

Changing the game: Greg Wolf's influence on fan experience



Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Prior to 2014, USF football games didn't have much fan interaction during breaks in the action. Whether it was the end of a quarter or a commercial break, there wasn't much to keep those in the seats engaged and hyped.

That was until 1998 alum Greg Wolf stepped into the spotlight and took over as USF's first-ever in-game host. Since his arrival, Wolf presents various on-field contests and leads the fans in a variety of chants to keep the energy in the building high.

"We can't control the gameplay on the field or in the arena, or



USF alum Greg Wolf has worked as the university's first in-game host for football and basketball since 2014. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

on the court or whatever, but what we can control is the time that our fans have [and] the entertainment that we provide them [and the] experience that we give them," Wolf said.

The energy during games and the fans' involvement changed

drastically since Wolf took the mic, according to Tom Hoof, former chief marketing officer for USF. He said Wolf's involvement changed the way fans get excited during games.

"In talking to students and talking to alumni and what

[USF Athletics] needed, they all agreed that there was something missing, and so we tried to really upgrade the game entertainment. Part of the upgrade was bringing Greg," Hoof said.

"He got the students fired up, and it was a complete change

in the atmosphere at that first game."

Dozens of games and seven years later, Wolf continues to bring the energy and make sure the crowd has fun regardless of the score.

While his outgoing personality makes him fit for the role, it wasn't until later in his life when he realized he would get into the entertainment industry. He discovered a passion for radio and became an entertainer by accident while working at his brother's restaurant and delivering food for a local radio station.

As an intern for a local radio station in 1996, Wolf was assigned to do a live stunt at the location of the groundbreaking ceremony for what is now Raymond James Stadium. Instead of bringing a pen and notebook, however, he was told to bring a shovel and

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USF's UFF chapter disapproves UF's suppression of academic freedom rights

By Clinton Engelberger
Michael Mardones

The United Faculty of Florida (UFF) USF chapter expressed its disappointment with the recent events concerning UF's denial of letting three UF faculty testify in a lawsuit, citing the decision as a violation of community rights.

In a universitywide email sent out Nov. 5, USF's UFF chapter stated that by barring the faculty members from providing expert

testimony in a legal case against the state, the UF administration has silenced experts to speak on the topic on behalf of the community.

"We are astonished and disappointed that the administration of UF has repeatedly barred faculty from testifying in politically sensitive lawsuits, particularly since these lawsuits concerned the actions of the state government," UFF

wrote in the email.

After a Nov. 5 UFF USF chapter meeting, a consensus was reached to send the email to convey the committee's stance on the topic.

The email stated that the UF administration violated both the faculty's First Amendment and the community's right to the faculty's expertise on their respective subject.

The lawsuit challenges a new

state law backed by Gov. Ron DeSantis that the plaintiffs argue discriminates against voters of color and violates the Voting Rights Act.

Three UF political-science professors were denied the ability to share their knowledge as expert witnesses surrounding new state law that potentially encroaches on the Voting Rights Act and has the ability to suppress voters of color.

UF's reason behind its denial of the faculty's participation in the lawsuit follows their belief that it would deter the interests of the university being a state agency. Those interests of the university being hindered by the participation of the professors were not specified and are still unclear.

"UF is an extension of the state as a state agency, litigation against

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USF elected to start the shootout with junior Sydney Nasello, who's attempt was saved by Memphis keeper Elizabeth Moberg. Nasello was 4-of-5 from the spot going into the game for the season.

Junior Rosalia Muino Gonzalez and senior Katie Kitching were the next in line for USF and ultimately met the same fate as Nasello with Gonzalez's shot being saved and Kitching's attempt sailing over the bar.

All three of Memphis' penalty kickers were faultless, converting each of their attempts past USF goalkeeper Sydney Martinez.

Losing in such disappointing fashion could be debilitating for a team like USF, which likely has the NCAA Tournament on its horizon, but Schilte-Brown's message to the team is to throw this game away and hold their heads high.

"Throw it in the garbage and move forward," Schilte-Brown said. "They're regular season champions, they didn't lose in the game, they lost in [penalty kicks] and we hit the reset button. I'd be happy to go into [penalty kicks] again, I don't think it'd be the same result."

With the loss, the Bulls will miss out on the automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, but will likely still secure a spot due to their high rating percentage index (RPI), which ranks teams based off of their wins, losses and strength of schedule. USF currently has the 24th-best RPI in the country.

For the Bulls to be successful throughout the rest of the postseason, the loss to Memphis needs to become a distant memory, not seen as a bump in the road but rather a learning opportunity that they'll use against their next opponent.

"It's important that we don't

see it as a roadblock," Nasello said. "We came and we didn't get the result, but if you dwell on that you're not going to be successful moving forward. So it's kind of just take away the pieces, especially for me. I didn't have the best game I could have had today, and I felt like I was kind of in a mental battle with myself and it affected me and my teammates.

"But I can't dwell on that going forward or it's not going to benefit anyone. So I think for us, we're just going to watch the film, see the breakdown, where we could have been more clinical in the game and use that going forward for whoever we play next."

Martinez echoed Nasello's sentiment, emphasizing there's still a long way to go for the team to reach its ultimate goal.

"Even though we lost today, like coach said, we're still in the tournament, luckily. Second part of the season starts [on Monday,]" Martinez said. "[On Monday] we hit it hard and we keep going and keep trying to make it all the way."

Despite the disappointment, it's not lost on Schilte-Brown the sustained excellence that her program has had over the last few seasons. USF has made each of the last three AAC Tournament finals, won it twice and has won either the regular season or tournament title for five straight seasons.

"I think it's a great legacy," Schilte-Brown said. "I think we've gotten great players in, we're excited for the future and, of course, it's exciting to be a part of USF Athletics. It's a great institution and a great place and we're proud of the leadership here."

The Bulls will find out if they made the NCAA tournament during the selection show Monday at 4:30. The show will be streamed live on NCAA.com.

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CORRECTIONS

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

WOLF

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hardhat.

The radio hosts told Wolf to get into the fenced construction area and start digging. Live on radio, Wolf jumped the fence and got to work.

"You can hear the shovel going in the ground on the radio of me digging and they're like 'We're going to check back with you every 15 minutes just to see how things are going.' Now mind you, I'm a 19-year-old kid, I'm just doing what they're asking. I still don't understand the premise of all this, I'm not listening to the radio show, so I'm just out there digging," Wolf said.

As he continued digging for a few minutes, a construction crew member showed up. Freaking out, Wolf said the hosts were feeding him what to say. He told them he was with the union who sent him there to continue working, leaving them confused.

The conversation went on for five minutes until a police car approached. Thinking he was about to get arrested, Wolf started running while still live on the show.

The police officer ended up catching up to him. Wolf said he stopped running and, afraid to go to jail on his first assignment, he nearly cried and came clean to the officer on what he was doing — while still live on the radio.

"I stopped [running] and I'm almost in tears now because I think I'm going to jail," Wolf said. "Sure enough, he was listening. The police officer was listening to the bit [on the radio] and said he had to come to see it for himself.

"Thank God the cop was cool, he was a listener and thought it



Wolf worked two stints as the host for the Lightning and won two rings with the franchise winning the last two Stanley Cups. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/@scottaudette, @photosapien706

was funny ... [The radio hosts] were saying that I was running so fast it was like I had three legs, so that's literally how the name Third Leg Greg came to be."

Despite thinking he was about to get arrested for trespassing and potentially losing his internship, Wolf ended up having his big break and the start of his career in radio.

"That was really the beginning of my radio career," he said.

Wolf worked for the radio station until it was sold in 1998. That same year, Wild 98.7, now known as WILD 94.1, was born, and Wolf found himself on the station's promotions team.

"I knew if I get my foot in the door [at the radio station], I'm going to learn every facet of this industry in this building so that I become indispensable," Wolf said.

As the ratings kept rising, Wolf was offered a three-year deal at the station. Fresh out of college, Wolf ended up having the No. 1 night show in Tampa between 1999 and 2005.

"The guy digging at Raymond James Stadium has now turned himself into a radio star," he said. "That was my plight into the industry, and that's what led me down the path to where I'm at today."

After the end of his contract in 2005, Wolf tried to figure out what his next move would be. He got a gig as a marketing coordinator for the Lightning, where he was in charge of handling all of the team's marketing facets, from TV commercials, to booking DJ talents to ordering premium items.

Coming from radio, whenever given the chance, Wolf wouldn't even hesitate with the opportunity to get on stage. On one game night, without anyone to host the game, Wolf volunteered and ran the show.

"That was my first hosting opportunity for the Lightning as a substitute and [I] crushed it," Wolf said. "I had so much fun again because I'm a fan too. So now, as a fan, to be able to be the biggest fan, that's a dream come

true."

When the Lightning got sold in 2009, however, Wolf lost the job he loved and found himself trying to figure out his next move once again.

The end of his career at the hockey team opened new doors. He was "snatched" by iHeart Radio to work as promotions director for a sports radio station.

Wolf worked for the station from 2009-16, when he then returned to the Lightning after Jeffrey Vinick bought the team. He was brought back after a season ticket members survey from the season prior showed fans were requesting to bring him back to the games.

Around the same time, Wolf got a call from USF to host the university's football and basketball teams. Hoof said he set high standards of what the role entails and the importance the hosts bring to games.

"He's led the path for future people," Hoof said. "I think that he has his cutting-edge style of what he does and how good he is. I think has really laid the groundwork for when he finally drops the mic, and somebody else comes in."

The span of his career has collectively reflected his passion for what he does, and Wolf said that his dedication in his field has paid off immensely.

"I just kind of fell into it. There was no passion from the beginning for radio. It just really clicked when I [interacted with the hosts for the first time]," Wolf said. "I just ran with that spark. I can't really describe it or explain it. Everything happens for a reason, I guess, and so I just absolutely made the most of an opportunity when it was presented to me."

UFF

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the state is adverse to UF's interests," said the UF Assistant Vice President for Conflicts of Interests Gary Wimsett.

Faculty union leaders at UF call for steps to be made to declare independence from state politicians. The union leaders plead to faculty donors to withhold funding until a formidable change has been delivered and pressure the university into allowing faculty to become paid experts in cases that challenge state policy.

The university also denied requests from other faculty members to participate in legal action.

Since the initial denial of the faculty's participation, the university retracted its initial decision Nov. 5 and is allowing them to take part. Although its recent statement indicates its disappointment with the situation, UFF is pleased with the reversal of the university's judgment.

"We are pleased and relieved that the UF Administration has finally decided to permit faculty to testify (in this case) and we hope that the task force recommends that the Administration recognize the right of faculty to share their expertise with the community," the email said.

UFF leadership offered support to USF faculty in order to prevent any situations similar to this one from happening in the future.

"If you are a USF faculty member and your academic freedom rights have been similarly violated, please let us know at once," the email said.

Flashback to Homecoming Week

Editor in Chief Leda Alvim photographed Homecoming events throughout the week, including the Stampede Comedy Show featuring T-Murph, T-Pain’s concert and USF’s game against Houston.



T-Pain had students going ‘up, down’ during his performance at the Homecoming Concert on Nov. 4. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



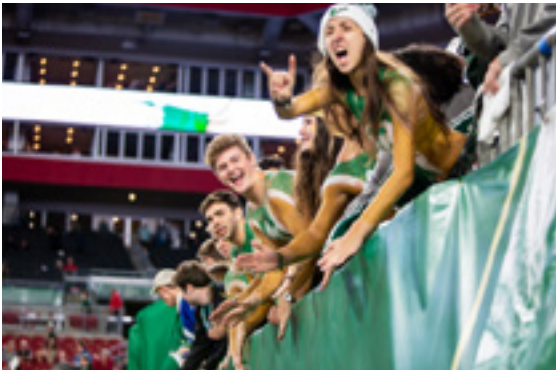
Rapper Taylor Bennett played some of his unreleased music for students during his opening set at the Homecoming Concert on Nov. 4. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



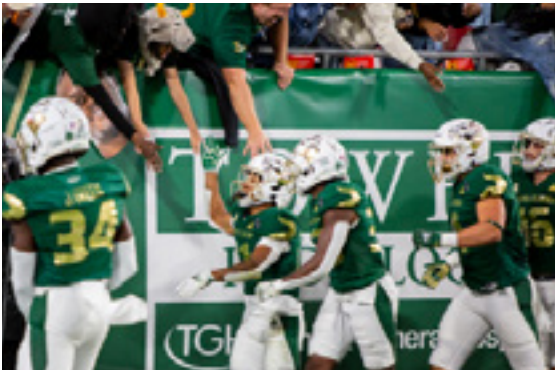
Comedian T-Murph brought energy and humor to the Stampede Comedy Show Monday night, kicking off homecoming week in a gut-busting fashion. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



The Beef Studs and Babes braved the brisk weather and showed up in support of the Bulls on Saturday. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



The Beef Studs and Babes braved the brisk weather and showed up in support of the Bulls during the homecoming game. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



After sophomore running back Brian Battie (center left) logged two kickoff returns for touchdowns Saturday, he now holds claim to the single-season record at USF. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



Graduate student tight end Mitchell Brinkman hauled in a 33-yard touchdown in USF’s loss to Houston on Saturday. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

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the field. Tight ends Mitchell Brinkman and Chris Carter were each on the receiving end of touchdowns after the freshman quarterback extended the play on two separate occasions.

Two interceptions and a 48% completion percentage may lead some to believe McClain had a mediocre night, but his ability to extend plays and give his teammates opportunities proves otherwise.

Run defense continues to be an issue

USF ranks 120th out of 130 FBS teams in terms of rush yards allowed per game, and that held true against Houston, as the Cougars ran wild for 385 yards at 18.3 yards per carry.

Even when subtracting the 97-yard touchdown run scored by

junior running back Ta'Zhawn Henry in the third quarter, Houston still averaged 14.4 yards per attempt. Allowing a team to log chunk play after chunk play on the ground is not a recipe for success.

Grier, Boyles should be used as pass rushers

Through the first nine games of the season, the Bulls have logged just seven sacks, tied with Vanderbilt for the least in the FBS.

Although they got to the quarterback twice against Houston, it's pretty clear the pass rush situation is not working.

Senior linebackers Antonio Grier and Dwayne Boyles have been used a lot in coverage this season, a contrast to what they did early in their collegiate careers.

Although each has arguably performed well in their new

responsibilities, the Bulls may see it useful to use two of their most talented defensive playmakers in a category where they desperately need help.

Running backs needs more touches

Battie has averaged 6.2 yards per carry this season and now has three kickoff returns for touchdowns. He's an explosive playmaker that makes the most of his opportunities.

Similar to sophomore Kelley Joiner Jr., Battie is a shifty back. They are complimented by junior running back Jaren Mangham who is a bit stronger in his playstyle. Mangham leads the team in attempts, rushing yards and, most notably, rushing touchdowns, as he has 13 with three games left to play.

Running the ball has been a strength for USF so far this season, but the trio of backs only

combined for 14 rushes against the Cougars. Although Houston's defensive front is talented, which is likely why the Bulls leaned more on McClain's abilities in the passing game, establishing the run is crucial for success down the stretch of the season.

Bulls desperately need depth

Coach Jeff Scott spoke candidly after the loss about what he believes is the reason for his team's defensive struggles this season, noting USF's lack of depth on that side of the ball.

"It's the same thing that's happened really all year long, we're playing with about 15-16 [defensive] guys and we've got to find a way to play better," Scott said. "You can say what you want, but it wasn't [an] effort [issue]. Their guys just made more plays, and we've got to try to find ways as a coaching staff to help our guys be better in the second half.

"Ultimately, we're going to do better when we're able to recruit more depth on defense, but there's nothing you can do about that during the season, it is what it is. I appreciate their effort and I appreciate them playing hard, and I wish I could help them as a coach."

The Bulls have recently secured the commitments of a pair of defensive playmakers that could potentially make an impact as early as next season. Freshman defensive tackle Nick Bags announced his intention to transfer to USF from Temple on Friday, and three-star defensive lineman Eddie Kelly from West Orange High School committed to the Bulls via Instagram on Saturday.

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Faculty deserves rights to free speech

By Neel Kulkarni
CORRESPONDENT

UF reversed its Nov. 5 decision which prevented professors from testifying against the state in a class action complaint filed May 17 by voting rights organizations over SB 90.

The reversal of the restriction is the right decision. It reinforces the free speech of public employees against the government, regardless of the public image of their employer.

SB 90 — approved by Gov. Ron DeSantis on May 6 — changed the requirements for voter registration, restricting the timeframe for mail-in ballot requests and activities that can be performed around drop boxes.

The class action complaint claimed SB 90 is a discriminatory response to high voter turnout among Black and Latino citizens in the most recent election.

Voting law experts and UF professors Daniel Smith, Michael McDonald and Sharon Austin were prevented by UF's Conflicts of Interest Office from testifying against the state of Florida in the class action complaint, according to a Nov. 5 statement from the university.

UF President Kent Fuchs indicated in the university's public statement that he had formed a task force in response to the situation and requested that the Conflicts of Interest Office reverse the decision. This request was granted Nov. 5.

The alleged conflict of interest between the university and the state government arises because the university is public, and professors are employed by the state.



In light of UF's decision to allow faculty to testify, all university faculty statewide should be permitted to act as experts in court cases if they so choose. FLICKR/Todd Van Hoosier

The professors will testify without using the university's resources, as indicated by Fuchs' statement, nor will UF pay them for testifying in court.

The professors will serve independent of their role as UF employees, and the testimonies of professors Smith, McDonald and Austin will represent their own opinions and not the university's. UF had no right to claim a conflict of interest.

As experts, the professors should develop reasonable conclusions without influence from the university. UF shouldn't choose which testimonies align with the university's beliefs, and which testimonies should be silenced.

When professors are asked for expert testimony in lawsuits, their affiliation with a public university is irrelevant. Experts do not testify in court for their university connection, but they instead testify in court because of their understanding in a particular field of study.

The USF chapter for the

United Faculty of Florida (UFF) released a statement about the UF conflict of interest Nov. 5 in which it praised the reversal of the initial decision.

"We are pleased and relieved that the UF administration has finally decided to permit faculty to testify (in this case) and we hope that the task force recommends that the administration recognize the right of faculty to share their expertise with the community," said USF's UFF chapter in the statement.

The decision to allow UF professors to testify against the Florida state government is the right one. State universities across the country should follow this precedent. Employees of the state should be able to speak freely in court without fear of retaliation.

Neel Kulkarni is a senior majoring in biomedical sciences.

Election fraud task force is a waste, DeSantis must focus on actual problems

By Rughved Brahman
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Ron DeSantis proposed a new task force to investigate election fraud in a Nov. 3 press conference in West Palm Beach, exacerbating the controversy surrounding the election. He will also make ballot harvesting a third-degree felony and increase penalties for mistakes when mail-in voting.

The funds that will be used to form this task force should instead be reallocated to current task forces to help reduce existing crime. This would be a more effective way of dividing funds instead of fabricating issues with regard to election voting.

The integrity of the 2020 election has been questioned in multiple states, including Florida, where Republican legislators have been drastically restricting voting rights.

DeSantis passed SB 90 on May 6. The bill contains restrictive changes such as requiring voters to request ballots, stricter voter ID requirements and installing ballot request limits. This makes voting harder for disadvantaged people.

Despite DeSantis' fuss about election integrity, there have only been 30 instances of voter fraud in Florida since 2000, according to the Heritage Foundation's Election Fraud Database. This accounts for 0.000076% of the ballots cast.

This police force is estimated to cost around \$6 million and the efforts of 60 employees in its first year alone, according to a Politico report. It's not financially sensible

to waste money on a cause that is not backed by evidence whatsoever.

Legislators should focus on crimes that actually impact their constituents.

Florida saw a 14.7% increase in homicides in 2020, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's annual crime report. This is clearly a pressing issue, and the \$6 million in taxpayer dollars would be better spent saving lives. Instead, DeSantis is choosing to focus on the political non-issue of election voting.

This money could go toward task forces focusing on violent crimes.

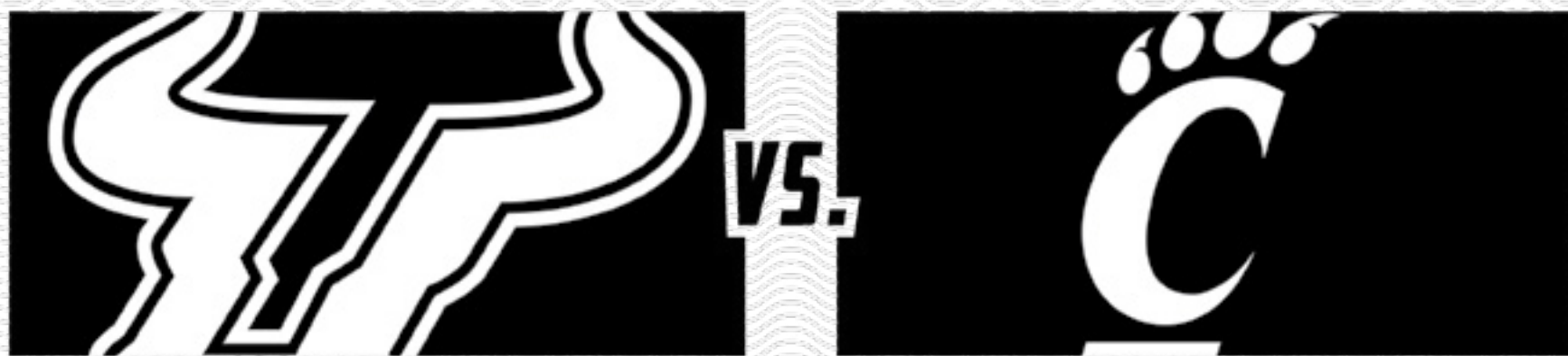
During and after the 2020 election, the question of election security was used to divide voters. All the investigations into the matter have yielded nothing. Creating the task force is a desperate attempt by DeSantis to further divide Republicans and Democrats that'll make mail-in voting rules much more stringent and harder to navigate.

The creation of an election fraud task force should not be included in the 2022 legislative session. Funds should be divided and dispersed to current task forces to help reduce crime that affects Floridians.

Rughved Brahman is a sophomore majoring in health sciences.

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Bulls lose AAC tournament final on penalty kicks



Francisco Rosa

SPORTS CO-EDITOR

A packed Corbett Stadium was mostly stunned into silence Sunday as those in attendance watched the USF women's soccer team lose to Memphis in the AAC Tournament final on penalty kicks.

The Bulls aimed to win their third consecutive tournament title, first on home soil, but fell short as they missed all three of their attempts from the spot while the Tigers converted all their chances.

"I think we had control for most of the game and the girls put in the body of work we asked them to and produced a few chances that would have been nice if we put away, but [penalty kicks] is like this," coach Denise Schilte-Brown said.

Very little separated USF and Memphis over the course of the 110 minutes of play with the Tigers holding a 15-14 advantage on shots and the Bulls a 7-6 edge on shots on target, both teams had five corner kicks apiece.

With the score knotted at 0-0 at the end of regulation, the teams headed to two sudden death overtime periods where neither was able to get the golden goal needed to seal the victory and a penalty shootout would decide the fate of the match.

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Despite losing to Memphis in the AAC tournament final Sunday, the Bulls still have a good chance of making the NCAA tournament due to their high rating percentage index. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

Takeaways: McClain shows off ellusiveness, defensive issues cost Bulls against Houston



Richard Silva

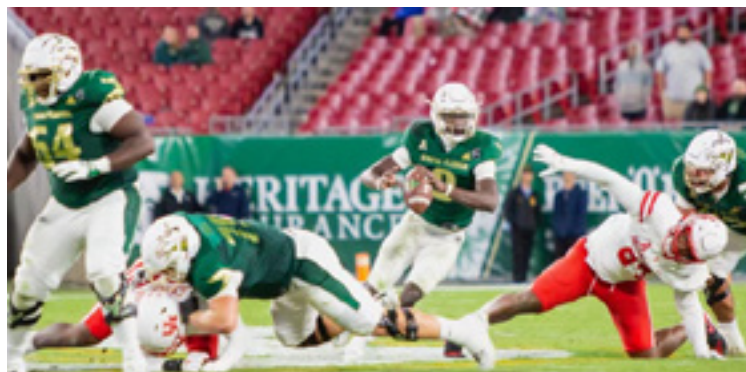
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

The Bulls took a halftime lead into the locker room for the fourth consecutive game against Houston on Saturday, but just as they did against Tulsa and

East Carolina, were bested in the second half and eventually lost the contest.

Sophomore running back Brian Battie scored three touchdowns and freshman quarterback Timmy McClain extended and made multiple plays, but it wasn't enough to overcome USF's defensive shortcomings.

Here are five things we learned from USF's 54-42 loss against the Cougars.



Freshman quarterback Timmy McClain (with ball) finished with collegiate career highs in passing attempts and passing yards. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

McClain is special

Houston came into Saturday leading the nation in sacks with 34. The Cougars didn't log one against USF, but that wasn't because the offensive line had an exceptional day.

Play after play, it seemed as if McClain was making something out of nothing, alluding would-be tacklers and allowing for some of his weapons to get open down

■ See HOUSTON on PAGE 5