### MIDDLE TENNESSEE BLUE RAIDERS VS. WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS



**EVENTS** 







**DECEMBER 24, 2015** 





DECEMBER 24, 2015 | THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM | NASSAU, BAHAMAS



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PopeyesBahamasBowl.com

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Facebook: Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Twitter: @TheBahamasBowl Hashtag: #BahamasBowl

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

On behalf of the Government and people of The Bahamas, I extend a warm welcome to the organizers, teams and all of the loyal fans who have come to our country to participate and enjoy the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

In 2014, the City of Nassau took great pride in hosting the inaugural Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, the first postseason college football bowl to be played outside of the continental United States. The inaugural bowl was a resounding success. The teams staged an award winning end of game performance. Extensive international media coverage ensured that the Bahamas received incalculable exposure and all those who traveled for the game thoroughly enjoyed our beautiful city.

The Bahamas has long enjoyed an enviable reputation as a playground for those seeking a relaxing get-away in the sun. In recent years we have been carefully building a name for ourselves as a sports tourism destination as a welcome component to our tourism product. We have excellent facilities which are steadily being enhanced to cater to international competitions. Added to this, we have the advantage of being close to one of the world's exciting and sophisticated sports market, the United States of America.

The Bahamas has played host to an impressive line-up of international events, including the IAAF World Relays 2014 and 2015; practice and training sessions of various NBA teams; an NCAA Basketball Tournament featuring several notable top ranked teams, and most recently, the 2015 World Hero Challenge Golf Tournament. We are always delighted to be the staging ground for these events and the venue of choice for sports groups. We will continue to get the word out that The Bahamas is a sports mecca where all are welcome. It is in this vein that we welcome back Popeyes Bahamas Bowl to the City of Nassau, for a second edition.

As many of you are aware, The Bahamas and the City of Nassau have much to offer. You have come at a time when we stage our country's most spectacular cultural extravaganza. On December 26, beginning in the pre-dawn hours, you will have the unique opportunity to witness firsthand the annual Boxing Day Junkanoo Parade, a spectacular street parade of music, costumes and dance that showcases the artistic creativity of the people of the Bahamas.

In closing, I trust that your time in The Bahamas will be enjoyable and that you will return next year for the third edition of Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

Welcome Back To The Islands of The Bahamas.

Perry G. Christie Prime Minister



"The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, in partnership with ESPN Events and Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, is delighted to host the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision postseason event, the 2nd Annual Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. As a country, we take special pride in our status as the home base of an international sporting competition of such caliber. We salute the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders and the Western Michigan Broncos, who will represent Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference in the bowl, respectively.

We welcome the teams, their coaches, families and fans to The Islands Of The Bahamas.

Thanks to the extensive media coverage of the inaugural bowl in 2014 and the appealing merchandising and marketing campaign this year by Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, millions of fans are excitedly anticipating the 2015 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. This year's game will be carried by ESPN-TV, the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Radio Network, among many other media outlets.

Fans attending the game will be treated to an entertaining selection of pre-game activities, from a welcome bash, to fun contests and performances by the country's show-stopping lead

marching band. During the game at halftime, two of the leading Junkanoo groups, the Valley Boys and the Saxons, will face off in an unforgettable cultural spectacular.

This Christmas Eve, TV and radio dials in millions of households across the United States, Canada and around the world will tune into The Islands Of The Bahamas



to witness an unforgettable, action-packed game of college football between two titans: the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders and the Western Michigan Broncos.

Without a shadow of a doubt, the energy of the game beamed from The Islands Of The Bahamas will amp up the merriment of Christmas 2015 across the world."

Hon. Obediah H. Wilchcombe, MP Minister of Tourism "The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture joins the Ministry of Tourism in welcoming back 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. The Annual Popeyes Bahamas Bowl is back ... right in time for Junkanoo."

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

"The Bahamas is excited to be the stage of the 2nd Annual Popeyes Bahamas

Bowl Game here in Nassau at the National Sports Stadium. We continue to strengthen the diversity of our destination, as we are more than just sun,



sand and sea, but also entertainment and sports. 'Sports is Better in Paradise.'''

Mr. Leroy Archer Chairman, National Sports Authority



December 24, 2015

Happy Gameday college football fans!

We are so excited to welcome you to the 2015 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl! What an exciting year for you to participate!

Not only are we thrilled to sponsor one of college football's great bowl games, but we're also celebrating the opening of our first Bahamas location! The flagship unit, featuring the new international design, opens just in time to add some Popeyes flavor and style to



gameday tailgating! We welcome franchisees Chris and Terry Tsavoussis to the Popeyes family.

And what better backdrop to cheer on your favorite football team than Nassau, Bahamas - one



New International Design

of the most beautiful places on earth! I encourage you to enjoy the rich Bahamian culture, and of course, some great Popeyes food!

We congratulate our teams from Conference USA, the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders, and the Mid-American Conference's Western Michigan Broncos for their hard work, sportsmanship and well-earned place in today's matchup.

We hope that you enjoy today's game! On behalf of the entire Popeyes family, we wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday and a safe and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Cheryl q. Backelder

Cheryl Bachelder Chief Executive Officer Popeyes® Louisiana Kitchen





#### **RICHARD GIANNINI**

Executive Director

Richard Giannini, a veteran of five decades of athletic administration who has been involved with the startup of three current bowl games, is the Executive Director of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

In his role with the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, Giannini oversees the bowl's operations and staff, is the bowl's liaison with ESPN Events and serves in a key role with 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 Marmot Boca Raton Bowl in addition to his work with the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

As a bowl executive, Giannini developed the Blockbuster Bowl in 1990, now the Russell Athletic Bowl, the most-successful firstyear bowl in history, and he was senior advisor to both the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl and Boca Raton Bowl for their inaugural 2014 games.

Giannini served as athletic director at Southern Miss from 1999-2012. During 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 seasons and 12 bowl appearances.

Giannini and his wife, Gayle, are parents of four daughters – Ansley Stone, Brittney Borbash, Carlyn Linker and DeLancey – and they are grandparents of Tori, Parker, Sara, Kelsey, Ryleigh, Kyle, Avery, Mackenzie and Landon.



**LEA MILLER** Director of Sales and Marketing

A sports marketing executive who has helped bring several highprofile events to the Bahamas, Lea Miller serves as the Director of Sales and Marketing of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl.

Miller's duties include working closely with the bowl's sponsor lineup, including title sponsor Popeyes, sponsorship negotiations, sales and marketing of the bowl in the U.S. and the Bahamas and working closely with Giannini on governmental relations in the Bahamas.

Miller, the founder and president of Complete Sports Management, an allencompassing 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.



**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, operating the bowl's web site and social media channels and assisting with bowl operations.

A veteran of media relations work at major sporting events, Pika has been part of the NFL's public relations staff at 13 Super Bowls, including Super Bowl XLIX. He has assisted at 13 bowl games, including the inaugural College Football Playoff National Championship Game (2015).

He was the manager of media & public relations, and later the director of new media, for the NFL's New Orleans Saints from 2000-06, and the new media producer for the Atlanta Falcons from 2006-07.



**TOM SNYDER** Director of Game Operations

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



AMANDA QUINTANA Event Coordinator

Amanda Quintana serves as Event Coordinator for ESPN Events. In her role, she assists the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl and other ESPN Events properties from the ESPN offices in Charlotte, N.C.

She joined ESPN Events in May 2015 after working at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Kissimmee, Florida, as a ESPN/ Disney third party national accounts planning team member. In her role, she managed and coordinated events for clients such as AAU, Special Olympics and MAAC, among others.

Prior to her work with ESPN, Quintana worked in the NBA with the Orlando Magic as a premiun guest services representative and the Utah Jazz as an inside sales account executive. She also worked with Major League Soccer's Real Salt Lake on the corporate suite event management team and the ECHI's Utah Grizzles on the corporate sponsorship and promotions team.

A native of Deming, New Mexico, Quintana graduated from BYU in 2011.

## **Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Preview**

MICHIGAN

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**BY CHRIS PIKA** 

hat can the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl do for an encore? The inaugural edition, with two wide-open offenses, delivered in a big way with a huge fourth-quarter comeback and a final touchdown that captured the imagination of college football fans everywhere.

While there are no promises of last-minute heroics in 2015, the second edition of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl features a pair of teams who love to throw the football around, a battle between the current Conference USA and Mid-American Conference Freshmen of the Year and each team has a pair of wide receivers who have put up big numbers this season as Middle Tennessee takes on Western Michigan this afternoon in Nassau's Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium.

Both teams are excited to be in the Bahamas to bask in the abundant sunshine and to enjoy the warm weather and the hospitality, and that excitement should carry over to the scoreboard in Nassau in the first meeting between the schools.

Both Middle Tennessee and **Zach Terrell** Western Michigan enter the bowl with identical 7-5 records, and both the Blue Raiders and the Broncos posted 6-2 league marks in C-USA and the MAC, respectively. Middle Tennessee went on a roll in November and come to Nassau riding a fourgame win streak. Western Michigan has won six of its last eight games, including an upset of No. 24

Toledo in the final regular-season game to claim a share of the MAC West Division title.

For Middle Tennessee, the Blue Raiders' prolific offense under head coach Rick Stockstill (64-60 in 10 seasons overall and at Middle Tennessee) has scored 40 or more points five times, including a pair of 70-point explosions while averaging just over 34 points per game.

The Blue Raiders set a school record for total offense yards with 5,504 as Middle Tennessee has over 5,000 offensive yards for the third straight season and is 30th in FBS total offense at 458.7 yards per game. A large part of the offensive output has come from a pair of freshmen, quarterback Brent Stockstill, the son of the head coach, and wide receiver Richie James along with senior Ed Batties.

Stockstill, the 2015 Conference USA Freshman of the Year, set a C-USA record for most passing yards by a freshman with 3,678 yards and broke several Middle Tennessee single-

> season passing records including touchdowns (27) and 300-yard passing games (seven). Behind Stockstill's efforts, the Blue Raiders are 17th in passing offense in FBS at 310.4 yards per game.

> James, his favorite target, was named to C-USA's first-team All-Conference squad after he set a school record for receptions with 100 and became the second player in school history to have over 1,000 receiving yards with 1,220 along with six touchdowns. The duo is the first 3,000-yard passing and 1,000-yard receiving combo in school history

> Batties, a second-team All-Conference USA selection, has 77 catches for 960 yards and he is sixth in FBS with 13 touchdown receptions, which broke the Middle Tennessee single-season record. The duo of Batties and James are second in FBS in combined receptions with 177, behind only their counterparts across the field today from Western Michigan.

> > The Blue Raiders are also stout on the ground, averaging 148.2 rush yards per game behind senior Jordan Parker, who has 467 yards and six touchdowns while averaging 4.6 yards per rush and junior Shane

Tucker with 383 yards and two touchdowns. Five players have 40 or more carries this season.

The Blue Raider defense has been tough to score on in the red zone as Middle Tennessee ranks fifth in FBS in red-zone defense percentage, as the team has allowed opponents to score a touchdown or a field goal 71.1 percent of the time.

A pair of first-team All-Conference USA players lead the Blue Raiders defense. Senior linebacker T.T. Barber paces Middle Tennessee in tackles with 89, including 11.5 tackles for loss and a team high-tying four

## WMU STAT LEADERS

<b>PASSING</b>	<b>COMP</b>	<b>ATT</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>TD</b>
Zach Terrell	244	365	3225	27
<b>RUSHING</b>	<b>CAR</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>TD</b>
Jamauri Bogan	143	836	5.8	12
Jarvion Franklin	146	699	4.8	5
<b>RECEIVING</b>	<b>REC</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>TD</b>
Daniel Braverman	103	1270	12.3	12
Corey Davis	82	1253	15.3	11



sacks. Senior free safety Kevin Byard leads the team with four interceptions and holds the school record for picks with 18.

Western Michigan's program is led by the youngest head coach in FBS, P.J. Fleck (16-21 in three seasons overall and at Western Michigan). The elite Broncos offense has lit up the scoreboard in 2015 with five games of 40 or more points, including three 50-point scoring outputs while averaging just over 35 points a game.

The Broncos offensive unit averages 480.9 yards per game, 21st in FBS, and they do it holding on to the football for an average of 34:32, second in the country behind only Stanford. One way to do that is to convert third downs. The Broncos are 13th in FBS in third-down conversions, making 47.5 percent of their attempts, just a few percentage points behind Clemson, the No. 1-ranked team in the nation.

Redshirt junior quarterback Zach Terrell, a third-team All-MAC performer, has thrown for 3,229 yards and 27 touchdowns this season while completing almost 67 percent of his passes.

Terrell's connections to junior receivers and first-team All-MAC selections Daniel Braverman and Corey Davis have made them the top receiving duo in FBS with a combined 185 catches so far this season. Braverman has 103 receptions for 1,270 yards and 12 touchdowns, averaging 12.3 yards a catch. Davis has 82 receptions for 1,253 yards and 11 touchdowns, and he is averaging 15.3 yards per catch. Davis has 3,602 career receiving yards, the most among active FBS student-athletes, and 32 receiving touchdowns, second-most among active FBS players.

The Western Michigan run game is 34th in the country, averaging 197.2 yards per contest, thanks to 2015 MAC Freshman of the Year Jamauri Bogan. The redshirt freshman rushed for 836 yards on 143 carries and 12 touchdowns to become the second straight WMU running back to be named conference freshman of the year. The previous winner of that award, Jarvion Franklin, rushed for 699 yards and five touchdowns as a sophomore this season.

### MT STAT LEADERS

<b>PASSING</b>	<b>COMP</b>	<b>ATT</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>TD</b>
Brent Stockstill	301	451	3678	27
<b>RUSHING</b>	<b>CAR</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>TD</b>
Jordan Parker	101	468	4.6	6
Shane Tucker	117	383	3.3	2
<b>RECEIVING</b>	<b>REC</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>TD</b>
Richie James	100	1220	12.2	6
Ed'Marques Batties	77	960	12.5	13

On defense, the Broncos are led by sophomore safety Asantay Brown with 100 total tackles and a pair of interceptions on the way to third-team All-MAC honors. Redshirt sophomore linebacker Caleb Bailey is second in tackles with 74, which include 12 tackles for loss. Redshirt sophomore cornerback Darius Phillips, a second-team All-MAC selection, leads the team in interceptions with five, and the converted wide receiver has 20 passes defended. His average of 1.7 passes defended per game is tied for fifth in FBS. Phillips is also a dangerous return man who is averaging 23.4 yards per return, including a 100-yard return for a score against Michigan State.

The Bahamas loves a track meet, and both Middle Tennessee and

ERS

Western Michigan promise to give them one today at the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl with the speed and quickness that show off some of the best individual talent in college football.

**Brent Stockstill** 

# Merry Christmas

То

you

and

yours

from

loca:1

Γ.

Enjoy the Taste of Christmas



### **2014 REVIEW**

## WKU survives 'Bahamas Relay' to capture inaugural Popeyes Bahamas Bowl

KU survived a furious Central Michigan fourth-quarter comeback, which included a 75-yard lastgasp relay play for a touchdown as time expired, but a broken-up 2-point conversion attempt following the improbable TD gave the Hilltoppers a 49-48 victory and the inaugural Popeyes Bahamas Bowl title.

In a stadium that has hosted major international track meets, the four-person relay by the Chippewas was as exciting as any seen on the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium surface and was an immediate hit on ESPN and social media. The final touchdown was named the play of the bowl season by ESPN's SportsCenter and was a finalist for a Best Play ESPY.

WKU (8-6) finally put an end to Central Michigan's 34-point fourth quarter with a defensive stop in the back corner of the end zone that brought a celebration from the Hilltoppers.

Trailing 49-42 with one second remaining and faced with 75 yards of Bahamian grass in front of them, the Central Michigan offense lined up for one final prayer that was answered.

Quarterback Cooper Rush heaved one last gasp pass 47 yards down the field where it was caught by Jesse Kroll at the Hilltoppers 28. Then chaos ensued. After laterals from Kroll, Deon Butler and Courtney Williams, Titus Davis raced 15 yards, dove and grazed the pylon – launching the crowd into pandemonium.

With the WKU lead trimmed to an unimaginably thin 49-48, the Chippewas (7-6) threw caution to the wind and tried for a 2-point conversion in hopes of winning the game. Rush threw for Kroll, but WKU defensive back Wonderful Terry broke up the fade-route pass to give WKU its first FBS bowl victory in school history under first-year head coach Jeff Brohm.

Brohm reiterated the importance of the win and commended his players. "To get this first bowl victory for our school is big," he emphasized. "We were sitting at 3-5 at one point in our season, and to find a way to reel off five straight victories is a testament to our players, our university and the leadership we have."



CMU head coach Dan Enos discussed the decision to go for two and the victory. "We didn't want to go to overtime because we had had trouble stopping them all day," explained Enos. "I looked at the players and said, 'What do you got?' and they said, 'Let's do it. Let's win this game."

Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Player of the Game honors went to WKU's Brandon Doughty

(offense) and WKU defensive end Derik Overstreet (defense). Doughty threw for 486 yards, 350 in the first half with five touchdowns, all to different receivers. Overstreet recorded five tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss that included two second-half sacks.

Before the nightmarish fourth quarter, the Hilltoppers played as crisp and dominant a game as they had all season long.

WKU scored touchdowns on each of their six first-half possessions against the MAC's top defense, including twice in the final two minutes, as the Hilltoppers built a 42-14 halftime lead, an advantage that was extended to 49-14 after three quarters.

The fourth quarter was a different story, as Rush connected with Davis for touchdowns twice to cut WKU's lead to 49-28. Then defensive end Joe Ostman flipped a 52-yard completion to WKU's Willie McNeil inside out by forcing a fumble at the Central Michigan 13, which was recovered by Chippewas corner Tony Annese. Annese returned the fumble back to the CMU 36, and from there, Central Michigan marched down the field to score on a Rush TD pass to trail by 14.

WKU was forced to punt on their ensuing possession, and a four-play, 55-second drive



capped by a 7-yard TD strike from Rush to Anthony Garland with 1:09 left gave Central Michigan hope.

WKU successfully recovered the CMU onside kick after the score and milked the clock before being forced to punt, which set up the final frenzied play for the Chippewas that left the stadium breathless and WKU in possession of the inaugural Popeyes Bahamas Bowl trophy.

Rush set FBS bowl records for touchdown passes with seven and most net passing yards with 255 in the fourth quarter alone. The combined 971 passing yards and 12 TD passes for Doughty and Rush also broke FBS twoteam bowl records.

It was a game and a finish no one in attendance in the Bahamas or watching on ESPN will long forget.

Conference USA enters its third decade in 2015-16 as it continues to compete and promote the success of its student-athletes. The league has adapted to the ever-changing landscape of collegiate athletics over its first 20 seasons, but the commitment to excellence, integrity, leadership and its student athletes in competition, academics and community is unwavering.

YUISIA

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.



Judy MacLeod Commissioner

Debuting in 1995, Conference USA teams have combined for 88 bowl appearances in football, 102 NCAA Tournament appearances in basketball, including three Final Fours, 63 NCAA baseball appearances including six College World Series berths, 79 NCAA soccer tournament appearances including four trips to the College Cup, and 35 individual national champions in track and field and cross country.

**CONFERENCE USA** 

Success is not limited to athletic achievement, however, as 198 Conference USA student-athletes have garnered Academic All-America honors, 691 have achieved academic all-district laurels and thousands of student-athletes have earned a college degree.

Conference USA sponsors 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 academic achievement with numerous conference-sponsored 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 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.

#### Football

- 88 teams have earned bowl bids
- Eligible for the College Football Playoff
- Conference USA has 11 bowl affiliations through the 2019 season, securing a minimum of five berths annually. Conference USA has primary bowl tieins with the Arizona Bowl, Boca Raton Bowl, Gildan New Mexico Bowl, Hawaii Bowl, Miami Beach Bowl, Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, St. Petersburg Bowl and Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl, along with secondary arrangements with the Independence Bowl and the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl.

#### Men's Basketball

- 120 postseason teams (52 NCAA, 47 NIT, 11 CBI, 10 CIT)
- One National Championship title game appearance
- Three Final Four teams
- Seven Elite Eight NCAA Tournament teams

- One NIT Champion and five NIT semifinalists
- Inaugural CBI Champion
- One CIT Champion

#### Women's Basketball

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

#### Baseball

- 63 NCAA appearances
- Six College World Series appearances (2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2001)
- 14 Super Regional appearances
- Has produced at least four NCAA teams in nine of the past 14 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 1,900 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 20 years, nearly 30,000 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, ESPN and American Sports Network (ASN). The multi-tiered selection process that is rooted in partnering with all four 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.



## **Middle Tennessee State University**

iddle Tennessee State University, situated at the geographic center of the state in Murfreesboro, is the oldest and largest institution in the Tennessee Board of Regents system. With an enrollment of about 24,000 students, it also the No. 1 producer of graduates in the TBR system; the second-largest producer of graduates in the state among public universities; and the most efficient producer of graduates among the state's public universities, helping more students reach their educational goals with fewer tax dollars.

MTSU houses a wide variety of nationally recognized academic degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels. The University is composed of eight undergraduate colleges offering more than 40 departments and more than 140 degree programs. The College of Graduate Studies offers more than 100 degree programs.

MTSU has received regional, national, and international acclaim for a variety of programs and activities including distinctive offerings in programs as diverse as recording industry management, horse science, aerospace, and a first-of-its-kind academic program in concrete industry management. Many more traditional programs—agricultural science, nursing, accounting, and education, among others—are considered to be among the best in the region.

On September 11, 1911, Middle Tennessee State Normal School opened as one of three teacher preparatory schools in the state of Tennessee. Today, MTSU is a Carnegie Doctoral Research Intensive University that occupies more than 1,000 acres in Rutherford County including a 500-acre main campus, an agricultural campus, an aerospace facility at the Murfreesboro Airport, and the Miller Horse Science Center.

A 250,000-square-foot, \$147 million Science Building, opened in the fall of 2014, represents one of the most significant investments made by the state of Tennessee toward the enhancement of science and technology education.

MTSU is one of just 108 colleges and universities recognized by the Chronicle of



Higher Education for producing Fulbright scholars in 2012–2013, placing it alongside universities such as Duke, Harvard, and Yale. No other Tennessee institution made the list.

For the fourth year in a row, MTSU has been named a "military-friendly institution" by G.I. Jobs magazine and received a similar designation in 2013 from Military Times. MTSU also has the state's first federal VetSuccess on Campus program.

In 2012, MTSU was the only institution of higher education in Tennessee to receive the Adult Learner Friendly Institution designation from the Coalition of Adult Learning Focused Institutions.

All 17 MTSU athletics programs met or exceeded multiyear Academic Progress Rate (APR) requirements. On July 1, 2013, MTSU moved to Conference USA from the Sun Belt Conference, in which it had won nine All-Sports trophies and more than 50 conference championships. MTSU athletics will benefit greatly from C-USA's television partnerships, increased bowl tie-ins, and larger national footprint.

#### "I am True Blue"

MTSU is a community committed to learning, growth, and service. We hold these values dear, and there's a simple phrase that conveys them: "I am True Blue."

New students at convocation take the True Blue Pledge. It underscores our core values of honesty and integrity; respect for diversity; engagement in the community; and committing to reason, not violence. Each time these words are repeated, they express not only the ideals the University wishes to share with its students but also our devotion to student success.

True Blue stands for the very best of what Blue Raiders expect from one another, as well as our commitment to student success.



## **Dr. Sidney A. McPhee**

#### President

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee, the tenth president of Middle Tennessee State University, has presided over one of the most remarkable periods

of growth and progress in the institution's century-plus of service.

MTSU is the oldest and largest institution in the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and the No. 1 producer of graduates for the Greater Nashville economy. It is also the top destination for transfer students in Tennessee and, in November 2015, will be home to the state's largest academic support center dedicated to veterans and military families.

McPhee's presidency, which began in 2001, also

coincided with more than \$700 million in improvements in academic, athletic and campus facilities – either proposed, under construction or completed. MTSU's \$147-million Science Building, a 250,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art teaching and research facility, opened in Fall 2014.

Since his arrival, MTSU has been successful in raising admission standards, which resulted in an increase in enrollment of high-ability students. McPhee has overseen the addition of almost 30 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, two colleges (Behavioral and Health Sciences and University College) and 12 institutes and centers.

McPhee's ambitious Quest for Student Success, which was launched two years ago, is reshaping MTSU's approaches to teaching and learning. It has gained national attention for its innovation in improving MTSU's student retention and graduation rates. It aligns with Gov. Bill Haslam's Drive to 55, which aims to increase the percentage of Tennesseans with post-secondary degrees or certificates.

Prior to his arrival at MTSU, McPhee was executive vice chancellor for TBR. In addition, he served as the TBR's chief academic officer and interim chancellor. McPhee also served in various senior-level administrative capacities at several major universities, including Oklahoma State University, University of Louisville and University of Memphis.

McPhee earned his bachelor's degree (with highest honors, summa cum laude) from Prairie View A&M University in Texas; a master's degree from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.; and a doctorate in applied behavioral studies in education from Oklahoma State University.

In November 2013, he was inducted into the hall of fame for R.M. Bailey Senior High School, his alma mater in The Bahamas.

McPhee is married to Elizabeth McPhee, and they have two adult children, Seneca and Sidney-Anthony.

## **Chris Massaro**

#### **Athletic Director**

The landscape of college athletics is ever changing and that renovation also has been demonstrated at Middle Tennessee, partic-

ularly during the 10-plus years since Chris Massaro was named director of athletics on April 8, 2005.

Proving to be a true visionary, Massaro has helped revolutionize the Blue Raiders' athletic department while helping pave the way for even greater success in future years. With Massaro's leadership, that vision took a historical step on Nov. 29, 2012 when the University accepted an invitation to join Conference USA. The Blue Raiders became official members on July 1, 2013.



Massaro, who spent 20 years at South Carolina prior to arriving at Middle Tennessee, has seen record numbers in fundraising during his tenure. In 2014-15 the Blue Raider Athletic Association enjoyed annual fund contributions of more than \$2.4 million which was a 9 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. During his tenure, Massaro has also seen corporate sponsorships more than triple since his arrival.

More than \$35 million in facility upgrades and capital improvements have come under Massaro's watch, including the largest unrestricted gift in athletic department history and the most substantial gift in women's athletics history. Among the capital improvements are:

- - \$12 million Murphy Center renovation
- - \$6 million for Reese Smith Jr. Baseball Stadium renovation
- - \$5.8 million new Adams Family Tennis Complex
- - \$4 million for new Dean A. Hayes Track and Soccer Stadium

Academic enhancement has also skyrocketed under Massaro's leadership. Massaro inherited a football program with a national-low score of 812 and saw it increase to 990 (on a 1,000-point scale) in 2009. In November 2014, Middle Tennessee's student-athletes posted a Graduation Success Rate of 87 percent which set a new school record and matched that mark again in 2015.

For the last six years, all 17 of Middle Tennessee's athletic teams have earned a multi-year Academic Progress Rate (APR) of over 930. Football, men's golf, women's golf and women's basketball have each received NCAA Public Recognition Awards for being ranked in the top 10 percent of their sport.

Massaro and his wife, Cindy, have four children: Hank, Lainey, Rachel, and Ben.

12.24.2015

## **Rick Stockstill**

### Head Coach

Winning on the field, off the field and having a first-class football program from top to bottom is the goal of any University at the high-

est level of intercollegiate athletics. That is exactly what Middle Tennessee has as a result of the leadership of Head Coach Rick Stockstill.

In his 10th season at the helm of the Blue Raiders and among the longest tenured coaches in the country, Stockstill has captured a league title, won the 2009 New Orleans Bowl, made five bowl appearances, been bowl eligible seven times, earned two public recognition awards from the NCAA for APR success, appeared on television 92 times, produced six of the top eight crowds in Floyd Stadium history, and had back-to-back eight-win seasons for the first time in 21 years.

Under his watch, the Blue Raiders have also produced five all-American's, including one academic all-American, three defensive players of the year, and two bowl game MVP's. Middle Tennessee also became the first Sun Belt team to win 10 games in a season, and set the Floyd Stadium single-game attendance record. He also has four

NFL Draft picks with Erik Walden in 2008, Chris McCoy in 2010, Rod Issac in 2011, and Jimmy Staten in 2014.

The veteran leader put the Blue Raiders in the 2015 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl after going an impressive 4-0 in the month of November behind a record-setting offense and a bend-but-don't break opportunistic defense. The Blue Raiders produced 13 players honored by Conference USA for post-season awards, including four first team members, four on the All-Freshman Team and the league's Freshman of the Year in Brent Stockstill.

Stockstill, who owns upsets over Maryland (2008 and 2009) and

Georgia Tech (2012), has also shown a commitment to academics during his tenure. The Blue Raiders have gone from an APR score of 892 to a very impressive 992, the biggest increase of any program in the country. The Blue Raiders were also crowned with the Sun Belt Conference Academic Award on two occasions (2006-07, 2007-08) and earned two public recognition awards from the NCAA for APR success (2011, 2012). For his efforts, Stockstill was inducted as an honorary member into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in April 2010.

After 24 years as an assistant, Stockstill was given the chance to run his own program, and all he did was lead the Blue Raiders to a 2006 Sun Belt Conference championship, help set a new single-season attendance record, and take the program to its first postseason bowl game in the I-A era. Taking a Middle Tennessee team predicted to finish sixth in the Sun Belt during the

preseason to a league title, Stockstill ended up as the 2006 Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year and the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Coach of the Year while also garnering that honor from ESPN.com.

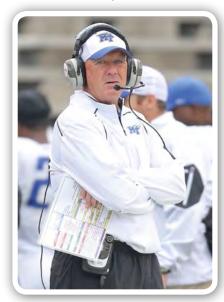
Stockstill's teams have amassed the top four tackles for loss and quarterback sack totals in school history and has produced the conference's top touchdown scorer twice. Individual players have 83 All-Conference honors, two Player of the Year Awards, four different National Player of the Week winners, and a Freshman of the Year.

### **Coaching Staff**

#### David Bibee - Safeties

Mike Polly - Special Teams Coordinator/Running Backs Tyrone Nix - Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers Steve Ellis - Recruiting Coordinator/Cornerbacks Tommy West - Defensive Line Buster Faulkner - Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Rick Mallory - Tackles/Tight Ends Geep Wade - Offensive Line Kodi Burns - Wide Receivers







### MIDDLE TENNESSEE **ALPHABETICAL PLAYER ROSTER**



64 · OL DAVID ADAMS Rolling Fork, MS





91 · DL JUSTIN AKINS Jenkinsburg, GA



17 · DE ALEXANDRO ANTOINE Port a Prince, Haiti



**11 · DE** PETER BAILEY Kissimmee, FL



38 · LB T.T. BARBER Colquitt, GA



DEREK BARNES

Clearwater, FL



89 · TE TYLER BARRON Port Orange, FL



80 · WR ED BATTIES



Fresno, TX



WILLIAM BEAIRD Nashville, TN





NICK

6 · DB

HOUSTON

BROWN

Murfreesboro, TN

CHRISTIAN

COLLIS

DESMOND

ANDERSON

Pacolet, SC





**7 · WR JOCQUEZ BRUCE** 

Knoxville, TN





36 · S RICHIE BISACCIA Tampa, FL



MATT BONADIES Buford, GA





CHANDLER BREWER Florence, AL



JOSH CHESTER



**16 · CB** 

**KHALIL BROOKS** 

Atlanta, GA

87 · PK **CODY CLARK** Watkinsville, GA





23 · S

**CHRIS BROWN** 

Donalsonville, GA

10 · WR TY CLEMONS Powder Springs, GA



FB **KYLE COOMBES** Mt. Juliet, TN





Kentwood, LA



2 · S ALEX DALE Memphis, TN



JOE DEFATTA



Franklin, TN

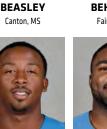


DUCKSWORTH Taylorsville, MS





Opelika, AL

























**KEVIN BYARD** 





Chattanooga, TN







Warner Robins, GA









53 · LS WILLIAM EADS Hoover, AL



72 · OL **JOSH FANNIN** Hoschton, GA



97 · DT RAYNARD FELTON Jacksonville, FL

79 · OL **DEANDRE FORD** Chicago, IL



**13 · WR** DEMETRIUS FRAZIER Brunswick, GA



3.5 **JORDAN FROST- RUBEN GARNETT** DIXON Plainfield, NJ



Hepzibah, GA

44 · RB

J'VONTE HERROD

Kennesaw, GA

27 · RB

11 · OB NOLAN GENOVESE Nashville, TN



21 · CB JAMARCUS HOWARD Tuscaloosa, AL



CB

Nashville, TN



45 · FB COREY





MCCARRON Mobile, AL



43 · P TREVOR OWENS Lebanon, VA









85 · DE

DARRIUS

LIGGINS

Oxford, MS



Covington, GA





**JAYLEN HUNTER** Jacksonville, FL

**48 · TE** 

MAX LINDER

Ocala, FL







10 · S

JUSTIN LLOYD

Murfreesboro, TN

Lenoir City, TN



55 · OL

CARLOS

JOHNSON

Nashville, TN

24 · LB CAVELLIS LUCKETT McComb, MS



93 · DT MALIK MANCIEL Detroit, MI



32 · RB **I'TAVIUS** MATHERS

Murfreesboro, TN





99 · DT





92 · DT PATRICK MCNEIL CHRIS MELTON Mobile, AL



40 · LB Leesburg, GA



47 · CB MICHAEL MINTER Atlanta, GA



**7 · CB** JOVANTE MOFFATT Union City, TN



50 · OL JESSE MOFFITT Pleasant View, TN



Murfreesboro, TN

58 · OL DANIEL MORRIS







59 · DE CHRIS HALE Atlanta, GA

88 · TE 33 · LB LUCAS

**MYLES HARGES** HAMILTON Grenada, MS

30 · LB **DARIUS HARRIS** 

Horn Lake, MS









Dallas, TX



28 · CB

JAHMAL JONES

MICHAEL KEE



Naples, FL





**ROBERT KELLEY** 





6·RB **JORDAN PARKER** Lawrenceville, GA



**41 · FB** CHASE PENNYCUFF Murfreesboro, TN



Fairburn, GA

**TERRY PETTIS** 



95 · DE **TRAE PHILPOTS** Fairburn, GA



WR TJ PLYMOUTH Munford, TN



29 · CB DARRYL RANDOLPH Pensacola, FL

56 · OL

MAUROUICE

SHAKIR

Los Angeles, CA





94 · DE TYSHUN RENDER Newnan, GA

**4 · CB** 

JARED

SINGLETARY

Green Cove Springs, FL

12 · QB

BRENT

STOCKSTILL

Murfreesboro, TN

**STEVEN RHODES** Antioch, TN

**18 · WR** 

JEVONTEY SMITH

Greensboro, AL



39 · LB JAMES ROBERSON Atlanta, GA







65 · OL

HUNTER

ROGERS

Safford, AL

Summerville, SC



57 · OL Knoxville, TN



**D.J. SANDERS** Sandersville, GA



90 · DT PATRICK STEWART Monroe, GA



78 · OL

ADAM STICKEL

Kissimmee, FL

TRISTAN WALKER

82 · FB

WILLIAM WILSON

Memphis, TN



VERNON WALKER



26 · RB

KAMANI THOMAS

Dallas, GA

42 · S **XAVIER WALKER** Duluth, GA





70 · OL CONNER TRENT Church Hill, TN



1·RB SHANE TUCKER Memphis, TN





66 · OL

DANIEL



9·WR **ISIAH UPTON** Nashville, TN



**16 · OB IOHN URZUA** Suwanee, GA

8 · LB TREY WAFFORD Fayetteville, GA





Orlando, FL



QUAY WATT Abbeville, SC



52 · DE YKEEM WELLS Buena Vista, GA



**TERELLE WEST** Pinson, AL



17 · FB JORDAN WILLIS Lenoir City, TN



60 · DE **AZAR WILSON** Powder Springs, GA







16 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl









### **NUMERICAL ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Shane Tucker	RB	6-0	204	Jr.
2	Austin Grammer	QB	6-2	204	r-Jr.
2	Alex Dale	S	5-10	192	r-Jr.
3	Jordan Frost-Dixon	S	5-11	198	Sr.
4	Jared Singletary	CB	5-8	175	r-Sr.
4	Tristan Walker	WR	5-9	161	r-So.
5	Jeremiah Bryson	RB	5-8	192	r-Sr.
6	Jordan Parker	RB	6-1	214	Sr.
6	, Houston Brown	DB	5-10	200	r-Sr.
7	Jocquez Bruce	WR	5-10	162	Fr.
7	Jovante Moffatt	СВ	6-0	190	Fr.
8	Trey Wafford	LB	5-10	203	Sr.
9	Jeremy Cutrer	CB	6-2	170	Jr.
9	Isiah Upton	WR	6-0	185	Fr.
	Ty Clemons	WR	5-11	176	r-Fr.
	,	S S	-	-	r-So.
10	Justin Lloyd	-	5-11	186	
11	Nolan Genovese	QB	6-0	215	r-Sr.
11	Peter Bailey	DE	6-4	252	Jr.
12	Brent Stockstill	QB	6-0	200	r-Fr.
13	Demetrius Frazier	WR	5-10	198	r-Jr.
15	Canon Rooker	PK	5-11	173	r-So.
16	Khalil Brooks	CB	5-11	190	Fr.
16	John Urzua	QB	6-3	170	Fr.
17	Alexandro Antoine	DE	6-1	244	r-Sr.
17	Jordan Willis	FB	5-10	226	r-So.
18	Jevontey Smith	WR	6-3	205	r-So.
19	Derek Barnes	WR	6-0	180	r-Jr.
20	Kevin Byard	S	5-11	215	r-Sr.
21	Jamarcus Howard	СВ	6-0	182	Sr.
22	Quay Watt	S	6-0	204	r-Sr.
23	Chris Brown	S	6-1	178	r-Jr.
24	Cavellis Luckett	LB	6-0	241	Sr.
24	Michael Kee	WR	5-11	177	r-Sr.
25	Desmond Anderson	RB	5-10	174	Fr.
26	Kamani Thomas	RB	5-9	198	r-So.
20	Ruben Garnett	RB	5-9	175	Fr.
27 28	Dontavious Heard	СВ	6-1	196	Jr.
29	Darryl Randolph	CB	5-11	184	r-Fr.
30	Darius Harris	LB	6-2	224	r-Fr.
31	D.J. Sanders	LB	6-0	213	So.
32	l'Tavius Mathers	RB	5-11	195	r-Jr.
33	Myles Harges	LB	6-2	228	Jr.
34	Anfornee Stewart	LB	6-1	215	r-Jr.
35	Terelle West	WR	5-10	185	Fr.
36	Richie Bisaccia	S	6-0	193	r-So.
37	Patrick Smith	WR	6-0	180	r-Fr.
37	William BeAird	S	5-11	200	r-Jr.
37	Nick Beasley	S	6-2	198	r-So.
38	T.T. Barber	LB	6-1	233	Sr.
38	Jim Cardwell	WR	5-9	170	r-Fr.
39	James Roberson	LB	6-0	218	r-Sr.
40	Chris Melton	LB	6-1	205	Fr.
41	Chase Pennycuff	FB	6-0	268	r-Sr.
42	Xavier Walker	S	6-4	208	Sr.
43	Jahmal Jones	DE	6-3	238	r-So.
40	janniai junes	UE	0-3	200	1-20.

Trevor Owens				
<del>-</del>	Р	6-2	205	Fr.
J'Vonte Herrod	RB	5-11	231	r-Fr.
Corey McCarron	FB	6-2	245	r-Sr.
Vernon Walker	S	6-0	175	Fr.
Michael Minter	CB	6-0	184	r-So.
Max Linder	TE	6-3	238	r-Fr.
Steven Rhodes	DE	6-3	248	Jr.
Jesse Moffitt	OL	6-2	284	r-Fr.
Shaquille Huff	DT	6-1	318	r-Jr.
Ykeem Wells	DE	6-0	258	r-Sr.
William Eads	LS	6-0	217	r-Jr.
Jaylen Hunter	OL	6-4	296	r-Sr.
Carlos Johnson	OL	6-3	300	r-Fr.
	OL	6-3	322	r-Jr.
Ionathan Roth	OL	6-5	280	Fr.
Daniel Morris	OL	6-2	229	r-So.
Chris Hale	DE	6-4	266	r-Jr.
Azar Wilson	DE	6-0	250	r-Jr.
Josh Chester	OL	6-3	300	r-Jr.
David Adams	OL	6-3	294	r-Jr.
Hunter Rogers	OL	6-7	328	r-Jr.
Daniel Stephens	OL	6-2	304	Jr.
Joe Defatta	РК	5-7	166	r-Fr.
Conner Trent	OL	6-5	306	r-So.
Josh Fannin	OL	6-3	310	Fr.
Chandler Brewer	OL	6-6	310	Fr.
Robert Behanan	OL	6-3	285	r-Fr.
Darius Johnson	OL	6-3	305	r-Sr.
Adam Stickel	OL	6-5	308	So.
DeAndre Ford	OL	6-6	378	Fr.
Ed Batties	WR	6-0	198	r-Sr.
Christian Collis	WR	6-0	211	r-Sr.
William Wilson	FB	6-2	242	r-Sr.
Sean Smith	TE	6-7	243	r-Fr.
Terry Pettis	TE	6-5	228	r-Jr.
Darrius Liggins	DE	6-4	239	r-Fr.
Rod Ducksworth	WR	6-0	167	Jr.
Cody Clark	РК	6-1	177	r-Jr.
		5-9		r-Fr.
Lucas Hamilton	TE			r-So.
Tyler Barron	TE	6-4	234	r-Sr.
Patrick Stewart	DT	6-2		r-Fr.
		6-4		r-So.
	DT	6-1		r-Sr.
Malik Manciel	DT	6-3		Fr.
	DE			Fr.
	DE	6-4	240	Fr.
•	DT	6-4	278	r-Jr.
•	DT			r-Jr.
	DT			Jr.
Matt Bonadies	P	6-1	195	Fr.
	Vernon WalkerMichael MinterMax LinderSteven RhodesJesse MoffittShaquille HuffYkeem WellsWilliam EadsJaylen HunterCarlos JohnsonMaurquice ShakirJonathan RothDaniel MorrisChris HaleAzar WilsonJosh ChesterDavid AdamsHunter RogersDaniel StephensJoe DefattaConner TrentJosh FanninChadler BrewerRobert BehananDarius JohnsonAdam StickelDeAndre FordEd BattiesChristian CollisWilliam WilsonSean SmithTerry PettisDarius LigginsRod DucksworthCody ClarkRichie JamesLucas HamiltonTyler BarronPatrick StewartJustin AkinsPatrick McNeilMalik MancielTyshun RenderTrae PhilpotsRaynard FeltonDerious BennettJimal McBride	Vernon WalkerSMichael MinterCBMax LinderTESteven RhodesDEJesse MoffittOLShaquille HuffDTYkeem WellsDEWilliam EadsLSJaylen HunterOLCarlos JohnsonOLMaurquice ShakirOLJonathan RothOLDaniel MorrisOLDavid AdamsOLJosh ChesterOLDavid AdamsOLJoe DefattaPKConner TrentOLJosh FanninOLChandler BrewerOLDarius JohnsonOLAdam StickelOLDeAndre FordOLEd BattiesWRChristian CollisWRWilliam WilsonFBSean SmithTETerry PettisTEDarrius LigginsDERod DucksworthWRCody ClarkPKRichie JamesWRLucas HamiltonTETyler BarronTEPatrick McNeilDTMalik MancielDTTyshun RenderDERaynard FeltonDTJimal McBrideDTJimal McBrideDT	Vernon WalkerS6-0Michael MinterCB6-0Max LinderTE6-3Steven RhodesDE6-3Jesse MoffittOL6-2Shaquille HuffDT6-1Ykeem WellsDE6-0William EadsLS6-0Jaylen HunterOL6-3Garlos JohnsonOL6-3Jonathan RothOL6-5Daniel MorrisOL6-3Joathan RothDE6-0Josh ChesterOL6-3David AdamsOL6-3David AdamsOL6-3Joe DefattaPK5-7Conner TrentOL6-5Josh FanninOL6-3Obert BehensOL6-6Robert BehananOL6-3Darius JohnsonOL6-3Darius JohnsonOL6-3Darius JohnsonOL6-3Darius JohnsonOL6-5DeAndre FordOL6-6Ed BattiesWR6-0William WilsonFB6-2Sean SmithTE6-5Darrius LigginsDE6-4Rod DucksworthWR6-0Cody ClarkPK6-1Patrick StewartDT6-3Justin AkinsDL6-4Patrick StewartDT6-3Tyler BarronTE6-4Patrick McNeilDT6-3Tyler BarronTE6-4<	Vernon Walker         S         6-0         175           Michael Minter         CB         6-0         184           Max Linder         TE         6-3         238           Steven Rhodes         DE         6-3         248           Jesse Moffitt         OL         6-2         284           Shaquille Huff         DT         6-1         318           Ykeem Wells         DE         6-0         258           William Eads         LS         6-0         217           Jaylen Hunter         OL         6-4         296           Carlos Johnson         OL         6-3         300           Maurquice Shakir         OL         6-3         322           Jonathan Roth         OL         6-3         300           Daniel Morris         OL         6-3         300           David Adams         OL         6-3         294           Hunter Rogers         OL         6-7         328           Daniel Stephens         OL         6-3         310           Chandler Brewer         OL         6-5         306           Josh Fannin         OL         6-5         308           DeAndre



QВ	12	Brent Stockstill	6-0	200	r-Fr.
	2	Austin Grammer	6-2	204	r-Jr.
RB	1	Shane Tucker	6-0	204	Jr.
	6	Jordan Parker	6-1	214	Sr.
	26	Kamani Thomas	5-9	198	r-So.
FB	41	Chase Pennycuff	6-0	268	r-Sr.
	45	Corey McCarron	6-2	245	r-Sr.
LT	55	Carlos Johnson	6-3	300	r-Fr.
	74	Robert Behanan	6-3	285	r-Fr.
LG	54	Jaylen Hunter	6-4	296	r-Sr.
	63	Josh Chester	6-3	300	r-Jr.
С	66	Daniel Stephens	6-2	304	Jr.
	63	Josh Chester	6-3	300	r-Jr.
RG	73	Chandler Brewer	6-6	310	Fr.
	70	Conner Trent	6-5	306	r-So.
RT	56	Maurquice Shakir	6-3	322	r-Jr.
	65	Hunter Rogers	6-7	328	r-Jr.
WR (X)	80	Ed Batties	6-0	198	r-Sr.
	19	Derek Barnes	6-0	180	r-Jr.
WR (H)	87	Richie James	5-9	171	r-Fr.
	13	Demetrius Frazier	5-10	198	r-Jr.
WR (Z)	81	Christian Collis	6-0	211	r-Sr.
	86	Rod Ducksworth	6-0	167	Jr.
TE	84	Terry Pettis	6-5	228	r-Jr.
	88	Lucas Hamilton	6-5	262	r-So.

#### DEFENSE

LE	49	Steven Rhodes	6-3	248	Jr.
	11	Peter Bailey	6-4	252	Jr.
LT	92	Patrick McNeil	6-1	318	r-Sr.
	99	Jimal McBride	6-2	319	Jr.
RT	51	Shaquille Huff	6-1	318	r-Jr.
	97	Raynard Felton	6-4	278	r-Jr.
RE	59	Chris Hale	6-4	266	r-Jr.
	91	Justin Akins	6-4	257	r-So.
SLB	8	Trey Wafford	5-10	203	Sr.
	31	DJ Sanders	6-0	213	So.
MLB	24	Cavellis Luckett	6-0	241	Sr.
	30	Darius Harris	6-2	224	r-Fr.
WLB	38	T.T. Barber	6-1	233	Sr.
	39	James Roberson	6-0	218	r-Sr.
RC	21	Jamarcus Howard	6-0	182	Sr.
	9	Jeremy Cutrer	6-2	170	Jr.
FS	20	Kevin Byard	5-11	215	r-Sr.
	2	Alex Dale	5-10	192	r-Jr.
SS	42	Xavier Walker	6-4	208	Sr.
	22	Quay Watt	6-0	204	r-Sr.
LC	47	Mike Minter	6-0	184	r-So.
	28	Dontavious Heard	6-1	196	Jr.

#### **SPECIALISTS**

KR	Richie James Ed Batties	5-9 6-0	171 198	
PR	 Ed Batties Richie James	6-0 5-9	198 171	
Ρ	 Matt Bonadies Trevor Owens	6-1 6-2	195 205	Fr. Fr.
РК	Cody Clark Canon Rooker		177 173	

KO		Canon Rooker Cody Clark		173 177	r-So. r-Jr.
LS	53	William Eads	6-0	217	r-Jr.
Н		Jim Cardwell Austin Grammer		170 204	

#### OFFENSE

WR (X)	84	Corey Davis	6-3	205	Jr.
	15	Carrington Thompson	6-2	162	r-Jr.
Super	8	Daniel Braverman	5-10	177	r-Jr.
	86	Keishawn Watson	6-0	185	Fr.
	70	Willie Beavers	6-5	309	Sr.
	78	Elliot Jordan	6-7	279	r-Fr.
	65	Jackson Day	6-3	292	Jr.
	63	Kristof Ifkovits	6-4	300	r-So.
	66	Wesley French	6-5	300	Fr.
	52	John Keenoy	6-2	282	Fr.
	65	Jackson Day	6-3	292	Jr.
	72	Taylor Moton	6-5	316	r-Jr.
	75	Zach Novoselsky	6-5	292	So.
	77	Chukwuma Okorafor	6-5	275	So.
	64	Jon Jackson	6-3	307	Sr.
	85	Donnie Ernsberger	6-2	246	So.
	36	Jeremiah Mullinax	6-5	245	Sr.
WR (Z)	9	Kendrick Roberts	6-3	209	Sr.
	83	Michael Henry	5-10	186	Jr.
<b>y</b> -	11	Zach Terrell	6-4	209	r-Jr.
	13	Tom Flacco	6-1	185	Fr.
	16	Jon Wassink	6-3	195	Fr.
RB OR I	31	Jarvion Franklin	6-0	220	So.
	32	Jamauri Bogan	5-7	174	r-Fr.
	5	Levante Bellamy	5-11	185	Fr.

#### DEFENSE

LE OR	98 5 53	Jarrell McKinney Andre Turner Nathan Braster	6-4 6-4 6-5	241 250 258	Sr. r-So. So.
зт Or	8 15 50	Cleveland Smith Jamar Simpkins Daniel Jackson	6-1 6-2 6-3	262 279 250	Sr. Jr. Fr.
NT OR	68 91 55	David Curle Ken Finley Nick Matich	6-2 6-3 6-2	291 283 282	Jr. Fr. So.
RE	12	Keion Adams	6-3	230	Jr.
	33	Eric Assoua	6-2	230	Fr.
SAM	11	Austin Lewis	6-3	230	r-So.
	4	Edward Rolle	6-2	204	Jr.
MIKE OR	40 42 10	Grant Depalma Jason Sylva Robert Spillane	5-9 6-2 6-2	218 230 235	r-Sr. r-Jr. So.
WILL	20	Caleb Bailey	6-0	236	r-So.
	4	Edward Rolle	6-2	204	Jr.
СВ	14	Darius Phillips	5-10	184	r-So.
	18	Sam Beal	6-2	195	Fr.
FS	6	Asantay Brown	6-0	198	So.
	17	Justin Ferguson	6-2	192	r-Jr
SS	1	Rontavious Atkins	6-0	207	r-Sr.
	22	Justin Sears-Motley	5-10	194	Jr.
СВ	7	Ronald Zamort	5-10	174	Sr.
	24	Ian Thomas	6-0	198	r-Jr.

#### **SPECIALISTS**

КО	Derrick Mitchell Andew Haldeman	6-2 5-10	203 180	r-Fr. Sr.
РК	 Anderw Haldeman Derrick Mitchell	5-10 6-2	180 203	Sr. r-Fr.
Ρ	J. Schroeder Derrick Mitchell	6-0 6-2	203 203	Sr. r-Fr.
HOLD	J. Schroeder Derrick Mitchell	6-0 6-2	203 203	Sr. r-Fr.

LS	Wyatt Pfeifer Martin Diaz		239 196	
KR	Darius Phillips Jarvion Franklin w	5-10 6-0	184 220	r-So. So.
PR	Daniel Braverman Darius Phillips		177 184	

### NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Rontavious Atkins	SS	6-0	207	r-Sr.
1	Ben Dreslinski	QB	6-1	200	r-So.
2	Anton Curtis	WR	6-3	185	Fr.
2	Justin Tranquil	DB	5-11	185	Fr.
3	Fabian Johnson	RB	5-7	198	Jr.
4	Edward Rolle	LB	6-2	204	Jr.
5	Andre Turner	DE	6-4	250	r-So.
5	LeVante Bellamy	RB	5-11	185	Fr.
6	Asantay Brown	S	6-0	198	So.
6	Jimmy Kepouros	WR	5-10	170	Fr.
7	Ronald Zamort	СВ	5-10	174	Sr.
8	Daniel Braverman	WR	5-10	177	r-Jr.
8	Cleveland Smith	DL	6-1	262	Sr.
9	Kendrick Roberts	WR	6-3	209	Sr.
10	Robert Spillane	LB	6-2	235	So.
11	Zach Terrell	QB	6-1	204	r-Jr.
11	Austin Lewis	LB	6-3	230	r-So.
12	Keion Adams	DE	6-2	261	Jr.
13	Tom Flacco	QB	6-1	185	Fr.
13	JaKevin Jackson	LB	6-2	221	jr.
14	Darius Phillips	CB	5-10	184	r-So.
15	Jamar Simpkins	DL	6-2	279	Jr.
15	Carrington Thompson	WR	6-2	162	r-Jr.
16	John Wassink	QB	6-3	195	Fr.
17	Justin Ferguson	SS	6-2	192	r-jr.
18	Sam Beal	DB	6-2	195	Fr.
19	Kadeem Goulborne	WR	6-3	191	Fr.
20		LB	6-0	236	r-So.
20	Caleb Bailey Jeffery Johnson	S	5-8	195	r-50.
21	Davon Tucker	RB	5-0	205	Fr.
				194	
22	Justin Sears-Motley Austin Guido	CB RB	5-10 5-11	202	Jr.
23			-	-	Jr.
24	lan Thomas	DB	6-0	198	r-Jr.
25	Obbie Jackson	DB	5-11	180	Fr.
25	Trevor Sweeney	RB	5-8	175	Jr.
26	Davontae Ginwright	DB	6-3	195	Fr.
27	Paul Engram	LB	6-1	235	Fr.
28	Jonathan Russell	RB	5-11	217	Sr.
29	Antione Stone	DB	5-11	179	r-Fr.
30	Malik Rucker	DB	6-0	180	Jr.
31	Jarvion Franklin	RB	6-0	220	So.
32	Jamauri Bogan	RB	5-7	174	r-Fr.
33	Eric Assuoa	DL	6-2	230	Fr.
33	Leo Ekwoge	RB	5-11	210	r-Fr.
34	Alex Grace	LB	6-2	210	Fr.
36	DeShawn Foster	DB	5-11	224	Fr.
36	Jeremiah Mullinax	TE	6-5	245	Sr.
37	J. Schroeder	Р	6-0	203	Sr.
38	Vernon Coakley	RB	5-7	194	r-Fr.
39	Derrick Mitchell	Р	6-2	203	r-Fr.
40	Grant DePalma	LB	5-9	218	Sr.
42	Jason Sylva	LB	6-2	230	r-Jr.
43	Wyatt Pfeifer	LS	6-2	239	So.
45	Andrew Haldeman	К	5-10	180	Sr.
	Anurew Halueman	IN	5 10	100	51.

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
47	Blaze Watson	К	6-2	180	Fr.
48	Parker Underwood	TE	6-4	240	Fr.
50	Daniel Jackson	DL	6-3	250	Fr.
51	Taylor Reaume	LB	6-1	215	Fr.
52	John Keenoy	OL	6-2	282	Fr.
53	Nathan Braster	DL	6-5	258	So.
55	Nick Matich	DL	6-2	282	So.
56	Kasey Carson	LB	5-11	198	r-Fr.
58	Antonio Balabani	DL	6-3	235	Fr.
59	Luke Juriga	OL	6-4	270	Fr.
61	Joe Boggan	DL	5-11	267	r-Fr.
62	Alex Keys	OL	6'1	295	Fr.
63	Kristof Ifkovits	OL	6-4	300	r-So.
64	John Jackson	OL	6-3	307	Sr.
65	Jackson Day	OL	6-3	292	Jr.
66	Wesley French	OL	6-5	300	Fr.
67	Curtis Doyle	OL	6-5	308	r-Fr.
68	David Curle	DL	6-2	291	Jr.
69	Cory Carr	OL	6-1	270	r-Fr.
70	Willie Beavers	OL	6-5	309	Sr.
71	Jonathan Todd	OL	6-7	330	Fr.
72	Taylor Moton	OL	6-5	316	r-Jr.
75	Zach Novoselsky	OL	6-5	292	r-Fr.
77	Chukwuma Okorafor	OL	6-6	308	So.
78	Elliot Jordan	OL	6-7	279	r-Fr.
79	James Kristof	00	6-3	320	Sr.
80	Jake Spinek	WR	5-10	180	So.
81	Alec Moulton	WR	6-1	196	Jr.
83	Michael Henry	WR	5-10	186	Jr.
84	Corey Davis	WR	6-2	205	Jr.
85	Donnie Ernsberger	TE	6-2	246	So.
86	Keishawn Watson	WR	6-0	185	Fr.
87	Giovanni Ricci	WR	6-4	200	Fr.
88	Lucas Bezerra	TE	6-4	240	So.
90	Evan Winston	DT	6-3	300	Jr.
91	Ken Finley	DL	6-3	283	Fr.
93	Austin Regan	К	6-1	190	r-Fr.
94	Jack McIntee	DE	6-2	248	Jr.
95	Odell Miller	TE	6-3	250	r-Fr.
96	Jason Evans	К	5-10	178	r-Fr.
98	Jarrell McKinney	DE	6-4	241	Sr.
99	Martin Diaz	LS	5-10	196	r-Fr.



## WESTERN MICHIGAN **ALPHABETICAL PLAYER ROSTER**



**KEION ADAMS** Salisbury, N.C.



12 · DE







20 · LB CALEB BAILEY Romeoville, III.



58 · DL



ANTONIO BALABANI Macomb, Mich.







LEVANTE BELLAMY Indianapolis, Ind.



88 · TE Troy, Mich.



32 · RB LUCAS BEZERRA JAMAURI BOGAN Union, N.J.



ATKINS

Pahokee, Fla

**IOE BOGGAN** Kalamazoo, Mich.



53 · DL NATHAN BRASTER Fort Wayne, Ind.



8 · WR DANIEL BRAVERMAN Miramar, Fla.





6 · S ASANTAY BROWN Muskegon, Mich.



**CORY CARR** 

Portage, Mich.

WILLIE BEAVERS

Lathrup Village, Mich.

56 · LB

**KASEY CARSON** Battle Creek, Mich.



46 · LB LUCAS CHEROCCI Rochester Hills, Mich.



38 · RB VERNON COAKLEY

1.0B

**BEN DRESLINSKI** 

Manchester, Mich.



Shelby Township, Mich.



ANTON CURTIS Grosse Point, Mich.





Wheaton, III.



65 · OL **JACKSON DAY** Granger, Ind.





DEPALMA



99 · LS MARTIN DIAZ Miami, Fla.



91 · DL **KEN FINLEY** Muskegon, Mich.



PAUL ENGRAM Detroit, Mich.













17 · SS

IUSTIN

FERGUSON

Pembroke Pines, Fla.







67 · OL

**CURTIS DOYLE** 

Alma, Mich.

68 · DL DAVID CURLE

33 · RB

LEO EKWOGE

Olney, Md.

Kalamazoo, Mich.





**2** · WR

85 · TE

DONNIE

ERNSBERGER

Battle Creek, Mich.







**COREY DAVIS** 





13 · OB TOM FLACCO Voorhees, N.J.



DESHAWN FOSTER Detroit, Mich.



JARVION

FRANKLIN

Tinley Park, III.

66 · OL WESLEY FRENCH Benton Harbor, Mich.



26 · DB DAVONTAE GINWRIGHT Southfield, Mich.



**19 · WR** KADEEM GOULBORNE Weston, Fla.



ALEX GRACE

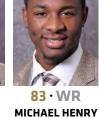
Saginaw, Mich.



23 · RB **AUSTIN GUIDO** Naperville, III.



45 · K ANDREW HALDEMAN Ferndale, Mich.



Flint, Mich.



50 · DL KRISTOF DANIEL JACKSON IFKOVITS Chicago, III.

13 · LB JAKEVIN JACKSON



52 · OL

6·WR JIMMY **KEPOUROS** 

Lemont, III.





62 · OL ALEX KEYS Highlands Ranch, Colo. **OBBIE JACKSON** West Bloomfield, Mich.

25 · DB



3·RB

FABIAN

JOHNSON

Miami, Fla.

11 · LB **AUSTIN LEWIS** Terre Haute, Ind.



21 · S

JEFFERY

JOHNSON

Pontiac, Mich.

55 · DL NICK MATICH Clarkston, Mich.

75 · OL

ZACH

Lincolnshire. III.



78 · OL

ELLIOT JORDAN

Kentwood, Mich.

**98 · DE JARRELL** MCKINNEY Detroit, Mich.





95 · TE **ODELL MILLER** Kalamazoo, Mich.

39 · P DERRICK MITCHELL Paw Paw, Mich.





72 · OL TAYLOR MOTON Okemos, Mich.



79 · OG

JAMES KRISTOF

Lake Barrington, III.

81 · WR ALEC MOULTON Midland, Mich.



36 · TE **IEREMIAH** MULLINAX Lincoln Park, Mich.



KENDRICK ROBERTS Flint. Mich.



NOVOSELSKY



Southfield. Mich.



43 · LS WYATT PFEIFER Delaware, Ohio



14 · CB DARIUS PHILLIPS



Dearborn Heights, Mich.



51 · LB TAYLOR REAUME Saginaw, Mich.



93 · K **AUSTIN REGAN** New Lenox, III.





87 · WR **GIOVANNI RICCI** Loveland, Ohio







Three Rivers, Mich.









30 · DB MALIK RUCKER Miami, Fla.



JONATHAN

RUSSELL

Midland, Mich.

37 · P J. SCHROEDER Columbus, Ohio



22 · CB JUSTIN SEARS-MOTLEY Virginia Beach, Va.



15 · DL JAMAR SIMPKINS Miami, Fla.



CLEVELAND

SMITH

Miami, Fla.



10 · LB ROBERT SPILLANE Oak Park, III.

80 · WR **JAKE SPINEK** Troy, Mich.



TREVOR SWEENEY Mattawan, Mich.



ANTIONE STONE Bedford, Ohio

42 · LB **JASON SYLVA** 

Franklin, Mass.



11 · OB ZACH TERRELL Fort Wayne, Ind.



IAN THOMAS Reistertown, Md.



15 · WR



Houston, Texas



71 · OL JONATHAN TODD Mokena, III.



**2 · DB** JUSTIN TRANQUIL Huntertown, Ind.



22 · RB DAVON TUCKER Somerdale, N.J.



5 · DE ANDRE TURNER Harper Woods, Mich.



**48 · TE** PARKER UNDERWOOD



**16 · QB** JOHN WASSINK Grand Rapids, Mich.



47 · K **BLAZE WATSON** 



86 · WR **KEISHAWN** WATSON Wheaton. III.



90 · DT **EVAN WINSTON** Muskegon, Mich.



7 · CB RONALD ZAMORT Delray Beach, Fla.



## P.J. Fleck

Head Coach

P.J. Fleck has established a culture of accomplishing "nevers" at Western Michigan, leading the Broncos to back-to-back bowl appearances for the first time in program history. In just his third season, Fleck has already landed back-to-back No. 1 recruiting classes in the MAC and led Western Michigan to its first share of the MAC West title since 2000, following the team's first win over a ranked opponent in school history, a 35-30 win over No. 24 Toledo in the 2015 regular season finale.

Under Fleck's tutelage, the Broncos have continued their streak of four straight MAC Freshman of the Year awards (three under Fleck) after Jamauri Bogan earned the honor this season for his 836 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns. That follows Jarvion Franklin in 2014 and Corey Davis in 2013.

Franklin earned Freshman All-American

and MAC Offensive Player of the Year honors last year rushing for over 1,550 yards, totaling 24 touchdowns. Davis is currently the leading active receiver in the FBS with 3,602 career receiving yards



and 32 career touchdowns.

Fleck, 35, is one of the youngest head coaches at the FBS level. He coached under legendary names such as Jerry Kill, Jim Tressel, Greg Schiano and Joe Novak. He is distinguished as one of two head coaches along with Jim Harbaugh that are currently in the FBS to have played and coached in the NFL. Fleck came to Western Michigan from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers where he was the wide receivers coach in 2012.

In 2014, Fleck engineered the single greatest turnaround in WMU football history, going from 1-11 to 8-5. It tied Air Force for the best turnaround in the country and was and the second-best turnaround in MAC history. For his efforts, Fleck was named MAC Coach of the Year and a semifinalist for Maxwell National Coach of the Year.

Fleck is engaged to Heather Jackson. They have four children, sons Gavin and Carter and two daughters, Paisley and Harper.

### **Coaching Staff**

Brian Callahan - OL Vinson Reynolds - DL Mike Hart - RB Tim McGarigle - LB Matt Simon - WR Rob Wenger - ST Greg Harbaugh Jr. - Offensive GA Dan Collins - Defensive GA Kirk Ciarrocca - OC Ed Pinkham - DC Bill Kenney - TE Nick Hennessey - Offensive GA





## Dr. John M. Dunn

#### President

Dr. John M. Dunn has served as the eighth president of Western Michigan University since July 1, 2007.

Prior to coming to WMU, President Dunn served as interim chancellor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Before accepting that appointment, he held the position of provost and vice chancellor at Southern Illinois.

An educator for more than 30 years, Dunn was dean of the University of Utah's College of Health from 1995 to 2002 before moving to Southern Illinois. Before that, he was at Oregon State University



for 20 years, last serving as associate provost. His earlier positions at Oregon State included assistant dean of Health and Human Performance, chair of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and director of the university's Special Physical and Motor Fitness Clinic.

Internationally known for his research and writing about the long-term health of people with disabilities, Dunn is the author of more than 50 professional papers and book chapters. He is a past president of the Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; past editor of Quest, a professional publication for kinesiology scholars; and president of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

Since moving to Michigan, President Dunn has been actively engaged with state and community efforts that focus on quality-of-life issues and enhancing economic development. He is a member of the boards of First National Bank, Southwest Michigan First and the WMU Foundation as well as the governing boards of the Greater Kalamazoo Area United Way, the Gilmore Keyboard Festival and the W.E.Upjohn Institute.

Dunn, who began his teaching at the University of Connecticut in 1972, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Illinois University in 1967 and 1969, respectively. He earned his doctoral degree from Brigham Young University in 1972.

President Dunn and his wife, Linda, reside in Kalamazoo in the president's official residence. They have three adult children, Matthew, Michael and Kerry.

## **Kathy Beauregard**

#### **Athletic Director**

Kathy Beauregard, the Director of Athletics at Western Michigan University, has been involved with the Broncos in several ca-

pacities over the course of the past 36 years and begins her 19th season as Athletic Director in 2015-16.

Beauregard is the longest serving athletic director in the Mid-American Conference and is just one of eight female Athletic Directors at the 128 Football Bowl Subdivision schools (as of 12/8/15).



During her tenure as an Athletic Director, which began in 1997-98, Western Michigan has

won 49 conference championships. Beauregard initially came to WMU in 1979 as head women's gymnastics coach. In nine seasons (1980-88), she produced two MAC title teams and was twice named the conference's coach of the year.

Under Beauregard Bronco student-athletes have posted 18 consecutive semesters of a combined overall GPA above 3.00. The student-athlete population, in any given year, ranges from between 350-400 students.

Beauregard has received several notable recognitions for her work in college athletics and the community. In 2011, she was named the Athletic Director of the Year for the Football Subdivision in the Central Region by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). In 2012, she became the first woman ever to receive the Gerald R. Ford Award from the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. In 2012, she was also the recipient of the YWCA Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2000, Beauregard received the Hope College Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma mater.

Beauregard is a native of Kalamazoo and graduate of Loy Norrix High School. She earned a bachelor's degree from Hope College in 1979 and a master's degree from Western Michigan in 1981. She and husband, Rick, have a son, Brad, who graduated from WMU and is an equipment manager on the Bronco football team while pursuing his masters. Rick retired from Kalamazoo Public Schools after 32 years of service and began Beauregard Home Services in the Fall of 2006.



## Western Michigan University

estern Michigan University is a national research university enrolling nearly 24,000 students from across the United States and 100 other countries. Founded in 1903, it is a learner-centered, discovery-driven and globally engaged public university that stands out among America's more than 4,600 higher education institutions.

### SUPERIOR, SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

WMU combines the resources of a major research university with the personal attention and friendly atmosphere often found at a small college. Taking full advantage of that combination gives students the edge they need to succeed in graduate school, the workplace and life.

Students attending WMU enjoy topnotch programs, teachers, facilities and handson learning opportunities. They expect and receive one-on-one attention from senior-level faculty members and quickly find that advisors, career specialists, mentors and tutors are within easy reach. In addition, most classes are relatively small in size and taught by the University's full-time professors.

Faculty members have been trained at the world's leading universities and bring a global perspective to the classroom. A majority of these scholars have a passion for research as well as teaching. They not only share their cutting-edge work in the classroom, but also welcome undergraduate and graduate students alike into their research laboratories and creative studios.

#### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

The University offers 147 bachelor's, 73 master's and 30 doctoral programs, along with one program leading to the specialist degree and several others that lead to graduate-level certificates. These programs are offered through seven degree-granting colleges: Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, Haworth College of Business, and Health and Human Services.

Many programs rank among the top of their kind in the country, giving WMU a na-

tional or international reputation as one of the best places to study in fields as varied as aviation flight science, creative writing, engineering management technology, evaluation, experimental atomic physics, geology, integrated supply management, jazz studies, medieval studies, occupational therapy, paper engineering, psychology, sales and business marketing, and speech pathology.

Whenever possible, instruction is designed so graduating students are ready to immediately add value to their employers. Plus, the University's business-industry partnerships and exchange agreements with organizations around the globe provide countless opportunities for students to obtain internships, conduct research, gain field experience and study abroad.

#### **DYNAMIC, DIVERSE CAMPUS**

WMU creates a learning environment that is not only challenging, but also supportive and inclusive. A wide range of resources and services focus on academic and career success, with several dedicated to meeting the special needs of such select groups as first-year students, transfer students, military veterans and youths who have aged out of the foster care system.

The University's robust academic environment is bolstered by some of the best instructional and cultural facilities in the Midwest, and ongoing improvements are reshaping the housing and dining system so it is more in tune with the needs of today's students. Meanwhile, the University consistently earns national awards for sustainability as well as praise for the beauty of its park-like campus.

Among the University's notable facilities are a world-class aviation campus; a state-ofthe-art science complex; new buildings devoted to education, chemistry and the visual arts; a high-tech home for health and human services programs; a cutting-edge engineering campus that includes the thriving Business Technology and Research Park; a large, well-equipped student recreation center; and one of the nation's top 10 theatres.

Students come to WMU from around the world, with representatives of minority groups making up 21 percent of the student body and international students 8 percent. They enjoy a vibrant campus atmosphere featuring nearly 400 student organizations, including fraternities and sororities, professional associations, faith-based groups, club sports and hobby groups. The University also provides acclaimed arts programs, a lively cultural calendar, and numerous intramural, health and fitness programs.





Providing leadership in education and diversity, the Mid-American Conference moves into its 70th year of service to our students.

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 10 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 its commitment to 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). The MAC secured a four-year contract extension with Ford Field to host the Marathon MAC Football Championship Game through the 2019 football season, anchored a six-year contract extension for the MAC Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments



JON STEINBRECHER

Commissioner

at Quicken Loans Arena through the 2023 season, and stabilized a five year contract extension through the 2020 season for the MAC Baseball Tournament at All Pro Freight Stadium in Avon, Ohio.

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 recently served as the host for the 2015 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Midwest Regional at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland and will also serve as host of the 2018 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships, also at Quicken Loans Arena. The MAC has previously hosted both the 2012 and 2014 NCAA Women's Bowling Championships under Steinbrecher's direction.

In the summer of 2014, the MAC and ESPN announced a historic 13year 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 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. Through this ESPN partnership, the MAC and CBS Sports Network announced a four-year sub-licensing agreement to expand its national coverage of football and basketball through the 2018-19 season.

During this 2015 season, the MAC tied a Conference record with seven programs receiving a bowl invitation. Bowling Green (GoDaddy Bowl), Northern Illinois (San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl), Toledo (Marmot Boca Raton Bowl), Ohio (Raycom Media Camellia Bowl), Western Michigan (Popeyes Bahamas Bowl), Akron (Famous Idaho Potato Bowl), and Central Michigan (Quick Lane Bowl) will represent the MAC in bowl games this season.

The seven MAC bowl invitations matches the Conference record for programs receiving a bowl invitation in a single season, which also occurred during the 2012 bowl season. This also marks the eighth time in MAC history to have five or more programs receive a bowl invitation (2004, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) in a single-season.

In December of 2015, the MAC named Bowling Green QB Matt Johnson as the league's Vern Smith Leadership Award Winner and MAC Offensive Player of the Year. Also receiving accolades, Akron LB Jatavis Brown earned MAC Defensive Player of the Year, Western Michigan RB Jamauri Bogan won MAC Freshman of the Year, NIU kick returner Aregeros Turner won MAC Special Teams Player of the Year Award and former Toledo head coach Matt Campbell won MAC Coach of the Year.

Four MAC students were named 2015 Academic All-Americans as selected by the College of Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Buffalo senior tight end Matt Weiser and Kent State senior safety Jordan Italiano were named Academic All-America First-Team, while Kent State junior safety Nick Cuthbert and Bowling Green sophomore punter Joe Davidson were named Academic All-America Second-Team.

In December of 2013, former Northern Illinois quarterback Jordan Lynch finished third overall in the Heisman Trophy voting, the highest ever finish by a MAC student. 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).

During the 2014 NFL Draft, Buffalo Bulls linebacker Khalil Mack was the fifth overall selection by the Oakland

Raiders. Mack's selection was the highest-ever for the Buffalo program and the second highest ever selection for a MAC student. 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 Marmot Boca Raton, Popeyes 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 Marmot 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 on the campus of Florida Atlantic University. The Popeyes 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 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.

Each football season the MAC has 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.

From two-time Super Bowl quarterback winning Ben Roethlisberger (Miami University), NFL Defensive MVP James Harrison (Kent State University), NFL Pro Bowlers (OT Joe Staley, TE Antonio Gates, WR Antonio Brown), British Open winner Ben Curtis (Kent State University), World Series winning manager Bob Brenly (Ohio University) and Olympic bobsled team member Brock Kreitzburgh (University of Toledo), the Mid-American Conference continues to excel in producing leaders in the world of athletics.

## **Championship Trophy**

The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl championship trophy, which is presented to the winning team after the bowl game each year is a unique creation that represents the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in several ways.

Designed and manufactured by Levy Marketing & Awards of Tampa, Florida in consultation with the bowl's staff, the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl championship trophy stands 30 inches tall and weighs nearly 30 pounds.

The trophy has a tan Corian base that represents the sand and a pair of turquoise portions that represent the water. The trophy is mounted on black wood with black wood 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 acrylic laser-cut palm trees adorn both sides of the pillars.

The Popeyes 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.



Bahamas Minister of Tourism Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, WKU Head Coach Jeff Brohm, Popeyes Chief Marketing Officer – U.S. Hector Munoz and Popeyes Chief Global Brand Officer Richard Lynch pose with the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl championship trophy after the 2014 game.





### **Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Advisory Committee**

Tashena Adams - Airport Operations Manager, Nassau Airport Development Co.
Brian Adderley - The Valley Boys
Paul Burke - President and Managing Director, Atlantis
Bill Coteron - VP/GM Conference Services, Atlantis
Ed Fields - Senior Vice President of Public Relations, Atlantis
David Hazarian - Regional Security Officer, United States Embassy
Hon. Dr. Daniel Johnson - Bahamas Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture
Mark Knowles - Three-time tennis Grand Slam doubles champion
Alexandra Maillis Lynch - President, Ranfurly Homes for Children
Hector Muñoz - Chief Marketing Officer - U.S., Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
Anton Sealy - Deputy Chairman, National Sports Authority
Alfred Sears, Esq. - Attorney, Queen's Counsel
Terry Tsavoussis - Aetos Holdings
Karla Wells-Lisgaris - Caribbean Bottling Co.
Hon. Obediah H. Wilchcombe, MP - Bahamas Minister of Tourism



## 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.

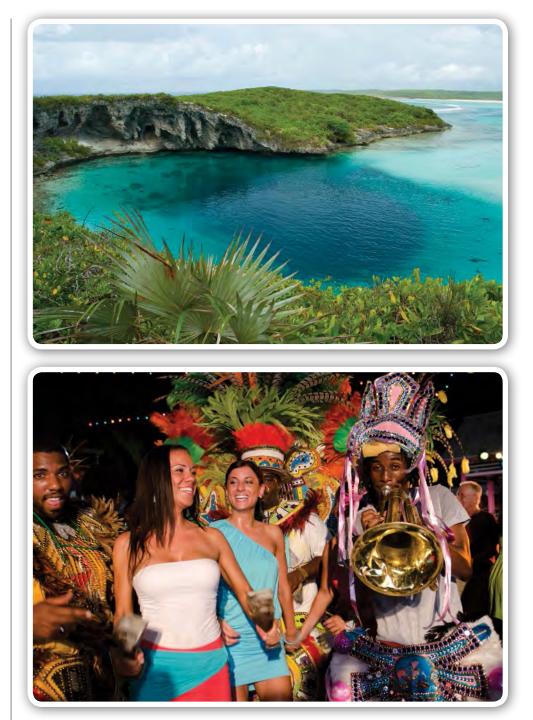
#### **Friendly Bahamians**

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 New Year's Day, Boxing Day and Independence Day, 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.

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

The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl is played in Nassau's state-of-theart Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium, located in the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre.

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.

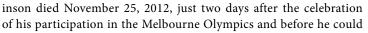
At the 1958 British Empire Games in Cardiff, Wales, Robinson won a gold medal in the 220-yard dash and a silver in the 100-yard dash. He came back in the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games to win a silver medal in the 100, a feat he repeated in the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games. 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. Rob-



National Stadium. The stadium operations are overseen by general manager Jeffrey Beckles.

see the facility that bears his name in use.

The facility has been the site for track (2013 Carifta Games and the 2014 and 2015 IAAF World Relays) and soccer (2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier - Bahamas vs. Bermuda, March 25, 2015).

The National Sports Authority, under chairman Leroy Archer, manages the 450-acre Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre, which includes Thomas A. Robinson





## **Giving Back to the Bahamas**

The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl is "committed to promoting the Islands of The Bahamas and the educational and athletic opportunities for 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 Middle Tennessee and Western Michigan.

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.

The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl is sponsoring 10 children to live at the Ranfurly Homes. And, last year, thanks

to the bowl's broadcast on ESPN, a school in Dallas was moved to raise funds to assist Ranfurly.

During the broadcast, a clip of the players' visit to Ranfurly was shown. Watching was Andy Blount, the headmaster at Good Shepherd Episcopal School in Dallas. The school held a sports equipment drive and fundraiser

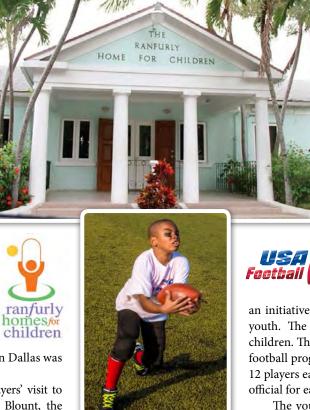
that raised enough money for sports balls, a new volleyball net system, \$75 gift cards for each child at the home and \$950 for operations.

When Blount and his wife delivered the items to Ranfurly in February 2015, they realized that there was a greater need for a new laundry facility. They contacted Conference USA commissioner Britton Banowsky and told him the school wanted to raise money for it. With the help of student council president Annmarie Melsheimer and 7th grade student Annie Walker, the school had an Ultimate Game Night in May that was expected to raise \$2,500. The Good Shepherd community came through much bigger, raising \$13,000 for the Ranfurly Laundry Project. The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl and Conference USA donated the remaining money, and Ranfurly began building the facility in July.

The bowl will honor Blount, Melsheimer and Walker and the Good Shepherd Episcopal School community during today's game.

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

Also on December 22, a group of student-athletes from both schools 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<sup>™</sup> 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.

The clinic is part of the bowl's larger commitment to youth football in the Bahamas. This year, the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl– Bahamas Youth Football program began on six islands,

an initiative to bring American football to Bahamian youth. The program impacts over 200 10-year-old children. The PBB-BYF program, the first youth tackle football program in the Bahamas, features 18 teams of 12 players each, along with two coaches and one game official for each team.

The youth program will expand to 11-year-olds in 2016 and 12-year-olds in 2017, which will lead players into established junior tackle programs in

New Providence and Grand Bahama. The Abacos, the Berry Islands, Bimini and Exuma have never had a youth tackle football program at any age level.

The PBB-BYF has other major components, including academic monitoring, life skills built into practices and speakers for game days on personal development, social development and education/career development. Every participant will wear brand-new equipment purchased for the program.

Popeyes, bowl owner ESPN Events, along with conference partners Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference have made the program a reality. The PBB-BYF is administered by program coordinator LaLisa Anthony, who is also the president of the Bahamas American Football Federation (BAFF).

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



## **Game Entertainment**

#### PREGAME

#### **Bahamas All-Stars**

The Bahamas All-Stars will perform a medley of songs and the Bahamas National Anthem 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 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.

#### **Deidrie Henry**

Deidrie Henry will perform the U.S. National Anthem prior to the game. Aside from her appearances as the high-spirited spokesman "Annie" for Popeyes, Henry Is an accomplished actress throughout stage, film and television. Ms. Henry will soon be seen as a series regular on the new NBC production "Game of Silence". Prior to this, audiences will remember her as "Aubrey" In the FX series "The Riches", and she has made other

TV appearances on "Criminal Minds", "Justified", "Glee" and "CSI". This past year, Henry appeared in the films "Beyond the Lights" and "Beautiful Boy".

Ms. Henry is most notably known as an award-winning stage actress. She was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in "Blues for an Alabama Sky".



#### **Popeyes® Bahamas Bowl FanFest**

Before the game, fans can take part in the Popeyes® Bahamas Bowl FanFest. Fans can learn the skills needed to play football: throwing, snapping a ball to a punter or kicker, kicking a field goal and catching a football for a touchdown. Fans of all ages can get ready for the game by getting their faces painted and have their picture taken to show everyone the great time they are having in the Bahamas. There will be an entertainment area with a performance by the Bahamas All-Stars Band. Also, five lucky fans will be chosen during the Popeyes® Bahamas Bowl FanFest to participate in a qualifying contest for the Popeyes® Football Toss Challenge halftime event featuring a grand prize of \$2,500 USD!\* The first 7,500 fans will receive pompoms when they enter the stadium, and there will be t-shirt giveaways at the Popeyes® Bahamas Bowl FanFest and during the game.

#### HALFTIME



#### Popeyes<sup>®</sup> Football Toss Challenge

Winners of the 100 JAMZ radio contest compete in the Popeyes® Football Toss Challenge for a chance to win a \$2,500 gift card, courtesy of Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen.\*

#### Junkanoo Showdown - Valley Boys vs. Saxons

The Bahamas national festival of Junkanoo is a kaleidoscope of colors and sound. The rhythmic sounds of cowbells, goat skin drums and whistles, accompanied 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 on Boxing Day (the day after Christmas) and New Year's Day.

Two of the biggest Junkanoo groups in New Providence, the Valley Boys and the Saxons will show off their moves in a preview of Junkanoo during halftime. It's a rivalry as big in the Bahamas as any college football rivalry in the United States. It is a performance you can't miss!



\*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. ATTENDEES OF POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL THAT ARE 18 YEARS AND OLDER. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Promotion ends December 24, 2015 at 12:00 pm ET. For Official Rules, prize descriptions, and odds disclosure, visit Sponsor's tent at Fan Fest prior to the game. Sponsor: Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, Inc., 400 Perimeter Center Terrace, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30346 U.S.A.

## GET CLOSER TO THE ACTION

### EVENTS /

#### 2015-16 FOOTBALL EVENTS



#### ADVOCARE TEXAS KICKOFF HOUSTON, TX - NRG STADIUM

September 5, 2015 Texas A&M vs. Arizona State www.AdvocareTexasKickoff.com



MEAC/SWAC CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY DISNEY ORLANDO, FL - ORLANDO CITRUS BOWI

September 6, 2015 Arkansas - Pine Bluff vs. South Carolina State www.MEACSWACChallenge.com



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**CELEBRATION BOWL** ATLANTA, GA - GEORGIA DOME December 19, 2015 MEAC vs. SWAC

www.TheCelebrationBowl.com



BOWL.

BOWL

GILDAN NEW MEXICO BOWL ALBUQUERQUE, NM - UNIVERSITY STADIUM December 19, 2015 Mountain West vs. C-USA

www.GildanNewMexicoBowl.com RAYCOM MEDIA CAMELLIA BOWL MONTGOMERY, AL - CRAMTON BOWL

December 19, 2015 MAC vs. Sun Belt www.CamelliaBowl.com













#### ROYAL PURPLE LAS VEGAS BOWL LAS VEGAS, NV - SAM BOYD STADIUM

December 19, 2015 Pac-12 vs. Mountain West DR BVII www.LVBowl.com

#### FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL BOISE, ID - ALBERTSONS STADIUM

December 22, 2015 Mountain West vs MAC www.FamousIdahoPotatoRowl.com

#### MARMOT BOCA RATON BOWL BOCA RATON, FL - FAU STADIUM

December 22, 2015 American vs. MAC www.MarmotBocaRatonBowl.com

#### HAWAI'I BOWL

HONOLULU, HI - ALOHA STADIUM December 24, 2015 American vs. Mountain West DR RVII HawaiiBowl.ESPNEvents.com

#### **POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL** NASSAU, BAHAMAS - THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM

December 24, 2015 C-IISA VS. MAC www.PopeyesBahamasBowl.com

#### ZAXBY'S HEART OF DALLAS BOWL

DALLAS, TX - COTTON BOWL December 26, 2015 Big 12 vs. C-USA www.TheHeartofDallasBowl.com



ADVOL ARE

EXA

BIRMINGHAM

BOWL

ΙΔΝΠ

#### ST. PETERSBURG BOWL

ST. PETERSBURG, FL - TROPICANA FIELD December 26, 2015 American vs. C-IISA www.StPetersburgBowl.com

#### ADVOCARE V100 TEXAS BOWL

HOUSTON, TX - NRG STADIUM December 29, 2015 Big 12 vs. SEC www.AdvocareTexasBowl.com

#### LOCKHEED MARTIN ARMED FORCES BOWL

FT. WORTH, TX - AMON G. CARTER STADIUM December 29, 2015 Big Ten vs. Mountain West www.ArmedForcesBowl.com

#### **BIRMINGHAM BOWL**

BIRMINGHAM, AL - LEGION FIELD December 30, 2015 SEC vs. American www.BirminghamBowl.com

#### **ORLANDO KICKOFF**

ORLANDO, FL - ORLANDO CITRUS BOWL September 5, 2016 Ole Miss vs. Florida State www.ESPNEvents.com

#### 2015-16 BASKETBALL EVENTS



#### ARMED FORCES CLASSIC OKINAWA, JAPAN - CAMP FOSTER November 13, 2015

www.ArmedForcesClassic.com Gonzaga vs. Pittsburgh



#### STATE FARM CHAMPIONS CLASSIC CHICAGO, IL - UNITED CENTER

November 17, 2015 www.TheChampionsClassic.com Kansas vs. Michigan State • Kentucky vs. Duke



#### GILDAN CHARLESTON CLASSIC CHARLESTON, SC - TD ARENA November 19, 20 & 22, 2015

www.CharlestonClassic.com Bradley • George Mason • Long Beach State • Mississippi Oklahoma State • Seton Hall • Towson • Virginia





100

#### WALT DISNEY WORLD, FL- ESPN WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS November 26, 27 & 29, 2015 www.AdvocareInvitational.com

Alabama • Dayton • Iowa • Monmouth • Notre Dame Southern California • Wichita State • Xavier

ADVOCARE INVITATIONAL

#### DIRECTV WOODEN LEGACY

November 26, 27 & 29, 2015 www.TheWoodenLegacy.com Arizona · Boise State · Boston College · Evansville

#### NIT SEASON TIP-OFF BROOKLYN, NY - BARCLAYS CENTER

November 26 & 27, 2015 www.NITSeasonTipOff.com Arkansas • Georgia Tech • Stanford • Villanova

#### WOMEN'S JIMMY V CLASSIC

STORRS, CT - HARRY A. GAMPEL PAVILION December 5, 2015 www.WomensJimmyVClassic.com Notre Dame vs. UConn



#### MEN'S JIMMY V CLASSIC PRESENTED BY CORONA

NEW YORK, NY - MADISON SQUARE GARDEN December 8, 2015 www.JimmvVClassic.com Virginia vs. West Virginia • UConn vs. Maryland

#### HAWAIIAN AIRLINES DIAMOND HEAD CLASSIC

HONOLULU, HI - STAN SHERIFF CENTER December 22, 23 & 25, 2015 www.DiamondHeadClassic.com Auburn • BVII • Harvard • Hawai'i • New Mexico Northern Iowa + Oklahoma + Washington State

#### **COLLEGE BASKETBALL AWARDS PRESENTED BY WENDY'S**

LOS ANGELES, CA - CLUB NOKIA April 2016 www.ESPNEvents.com

PRESENTED BY CORONA



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\* Resort credit is \$200 per room, per stay. Resort Credit is only valid for new bookings and is subject to a 3 night minimum stay. Resort credit is a one-time credit and applicable per room per stay. This offer is valid for new bookings only made from 12/25/15-1/31/16. The Resort credit offer is available for stays beginning on 1/3/16 and ending on 11/22/16. Black-out dates: 12/24/15 – 1/2/16. Stays that cross the effective travel dates will not receive the Resort credit for any portion of their stay. Resort credit and applicable per room per stay. This offer is valid for new bookings only made from 12/25/15-1/31/16. The Resort credit offer is available for stays beginning on 1/3/16 and ending on 11/22/16. Black-out dates: 12/24/15 – 1/2/16. Stays that cross the effective travel dates will not receive the Resort credit for any portion of their stay. Resort credit cannot be used towards the cost of the room. Credit begins on the date of arrival and expires upon checkout. No credit will be issued for any unused amount. 2 bedroom suites are considered 1 room for purposes of this offer. This offer has no cash value. Resort credit may be used for Dolphin & Marine Adventures, Atlantis Kids Adventures, CRUSH, Atlantis Pals, Atlantis Speedway, Atlantis LIVE performances, internet service or select food and beverage outlets. Resort credit may not be used for laundry service or at any of the following outlets: Mandara Spa, Ocean Club Golf Course, the Casino, Johnny Rockets, Marina Starbucks, Quizno's, the Atlantis Signature shops or any other retail shops. It may not be used on gratuities for food and beverage consumption, in-room movies or phone calls, transportation/transfers, or taxes and Energy Surcharges. Resort credit is not applicable for bookings at Harborside Resort or The Reef Atlantis. Resort Credit is not applicable to group bookings.



bahamas.com/peopletopeople

The Islands of The Bahamas

In The Bahamas, we understand that many of our visitors are looking for a rich cultural experience off the beaten path. Our People-to-People hosting is designed to do just that; it gives you insight into the lives of Bahamians and a personal encounter with our culture.

Our People-to-People ambassadors are knowledgeable and friendly volunteers who are screened and certified by the Ministry of Tourism to offer you the best hosting experience.