

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM



THE ORACLE

2022

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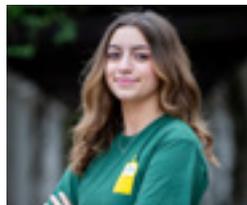


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Brad Cecil uses his platform for those who need it most



Lanie De La Milera

SPORTS EDITOR

When scrolling through social media, senior offensive lineman Brad Cecil couldn't help but stop to read the story of a young child battling T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. At that moment, he knew something had to be done.

"I was just scrolling through Twitter, and I found Hulk," Cecil said. "Hulk's dad posted his diagnosis, and right then and there, me and Dillan [Gibbons] were in talks of how do we get the GoFundMe set up. How do we get in contact with his dad? How do we start to get this process rolling?"

"From then on, working with his folks, his dad and just kind of getting that ball rolling. We're all behind him."

As soon as Cecil heard of Hulk's situation, he jumped at the opportunity to help alongside the Florida State offensive lineman nonprofit — Big Man Big Heart, a cause that allows NCAA athletes to use their NIL to support others in need.

Bode "Hulk" Wyatt is a seven-year-old flag football player who was diagnosed with T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) on April 21.

Hulk and his family are huge fans of USF. They constantly attend games and support all the teams, specifically football. After the Bulls nation found out



Senior center offensive lineman Brad Cecil is part of Big Man Big Heart, an initiative for football players to use their NIL to serve others in need. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

about his diagnosis, many rallied around him to try and help out.

Cecil thought the best way to assist Hulk and his family was to raise funds to lessen the burden of medical bills with the slew of treatments and procedures his family endures on a regular basis.

For the Wyatt's, having a player want to aid them in a strenuous time meant more than one would think possible. The family has a long lineage with USF, dating back to the 1980s, according to Hulk's dad Robert Wyatt.

"My whole family graduated from USF," Wyatt said. "My dad, my sister, my uncle Bill also played for the USF baseball back in the '80s.

"It was the first year the baseball team was sent to regionals, so USF has kind of always just been in my blood.

I graduated from USF in 2007, but we have been season ticket holders for football since the inaugural season in 1997."

With the family being season ticket holders, football plays a huge part in the life of the Wyatts.

Not only are they fans, but

“With this diagnosis, me being able to use my platform to reach different outlets and be able to use myself for him ... that's probably my favorite thing about it

Senior center Brad Cecil

their children are avid football players, including Hulk who plays center just like Cecil.

"We were out there watching

his brother play. He's like 'I want to be out there' and 'I want to play, I want to play, I want to play,'" Wyatt said.

"So we let him play and he had a lot of fun. He really liked playing center in flag football and snapping the ball every now

and then. It kind of works that Brad is the guy from USF that we hooked up with because he's the center."

In just four months, many have heard about Hulk's story in the USF community thanks to Cecil spreading the word on his social media platforms.

Being a person for Hulk to look up to and show that people care is a valuable feeling to Cecil, making use of his identity to invoke awareness.

"With this diagnosis, me being able to use my platform to reach different outlets and be able to use myself for him, as a leverage for him, that's probably my favorite thing about it," Cecil said.

"Being his leverage and his way of getting in touch with the football team, getting to games and maybe getting on the field, just all that kind of stuff. I think that it's cool to see his reactions and he's, he's a great kid, and I'm looking forward to furthering our relationship."

As of Aug. 28, Hulk was released from the hospital after a 16-day stay due to infections from his chemotherapy treatments. Along with his release and checkups, he and his family received some good news.

"We went to the doctor [Aug. 26] for a follow up and all the reports came back really good. We actually got the green light to go and start to travel so we're looking forward to trying to get to the USF football game next Saturday against BYU," Wyatt said.

The Wyatts will be able to attend some much-needed South Florida football once again, but this time knowing that this team has Hulk's back through every trial he faces.



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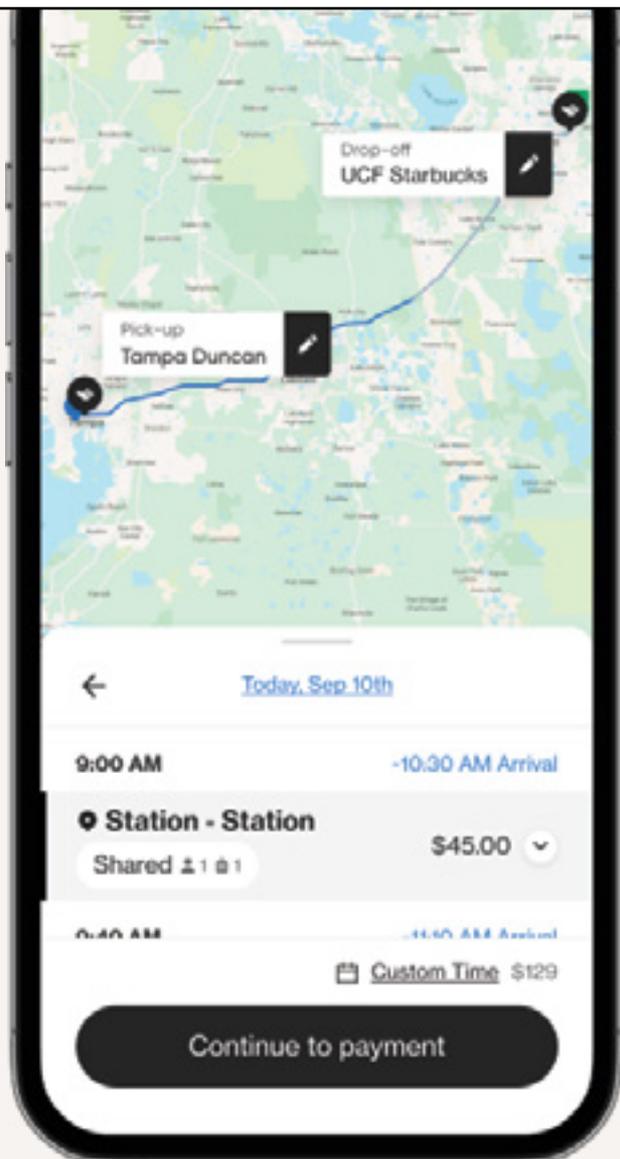
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Bayron Matos: A strong force with a proficient work ethic



Alexandra Urban

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Bayron Matos moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee from the Dominican Republic as a sophomore in high school not knowing any English. But, only about a year later, he built up the courage to speak in front of his school's chapel service — in English.

"A- the guts that takes, and B- just how much he's learning in a quick manner," Matos' host dad, Zach Monroe, said. "It was unbelievable ... It just was that first moment where like man, to stand up and have the courage to do that A, and B do it in a language you haven't even been around but not even a year."

Despite the initial difficult language barrier, Monroe said Matos' "massive personality" allowed him to gravitate toward his family and become a big brother to his children.

Matos is known for his strong personality and charm, but also his determination, Monroe said.

There was no American football in the Dominican Republic, so when Matos moved to Tennessee, he became intrigued. He grew up playing baseball most of his life and basketball for the last seven years, but he wanted to try a sport that could excite him more.

"I got hungry," Matos said. "Like I gotta play. I want more aggressive games. I like to



Defensive end Bayron Matos joined the football team during spring camp after playing on the men's basketball team in the 2021-22 season. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

scream ... get people mad. And in basketball you can get a foul if you [don't do something] the right way. So basically, I want to experience something new where I can be me.

"I can show out there everything I have. I have four years to play football ... I have a lot to learn ... but the thing for me is when I put my mind on something I will do it."

Matos was persistent that he would play one day, but Monroe never thought he was serious. He was shocked when he found out he was switching.

As the tallest player on the team, Matos stands at 6-foot-9-inches. In high school, Monroe would joke that he could've been a football player if he were born in the U.S. because of his strong build and stature.

But without knowing how the game works and his high school not having a football team, Matos

was enthralled in basketball.

"He would always want to throw the football and watch it and all that kind of stuff," Monroe said. "But he was focused on basketball and getting a basketball scholarship. And trying to be recruited for basketball."

Even though Matos began playing basketball in the Dominican Republic, when he started playing in the U.S. he didn't realize he could go to college for it and get a scholarship.

"I remember when I got my first offer. It was for the Florida Gators. I was eating Chipotle after a game and my coach said 'You got an offer for college,'" Matos said. "I was like, I like this. I got a future."

Matos got 16 offers and ended up at New Mexico for his freshman year where he started 15 games and played in 20. While

at Hamilton Heights Christian Academy in Chattanooga, he ranked No. 3 in the state and No. 16 in the country after posting the most rebounds in Tennessee.

In the Dominican Republic, Matos was known for his skills in baseball, but he was not passionate about it.

"I used to be a baseball player. That's what I did my whole life. I was pretty good at it ... but I didn't like it," he said. "Everybody used to see me as a baseball player, but I didn't see myself as a baseball player. I was good at it, because when I do something, I do it all the way."

Now with football, he believes he can really show his abilities, strength and power. Despite not having a football background, coach Jeff Scott welcomed him with open arms, so Matos said he is repaying him with this work ethic.

While he knows his play time

will be limited this season, he is hoping to use his first two years of eligibility as a learning experience.

"I've never been in a football game before, I've never played in a game," he said. "I want to see how that feels and get in a little play time and keep learning and learning alone now. I'm taking these two couple years as a learning [experience]. But my junior and senior years ... are going to be scary."

No matter how challenging it seems going into a new sport in the middle of his college career, Matos is determined to succeed and will work hard to achieve.

"I'm the type of person that visualizes my future," he said. "When I want something, I'll work so hard because you got the ups and downs of life and something that someone can never take away from you is ... the way that you work."

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Sneak peak at this season's opponents

By Beatriz Gonzalez
CORRESPONDENT

With football just around the corner, South Florida and each of its opponents are preparing for the season and the challenges that come with it.

After an unsuccessful 2021 campaign with just one conference win, the pressure to win this year weighs the team.

This year, three of USF's contenders were ranked in the top 25 team AP polls, and nine qualified for bowl games. Here's a look at what the Bulls are up against this season.

Vs. BYU (Sept. 3)

Kicking off the season, South Florida will face BYU on Sept. 3 at Raymond James Stadium. Finishing 2021 with a 10-3 record and being ranked No. 25, the Cougars are one of the more challenging opponents on the schedule.

Third time's the charm is what the Bulls will be hoping for as they step on the field to take on the Cougars. Last season, South Florida put on a performance against the top tier team, coming up short in the 35-27 loss. The biggest confrontation the Bulls will face on the field is BYU junior quarterback Jaren Hall.

"He's a dynamic quarterback. You can also tell he's got great leadership. He's got command of the offense when he's out there," Scott said. "He's directing traffic and I think he has a complete game as a thrower. Also, he's a big time threat as a runner."

Hall started in all 10 games for BYU last season and finished with 2,583 yards and 20 touchdowns with an efficiency rate of 156.1.



The Bulls will play many familiar faces in the upcoming 2022 season. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

Vs. Howard University (Sept. 10)

For the first time in program history, the Bulls will play Howard on Sept. 10. Last season, the Bisons finished with a 3-8 record.

In their first game of the season, they faced the Alabama State Hornets on Saturday, falling 23-13. Heavily relying on their kicker, seven of their points were from field goals while the other six were from a late fourth quarter touchdown.

@ Florida (Sept. 17)

South Florida will be taking on the Gators for the second consecutive year. In their last two meetings, Florida dominated the Bulls 42-20 in 2021 and 38-14 in 2010.

NFL first round draft prospect sophomore quarterback Anthony Richardson has made his way

into the starting position since his arrival in 2020.

By 2021, Richardson had posted 556 passing yards with 462 rushing yards. With him coming into the starting role this season protected by the Swamps depth, USF must play with its best foot forward.

@ Louisville (Sept. 24)

After almost a decade without them in their schedule, USF will once again play Louisville. The last time the teams met was in 2013 where the Bulls lost 34-3. Louisville finished their season last year with an overall of 6-7 (4-4 AAC).

Starting quarterback Malik Cunningham is the only Cardinal quarterback to have nine completion passes of at least 75 yards and has a career total of 62 touchdowns and 7,889 yards.

Vs. East Carolina (Oct. 1)

USF will start conference play against East Carolina on Oct. 1. Beating USF at a 29-14 game last year, fourth consecutive starting quarterback senior Holtol Ahlers will be a player to keep an eye on during this game.

Ahlers not only gained over 3,000 passing yards but tallied on 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions as well. In their 2021 campaign, Ahlers helped ECU finish with an overall record of 7-5 (5-3 AAC).

@ University of Cincinnati (Oct. 8)

Cincinnati will be the second AAC match of the season. Once again, this will be one of the more difficult games to play considering the team's solid record of 13-1 (8-0 AAC) last season and 9-1 (6-0 AAC) the year

prior.

Not only did they make it to the AAC semifinals, but they also took home four AAC awards.

Vs. Tulane University (Oct. 15)

In celebration of USF's Homecoming Week, the team will play Tulane on Oct. 15 before the scheduled bye week the week after. USF lost to Tulane last year 45-14.

Tulane's wide receiver junior Jha'Quan Jackson is one to keep in mind for this match as he finished the season with 1,003 all-purpose yards. Jackson has also been nominated for a 2022 watchlist. Tulane finished their season with the same record as USF (2-10, 1-7 AAC).

@ University of Houston (Oct. 29)

■ See SEASON PREVIEW on PAGE 14

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Keep an eye on these players

By Aaron Mammah
CORRESPONDENT

Last football season was one of growth for South Florida. While the Bulls finished 2-10, they remained competitive in multiple contests throughout the year.

The team saw the return of all its team captains from last season. With Jeff Scott entering his third year as coach, the team's recruitment has brought optimism from players, coaching staff and fans for improvement heading into the season.

Here are some players at each position on the roster to look out for this season.

Quarterback - Gerry Bohanon

Before transferring to South Florida, junior quarterback Gerry Bohanon spent four seasons and played 27 games at Baylor. While starting 12 games, he helped lead them to a Sugar Bowl win as well as a conference title in 2021.

In terms of his on-the-field play, he is a capable playmaker in the air and on the run. As a Bear, he passed for 2,200 yards last year, including a career-high 336 passing yard performance against West Virginia. Bohanon's nine rushing touchdowns led all quarterbacks in the Big 12.

The dual-threat skills he provides along with his intangibles will be a welcomed addition to the Bulls' offense this upcoming season.

Running back - Jaren Mangham

There's a great deal to like about the Bulls' backfield coming into the year. Senior Jaren Mangham finished eighth in all of collegiate football with



Senior running back Jaren Mangham tied for third all-time in rushing touchdowns in a single season at USF. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

15 rushing touchdowns in 2021. It was the second most in USF history.

He had 671 rushing yards on 160 carries. was also an All-AAC honorable mention last year as well. USF's rushing attack also received contributions from players like junior Kelly Joiner Jr. and senior Darrian Felix.

Sophomore Brian Battie became the first All-American at USF since 2007 for his work on special teams last year. He set a program record with three kickoff touchdown returns and accumulated 1,039 all-purpose yards in 2021.

Wide receiver - Ajou Ajou

Sophomore wide receiver Ajou Ajou joined USF as a transfer from Clemson.

"He brings a different play style to the receiver room, he's a big body," center Brad Cecil said. "He's a big natural, just a freak is the way to put it. He's big and

strong. So I think he'll bring a different play style but a good playstyle to that receiver room.

"He'll be able to switch it up. He's a great player, a great, great competitor, and I think that he'll surprise a lot of people."

Ajou adds to a receiving core that already includes sophomore Jimmy Horn Jr. and junior Xavier Weaver.

Tight end - Jayson Littlejohn

With the departure of senior Mitchell Brinkman, there is competition between a couple of players to fill the spot he left behind. It could mean increased burn for junior Chris Carter, who had 50 receiving yards on seven receptions last year.

They could also go in a different direction. In the offseason, they acquired junior college transfer Jayson Littlejohn. At the College of Sequoias, he accumulated 467 receiving yards on 43 receptions over three seasons.

Offensive lineman - Brad Cecil

With a collegiate career totaling 43 games, fifth-year senior Cecil has been a consistent presence in the offensive line since his freshman season. He'll carry the responsibility of being a quarterback on the offensive line.

"I'm pointing everyone to where everyone's supposed to be going on, calling out the defense and calling out what covers are and if they're bringing certain pressures, certain blitzes," Cecil said.

"It's kind of like being the leader because everyone looks to me for direction. Everyone looks to me for guidance."

In last year's game against Temple, he helped block for a rushing attack that accumulated 421 yards, a school record. His abilities as a run blocker will be important to the success of South Florida's ground game in 2022.

Defensive lineman - Eddie Kelly

Eddie Kelly as a true freshman could have a great impact. At 6'4" and 274 pounds, he already has a frame for the collegiate level.

"He's a guy that's come in and looked ready to play from Day 1, he's been flying everywhere. He's so young and I don't think he knows how good he is and how good he can be." Cecil said in an Aug. 24 Oracle interview.

"But he's just he's got natural talent and it shows and I think there was some, but some polishing, it could be a really, really good player."

As the season goes along, if Kelly can establish himself on the defensive line there, USF's defense could see significant improvement.

Linebacker - Antonio Grier

Linebacker Antonio Grier was

■ See PLAYERS TO WATCH on PAGE 14

ROSTER

/ FULL NAME / POSITION / YEAR

2022

0 / DAQUAN EVANS / DB / Jr.
 0 / JAREN MANGHAM / RB / Sr.
 1 / KHAFRE BROWN / WR / So.
 1 / MATTHEW HILL / SAFETY / Jr.
 2 / MICHEL DUKES / RB / Jr.
 2 / TJ ROBINSON / DB / So.
 3 / KELLEY JOINER / RB / Jr.
 4 / OMARION DOLLISON / WR / So.
 4 / CHRISTIAN WILLIAMS / S / Jr.
 5 / ANTONIO GRIER / LB / Gr.
 5 / JIMMY HORN JR. / WR / So.
 6 / AJOU AJOU / WR / So.
 6 / RASHAWN YATES / DE / Sr.
 7 / SINCERE BROWN / WR / Fr. (Rs.)
 7 / WILL JONES II / SAFETY / So.
 8 / DJ GORDON IV / LB / So.
 8 / LATRELL WILLIAMS / WR / Gr.
 9 / AAMARIS BROWN / DB / Fr.
 10 / NICK BAGS / DL / So.
 10 / XAVIER WEAVER / WR / Jr.
 11 / GERRY BOHANON / QB / Jr.
 11 / DWAYNE BOYLES / LB / Sr.
 12 / BEN KNOX / CB / Sr.
 12 / KATRAVIS MARSH / QB / So.
 13 / TRAMEL LOGAN / DE / So.
 13 / GUNNAR SMITH / QB / Fr.
 14 / DEQUAN STANLEY / CB / Fr. (Rs.)
 14 / MICHAEL WILLIAMS II / DE / Fr.
 15 / JAYDEN CURRY / DB / So.
 15 / GAVIN GOSNELL / QB / Fr.

16 / RYAN BOLDUC / QB / Fr. (Rs.)
 16 / EDDIE KELLY / DE / Fr.
 17 / BYRUM BROWN / QB / Fr.
 17 / JHALYN SHULER / LB / Jr.
 18 / JORDAN SMITH / QB / Fr. (Rs.)
 18 / RAY THORNTON III / S / So.
 19 / JONATHAN ROSS / DE / Jr.
 19 / YUSUF TERRY / WR / So.
 20 / AJ HAMILTON / CB / Fr. (Rs.)
 20 / JAVOHN THOMAS / WR / Fr.
 21 / BRIAN BATTIE / RB / So.
 21 / JAELEN STOKES / DB / So.
 22 / MEKHI LAPOINTE / DB / Sr.
 22 / K'WAN POWELL / RB / Fr. (Rs.)
 23 / HOLDEN WILLIS / WR / So.
 24 / MYCHAEL HAMILTON / RB / Sr.
 24 / MAC HARRIS / LB / Fr. (Rs.)
 25 / CHRISTOPHER TOWNSEL / DB / So.
 26 / TAVIN WARD / DB / Fr.
 26 / YASIAS YOUNG / RB / Fr. (Rs.)
 27 / JORDAN BLACKMON / S / Fr. (Rs.)
 27 / CAMERON COBB / WR / Fr.
 28 / DAYLAN FELTON / RB / Fr. (Rs.)
 28 / JATORIAN HANSFORD / DE / Sr.
 29 / BRIAN NORRIS / LB / Gr.
 29 / ZACK SESSA / K / So.
 30 / DEAUNTE HUNTER / LB / Fr.
 31 / PIERSE STANTON / P / Fr.
 32 / CJ ROSS / LB / Fr. (Rs.)
 32 / SPENCER SHRADER / K / Jr.

33 / T-MAC SIMPSON / CB / Jr.
 34 / JOSHUA GREEN / DB / Sr.
 35 / BAILEY PURCELL / WR / Fr. (Rs.)
 35 / CHRIS THOMAS / S / Fr.
 36 / TRESON EVERETT / WR / Fr.
 36 / ANDREW STOKES / P / So.
 37 / TREY WAGNER / WR / Fr.
 38 / SEAN ATKINS / WR / So.
 39 / JOHN CANNON / K / Fr. (Rs.)
 40 / JASON ALBRITTON / RB / Fr.
 40 / JASON VAUGHN / DE / Jr.
 41 / COLIN MCCREARY / P / Sr.
 42 / LEWAI MITCHELL / S / Fr. (Rs.)
 43 / DAVON HICKS / LB / So.
 44 / JACQUEZ WILLIAMS / DL / Fr.
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 47 / CONNOR GORDON / LS / Fr.
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 54 / AMER AMER / LB / Fr. (Rs.)
 55 / COLBY SMITH / DT / Fr. (Rs.)
 57 / JOSHUA BLANCHARD / OL / So.
 58 / REGGIE JOHNSON II / LB / So.
 59 / JOHNNY EATON / LB / Fr.
 61 / GANNON LANNING / OL / Fr. (Rs.)
 63 / BROCK PARRY / OL / Fr. (Rs.)
 64 / DEMETRIS HARRIS / OL / Gr.

ROSTER

/ FULL NAME / POSITION / YEAR

2022

65 / MIKE LOFTON / OL / Fr.(Rs.)
 67 / DEMONTREY JACOBS / OL / Gr.
 71 / DERRELL BAILEY / OL / So.
 72 / COLE BEST / OL / Fr.(Rs.)
 73 / DONOVAN JENNINGS / OL / Gr.
 74 / BRAD CECIL / OL / Sr.
 75 / ANDREW KILFOYL / OL / Fr.(Rs.)
 77 / ZACH PERKINS / OL / Fr.(Rs.)
 78 / ALEC VALET / OL / Fr.(Rs.)
 79 / DUSTYN HALL / OL / So.

80 / JAYSON LITTLEJOHN / TE / Jr.
 81 / GARRET REYNOLDS / WR / Fr.(Rs.)
 82 / JACKSON LONG / TE / Fr.
 83 / LOGAN BERRYHILL / WR / So.
 84 / CADE ROBERTS / WR / Fr.
 85 / CHRISTIAN HELMS / WR / So.
 86 / CHRIS MOTTILLO / TE / Jr.
 88 / CHRIS CARTER / TE / Jr.
 89 / COLLIN AFFLECK / TE / Fr.
 90 / RASHAD CHENEY / DL / So.

93 / JHALIN HOBBS / DL / Fr.
 94 / KEEON TERRELL / DE / Fr.(Rs.)
 95 / BAYRON MATOS / DE / So.
 96 / CHAD ELDER / DE / Fr.
 98 / DANNY GONZALEZ / DT / Fr.
 99 / DARRIEN GRANT / DE / Gr.
 99 / CLYDE PINDER JR. / DL / So.

SEASON PREVIEW

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Entering his third consecutive year as a full time starter for the 2022 season, senior quarterback Clayton Tune from Houston is one of the six Cougars named for the 2023 Senior Bowl Watch List, putting some pressure for the Bulls' fourth AAC game.

Houston finished 12-2 overall while winning all eight of their conference matches last season. South Florida had a close game with Houston ending in 54-42.

@ Temple University (Nov. 5)

Temple will be hosting South Florida on Nov. 5. Temple was the only conference game USF won last season in a 34-14 game.

The Owl's have a new head coach Stan Drayton who recently announced that redshirt sophomore D'Wan Mathis will be starting his second consecutive year as quarterback.

Mathis is also in position to win a Johnny Unitas Golden Arm award throwing over 1,200 yard and six touchdowns, making him

a key player to watch out for.

Vs. Southern Methodist University (Nov. 12)

For their second to last home game of the season, the Bulls will be playing their Salute to Service game against SMU on Nov. 12.

SMU's quarterback has also recently been nominated for the same award as Mathis. Tanner Mordecai threw 3,628 yards and 39 touchdowns for the Mustangs last season, making it another quarterback USF will have to focus on this season.

@ Tulsa University (Nov. 18)

South Florida will travel to Oklahoma to seek redemption against Tulsa University after last season's 32-31 heartbreaker.

The Golden Hurricanes had a steady 2021 season with a 7-6 record, including their win over Old Dominion in the Myrtle Beach Bowl. With their seasoned starting quarterback Davis Brin returning for his final year of eligibility, USF will have to stay

alert.

Brin had a total of 3,254 passing yards along with 18 touchdowns last season, making him a threat to the Bulls defense.

USFs quarterback must level with him along with defense being extra attentive to settle the upcoming match this year.

Vs. UCF (TBA)

Finally, the most anticipated game of the season will be the 14th match of the War on I-4 against USF's rivals UCF. In the past five years, South Florida has lost all games.

Six players from the UCF team have been named to the 2023 Senior Bowl Watch List as well, including their senior quarterback John Rhys Plumlee who transferred from Ole Miss University in 2021. UCF's overall record was 9-3 (5-3 AAC).

The date has not been finalized for this game yet but it will either be on Nov. 25 or 26. The official date will be released sometime in early October, according to USF Athletics.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Continued from PAGE 12

all over the field last year. The All-ACC second-team-member led the team in total tackles, interceptions and sacks. He is also joined by senior Dwayne Boyles, who contributed 68 tackles and two forced fumbles in 2021.

These two will help lead the defense in 2022 whether by covering the pass or stopping the run. The team will also be glad to see redshirt freshman Mac Harris returning to the team from injury to add depth to the roster.

Defensive back - Mekhi LaPointe

For the Bulls previous campaign, their secondary defensive back Mekhi LaPointe helped force turnovers for South Florida.

LaPointe tied for most interceptions on the team with two last year and contributed 59 total tackles. Another key contributor in the secondary was junior cornerback Daquan Evans

who also finished with 59 total tackles.

Kicker - Spencer Shrader

Preseason All-AAC team member Spencer Shrader should still be featured in special teams and field goal attempts. Last season, Shrader scored a combined 68 points from field goals and extra points.

Specifically, the junior kicker was 11 of 13 on field goal attempts including a stretch where he made nine straight, the third longest stretch in program history.

Punter - Andrew Stokes

Australian punter Andrew Stokes started all 12 games last year for USF. He punted 56 times for 2,183 yards and a 39-yard average.

They will also have depth in the position from freshman Pierse Stainton and senior Colin McReary, a transfer from Monmouth.

USF football legends: Where are they now?

By Hannah Halili
CORRESPONDENT

There have been a total of 30 USF football alumni drafted to the NFL, 13 of which have made Super Bowl appearances.

With NFL preseason wrapping up, here are some USF Bulls to look for when watching Week 1 of the NFL.

Marquez Valdes-Scantling

Wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling played for USF under former coach Willie Taggart from 2016-17. During his time as a Bull, he set the 2017 receiving yards record of 879 yards. He is ranked 10th all-time with 1,294 career receiving yards in two seasons.

In 2017, he was drafted by the Green Bay Packers. While with the team, he played alongside Aaron Rodgers and became one of the only players to register 25-plus receptions and an average of 15-plus yards per catch in each of his first four NFL seasons.

He was picked up by the

Kansas City Chiefs in 2022 after Tyreek Hill was traded to the Dolphins. This upcoming season he will be working to be at the top of the Kansas City depth chart and build up its wide receiver room.

"I wouldn't be here, in this position, if I didn't go to USF," Valdes-Scantling said after signing his second NFL contract. "Coming in here with Willie Taggart and everything that he did for my organization and just winning over the two years that I played here. I met a lot of great guys, a lot of great guys that made it to the league, a lot of friends that I'm friends with now, today."

Mitchell Wilcox

Tight end Mitchell Wilcox is best known for his performance at USF from 2016 to 2019. He was a starter for all four years and he set multiple records including the USF career tight end record in receiving yards, receptions and receiving touchdowns.

Wilcox signed with the



Former Bull Mike White is an active quarterback for the New York Jets and has been there since 2019. ORACLE PHOTO/ ADAM MATHIEU



Tight end Mitchell Wilcox now plays for the Cincinnati Bengals. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

Bengals in 2020 as an undrafted free agent. In 2021 he was signed to the Bengals' active roster out of training camp. During the 2021 NFL season he was the 14th Bull to be part of a Super Bowl team. He also played 84 offensive snaps and 50.5% of special teams snaps with Cincinnati.

He has now resigned a one-year contract with the Bengals in April for the 2022 season.

Mike White

Quarterback Mike White wasn't considered a huge sell when it came to USF football, but his post-college career proves otherwise. White was the Bull's starting quarterback from 2013-14. While at USF he started 15 games, but only completed 93 of 175 passes for 1,083 yards with three touchdowns and 9 interceptions.

White was drafted to the Dallas Cowboys in the 2018 NFL Draft. But in 2019 the Cowboys decided not to sign him to the practice squad. He then signed to the New York Jets practice squad and joined the active roster.

The quarterback is currently a second string for the Jets. He is known for his performance in Week 8 of the 2021 season, when he filled in for an injured Zach Wilson to make his first NFL career start. White ended up finishing the game 34-31 against the Bengals.

After becoming the first quarterback in the NFL to throw over 400 yards in his first NFL start since Cam Newton, White was named AFC Offensive Player of the Week for his performance. Just a few months later, White re-signed with the Jets for a one-year, \$2.54 million contract on March 16.

Jason Pierre-Paul

Defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul played for USF in 2009. During his time as a Bull he posted a total of 45 tackles, was team Rookie of Year and was named First Team All-American by Pro Football Weekly.

Pierre-Paul was the 15th overall pick by the New York Giants in 2010 to become USF's highest draft pick ever. Pierre-Paul played with the Giants until 2017 when he was traded to the Buccaneers.

By 2020 he signed a two-year \$27 million contract with the Bucs and finished with a team record of nine and a half sacks and 55 tackles. In the NFC Championship against Green Bay, he recorded two sacks on Aaron Rodgers, then went on to win Super Bowl LV in their home stadium.

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH

ADVENTHEALTH CENTER ICE
WESLEY CHAPEL, FL
VS. TENNESSEE



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USF FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

2022



SEPT 3, 4PM
VS BYU
RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM



OCT 15, TBA
VS TULANE (HOMECOMING)
RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM



SEPT 10, 7PM
VS HOWARD
RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM



OCT 29, TBA
AT HOUSTON
TDECU STADIUM



SEPT 17, 7:30PM
AT FLORIDA
BEN HILL GRIFFIN STADIUM



NOV 5, TBA
AT TEMPLE
LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD



SEPT 24, TBA
AT LOUISVILLE
CARDINAL STADIUM



NOV 12, TBA
VS SMU
SALUTE TO SERVICE
RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM



OCT 1, TBA
VS EAST CAROLINA
RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM



NOV 18, 9PM
AT TULSA
CHAPMAN STADIUM



OCT 8, TBA
AT CINCINNATI
NIPPERT STADIUM



NOV 25, TBA
VS CENTRAL FLORIDA
RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM