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USF Football • Postgame Notes

Boca Raton Bowl vs. Syracuse • DEC 21, 2023

TEAM

- **USF Game Captains:** 0 Daquan Evans, 65 Mike Lofton, 90 Rashad Cheney, 1 Matthew Hill
- **BOWL GAME MVP's:** 17 Byrum Brown (offense), 0 Daquan Evans (defense), 9 Aamaris Brown-Bunkley (special teams)
- **SHUTOUT:** The Bulls won 45-0, completing their first shutout victory since they won 59-0 vs. Charleston Southern (9.19.09). This was the tenth shutout in USF history and their second against Syracuse.
- **FIRST-HALF SHUTOUT:** The Bulls pitched their first first-half shutout of the season, (and first since Nov. 16, 2019, vs. Cincinnati) allowing only 91 total yards, holding Syracuse to 0-7 on third down, forcing four punts, and three turnovers, two of which were 60+ yard fumble return touchdowns. The Bulls carried a 31-0 lead into halftime.
- **LUCKY No. SEVEN:** This win brings the Bulls to seven on the year, the most since going 7-6 in 2018. This was also the seventh Bowl Game win in program history, and the first since 2017.
- **TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF:** The Bulls forced four turnovers on the day, tied for the second most on the season, (four vs. Temple, 11.11.23, and five vs. FAMU, 9.9.23).
- **IN THE ZONE:** The Bulls scored four offensive touchdowns without taking a snap in the red zone the entire game.
- **MOST PLAYS:** The Bulls ran 1,028 offensive plays this season (13 games), 27 more than the previous single-season USF record of 1,001 in 2017 (12 games).

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSE

OFFENSIVE MVP

- **QB Byrum Brown** 19 completed passes on 26 attempts for 214 yards and three passing touchdowns while leading the team in rushing, with 14 carries for 64 yards (4.6 ypc).
- **4K CLUB:** with a two-yard rush in the second quarter, Brown surpassed 4,000 total yards on the season, joining Quinton Flowers as the only player in USF history to reach such mark, (4,342 total yards, 2,812 passing, and 1,530 rushing, 2016). Brown finished the season with 3,292 passing yards and 809 rushing yards, good for 4,101 total yards.
- **PASSING TD RECORD:** with a 35-yard toss to Sean Atkins, Brown threw his 26th touchdown pass of the season, a USF single-season record previously held by Quinton Flowers who had 25 in 2017.
- **PINPOINT PRECISION:** With this performance, Brown finished the season completing 276 of 427 passes good for a single season program record of 64.6 completion percentage, breaking Matt Grothe's record of 63.7 percent, completing 202 passes on 317 attempts in 2006.
- **WR Sean Atkins** – finished with six receptions for 93 yards and two touchdowns, marking his second two-touchdown game in his career, (9.30.23 at Navy).
- **CAREER RECEPTIONS:** With a 13-yard touchdown catch (his sixth this season) on USF's second offensive drive, Atkins brought his career reception total to 118, sitting alone in fifth place all-time for USF program

history. Atkins finished this season with 91 catches, 24 more than the previous single-season program record of 67, and with 121 career receptions, he sits just six behind the fourth-place record of 127 by Tyre McCants.

- **SINGLE SEASON RECEIVING YARDS:** With an eight-yard grab in the third quarter, Atkins surpassed 1,000 receiving yards on the season, becoming the first Bulls receiver to ever eclipse such a mark. Atkins finished the season with 1,054 yards, the most ever by a Bulls receiver in a single season. Atkins' 1,386 career receiving yards also put him into the top ten all-time in program history, passing Charlie Jackson's 1,373 yards (1997-2000).

- **PERFECT PASSER:** Atkins completed his fourth pass of the season on a 21-yard completion. He is now four-of-four passing on the season for 149 yards and one passing touchdown, which gives him a pass efficiency rating of 495.4 in his career.

- **WR Khafre Brown**– finished with one reception on the night, going for a 31-yard touchdown, his fifth of the season, to put the Bulls up 21-0 in the second quarter.

- **RB Nay'Quan Wright** – ran the ball 12 times for 40 yards (3.3 ypc) and one rushing touchdown, his seventh on the season.

- **LT Donovan Jennings** – Played in his 55th game as a USF Bull, breaking the all-time program record.

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE MVP

- **DB Daquan Evans** – finished with five tackles (five solo), two TFL, and forced his first career fumble on a nine-yard sack right before halftime, which Logan scooped and returned 61 yards for a touchdown.

- **LB Tramel Logan** – Logged his third defensive touchdown of the season on a 61-yard scoop and score, bringing his season total to a program-record 131 fumble return yards, breaking J.R. Reid's 2001 record of 117 yards. Finished with two tackles (one solo), one TFL, and one PBU.

- **DT Jacquez Williams** – recorded his first career interception and returned it five yards to stop Syracuse's most productive drive (47 yards) of the day to that point.

- **DB Tavin Ward** – forced his first career fumble on the field goal attempt that Brown-Bunkley returned for a touchdown. Ward then hauled in his second career interception on a third-and-12 pass in the third quarter. Finished with one tackle (solo) and one TFL.

- **DB Jhalyn Shuler** – finished as the team leading tackler with 12 (three solo), 1.5 TFL, and one PBU.

- **DB Jaelen Stokes** – recorded his second sack of the season (third of career) for seven yards.

SPECIAL TEAMS

SPECIAL TEAMS MVP

- **DB Aamaris Brown-Bunkley** –recovered and returned fumble on a botched field goal attempt for a 64-yard touchdown, and the first score of his career. Finished with three tackles (three solo) and one PBU.

- **WR JeyQuan Smith** – made his first career tackle on the Bulls' first punt of the day, potentially preventing a productive return by Syracuse.

- **K John Cannon** – made his only field goal attempt of the night from 40 yards, his sixth total kick of 40 or more yards this season, and knocked in all six of his extra point attempts on the night.