions to follow during the game. On third downs, one will yell “Bulls, what is your profession?” and the rest will yell back with a “Woo, woo.” When the team scores, someone from the group will be lifted into the air for as many points scored.

The tailgates put together pregame are of no charge to any student looking to participate in the festivities.

“Our tailgate is completely free to students,” Arias said. “All the food, all the drinks, everything. We just ask that they show up and get painted and

they can just participate in our tailgate.

“Or if they’re part of their own tailgate and just want to come by and get painted, they can do that.”

The Beef Studs and Babes have also recently partnered with Student Bulls Club, so the group receives funding for its events from Athletics and Student Government, according to Arias.

While the group brings life and energy to the fans and players, it also has benefits to the members themselves.

Maldonado said the experience allowed her to make new connections and gave her a place to fit into the USF community early in her collegiate life.

“When I was a freshman, like the first game [I was going to,] one of the old members posted in the Facebook group that you can come tailgating and paint up,” Maldonado said. “I was like, ‘Okay, I’m new here from out of state, I didn’t really have any friends ... I’ll go to this, that sounds like fun.’

“So I went and it ended up being super fun. I quickly became friends with some other people that were painting up. I [would] say this [experience] just makes me more proud of showing how much spirit [I have and] makes me glad I chose to come here.”

As the Beef Studs and Babes approach their 20-year anniversary next year, they’ll look to continue growing and leaving a mark on the university.

“I hope someday to be an old Bulls fan at USF football games, looking over at the student section and seeing the Beef Studs and Babes still keeping it crazy and showing pride for the green and gold,” Faza said.

# USF football’s best homecoming performances



Former quarterback Quinton Flowers (left) and former running back D’Ernest Johnson combined for 133 rushing yards on 32 attempts in USF’s win over Cincinnati in 2017. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO



Francisco Rosa

SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Homecoming games haven’t been a fun affair for USF football over the last few seasons, with its most recent win versus a homecoming opponent coming against BYU in 2019. The Bulls will look to end its two-year losing streak in such games Saturday night against Houston.

The Bulls haven’t had much

success over the past couple of seasons, but they’ve had some memorable homecoming moments and victories over the course of the program’s history.

With the matchup against the Cougars rapidly approaching, here are USF’s five best homecoming game performances.

### 5. Homecoming 2018: USF 38, UConn 30

USF was enjoying one of the most prosperous periods for the program at the time of the game. The Bulls had won seven consecutive games dating back to the 2017 season and were ranked in the Top 25.

Following the game, USF would go on an eight-game losing streak that would last until Week 3 of the following season.

UConn, on the other hand, was one of the worst teams in the AAC averaging just 13.3 points per game and were seen as big underdogs going into Raymond James Stadium.

The Bulls rode a big rushing performance from freshman running back Johnny Ford and senior Jordan Cronkrite who rushed for over 100 yards. Ford finished with 164 yards and three touchdowns on just seven attempts averaging an eye-popping 23.4 yards per carry.

■ See HOCO GAMES on PAGE 13

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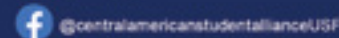
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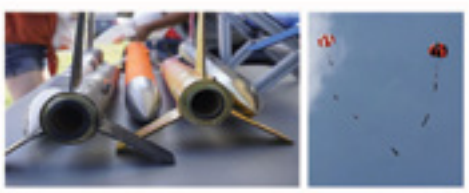


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# T-Murph brings humor to Stampede Comedy Show



Comedian, actor and writer T-Murph will headline this year's Stampede Comedy Show on Monday. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

By Cassandra Hallgren  
CORRESPONDENT

Guerterrius Jackson, better known as T-Murph, and Opeyemi Olagbaju will be in charge of bringing the laughs to the Stampede Comedy Show on Monday at the National Pan-Hellenic Plaza.

Campus Activities Board announced via an Instagram post Thursday that T-Murph will be headlining the show, and Olagbaju will be the opening act. The one-hour performance will begin after the Homecoming Kickoff, starting at 6:30 p.m. and lasting about three hours.

Olagbaju will be paid \$5,000

while T-Murph's pay couldn't be shared since CAB is still executing the final contract, according to Student Programs Coordinator Isabelle Arroyo-Acevedo. She said the budget for Kickoff was \$9,000 and \$53,000 for the comedy show.

Tickets are not required for entry and there is no cap on capacity. Masks and social distancing will be encouraged, she said. As of Oct. 29, the post received 119 likes and no comments compared to last year's Cody Ko's engagement of over 650 likes and about 57 comments.

■ See COMEDY SHOW on PAGE 15

# Alumni celebrate Homecoming Week back on campus

By Jordon Myrick  
CORRESPONDENT

There's no feeling like coming home, and this year, festivities will feel even sweeter for alumni planning to celebrate Homecoming Week alongside fellow Bulls for the first time since 2019.

Events ranging from dinners, panels and tailgates to gatherings with old classmates will welcome alumni back to campus. The weeklong festivities take place from Oct. 31 to Nov. 6 across all three campuses.

Bill McCausland, vice president and executive director of the USF Alumni Association, wanted to highlight the return

of alumni during the week. He said homecoming will be an opportunity to celebrate the festivities together and reconnect.

"People are just so happy to see each other face to face," said McCausland. "It's just that instant connection of joy and energy of getting back together. We're just so ready to be looking at something other than a computer screen."

The Alumni Association prepared a week full of events boosting USF spirit, starting with the USF Alumni Awards Dinner on Thursday, with reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Alumni awards will be given at the end of

■ See ALUMNI on PAGE 15



USF alumni will feel the nostalgia of campus life this year once again after missing out on in-person homecoming events last year. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

## HOCO GAMES

Continued from PAGE 9

USF's 611 yards of total offense still ranks in the top 10 all-time.

### 4. Homecoming 2019: USF 27, BYU 23

The most recent homecoming win was one of the more exciting games on this list as the Bulls came back from a double-digit deficit to earn the victory.

BYU jumped out to an early 13-0 and went into the half 16-7 but was held to just seven points in the second half and were shut out in the fourth quarter against a staunch Bulls defense that finished with 13 tackles for loss and six sacks.

Offensively, USF was once again led by a strong rushing attack headlined by Cronkrite who ran for 158 yards and two touchdowns, including the one that put the team ahead with

7:37 remaining. The Bulls had 243 of their 315 total yards on the ground.

The defense had to make one final defensive stand as BYU's final drive of the game reached the USF 12-yard line. An Antonio Grier's sack and Devin Studstill pass break up sealed the win.

### 3. Homecoming 2006: USF 22, Pittsburgh 12

The lone game from the Big East era to make the list, USF's win over Pittsburgh was a dominant defensive performance.

Going into the matchup, the Panthers had the nation's 29th ranked offense and one of its best quarterbacks — Tyler Palko. The Bulls held them to 214 yards.

Palko ended up leading the conference in pass completions, completion percentage, efficiency rating and passing touchdowns for the 2006 season, and was forced into three interceptions

for just 159 yards.

While the defense dominated, USF's offense, led by sophomore quarterback Matt Grothe, did just enough to come away with the win. Grothe completed 19 passes for 180 yards and touchdown in addition to rushing for 59 yards and another score.

### 2. Homecoming 2016: USF 38, ECU 22

A decade after that strong defensive outing against Pittsburgh, the evolution of USF's program was on full display as the offense led the way in an up-and-down affair against ECU.

The Bulls totaled 556 yards behind a balanced offensive game plan led by junior quarterback Quinton Flowers, who accounted for 365 yards on his own.

Flowers wasn't alone, however. Junior running and future NFL draft pick Marlon Mack had 152 rushing yards of his own to go

along with two touchdowns. Rodney Adams also came up with seven receptions for 113 yards and a touchdown.

USF had 306 yards rushing and 250 through the air and five total touchdowns.

After holding a 24-6 lead in the third quarter, USF allowed the Pirates to get within two points of the lead but were able to separate themselves over the final six minutes of the game to lock up the win.

Additionally, the Bulls managed to extend multiple streaks at the time including 10 straight games of at least 35 points, 440 yards of total offense and the 11th consecutive game in which the team surpassed the 200-yard rushing mark.

### 1. Homecoming 2017: USF 33, Cincinnati 3

One of USF's most complete performances in several years,

the blowout win over Cincinnati is easily the most impressive homecoming performance in program history.

Flowers and company were dominant once again, putting up 402 yards of total offense, including 212 yards rushing with two touchdown passes. The senior quarterback led the team in both passing and rushing and surpassed the 3,000 career rushing yard mark.

The defense also showed out. In addition to not surrendering a touchdown to the Bearcats, senior linebacker Auggie Sanchez had a 65-yard interception return for the team's 15th interception of the season.

With the win, USF tied the AP Poll-era record of consecutive 30-plus point games at 23, a mark they would eventually break in their next game against Tulane.



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Opeyemi Olagbaju will open for T-Murph after the Homecoming Kickoff pep rally at 6:30 p.m.  
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

## COMEDY SHOW

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T-Murph is a comedian, actor and writer who has been featured on Saturday Night Live, Comedy Central's Kevin Hart Presents: The Next Level and Key & Peele.

The 35-year-old comedian's most recent role being "Clovis" on Hulu's new series "Woke" working alongside Emmy award winner Keith Davis. He has accumulated approximately 43,000 followers on Instagram.

Olagbaju is a Los Angeles comedian, writer and actor, originally from Nigeria. He started doing stand up comedy in 2014 and since then has performed in festivals, including The World Series of Comedy and NACA showcases. He is currently a writer on "I Love You, America" on Hulu.

Arroyo-Acevedo said the purpose of having a comedy show as a part of Homecoming Week is to give a space for students to relax and have some laughs.

"Comedians, I think just bring like a very comedic ... destress from the full college experience. So I think that's a good reason to have one, and why we really bring it because again I think it's a good opportunity for students to kind of let their guard down, relax, have a good time, but then also just build community and meet other people," said Arroyo-Acevedo.

The comedy show, like the other events during Homecoming Week, is also a good way to reconnect with fellow Bulls and make lasting connections in the USF community, Arroyo-Acevedo said, especially since last year's events were virtual.

"I think part of the ... full week of homecoming is honestly just a celebration of the campus ... and helping students understand that there's opportunity to build community on campus," she said.

## ALUMNI

Continued from PAGE 12

the evening.

Fellow alumni will join the celebrations during the Alumni Welcome Home Party on Friday from 5-9 p.m., featuring family-friendly games, food concessions and a watch party for the Running with the Bulls Homecoming Parade. The event will be held on the front lawn of the Gibbons Alumni Center.

An exclusive event will be held for Life Members of the Alumni Association at the same time and location. Guest tickets for adults 21 and older were sold for \$30 and people 13-20 years old for \$15. Children 12 and younger will gain free access to the event. Registration for the event was required and closed Oct. 29.

The parade will start at 7 p.m. on Holly Drive, head to Genshaft

Drive and end on Alumni Drive in front of the Alumni Center. The Herd of Thunder band will perform at the end of the parade at the Welcome Home Party.

"It's exciting, it's energetic, it's prideful and it's just a lot of fun," said McCausland. "People go loving [USF]."

To warm up for the game, the Alumni Association will set up the Homecoming Spirit Tent in Lot 6D at Raymond James Stadium. The event, set to start at 4:30 p.m., will give away free spirit accessories, including temporary tattoos, beads and class year stickers. Alumni can show their current alumni membership card to get commemorative beads.

The matchup against Houston will start at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$50 for club access and \$25 for sideline seating.

Without a face-to-face alumni

event in a year and a half, McCausland said he felt they would feel most excited to see one another again.

"This year, people have this pent-up desire to go out and engage ... with people and celebrate," said McCausland.

McCausland said he hopes Homecoming Week will stress the unity and Bull pride among alumni.

"The only permanent constituent we have is alumni," said McCausland. "And that's a bond we all share, we're related because we went to the same university. It's important that we serve as a conduit to allow people to capitalize on the emotional connection they have to USF."



USF alumni will get to participate in a variety of events, including dinners and parties, and join their fellow bulls in celebrating homecoming. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

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