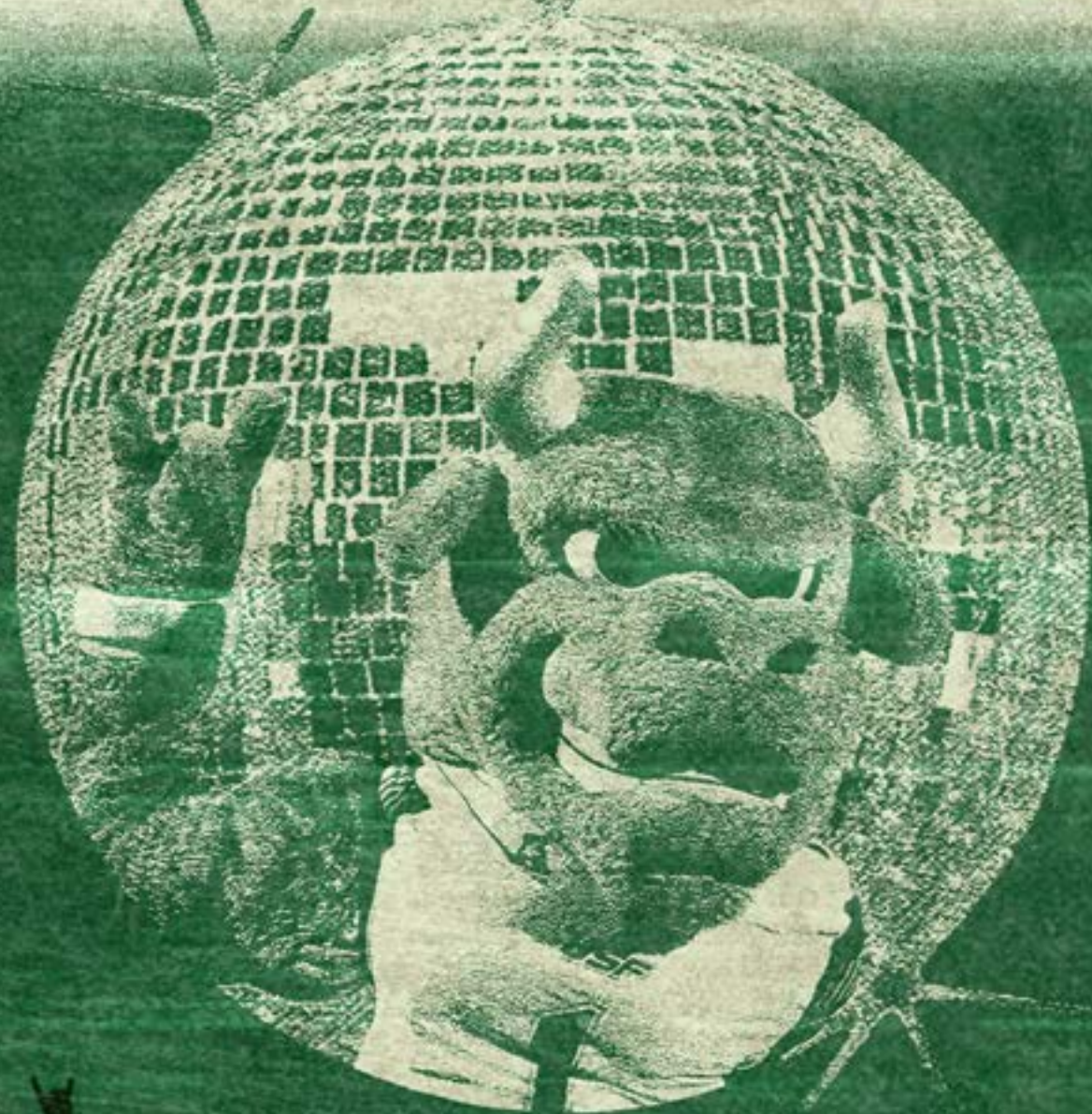


HOMECOMING 2023

THE ORACLE



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Homecoming Week preview



Events like the Carni-Bull and the Homecoming Concert will give students an opportunity to show their spirit. ORACLE PHOTO/ULIANA LEARNED

By Abigail Saxe
CORRESPONDENT

USF's annual Homecoming Week is here with free food, events and USF merch to cover the campus with green and gold.

Starting on Sunday, Color the Campus will begin at 11 a.m. on the first floor of the Marshall Student Center (MSC), according to Programs Coordinator Kaylee Ayres.

This event kicked off Homecoming Week with students joining CAB in painting the windows of the MSC with green and gold to spread some USF spirit.

The week will start off with some tunes and talent with the kickoff event and Lip Sync Battle Monday night at 6 p.m. The event is free to students and will feature

free food, music from the Herd of Thunder band, a Rocky the Bull appearance and free merch.

Past years have featured a comedy show, but it was replaced last year with a talent show due to budget cuts, according to a 2022 Oracle article.

If you want to create some memories, stop by the MSC for food, photo booths, challenges and games from 11:30-1:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

On Tuesday at 7 p.m., the MSC ballroom will feature the National Pan Hellenic Council Extravaganza Step Show. Stepping and strolling dance styles originally came from African roots, and this performance has been put on annually by USF.

The Homecoming Ball and

Royalty will be happening from 8-11 p.m. in the MSC Ballroom on Wednesday. There will be dancing and refreshments as the Homecoming Court is crowned.

Thursday night's Homecoming concert will make history as it features the first Latino artist, Lunay, to headline a USF Homecoming Concert. Rapper Baby Tate will open the show.

Lunay was paid \$75,000 for his upcoming performance, and Baby Tate was paid \$35,000. Doors open at 7 p.m. at the Yuengling Center and the concert will take place from 8-10 p.m. Student tickets cost \$10.

On Friday night, "Carni-Bull" will last from 5-11 p.m. The event will feature rides, food and performances by students. It will be hosted in USF Parking Lot #35

by the Greek Village. All rides are free.

The Homecoming Parade will occur down Holly Drive, Genshaft Drive and Alumni Drive at 6:30 p.m. Student organizations, local businesses and USF departments will be featured at the parade. Students can gather around the roads to watch and hang out with friends.

Closing out the week, the Bulls football team will face the Owls at Raymond James Stadium. Student tickets are available for free, and kick-off begins at 3:30 p.m.

Throughout the week, SG also planned spirit days for all USF students to participate in during the day:

Monday – Wear your favorite beach clothes on campus and in

class.

Tuesday – Dress up as your favorite superhero or someone that is a hero to you.

Wednesday – Bring out the green and tag SG in a post showing off your outfit. This will enter you in a raffle for a homecoming basket.

Thursday – Dress up as your favorite decade or era.

Friday – Show off your school spirit by wearing USF colors.

All events are open to any students and are free, except for the homecoming concert. For additional information, visit the Homecoming Lineup on the USF website.



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Students share high hopes for Homecoming football game

By Julia Saad
Staff Writer

USF's improved performance this season has caught the eyes of many fans, as the program's 3-3 record is its best since 2019.

The Bulls play FAU for the Homecoming game on Oct. 14, with kickoff set at 3:30 p.m.

Integrated Public Relations and Advertising major Nuha Jarrah said she feels that the team's better performance this season has impacted Raymond James Stadium attendance. She said that even after halftime, the seats in the student section were still full.

While some only went for the tailgates and the first quarter, the new energy around the campus because of the new wins, students have felt more inclined to stay until the end of the game, according to Jarrah.

"The game culture has expanded. We have been winning so I feel like more people are staying past the first and second quarter," Jarrah said, "And even if I can't catch the game, I am monitoring the score on my phone."

The new attention and increased attendance on game days might even impact the way the players feel during the game, Jarrah said.

"I feel like they even run faster on the field. They are ready to get us that touchdown," she said.

Raymond James held its highest home game attendance this season for the Bulls game against Bama. The crowd totaled 48,107 attendees, according to a social media post from Tampa Bay Times reporter Joey Knight.

The Bulls had four wins from 2020-22. Chemistry major and junior Caleb Brown said he recognizes the barriers found with the constant changing of

coaches the Bulls experienced.

"It's hard going from coach to coach, but the promise we have seen so far through five games really has the Bulls fans excited," Brown said. "There has been this energy on campus."

streak of losses.

"I have family down here and they were like 'I don't know, USF doesn't look too good.' But now that we are winning I am really excited," Ostrander said.

For students who have

"I am a senior, so it is definitely different than in the past years," Greene said. "Of course we would go to show support, but afterwards it was kind of dull. Now I see more students and alumni coming out."

prospective students.

"Seeing the past games and scores and comparing them to now, we are getting so much more attention and focus on us. It is important to keep that up," she said.

Brown said the Bulls have had a new kind of attention on platforms like X, formerly known as Twitter. Those mentions put USF in a new position with other state schools, Brown said.

"If you look on Twitter [X] you will see USF right up there with the other big name schools in the state," he said. "At first, we were the joke of Florida schools. Now people are terrified, like 'What is going on down in Tampa?'"

Jarrah said she is noticing the impact of USF's improved performance on other social media platforms too.

"After game wins I see stories with scoreboards and people saying 'I was there', and I just feel like that is making it a more uplifting environment for everyone," Jarrah said. "Our generation just loves to joke, and it's nice to see that passion return to school."

Brown said that as an athlete, he is confident that with the new energy coming from the full crowd will drive the Bulls to a third home win.

"I expect it to be close, but I really do think we are going to win," he said.



USF saw 48,107 people in attendance at its Sept. 16 matchup against Alabama. ORACLE PHOTO/ARIANNA RENICK

Freshman criminology major Craig Ostrander said his family and friends gave him a hard time when applying to come down from New York to USF due to the reputation the school had after a

been at USF for more than a couple of semesters, the game day experience has changed, according to sustainability studies major Sarah-Nicole Greene.

Although she attends other games like soccer and basketball more often, Greene said football has a nationwide impact for universities, with the wins impacting USF's image to



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Latino students express excitement for Lunay's concert

By Clara Rokita Garcia
CORRESPONDENT

Public health graduate student Kiannyz Morales said that with the size of USF's Latino community, this year's Homecoming concert is something students have been wanting but didn't know how to ask for.

Morales said she was two months old when she moved to the states from Puerto Rico. When it was time to choose a university, she came to Tampa because she wanted to live in a diverse city.

"I'm glad that this is our first time getting a big Latino artist to come here, especially one who sings Reggaeton," Morales said.

Jefnier Osorio Moreno, better known as Lunay, is a Puerto Rican rapper and singer. He will be performing at USF's Homecoming concert at the Yuengling Center on Thursday at 8 p.m.

He is the first Latino artist to ever headline the event. Lunay was paid \$75,000 to perform at the concert, according to a Sept. 11 Oracle article.

Architecture graduate student Ivonne Lopez Bocanegra said it's exciting to see that Latino students are finally being represented in USF events, especially one as big as the Homecoming concert.

Bocanegra said having someone who embodies the Latino population may even bring more students to USF. The event will make the community stronger because they are going to feel directly identified by the university, according to Bocanegra.

"Especially because USF is so proud of having students from different backgrounds, this is

one step closer to the school being fully diverse. It's great that they're finally reaching out and bringing someone that represents us," Bocanegra said.

Freshman information science major Tais Torres said it's shocking that this will be

Holst, who was born in Virginia, said there was much less representation in her home state because there wasn't a big Latino community.

She said she is excited about Lunay being the first artist she is going to see perform at USF.

she appreciates USF's inclusive efforts and that she would like to see even more representation in the future.

Eric Torres, a junior global business major, said learning about new cultures is important for the acceptance and safety

students don't know Spanish, they should still attend the concert since it's a great opportunity to learn about different music genres.

"Music is our language. It's the universal language. That is why I appreciate USF's efforts in bringing a Latino artist," Bocanegra said.

Music brings people together no matter what your ethnicity or your race is, Morales said. She said she hopes the concert can attract USF students who aren't Latino so that a lot of people show up and make it a fun event.

Student tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at any of the CAB tabling events next week. Students can also buy their tickets at the door on Thursday, according to Campus Activities Board (CAB) Coordinator Hannah Sutherland.

CAB will announce the time and location for its tabling events on its Instagram account during the week.

All non-student tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster for \$25. USF staff can use the promo code "STAFFTIX" for \$5 off their ticket, and USF alumni can use the promo code "ALUMNITIX" for \$5 off their ticket.

Morales said she is sad that this is her last Homecoming Concert, but she's happy it's with an artist that is a part of her culture. It's a great way for Latino students to end their last year at USF, she said.

"I definitely think this concert is the first step to us being more welcomed here and not looked at just as a minority. We also have a presence here. We make USF what USF is," Morales said.

Bocanegra said that even if



Puerto Rican singer Lunay will headline USF's Homecoming Concert at the Yuengling Center on Oct. 12 at 8 p.m. [INSTAGRAM/@LUNAY](https://www.instagram.com/LUNAY)

the first time a Latino artist will headline the Homecoming Concert, considering USF's large Latino population.

The 2022-23 USF factbook stated that from 43,914 students – not including international students or non-resident aliens – 22.9% are Hispanic, which is the second highest demographic behind white students at 50.4%.

Since moving to Tampa, freshman psychology major Luna Holst said she has felt excited to see her community amplified and reinforced.

Because part of being Latino is about finding your community, representation is important for incoming freshmen to feel like they belong, according to Holst.

"I feel really excited to see Latino music and culture being shared. It is really encouraging. I feel accepted and at home here," Holst said.

Having Lunay perform at USF provides a safe space for new Latino students, Sophie Chiriboga, a freshman environmental science and policy major, said. She said

of the people in those cultures, according to Torres.

He said the concert is a great opportunity for people that aren't familiar with Latino music to learn more about it.

Some of USF's past headliners for the Homecoming Concert include rapper 2 Chainz in 2022, rapper Gunna in 2019, hip hop duo Rae Sremmurd in 2018 and rapper DRAM in 2017. There were no Homecoming performers in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.

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OPINION: Homecoming Concert wishlist



Here are five recommendations for USF's future Homecoming performers.

SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/UNSPASH

By Marcelene Pilcher
MANAGING EDITOR

Pop - Remi Wolf

With Lunay and Baby Tate cemented as this year's homecoming performance on Thursday, you may be contemplating what an alternative lineup could have looked like, or what artists USF could pull for the coming years.

Here are five artists from different genres, for the discerning eyes of the selection committee.

An ex-Youth Olympic skier and once American Idol contestant, Remi Wolf is a woman of many talents. This eclectic nature contributes in large part to her music's charm. Blending funk and pop with whimsical beats, endearingly distinctive lyrics and a raspy belt, each of Wolf's songs is uniquely hers.

Now boasting 3.5M monthly listeners on Spotify, Wolf first hit the limelight in 2020 with the remix of her single "Photo ID"

featuring indie darling Dominic Fike. The song struck internet gold in 2020 when it became a viral TikTok sound, now sitting at 1.9 billion views.

Her latest single "You First" dropped on Thursday. The song is a collaboration with Paramore, with whom she shared the Bonnaroo lineup list in June.

Rock - Greta Van Fleet

Both hailed and ripped for their Led Zeppelin-esque sound, Michigan-native rock band Greta

Van Fleet has maintained a cult-like fan base regardless. Winning Best Rock Album at the 2019 Grammy awards, their freshman album "From the Fires" features staples like "Highway Tune" and "Black Smoke Rising".

The song "Light My Love" from their sophomore album "The Battle at Garden's Gate" achieved internet virality in 2022, with a TikTok iteration achieving nearly 35,000 videos. A classic rock attitude and mind-bending vocals by lead singer Josh Kiszka would make for an unforgettable homecoming show.

Hip-Hop/Rap - Earl Sweatshirt

Earl Sweatshirt first earned the limelight in 2009, when, at the age of 15, music giant Tyler the Creator invited him to join his alternative hip-hop group, Odd Future. Launched under Tyler the Creator's label of the same name, Earl Sweatshirt's 2014 album Doris cemented his cult status.

The album's morbid tone and variety of musical sound – from jazz-inspired "Burgundy" to the stripped-down flow of "Hive" – takes the listener on a ride through the rapper's personal experiences. With a relaxed but unrelenting flow, the verses feature the rapper's unfiltered life growing up in Los Angeles and coping with fame at a young age.

His latest project, "VoiR Dire" was released on Friday. An 11-track collaboration with American record producer and DJ The Alchemist, VoiR Dire features the rapper's signature languid flow over atmospheric backing tracks.

Country - Tyler Childers

From a humble Appalachian upbringing in Lawrence County, Kentucky to playing the 2023 Country Music Awards, Tyler Childers' grassroots rise to fame has been one to watch. While making his freshman debut in 2011, Childers struck gold with his 2017 album "purgatory", which features hits like "Feathered Indians" and "Lady May", which have over 300 million and 200 million streams on Spotify, respectively.

Childers' honest, raw depictions of modern rural life paired with a melancholic folk sound and an authentic Kentucky twang have won over country music fans and detractors alike. Whether raised in the country or the city, USF students would be sure to find something to connect to in Childers' music.

Indie - Omar Apollo

Nominated for Best New Artist at the Grammys this year for his latest album "Ivory", Omar Apollo has been a beloved staple of indie fans since his freshman EP, Stereo, dropped in 2018. Apollo blends his signature falsetto with bedroom R&B and latin-inspired guitar riffs to create a flavor of indie music unlike anything else.

Bolstered with big-name collaborations Kali Uchis and Daniel Caesar, Apollo's latest album features bopping R&B baselines under Apollo's signature vocal harmonies. With his latest tour just around the corner on Oct. 17, USF homecoming could have been a great warm-up for Apollo, and a memorable event for the Bulls.

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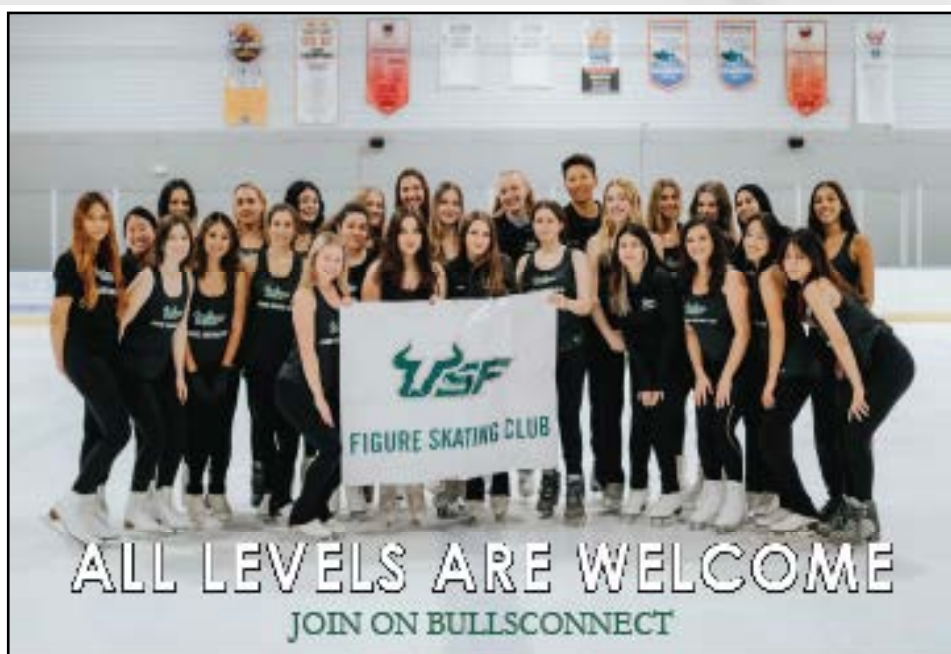
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