

OFFICIAL GAME PROGRAM



ESPN EVENTS



UAB
BLAZERS

VS.

OHIO
BOBCATS

2017 BAHAMAS BOWL

DECEMBER 22, 2017

THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

THE ISLANDS OF THE
bahamas



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Message from The Prime Minister Commonwealth of The Bahamas Dr. The Hon. Hubert A. Minnis, PM

On behalf of the Government and People of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I extend a warm welcome and hearty congratulations to the members of the two great football teams contending for the championship in the 4th Annual Bahamas Bowl: the **UAB Blazers** and the **Ohio Bobcats**. I would also like to welcome organizers of the Bahamas Bowl, football coaches, family members, fans, members of the international press corps and all who have come to our country this week to witness American college football competition at its best.

American college football action is now a major feature of Christmas week in the City of Nassau. Football fans in The Bahamas eagerly anticipate the excitement of Game Day, filling the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium by the thousands while millions of television viewers across the United States tune into the only post season college football bowl held outside the United States. Each year, the extensive international media coverage provided by ESPN ensures that The Bahamas receives invaluable exposure, and all those who travel to our shores are warmed by the hospitality of our people and thoroughly enjoy our destination.

The backdrop of gorgeous beaches, pristine seas and year-round sunshine, along with an ultra modern tourism infrastructure and state-of-the-art sports complexes facilitate The Bahamas in annually attracting numerous world class sporting events, including, in recent years, the IAAF World Relays, the Hero World Challenge and other PGA and LPGA championship golf tournaments, FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, and now, for the fourth consecutive year, the Bahamas Bowl.

You are here in The Bahamas at the most exciting time of the year. Be sure to explore our historic sights, colorful marketplaces, island cuisine, duty free shopping and take in a few of the myriad excursions and experiences that get you acquainted with the soul and heart of The Bahamas.

I trust that your time in The Bahamas will be enjoyable and that you will return next year for the fifth edition of the Bahamas Bowl.

I take this occasion to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas, and all the best for 2018.

Dr. The Hon. Hubert A. Minnis, PM
THE PRIME MINISTER COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



“Christmas week in The Islands of The Bahamas is a time of anticipation and excitement, and for the last three years, American college football action has been a major feature of the festive dynamics leading up to Christmas. Football fans in The Bahamas and across the United



States are treated to the Bahamas Bowl, a high stakes game that rolls out at the national stadium of The Bahamas. My Ministry is delighted to play a role in bringing world-class football to The Islands of The Bahamas for a fourth consecutive year.

I extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the student-athletes of the UAB Blazers and Ohio Bobcats who, on gameday on December 22, will contend for the championship in the highly anticipated matchup at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium in Nassau. ESPN will carry the game to millions of television viewers around the world, who will witness the epic clash between the two titans of American college football in a game staged out against the backdrop of the sunshine and beauty of The Islands Of The Bahamas.

I would like to welcome all who have come in support of the two football teams: Bahamas Bowl organizers, coaches, family members and fans. This week will be most memorable for all who have come for the game: from the welcome pregame fun activities and warm Bahamian hospitality to the energy of the competition on gameday and the halftime performances, to exploring the sights of Nassau and Paradise Island.

The fourth edition of the Bahamas Bowl 2017 promises to deliver a dazzling football performance that will seal the reputation of Christmas week in The Bahamas as a time for Football, Family and Fun.”

Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar, MP
Minister of Tourism & Aviation

“The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture joins the Ministry of Tourism in welcoming athletes of the UAB Blazers and Ohio Bobcats to the fourth edition of the Bahamas Bowl. Aspiring football players in The Bahamas look forward to the opportunity once a year to witness the top-notch performance of American college football.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the athletes of the UAB Blazers and the Ohio Bobcats for their generous outreach to the youth of our community, and for sharing with our young football players the many opportunities in sports and education offered by American college football.

We in The Bahamas are proud to have world class American college football as a highlight of our country's annual international sports calendar.”

Hon. Michael Pintard, MP
Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture

“We are delighted to host the fourth-annual Bahamas Bowl, the only bowl game played outside of the continental United States. On behalf of the entire team here at the NSA, I extend a warm welcome to the UAB and Ohio football teams and their fans. This game will no doubt showcase the talents and skills of the players and coaching staff as well as the quality of our facilities. We hope you enjoy our wonderful attractions here in Nassau, Bahamas. Enjoy the game, our facilities and the warmth and friendliness of the Bahamian People.”



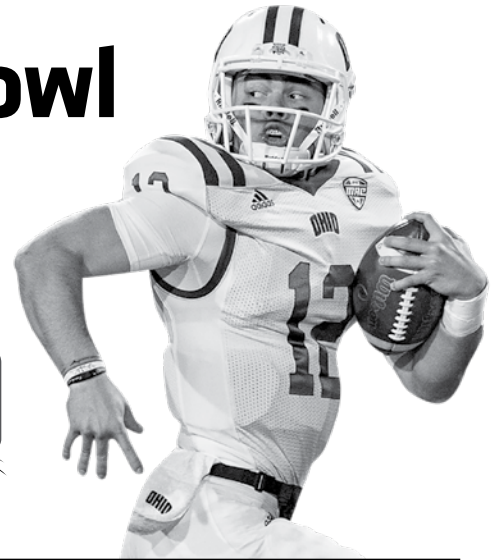
Mr. Vaughn Roberts
Chairman, National Sports Authority

2017 Bahamas Bowl PREVIEW

BY CHRIS PIKA



VS.



After three exciting games in Nassau, today's fourth edition of the Bahamas Bowl between UAB and Ohio promises to be an entertaining one that could post plenty of points on the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium scoreboard.

UAB returned to the field in 2017 after a two-year hiatus, and the Blazers became one of the most inspiring stories in college football by winning eight games and qualifying for the second bowl game in the school's history. Ohio is one of the most consistent teams in the Mid-American Conference, and the Bobcats also won eight games to reach a bowl game for the third straight season and 11th time overall.

Both teams are anxious to prove themselves after enjoying the sun, warm weather and hospitality that the Bahamas and the Atlantis resort is known for during bowl week. This is the first meeting between the schools, and there is no better setting for that initial meeting than the Bahamas Bowl.

UAB and Ohio come into the bowl with a combined 16 victories, which ties for the most in the four years of the Bahamas Bowl. UAB went 8-4, 6-2 in Conference USA. The Blazers, under Conference USA Coach of the Year Bill Clark (14-10 record in two seasons at UAB; 25-14 in three seasons overall as a college head coach), won a school FBS-record eight games and finished second in the C-USA West Division after winning six of their final eight games – three against teams in C-USA that are playing in bowl games this year.

Ohio was 8-4, 5-3 in the MAC, and the Bobcats, under head coach Frank Solich (96-71 record in 13 seasons at Ohio; 154-90 in 19 seasons overall as a college head coach), finished second in the MAC East Division after posting win streaks of four and three games. Ohio had a convincing victory over 2017 MAC champion Toledo, and the Bobcats also beat Kansas from the Big 12.

UAB won all six home games, and the six C-USA victories were also the most in the Blazers' history. The Blazers average 29.6 points per game, and UAB has scored 30 or more points six times. UAB averaged 190.2 rushing yards per game, led by true freshman running back Spencer Brown, who broke the school record for freshman rushing yards with 1,292 on the way to C-USA Freshman of the Year honors. Redshirt junior quarterback A.J. Erdely tied a school record with 13 rushing touchdowns,

which is also the most by a Blazer QB, and he has accounted for 29 touchdowns (13 rushing, 16 passing).

UAB has been strong on defense, especially in stopping runners behind the line of scrimmage. The Blazers have 81 tackles for loss and have posted four or more in each game this season. UAB has 14 interceptions, including 10 in the last seven games, and have posted five multi-interception games. Redshirt senior cornerback Darius Williams, a first-team All-Conference USA performer, has five interceptions and is second in FBS in passes defended with 20 (1.7 per game). Redshirt senior linebacker Tevin Crews led the team with 95 tackles, and redshirt junior defensive lineman Stacy Keely led the Blazers with four sacks.

The Bobcats average 38.9 points per game and set a school record with 467 points scored, and Ohio has scored 40 or more points in six games. Ohio has averaged 244.2 rushing yards per game behind redshirt junior running back A.J. Ouellette (980 yards) and sophomore quarterback Nathan Rourke (882 yards). Rourke, a second-team All-MAC performer, has five 100-yard rushing games, and Ouellette has four 100-yard efforts. Rourke holds the school record for rushing touchdowns in a season with 21 (second in FBS), and his 37 total touchdowns responsible for is one away from tying the Ohio season record. He also has thrown for 2,018 passing yards and 15 TDs.

On defense, the Bobcats have held opponents to 25.8 points per game. Ohio has been strong against the run as the Bobcats' opponents have averaged only 111.4 yards per game. Redshirt senior linebacker Quentin Poling, a first-team All-MAC selection, leads the team with 102 tackles, including 47 solo stops, 12.5 tackles for loss and three forced fumbles. He also leads the team with 5.5 sacks, part of the Bobcats' 28 overall. Redshirt senior linebacker Chad Moore, who was selected second-team All-MAC, paces the Bobcats with three interceptions. Redshirt senior cornerback Bradd Ellis has 18 pass breakups, which ties the school record and ranks in the top three in FBS in the category.

There will be plenty of talented players to watch when UAB and Ohio take the field, and the team that holds up the Prime Minister's Trophy later this afternoon as the champion will add to a unique Bahamas Bowl history in Nassau.



UAB BLAZERS



Dr. Ray Watts
President



Mark Ingram
Athletic Director



Bill Clark
Head Coach



ASSISTANT COACHES/STAFF

- Les Koenning - Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
- David Reeves - Defensive Coordinator
- Hindley Brigham - Running Backs
- Trey Clark - Offensive Line
- Casey Woods - Inside Wide Receivers/Tight Ends
- Larry Smith - Outside Wide Receivers
- Kyle Tatum - Defensive Line
- Brian Williams - Linebackers
- Blake Shrader - Defensive Backs
- Tyler Cook - Director of Operations



#23 LB Tevin Crews

KEY PLAYERS



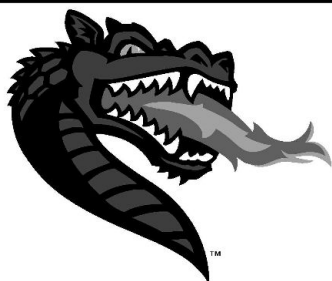
#28 RB Spencer Brown



#1 DB Darious Williams



#11 QB A.J. Erdely



UAB BLAZERS



OHIO BOBCATS

2017 UAB (8-4, 6-2 C-USA)

SEPTEMBER

2	ALABAMA A&M	W, 38-7
9	at Ball State	L, 31-51
16	COASTAL CAROLINA	W, 30-23
23	at North Texas*	L, 43-46

OCTOBER

7	LOUISIANA TECH*	W, 23-22
14	MIDDLE TENNESSEE*	W, 25-23
21	at Charlotte*	L, 24-25 (ot)
28	at Southern Miss*	W, 30-12

NOVEMBER

4	RICE*	W, 52-21
11	at UTSA*	W, 24-19
18	at Florida	L, 7-36
25	UTEP*	W, 28-7

DECEMBER

22 vs. Ohio (Bahamas Bowl)

* - C-USA games; home games in CAPS

2017 OHIO (8-4, 5-3 MAC)

SEPTEMBER

2	HAMPTON	W, 59-0
8	at Purdue	L, 21-44
16	KANSAS	W, 42-20
23	at Eastern Michigan*	W, 27-20 (2ot)
30	at UMass	W, 58-50

OCTOBER

7	CENTRAL MICHIGAN*	L, 23-26
14	at Bowling Green*	W, 48-30
21	KENT STATE*	W, 48-3
31	MIAMI*	W, 45-28

NOVEMBER

8	TOLEDO*	W, 38-10
14	at Akron*	L, 34-37
24	at Buffalo*	L, 24-31

DECEMBER

22 vs. UAB (Bahamas Bowl)

* - MAC games; home games in CAPS

UAB (8-4, 6-2 C-USA) vs. OHIO (8-4, 5-3 MAC)

Friday, Dec. 22, 2017 • 12:30 p.m. (ET) • ESPN • Nassau, Bahamas • Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium

Site Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium
 Capacity 15,000
 Surface Celebration Bermudagrass
 TV ESPN
 Radio BB Radio Network | SiriusXM 84
 Twitter @TheBahamasBowl
 Hashtag #BahamasBowl
 Series Record First Meeting
 Bahamas Bowl Series C-USA 2, MAC 1



Nickname Blazers
 2017 Record 8-4 (6-2 C-USA)
 Head Coach Bill Clark
 Record at UAB (Yrs.) 14-10 (2nd)



Nickname Bobcats
 2017 Record 8-4 (5-3 MAC)
 Head Coach Frank Solich
 Record at Ohio (Yrs.) 96-71 (13th)

THE SERIES

» The 2017 Bahamas Bowl will be the first meeting between the UAB Blazers and the Ohio Bobcats.

THE COACHES

» **BILL CLARK** is in his second season as UAB head coach and his third as collegiate head coach, and he has a 25-14 career record, 14-10 with the Blazers. The 2017 Bahamas Bowl is the first bowl appearance for the Blazers since the 2004 Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl and UAB's second bowl appearance overall. Clark was the head coach at Jacksonville State (2013; 11-4) before taking the UAB job. He was defensive coordinator for five seasons at South Alabama (2008-12) after nine years as head coach at Prattville (Ala.) HS. Clark was an assistant at four Alabama high schools after graduating from Jacksonville State in 1990.

» **FRANK SOLICH** is in his 13th season as Ohio head coach and his 19th as collegiate head coach, and he has a 154-90 career record, 96-71 with the Bobcats. The 2017 Bahamas Bowl is the Bobcats' third-straight bowl appearance and Ohio's 11th bowl appearance overall. Solich was the head coach for six seasons at Nebraska (1998-2003) and posted a 58-19 record before coming to Ohio in 2005. He also was a college assistant at Nebraska from 1979-97 before he was named Tom Osborne's successor as Cornhuskers head coach. He was a three-year letterman as a fullback at Nebraska (1962-65).

TEAM STATISTICAL COMPARISON

UAB (8-4, 6-2 C-USA)

TEAM STATISTICS	UAB	OPP
Points/Game	29.6	24.3
First Downs	231	230
Rushing/Game	190.2	169.8
Passing/Game	174.4	188.0
Total Offense/Game	364.6	357.8
Fumbles-Lost	15-10	10-5
Pen./Yds per Game	68/53.4	83/61.4
Time of Possession	28:31	31:29

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	Att	Net	Avg	TD	YPG
Brown	237	1292	5.5	10	107.7
Erdely	117	295	2.5	13	24.6

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	YPG
Erdely	181-293-4	2077	16	173.1

RECEIVING	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	YPG
Wilson	48	619	12.9	6	51.6
Lisa	29	384	13.2	1	32.0

DEFENSE	U-A-TT	TFL	Int.	PBU
Crews	56-39-95	12.0	1	3
Thomas	62-29-91	3.0	2	1

Ohio (8-4, 5-3 MAC)

TEAM STATISTICS	OHIO	OPP
Points/Game	38.9	25.8
First Downs	265	216
Rushing/Game	244.2	111.4
Passing/Game	186.8	261.8
Total Offense/Game	430.9	373.2
Fumbles-Lost	15-12	15-8
Pen./Yds per Game	61/43.3	92/70.2
Time of Possession	30:58	29:02

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING	Att	Net	Avg	TD	YPG
Ouellette	184	980	5.3	7	81.7
Rourke	134	882	6.6	21	73.5

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	YPG
Rourke	149-274-7	2018	15	168.2

RECEIVING	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	YPG
Cope	35	494	14.1	4	49.4
White	32	525	16.4	2	65.5

DEFENSE	U-A-TT	TFL	Int.	PBU
Poling	47-55-102	12.5	0	4
Hagan	39-37-76	0.5	1	5

2017 NCAA TEAM RANKS (as of Dec. 9)

Category	UAB	OHIO
Total Offense	98	39
Rushing Offense	37	17
Passing Offense	105	95
Passing Efficiency	53	65
Scoring Offense	t-55	14
Total Defense	36	49
Rushing Defense	71	10
Passing Yards Allowed	22	108
Passing Efficiency Def.	11	67
Scoring Defense	46	57
Turnover Margin	t-39	t-90
3rd Down Conversion %	6	t-52
4th Down Conversion %	t-105	6
3rd Down Conversion % Def.	46	10
4th Down Conversion % Def.	t-62	t-29
Red Zone Offense	t-17	15
Red Zone Defense	29	t-116
Net Punting	126	66
Punt Returns	37	80
Kickoff Returns	77	45
First Downs Offense	t-92	t-40
First Downs Defense	t-51	30
Fewest Penalties Per Game	51	32
Fewest Penalty Yards per Game	68	34
Time of Possession	98	40



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UAB BLAZERS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR 1	JONATHAN HADEN	5-6	180	r-Jr.
- or - 13	COLLIN LISA	5-10	166	r-Jr.
- or - 10	SEDERIAN COPELAND	6-0	163	r-Jr.
WR 8	RONNIE TURNER JR.	6-4	190	r-Jr.
- or - 7	XAVIER UBOSI	6-3	218	r-Jr.
WR 3	ANDRE WILSON	5-9	179	r-Jr.
- or - 18	KAILON CARTER	6-3	205	r-Sr.
84	Justin Walker	6-5	190	r-Jr.
LT 51	JAMES DAVIS	6-2	300	r-Jr.
50	David Galten	6-3	300	r-So.
LG 71	RISHARD COOK	6-3	340	Jr.
59	Chris Schleuger	6-4	305	r-Sr.
C 72	LEE DUFOUR	6-3	300	r-So.
53	Zach Sims	6-1	300	r-Jr.
RG 59	CHRIS SCHLEUGER	6-4	305	r-Sr.
58	Malique Johnson	6-3	320	r-Jr.
RT 57	JUSTICE POWERS	6-3	300	Jr.
74	Bryant Novick	6-5	325	r-Jr.
TE 44	LOGAN SCOTT	6-5	240	r-Jr.
- or - 38	HAYDEN PITTMAN	6-4	236	r-Fr.
86	Nick Holman	6-1	235	r-So.
QB 11	A.J. ERDELY	6-4	220	r-Jr.
17	Tyler Johnston III	6-2	215	r-Fr.
RB 28	SPENCER BROWN	6-0	235	Fr.
24	James Noble III	5-7	180	r-Jr.
- or - 4	Donnie Lee	6-2	228	r-Jr.
- or - 32	Carlos Stephens	5-7	190	r-Fr.

DEFENSE

DE 97	STACY KEELY	6-7	240	r-Jr.
5	Zachary Williams	6-2	250	r-Jr.
19	Darryl Waters	6-4	255	r-Sr.
NT 47	ANTHONY RUSH	6-5	340	Jr.
- or - 41	QUINDARIUS THAGARD	6-4	285	r-Jr.
DT 93	TEKO POWELL	6-3	320	r-Sr.
- or - 44	GARRETT MARINO	6-2	285	r-So.
92	Roderick McKinney	6-3	250	r-Sr.
JACK 42	SHAQ JONES	6-3	250	r-Sr.
25	Craig Kanyangarara	6-0	235	Jr.
15	Tré Crawford	6-3	225	Jr.
MIKE 23	TEVIN CREWS	6-2	230	r-Sr.
27	Chris Woolbright	6-3	230	r-Jr.
WILL 52	FITZGERALD MOFOR	5-11	245	r-So.
- or - 7	THOMAS JOHNSTON	6-2	230	Fr.
26	Noah Jones	6-4	245	r-Jr.
CB 1	DARIOUS WILLIAMS	5-10	180	r-Sr.
14	Dy'Jonn Turner	5-11	205	Fr.
FS 22	BRODERICK THOMAS	6-1	195	r-Jr.
17	Jordan Petty	5-9	190	r-Jr.
SS 3	WILL DAWKINS	5-10	200	r-So.
2	Mar'sean Diggs	6-2	212	r-Jr.
CB 9	D.A. WILLIAMS	5-10	180	r-Jr.
33	Brontae Harris	5-10	172	r-Fr.
STAR 8	DUKE CULVER	6-0	190	r-Jr.
- or - 10	GARRISON MITCHELL	6-0	200	r-So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

P 37	JOEL DIXON	6-2	204	r-So.
PK 19	NICK VOGEL	5-10	185	r-So.
43	T.J. McGettigan	5-9	190	r-Fr.
H 47	JACOB CLARK	5-10	220	r-Fr.
LS 64	KYLE VARNELL	6-5	215	r-Fr.
- or - 39	JACOB FUQUA	6-2	228	r-Fr.
KR 3	ANDRE WILSON	5-9	179	r-Jr.
- or - 13	COLLIN LISA	5-10	166	r-Jr.
- or - 1	JONATHAN HADEN	5-6	180	r-Jr.
- or - 18	KAILON CARTER	6-3	205	r-Sr.
PR 3	Andre Wilson	5-9	179	r-Jr.
- or - 13	Collin Lisa	5-10	166	r-Jr.



OHIO BOBCATS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

RB 45	A.J. OUELLETTE	5-9	205	r-Jr.
28	Dorian Brown	5-11	208	r-Sr.
TE 82	TROY MANGEN	6-6	258	r-Sr.
86	Mason Morgan	6-7	253	r-Sr.
QB 12	NATHAN ROURKE	6-2	209	So.
7	Quinton Maxwell	6-3	224	r-So.
LT 65	JOE LOWERY	6-7	305	r-Jr.
60	Austen Pleasants	6-7	328	r-So.
LG 63	JOE ANDERSON	6-6	340	r-Jr.
61	Brett Kitrell	6-3	287	Fr.
C 52	JAKE PRUEHS	6-1	316	Sr.
73	Steven Hayes	6-4	308	r-So.
RG 76	HAGEN MESERVY	6-3	293	Fr.
53	Marques Grimes	6-6	306	r-So.
RT 60	AUSTEN PLEASANTS	6-7	328	r-So.
79	Kyle Kuhar	6-4	299	r-So.
X-WR 85	BRENDAN COPE	6-2	198	r-Sr.
3	Cameron Odom	6-1	188	r-Fr.
F-WR 4	PAPI WHITE	5-9	168	r-Jr.
19	DL Knock	5-8	195	r-So.
Z-WR 9	ANDREW MEYER	6-0	187	r-Jr.
81	Matt Seymour	6-2	190	r-Fr.

DEFENSE

DE 96	KEVIN ROBBINS	6-4	250	r-Sr.
98	Chukwudi Chukwu	6-1	249	r-So.
DT 54	TONY PORTER	6-1	278	r-Sr.
48	Andrew Payne	6-2	276	r-Jr.
NT 92	CLEON ALOESE	6-0	295	r-Sr.
97	Kent Berger	6-5	277	r-Jr.
DE 90	TRENT SMART	6-4	260	r-Sr.
51	Will Evans	6-2	243	r-Fr.
SLB 38	CHAD MOORE	6-0	222	r-Sr.
35	Dylan Conner	5-11	216	r-Fr.
MLB 32	QUENTIN POLING	6-0	235	r-Sr.
36	Austin Clack	6-0	224	r-So.
WLB 47	EVAN CROUCH	6-0	227	Jr.
40	Cody Grilliot	6-1	229	r-Sr.
RCB 3	BRADD ELLIS	5-10	177	r-Sr.
22	Marlin Brooks	5-10	165	Fr.
SS 2	JAVON HAGAN	6-0	207	r-So.
31	Grant Cunningham	6-0	205	r-Sr.
FS 23	KYLAN NELSON	5-10	192	r-Jr.
25	Tyler Gullett	6-3	211	r-Jr.
LCB 21	JALEN FOX	5-11	186	r-Jr.
4	Jamal Hudson	5-11	192	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

P 5	MICHAEL FARKAS	6-3	195	r-So.
44	Corey Hare	5-10	218	r-Fr.
PK 2	LOUIE ZERVOS	5-9	174	r-So.
5	Michael Farkas	6-3	195	r-So.
KO 5	MICHAEL FARKAS	6-3	195	r-So.
2	Louie Zervos	5-9	174	r-So.
LS-P 30	JAKE HALE	6-1	230	Jr.
59	David Bryan	6-2	215	Fr.
LS-FG 30	JAKE HALE	6-1	230	Jr.
59	David Bryan	6-2	215	Fr.
PH 5	MICHAEL FARKAS	6-3	195	r-So.
85	Brendan Cope	6-2	198	r-Sr.
KR 19	DL KNOCK	5-8	195	r-So.
22	DAVID BURROUGHS	5-7	182	r-Jr.
10	Julian Ross	5-9	186	Fr.
PR 23	KYLAN NELSON	5-10	192	r-Jr.
19	DL Knock	5-8	195	r-So.



GAME OFFICIALS (American Athletic Conference)

Referee..... Charles Lamertina
 Umpire..... Ken Huffhines
 Center Judge..... Mark Mobra
 Head Linesman..... Dan Harrington

Line Judge..... Baron Ballester
 Field Judge..... Chris Bikowski
 Side Judge..... Ken Bushey
 Back Judge..... Jim Sima

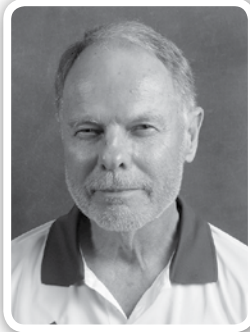
Alternate..... Charles Lewis
 Replay Official..... Paul Zukis
 Replay Communicator..... Alex Vaughn
 Instant Replay Technician..... Mitch Wilkens (DVSPORT)



Dr. M. Duane Nellis
President



Jim Schaus
Athletic Director



Frank Solich
Head Coach



ASSISTANT COACHES/STAFF

- Jimmy Burrow - Associate Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator
- Tim Albin - Assistant Head Coach/Co-Offensive Coordinator/Pass Game Coordinator/Running Backs
- Ron Collins - Co-Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers
- Dave Johnson - Co-Offensive Coordinator/Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line
- Dwayne Dixon - Wide Receivers
- Pete Germano - Defensive Line
- Brian Haines - Special Teams Coordinator/Recruiting Coordinator/Tight Ends
- Scott Ispording - Quarterbacks
- De'Angelo Smith - Cornerbacks
- Chris Rodgers - Assistant Athletic Director for Football Operations



#12 QB Nathan Rourke

KEY PLAYERS



#32 LB Quentin Poling



#38 LB Chad Moore



#45 RB A.J. Ouellette

The Prime Minister's Trophy

The Prime Minister's Trophy, the symbol of the Bahamas Bowl championship, is presented to the winning team after the bowl each year. It is a unique creation that represents the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in several ways.

Former Bahamas Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie, helped present the 2015 championship trophy to Western Michigan, and to honor the country's highest-elected office, the trophy was renamed The Prime Minister's Trophy by the bowl in 2016. Mr. Christie handed the newly named trophy to 2016 champion Old Dominion.

Designed and manufactured by Crown Awards of Hawthorne, New York, in consultation with the bowl's staff, the Bahamas Bowl championship trophy stands 30 inches tall and weighs nearly 30 pounds.

The trophy has a black acrylic base and a turquoise stand that represents the water. The trophy is mounted with acrylic and metal pillars used to support the football at the top of the trophy.

A conch shell, one of the main symbols of the Bahamas, is in the center of the base, and metal laser-cut palm trees adorn both sides of the pillars.

The Bahamas Bowl logo is rendered in acrylic and mounted halfway up the trophy's center.

The bowl also awards distinctive Offensive Player of the Game and Defensive Player of the Game trophies.



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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. Each of our islands and island groupings is uniquely different, offering its own distinctive attractions and appeal.

The archipelago is an ecological oasis featuring 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 people who are proud of our country and our long tradition of welcoming guests. We have a love of life which manifests itself in celebration. We 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. We, 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 18th 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 Boxing Day (December 26), New Year’s Day (January 1) and Independence Day (July 10), parades are also held during the annual “Junkanoo Summer Festival” and the “Just Rush” competition. In addition, many hotels offer Junkanoo shows for their guests throughout the year.

Bahamas Junkanoo 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, 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.

A highly anticipated event of Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival is Road Fever when visitors and locals alike get to don their very own spectacular Junkanoo costume and participate in a high energy, festive parade of music and dance along a designated route of the city.

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 year-round.

For centuries, our close proximity has attracted all kinds of people: American Loyalists. Puritans. Explorers. Even pirates. Now it’s your turn. Come discover all of our 700 islands and the hospitality of the Bahamian people.

Whether you’re visiting Nassau/Paradise Island, Grand Bahama or one of The Out Islands, Paradise is just a short plane ride from major U.S. cities. 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.





Giving Back to the Bahamas

Part of the Bahamas Bowl mission statement is “promoting The Bahamas and highlighting the educational and athletic opportunities for the youth of The Islands through college football.”

That mission was realized as the bowl hosted two events December 20 in Nassau to give back to the children of the Bahamas, thanks to the student-athletes, coaches and spirit groups of UAB and Ohio.

A group of student-athletes and spirit groups from both schools 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 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.

Since the beginning of the Bahamas Bowl in 2014, the bowl has had a close relationship with Ranfurly and its residents, assisting the

children and the home with various needs. Outside groups, seeing Ranfurly promoted on the ESPN broadcasts, have also raised money for the children living there as well as helping with infrastructure needs at the home, including a new laundry facility and sports equipment.

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

Also on December 20, a group of student-athletes from both schools traveled to the old Thomas Robinson Stadium adjacent to the location of today’s game to conduct a Youth Football Clinic in conjunction with USA Football and the Bahamas Bowl.

With the help of the student-athletes of the two institutions and representatives of the Commonwealth American Football League (CAFL), USA Football conducted its Heads Up FootballSM 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.

Each child attending the clinic received a bowl t-shirt, a ticket voucher to the Bahamas Bowl, and, most importantly, the smiles, encouragement and fellowship provided by those student-athletes, coaches and spirit groups participating in today’s game.

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



Game Entertainment

PREGAME

Bahamas Bowl Tailgate Extravaganza

Before the game, fans can take part in the Bahamas Tailgate Extravaganza in the Eastern Parking Lot next to the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium.

Bahamas All-Stars

A youth development organization that uses performing arts as a vehicle to train, mentor and empower young people, the Bahamas All-Stars will perform a medley of songs along with the “Star-Spangled Banner” and the National Anthem of The Bahamas (“March On, Bahamaland”) prior to the Bahamas Bowl.



DURING THE GAME

Band members from both the UAB Marching Blazers and the Ohio University Marching 110 will perform during the game to entertain the crowd at today’s Bahamas Bowl.

HALFTIME

Royal Bahamas Police Force Band

Adorned in colorful uniforms, the world-famous Royal Bahamas Police Force Band will perform their precision routine at halftime of the Bahamas Bowl.



Between Quarters

Junkanoo Rush Out – Valley Boys

The Bahamas national festival of Junkanoo is a kaleidoscope of colors and sound. One of the biggest Junkanoo groups in New Providence, the Valley Boys, will combine to show off their moves during a rush out between quarters of today’s game that is a preview of Junkanoo. It is a performance you can’t miss!

POSTGAME

Immediately following the Bahamas Bowl, the bowl will present the Prime Minister’s Trophy to the championship team as well as awards to the Offensive and Defensive Players of the Game.



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