

## Presidential Search Committee moves forward with position profile



Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Job applications for USF's next president will soon be coming in as the Presidential Search Committee finalizes the position profile and advertisements.

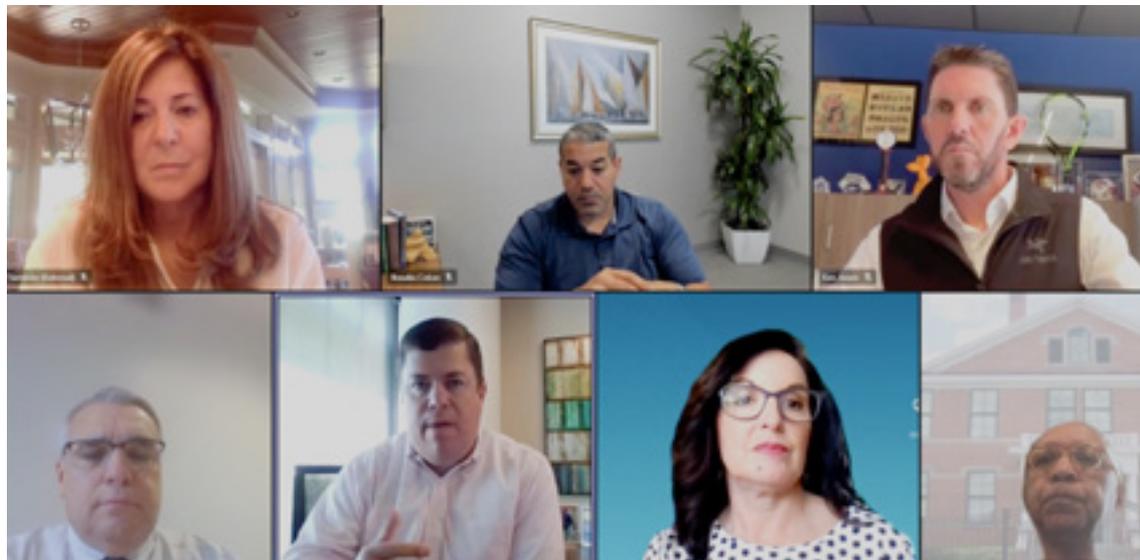
The committee created a 15-page brand book consisting of USF facts and statistics, awards and achievements, as well as the role's qualifications and

challenges. The board reached a consensus on the document and approved it Nov. 19, with a few changes in the language used for certain points still pending.

After the document is finalized, the committee leadership will create the position's advertisement and present it with the brand book to the Board of Trustees (BOT) in December, according to Search Committee Chair Michael Griffin.

"It sends a strong message that we have consensus, but we will be coming back to you electronically with [the final version]," Griffin said.

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A list of ideal traits for the next president were outlined, including dedication to USF's mission and ability to create respectful relationships within the community. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

## Student engagement impacted by the pandemic



Angela Cordoba Perez

NEWS EDITOR

Compared to previous years, attendance at some on-campus events such as University Lecture Series (ULS) and Homecoming events has dropped, and according to Dean of Students Danielle McDonald, it could be associated with the lack of

in-person events during the pandemic.

About 350 students saw comedian T-Murph's performance this semester, compared to the 582 students who saw Michelle Buteau in the 2019 Comedy Show, the last one hosted in person before the pandemic.

Despite the drop, Joshua Wilson, associate director of the Center for Student Involvement (CSI), said he doesn't think there has been a change in attendance at events CSI has hosted and he said students have been equally engaged.

"If you were to look at our

numbers throughout the years, they're always going to fluctuate based on the speaker, the person, the time of the year, what's going on [and if it is] close to midterms," Wilson said.

"We've actually seen pretty solid numbers compared to the past, but we have not yet fully processed all of our data for the fall semester regarding the events and in comparison."

This semester's only ULS with Julissa Calderon for Hispanic Heritage Month drew 30 people in the Marshall Student Center Ballroom on Oct. 15, which had a capacity for 500, while 50 people attended Lindsay Peoples

Wagner's ULS in spring 2020 in the Oval Theater. Calderon was paid \$26,500 for the event.

In fall 2019, around 900 people showed up to see Josh Peck, with people lining up as early as five hours before the event. Wilson said CSI hoped more people would be at Calderon's event, but CSI didn't have much time to market the event because of the contracting process.

Attendance at events such as ULS is not representative of student engagement, according to McDonald. She said speakers are targeted toward specific student populations and don't necessarily attract the whole

student body.

"[Staff at CSI are] also looking at what are some speakers that just maybe resonate for a smaller population, but it's a population that we need to be paying attention to or addressing," McDonald said. "The students are looking at what are their priorities for that year, what are their topics that they want to have covered and then trying to meet those needs and having a diverse set of speakers for the series."

The speaker who is chosen also depends on a survey that students vote on who they want

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# THE ORACLE

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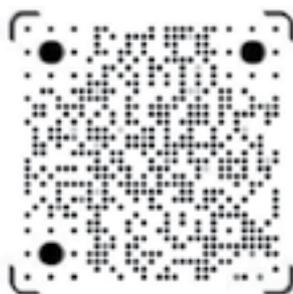


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## BASKETBALL

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10 minutes.

"I think you've just got to take it one step at a time, one action at a time," Pinzan said. "Get a stop and then score on offense ... You've just got to really think one action at a time because as soon as you start thinking [only] about offense and stop thinking about defense, a special team like UConn [and] top 10 teams are going to hurt you.

"[We tried to] just stick with our plan."

Part of that game plan was controlling the glass, a part of the game that hurt the Bulls in a previous loss to No. 16 Tennessee on Nov. 15. USF won the rebounding battle against the Huskies 34-29 and pulled in 15 offensive rebounds compared to just six from UConn.

Seniors Bethy Mununga and



This was your typical, probably second, third weekend NCAA tournament game.

Coach Jose Fernandez



Shae Leverett led all players with eight boards apiece. Mununga also added 15 points.

"[Mununga] did a great job on the glass and she did a good job finishing around the basket," Fernandez said. "I thought we found here, 17 of 22 of our field goals were assisted, that means we did a good job sharing the basketball, that's who we are.

"I'm really glad for Bethy, she was struggling a bit the first 2-3 games of the year, and I think she's played really, really well here in the Bahamas."

Although USF had some success offensively, like the 11-3 run to end the third quarter, it was often a feast or famine for the Bulls' offense. It took 3:07 for the Bulls to score their first bucket, and three other scoring droughts

of over four minutes cost USF some points in what proved to be a single-digit difference in the final score.

"I think UConn does that to a lot of people," Fernandez said. "I've seen a lot of teams have scoring droughts against them because they're long, they're effective [and] they're athletic in the perimeter. I thought we didn't come down and crank and take the first bad shot because it's like a live ball turnover.

"We took some shots that made them defend for about 20-22 seconds, and we missed shots that we normally make, but I think you've got to take into consideration their length and the things that they do defensively as well."

The Bulls will have to quickly get over the loss because they have yet another important game coming up against No. 9 Oregon

on Monday.

"Overall, [we've got to have] short-term memory [and] we've got to respond and get ready to play tomorrow, whoever we're going to play," Fernandez said. "I'm proud, I thought we defended, we made multiple efforts in a lot of plays, and this was your typical, probably second, third weekend NCAA tournament game."

*The Bulls will face the Ducks on Monday at 2:30 p.m. The game will be televised on ESPNU and broadcast on Bulls Unlimited.*

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
Advertising	974-2620
Classified	974-2620

## CORRECTIONS

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

## SEARCH

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In the brand book's qualifications and characteristics section, the committee focused on skills in the area of leadership, communication, management style and problem solving.

An ideal candidate must have a passion for USF and its mission, the ability to lead a multi-campus university and have an accessible and approachable management style. An emphasis on the candidate's ability to develop and cultivate working relationships with trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, students, government and corporate leaders as well as community partners is also included in the position's profile.

Candidates should also further promote and pursue the university's set ambitions, including achieving American Association of Universities membership and enhancing its infrastructure, as well as establish "a bold vision" for the future.

A commitment to reinforcing the role of USF Athletics is also strongly emphasized in the book. The next president is expected to be a "passionate supporter" of the university's athletic programs and work with trustees, athletic boosters and other "key campus stakeholders" to build an on-campus stadium.

The committee will accept application nominations until the position is filled, according to the book. Applications need to include a current curriculum vitae and a letter of interest in which the applicant will describe relevant experience and their interest in the position. The search firm will be taking applications via email.

The brand book is filled with the university's points of pride, including its recent rankings, research stats and general facts about the three campuses.

There is a heavy focus on academics in the book, focusing



The committee will accept applications until the position is filled, according to the brand book. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

on STEM majors and the university's research endeavors. USF Health has its own section highlighting its recent accomplishments and awards, as well as its partnership with Tampa General Hospital, Moffitt Cancer Center, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.

Other colleges, including arts and sciences, engineering, the arts and business, are not given the same emphasis on the promotional video or brand book.

Alberto Pimentel, co-founder of SP&A Executive Search, said he was concerned about excluding colleges when highlighting a few in the brand book. He said an emphasis is being put in other areas of the university during conversations, in which the search committee is "pushing the connectivity between the university and the business and local community."

"I want to make sure we emphasize that the university has been very impactful in each area. So I don't know if that addresses the comment but the fact that we thought it might create a problem if we just emphasize only a couple of colleges," Pimentel said.

The university's recent commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is featured in the brand book, highlighting some general information about its

anti-racism initiatives, including a website, the Diversity, Anti-Racism and Equity (DARE) dashboard and the \$500,000 investment in interdisciplinary research projects focusing on systemic inequality and Black history, across campuses.

Suggestions to add more information regarding the Tampa Bay area and its quality of life were proposed by some committee members during the meeting.

"I do think that adding in that broader context is important," Board of Governors member Ken Jones said.

"If you think about the companies that have moved here to Tampa Bay just in the last three or four years, those are really interesting selling points ... This area is experiencing not just educational excellence with growth, but also corporate growth with relocations."

Among the recommendations, committee members suggested the book include a stronger emphasis on student success, Ph.D. and M.D. programs and other college's accomplishments.

Once the changes are made and the brand book is finalized, Griffin will present it at the Dec. 7 BOT meeting. The committee will then work on the advertisement and open submissions for the role of USF's eighth president.

## TAKEAWAYS

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If the Bulls want to end the season on a high note against the Knights, a team averaging 33.55 points per game, it'll take a better performance than what they showed against the Green Wave.

### No good halves this week

It's been a tale of two halves for USF in a number of its games this season. Against Florida, BYU and Cincinnati, the Bulls had poor performances to open the game but outscored their opponents in the second half. Against Tulsa, ECU and Houston, the Bulls had halftime leads that they saw evaporate before the final whistle.

That wasn't the case against the Green Wave. Aside from an early touchdown from junior running back Kelley Joiner, it was a wire-to-wire victory for Tulane.

The Bulls, at the very least, had something to hang their hat on in six of their previous eight losses. Against Tulane, however, there weren't many positives.

### Offensive line struggles

USF's offensive line, a veteran unit, has been a strength for the Bulls this season. The Green Wave brought plenty of pressure Sunday, however, registering five sacks and forcing freshman quarterback Timmy McClain to scramble multiple times.

"I felt like we were getting beat up front early on in some pass protection issues, [a problem] that we really haven't seen all year," coach Jeff Scott said. "So, I really want to go back and see what exactly they were doing and what was causing issues, because we feel like [our pass protection has] been one of the most consistent groups for us this year.

"When they started getting

back there and getting so much pressure on Timmy, it kind of takes him a little out of his game and he starts kind of forcing things. Ultimately, we didn't play well enough at any position, offensively or defensively, to win the game."

Whatever the issue may be the Bulls must figure it out before Friday's matchup against UCF, which has 28 sacks on the season.

### Battie, Joiner perform well

Although it wasn't a good performance for many Bulls, running backs Brian Battie and Joiner gave USF something to be optimistic about.

Joiner led all USF rushers with 95 yards and also added a touchdown. Battie had 139 all-purpose yards with 21 being of the rushing category, 35 receiving and 83 on kickoff returns.

The Bulls will likely look to lean on both playmakers, in addition to junior running back Jaren Mangham, in the season finale.

### Big plays ignite Green Wave

Before facing USF, Tulane seemed to have a lackluster offense, but multiple big plays helped the Green Wave defeat the Bulls.

Tulane logged six passing plays of over 28 yards and five rushes of 15 yards or more. Second-year freshman quarterback Michael Pratt had career-highs in passing yards and touchdowns

So far this season USF has been giving up an average of 7.1 yards per play and 489 yards per game, which ranks 125th in all of Division I.

# Spencer out as defensive coordinator



Richard Silva

SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Spencer was named defensive coordinator Dec. 22, 2019, 13 days after coach Jeff Scott became the fifth head coach in USF history.

Before joining the Bulls, Spencer made stops as a defensive coordinator at Oklahoma State, Charlotte and Florida Atlantic, among others.

It has yet to be announced who will take over defensive play-calling duties in its final game of the season against UCF on Friday, but Scott plans to announce Tuesday his defensive staff plans for the final week of the season.

"I would like to thank Glenn for his hard work, professionalism and dedication to our program and the student-athletes in it," Scott said via a press release. "He brought a great deal to our coaching staff and his desire and

Defensive coordinator Glenn Spencer was fired Sunday, according to USF Athletics.

The decision comes directly after the Bulls allowed a struggling Tulane offense to put up 45 points against them Saturday. The Green Wave scored 35 points in the first half alone.

USF ranks 120th out of 130 teams in points allowed per game with 36.27 and ranks 125th in total yards allowed with 489.3.



Glenn Spencer was the defensive coordinator for less than two seasons before being fired Sunday. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

effort were unquestioned, but ultimately I felt a change was needed as we move forward.

"I continue to believe we are headed in the right direction as a program and are building a

foundation for success here at USF."

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Lower attendance could be related to students adjusting to managing their time between classes and in-person activities, according to Dean of Students Danielle McDonald. ORACLE PHOTO

## ENGAGEMENT

Continued from PAGE 1

to see as well as the department's budget. In the fall semester, there was only one ULS because the speakers CSI was planning to bring didn't fit the budget, according to Wilson, and it was hard to pull the event together within three weeks.

Lower attendance at events like the Comedy Show could be an effect of the online semesters and lack of in-person events, according to McDonald.

She said students who were new to campus might still be learning how to manage their time with classes and the on-campus activities. Although managing time can be a challenge for freshmen, McDonald said this year more students are facing it.

"I think that for [our new-to-campus students], they are also struggling with the challenge of learning how to balance [classes and activities]," McDonald said.

"When you were just taking online classes ... you didn't have a social life to balance. Some

people weren't working during that time, they didn't have work to balance and they didn't have all of these activities and organizations and extracurriculars to balance."

Getting students to take on leadership roles in areas such as Student Government (SG), orientation and student organizations has been challenging, according to McDonald. She said the Senate didn't have a quorum for at least two meetings because of open seats, and the recruiting process for orientation leaders and resident assistants has been lengthened.

"At least [for] one year, students have only seen orientation virtually, so they may not have really connected and known when an orientation leader does and so don't know that it's something they might be interested in doing in the future," McDonald said.

"It's the same thing with a lot of positions that we're just needing to do a lot more educating on what those positions are, and making those connections so that

people know that this might be something that they're interested in."

To address the challenges, McDonald said CSI has hired student engagement coaches, who students can talk to about how they can get involved on campus. Those interested can sign up for a 30-minute consultation on BullsConnect.

For the spring semester, McDonald said she hopes students are settled with campus life and comfortable to engage in more activities. She said being engaged in college is more than just about having fun as it can help students develop skills outside of classes.

"One of the things that I often tell students is that your degree from USF makes you employable, but it's what you do here that makes you promotable," McDonald said. "[It is] those leadership, those involvement skills, those communication and teamwork skills that you get in these engagement opportunities that employers are really looking for."



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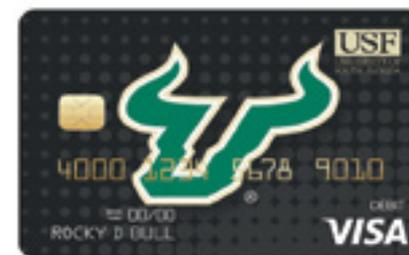
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## Rittenhouse is a vigilante, not a political icon

By Marlene Pilcher  
OPINION CO-EDITOR

Kyle Rittenhouse, the 18-year old who shot three men with an assault-style weapon at a police brutality protest in Kenosha, Wisconsin last year, was acquitted of all charges Nov. 20.

Rittenhouse should not be hailed as a hero. He arrived in Kenosha with the intent to intimidate — if not harm — and vigilante justice shouldn't be idolized.

During the trial, Rittenhouse claimed on the stand that he was asked to go downtown by the owner of Car Source, a business that endured damage during the Kenosha demonstrations..

Even if Rittenhouse had not planned to commit violence as he claimed, his intent was to intimidate protesters with a loaded assault weapon — a crime that resulted in the death of two unarmed men and the maiming of another.

The defense team and Rittenhouse's supporters argue that he was first attacked by the protesters, resulting in the firing of his weapon.

He entered a crowd, brandishing an assault weapon, similar to the kind used in mass shootings. Protesters had every reason to assume that violence was his intention.

As a citizen, not a police officer nor a dispatch of the state, Rittenhouse had no right to take the action he did. Counter-protest is one thing, and is his political right. No one has a



Conservatives hailing Kyle Rittenhouse as a hero following his acquittal is a dangerous glorification of political violence.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

right to intimidation or violence, political or otherwise.

Vigilante justice is a crime. The waiving of any repercussions is a dangerous precedent that encourages political violence.

Some conservatives are celebrating Rittenhouse as a champion of the Second Amendment, with three GOP lawmakers including Rep. Madison Cawthorn falling over each other to offer him White House internships.

Far-right groups have also claimed Rittenhouse. The Proud Boys, an organization with a history of armed violence, took to the streets to celebrate his acquittal.

Following the Rittenhouse ruling, popular right-wing social media site GAB sent a Nov. 19 email to users to commit violence, according to Media Matters researcher Alex Kaplan.

“We need to buy firearms and form Christian militias as

the Bible and our Constitution allows,” the email said. This follows months after GAB CEO Andrew Torba urged insurrectionists to storm the Senate.

The lauding of political violence by conservative legislators is irresponsible and indicative of how pervasive violent extremism has become in politics. If they want to truly preserve this country, Republican leaders need to call out against violence, not encourage it.

Two people died as a result of Kyle Rittenhouse's actions. He is not a hero. He is not an symbol for patriotism. He embodies the dark turn the U.S. has taken and the hold violent politics have on young white men.

*Marcelene Pilcher is a sophomore studying integrated public relations and advertising.*

## USF's on-campus stadium will be a bust

By Brielle Lopez  
OPINION CO-EDITOR

Both Interim President Rhea Law and Board of Trustee (BOT) Chair Will Weatherford have goals for an on-campus stadium. While an exciting thought, an on-campus stadium is an irresponsible goal to set right now.

The money required to build such an overly ambitious stadium isn't reasonable given the average attendance at USF football games. This project should be put on the backburner for when attendance increases.

USF's football attendance was 19,589 per game in 2019, according to turnstile counts provided by Associate Athletics Director Brian Siegrist. USF's turnout is overshadowed by other colleges, including the Bulls' biggest rival.

UCF averaged 43,788 attendees per game in 2019, according to UCF Athletics. That number, however, is the announced turnout, not the turnstile figures, which are more accurate. USF's announced turnout that year was 32,956 per game.

This season, though only partially accounted for, isn't looking much more promising, with an average of 24,879 attendees per game, according to Siegrist.

Building an on-campus stadium isn't cheap, as reflected by the estimates taken from the conceptual planning study released Aug. 2, 2017. This study originally projected the stadium to cost \$200 million, but estimates for 2022 have increased it.

The new expected cost is

roughly \$245 million, an insane amount of money for a college stadium compared with UCF's stadium. Its on-campus stadium, the Bounce House, was built in 2007 for approximately \$55 million.

If a college with double our turnout built a stadium at a quarter of the price, maybe USF is planning too extravagantly.

Some attribute the measly attendance to inaccessibility, furthering the argument for an on-campus stadium. The problem with this take is that students have free access to the Bull Runner, which takes students to and from the stadium on game days.

Free access includes visitors that board the bus with a student, according to the USF Transportation Information and Guidelines. This extends to home games at Raymond James Stadium, according to USF's Administrative Services.

Lack of accessibility isn't the issue, lack of school spirit is. Until football games become more popular in attendance, focusing on an on-campus stadium is foolish. Other issues should be prioritized by Law and the BOT.

The idea of an on-campus stadium sounds appealing to students when the reality is, no one will use it enough to make it monetarily worthwhile.

*Brielle Lopez is a senior studying English.*

# FOCAL POINTS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021 THE ORACLE

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## Weaving to the top



Junior receiver Xavier Weaver has career-highs in receptions (37), receiving yards (640) and touchdowns (4) with one game left to play in 2021. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

By Leonardo Santos  
CORRESPONDENT

Going against adversity was never a problem for junior wide receiver Xavier Weaver.

His high school, Orlando Christian Prep, isn't known for generating high-level football talent. In fact, the school had never had a player sign to an FBS program until Weaver did in 2018.

"[Sometimes] we're kind of overlooked [because] we're a small fish in a big pond," Weaver's high school coach, Guerschom Demosthenes, said.

Weaver posted some impressive numbers at Orlando Christian Prep — 2,124 receiving yards and 32 total touchdowns in 34 appearances — and came out of school ranked as a three-star recruit by 247Sports.

He knew as long as he performed and controlled what he could, he would eventually start to hear from big-time collegiate programs.

"It felt really good to be the first player to [sign to an FBS team from my high school]," Weaver said. "Like my old coaches told me, 'If you're good at football, then [colleges are] going to find you.' So, just coming out of a small school and still being able to do it, it's a blessing."

Weaver fielded offers from 16 schools including Wake Forest, UTSA, East Carolina, Charlotte and, of course, USF.

Committing to the Bulls in July 2018 and later signing a letter of intent in December was the culmination of years of hard work for Weaver and a moment of proving his doubters wrong.

Aside from playing for a small school that lacked media attention, Weaver was often told his body type — 6-feet-1-inches tall, 178 pounds — simply wasn't cut out for the next level.

"I didn't think it was possible to play college football because everybody was always saying that I'm too small, or too little or stuff like that," Weaver said. "I always kept faith and I committed to USF in my junior year in high school and it's only been up from that point."

That mindset of always believing and shrugging off external criticism was something Weaver had since his youth, and it's a quality that Demosthenes said he always admired his former playmaker for.

Anytime somebody doubted Weaver, he always knew how to

put that talk away by performing on the field, according to Demosthenes.

"What I'm most proud about that young man is that he didn't let size or anything stop him," Demosthenes said. "What he did to compensate that talk was [elevate] his play on the field ... He has shown that he's a high-level receiver that can go play in any program."

Establishing himself as USF's primary receiver took some time, however. Weaver played in 20 games over the first two seasons of his collegiate career, making his presence felt with 22 catches for 302 yards, but he never truly took over like he has in 2021.

Weaver has career-highs across the board in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns, a feat he attributes to the work

he's put into his craft.

"Just practicing and working on my skills helps me a lot because if you don't work on it, you're not going to get any better at it," he said. "Once [it clicks in] reps [at] practice, then it comes naturally to you [in games]."

With his role established and the 2021 season coming to an end, Weaver said he believes the Bulls are close to breaking through.

"We're not where we want to be right now, [but] people need to keep believing in us because we're not really under the light right now and nobody really sees us," Weaver said.

"[There's been some] small plays this season that's been keeping us from getting more victories, but we're coming."

## Fudd, Bueckers push No. 2 UConn past Bulls



Richard Silva

SPORTS CO-EDITOR

No. 23 USF went into the fourth quarter tied with No. 2 UConn in the Battle 4 Atlantis on Sunday afternoon, but the inability to contain the duo of freshman Azzi Fudd and sophomore Paige Bueckers made the difference for the Bulls in the 60-53 loss.

Bueckers and Fudd accounted for 39 of UConn's 60 points, shooting a combined 53.8% from the field and 47.4% from three-point range. Fudd only missed three of her nine shots from beyond the arc.

"Fudd was the national

player of the year for a reason, she's pretty good," coach Jose Fernandez said. "She's going to get better when she's able to create off the bounce and take you off the bounce, but you've got to be able to step up and knock those shots down, and she did.

"I thought at times we were right there and she made [some shots] over us."

The Bulls have now played UConn 33 times in program history and have yet to pull off a victory over the Huskies, but Sunday's contest was as good a chance as they've ever had.

USF was down eight points with 5:31 left to play in the third quarter before a furious 11-3 run knotted the game at 45 heading into the final period of play. Junior point guard Elisa Pinzan said the team was trying not to get too ahead of itself in the last

■ See BASKETBALL on PAGE 2



Senior forward Bethy Mununga scored 15 points and secured eight rebounds in No. 23 USF's loss to No. 2 UConn on Sunday. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

## Takeaways: Tulane comes to life, all-around poor performance for Bulls in loss to Green Wave



Lanie De La Milera

STAFF WRITER

The Bulls came into New Orleans looking for their first road win in over two years, and with a one-win Tulane team as



USF's offensive line struggled to protect freshman quarterback Timmy McClain, who was sacked five times during the Bulls' blowout loss to Tulane on Saturday. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

the opponent, that result seemed to be within reach.

Instead, USF got dominated by the Green Wave. Tulane scored on five consecutive drives before halftime and ultimately won the game 45-14.

Here are five takeaways from the Bulls' loss ahead of their final game of the season against UCF on Friday.

Struggling Tulane offense finds groove

Tulane had scored 12, 10 and 13 points, respectively, in its previous three games. Conversely, the Bulls allowed opponents to score an average of 35.4 points per game in its first 10 contests.

Something had to give, and the Green Wave offense took advantage. Tulane finished with 501 total yards and scored the most points it had since Week 2, a 69-20 win over Morgan State, an FCS opponent.

■ See TAKEAWAYS on PAGE 3