

### **DECEMBER 24, 2014**

THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM
NASSAU, BAHAMAS





### **Contents**

Welcome Message from the Prime Minister
Welcome Messages from the
Bahamas Government
Welcome Message from Popeyes
Bowl Staff
Game Preview6-:



About the Mid-American Conference	8
About Central Michigan University	9
CMU Administration	10
CMU Coach Dan Enos	11
CMU 2014 Roster	12-15
CMU 2014 Depth Chart	16



WKU 2014 Depth Chart	17
WKU 2014 Roster	18-21
WKU Coach Jeff Brohm	22
WKU Administration	23
About WKU	24
About Conference USA	25
The Bahamas	26-27
Thomas A. Robinson Stadium	28-29
Giving Back to the Bahamas	30
Came Entertainment	31



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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



I wish, on behalf of the Government and people of The Bahamas to welcome the organizers, the teams and all of the loyal fans who have come to our country to participate and enjoy the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. We want you to know that we enthusiastically welcome you and trust that the Bowl will be a success, both from the standpoint of the level of competition and in terms of the enjoyment for the fans who have come to our beautiful city.

The Bahamas is placing renewed emphasis on Sports Tourism as an added value to our tourism product. In recent months we have been able to host several successful international events, including the IAAF World Relays 2014, various NBA teams that have come for practice and training sessions and most recently an NCAA Basketball Tournament featuring several notable top ranked teams. We are always happy to have these groups with us. We have excellent facilities which are steadily being enhanced to cater for international competition. Added to this, we have the advantages of being close to one of the world's most exciting and sophisticated sports market, the United States of America. We need to take advantage of these attributes and it is in this vein that we are happy to have the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl in our capital city.

As many of you are aware, The Bahamas and the city of Nassau have much to offer. You have come at a time when on the 26<sup>th</sup> December we will host the annual Boxing Day Junkanoo Parade, a must see event for visitors and Bahamians alike. We hope that this can be added to your stay while in Nassau. The Bahamas has a rich and vibrant culture and aspects of this will be put on display when on 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 the Bahamas will launch its first ever Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival. It will be a time of intense cultural activity that will showcase the best of Bahamian music and artistry and the centre piece of which will be Junkanoo. We are inviting visitors from around the world and we look forward to many of you returning for that special event.

In closing, I trust that your time in The Bahamas will be enjoyable and that you will return next year for what we hope will be the second annual Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

Welcome to our beautiful nation.

Perry G. Christie Prime Minister



"The Bahamas is again rolling out its red carpet in the world of sports by hosting this NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision postseason event, the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. My Ministry is delighted to be part of this history making occasion. It is my hope that the sportsmanship, and opportunities that sports

provides young people will serve as a glowing beacon inspiration in our country amongst our youth."

We salute the Central Michigan Chippewas and the WKU Hilltoppers. Christmas Eve in the Bahamas



The young men from these two colleges participating in the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl on Christmas Eve will send a message to Bahamian young people and to the world at large that sports is the powerful force on the face of the earth to bring peace and unite people and heal differences. We will see, coaches, alumni, fans, parents, family all drawn to one single focus. A competitive game with no amplified injures and the joy of participating either on the field from the stands. Surely, this can only pump up the Christmas spirit in our Country."

Hon. Obediah H. Wilchcombe, MP **Minister of Tourism** 

"The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture joins the Ministry of Tourism to welcome the outstanding NCAA

American football teams and players to The Bahamas. Over the years, we have had several Bahamians play football at the NCAA level, including Devard



Darling, Ed Smith, Karl McCartney, Geno Smith, D'Brickshaw Ferguson and Rhodes Scholar, Myron Rolle. We welcome the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl ... right in time for Junkanoo."

Hon. Dr. Daniel Johnson Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture

"The Bahamas is excited to have the first-ever Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Game

here in Nassau at the National Sports Stadium. Here is another diversity as we are more than just sun, sand and sea but also entertainment



and sports. It Keeps Getting Better!"

Mr. Leroy Archer **Chairman, National Sports Authority** 



December 24, 2014

Happy game day college football fans!

We are so excited to welcome to you the inaugural Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, presented by Popeyes\* Louisiana Kitchen!

The entire Popeyes family is thrilled to be a part of one of college football's newest bowl games, the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. And, what better way to spend the holiday season than cheering on your favorite football team in Nassau, Bahamas – one of the most beautiful places on earth!



While Nassau is far from Popeyes home of Louisiana, the culture and heritage are as rich as our roots, and the perfect place to serve as one of the few international venues for a bowl game in the history of college football.

We congratulate our teams from Conference USA, WKU Hilltoppers, and the Mid-American Conference's Central Michigan Chippewas for their hard work and sportsmanship in achieving the honor of participating in today's matchup.

Please enjoy today's historic game, and on behalf of everyone at Popeyes, we wish you and yours a safe and happy new year.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Bachelder

Chief Executive Officer

Popeyes® Louisiana Kitchen

Cheryl q. Backelder





BRITTON BANOWSKY
President

In his 12th year as Commissioner of Conference USA, Britton Banowsky also serves as the President of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. Banowsky directs a league that is focused on excellence in athletics, academics and the community with his progressive leadership. Despite change, Conference USA has maintained a solid foundation and a strong identity and reinforced its position in collegiate athletics as it celebrates its 20th year of competition.

With a wealth of experience in intercollegiate athletics, Banowsky became the new Commissioner of Conference USA on October 28, 2002. He is only the second Commissioner in C-USA replacing Mike Slive, who held the reins since the Conference's inception in 1995. Banowsky arrived in his new role during a dynamic time in intercollegiate athletics.

With schools changing allegiances among their conference memberships, Banowsky led the Conference through its first transitional period and orchestrated a restructured Conference USA that began competition in August 2005.

The inaugural Conference USA Football Championship made its debut in 2005. At that time, the league had secured five bowl tie-ins for postseason football participation and that number has since grown to six bowl tie-tins for the 2014 season, in addition to an opportunity to be included in the College Football Playoff.

Following another nation-wide transition, the league welcomed eight new members on July 1, 2013 – Charlotte, FIU, Florida Atlantic, Louisiana Tech, Middle Tennessee, North Texas, Old Dominion and UTSA. Charlotte was a charter member and made its return to the league. WKU rounded out the current 14-school membership when it officially joined the conference on July 1, 2014.



**LEA MILLER Executive Director** 

A sports marketing executive who has helped bring several high-profile events to the Bahamas, Lea Miller serves as the Executive Director of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

She oversees the entire bowl operation, while focusing on sponsorship negotiations, media contracts, client relations with the bowl's sponsor lineup, ticket promotion and event hospitality.

Miller, the founder and president of Complete Sports Management, an all-encompassing sports marketing agency, leveraged her global connections to bring collegiate sports to the Bahamas in 2010. That year, she was retained by the Atlantis as an independent consultant to manage the Battle At Atlantis, a Division I men's basketball doubleheader. The following year, the doubleheader became a full-fledged tournament - the Battle 4 Atlantis - which boasts one of the most impressive fields of participants each year and is one of the most-successful early-season Division I tournaments in history.



RICHARD GIANNINI Senior Advisor

Richard Giannini, a veteran of five decades of athletic administration, is the Senior Advisor to the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

In his role, Giannini works with the bowl staff in all facets of the game's operation, and he serves in a key role in the bowl's governmental relations with the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

As principal of Giannini Sports Consultants, LLC, he advises Conference USA, ESPN and the Boca Raton Bowl in addition to his work with the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

Giannini served as athletic director at Southern Miss from 1999-2012. Under his tenure, Southern Miss captured 13 Conference USA championships, including three football titles, two regular season and two tournament crowns in both baseball and softball and one in volleyball and men's basketball. Under his direction, the football team enjoyed 13 consecutive winning season and 12 bowl appearances. The baseball team played in nine consecutive NCAA regionals.



CHRIS PIKA
Director of Communications

A longtime sports media relations and digital media staff member on both the collegiate and professional levels, Chris Pika serves as the Director of Communications for the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

In his capacity with the bowl, Pika oversees all areas of communications/media relations, including promoting the bowl to U.S.- and Bahamas-based media outlets, working closely with broadcast partner ESPN, developing publicity campaigns, assisting with branding and operating the bowl's web site and social media channels.

A veteran of media relations work at major sporting events, Pika has been part of the NFL's public relations staff at 12 Super Bowls, including Super Bowl XLVIII. He has assisted at 12 bowl games, including a pair of BCS National Championship Games (2004, 2008), two NCAA Men's Final Fours (1993 and 2003), two Goodwill Games (1990 and 1998), two MLB All-Star Games (1994 and 1996), the 2010 NFL Pro Bowl, and the 1991 NCAA Women's Final Four, in addition to several NCAA basketball and baseball regionals.



**TOM SNYDER**Director of Operations

UCF's associate athletics director for facilities and event operations, Tom Snyder serves as the Director of Operations for the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

In his role, Snyder is in charge of all game operations at Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium, including overseeing the event's logistics and game operations staff and supervising the setup of the stadium areas, game field and the adjacent practice fields for the event and participating teams during bowl week.

Snyder is no stranger to the Bahamas as he has been the director of game operations since 2010 for the annual Battle 4 Atlantis men's basketball tournament, which takes place during Thanksgiving week at the Atlantis resort in Nassau.

Snyder was promoted to his current post at UCF in July 2014 after working as the university's assistant athletics director for facilities and event operations since 2009. At UCF, he is lead in the day-to-day supervision of the facilities, sports turf and grounds and event operations departments. He has been with UCF since April 2003.

### **Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Preview**

#### **BY CHRIS PIKA**

ne team scores an average of 44 points per game, the other is a top-20 defense. One team likes to keep the football in their hands for as long as possible, the other likes their chances with the ball at the end of the game.

Such is the contrast of styles in the inaugural Popeyes Bahamas Bowl as Central Michigan takes on WKU this afternoon in Nassau's Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium.

We already know the weather will be warm, the hospitality wonderful and the sunshine plentiful. What we will find out today is which style will win out and capture the first Football Bowl Subdivision postseason bowl game outside of the United States or Canada since 1937. Both teams are excited to be in the Bahamas, and that excitement should carry over to the play on the field.

Both teams come into the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl on a roll, as WKU has won four straight and Central Michigan has wins in five of the last seven games and three of the last four contests.

This will also be a rematch of the 2012 Little Caesars Pizza Bowl game that Central Michigan won 24-21 – the only previous meeting between the schools and the last bowl game appearance for either team until today's contest.

For WKU, the Hilltoppers' prolific offense under head coach Jeff Brohm (7-5 in one season as a college coach/WKU) has scored 50 or more points in six games, including 60 or more in two contests, capped off by a 67-66 overtime road victory over a ranked Marshall team in the final regular season game. WKU is especially deadly in the red zone, as the Hilltoppers have converted 67 percent of their drives inside the opponents' 20-yard line into touchdowns.

WKU boasts the 2014 Conference USA Most Valuable Player in quarterback Brandon Doughty. Doughty leads the FBS with 4,344 yards and 44 touchdowns, averaging 362 passing yards per game (second in FBS) as he has completed 67.5 percent of his passes, a rate that leads C-USA teams. He received a sixth year of eligibility from the NCAA just after the Hilltoppers accepted the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl bid due to injuries he suffered in 2011 and 2012.

Five WKU receivers have more than 30 catches, led by junior Jared Dangerfield with 64 receptions for 738 yards and 10 touchdowns. WKU can run the ball, too, as junior running back Leon Allen has 259 carries for 1,490 yards and 12 TD.

The Hilltopper defense has been stout in the red zone. WKU is the only team in FBS with four defensive touchdowns of 80 yards or more (the four longest plays of the year for the team), and the Hilltoppers have five defensive touchdowns in 2014, including three from redshirt junior Wonderful Terry.



### **E** CMU STAT LEADERS

C. Rush	215	<b>ATT</b> 337	YDS 2664	<b>TD</b> 20
<b>RUSHING</b> T. Rawls D. Spalding	<b>CAR</b> 210 65	<b>YDS</b> 1103 359	<b>AVG</b> 5.3 5.5	<b>TD</b> 10 4
<b>RECEIVING</b> T. Davis J. Kroll	<b>REC</b> 54 32	<b>YDS</b> 843 473	<b>AVG</b> 15.6 14.8	<b>TD</b> 9 4

Junior linebacker Nick Holt leads WKU in total tackles with 103, including seven for loss. Redshirt sophomore Branden Leston leads the Hilltoppers with four interceptions.

Central Michigan, under head coach Dan Enos (26-35 in five seasons overall and at Central Michigan), has the strongest defensive unit in the MAC. The Chippewas led the conference in total defense (331.2 yards per game), rushing defense (119.8 yards per game), passing defense (211.4 yards per game), interceptions (24) and were second in the conference in scoring defense (23.2 points per game).

CMU also had a knack for controlling the clock as the Chippewas lead the MAC and are eighth in the FBS in average time of possession (33:27 per game) and had two games with more than 40 minutes of offensive possession time.

Central Michigan sophomore quarterback Cooper Rush has completed 63 percent of his passes for 2,664 yards and 20 touchdowns. He spreads out the football as the Chippewas' receiving corps has nine players with 10 or more catches.

Rush's favorite receiver is senior Titus Davis, who has 54 receptions for 843 yards and nine touchdowns. Davis was named to the first-team All-MAC squad for the second-consecutive season as part of a MACmost five first-team selections for the Chippewas. He is CMU's all-time leader in TD receptions with 33, and is the first player in FBS history to catch at least eight TD passes in each of his four collegiate seasons.

Senior Thomas Rawls leads the Chips in rushing yards with 210 carries for 1,103 yards and 10 touchdowns.

On defense, CMU senior linebacker and first-team All-MAC performer Justin Cherocci leads Central Michigan with 107 total tackles and is tied for the team lead with four sacks. Sophomore safety Tony Annesse tied for the team lead with junior cornerback Brandon Greer with three interceptions and paced the Chips with 10 pass breakups.

Which style ultimately wins out today? Stay tuned.



### WKU STAT LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	YDS	TD
B. Doughty	344	510	4344	44
RUSHING	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD
L. Allen	259	1490	5.8	12
A. Wales	68	423	6.2	4
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
T. Taylor	44	739	16.8	7
J. Dangerfield	64	738	11.5	10



12.24.2014

### MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Providing leadership in education and diversity, the Mid-American Conference moves into its 69th year of service to the student-athlete.

Since its inception in 1946, the Mid-American Conference has progressively grown and developed into one of the most aggressive Division I conferences in the country. One of only ten football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) conferences, the MAC named Dr. Jon A. Steinbrecher as its eighth commissioner in March of 2009.

The league has grown its commitment to championships by expanding to six its number of neutral site post season events – football (Ford Field, Detroit), men's and women's basketball (Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland), softball (Firestone Stadium, Akron) and baseball (All Pro Freight Stadium, Avon, Ohio). In addition, the SPIRE Academy (Geneva, Ohio) will also serve as the site for the 2015 MAC men's swimming & diving championship.

In addition to growing its commitment to MAC championships, Steinbrecher has strategically positioned the

MAC's participation in hosting NCAA events and championships. The MAC will serve as the host for the 2015 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Midwest Regional and was recently awarded the 2018 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships as both events will take place at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. The MAC has also hosted both the 2012 and 2014 NCAA Women's Bowling Championships under his direction.

In 2013, the MAC had five programs receive football bowl invitations: Bowling Green (Little Caesars Pizza Bowl), Northern Illinois (San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl), Ball State (GoDaddy Bowl), Buffalo (Famous Idaho Potato Bowl) and Ohio (Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl St. Petersburg). The MAC had three programs with 10 or more wins (Northern Illinois 12-2; Ball State 10-3; Bowling Green 10-4) which tied for third among FBS conferences (ACC, Big 12 and Conference USA), trailing only the SEC and Pac-12.

Last December Northern Illinois quarterback Jordan Lynch finished third overall in the Heisman Trophy voting, the highest ever finish by a MAC student-athlete. Lynch was invited to the Heisman Trophy Award ceremony in New York City and became only the third MAC student-athlete to receive an invitation to the ceremony – Marshall QB Chad Pennington (1999) and Marshall WR Randy Moss (1997).

Buffalo Bulls linebacker Khalil Mack was the fifth overall selection by the Oakland Raiders in the 2014 NFL Draft. Mack's selection was the highest ever for the Buffalo program and the second-highest ever selection for a MAC student-athlete. This marked the second consecutive year for the MAC to have its two highest ever selections in the NFL Draft. In the 2013 NFL Draft, Central Michigan offensive tackle Eric Fisher was selected as the first overall selection by the Kansas City Chiefs, making Fisher the first-ever football player from the MAC selected first overall in the NFL Draft.

In 2012, the MAC witnessed a record setting seven teams receive bowl invitations, including the first ever BCS Bowl invitation with Northern Illinois playing in the Discover Orange Bowl on Jan. 1, 2013. The MAC also had four football programs ranked in the top 25 of national polls – Northern Illinois, Kent State, Toledo and Ohio—as the BCS Standings had two MAC programs in the Top 25 at the end of the regular season with No. 15 Northern Illinois and No. 25 Kent State. The MAC also set a conference record for the most wins against FBS opponents with 16 victories.

In the fall of 2013, the MAC announced the creation of newly created bowl games in Boca Raton, Fla., Nassau, Bahamas, Miami Beach, Fla., and Montgomery, Ala. for a six-year period (2014-2019). The creation of the Boca Raton, Bahamas and Miami Beach Bowls is the centerpiece of a joint agreement between several FBS conferences and will be supported by several FBS conferences on a six-year rotating basis.

The Boca Raton Bowl will be owned and operated by ESPN and will be played at FAU Stadium, an open air stadium which seats nearly 30,000 fans



**JON STEINBRECHER** 

Commissioner

on the campus of Florida Atlantic University. The Bahamas Bowl will be played at Thomas A. Robinson Stadium. The Miami Beach Bowl will be played at Marlins Park. The Camellia Bowl, based in Montgomery, Ala., is owned and operated by ESPN and will be played in the Cramton Bowl, a 25,000 seat stadium.

The MAC is also a partner with the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl as a primary partner in 2017 and 2019, and a secondary partner in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 bowl seasons. The MAC will play the Mountain West in both the 2017 and 2019 bowl seasons, played at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego.

Starting in the 2014 season, the MAC will have a minimum five guaranteed bowl opportunities. The MAC has long-term primary contracts with the GoDaddy Bowl (based in Mobile, Ala.) through the 2017 season and Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (based in Boise, Ida.) through the 2019 season.

In its partnership with ESPN, the MAC is in the sixth year of its eight-year rights agreement (through 2016-2017 academic years) for football, as well as men's and women's basketball. The deal is the most extensive in the history of the conference. The agreement calls for a minimum of 25 events annually to be produced and aired on an ESPN platform including the men's and women's basketball championships, a regular-season MAC presence on ESPN, the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game and a minimum of 11 regular-season football games.

In the summer of 2014, the MAC and ESPN announced a historic 13-year rights extension deal through the 2026-27 season for expanded national television and digital distribution. This is the largest and most extensive agreement in the 68-year history of the Conference and brings long-term security for the MAC through the 2026-27 academic year.

ESPN has exclusive television and digital distribution rights for all MAC sporting events, and guarantees coverage of every football game, and select men's and women's basketball and Olympic sporting events. The MAC and ESPN will establish on-campus production capabilities that will provide a significant increase in the national coverage of baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, wrestling and Olympic sports on ESPN3. This will open up nearly 92 million households from ESPN3 for exposure to MAC sports for the first time in Conference history.

In men's basketball, the MAC witnessed the No. 1 seed Western Michigan win its first MAC Men's Basketball Tournament since 2004. The MAC had five programs invited to postseason tournaments (NCAA-Western Michigan; NIT-Toledo; CIT-Akron, Eastern Michigan and Ohio). Eastern Michigan advanced to the CIT Second Round, while Ohio advanced to the CIT Quarterfinals. Buffalo senior forward Javon McCrea was named Associated Press All-American Honorable Mention.

#### **HISTORY OF THE MAC**

Based in Cleveland since July 1999 following a 15-year stay in Toledo, Ohio, the MAC has established historic measurements in both football and men's and women's basketball since moving to Northeast Ohio. The MAC was founded as a five-school league on February 24, 1946 in Columbus, Ohio with Ohio, Butler, Cincinnati, Wayne State and Western Reserve admitted as charter members. The Mid-American Conference membership consists of 12 universities across five states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York and Ohio).

In 1946 men's basketball was the first competitive sport in the MAC, which now sponsors a total 23 sports. Women's sports were brought into the conference's structure in 1980. For men, there are 11 championships sponsored in football, basketball, baseball, cross country, soccer, swimming and diving, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, wrestling, golf and tennis. For women, 12 championships are sponsored in basketball, softball, volleyball, cross country, field hockey, golf, soccer, swimming and diving, gymnastics, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field and tennis.



### **Central Michigan University**

entral Michigan University is a nurturing institution that fosters the transformative power of advanced learning. From its roots as a teachers' college, CMU has grown to offer nationally acclaimed programs in areas ranging from the health professions and engineering to business and communications.

CMU's student and faculty researchers help preserve the earth's resources, discover new ways to treat diseases, advance innovative ways to improve teaching and learning methods, and much more.

Central Michigan University is among the nation's 100 largest public universities with more than 20,000 students on its Mount Pleasant campus and another 7,000 enrolled online and at 50 locations across North America. CMU offers more than 200 academic programs at the undergraduate, master's, specialist and doctoral levels.

In addition, CMU has established the nation's 137th College of Medicine to address a growing shortage of primary care physicians in Michigan. The inaugural class of 64 students began its studies in August 2013.

Central opened its doors on September 13, 1892, as the Central Michigan Normal School and Business Institute, with classes in teaching, business and stenography. In 1895, the Michigan State Board of Education assumed control of the school, which had grown to 135 students, renaming it Central Michigan Normal School.

Prior to World War II, the school's name changed again — first to Central State Teachers College, then to Central Michigan College of Education — while enrollment rose to more than 1,800 students. In 1955, another name change, to Central Michigan College, reflected the diversification in course offerings beyond education. Then, on June 1, 1959, with an enrollment of 4,500 students, Central became Central Michigan University, a designation representing further growth in the complexity of the school's academic programs.

CMU is a university where students, faculty, staff and alumni learn to pursue excellence. To live with compassion. To be leaders. Fire Up Chips!

#### **Mount Pleasant**

Mount Pleasant, the county seat of Isabella County, was established in 1831. The population of Isabella County is roughly 68,000 with Mt. Pleasant, the biggest city at a population of 27,000. Top employers include Central Michigan University, Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, McClaren Central Michigan, Bandit Industries, Morbark, and Delfield. Over the years, the Mt. Pleasant area has experienced several changes that have come to make it the great community that it is today.

There are more than 15 local parks in Mount Pleasant, which provide an abundance of opportunities for picnicking, swimming, biking, hiking, sledding, cross country skiing, and more. Golf enthusiasts can enjoy a dozen local courses within a 30-minute drive of the city. Mount Pleasant's Native American heritage and rich history, together with the splendor of the area's natural attractions, give visitors a wide variety of things to see and enjoy. Isabella County features over 1,000 farms averaging 193 acres in size. Farms range from dairy farms and livestock farms, to vegetables and organic farms.

#### **Athletics**

Central Michigan is a member of the Mid-American Conference and has won 89 conference championships since joining the MAC in 1975. CMU's wrestling and gymnastics programs have been especially dominant as both teams have won 15 titles. In football, the Chippewas have captured seven crowns (1979, 1980, 1990, 1994, 2006, 2007 and 2009).

The Chippewas have also been successful in the classroom. Both the soccer and field hockey programs have held the nation's top team GPA in the five years. Central Michigan also earned the Mid-American Conference's inaugural Cartwright Award after the 2008-09 academic year as the league's top overall institution, capturing the annual honor given to the program that most exemplifies excellence in academics, athletics and citizenship.

Central Michigan Football won the NCAA Division II national title in 1974 by defeating Delaware, 54-14. CMU has also been national runner-up twice. In 1958, the men's swimming and diving team was runner-up to North Central College at the second annual NAIA national meet.



Warriner Mall at CMU



### **George Ross**

### **President**

Dr. George E. Ross, appointed the fourteenth president of Central Michigan University on March 1, 2010, believes in the transformative

power of education on individual lives and the future of our communities, state and nation.

With a powerful focus on students, Dr. Ross leads the fourth largest public university in Michigan and one of the 100 largest in America. CMU opened in 1892 offering teaching and business degrees and has since evolved to become a leading public university with a strong liberal arts focus, known as well for its excellence in health sciences, science, technology, engineering and math programs.



CMU in January 2017 will open a \$95 million Biosciences Building being constructed with state, private and university funds. The university has nationally recognized programs in physical therapy, audiology, speech-language pathology and athletic training. Its undergraduate neuroscience program is ranked No. 1 in America and its 10-year-old undergraduate engineering program has become one of the nation's top 100. CMU is considered a leading Great Lakes research institution, directing a \$10 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Under Dr. Ross' direction, CMU opened America's 137th college of medicine in 2013 with a distinctive mission to prepare physicians desperately needed to serve rural and medically underserved communities. The university's business college is the North American leader in information systems, with more CMU students earning their SAP TERP10 certification than students from the second-, third- and fourth-most successful universities combined. Likewise, CMU sales students have ranked top in the nation two years in a row.

CMU has an acclaimed Global Campus that serves more than 7,000 students across the nation at nearly 50 remote locations and online. CMU's online undergraduate programs are ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Dr. Ross has led CMU through an extensive strategic planning process and a massive campus master planning effort to prepare for the next decade and beyond. He has championed a successful shared governance and communications effort that is now in its third year, and he rallied the university community as a whole to address the effect of Michigan's declining high school population on enrollment.

Dr. Ross and his wife, Elizabeth, have two adult daughters, Roshaunda and Joronda.

### **Dave Heeke**

### Athletic Director

Dave Heeke has instilled his vision of a "Championship Culture" at Central Michigan University.

Athletic success, academic excellence, national media exposure, record fund- raising and a commitment to facilities have defined Heeke's tenure as CMU's director of athletics.

Under Heeke's guidance, Central Michigan athletics attained new heights of success during the 2012-13 seasons. Six teams - football, soccer, women's basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, and softball - qualified for the NCAA postseason. The



football team made its fifth bowl appearance in the last seven years, winning the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl in Detroit in front of a national television audience. The soccer program became the first in MAC history to earn an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. Women's basketball claimed a third-straight 20-plus win season, a Mid- American Conference Tournament title and the program's first NCAA Tournament appearance in 29 years. Gymnastics advanced to the NCAA Regionals for the fifth straight year, earning its fourth consecutive MAC championship along the way. Overall, Central Michigan finished 88th in the Learfield Sports' Directors Cup, second best in the Mid- American Conference.

In April, the CMU football program captured the national spotlight once again, as offensive tackle Eric Fisher made history when he was selected No. 1 overall in the NFL Draft by the Kansas City Chiefs.

Facility upgrades and renovations for all sports have been staples under Heeke's leadership. Highlighting his efforts is the ongoing capital campaign to fund the new CMU Events Center, which opened December 1, 2010. The \$22.5 million project includes a complete renovation of the arena in the Rose Center, as well as the addition of a dynamic entryway and new practice facilities for basketball, volleyball and wrestling.

Heeke was introduced as the Chippewas' athletics director at a press conference Dec. 8, 2005, and took over the reins on Jan. 16, 2006. He replaced Herb Deromedi who retired after 11 years as athletics director and 38-plus years of total service to the university.

Heeke and his wife, Liz, have three boys, Ryan, Max and Zach.



### **Dan Enos**

### **Head Coach**

Central Michigan Football head coach Dan Enos is in his fifth season in charge of the Chippewas.

The Chippewas went 7-5 this season with marquee victories at Purdue and Northern Illinois. The win at NIU snapped the Huskies' 28-game home win streak, and their 24-game regular-season MAC win streak.

The Chippewas were led by eight All-MAC selections, the highest total in Enos' tenure. CMU has a MAC-high five players named to the first team: wide receiver Titus Davis, offensive linemen Nick Beamish and Andy Phillips, linebacker Justin Cherocci, and defensive lineman Leterrius Walton.

In 2013, Dan Enos' fourth year at the helm of the Chippewa program, Central Michigan battled through adversity to win six games, including five in conference play, capture the Michigan MAC Trophy, and bring the Victory Cannon back home to Mount Pleasant.

Four Chippewas received All-MAC recognition in 2013 — receiver Titus Davis (first team),

guard Andy Phillips (second third) and linebackers Shamari Benton (third team) and Justin Cherocci (third team). Davis led the MAC in yards per catch (18.2), while Cherocci was the conference's top tackler with 121 total stops.

Enos' 2012 Chippewas won seven games overall, including four of their last five in the regular season, all in MAC play, to earn the program's fifth bowl bid in the last seven years.

Central Michigan grabbed the national spotlight in week four, scoring nine points in the game's final 45 seconds to knock off Iowa on the road, 32-31, in thrilling, come-from-behind fashion. CMU punctuated 2012 with a 24-21 victory over Western Kentucky in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl in Detroit.

Enos had five Chippewas earn All-MAC recognition in 2012 – offensive lineman Eric Fisher (first team), Tipton (second team), Addae (second team), Davis (second team), and receiver Cody Wilson (third team). Fisher also received All-America recognition, earning second team honors from SI.com and third team mention by the Associated Press.

One of Coach Enos' cornerstone messages to recruits and his players is that whatever you can dream, you can achieve at Central Michigan. The entire sports world witnessed the em-

bodiment of that philosophy in April 2013 when Eric Fisher made history by becoming the highest NFL draft pick ever from CMU and Mid-American Conference when he was selected No. 1 overall by the Kansas City Chiefs.



### **Coaching Staff**

Kyle Nystrom - Assistant Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator

Joe Tumpkin - Defensive Coordinator

Morris Watts - Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks

**Butch Barry - Offensive Line** 

**Archie Collins -** Defensive Backs

Gino Guidugli - Running Backs/Recruiting Coordinator

**Sherrone Moore -** Tight Ends

**George Ricumstrict -** Defensive Line

Mose Rison - Wide Receivers

Jay McDowell - Video Coordinator

Rick Perry - Strength and Conditioning

Ben Presnell - Coordinator of Recruiting and Player Personnel

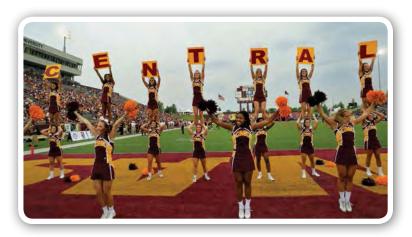
**Reed Schuitema -** Director of Football Operations

Jesse Johnson - Graduate Assistant

JMichael Jonard - Graduate Assistant

Matt Losiniecki - Student Assistant

John Roberts - Quality Control
Todd Storm - Graduate Assistant
Justin Sweeney - Quality Control
Travis Wiltzius - Graduate Assistant





## CENTRAL MICHIGAN ALPHABETICAL PLAYER ROSTER



61 · LS NICK ADAMS Crystal Lake, III.



77 · OL
RAMADAN
AHMETI
Lansing, Mich.



68 · OL DYLAN ANDERSON West Bloomfield, Mich.



18 · DB
TONY ANNESE
Hartland, Mich.



11 · DB
TREVOR APSEY
Maple City, Mich.



STEFON
ARMSTEAD
Southfield, Mich.



**59 · OL JOE AUSTIN**Bridgeport, Mich.



40 · FB JOE BACCI Romeo, Mich.



12 · DB

DAVID BASIRICO

Macomb, Mich.



54 · OL NICK BEAMISH Riverview, Mich.



46 · DE

NATE

BRISSON-FAST

Ferndale, Mich.



15 · TE

DEON BUTLER

Detroit, Mich.



70 · OL SHAKIR CARR South Bend, Ind.



81 · TE JONATHAN CARSON Milwaukee, Wis.



29 · DB JARRET CHAPMAN Port Huron, Mich.



3 · WR

MARK CHAPMAN

Port Huron, Mich.



8 · DB WINSLOW CHAPMAN Port Huron, Mich.



46 · LB

JUSTIN

CHEROCCI

Rochester Hills, Mich.



7 · DB AMARI COLEMAN Flint, Mich.



63 · OL CONNOR COLLINS Millington, Mich.



17 · K
RON COLUZZI
Naperville, III.



48 · TE

TYLER CONKLIN

Chesterfield, Mich.



37 · FB
CHRISTIAN
CONLEY
Troy, Mich.



39 · LB JADON COOK Harper Woods, Mich.



12 · WR ERIC COOPER Flint, Mich.



**65 · OL ALEX COTY**South Bend, Ind.



**36 · DB**JOSH COX
Warren, Mich.



86 · TE

ZACH CROUCH

Lowell, Mich



97 · DT

KEVIN D'ARCY

Livonia, Mich.



38 · DB

CAMERON DAVIS

Grand Blanc, Mich.



84 · WR TITUS DAVIS Wheaton, Ill.



52 · DT JABARI DEAN Detroit, Mich.



79 · OL **AUSTIN DOAN** Romeo, Mich.



96 · K **BRIAN EAVEY** Grand Ledge, Mich.



74 · OL **DEREK EDWARDS** Novi, Mich.



24 · DB **JORDAN FIELDS** Grand Blanc, Mich.



44 · DB **ALEX FINE** Lake Orion, Mich.



76 · OL **JACK FORD** Cadillac, Mich.



31 · LB MALIK **FOUNTAIN** Chicago, III.



5 · DB **KAVON FRAZIER** Grand Rapids, Mich.



44 · RB **ANTHONY** GARLAND Ferndale, Mich.



4 · DB **BRANDON** GREER Dolton, III.



26 · RB **TRENT GRIMES** Fenton, Mich.



43 · LB **TIM HAMILTON** Bloomfield Hills, Mich.



60 · OL **KEVIN HENRY** Morris III



87 · WR **CONNOR** HOWARD Carmel, Ind.



49 · DE **LUKE IDONI** Fenton, Mich.



95 · DT SHAFER **JOHNSON** Southfield, Mich.



22 · RB **GARY JONES** Allegan, Mich.



90 · DE **CHRIS KANTZAVELOS** Bartlett, III.



7 · OB **CODY KATER** Montague, Mich.



**OTIS KEARNEY** Toms River, N.J.



73 · OL **BRANDON KEEN** Waterford, Mich.



10 · DB **KEVIN KING** Dearborn, Mich.



33 · TE MIKE KINVILLE Northville, Mich.



72 · OL JOE KOMEL Elburn, III.



88 · WR JESSE KROLL Algoma, Wis.



93 · DE **DONNY KYRE** Olivet, Mich.



13 · OB **RYAN LAMB** Cardiff, Calif.



98 · DT **KELBY LATTA** Battle Creek, Mich.



6 · RB **SAYLOR** LAVALLII Mason, Mich.



51 · LB **CODY LOPEZ** Plainfield, III.



99 · DT JIMMY **MCCARTHY** Fishers, Ind.



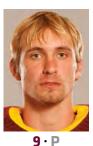
89 · TE **BEN MCCORD** Warren, Mich.



41 · DB **NEIL MCCULLY** Belding, Mich.



87 · P **MATT MILLS** Mount Pleasant, Mich.



**COOPER MOJSIEJENKO** Bridgman, Mich.



28 · DB **DENNIS NALOR** Miami, Fla.



**DERRICK NASH** Saginaw, Mich.



64 · DE **ALEX NEERING** Essexville, Mich.



2 · QB **ZACH OAKLEY** Osceola, Ind.



34 · DB COLTON **ODYKIRK** Mount Pleasant, Mich.



45 · DE JOE OSTMAN St. Ignace, Mich.



**56 · DE LOUIS PALMER**Detroit, Mich.



32 · LB
JEFF PERRY
Morris, III.



66 · OL ANDY PHILLIPS Lansing, Mich.



**67 · OL**J.P. QUINN

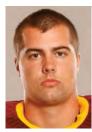
Naperville, III.



34 · RB
THOMAS RAWLS
Flint, Mich.



80 · WR
ANTHONY RICE
Mishawaka, Ind.



42 · LB NATHAN RICKETTS Holland, Mich.



19 · WR

JAY ROBERSON

Belleville, Mich.



**75 · OL KENNY ROGERS**Dimondale, Mich.



10 · QB COOPER RUSH Charlotte, Mich.



17 · WR MARCUS SAMUELS Riverview, Mich.



94 · DT LANCE SANDERS Chicago, III.



23 · WR ANTHONY SCARCELLI Marine City, Mich.



2 · DE BLAKE SERPA Sugar Grove, III.



11 · RB

MAURICE SHOEMAKERGILMORE

Kankakee, III.



25 · RB DEVON SPALDING Westland, Mich.



**30 · DE**MITCH

STANITZEK

Grand Rapids, Mich.



55 · DT MICHAEL STEINHAUER Chelsea, Mich.



35 · FB TREVOR THOMAS Davison, Mich.



47 · FB
DOUG VAN
ELSLANDER
Warren, Mich.



47 · TE

CLAY

WALDERZAK

Standish, Mich.



27 · RB
MARTEZ
WALKER
Orland Park, Ill.



19 · DB
TYREE WALLER
Ypsilanti, Mich.



58 · DT
LETERRIUS
WALTON
Clinton Township, Mich.



85 · WR COURTNEY WILLIAMS Melvindale, Mich.



82 · WR COREY WILLIS Holland, Mich.



14 · DB JASON WILSON Farmington Hills, Mich.



20 · DB
DENZEL
WIMBERLY
Pompano Beach, Fla.



92 · LS MIKE ZENK Toledo, Ohio



### **NUMERICAL ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr./El.
2	Zach Oakley	QB	6-1	200	Fr./Fr.
2	Blake Serpa	DE	6-3	255	Sr./Jr.
3	Mark Chapman	WR	6-0	185	So./Fr.
4	Brandon Greer	DB	6-1	203	Jr./Jr.
5	Kavon Frazier	DB	6-0	213	Jr./Jr.
6	Saylor Lavallii	RB	5-9	213	Jr./Jr.
7	Amari Coleman	DB	5-10	180	Fr./Fr.
7	Cody Kater	QB	6-3	220	Sr./Sr.
8	Winslow Chapman	DB	6-0	200	Jr./So.
9	Cooper Mojsiejenko	Р	6-4	215	Fr./Fr.
10	Kevin King	DB	5-10	194	Sr./Sr.
10	Cooper Rush	QB	6-3	220	Jr./So.
11	Trevor Apsey	DB	6-0	205	Fr./Fr.
11	Maurice Shoemaker-Gilmore	RB	5-11	208	Jr./So.
12	David Basirico	DB	6-1	185	Fr./Fr.
12	Eric Cooper	WR	5-11	185	So./Fr.
13	Ryan Lamb	QB	6-4	220	So./So.
14	Jason Wilson	DB	6-0	185	Sr./Sr.
15	Deon Butler	TE	6-3	242	Sr./Sr.
16	Stefon Armstead	DB	5-10	175	Sr./Jr.
17	Ron Coluzzi	K	5-11	185	Jr./So.
17	Marcus Samuels	WR	5-9	169	Fr./Fr.
18	Tony Annese	DB	6-1	205	Jr./So.
19	Tyree Waller	DB	6-1	220	So./Fr.
19	Jay Roberson	WR	6-2	195	So./Fr.
20	Denzel Wimberly	DB	5-10	201	Sr./Jr.
21	Derrick Nash	DB	5-10	195	Fr./Fr.
22	Gary Jones	RB	6-2	214	So./Fr.
23	Anthony Scarcelli	WR	6-0	190	Jr./So.
24	Jordan Fields	DB	5-11	190	Jr./So.
25	Devon Spalding	RB	5-11	200	Fr./Fr.
26	Trent Grimes	RB	6-0	205	Fr./Fr.
27	Martez Walker	RB	5-8	198	Jr./So.
28	Dennis Nalor	DB	6-0	185	Sr./Sr.
29	Jarret Chapman	DB	6-0	200	Sr./Sr.
30	Mitch Stanitzek	DE	6-4	240	Fr./Fr.
31	Malik Fountain	LB	6-2	228	Fr./Fr.
32	Jeff Perry	LB	6-2	227	So./Fr.
33	Mike Kinville	TE	6-3	255	Sr./Sr.
34	Colton Odykirk	DB	6-2	200	Jr./Jr.
34	Thomas Rawls	RB	5-10	217	Sr./Sr.
35	Trevor Thomas	FB	5-11	235	So./Fr.
36	Josh Cox	DB	5-11	195	So./Fr.
37	Christian Conley	FB	6-2	249	Sr./Jr.
37	Otis Kearney	DB	6-0	200	Fr./Fr.
38	Cameron Davis	DB	6-1	200	Jr./Jr.
39	Jadon Cook	LB	5-10	212	Sr./Jr.
40	Joe Bacci	FB	6-1	243	Jr./So.
41	Neil McCully	DB	6-0	185	Fr./Fr.
42	Nathan Ricketts	LB	6-3	232	Jr./So.
43	Tim Hamilton	LB	6-1	233	Sr./Jr.
44	Alex Fine	DB	6-0	184	Sr./Sr.
44	Anthony Garland	RB	6-1	230	Sr./Sr.
45	Joe Ostman	DE	6-3	250	So./So.
46	Nate Brisson-Fast	DE	6-5	245	Fr./Fr.
	2			5	,

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr./El.
46	Justin Cherocci	LB	6-0	231	Sr./Sr.
47	Doug Van Elslander	FB	6-0	233	Sr./Sr.
47	Clay Walderzak	TE	6-4	240	Fr./Fr.
48	Tyler Conklin	TE	6-4	205	So./Fr.
49	Luke Idoni	DE	6-1	205	Fr./Fr.
51	Cody Lopez	LB	6-1	228	Sr./Sr.
52	Jabari Dean	DT	6-2	295	Jr./So.
54	Nick Beamish	OL	6-3	310	Sr./Jr.
55	Michael Steinhauer	DT	6-3	290	So./Fr.
56	Louis Palmer	DE	6-2	265	Sr./Jr.
58	Leterrius Walton	DT	6-5	300	Sr./Sr.
59	Joe Austin	OL	6-6	240	So./Fr.
60	Kevin Henry	OL	6-4	306	Sr./Sr.
61	Nick Adams	LS	5-10	230	Sr./Sr.
63	Connor Collins	OL	6-3	300	Jr./So.
64	Alex Neering	DE	6-6	240	Fr./Fr.
65	Alex Coty	OL	6-4	305	So./Fr.
66	Andy Phillips	OL	6-3	306	Sr./Sr.
67	J.P. Quinn	OL	6-4	300	So./Fr.
68	Dylan Anderson	OL	6-3	302	Jr./So.
70	Shakir Carr	OL	6-4	310	Fr./Fr.
72	Joe Komel	OL	6-4	290	Fr./Fr.
73	Brandon Keen	OL	6-6	290	Fr./Fr.
74	Derek Edwards	OL	6-5	305	So./Fr.
75	Kenny Rogers	OL	6-6	310	Sr./Jr.
76	Jack Ford	OL	6-7	301	So./Fr.
77	Ramadan Ahmeti	OL	6-7	300	Sr./Jr.
79	Austin Doan	OL	6-4	305	So./Fr.
80	Anthony Rice	WR	6-0	184	Jr./So.
81	Jonathan Carson	TE	6-3	250	Fr./Fr.
82	Corey Willis	WR	5-10	175	So./Fr.
84	Titus Davis	WR	6-2	190	Sr./Sr.
85	Courtney Williams	WR	6-1	212	Sr./Sr.
86	Zach Crouch	TE	6-5	245	So./Fr.
87	Connor Howard	WR	5-11	190	Jr./Jr.
87	Matt Mills	Р	6-3	200	Jr./Jr.
88	Jesse Kroll	WR	6-3	214	Sr./Jr.
89	Ben McCord	TE	6-4	248	Sr./Jr.
90	Chris Kantzavelos	DE	6-3	274	So./Fr.
92	Mike Zenk	LS	6-3	250	Sr./Jr.
93	Donny Kyre	DE	6-2	255	So./Fr.
94	Lance Sanders	DT	6-3	275	Jr./So.
95	Shafer Johnson	DT	6-1	320	Sr./Jr.
96	Brian Eavey	K	6-2	196	Jr./So.
97	Kevin D'Arcy	DT	6-4	300	Jr./So.
98	Kelby Latta	DT	6-4	312	Jr./So.
99	Jimmy McCarthy	DT	6-5	285	Fr./Fr.

12.24.2014 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl 15

### **DEPTH CHART**



#### **OFFENSE**

- LT 77 Ramadan Ahmeti (6-7, 300, Jr.)
  - 76 Jack Ford (6-7, 301, R-Fr.)
- LG 66 Andy Phillips (6-3, 306, Sr.)
  - 79 Austin Doan (6-4, 305, R-Fr.)
- C 54 Nick Beamish (6-3, 310, Jr.)
  - 67 J.P. Quinn (6-4, 300, R-Fr.)
- RG 75 Kenny Rogers (6-6, 310, Jr.)
  - 63 Connor Collins (6-3, 300 So.)
- RT 60 Kevin Henry (6-4, 306, Sr.)
  - 74 Derek Edwards (6-5, 305, R-Fr.)
- QB 10 Cooper Rush (6-3, 220, So.) 7 Cody Kater (6-3, 220, Sr.)
- RB 34 Thomas Rawls (5-10, 217, Sr.)
- or 6 Saylor Lavallii (5-9, 213, Jr.)
- or 27 Martez Walker (5-8, 198, So.)
- or 25 Devon Spalding (5-11, 200, Fr.)
- FB 44 Anthony Garland (6-1, 230, Sr.)
- 40 Joe Bacci (6-1, 243, So.)
- TE 33 Mike Kinville (6-3, 255, Sr.)
- or 89 Ben McCord (6-4, 248, Jr.)
- or 15 Deon Butler (6-3, 242, Sr.)
  - 86 Zach Crouch (6-5, 245, R-Fr.)
- X 88 Jesse Kroll (6-3, 214, Jr.)
- or 85 Courtney Williams (6-1, 212, Sr.)
  - 3 Mark Chapman (6-0, 185, R-Fr.)
- Z 84 Titus Davis (6-2, 190, Sr.)
  - 80 Anthony Rice (6-0, 184, So.)

### **DEFENSE**

- LE 45 Joe Ostman (6-3, 250, So.)
  - 90 Chris Kantzavelos (6-3, 274, R-Fr.)
- or 30 Mitch Stanitzek (6-4, 240, Fr.)
- NT 58 Leterrius Walton (6-5, 300, Sr.)
  - 95 Shafer Johnson (6-1, 320, Jr.)
- DT 52 Jabari Dean (6-2, 295, So.)
  - 98 Kelby Latta (6-4, 312, So.)
- DE 2 Blake Serpa (6-3, 255, Jr.)
  - 56 Louis Palmer (6-2, 265, Jr.)
- MIKE 46 Justin Cherocci (6-0, 231, Sr.)
  - 42 Nathan Ricketts (6-3, 232, Jr.)
- or 32 Jeff Perry (6-2, 227, R-Fr.)
- SAM 51 Cody Lopez (6-1, 228, Sr.)
- or 43 Tim Hamilton (6-1, 233, Jr.)
- ST 10 Kevin King (5-10, 194, Sr.)
  - 19 Tyree Waller (6-1, 220, R-Fr.)
- DS 29 Jarret Chapman (6-0, 200, Sr.)
- or 5 Kavon Frazier (6-0, 213, Jr.)
  - 24 Jordan Fields (5-11, 190, So.)
- IS 18 Tony Annese (6-1, 205, So.)
  - 8 Winslow Chapman (6-0, 200, So.)
- FC 4 Brandon Greer (6-1, 203, Jr.)
  - 28 Dennis Nalor (6-0, 185, Sr.)
- BC 14 Jason Wilson (6-0, 185, Sr.)
  - 36 Josh Cox (5-11, 195, R-Fr.)
- or 16 Stefon Armstead (5-10, 175, Jr.)

### **SPECIALISTS**

- P 17 Ron Coluzzi (5-11, 185, So.)
  - 87 Matt Mills (6-3, 200, Jr.)
- K 96 Brian Eavey (6-2, 196, So.)
  - 17 Ron Coluzzi (5-11, 185, So.)
- KO 17 Ron Coluzzi (5-11, 185, So.)
  - 96 Brian Eavey (6-2, 196, So.)
- H 87 Matt Mills (6-3, 200, Jr.)
- 7 Cody Kater (6-3, 220, Sr.)

- Snap 92 Mike Zenk (6-3, 250, Jr.)
  - 61 Nick Adams (5-10, 230, Sr.)
- PR 7 Amari Coleman (5-10, 180, Fr.)
  - 6 Saylor Lavallii (5-9, 213, Jr.)
- KR 7 Amari Coleman (5-10, 180, Fr.)
  - 85 Courtney Williams (6-1, 212, Sr.)
  - 27 Martez Walker (5-8, 198, So.)
  - 25 Devon Spalding (5-11, 200, Fr.)

### DEPTH CHART



### **OFFENSE**

WR	21	Jared Dangerfield	6-3	200	r-Jr.
	13	Antwane Grant	6-1	195	Jr.
LT		Forrest Lamp Jimmie Sims	6-4 6-5	296 285	r-So. r-Fr.
LG	51	Brandon Ray	6-3	285	r-Fr.
	79	Joe Manley	6-6	320	r-So.
С	67	Derrick Stark	6-2	295	r-Sr.
	51	Brandon Ray	6-3	285	r-Fr.
RG	62	Darrell Williams	6-6	310	r-So.
	67	Derrick Stark	6-2	295	r-Sr.
RT	52	Cam Clemmons	6-6	305	r-Sr.
	69	Matt Nord	6-6	309	r-So.
WR	10	Willie McNeal	5-10	180	r-Sr.
	6	Joel German	6-0	185	r-Sr.
WR	2	Taywan Taylor	6-1	190	So.
	15	Nicholas Norris	5-10	175	So.
QB	12	Brandon Doughty	6-3	210	r-Sr.
	9	Nelson Fishback	6-2	215	Jr.
RB	33	Leon Allen	6-0	235	Jr.
	20	Anthony Wales	5-10	190	r-So.
TE	80	Mitchell Henry	6-4	245	Sr.
	86	Tim Gorski	6-7	253	r-Jr.
	82	Tyler Higbee	6-5	233	r-Jr.

### **DEFENSE**

DE	58	Derik Overstreet	6-2	250	Fr.
	16	TJ Smith	6-2	240	Sr.
DT	98	Devante Terrell	6-0	295	r-So.
	92	Ge'Monee Brown	6-2	305	Jr.
DT	94	Bryan Shorter	6-2	285	r-Jr.
	93	Demarcus Glover	6-4	270	So.
DE	88	Gavin Rocker	6-2	240	r-Jr.
	59	Tanner Reeves	6-4	230	r-Fr.
LB	31	Terran Williams	6-2	222	Sr.
	9	Daqual Randall	6-0	245	Jr.
LB		Nick Holt Daeshawn Bertram	6-1 6-0	230 220	r-Jr. r-Fr.
LB	17	Dejon Brown	6-3	235	Jr.
	6	Devante Duclos	6-1	220	So.
СВ	19	Cam Thomas	6-1	190	r-Sr.
	22	Forrest Coleman	6-2	185	Jr.
S	45	Branden Leston	6-3	215	r-So.
	38	Ricardo Singh	5-11	190	r-Sr.
S	8	Marcus Ward	6-3	220	So.
	14	Juwan Gardner	6-1	200	r-Fr.
СВ	30 5	Prince Charles Iworah Wonderful Terry	5-11 5-10		r-Jr. Jr.

### **SPECIALISTS**

PK	56 Garrett Schwettman	5-11 160 Jr.	KOR 81 Kylen Towner	5-9 180 r-Fr.
	15 Joseph Occhipinti	6-3 190 So.	10 Willie McNeal	5-10 180 r-Sr.
КО	39 Mike Mugler	5-10 185 r-Sr.	P 15 Joseph Occhipinti	6-3 190 So.
PR	81 Kylen Towner 10 Willie McNeal	5-9 180 r-Fr. 5-10 180 r-Sr.	SNP 47 Nolan Dowling	6-3 206 r-So.
Н	12 Brandon Doughty 9 Nelson Fishback	6-3 210 r-Sr. 6-2 215 lr.		

12.24.2014 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl 17



### **NUMERICAL ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	CIExp.
1	Nacarius Fant	WR	5-9	170	FrHS
2	Taywan Taylor	WR	6-1	190	So1L
3	Lonnie Turner	WR	5-11	180	SrSq.
4	Drew Eckels	QB	6-4	205	FrHS
4	Joel lyiegbuniwe	LB	6-2	210	FrHS
5	Troy Jones	QB	6-2	210	r-JrJC
5	Wonderful Terry	DB	5-10	180	r-JrJC
6	Devante Duclos	LB	6-1	240	So1L
6	Joel German	WR	6-0	185	r-Sr2L
7	Joe Brown	RB	5-10	180	FrHS
7	DeVante Thomas	DB	5-10	190	Sr1L
8	Todd Porter	QB	6-4	195	SoSq.
8	Marcus Ward	DB	6-3	220	So1L
9	Nelson Fishback	QB	6-2	215	Jr1L
9	Dagual Randall	LB	6-0	245	Jr2L
10	Nick Holt	LB	6-1	230	r-JrJC
10	Willie McNeal	WR	5-10	180	r-Sr3L
11	Devin Scott	TE	6-4	240	r-Jr1L
11	Evan Tinsley	DL	6-3	230	r-FrRS
12	Brandon Doughty	QB	6-3	210	r-Sr1L
13	Nick Newton	LB	6-3	230	r-JrJC
13	Antwane Grant	WR	6-1	195	JrJC
14	Juwan Gardner	DB	6-1	200	r-FrRS
15	Nicholas Norris	WR	5-10	175	So1L
15	Joseph Occhipinti	P	6-3	190	So1L
16	Parker McLeod	QB	6-3	195	r-FrTr.
16	T.J. Smith	DL	6-2	240	Sr3L
17		LB	6-3	235	
17	Dejon Brown	WR	5-8		JrJC
	Stephon Brown	LB		184	r-SoSq. So1L
18	Shaquille Johnson		6-4	230	
19	Cam Thomas	DB	6-1	190	r-Sr3L
20	Nathan Roush	DB	6-2	180	FrHS
20	Anthony Wales	RB	5-10	190	r-So1L
21	Jared Dangerfield	WR	6-3	200	r-JrJC
22	Forrest Coleman	DB	6-2	185	JrJC
22	DeAndre Farris	WR	5-10	180	FrHS
24	Dalton Patterson	DB	6-3	195	r-Sr1L
25	Blair Vaughan	RB	6-1	230	r-So1L
25	Masai Whyte	LB	6-0	210	FrHS
26	Darmontre Warr	RB	5-9	190	r-So1L
27	Martavius Mims	DB	6-1	180	FrHS
28	Rico Brown	DB	5-11	185	r-Sr3L
29	Leverick Johnson	DB	6-1	190	r-FrRS
30	Prince Charles Iworah	DB	5-11	193	r-Jr1L
31	Terran Williams	LB	6-2	222	Sr3L
32	Ryan Duvall	DL	6-5	230	FrHS
32	D'Andre Ferby	RB	6-1	240	FrHS
33	Leon Allen	RB	6-0	235	Jr2L
34	Drew Davis	LB	6-1	215	So1L
35	Demetrius Coley	RB	6-2	254	r-Sr2L
37	De'Vonta Moffitt	WR	6-0	180	FrHS
38	Ricardo Singh	DB	5-11	190	r-Sr3L
39	Mike Mugler	K	5-10	185	r-Sr1L
40	Isaac Tanner	LB	6-0	220	FrHS
41	De'Andre Simmons	DB	5-11	180	r-FrRS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	ClExp.
42	Jalen Sleet	DB	5-11	180	r-SoSq.
44	Gunnar Scholato	RB	6-2	219	FrHS
44	Jordan Tyler	LB	6'0	201	FrHS
<del>44</del> 45	Branden Leston	DB	6-3	215	r-SoSq.
45 46	Derek Mahaffey	DL	6-2	265	FrHS
40 47		LS	6-3	206	r-So1L
	Nolan Dowling  Kalvin Robinson	DL	6-5		So1L
48 51		OL OL	6-3	240	r-FrRS
	Brandon Ray			285	
52	Cameron Clemmons	OL D	6-6	305	r-Sr3L
53	Julien Leslie	DL	6-3	237	r-SoSq.
54	Daeshawn Bertram	LB	6-0	220	r-FrRS
55	Evan Sayner	DL	6-3	265	FrHS
56	Garrett Schwettman	K	5-11	160	Jr2L
57	Derrell Young	LB	6-1	205	SoSq.
58	Derik Overstreet	DL	6-2	250	FrHS
59	Tanner Reeves	DL	6-4	230	r-FrRS
61	Matt Boston	OL	6-2	270	FrHS
62	Darrell Williams	OL	6-6	310	r-So1L
64	Dennis Edwards	OL	6-1	310	FrHS
65	Scott Liebert	OL	6-3	280	FrHS
67	Derrick Stark	OL	6-2	295	r-SrSq.
69	Matt Nord	OL	6-6	309	r-So1L
70	Max Halpin	OL	6-3	295	r-So1L
71	Justin Martinez	OL	6-3	275	r-FrRS
72	Connor Popeck	OL	6-4	295	r-SrSq.
73	Kyle Jones	OL	6-4	300	r-FrRS
75	Jimmie Sims	OL	6-5	285	r-FrRS
76	Forrest Lamp	OL	6-4	296	r-So1L
77	Donald Rocker	OL	6-4	300	r-FrRS
78	Maurice Bennett	OL	6-2	300	Jr1L
79	Joe Manley	OL	6-6	320	r-SoTr.
80	Mitchell Henry	TE	6-4	245	Sr3L
81	Kylen Towner	WR	5-9	180	r-FrRS
82	Tyler Higbee	TE	6-5	240	r-Jr2L
83	Will Bush	WR	5-11	190	FrHS
85	Nick True	TE	6-5	250	FrHS
86	Tim Gorski	TE	6-7	253	r-Jr2L
87	Donte DeSalle	WR	6-0	175	r-FrRS
88	Gavin Rocker	DL	6-2	245	r-Jr2L
90	Marquez Pride	DL	6-1	230	r-SoSq.
90 91	Trae Jones	DL	6-1	280	r-SuSq.
92	Ge'Monee Brown				
		DL	6-2	305	JrJC
93	DeMarcus Glover	DL	6-4	270	So1L
94	Bryan Shorter	DL	6-2	285	r-Jr2L
95	Raphael Cox	DL	6-3	270	Sr1L
96	Julien Lewis	DL	6-3	285	FrHS
97	Byron Carver	DL	6-3	240	FrHS
98	Devante Terrell	DL	6-0	295	r-So1L
99	D'Von Isaac	DL	6-4	290	So1L



### **WKU**

### **ALPHABETICAL PLAYER ROSTER**



33 · RB **LEON ALLEN** Bradenton, Fla.



78 · OL **MAURICE BENNETT** Madison, Miss.



**DAESHAWN BERTRAM** Louisville, Ky.



61 · OL **MATT BOSTON** Glasgow, Ky.



**DEJON BROWN** Beaumont, Calif.



**GE'MONEE BROWN** Petal, Miss.



7 · RB **JOE BROWN** Louisville, Ky.



28 · DB **RICO BROWN** Berea, Ky.



17 · WR **STEPHON BROWN** Atlanta, Ga.



83 · WR WILL BUSH Louisville, Ky.



97 · DL **BYRON CARVER** Bowling Green, Ky.



52 · OL **CAMERON CLEMMONS** Mt. Juliet, Tenn.



22 · DB **FORREST COLEMAN** Stockton, Calif.



**DEMETRIUS COLEY** Bay Minette, Ala.



95 · DL RAPHAEL COX Cedar Hill, Texas



21 · WR **JARED DANGERFIELD** West Palm Beach, Fla.



34 · LB **DREW DAVIS** Madison, Ala.



87 · WR **DONTE DESALLE** Franklin, Tenn.



12 · QB **BRANDON DOUGHTY** Davie, Fla.



47 · LS NOLAN **DOWLING** Belleville, III.



6 · LB DEVANTE **DUCLOS** Miami, Fla.



32 · LB **RYAN DUVALL** Owensboro, Ky.



4 · QB **DREW ECKELS** Daytona, Fla.



64 · OL **DENNIS EDWARDS** Snellville, Ga.



**NACARIUS FANT** Bowling Green, Ky.



**DEANDRE FARRIS** Shelbyville, Ky.



32 · RB D'ANDRE FERBY Nashville, Tenn.



9 · QB NELSON **FISHBACK** Durham, Calif.



14 · DB JUWAN GARDNER Louisville, Ky.



6 · WR **JOEL GERMAN** Fort Myers, Fla.



93 · DL **DEMARCUS GLOVER** Pensacola, Fla.



86 · TE TIM GORSKI Chicago, III.



13 · WR
ANTWANE
GRANT
Wilmington, Del.



**70 · OL MAX HALPIN**Fort Mitchell, Ky.



80 · TE
MITCHELL
HENRY
Elizabethtown, Ky.



82 · TE
TYLER HIGBEE



10 · LB
NICK HOLT
Seattle, Wash.



D'VON ISAAC Alpharetta, Ga.



30 · DB
PRINCE CHARLES
IWORAH
Nashville, Tenn.



4 · LB

JOEL

IYIEGBUNIWE

Bowling Green, Ky.



29 · DB LEVERICK JOHNSON Miami, Fla.



18 · LB SHAQUILLE JOHNSON Lake City, Fla.



73 · OL KYLE JONES Mulberry, Fla.



91 · DL TRAE JONES Cusseta, Ga.



5 · QB
TROY JONES
Baltimore, Md.



76 · OL FORREST LAMP Venice, Fla.



53 · DL JULIAN LESLIE Miami. Fla.



45 · DB BRANDEN LESTON Clearwater, Fla.



96 • DL JULIEN LEWIS Madison, Ala.



**65 · OL**SCOTT LIEBERT

Louisville, Ky.



46 · DL DEREK MAHAFFEY Oxford, Ala.



79 • OL JOE MANLEY Bowling Green, Ky.



71 · OL JUSTIN MARTINEZ Port Saint Lucia, Fla.



16 · QB
PARKER
MCLEOD
Marietta, Ga.



10 · WR WILLIE MCNEAL Bradenton, Fla.



27 · DB

MARTAVIUS

MIMS

Muscle Shoals, Ala.



37 · WR
DE'VONTA
MOFFITT
Louisville, Ky.



39 • K MIKE MUGLER Virginia Beach, Va.



13 · LB NICK NEWTON Clearwater, Fla.



69 · OL MATT NORD Louisville, Ky.



15 · WR NICHOLAS NORRIS Miami, Fla.



15 · K

JOSEPH

OCCHIPINTI

Nashville, Tenn.



58 · DL DERIK OVERSTREET Paducah, Ky.



24 · DB
DALTON
PATTERSON
New Orleans, La.



72 · OL CONNOR POPECK Madison, Miss.



8 · QB
TODD PORTER
O'Fallon, Ill.



90 · DL MARQUEZ PRIDE Madison, Ala.



9 · LB
DAQUAL
RANDALL
Palmetto, Fla.



BRANDON RAY Madison, Ala.



59 · DL

TANNER REEVES

Lakeland, Fla.



48 · LB KALVIN ROBINSON Birmingham, Ala.



77 · OL DONALD ROCKER Jacksonville, Fla.



**GAVIN ROCKER** Tyrone, Ga.



20 · DB **NATHAN ROUSH** Louisville, Ky.



**EVAN SAYNER** Paducah, Ky.



44 · RB **GUNNAR SCHOLATO** Hendersonville, Tenn.



56 · K **GARRETT SCHWETTMAN** Murray, Ky.



**DEVIN SCOTT** Indianapolis, Ind.



94 · DL **BRYAN** SHORTER Phenix City, Ala.



**DE'ANDRE** SIMMONS Royal Palm Beach, Fla.



75 · OL JIMMIE SIMS New Orleans, La.



38 · DB **RICARDO SINGH** Auburndale, Fla.



42 · DB **JALEN SLEET** Lexington, Ky.



16 · DL T.J. SMITH Hazel Green, Ala.



67 · OL DERRICK STARK Dayton, Ohio



40 · LB **ISAAC TANNER** Tampa, Fla.



2 · WR **TAYWAN TAYLOR** Louisville, Ky.



98 · DL **DEVANTE TERRELL** Lakeland, Fla.



5 · DB WONDERFUL **TERRY** Fort Pierce, Fla.



19 · DB **CAM THOMAS** Paterson, N.J.



7 · DB **DEVANTE THOMAS** Baltimore, Md.



**EVAN TINSLEY** Alexandria, Va.



81 · WR **KYLEN TOWNER** Mobile, Ala.



85 · TE **NICK TRUE** Fort Thomas, Ky.



3·WR **LONNIE TURNER** Inglewood, Claif.



44 · LB **JORDAN TYLER** Paducah, Ky.



25 · RB **BLAIR VAUGHN** Clearwater, Fla.



20 · RB **ANTHONY** WALES Louisville, Ky.



8 · DB **MARCUS WARD** Birmingham, Ala.



26 · RB DARMONTRE WARR Louisville, Ky.



25 · LB **MASAI WHYTE** Shelbyville, Ky.



62 · OL DARRELL **WILLIAMS** Dublin, Ga.



31 · LB **TERRAN WILLIAMS** Bradenton, Fla.



57 · LB **DERRELL YOUNG** Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

### Jeff Brohm

### **Head Coach**

Jeff Brohm, a native Kentuckian and one of the state's most notable football products, is in his first season as the head football coach at

Western Kentucky University after spending one season as the Hilltoppers' assistant head coach and offensive coordinator.

An 11-year collegiate coaching veteran with experience in the Big 10, Big East, Conference USA and Sun Belt conferences, Brohm directed a high-flying, high-scoring offensive attack that shattered 18 single-season school records including total offense, individual passing yards and individual rushing yards in his first season as the Hilltoppers' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at WKU in 2013.

In 2014, the Hilltoppers completed their transformation from a ground-and-pound, runfirst program to one of the nation's premiere passing offenses with their ability to move the ball seemingly at will against opponents.

Over 12 games, Brohm's Hilltoppers have broken or tied 43 total team and individual records, including all but one record the team set in 2013.

In one season under Brohm, WKU has broken the school's sin-

gle-season and single-game records in total yards (season/game), touchdown passes (season/game), points scored in a season, and a host

of others.

Brohm also spent time as an assistant coach at Louisville, Illinois, Florida Atlantic and UAB. Brohm began his NFL career in 1994 with the San Diego Chargers, who played in Super Bowl XXIX. He played for the San Francisco 49ers from 1995-97, where he was the backup quarterback to Hall of Famer and ESPN analyst Steve Young in 1997.

Brohm was one of four family members to earn a gridiron letter from Louisville. He wrapped up his four-year collegiate career as one of the most prolific offensive players to wear Louisville's jersey.

As a three-year starter for the Cards, Brohm ranks among the all-time leaders for passing yards, touchdown passes, completions, total offense and completion percentage.

Brohm received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Louisville in 1994. He and his wife, Jennifer, have a son, Brady, and daughter, Brooke.



### **Coaching Staff**

Nick Holt - Associate Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator

**Tyson Helton - Offensive Coordinator** 

Ricky Brumfield - Cornerbacks/Special Teams

Neil Callaway - Offensive Line

Mike Cassity - Secondary

**Ken Delgado -** Defensive Ends

**Don Dunn -** Defensive Tackles

Greg Nord - Special Teams/Running Backs

JaMarcus Shephard - Wide Receivers

**Greg Brohm -** Director of Football Operations

Bryan Ellis - Offensive Quality Control

Zach Lankford - Offensive Graduate Assistant

**Dan Rowe -** Defensive Graduate Assistant

**Chris Springer -** Defensive Graduate Assistant

Ryan Wallace - Tight Ends/Offensive Graduate Assistant

**Dave Consiglio -** Assistant Director of Strength and Conditioning

**Nate Dennison -** Director of Player Personnel **Brian Ditmer -** Assistant Equipment Manager

**Drew Hampton -** Equipment Manager

Justin Lovett - Director of Football Strength & Conditioning

Chad McField - Strength and Conditioning Assistant

Sean Pugh - Character Coach

John Riley - Video Coordinator

**Travis Taylor -** Assistant Director of Football Operations





### **Gary Ransdell**

### **President**

Dr. Gary A. Ransdell was named the ninth president of Western Kentucky University on September 12, 1997.

Dr. Ransdell, 62, received his Bachelor of Arts degree from WKU in 1973 in Mass Communications, a Master of Public Service degree in Public Administration in 1974, and a Doctor of Education degree from Indiana University in 1978.

Dr. Ransdell re-joined WKU as President after serving four years as Vice President for Administration and Advancement and seven vears as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina.



His previous professional experiences at WKU also include service as a field representative in the Office of University School Relations from 1974 to 1976 and as Associate Director of Alumni Affairs from 1978 to 1981.

Dr. Ransdell and the WKU Board of Regents are leading the campus through a dramatic transformation from a university of regional importance to a leading American university with international reach. WKU has grown its enrollment to 21,000 and improved its retention of students to 75%.

A key element in the transformation of WKU is growth in private support. WKU completed its first capital campaign on June 30, 2003, with \$102 million in gifts and pledges. A second campaign was completed on June 30, 2012 with \$202 million in new gifts and pledges.

Another priority is a complete rebuilding of the WKU campus. Some \$700 million in campus construction has been completed since 1998, with \$200 million on the drawing board.

During Dr. Ransdell's tenure, WKU's athletic programs have won over 100 Conference championships, and have led the Sun Belt Conference in academic performance. He served as President of the Sun Belt Conference in 2000, and completed in 2013 a four-year term on the BCS Presidents' Oversight Committee. Dr. Ransdell successfully negotiated a move to Conference USA which occurs in 2014.

Dr. Ransdell and Julie met, dated, and were married while at WKU pursuing their undergraduate degrees. They have two sons— Patrick, who graduated from WKU in 2002, and earned MBA/Sports Administration degrees from Ohio University in 2005; and Matthew, who graduated from WKU in 2006 and is a 2009 graduate of Stetson University School of Law. Both Patrick and Matthew were lettermen with the WKU baseball team.

### Todd Stewart

### Athletic Director

Operating with a fast break mentality from the day he was hired, Todd Stewart's tenure as WKU's Director of Athletics has been marked

by consistent success for the Hilltoppers on the field of play, in the classroom, and in the community. In his first two years at the helm, 218 student-athletes obtained their degrees, WKU captured 11 total conference championships, and athletic department staff, coaches and players devoted close to 2,000 hours of community service.

Each of WKU's 18 sports has a multi-year Academic Progress Rate (APR) score of 946 or higher, exceeding by 16 points the



NCAA's mandate of 930 to be eligible for post-season play. Stewart also played an instrumental role in elevating WKU's athletic programs to Conference USA.

In its final year in the Sun Belt Conference in 2013-14, WKU won the league's all-sports championship for the sixth overall time but first since 2008. A total of 110 student-athletes graduated during the year, and six sport programs captured conference championships - the most in a single-year since 2008-09. WKU's volleyball, soccer, and women's indoor and outdoor track teams captured Sun Belt Conference regular season championships, while the men's swimming and diving team won the Conference USA Invitational. Women's basketball posted 24 wins en route to winning the Sun Belt Conference Tournament and earning the program's first NCAA Tournament berth since 2008. The Hilltoppers' 2013 football team posted a program Football Bowl Subdivision-era-best 8-4 overall record and had four wins over bowl eligible teams, more than the previous five seasons combined. WKU's eight wins included a second consecutive win over Kentucky along with victories over Navy, Army and Sun Belt co-champion Arkansas State, while the 18,334 per game home attendance average was the highest in the program's 95-year history. WKU's men's outdoor track program set a program record with seven first-team All-Americans while finishing tied for 18th in the nation, the highest national team finish for any WKU program since men's basketball reached the Sweet 16 in 2008.

A member of WKU's senior athletic staff since 2008 and 25year veteran of collegiate and professional sports, Stewart was named WKU's Director of Athletics on May 9, 2012, after serving in the role on an interim basis since March 22.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Stewart and his wife, Rebecca, have one son, Blake (14).



### WKU

KU is in the midst of a transformation - physical, intellectual, cultural and economic – and is becoming A Leading American University with International Reach. Whether in a neighboring community or in a distant country, WKU faculty and students are engaged in relevant applied research that provides solutions to real problems.

WKU is home to many highly ranked and nationally-recognized academic programs such as Journalism and Broadcasting, Education, Engineering, Business and our award winning speech and debate team. With steady enrollment growth for 15 consecutive years, more than 21,100 students grace our campuses in Bowling Green, Glasgow, Owensboro and the Elizabethtown area. We also send students each semester to Harlaxton College in Grantham, England and other students circumnavigate the globe with the Semester at Sea program just to name a few.

A place where all students can succeed, WKU is the home of the Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science for exceptional Kentucky high school juniors and seniors. The Academy was named the number one high school in the U.S. in 2012 and 2013 by Newsweek. WKU is proud to have Kentucky's first and only independent Honors College in the Commonwealth. WKU honors students enjoy an intimate scholarly environment on a vibrant campus and are encouraged to become involved in community service, applied research and study abroad. These are among the reasons why WKU is becoming the university of choice in the Commonwealth and the intellectual heartbeat of Kentucky.

#### **Bowling Green, Kentucky**

Located 60 miles north of Nashville and 110 miles south of Louisville off Interstate 65, Bowling Green is the third-most populous city in the state of Kentucky after Louisville and Lexington. The 2010 U.S. Census Bureau total for Bowling Green is 58,067, and the population of Warren County is 113,792. Warren County consists of 546 square miles and was named for General Joseph Warren,

a hero of the famous American Revolution Battle of Bunker Hill.

Significant companies in Bowling Green include the GM Corvette Assembly Plant, Fruit of the Loom/ Russell Athletics, Houchens Industries, Holley Performance Products, and Camping World.

The central location of the city has allowed it quickly to become a major agricultural community and river port, and later, an important commercial and educational center. Today Bowling Green is a regional entertainment hub for more than 250,000 people in 11 surrounding counties.

#### **WKU Athletics**

Western Kentucky University's proud athletic program joined Conference USA in the summer of 2014. Since 2000, WKU has won more than 80 conference titles and enjoyed numerous postseason appearances.

Prior to joining the Sun Belt Conference in 1982-83, WKU was a founding member of the Ohio Valley Conference and participated in the league for 34 years from the 1948-49 academic year through the spring of 1982.

Throughout the years, WKU established itself as a leader in the Sun Belt Conference. WKU's time in the league culminated with WKU winning the Bubas Cup in 2013-14. The Bubas Cup, named for the Sun Belt Conference's first commissioner, Vic Bubas, is given annually to the conference school that accumulates the most points throughout the athletic year based on its finish in the league standings in each sport. WKU won Sun Belt Conference championships in soccer, volleyball, women's basketball, women's indoor track and field and women's outdoor track and field in 2013-14, with baseball still to be completed.

WKU's success has already shown in the early going in Conference USA. In addition to the success on the football field, WKU claimed a volleyball title in 2014 and reached the NCAA Tournament while also earning a spot in the Conference USA Soccer tournament this fall.

Since the year 2000, WKU has committed more than \$100 million towards new construction or renovation of athletic facilities, and 85 percent of Hilltopper and Lady Topper student-athletes who have fulfilled their eligibility have graduated.



Cherry Hall at WKU



Conference USA celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2014-15, welcoming newcomer Western Kentucky University into the fold on July 1. The league has transformed through its two decades, but the commitment to excellence, integrity, leadership and its student athletes in athletics, academics and community is unwavering.

Conference USA enjoys a far-reaching fan base with its 14 members: Charlotte, FIU, Florida Atlantic, Louisiana Tech, Marshall, Middle Tennessee, North Texas, Old Dominion, Rice, Southern Miss, UAB, UTEP, UTSA and WKU.



**BRITTON BANOWSKY** 

Commissioner

Since beginning competition in 1995, Conference USA teams have combined for 83 bowl appearances in football, 100 NCAA Tournament appearances in basketball including three Final Fours, 60 NCAA baseball appearances including six College World Series berths, 71 NCAA soccer tournament appearances including four trips to the College Cup, and 35 individual national champions in track and field and cross country.

Success is not limited to athletic achievement, however, as 186 Conference USA student-athletes have garnered Academic All-America honors, 651 have achieved academic all-district laurels and thousands of student-athletes have earned their college degrees.

USA sponsors Conference competition in 19 sports - nine for men (baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, tennis, and indoor and outdoor track and field) and 10 for women (basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, and volleyball).

The league promotes the scholar-athlete ideal, honoring outstanding achievement with numerous conference-sponsored academic awards, including the Commissioner's Honor Roll and the Commissioner's Academic Medal as well as sport-specific All-Academic teams.

C-USA annually awards \$4,000 postgraduate scholarships, along with the Sport Academic Awards, Scholar-Athletes of the Year and the Institutional Academic Excellence Award. Additionally, Conference USA presents a Spirit of Service Award three times each year, recognizing student-athletes who excel on the field, in the classroom and give back to the community through significant service efforts and participation.

#### **SUCCESS ON THE PLAYING FIELD**

Conference USA performers have achieved great success in competition, placing the league among the top conferences in the nation.

- 83 teams have earned bowl bids
- Eligible for the College Football Playoff
- Conference USA has 10 bowl affiliations through the 2019 season, securing a minimum of five berths annually. Conference USA has primary bowl tie-ins with the Bahamas Bowl, Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl, Boca Raton Bowl, Gildan New Mexico Bowl, Heart of Dallas Bowl, Miami Beach Bowl, R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl and Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl, along with secondary arrangements with the Duck Commander Independence Bowl and the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl.

#### Men's Basketball

- 115 postseason teams (51 NCAA, 44 NIT, 11 CBI, 9 CIT)
- One National Championship title game appearance
- Three Final Four teams

- Seven Elite Eight NCAA Tournament teams
- One NIT Champion and four NIT semifinalists
- Inaugural CBI Champion
- CIT Championship

#### Women's Basketball

- 49 NCAA Tournament appearances
- 49 WNIT appearances
- One Sweet 16 NCAA Tournament team
- Three WNIT semifinalists
- One WBI Champion

#### Baseball

- 60 NCAA appearances
- Six College World Series appearances (2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and
- 14 Super Regional appearances
- Has produced at least four NCAA teams in nine of the past 13 seasons

In addition to the numerous NCAA Tournament berths, C-USA has sent four men's soccer teams to the NCAA College Cup, three softball teams to the Women's College World Series and three volleyball teams to the NCAA Sweet 16. The league has also had 35 national champions in NCAA track and field competition, one national champion in diving, and numerous NCAA individual and team competitors in cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, and track and field. Overall, Conference USA teams and individuals have made more than 800 NCAA appearances.

#### **SUCCESS OFF THE FIELD**

C-USA institutions are among the nation's best in academic performance of student-athletes, bolstered by the fact that student-athletes at league schools have a higher graduation rate than the general student population. Among C-USA's 5,000 student-athletes, there are champions off the playing field as well. In 19 years, more than 28,000 student-athletes have been named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll or received the Commissioner's Academic Medal, indicative of outstanding achievement in the classroom.

#### **C-USA ON TV**

C-USA enjoys significant television exposure through partnerships with FOX Sports Media Group, CBS Sports Network and ESPN. The multi-tiered selection process that is rooted in partnering with all three networks has substantially increased the number of national and regional appearances for football, men's and women's basketball, and all other conference sports.

C-USA membership include institutions within eight of the Top 40 media markets and four in the Top 25 according to Nielsen. C-USA home markets this year will include more than 13 million TV households, a 30 percent increase from two years ago.

### **C-USA DIGITAL NETWORK**

The C-USA Digital Network officially launched in August of 2011. Network programming includes live streaming of non-televised events, video on demand, a weekly C-USA studio show, podcasting, regular-season and championship event highlights, and conference-produced feature stories. In its first year, 1,164 events were streamed live and 8,126 videos were posted and available on the C-USA Digital Network, and those numbers have more than doubled. Monthly and yearly subscriptions provide fans access to events offered on all of the C-USA member institution's athletic websites as well as C-USA network programming.

### **GOVERNANCE**

Conference USA has significant representation in the NCAA governance structure. The presidents of the member institutions serve as the league's Board of Directors.

### The Bahamas

### What Makes The Bahamas Unique

The Bahamas is comprised of 700 islands sprinkled over 100,000 square miles of ocean starting just 50 miles off the coast of Florida. The archipelago is an ecological oasis featuring 2,000 breathtaking islands and cays and boasts the clearest water on the planet—with a visibility of over 200 feet. You can see your toes as easily as you can the world's third largest barrier reef.

We invite you to explore all of our islands. One step and you'll realize our beauty extends far beyond our extraordinary natural wonders. It's the smiles on the faces of the Bahamian people. The unique sounds of our rich culture. The warm hospitality of our heritage and our colorful history.

### **Friendly Bahamians**

When your home resembles paradise, it's pretty easy to see why so many Bahamians have a laid-back attitude. In general, we like to say, let's worry about the bad things tomorrow. So today, we embrace life with a warm smile. We are a humble people who love to celebrate. Weddings and funerals are both important social events here. It is an opportunity to celebrate the new life starting and the life lived. Bahamians take great pride in our storied past.

#### Junkanoo

Junkanoo is uniquely Bahamian and exists nowhere else. It's an incredibly energetic, colorful parade made up of brightly costumed Bahamians dancing and "rushin" to the music of cowbells, drums, horns and whistles. It is widely believed that Junkanoo was created by John Canoe, an African tribal chief who demanded the right to celebrate with his people even after he was brought to the West Indies as a slave.

Celebrated since the 16th or 17th century, today Junkanoo has grown into an organized event with groups of up to 1,000 persons competing for cash prizes for best music, best costume, dancer, banner and best overall group presentation. Traditionally held on New Year's Day, Boxing Day and Independence Day, parades are also held during the





Junkaroo

annual "Junkanoo Summer Festival" and the "Just Rush" competition. In addition, many

hotels offer Junkanoo shows for their guests throughout the year.







#### **Bahamas Iunkanoo Carnival**

Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival is a collage of our culture. It is a festive weeklong celebration taking place in April in Grand Bahama and May in Nassau in 2015, where Bahamians and guests from around the world will be immersed in all things Bahamian. The carnival events will showcase Junkanoo, Rake -n- Scrape, arts and crafts, Bahamian cuisine, visual art, music, dance and more. It is also a high level entertainment experience, which sets the stage for Bahamian recording artists to nurture their sound and express themselves in front of a global audience.

#### **Bahamian Cuisine**

Being an international destination, you can rest assured that you can find any type of food here. But while you're here, give your taste buds a chance to discover Bahamian cuisine. It's spicy and uniquely flavored.

Seafood is the staple of our diet. Fresh conch scored with a knife and sprinkled with lime juice and spices is delicious. Other delicacies you'll enjoy are land crabs and the Bahamian "rock lobster." We also love fresh fish,

especially boiled fish served with grits. Many dishes here are served with pigeon peas and rice mixed with spices, tomatoes and onions.

#### **Proximity To The USA**

So close to home, yet feels so far away. Just 50 miles off the coast of Florida in the United States, our tropical archipelago is an easy and convenient destination to escape to vear-round.

For centuries, our close proximity has attracted all kinds of people: Native Americans. Puritans. Explorers. Even pirates. Now it's your turn. Come discover all of our 700 islands and the hospitality of the Bahamian people. Paradise is just a short plane ride from Miami International Airport, South Florida. And many airlines now offer direct flights to Nassau/Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island or The Out Islands. You can also sail into one of our 32 ports of entry. Once you arrive, go island-hopping. Explore underwater. Or do nothing but relax on one of our pristine beaches.

Remember, "It's Better in the Bahamas" For more information, visit us at Bahamas.com.



### **Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium**

The inaugural Popeyes Bahamas Bowl will be played in Nassau's state-of-the-art Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium, located in the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre, on December 24, 2014.

The 15,000-seat stadium, a gift to The Bahamas from the People's Republic of China, was dedicated February 25, 2012 by former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham in ceremonies witnessed by thousands of Bahamians. The original Thomas Robinson Stadium was built in 1981, and work on the new National Stadium at an adjacent site began in July 2009 at a cost of \$30 million.

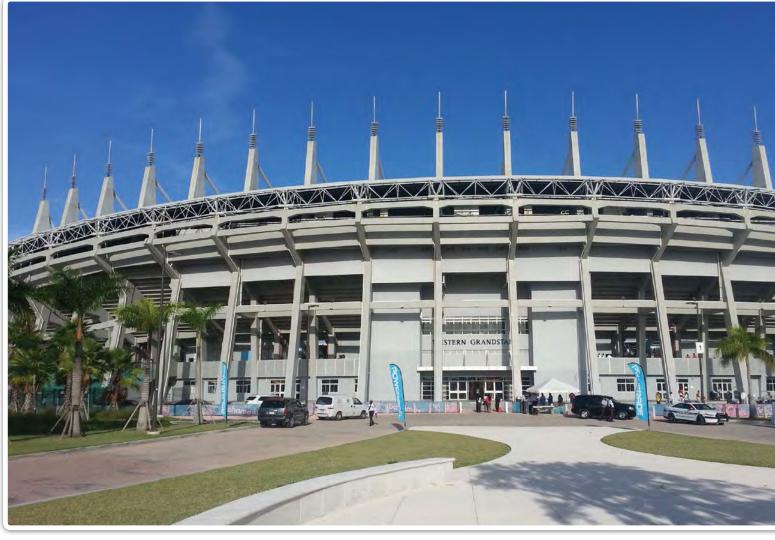
The 190,452-square-foot facility features covered chairback seating on two sides, seating for disabled spectators, broadcast/coaches/game operations booths, a natural grass field for American football and soccer and an

IAAF-certified track surface. Renovations to the stadium, including a new track and auxiliary press area, were completed in May 2014.

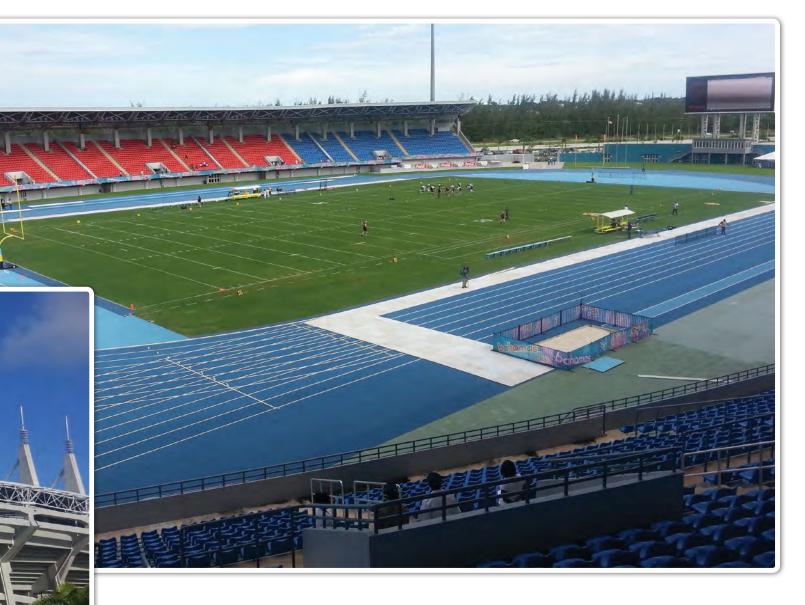
Robinson National Stadium is named after Thomas Augustus Robinson, MBE. Robinson was the sole competitor for The Bahamas on the world stage for many years. He competed in four Olympic Games, starting in 1956 in Melbourne, followed by Rome in 1960, Tokyo in 1964 and Mexico City in 1968. He became the first Bahamian to win a medal in international competition, a Bronze Medal in the 100-meter dash in the 1957 West Indian Federation Games in Kingston, Jamaica. He was also a part of the 400-meter relay team which also won a bronze medal.

At the 1958 British Empire Games in Cardiff, Wales,









Robinson won a gold medal in the 220-yard dash and a silver in the 100-yard dash. He came back in the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games to win a silver medal in the 100, a feat he repeated in the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games. He also won a gold medal at the 1962 Central American and Caribbean Games.

Robinson won nine Big Ten Conference titles as a sprinter at the University of Michigan from 1959-61. He was inducted into Michigan's Hall of Honor in 1985 and the inaugural class of Michigan's Men's Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2006.

Discussions on the new stadium had begun some nine

years before, with Robinson himself chairing the initial and final committee on the stadium. Robinson died November 25, 2012, just two days after the celebration of his participation in the Melbourne Olympics and before he could see the facility that bears his name in use.

The facility has been the site for soccer – Tottenham Hotspur (English Premier League) vs. Jamaica international friendly May 23, 2013 - and track - the 42nd Carifta Games in 2013 and the 2014 IAAF World Relay Championships.

Robinson National Stadium's operations are overseen by general manager Jeffrey Beckles.







### **Giving Back to the Bahamas**

The mission of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl is "to promote the Islands of The Bahamas, and in turn, promote educational and athletic opportunities to the youth of The Bahamas through college football."

That mission was realized during bowl week as the bowl hosted two events December 22 in Nassau to give back to the children of the Bahamas, thanks to the student-athletes, coaches and spirit groups of Central Michigan and WKU.

A group of student-athletes and spirit groups from WKU visited The Ranfurly Homes for Children. After over 50 years, the Ranfurly Homes for Children is still a place of hope for young Bahamians. The home is a haven, a learning ground, a place where warm memories take shape for boys and girls whose life circumstances may have otherwise taken them on a very different path.

The Ranfurly Homes provide a home for children who are displaced as a result of family problems, who have been abandoned,

who are orphaned or whose primary care givers are deceased.

The current Ranfurly administration, led by president Alexandra Maillis-Lynch and administrator Alexander Roberts, has partnered with local and international organizations to further enhance the lives of Ranfurly residents. Future goals include funding for transitional housing for older residents, securing job opportunities and scholarships for outgoing residents and enhancing the current dormitory facilities at the home.

The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl announced that it will sponsor 10 children to live at the Ranfurly Homes.

Ranfurly received 501(c)(3) status, so donations from US citizens and companies are tax-deductable. For more information, visit RanfurlyHome.org.

Also on the same day, a group of student-athletes from Central Michigan and WKU traveled to the Roscow A.L. Davies Field near the

location of today's game to conduct a Youth Football Leadership Clinic in conjunction with USA Football and the Bahamas American Football Federation.

With the help of the student-athletes of the two institutions and the BAFF, USA Football conducted its Heads Up Football FUNdamentals clinic, which introduces children to football by teaching basic skills in a FUN and energetic environment.

Certified clinicians use a series of drills to show passing,

catching and running skills in a non-contact setting. All skills and drills selected are based on USA Football's Player Progression Development Model, ensuring children are learning in an age-appropriate manner and creating an ideal atmosphere for FUN!

For more information on USA Football and its programs, visit usafootball.com.





### **Game Entertainment**

### **Bahamas All-Stars**

The Bahamas All-Stars will perform prior to the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. The All-Stars' mission is to use the performing arts as a vehicle in the training and mentoring of Bahamas youth by improving self-esteem and self-confidence, promoting a more positive outlook towards Bahamian youth, promoting athletic excellence, exposing young people to the Bahamas cultural heritage and creating opportunities through displaying the talents of our youth both locally and internationally.

The All-Stars recently performed at the 2014 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, entertaining 3.5 million in attendance and 50 million watching on television and the internet with Bahamian music and dance moves. The group has also performed at all major events in the Bahamas, and the band was the champion of the 2013 Battle of the Bands competition at Howard University in Washington, D.C.



### **Popeyes® Touchdown Dance Contest**

Before kickoff, be sure to visit the Popeyes tents located within the stadium to sign up and play an in-



stant-win game for a chance at hundreds of great prizes. And, be sure to stay in your seats at halftime as two lucky winners will have the opportunity to compete in a Touchdown Celebration Dance contest on the field for a chance to win the Grand Prize.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. ATTENDEES OF POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL THAT ARE 18 YEARS AND OLDER, VOID WHERE PROHIBITED, Promotion ends December 24, 2014 at 12:00 pm ET. For Official Rules, prize descriptions, and odds disclosure, visit Sponsor's tent. Sponsor: Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, Inc., 400 Perimeter Center Terrace, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30346 U.S.A.

### Valley Boys

The Bahamas national festival of Junkanoo is a kaleidoscope of colors and sound. The rhythmic sounds of cowbells, goat skin drums and whistles, accom-

panied by an array of brass instruments. create a sweet musical beat that will move you; while brilliantly colored costumes capture your eye, and bring much visual delight. This bi-annual cultural highlight takes place on Bay Street in New Providence and other Family Islands during the early morning



hours, from 1-9 am on Boxing Day (the day after Christmas) and New Year's Morning.

The reigning overall champion of the 2013 Boxing Day celebration, the Valley Boys, will perform at halftime of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. The Valley Boys won awards for Best Overall Performance, Choreographed Dancers, Free Dancers, Lead Costume, among others. The unique and stunning sights and sounds of the Valley Boys are not to be missed.

# Enjoy every game with an ice cold Coke.



open happiness.

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PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS

# SCORE BIG

# WITH OUR LOWEST RATES IN 2015 KIDS UNDER 12 EAT BREAKFAST AND DINNER FREE\*

\*With Purchase of Adult Meal Plan

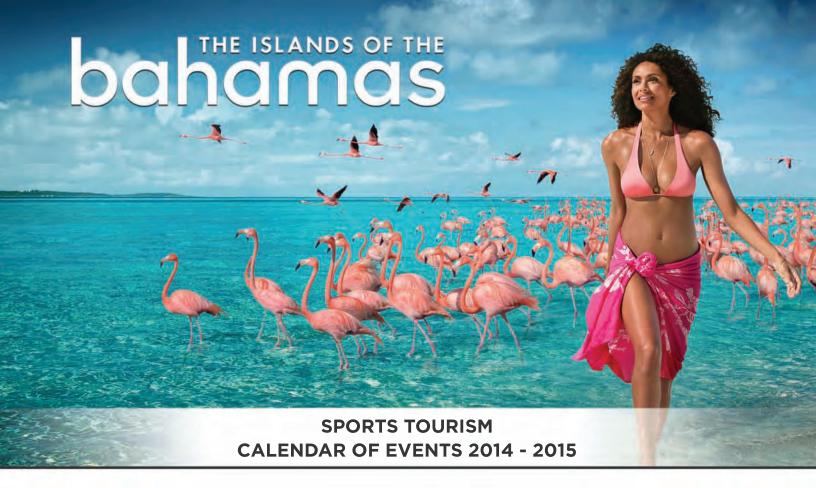


**BOOK NOW** 

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\* Kids Eat Free: offer includes breakfast and dinner for children under 12 when ordering from kid's menu at select restaurants when accompanied by an adult dining on a dining plan. For travel that ends by 12/31/15. Two (2) night minimum stay required.

Begins with dinner on day of arrival and breakfast on day of departure. No credit will be issued for unused meals or if kids do not dine at participating restaurants or order from kid's menu. Offer has no cash value, is non-transferable, and is subject to change. Not applicable to group bookings. Other restrictions may apply per applicable dining plan. Participating restaurants depend on meal plan selected: Seagrapes, Marketplace, Plato's Lounge, Olives, Murray's Delicatessen, Virgil's BBQ, The Pointe Restaurant & Bar, Marina Pizzeria, Bahamian Club, Bimini Road, Carmine's, Café Martinique, Casa D'Angelo, Chop Stix, Mesa Grill, Seafire Steakhouse, Mosaic. Please check restaurant operating hours for availability as some establishments may not be open every day or for both breakfast and dinner. Offer does not include mini bars or room service. Sports drinks, bottled water, and canned or bottled beverages are not included.





### Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Football

December 24, 2014 www.bahamasbowl.com



### Marathon Bahamas Sunshine Insurance Race Weekend

(Marathon/Half Marathon/Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure) January 17 - 18, 2015 www.marathonbahamas.com



### Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic

Professional Women's Golf Tournament February 2 - 8, 2015 www.bahamas.com/lpga



### Dan Marino and the Legends Weekend

February 19 - 22, 2015 www.bahamas.com/sports



### **Grand Bahama Half Marathon**

March 26 - 29, 2015 www.bahamas.com/sports



### **IAAF World Relays Bahamas 2015**

Thomas A. Robinson Stadium May 2 - 3, 2015 www.bahamasworldrelays.org



### **Bahamas Boating Flings 2015**

Owner Operated Guided Tour through The Bahamas June - July, 2015 www.bahamas.com/boating



### **Hero World Challenge 2015**

Albany Bahamas | Albany's Ernie Els-deginged championship golf course December 1 - 7, 2015 www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org



