

BUCKNELL BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the Bison Football Program

www.BucknellBison.com



NOTES FROM COACH Joseph Susan

win the league. The student-athletes on our team have worked very hard and the leadership we have received from our upper-classmen has been outstanding.

We were fortunate to be in a position to upgrade our locker facilities this summer. The generosity of three football alumni and their families, who played in the 1980s, have made this possible.

This game is one of opportunity. We have to make the most out of those we have. I know the young men on our team work

hard to excel in all areas of their lives. We will continue to challenge them to work to be their best both on and off the field.

I would like to thank those of you who support our program. This is a special place, because of the people who are Bucknell.

My best to you.



Take care,
Joe Susan

I hope that you are well. We came off our bye week and played well in all three phases to beat our traditional rival in Cornell. We are in prep for a stretch of five Patriot League games in a row.

The way our league set up is that the team that plays its best football over the next month will have the edge in competing to

Locker Room Update

From a refurbished locker room to a new track surface to a renovated press box, Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium is looking spiffy for its 93rd season as the home of Bison Football.



Bud Ranck-Tom Gadd Memorial Kickoff Classic



Bucknell football alumni and friends of the program gathered back in late July for the annual Bud Ranck-Tom Gadd Memorial Kickoff Classic at the Bucknell Golf Club.



During the dinner program, Tommy Thompson '60, a Bucknell Hall of Fame member and longtime coach and staff member who passed away in June, was recognized. The class of 1960, led by Tony Rinaldo, presented Thompson's wife, Robynn, and daughter, Jennifer, with a plaque commemorating his achievements.

The event featured morning and afternoon flights, lunch and an evening dinner and auction that took place in the Elaine Langone Center's Terrace Room. ■

View full article at www.BucknellBison.com.

Transitions of PA's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Supported by Bucknell Football



Bucknell football captains Abdullah Anderson, Joey DeFloria, Mark Pyles and Ben Richard volunteered at Transitions of PA's second-annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Sunday morning at Hufnagle Park.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is the international men's march to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence. Transitions of PA's event was inclusive, so men, women and children of all ages marched in high heels around downtown Lewisburg.

The Bison captains showed their support by handing out t-shirts and goodie bags to registered walkers and supporters. They also cheered on the walkers as they began their one-mile journey.

"It's a great thing for us to be able to get involved," Richard said. "We all have mothers, sisters, cousins and friends, and

it's important for us to stand with them so we can put an end to rape and sexual assault."

Added Anderson: "It's a great message for us as a football team and for the whole country to stop sexual assault. [It's great] to be part of this great foundation to help women across the country. We always need to love and respect each other."

Head coach Joe Susan said Sunday's event is just the beginning of his team's relationship with Transitions of PA, a crisis center based in Lewisburg that serves Union, Snyder, and Northumberland counties. According to its

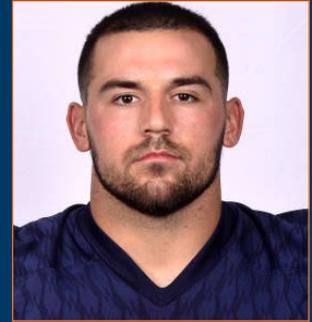
website, Transitions of PA's mission is to provide advocacy, empowerment and education to victims, survivors, families and communities to end patterns of violence and abuse.

"We're fortunate to be able to develop an affiliation with Transitions," Susan said. "We look forward to assisting in their efforts to support women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The young men on our team are in a position where they must take on the challenge of leadership. As our relationship grows, we'll serve to help educate others in the efforts of this special group." ■

Mark Pyles Named

Semifinalist for 2017

William V. Campbell Trophy®



Bucknell's Mark Pyles was named a semifinalist for the 2017 William V. Campbell Trophy®, the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) announced Wednesday.

Pyles was among 181 semifinalists, which included 37 from FCS programs. Pyles and Lehigh's Jimmy Mitchell were the lone Patriot League student-athletes among the semifinalists.

One of only nine Bison to serve as team captain more than once, Pyles is a two-time All-Patriot League selection. In 2015, he finished fifth in the Patriot League with a team-best 95 tackles. This season, he currently ranks second among Bison with 30 tackles, a team-high 3.5 of which were for a loss.

Pyles enters Saturday's game against Monmouth with 188 tackles (107 solo) in 35 career games. He has started 24 contests, including the past 13 in a row at Sam linebacker.

This Campbell Trophy is awarded to the absolute best football scholar-athlete in the nation. The NFF will announce 12 to 14 finalists on Nov. 1, and each will receive an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class, presented by Fidelity Investments. The finalists will travel to New York City for the 60th NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 5. During the event, one member of the class will be declared the winner of the 28th William V. Campbell Trophy® and have his postgraduate scholarship increased to \$25,000. ■

Dear Friends of Bison Football

As most of you know, the University budget covers only a fraction of the operating expenses to run a competitive Division I football program.

This year, we have a fundraising goal of \$500,000 to meet our program's budgetary needs. This money is spent in three main areas of student-ath-

lete recruitment, purchasing equipment to help train our team members, and covering the travel, lodging, and food costs for our team's travel.

We expect 100% effort from our student-athletes on both the gridiron and in the classroom. We hope we can count on 100% participation from our parents, alumni and friends in support of

our team. Thanks in advance for your assistance and we hope to see you at a game this fall!

Joe Susan — Bob Odell Head Football Coach

[See the last page for our methods of giving.](#)

Alumni Spotlight

Ajayne Kizekai, '10



Since graduating from Bucknell where has your career path taken you?

Since graduating from Bucknell my career has revolved around athletics in some capacity. Post-graduation I was fortunate enough to return to my high school alma mater, Blair Academy, where I was an Assistant Athletic Director. I spent two years at Blair before attending Georgetown University where I received a Masters in Sports Management. From Georgetown, I returned to my home state of Rhode Island to work as an athletics marketing and promotions intern at Brown University for one year before being promoted to the athletics department's Facilities and Operations Coordinator. I spent over two

and a half years at Brown before I was presented with the opportunity to return to Bucknell as the university's Assistant Athletic Director of Operations and Events. I've been in this position for about ten months now and I am enjoying being back on campus.

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

As a student-athlete I learned that persistence is key to success. If you put in the time and effort towards accomplishing a personal and/or team goal good things will often happen. Many times not immediately but somewhere down the line you will reap the benefits of your efforts.

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

I have many fond memories as a student-athlete at Bucknell. However, two memories that stick out to me most was working my way back into the starting line up my freshmen

year and scoring a touchdown on my first collegiate carry against a top five defense and team in the country. I will always remember that moment. I came in with the goal of starting my freshmen year. However, after suffering an injury early in camp my dream was shattered. I was at an extremely low point trying to adjust to Bucknell and not having football as my usual outlet to let lose. After several weeks, which felt like months, I was able to find the drive needed to accomplish the goal that I set for myself coming into camp. I put a lot of extra time in rehabbing with our trainers and strength coach. When I was able to return to the field I put it all on the line during practices and JV games. When my opportunity came against Richmond, I knew it was time to accomplish my preseason goal which I did that day, and continued to do until my last game in 2009.

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

I would encourage current football players to strive to be

their best self, be a team player and be persistent in achieving a set goal. I believe those values extend beyond football. They can be applied to your career, family life and more. Most importantly they are values that I believe help shape great people.

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

Bucknell Football will always be a part of me. It has given me the opportunity to be part of a great fraternity of men. Most of my best friends, to this day, were teammates of mine at Bucknell. As a result of playing football at Bucknell, I have come to know many great people who have been extremely influential in my life as a student and professional. Giving back allows Bucknell Football to build and improve on some of the things that made us commit to become a Bucknell Bison Football Student-Athlete. Giving back helps ensure other student-athletes have the same opportunity. ■



2017 SCHEDULE

Sat, Sep 02	Marist	Lewisburg, Pa.	45 - 6(W)
Sat, Sep 09	Holy Cross *	Lewisburg, Pa.	0 - 20(L)
Sat, Sep 16	William & Mary	Williamsburg, Va.	9 - 30(L)
Sat, Sep 23	Sacred Heart	Lewisburg, Pa.	34 - 31(W)
Sat, Sep 30	Monmouth	Lewisburg, Pa.	13 - 35(L)
Sat, Oct 14	Cornell	Ithaca, N.Y.	26 - 18(W)
Sat, Oct 21	Lafayette *	Easton, Pa.	3:30 PM
Sat, Oct 28	Colgate *	Hamilton, N.Y.	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 04	Lehigh *	Lewisburg, Pa.	12:00 PM
Sat, Nov 11	Georgetown *	Lewisburg, Pa.	12:00 PM
Sat, Nov 18	Fordham *	Bronx, N.Y.	1:00 PM



Watch: Patriot League Network
 Watch: Patriot League Network
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* Indicates Conference Game



Football
Bucknell University
One Dent Drive
Lewisburg, PA 17837



The Method of Giving that Works for You!

- **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."
- **Credit Card:** The university accepts most major credit cards.
- **Gifts of Stock/Securities:** Monthly payment plans can be arranged. 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 online: www.BucknellBison.com



[Donate by clicking here!](#)

To designate your gift to Bison Football choose "other" to search for "Bison Club, Football (Gridiron)"

FOOTBALL CONTACT INFORMATION

Head Coach: Joseph Susan / 570-577-3057 / j.susan@bucknell.edu

Assistant Coaches: Matt Borich (Def. Coordinator/DL), Bobby Acosta (Offensive Coordinator/QB), Jake Flathery (RB), Steven King (WR/Special Teams Coordinator), Darnell Stapleton (Run Game Coordinator/OL), Mike Weick (LB), Eli Wicklund (CB), Eric Wicks (Def. Secondary/Safeties)

Strength & Conditioning Coordinator: John Field

Administrative Coordinator: Tim Wait

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