

SIXTH ANNUAL



**BUFFALO
BULLS**



**CHARLOTTE
49ERS**

VS.

DECEMBER 20, 2019

THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM
NASSAU, BAHAMAS



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



On behalf of the Government and People of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I extend a warm welcome and hearty congratulations to the members of the two great football teams contending for the championship in the 6th Annual Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl: the **Buffalo Bulls** and the **Charlotte 49ers**. I would also like to welcome organizers of the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl, football coaches, family members, fans, members of the international press corps and all who have come to our country this week to witness American college football competition at its best.

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

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

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

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

I take this occasion to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas, and all the best for 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Minnis'.

The Most Honourable Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, ON, MP

Prime Minister



Christmas week in The Islands Of The Bahamas is a time of excitement and celebration and for the last five years, we have been honored to welcome college football fans from all over to the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl, a high stakes game that rolls out at the national stadium of The Bahamas. The American college football action has been a welcomed



feature to the holiday festivities in The Bahamas and The Ministry of Tourism & Aviation is delighted to play a role in bringing world-class football to The Islands Of The Bahamas for a sixth consecutive year.

I extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the student-athletes of the Buffalo Bulls and Charlotte 49ers who, on game day on December 20, will contend for the championship in the highly anticipated matchup at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium in Nassau. Millions of viewers around the world will witness the epic clash between the two titans of American college football with the sunshine and beauty of The Islands Of The Bahamas as its backdrop on ESPN.

I would like to offer a warm welcome to all who have come to support the Buffalo Bulls and Charlotte 49ers: Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl organizers, coaches, family members and fans. From the welcome pregame activities and warm Bahamian hospitality to the energy of the competition on game day and the halftime performances, to exploring the cultural liveliness and beautiful beaches of Nassau and Paradise Island, I hope you enjoy your time in The Bahamas.

The sixth edition of the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl promises to deliver a dazzling football performance that will seal the reputation of Christmas week in The Bahamas as a time to find out why Bowl Games indeed “Better in the Bahamas”.

Thank you for Flying Away to The Islands Of The Bahamas!

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

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture joins the Ministry of Tourism & Aviation in welcoming athletes of the Buffalo Bulls and Charlotte 49ers to the sixth-annual Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl. Aspiring football players and fans in The Bahamas look forward to the opportunity to once again witness the top-notch performance of teams from Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference.



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

We in The Bahamas are proud to have a world-class bowl game as a highlight of our country's annual international sports calendar.

Hon. Lanisha T. Rolle, MP
Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture

We are delighted to host the sixth-annual Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl, the longest-running international bowl game in college football history. On behalf of the entire

team here at the NSA, I extend a warm welcome to the Buffalo and Charlotte football teams and their fans. This game will no doubt showcase the talents and skills of the players and coaching staffs as well as the quality of our facilities. We hope you enjoy our wonderful attractions here in Nassau, Bahamas. Enjoy the game, our facilities and the warmth and friendliness of the Bahamian People.



Mr. Burton Rodgers
Chairman, National Sports Authority



December 20, 2019

Welcome to the 2019 Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl! You are in for a fantastic match-up between the Buffalo Bulls and the Charlotte 49ers — these two teams exemplify the hard work, passion, dedication and achievement that are the driving forces behind success in college football.

The excitement of today's bowl game is just one of many reasons to visit the Bahamas — there are so many beautiful places to relax and explore. We hope you take to the opportunity to discover for yourselves why the Bahamas are such a popular vacation destination.



Elk Grove Village is a different kind of destination — a premiere business community located next to O'Hare International Airport and an integral part of the Chicago Metropolitan Region's economy. Elk Grove Village is home to the largest industrial park in the U.S., encompassing over 6 square miles, more than 5,600 businesses and over 62 million sq. ft. of building under roof.

Today, we are proud to sponsor the bowl game that will support Buffalo and Charlotte to showcase their team's talents; but back home in Illinois, Elk Grove Village works every day to support local businesses and our community of makers in their efforts to grow and prosper.

We know you will enjoy today's game and your visit to the Bahamas. And when you get back to work, we hope you will let Elk Grove Village show how our proactive and business-friendly approach can create the foundation for the success of your business.

On behalf of Elk Grove Village, we wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

Craig B. Johnson
Mayor



Game Entertainment

PREGAME

Bahamas All-Stars

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



HALFTIME

Ira Storr and the Spank Band will bring their popular brand of Bahamian rhythms to the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl halftime for the first time! Formed in 1998 in Nassau, the Spank Band brings a combination of rake-’n-scrape, Calypso and Junkanoo music to the stage, so get ready to get out of your seat and enjoy one of the best local acts in the Bahamas.

SERVPRO Honor-A-Responder Recipient

SERVPRO and the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl will honor Bahamas Red Cross Director General Caroline Turnquest with a special presentation for the Red Cross’ work after Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas.

BETWEEN FIRST & SECOND QUARTERS

Junkanoo Rush Out – Valley Boys

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

POSTGAME

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

DURING THE GAME

Band members from both Buffalo’s “Thunder of the East” Marching Band and Charlotte’s “Pride of Niner Nation” Marching Band will perform during the game to entertain the crowd at today’s Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl.

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BUFFALO BULLS



Satish K. Tripathi
President



Mark Alnutt
Athletics Director



Lance Leipold
Head Coach



ASSISTANT COACHES/STAFF

- Andy Kotelnicki - Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs
- Brian Borland - Defensive Coordinator/Cornerbacks
- Rob Ianello - Associate Head Coach/Wide Receivers
- Alan Hensell - Tight Ends
- Chris Simpson - Linebackers
- Taiwo Onatolu - Defensive Ends/Special Teams
- Jim Zebrowski - Co-Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
- Scott Fuchs - Offensive Line
- Jeff Burrow - Safeties
- George Ricumstrict - Defensive Tackles
- Michael Painter - Director of Football Operations



#26 RB Jaret Patterson

KEY PLAYERS



#9 S Joey Banks



#7 QB Kyle Vantrease



#49 DE Taylor Riggins



NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Antonio Nunn	WR	5-11	200	Jr.
2	Theo Anderson	RB	5-10	215	Jr.
3	Aapri Washington	CB	5-9	185	So.
3	Daniel Lee	WR	6-0	190	Jr.
4	Isaiah King	CB	5-10	190	So.
4	Trevor Bycznski	QB	6-5	225	Fr.
5	Kevin Marks	RB	6-0	200	So.
5	Tim Terry, Jr.	LB	6-2	220	So.
6	Max Michel	LB	6-2	220	R-Fr.
7	Dawun Hylton	S	6-1	195	So.
7	Kyle Vantrease	QB	6-3	220	R-So.
8	Dylan McDuffie	RB	6-0	215	R-Fr.
8	Marcus Fuqua	S	6-0	195	Fr.
9	Dominic Johnson	QB	6-5	225	Jr.
9	Joey Banks	S	5-10	200	Sr.
10	Matt Myers	QB	6-4	220	R-Fr.
10	Trey Franklin	CB	5-9	165	Fr.
11	Wankeith Akin, Jr.	CB	5-10	175	So.
12	Devon Russell	CB	5-9	185	R-Sr.
12	Aaron Chase	QB	6-0	190	Fr.
13	Tito Overton	WR	5-10	185	Jr.
13	Sean Colgan	LB	6-1	215	Jr.
14	Jelani Foster	WR	6-1	200	Fr.
14	Jackson Baltar	K/P	5-11	165	Fr.
15	Ali Abbas	CB	5-10	180	Jr.
16	Alex McNulty	K	6-1	210	R-Fr.
16	LeMaro Smith Jr.	WR	6-3	200	R-Fr.
17	Bernard Porter	WR	6-3	180	So.
17	Jahkeel Reef	CB	5-10	170	Fr.
18	Roy Baker	CB	6-2	200	Jr.
18	Trevor Wilson	WR	5-11	190	Fr.
19	Shemar Hayes	CB	6-1	180	So.
19	Javien Cuff	WR	6-2	170	Fr.
20	James Patterson	LB	6-0	230	So.
21	Justin Mulbah	LB	5-11	220	Jr.
22	Mark Davis	CB	6-2	175	Fr.
23	Ron Cook, Jr.	RB	5-7	190	Fr.
24	Cory Gross Jr.	S	6-2	210	R-Fr.
25	Tajay Ahmed	RB	6-1	195	Fr.
25	Caleb Tate	LB	6-0	205	Fr.
26	Jaret Patterson	RB	5-9	195	So.
27	Steven Shoemaker	WR	6-1	195	So.
28	Dev Lamour	S	6-2	205	Sr.
29	Larry Robbins	CB	5-8	175	Fr.
30	Rich Miller	LB	6-1	215	Fr.
30	Ryan Razzano	RB	5-10	180	Fr.
31	Kadofi Wright	LB	6-3	225	Jr.
32	Owen Chambers	S	5-10	185	R-Fr.
33	Tyrone Hill	S	6-1	205	Jr.
34	Ja'Varius Harrison	LB	5-11	225	Jr.
35	Max Bowden	WR	6-0	200	Fr.
36	Cole Burniston	TE	6-3	240	R-Fr.
37	Evan Davis	LS	5-10	245	Fr.
38	Jackson Westfall	WR	6-5	195	Fr.
39	Dylan Powell	CB	6-3	208	Jr.
40	Evan Finegan	P	5-11	195	So.
42	Matt Otwinowski	LB	6-2	225	Sr.

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
43	Liam O'Mara	RB	6-1	180	Fr.
44	Jake Molinich	TE	6-0	260	Jr.
45	Evan Gantley	S	5-11	185	So.
47	Wyatt Molinich	TE	6-0	255	Fr.
48	Fabian Weitz	LB	6-0	220	R-Fr.
49	Taylor Riggins	DE	6-2	255	Jr.
50	Malcolm Koonce	DE	6-3	250	Jr.
51	Zander Heim	DE	6-3	290	So.
51	Sankofa Riddle	OL	6-7	250	Fr.
52	Ledarius Mack	DE	6-1	240	Sr.
53	C.J. Bazile	DE	6-3	255	Fr.
54	DeShondrick Foxworth	DT	6-1	295	Sr.
55	Kyler Laing	DE	6-1	230	Fr.
56	Jake Zimmer	LB	6-1	230	R-Fr.
57	Jeremiah Riordan	LS	6-2	215	Jr.
58	Alain Schaerer	OL	6-3	290	So.
59	Jake Fuzak	OL	6-5	300	Jr.
60	Trevor Cahill	OL	6-6	300	R-Fr.
61	Dom Polizzi	OL	6-1	295	Fr.
62	Mike Novitsky	OL	6-5	295	R-Fr.
63	Austin Kunick	OL	6-4	295	Sr.
64	Michael Kenefick	OL	6-3	305	Sr.
65	Tomas Jack-Kurdyla	OL	6-4	300	Sr.
66	Jacob Gall	OL	6-2	305	So.
67	Evin Ksiezarczyk	OL	6-6	310	Sr.
68	Christian Gonzalez	DT	6-3	310	Sr.
69	Gabe Wallace	OL	6-6	315	R-Fr.
70	Nick Zikuski	OL	6-3	285	Fr.
71	Dan Kubik	OL	6-7	320	So.
72	Paul Nosworthy	OL	6-4	300	Sr.
73	Kayode Awosika	OL	6-5	305	Jr.
74	Bence Polgar	OL	6-3	305	Fr.
75	Trey Derouen	OL	6-3	315	Gr.
76	Anthony Laudicina	OL	6-6	285	Fr.
77	Caelan Shepard	OL	6-6	320	Fr.
78	Dan Clifford	OL	6-4	305	Gr.
79	Jack Klenk	OL	6-3	300	Jr.
80	Tyler Stephens	TE	6-6	240	Fr.
81	Mike Dempsey	TE	6-4	225	Fr.
82	Taiyo Iburi-Bethel	WR	5-10	170	Fr.
83	Marlyn Johnson	WR	6-4	194	Fr.
84	Levi Shetler	WR	6-4	198	Sr.
85	Julien Bourassa	TE	6-6	255	So.
86	Carlton Todd	WR	5-11	175	Jr.
87	Jovany Ruiz	WR	6-0	190	Jr.
89	Zac Lefebvre	TE	6-6	240	Jr.
90	Ahmad Holloway	DT	6-4	310	So.
91	Eddie Wilson	DT	6-4	320	So.
92	Ronald McGee	DT	6-3	300	So.
93	Chibueze Onwuka	DT	6-0	290	Jr.
94	Eric Black	DE	6-3	245	So.
95	Tyrece Woods, Jr.	DT	6-2	285	Fr.
95	Garrett Selover	K	5-11	170	Fr.
96	Jordan Avissey	DE	6-5	265	Fr.
97	Atunaisa Vainikolo	DT	6-2	275	R-Jr.
98	Georell Kidd	DT	6-2	260	Fr.
99	Frendy Darelus	DE	6-5	250	So.



NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Ja'Cione Fugate	DB	5-11	182	R-Jr.
1	Micaleous Elder	WR	5-9	165	Fr.
2	Cam Bent	WR	6-0	188	R-So.
2	Brelin Faison-Walden	LB	6-0	213	Jr.
3	Chris Reynolds	QB	5-10	192	R-So.
3	Jonnie Pitman	DB	5-11	183	R-Fr.
4	Cameron Dollar	WR	6-2	188	R-So.
4	Lance McMillan	DB	5-10	158	R-Fr.
5	Alex Highsmith	DE	6-4	242	R-Sr.
5	Aaron McAllister	RB	5-10	216	R-Jr.
6	Tre' Goode	WR	6-1	186	Fr.
6	Marquill Osborne	DB	5-11	192	Sr.
7	Brett Kean	QB	6-1	221	Gr.
8	Nafees Lyon	DB	5-10	184	R-Sr.
8	Willie Taylor	QB	6-3	195	Fr.
9	Victor Tucker	WR	5-11	177	R-So.
10	Tyriq Harris	DE	6-3	236	R-Sr.
10	Dylan Ratliff	QB	5-11	175	R-Fr.
11	Jonathan Cruz	K	5-9	175	So.
11	Preston Brown	QB	5-10	183	Fr.
12	Christian Haynes	DB	5-8	181	R-Sr.
13	Terrick Smalls Jr.	RB	5-9	204	R-Fr.
14	Joe Thompson	WR	6-1	198	R-Jr.
15	Marquavis Gibbs	DB	6-0	193	Sr.
15	Justin Jeffery	WR	6-1	177	R-Fr.
16	Evan Shirreffs	QB	6-6	216	Gr.
17	Luke Martin	LB	6-1	225	Jr.
17	Ford Werness	QB	6-0	189	R-Fr.
18	Jackson Vansickle	K	6-1	206	R-Sr.
18	Prince Bemah	LB	6-2	234	Fr.
19	Kyle Holcomb	QB	5-10	175	Fr.
19	Connor Bowler	P	6-4	195	R-So.
20	Kendric Blake	WR	6-2	190	Fr.
21	Rico Arnold	WR	6-1	184	So.
22	Henry Segura	LB	6-2	210	R-So.
23	Matt Martinez	DB	6-2	199	R-Fr.
23	Jamel Brown	RB	5-9	189	Fr.
24	Solomon Rogers	DB	5-10	185	Fr.
24	Malachi Rennix	RB	5-7	160	Fr.
25	Noah Henderson	WR	6-1	195	Fr.
26	Caleb Parker	RB	6-0	188	R-Fr.
26	Bryce Kimbrough	DB	5-11	185	So.
27	Bryson Whitehead	DB	5-11	180	Fr.
28	Ben DeLuca	DB	6-1	207	Sr.
29	Calvin Camp	RB	5-8	178	R-So.
30	Ishod Finger	RB	5-4	170	R-Fr.
30	Tyler Murray	LB	6-2	215	Jr.
31	Trey Bly	DB	5-8	160	Fr.
31	Josh Curry	WR	5-10	185	R-Fr.
32	Benny LeMay	RB	5-9	215	Sr.
33	Jaylon Sharpe	LB	6-2	240	Fr.
34	Jeff Gemmell	LB	6-3	230	R-Sr.
35	Lacy Williams	DB	5-11	178	Fr.
36	Robert Cheatem	DB	5-11	183	R-Jr.
37	Max Blitstein	K	6-0	185	Fr.
38	Kendric Ivey	DB	6-0	178	So.

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
38	Jaylan Williams	TE	6-4	220	Fr.
39	Kyle Corbett	P/K	6-0	208	R-Jr.
39	George Maya	LB	6-2	224	R-So.
40	Markees Watts	DE	6-0	218	So.
41	Christian Kaplan	K	6-0	180	Fr.
42	Tiaseer Rambert	LB	6-2	210	Fr.
43	Ryan Braithwaite	DB	6-1	195	R-So.
44	Jaxon Hughes	DE	6-6	243	Fr.
44	Zack Nicholson	P	6-0	165	R-Fr.
45	Javonte Misenheimer	LB	6-1	225	R-So.
46	Dillon Overholt	DB	6-1	188	R-Fr.
47	Jack Wellenhofer	LS	6-2	188	R-Jr.
48	Michael Kelly	DL	6-3	225	Fr.
50	John Thierfelder	LB/LS	6-1	223	R-So.
51	Peter Agabe	LB	6-0	213	Jr.
52	Matthew Longley	DE	6-2	231	R-Jr.
53	Jalen Allen	OL	6-3	285	R-Sr.
54	Dominic Taylor	OL	6-4	285	Sr.
55	Michael Adams	OL	6-1	301	R-So.
56	Will Graham	LB	5-11	229	R-Jr.
58	Johnny Ray	DL	6-4	274	R-Jr.
59	B.J. Turner	LB	5-11	212	R-Fr.
60	Bryan Wallace	DL	6-5	275	R-Fr.
61	Doug McLaughlin	LS	6-1	220	Fr.
63	Jacob Webb	OL	6-5	285	R-So.
68	Jaelin Fisher	OL	6-2	285	R-Jr.
69	Dejan Rasuo	OL	6-5	285	R-Fr.
70	D'Mitri Emmanuel	OL	6-2	285	R-So.
71	Cameron Clark	OL	6-5	294	R-Sr.
72	Gage Welborn	OL	6-5	280	R-Fr.
73	Yontez Jarrell	OL	6-4	249	Fr.
74	Tim Baten	DL	6-5	309	R-So.
75	Jonathan Timmons	OL	6-3	327	R-Jr.
77	Malik Harkness	OL	6-4	273	R-Fr.
80	Christian Roberson	TE	6-5	245	Gr.
81	Tyler Ringwood	WR	6-2	217	R-Jr.
82	Zach Gemmell	WR	6-2	188	R-So.
83	Chris Wiggins	WR	6-1	191	R-Fr.
84	Rhett Read	TE	6-3	239	Jr.
85	Ryan Carriere	TE	6-3	239	R-Jr.
86	Antoine Shaw	DE	6-2	247	R-So.
86	Moss Saccomanno	TE	6-4	237	R-So.
87	Isaiah Harris	TE	6-3	243	R-Sr.
88	Jacob Hunt	TE	6-3	236	So.
89	Quinton Patten	WR	5-11	185	Fr.
90	Tommy Doctor	DL	6-4	270	R-Sr.
91	Corey Mobley	DE	6-3	225	Jr.
92	Demond Stewart	DL	6-2	295	Jr.
93	Emmanuel White	DE	6-5	239	R-So.
94	Isaiah Belk	DL	6-0	250	R-Fr.
95	Andrew Favaro	K	5-11	230	R-So.
96	Jaison Williams	DE	6-1	225	Sr.
97	Damon Weldon	DE	6-5	241	R-Fr.
98	Timmy Horne	DL	6-5	318	R-Jr.
99	Taylor Chandler	DE	6-3	229	R-Fr.



CHARLOTTE 49ERS



Dr. Phil Dubois
Chancellor



Mike Hill
Athletics Director



Will Healy
Head Coach



ASSISTANT COACHES/STAFF

- Marcus West – Assistant Head Coach/Co-Defensive Coordinator
- Alex Atkins – Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line
- Mark Carney – Quarterbacks
- Brandon Cooper – Co-Defensive Coordinator/Safeties
- Sean Dawkins – Run Game Coordinator/Running Backs
- Tommy Langford – Nickels
- Montario Hardesty – Receivers
- Eddie Hicks – Cornerbacks
- Max Thurmond – Special Teams Coordinator/Linebackers
- Cody Woodiel – Tight Ends
- Carter Crutchfield – Director of Football Relations



#71 OL Cam Clark

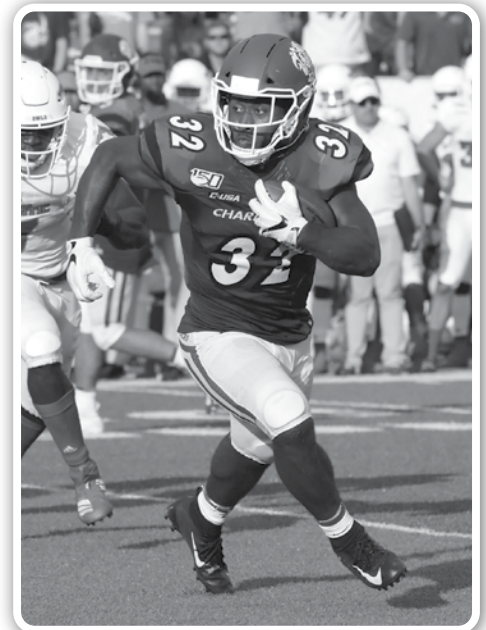
KEY PLAYERS



#5 DE Alex Highsmith



#3 QB Chris Reynolds



#32 RB Benny LeMay



The Bahamas

What Makes The Bahamas Unique

The Bahamas is comprised of 700 islands sprinkled over 100,000 square miles of ocean starting just 50 miles off the coast of Florida. Each of our islands and island groupings is uniquely different, offering its own distinctive attractions and appeal.

The archipelago is an ecological oasis featuring breathtaking islands and cays and boasts the clearest water on the planet – with a visibility of over 200 feet. You can see your toes as easily as you can the world’s third largest barrier reef.

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

Friendly Bahamians

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

Junkanoo

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



Celebrated since the 18th century, today Junkanoo has grown into an organized event with groups of up to 1,000 persons competing for cash prizes for best music, best costume, dancer, banner and best overall group presentation. Traditionally held on Boxing Day (December 26), New Year’s Day (January 1) and Independence Day (July 10), parades are also held during the annual “Junkanoo Summer Festival” and the “Just Rush” competition. In addition, many hotels offer Junkanoo shows for their guests throughout the year.

Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival

Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival is a collage of our culture. It is a festive weeklong celebration taking place in April in Grand Bahama and May in Nassau, where Bahamians and guests from around the world will be immersed in all things Bahamian. The carnival events will showcase Junkanoo, Rake-n-Scrape, arts and crafts, Bahamian cuisine, visual art, music, dance and more. It is also a high level entertainment experience, which

sets the stage for Bahamian recording artists to nurture their sound and express themselves in front of a global audience.

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

Bahamian Cuisine

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

Seafood is the staple of our diet. Fresh conch scored with a knife and sprinkled with lime juice and spices is delicious. Other delicacies you’ll enjoy are land crabs and the Bahamian “rock lobster.” We also love fresh fish, especially boiled fish served with grits. Many dishes here are served with pigeon peas and rice mixed with spices, tomatoes and onions.

Proximity To The USA

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

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

Whether you’re visiting Nassau/Paradise Island, Grand Bahama or one of The Out Islands, Paradise is just a short plane ride from major U.S. cities. You can also sail into one of our 32 ports of entry.

Once you arrive, go island-hopping. Explore underwater. Or do nothing but relax on one of our pristine beaches.

Remember, “It’s Better in the Bahamas”

For more information, visit us at Bahamas.com.



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Giving Back to the Bahamas



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

That mission was realized as the bowl hosted two events December 18 in Nassau to give back to the children of the Bahamas, thanks to the student-athletes, coaches and spirit groups of Buffalo and Charlotte.

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

The current Ranfurly administration, led by president Alexandra Maillis-Lynch and administrator Alexander Roberts, has partnered with local and international organizations to further enhance the lives of Ranfurly residents.

Since the beginning of the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl in 2014, the bowl has had a close relationship with Ranfurly and its residents, assisting the children and the home with various needs. Outside groups, seeing Ranfurly promoted on the ESPN broadcasts, have also raised money for the children living there as well as helping with infrastructure needs at the home, including a new laundry facility and sports equipment.

Ranfurly has 501(c)(3) status, so donations from US citizens and companies are tax-deductible.

For more information, visit RanfurlyHome.org.



Also on December 18, a group of student-athletes from both schools traveled to the fields just outside the old Thomas Robinson Stadium adjacent to the location of today’s game to conduct a Youth Football Clinic in conjunction with USA Football and the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl, sponsored by KFC.

With the help of the student-athletes of the two institutions and representatives of the Commonwealth American Football League (CAFL), USA Football conducted its Heads Up FootballSM FUNdamentals clinic, which introduces children to football by teaching basic skills in a FUN and energetic environment. Certified clinicians use a series of drills to show passing, catching and running skills in a non-contact setting.

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

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

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The background of the event poster is a vibrant, tropical scene with palm trees silhouetted against a sunset sky in shades of pink, orange, and purple. The text and images are overlaid on this background.

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Three small, square photographs of the cast members: Bebe Rexha (a blonde woman in a black sequined dress), Lindsey Stirling (a woman with dark hair holding a bouquet of red roses), and Host & DJ Tony Okungbowa (a man in a dark suit and glasses).

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