

BUCKNELL BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR
BISON FOOTBALL ALUMNI, PARENTS & FRIENDS



DECEMBER 2016

LEWISBURG, PA 17837

A NOTE FROM BISON HEAD COACH JOE SUSAN

Dear Alumni, Parents & Friends of Bucknell Football,

I hope that you and your family are well and that you will be able to slow things down enough to enjoy the important things during the upcoming holiday season. We had our Football Banquet on Sunday evening and in many ways it was a bittersweet event. To be together with our team is something that I look forward to. To understand that our seniors will be taking the next steps in their lives creates an emotion that is always new for me.

Our season did not go the way we would have scripted it. The young men on our team were consistent in their effort and dedication to one another. Adversity has a way of bringing people closer together. The ties that bind this group of student athletes will last far beyond their time at this special place.

We began working on our 2017 season last Monday. The combination of experienced players who return and the way our staff has recruited provide us with a chance to be a special team next fall. We have a lot of work to do in terms of development. That is the primary focus of our program... **TO RECRUIT AND DEVELOP.**

I appreciate the continued backing of our alumni, parents and friends. It means so much to our team when you come out to



support us on gameday.

We will continue to work to challenge the young men on our team to be the best they can be in all areas of their lives. We tell them all the time that "THIS WORLD NEEDS LEADERS".

I wish you and those you love the very best for a joyous Holiday Season.

My best to you.

Take care,

Joseph G. Susan Jr.
The Bob Odell Head Football Coach



EIGHT PLAYERS NAMED ALL-PATRIOT LEAGUE

Bucknell had eight players named to the All-Patriot League Football Teams. The Bison had five first-team selections and three second-team choices with four-time All-Patriot League selection Julie'n Davenport headlining the list.



Davenport, a left tackle, was the only Bucknell offensive player on the First Team, but he was joined by defensive players DL Abdullah Anderson, LB Ben Richard, DB Bret Berg and DB Bryan Marine.

Bison on the Second Team included OL Griff Barth, RB Joey DeFloria and LB Mark Pyles.

Barth, Berg and Davenport are the only seniors among the eight All-Patriot League selections.

Anderson, Davenport, Pyles and Richard have earned All-Patriot League status in previous years.

Just the 12th player in conference history – and the first offensive lineman – to earn All-Patriot League honors four times, Davenport started all 44 games at left tackle over the last four years. He joins Rich Lemon as the only Bucknell players to receive four All-PL citations.

A recent addition to the STATS FCS Walter Payton Award Watch List as the best offensive player in the country,

See ALL-LEAGUE, page 2

ALL-LEAGUE, continued from page 1

Davenport was a Second Team All-Patriot League selection as a rookie in 2013 and this is his third straight year on the First Team. A team captain, Davenport is a three-time Preseason All-Patriot League selection who was a Second Team STATS FCS All-American in 2015.

Anderson is making his third straight appearance on the All-Patriot League Teams. He was a Second Team All-PL choice as a freshman in 2014 and now has two consecutive First Team nods to his credit. A two-time Preseason All-Patriot League selection, Anderson has started all 33 games on the defensive line since arriving at Bucknell.

Anderson finished the season ranked fourth on the team with a career-high 55 tackles. He also posted 13.5 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks, which are both career highs and place him in the top three in the conference in both categories.

A junior, Richard moved up to the First Team after earning Second Team honors last fall in his first year as a starter at linebacker. Richard led the Bison in tackles (95) this year and was among the team leaders in tackles for loss (11.5) and sacks (5). His 178 career tackles are most among current Bucknell players.



Richard's fellow starter at linebacker is classmate Pyles and he earned his second straight All-Patriot League citation as well. A team captain, Pyles was a Second Team pick for the second consecutive year despite a slow start to the season due to injury. He finished with 54 tackles in nine games and registered 3.5 tackles for loss, two sacks, five pass breakups and one forced fumble.

Perhaps the most important player on the Bucknell squad this year was Berg, who earned his first career All-Patriot League honor. A two-year starter at safety who also took over as the team's starting punter late in the season, Berg ranked second on the squad with a career-high 75 tackles. He also led the Bison with four interceptions, was second on the team with seven pass breakups and had 3.5 tackles for loss.

As a punter, Berg averaged 40.7 yards on 33 punts with 13 landing inside the 20-yard line.

Marine earned his first career All-Patriot League citation thanks to an outstanding season from his cornerback position. He totaled 54 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, two interceptions and three forced fumbles despite missing two games mid-season due to injury. Marine also registered 13 pass breakups, the most by a Bucknell player since 2004.

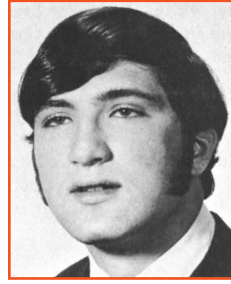
Marine, a sophomore, is the first Bison cornerback to earn All-Patriot League honors since All-American Bryce Robertson in 2011.

A junior, DeFloria was impressive as he earned the first regular playing time of his career this season. He became the first Bison in a dozen years to rush for more than 1,000 yards, finishing with 1,070 to rank eighth on the program's single-season list. DeFloria posted six 100-yard rushing games and led the team in all-purpose yards with 1,286.

DeFloria (10) and fellow running back Chad Freshnock (10) combined to rush for 20 of Bucknell's 32 touchdowns on the season. DeFloria's 66 points rank 11th on the school's single-season scoring list.

Barth gave Bucknell two offensive linemen on the All-Patriot League Teams for a fourth consecutive year. The senior started 10 of 11 games on the right side of the line, splitting time between guard and tackle. Barth played in 17 games over the last two years and was a key member of the senior-laden offensive line this year.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



STEPHEN RENOCK '74

A native of nearby Watsonstown, Pennsylvania, Stephen Renock '74 played both defensive back and full-back during his time with the Bison. He earned two varsity letters and has been a steadfast supporter of Bucknell University and the athletics program.

Q: Where has your career path taken you since graduating from Bucknell?

A: With the help of the Bucknell placement office, my first job was with a railroad subsidiary of US Steel in Pittsburgh as a cost accountant. After 5 years I switched to the financial services world to work for Mellon Bank. I've subsequently worked for a number of companies in this field including Shearson Lehman (pre "The Big Short") leading up to my current job as CEO of Kern Schools Federal Credit Union, a \$1.4 Billion retail financial institution. I've lived in PA, LA, TX, WI and CA.

Q: What skills that you learned as a student-athlete at Bucknell have helped you become successful today?

A: Time management, being able to manage the demands of the academic load and the demands of football. The power of working with a team. Few endeavors in life are done completely alone. Teamwork is essential and you lead by example.

Q: What are some of your fondest memories of your time wearing the Orange and Blue?

A: I had never been in an airplane until we flew to play Vermont in my sophomore year. Beating UMass and Colgate back to back in my junior year. No one expected us to win except us. The crowd at Memorial Stadium was wild and the students even tore down the goal post.

Q: What advice would you give to the current football players in the program?

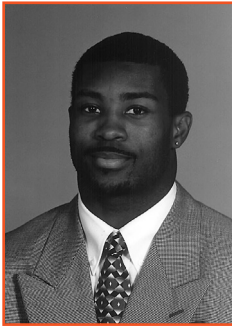
A: Focus on your academic work and getting your degree and work your tail off to be the best football player you can be. The leadership skills you are learning in both areas will enable you to be successful in life. The world has plenty of competent technicians. We need more real leaders and you can be one.

Q: Why do you feel it is important to give back to Bucknell's football program?

A: I was fortunate to be the first in my family to attend college. Without the financial aid I received from Bucknell I would not have been able to attend. I felt an obligation not only to pay back what I was given, but to also help others who need financial assistance to be able to attend Bucknell and compete in D-I athletics. Bucknell changed my life and I will never forget the experiences and my teammates.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



RICH LEMON '97

Rich Lemon '97 rushed for 4,742 yards, demolishing the school record by more than 2,000 yards. He graduated with more than 15 school records, and tied the national record by topping 100-yds in all 11 games in 1994. He eclipsed the century mark in 17 straight games from 1993-1995. Lemon was a four-time All-Patriot League selection, and was the league's Co-MVP and Offensive Player of the Year in 1994.

Q: Where has your career path taken you since graduating from Bucknell?

A: I am thankful to have had the pleasure of working with some outstanding organizations that include IBM, Department of Homeland Security (in contractor capacity), Wal-Mart, and The Home Depot. Throughout the past 17 years, my career has transitioned from sales to human resources. In

the middle of it all, I have held a variety of leadership roles in training and retail management.

Q: What skills that you learned as a student-athlete at Bucknell have helped you become successful today?

A: Networking for sure. It began in the summer after my sophomore year. I was afforded the opportunity to participate in the ILTM and spent several weeks with classmates, professors, and distinguished professionals who held careers in technology and management. It was in this program when I learned the value of networking and relationship building. My first job at IBM was a result of networking. In fact, my introduction to Bucknell University was due to networking...and this was before I knew what networking was. An old African Proverb states, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others." Think about that....

Q: What are some of your fondest memories of your time wearing the Orange and Blue?

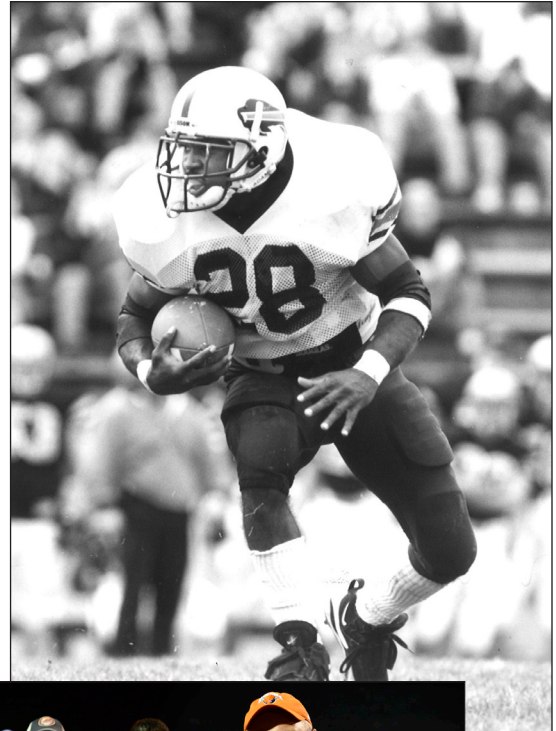
A: As you might expect, I have some very fond memories that center around Saturday afternoons at Christy Mathewson Stadium with my football teammates. I also enjoyed the nightlife at our "football" fraternities and was known to dabble in pool at the "old Bison." All that said... my fondest memory is graduation day. In August of 1993, I set upon a journey to be the first member of my immediate family to graduate from college. In May 1997, my mother, although not in attendance, became a proud single parent of a college graduate from Bucknell University.

Q: What advice would you give to the current football players in the program?

A: You were intelligent enough to select Bucknell University as your "home" so be smart enough to take advantage of everything this outstanding institution offers. Take charge of your progress in both academics and athletics. Set goals and seek counsel from the plethora of accomplished professionals on campus. Your future is not a game...but don't forget to enjoy yourself.

Q: Why do you feel it is important to give back to Bucknell's football program?

A: Personally, Bucknell has given me so much, I only feel it is right to give back. Any of us, who are in a position to do so, should give back. Whether we give time, talent, or money, it all makes a difference. The best and easiest way to see our football program grow in stature is by giving back. When I got to Bucknell in 1993, the tuition was roughly \$24K and I was on a "full financial aid" package. This educational expense has more than doubled since. I know that my life would be totally different if I was not introduced to Bucknell University. If more of us shared our "resources," maybe another young student-athlete could have their life changed as well.



HORAN & PODBIELSKI NAMED TO ACADEMIC ALL-PATRIOT LEAGUE TEAM

Bucknell juniors Jack Horan and Andrew Podbielski were both named to the Academic All-Patriot League Football Team. It is the first career honor for both players, and it marks the fourth consecutive year multiple Bison have earned the citation.

Horan and Podbielski earlier this fall were CoSIDA Academic All-District selections as well.



Horan spent his first two years as a backup quarterback. He moved to wide receiver during preseason camp this year and finished with 16 receptions for 239 yards and two touchdowns. Horan caught a 71-yard touchdown pass in his very first game as a wide receiver at Marist, and he later completed a 33-yard pass against Colgate on a trick play.

A member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, Horan is a member of Bucknell's Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for being in the top 10 percent of all first-year students. He is also a leader and organizer of Saint Joseph's Parish Youth Ministry in Mendham, New Jersey. Horan is majoring in accounting and financial management and is a two-time Patriot League Academic Honor Roll member.

A veteran of 27 career games, Podbielski is a two-year starting tight end for Bucknell. He caught a career-high 20 passes for 161 yards and one touchdown this season.



Named the team's Most Improved Offensive Player following 2016 spring practice, Podbielski is a member of the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll while majoring in environmental studies.

2016 RESULTS

Sept. 3	at Marist	W, 26-10
Sept. 10	at Duquesne	L, 30-19
Sept. 17	CORNELL ^	L, 24-16
Sept. 24	VMI &	L, 23-17 (3OT)
Oct. 8	at Holy Cross*	W, 21-20
Oct. 15	COLGATE*	L, 27-7
Oct. 22	LAFAYETTE* %	W, 42-17
Oct. 29	at #9 Charleston Southern	L, 49-28
Nov. 5	at #21 Lehigh*	L, 20-13
Nov. 12	at Georgetown*	W, 21-7
Nov. 19	FORDHAM*	L, 36-22

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**

* Patriot League game

^ Football Alumni Weekend

& Family Weekend

% Homecoming Weekend

TENTATIVE 2017 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	MARIST* ^	TBA
Sept. 9	HOLY CROSS*	TBA
Sept. 16	at William & Mary	TBA
Sept. 23	SACRED HEART &	TBA
Sept. 30	MONMOUTH	TBA
Oct. 14	at Cornell	TBA
Oct. 21	at Lafayette*	TBA
Oct. 28	at Colgate*	TBA
Nov. 4	LEHIGH* %	TBA
Nov. 11	GEORGETOWN*	TBA
Nov. 18	at Fordham*	TBA

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**

* Patriot League game

^ Football Alumni Weekend

& Family Weekend

% Homecoming Weekend

2016 BUCKNELL FOOTBALL TEAM AWARDS

- Tom Gadd Coaches' Award - Offense: Julie'n Davenport
- Tom Gadd Coaches' Award - Defense: Ben Richard
- George McGaughey Memorial Award - Outstanding Player in the Lafayette Game: Abdullah Anderson
- Keating-Rieu Memorial Award - Outstanding Player in the Colgate Game: Bret Berg
- Stuart M. Smith Award - The Outstanding Newcomer: Chad Freshnock
- George Rieu Award - Outstanding Defensive Lineman: Abdullah Anderson
- John Campana Award - Outstanding Offensive Lineman: Griffin Barth
- C. Dale Wolfe Recognition Award - Most Inspirational: Ben Schumacher
- Clarke Hinkle Award - Outstanding DB or LB: Bryan Marine
- Big Blue Award - Outstanding RB or WR: Joey DeFloria
- Special Teams Award - Nick O'Brien
- Scout Team Player of the Year - Defense: John Hunt
- Scout Team Player of the Year - Offense: Stefone Moore Green
- Scout Team Player of the Year - Special Teams: Mike Balzoiore
- Bobby Pangburn Memorial Award - C.J. Williams
- Moxie Award - Alexander Romango
- Bison Leadership Award - Mark Pyles
- Sledgehammer Award - Joey DeFloria
- Sledgehammer Award - Bret Berg
- Career Record Award - Will Carter
- Bison Gridiron Club Award - Most Valuable Player: Bret Berg

2016 BUCKNELL FOOTBALL NOTES

- Bucknell finished 2016 with a 4-7 overall record and a 3-3 mark in Patriot League play. It was the third time in the last four years the Bison have finished at least .500 in Patriot League play.

- Bucknell had eight All-Patriot League selections, including five first-teamers and three players on the second team.

- Jack Horan and Andrew Podbielski were both honored multiple times for their academics. They were both named CoSIDA Academic All-District II and were also part of the 11-person Academic All-Patriot League Football Team.

- OL Cary Hess was named a semifinalist for the Campbell Trophy, helping Bucknell to become one of four schools nationally to have a semifinalist in each of the last 11 years. The Campbell Trophy recognizes a student-athlete who best exemplifies academic success alongside football performance and community leadership.

- The Bison defense ranked second in the Patriot League in yards allowed per game (366.2) and rushing yards allowed per game (133.6). Bucknell has ranked first or second in the conference in both of those categories every year since 2011.

- Bucknell's offense increased its scoring by 60 points this fall. The Bison boosted their per-game average from 15.6 to 21.1.

- Bucknell finished the regular season ranked sixth nationally in time of possession. The Bison had the ball an average of 33:36 per game this season, their first time over 33 minutes since 2011 (33:35).

- Bucknell committed 28 fewer penalties than its opponents in 2016. The Bison were flagged 56 times, while opponents were called for 84 penalties.

- Twenty-one of Bucknell's 32 touchdowns were scored by running backs Joey DeFloria (11) and Chad Freshnock (10). Freshnock scored eight of his 10 touchdowns over the season's final five games.

- DeFloria rushed for a team-high 1,070 yards to rank third in the Patriot League in that category. He became the first Bison player in 12 years to eclipse 1,000 rushing yards in a season and he ranks eighth on the program's single-season list.

- Senior QB R.J. Nitti completed his career ranked in the top five in school history in touchdown passes (2nd, 34), pass attempts (2nd, 765), passing yards (3rd, 5,171), total offense (3rd, 4,775) and pass completions (4th, 416).

- Senior WR Will Carter broke Tom Mitchell's 51-year-old school records for receptions and receiving yards in a career. He finished his four-year career with 195 receptions for 2,744 yards and 18 touchdowns. His 18 career receiving touchdowns are tied for the program record with Mitchell and Lester Erb.

- Bucknell had 18 first-time starters this season. A total of 38 different players started at least one game this year.

- OL Julie'n Davenport was the only member of the senior class to appear in and start all 44 games over the last four years. Junior Abdullah Anderson concluded the season with the second-longest starting streak on the team (33 games).

- Head coach Joe Susan finished his seventh season at the helm of the Bison with 32 victories, tying him for seventh place on the program's all-time list with Tim Landis.



Bret Berg



Chad Freshnock



Will Carter



Joey DeFloria



R.J. Nitti



Bucknell University
One Dent Drive
Lewisburg, PA 17837



Energy, passion, and togetherness have been the hallmarks of the Bucknell Football Program for many years. This has been true not only for the student-athletes on the field, but for the group of supporters who have helped our program each year. As most of you know, the University budget covers only a fraction of the operating expenses to run a competitive Division I football program. Thanks to your assistance, last year we finished with over \$450,000 in much needed support of the program. This year, we have been given a fundraising goal of \$500,000 to meet our program's budgetary needs. This

money is spent in the three main areas of student-athlete recruitment, purchasing equipment to help train our team members, and covering the travel, lodging, and food costs for our team's travel. As you know, student-athlete recruitment is a year-round and highly competitive and intensive process that is of essential importance in fielding successful teams. In addition, we feel it is important to be able to travel safely, stay in quality hotels, and feed our student-athletes appropriately when we travel.

Our program needs your financial support to continue in our quest for excellence. Your earmarked contribution for Bucknell Football to the Bison Club will help make this a reality. We hope we can count on 100% participation from everyone on our support team. Thanks in advance for your assistance! -- Coach Joe Susan

For more information on the Gridiron Club or to join, contact Todd Newcomb, Senior Associate Director of Athletics/ External Affairs and Bison Club, at 570-577-1771 or tnewcomb@bucknell.edu.

Methods of Giving

Check or Cash: This is the most common way to give. When writing a check, make it out to Bucknell University and in the memo section note "FOOTBALL"

By Credit Card: The university accepts most major credit cards. Monthly payment plans can be arranged.

Gifts of Stock/Securities: To arrange a stock transfer, call the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 570-577-3200.

Pledges: You can set up a payment schedule when you make a pledge, and payment reminders will be sent to you.

Corporate matching gifts: Many corporations match their employees' charitable donations to nonprofit institutions. Check with your benefits department for matching gift information and to see if they will match gifts to athletics.

You can give on-line: www.BucknellBison.com.