



2000 UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO WEEKLY FOOTBALL RELEASE

• THIS WEEK'S GAME •

BOWLING GREEN (0-3) AT BUFFALO (0-3)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2000 • 7:00 PM
UB STADIUM (31,000) • BUFFALO, NY
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE GAME
WGR RADIO (550), ADELPHIA CABLE (TAPE DELAY)

Quick Facts

Coach _____ Craig Cirbus, 6th year (17-41)
 Game Captains _____ Derrick Gordon (O)
 _____ Bob Dzvonic (D), Javunt Pratt (S)
 Affiliation _____ Division I-A/Mid-American
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BULLS READY FOR SEASON II IN MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The University at Buffalo Bulls begin their second season in the Mid-American Conference on Saturday night when they host Bowling Green at UB Stadium at 7:00 pm.

Both teams are hungry for their first victory of the 2000 season as they enter this weekend with 0-3 records. Both programs played a pair of BIG EAST teams in their non-conference slate with the Bulls traveling to Syracuse and Rutgers while the Falcons traveled to Temple and hosted Pittsburgh.

The Bulls are seeking to break an 18-game losing streak dating back to 1998 and win their first MAC game.

PROMOTIONS FOR BOWLING GREEN

This Saturday's game is sponsored by Valvoline Instant Oil Change and features an appearance by Mark Martin's racing car as well as posters of the NASCAR fan favorite.

In addition, prior to the game the Buffalo Trax Bulls-B-Que Tent Party and Concert will get fans ready for the game. Two local bands, Butterscotch and Blue Bullet Skater will perform and admission is free.

BULLS LOSE BITTER 24-21 DECISION TO CONNECTICUT

A few precious mistakes were the only thing separating the University at Buffalo Bulls' football team from their first Division I-A victory in 30 years.

The Bulls played visiting Connecticut, winners of five straight over the Bulls, on even terms but saw two key second half turnovers and a few mental mistakes keep them from snapping a 17-game

losing streak. The Huskies, with a strong second-half performance, improved to 2-1 on the season while Buffalo fell to 0-3.

Buffalo, which had turned the ball over nine times in its two previous losses had two costly turnovers in the second half and dug itself a 24-13 deficit with under eight minutes remaining in the game. That's when the Bulls rallied behind great special teams play and gritty defense and nearly pulled off the miracle.

After a partially blocked punt, the Bulls

drove 41 yards in eight plays capped when quarterback **Joe Freedy (Bethel Park, PA/Bethel Park)** hit split end **Andre Forde (Penfield, NY/Penfield)** with a three-yard scoring strike for their second touchdown hookup of the evening. When Freedy hit freshman flanker **Zeke McKine (Hollywood, FL/**



Andre Forde

2000 Mid-American Conference Standings

East Division

| Team | MAC Div. | | MAC Overall | | Overall | | Strk |
|---------------|----------|---|-------------|---|---------|---|------|
| | W | L | W | L | W | L | |
| Miami | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | L-1 |
| Ohio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | W-2 |
| Marshall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | L-1 |
| Bowling Green | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | L-3 |
| Buffalo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | L-18 |
| Kent State | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | L-5 |
| Akron | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | W-1 |

West Division

| Team | MAC Div. | | MAC Overall | | Overall | | Strk |
|-------------------|----------|---|-------------|---|---------|---|------|
| | W | L | W | L | W | L | |
| Central Michigan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | L-1 |
| Toledo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | W-6 |
| Western Michigan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | W-2 |
| Northern Illinois | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | W-1 |
| Ball State | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | L-20 |
| Eastern Michigan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | L-2 |

Saturday's Games

Boise State @ Central Michigan, 1:00 pm
Akron at Ohio, 2:00 pm
Kent State at Miami, 2:00 pm
 Northern Illinois at Auburn, 6:00 pm
Toledo at Western Michigan, 6:00 pm
Eastern Michigan at Temple, 6:00 pm
 Marshall at North Carolina, 6:00 pm
Bowling Green at Buffalo, 7:00 pm

(MAC games in italics)

Saturday's Results

@ Ohio State 27, Miami 16
 @ Wyoming 31, Central Michigan 10
 @ Kansas State 76, Ball State 0
 @ Temple 31, Bowling Green 14
 Youngstown State 26, @ Kent State 20
 @ W. Michigan 56, Indiana State 0
 @ Akron 35, Central Florida 24
 Connecticut 24, @ Buffalo 21
 @ South Carolina 41, E. Michigan 6
 @ Ohio 52, Tennessee Tech 14
 @ Toledo 31, Eastern Illinois 26



MacArthur with the two-point conversion the Bulls cut the lead to 24-21 with 2:20 left.

After stopping the Huskies with under a minute to play, junior **Javunt Pratt (Rochester, NY/John Marshall)** blocked yet another kick and set the Bulls up first-and-ten at midfield. After a 16-yard pass play to Forde and a two-yard completion to running back **Bam McDonald (Rochester, NY/Rush-**



Javunt Pratt

Henrietta), Freedy was sacked at his own 39 with time winding down. With no timeouts left all the Bulls could do was spike the ball and attempt a long field goal. Senior **Scott Keller (Amherst, NY/Amherst Central)** had his 58-yard try on line but it fell short giving the Huskies the win.

"I've seen Scott kick that before in practice so I had faith that he could make it," said UB head coach Craig Cirbus. "A loss like this just makes us stronger, and hopefully, this will help us play better as a team. We have to turn the last three weeks into something constructive for the strong conference schedule ahead of us."

The Bulls had a strong offensive first half and led 13-10 going into intermission. After the Huskies scored on their first drive to make it 3-0, Buffalo responded by going 61 yards in 13 plays with Keller tying

the game with a 20-yard field goal. The Bulls took the lead in the second quarter when Forde and Freedy hooked up for the first time. Freedy scrambled to buy time and then hit Forde for a 38-yard scoring strike to put UB up 10-3. That play capped an impressive 97-yard drive in 11 plays.



Joe Freedy

The Huskies would come back to tie when Tommy Collins scored from six yards out on a pass from quarterback Ryan Tracey. Tracey would complete 20-of-37 passes for 199 yards and two touchdowns in the game. UB took its last lead on a 23-yard field goal with just :12 in the half after a nine-play 60-yard drive.

In the second half, the Huskies hurt Buffalo on several crucial third-down conversions. On its first drive in the second half, UConn converted a third-and-17 play at its own 10 and went on to cap the drive with a 22-yard strike from Tracey to John Fitzsimmons to retake the lead at 17-13.

After the Huskies drove inside the Buffalo 20, senior **Carlos Spencer (Buffalo, NY/South Park)** forced a fumble by Fitzsimmons that was recovered by senior **Chris Gray (Frewsburg, NY/Frewsburg)** at the Buffalo nine-yard line.

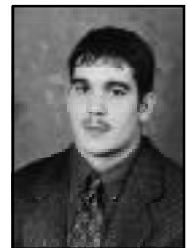
After two changes of possessions, the

Bulls took over at the Huskies 48-yard line after an 18-yard punt return by McDonald. However, a botched snap on the first play gave Connecticut the ball back. UB's defense, however, came up big forcing a punt before Freedy was intercepted inside the UB 25 by Jamie Lenkaitis, who returned the ball to the Buffalo 15. Three plays later, Taber Small burst in from two yards out for the game-winning score.

There were many outstanding performances for the Bulls on both sides of the ball. Freedy completed a career-high 26-of-39 passes for a career-best 259 yards and two touchdowns. His favorite target was McKine, a true freshman, who had 10 catches for 122 yards. Forde, meanwhile added six catches for 95 yards and hit paydirt twice. Forde now has four career touchdown receptions on 22 career catches.

Defensively, UB got big games from Gray, Spencer, **Tory Smith (Centereach, NY/Hall Hollow East)** and **Jamie Guerra (Belle Vernon, PA/Belle Vernon)**.

Gray had a career-best 12 tackles, two for loss, and a fumble recovery. Smith had 10 tackles, including two for loss, while Spencer (forced fumble, pass break) and Guerra (1.5 sacks, three tackles



Jamie Guerra

for loss) each had seven tackles.

• MAC PEPSI PLAYERS OF THE WEEK •

Offensive Player of the Week: *Mike Bath (Miami)*. Bath won his second award this year for his outstanding performance at Ohio State. In a 27-16 loss to the #15-ranked Buckeyes, Bath accounted for 341 yards of total offense, including a team-leading 105 rushing yards on 11 carries. Bath completed 21-of-48 passes for 236 yards and two touchdowns and had three interceptions.

Defensive Player of the Week: *Dwight Smith (Akron)*. Smith had three interceptions and blocked a field goal in the Zips 35-24 win over Central Florida, snapping a two-game losing streak. Smith's two first-quarter picks led to Zip scores and a 14-0 lead. Late in the fourth quarter his block of a UCF field goal attempt kept the margin at 11 points. Smith also made eight solo tackles (nine total), a pass break up and had a tackle for a loss of three yards.

Special Teams Player of the Week: *Todd France (Toledo)*. France booted five field goals (29, 36, 31, 34, 26), one shy of the school record, in a 31-26 win over Eastern Illinois. France's first field goal tied the game at 10-10 in the second quarter. With his team down 17-10 in the third, France added field goals from 36 and 31 yards to close the gap to one point. His two fourth-quarter field goals gave the Rockets leads of 28-17 and 31-20.



SCOUTING THE FALCONS

The Bowling Green Falcons come into UB Stadium looking to post their first win of the 2000 season and put aside some recent road woes.

The Falcons won their final road game of the 1999 season (33-30 at Central Florida) but have lost seven of their last eight away from BG.

The Falcons finished the 1999 season with three straight wins.

Some other notes on the Falcons:

- **Bowling Green looks much like Buffalo** offensively with a capable passing game through three games but not much of a running attack. Quarterback **Andy Sahn** has thrown for 196.0 yards per game but the Falcons are averaging just 39.7 yards rushing per game.
- The Falcons are banged up as they come to Buffalo missing several starters, including flanker **Kurt Gerling**, the MAC Freshman of the Year in 1998. Gerling had caught a pass in 23 straight games before suffering a broken collarbone against Michigan in the season opener.
- Freshman tight end **Jason Van Dam** caught his first two career TD passes (24 and 23 yards) against Temple. He has caught four passes for 78 yards (17.8 average) for the season.
- The Falcons defense has been very opportunistic this far. BGSU has forced eight turnovers in the first three games and the Falcons rank fifth in the country in fumbles recovered and eighth in turnover margin (+5 for the year).
- Senior nose tackle **Brandon Hicks** leads the team in sacks (4) and tackles for loss (6).

FIRST MEETING BETWEEN UB-BG

Despite their two long football histories and relatively close geographical positions – about a five hour drive from

Bowling Green to Buffalo – this will be the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

Both teams compete in the East Division of the MAC making the game even more important.

QUOTABLE COACHES

Here are some excerpts from BG head coach Gary Blackney and UB head coach Craig Cirbus' MAC teleconferences on Monday morning.

Blackney on his team's mental state...

"I think the attitude is really good. We worked out last night (Sunday) and there was some frustration and disappointment on our team because our expectations were a lot higher than what we experienced for the first three games.

"Nonetheless, the attitude of our football team has been outstanding. We know that the first three games have no bearing on the divisional race. Right now we have to get as healthy as we can and

find out how well we can play against Buffalo."

On what he sees in Buffalo...

"I think they're very well coached. I know Craig and they've done a good job of recruiting. I'm more concerned with our football team. We're as banged up as we've ever been in my time here. I'm more concerned about what we can do. This is a big game because it's a conference divisional game and because we're going into the Buffalo game with the same record. It's important for both teams to get a win.

"I think we've played a difficult non-league schedule. You can only tell your players they're good for so long and then that confidence and self-esteem has to be backed up by winning."

Craig Cirbus On Bowling Green...

"It's fairly startling for us to see the points they've allowed, because I see some strong talent on the Bowling Green team. They look very good and very disciplined. They're in the right spot at the right time they just were in against some tough opponents. I see an awfully good 0-3 football club, that's what I see."



Gary Blackney

| • Numbers of Note in Cirbus Era • | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|
| | 1995-present | 2000 |
| Playing at home _____ | 10-19 | 0-1 |
| Playing on road _____ | 7-22 | 0-2 |
| Playing on grass _____ | 14-31 | 0-2 |
| Playing on turf _____ | 3-10 | 0-1 |
| Leading at halftime _____ | 11-4 | 0-1 |
| Trailing at halftime _____ | 4-35 | 0-2 |
| Game tied at halftime _____ | 2-2 | 0-0 |
| Winning turnover margin _____ | 12-6 | 0-0 |
| Losing turnover margin _____ | 2-30 | 0-3 |
| Even in turnover margin _____ | 3-5 | 0-0 |
| Rushing for over 200 yards _____ | 10-5 | 0-0 |
| Rushing for less than 200 yards _____ | 7-36 | 0-3 |
| Passing for more than 200 yards _____ | 7-17 | 0-2 |
| Passing for less than 200 yards _____ | 10-24 | 0-1 |



On the game against Connecticut...

"It was a tough hard-nosed football game, but we came up short at the end with a desperation field goal attempt. It was a bitter loss for the team because they've been working hard through the two opening losses. They really rallied hard for that game but now we have to put the non-conference part of our schedule out of our mind and focus on a big, big conference opener against Bowling Green, who we haven't faced yet, so that will be exciting."

BULLS GET OFFENSE UNTRACKED

The Bulls scored just one touchdown in their first two contests, but got their offense untracked against Connecticut.

Buffalo racked up a season-best 360 total yards, including 259 passing yards, the most since the season finale at Hofstra in 1998 (11/14/98).

In addition, the UB offense converted 8-of-17 (47.1%) third-down conversions after connecting on just 5-of-33 (15.2%) going into the UConn game.

MCKINE SHINES IN FIRST START

True freshman flanker **Zeke McKine (Hollywood, FL/MacArthur)** got the first

start of his career on Saturday night and made the most of his opportunity.

McKine started for junior **Dahnel Singfield (Baltimore, MD/Dunbar)**, who had fluid drained off his knee last week.

All the freshman did was catch 10 passes for 122 yards – an all-time UB record for a freshman – and snared a crucial two-point conversion pass in the final three minutes that gave UB a chance to try for the tie in the final minute.

Of McKine's 10 catches, three of them

were for first downs (of UB's eight third-down conversions) and he posted a career-long 44-yard reception which set up a field goal at the end of the first half.

Said McKine afterwards:

"I just turned 18 years old, I didn't expect to be catching this many balls in my freshman year, especially at the Division I level."

SPENCER FOR HIRE IN SECONDARY

Senior cornerback **Carlos Spencer (Buffalo, NY/South Park)** was part of a UB secondary that limited the high-flying UConn pass offense to 199 yards and allowed the Bulls to post three sacks Saturday night.

Spencer had seven tackles, five of them solos, and a pass breakup. In addition, he foiled a UConn drive inside the Buffalo 20 in the second half by forcing a fumble recovered by teammate **Chris Gray (Frewsburg, NY/Frewsburg)**.

OTHER NOTES FROM UCONN GAME

UB's 13-10 lead at halftime was their first lead at intermission since they led Canisius on their way to a 47-0 win back on October 17, 1998 – coincidentally UB's last win.

The Bulls fell to 11-4 during the Craig Cirbus era when leading at halftime.

Quarterback **Joe Freedy** had his finest career game, completing a career-best 26-of-39 passes for 259 yards and two touchdowns. He also scrambled for a pair of first downs, one of which set up UB's second touchdown.

UB shook up their defense with good results. **Craig Rohlfs (Cincinnati, OH/Moeller)**, **Jamie Guerra (Belle Vernon, PA/Belle Vernon)** and **Brandon Jordan (Huntington Beach, CA/Edison)** – all injured during pre-season drills - all started and had strong games. Rohlfs had eight tackles and a pass breakup, Guerra had seven tackles (three for

losses) and 1.5 sacks, while Jordan had six tackles as well.

FORDE MOTORING TOWARD END ZONE

Split end **Andre Forde (Penfield, NY/Penfield)** is becoming a real touchdown maker. Forde, a sophomore, has 22 career catches and four of them have gone for touchdowns (or one in every 5.5 catches).

Forde had two touchdown receptions as a true freshman last season (in 12 catches) after being converted from a high school running back.

STATISTICAL TRENDS THROUGH THREE WEEKS

Some interesting statistical tidbits after three weeks of the 2000 season:

Passing fancy : The Bulls rank among the leaders in the Mid-American Conference in passing through three games.

UB is fourth in the conference in pass offense per game (216.7 yards per game) behind only Miami, Marshall and Western Michigan. The Bulls have twice as many first downs via the air than the ground through three games (32 to 16).

Little hanky panky: Once again in 2000, the Bulls are playing disciplined and rank among the top of the MAC in least penalized teams.

The Bulls currently rank third in the MAC with just 119 yards of penalties, trailing only Marshall (91 yards) and Akron (110).

Defense stiffening: Despite giving up some big scores to Rutgers and Syracuse, the Bulls defense has shown great improvement over last year.

Buffalo has allowed 392.3 yards per game through three outings this year – 102.1 yards fewer than they did in 1999. Poor field position and a -8 rating in the +/- ratings are the biggest culprits to UB giving up 48.7 points per game.

Spreading it around: Last year, current Buffalo Bill **Drew Haddad** caught



Zeke McKine



52% of the passes the Bulls threw. This year, UB is really spreading its receivers out, with 11 players having caught passes already this year. UB's receiving leader, **Zeke McKine**, has caught 15 of UB's 66 completions (22.7%).

PRATT IS BACK FOR UB SPECIAL TEAMS

Junior defensive back **Javunt Pratt (Rochester, NY/John Marshall)** has been named a captain of special teams for the second straight week after a tremendous performance against Connecticut.

Pratt tipped two Connecticut punts in the second half, the second he was credited with a block, that set up UB's opportunity to nearly pull off a miracle against Connecticut.

Down 24-13, Pratt tipped an Adam Coles' punt that traveled just 19 yards and set up a 41-yard drive for a score to pull UB to within 24-21. Then after the UB defense held, Pratt blocked another punt setting up UB at midfield for their attempted tying field goal.

Pratt did not play last year, instead competing on the UB track team, but back in 1998 had 17 tackles (with nearly all of them on special teams), two fumble recoveries and a blocked punt.

CAREER BESTS VERSUS CONNECTICUT

The following Bulls posted career-best totals against Connecticut:

| Player | Career Best |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Joe Freedy | 26 completions, 259 yards |
| Zeke McKine | 10 rec., 122 yards |
| Andre Forde | 6 rec., 95 yards |
| Derrick Gordon | 5 receptions |
| Chris Gray | 12 tackles |
| Tory Smith | 10 tackles (tied best) |
| Jamie Guerra | 7 tackles, 1.5 sacks |

BULLS TRANSACTIONS

The following players need updates since the publishing of the 2000 media

guide:

Three-year starter **Josh Stello (Moon Township, PA/Moon)** was lost for the season in July when he suffered a torn ACL to his right knee. He will redshirt and return for a fifth season next year. He will most likely miss next spring's drills but should be fully recovered by next August.

Sophomore **Terrance Dawson (Warren, OH/Warren G. Harding)** joined the Bulls on Tuesday, August 14 after playing last season at City College of San Francisco.

Dawson was originally signed out of high school to play at Indiana University and played his high school ball with UB teammates **Alvin Jennings** and **Marcus Claret** at Warren G. Harding HS in Ohio.

Dawson was a two-time All-Steel Valley performer in high school and led the conference in sacks during his last two years. One scouting service had him ranked among the top 15 interior linemen in the Midwest his senior year.

Sophomore **Kyle Kampf (Long Branch, NJ/Shore Regional)** suffered a back injury the first day of pre-season drills and returned home to New Jersey. He has decided to transfer from the program.

STREAKING...

Streaks on the line on Saturday...

The Bulls are looking to snap an 18-game losing streak dating back to 1998. That is UB's longest losing streak since going winless for 22 straight games starting in 1925 and lasting until a 12-0 win over Long Island during the 1928 season. Buffalo was 0-21-1 during that stretch.

The Bulls last win against a Division I-A team was a 16-0 win over Holy Cross on October 31, 1970, UB's last full season against major college competition until 1999.

Senior punter **Mike Masucci**

(Canastota, NY/Christian Brothers Academy) saw his 34-game starting streak end at Rutgers. Senior offensive tackle **David Pruce (Chardon, OH/Chardon)**, who has started 27 consecutive games, now owns the longest current streak.

CAPTAINS FOR WEEK FOUR

University at Buffalo head coach Craig Cirbus announced during the first week of camp that he will name captains each week during the 2000 season and name permanent captains at the conclusion of the season.

This week he named junior running back **Derrick Gordon (Brooklyn, NY/August Martin)** as offensive captain, junior nose guard **Bob Dzvornick (Pittsburgh, PA/**



Bob Dzvornick

Shaler) as defensive captain and junior **Javunt Pratt (Rochester, NY/John Marshall)** as special teams captain for the second straight week.

ROHLFS HAS KNACK FOR TURNOVERS

Junior free safety **Craig Rohlf (Cincinnati, OH/Moeller)** has been a human turnover machine for the Bulls in his first two seasons and got back in the starting lineup against Connecticut.

Rohlf, who tied for 20th nationally in interceptions last season, led the MAC last year in interceptions with five and was involved in **nine** of the **15** turnovers that UB forced last year. Besides the five hijacks, Rohlf also forced two fumbles and recovered two others.

During his two-year career, the former Moeller HS standout has been involved in 12 turnovers that the Bulls have gained.

During his high school career, Rohlf set an Ohio state record by intercepting



UB WEEKLY FOOTBALL RELEASE • PAGE VI

seven passes in the state playoffs as a senior.

SWITCHING JERSEYS

Because of position changes there has been one roster switch for the Bulls.

Redshirt frosh **Andy Avery (Rochester Hills, MI/Rochester Hills)** has moved to offensive tackle and switched from jersey #93 to #79. Another redshirt freshman **Lorenzo Jones (Winter Haven, FL/Lakes Region)** switched from #79 to #93.

NEW LOOK OFFENSIVE LINE

The Bulls' offensive line has gone from the most experienced in the country in 1999 (with over 150 career starts) to perhaps the least experienced.

Senior **David Pruce (Chardon, OH/Chardon)** is the only lineman to have started a game on the offensive line heading into this season.

EXCELLING IN THE CLASSROOM

The UB football program continues to excel in the classroom as the Bulls currently have 10 players with a cumulative GPA over 3.0 and have averaged over 30 players per semester over that mark.

The list:

| Player | GPA |
|---------------------|------|
| Andy Avery | 3.59 |
| Marquis Dwarté | 3.24 |
| Andre Forde | 3.34 |
| Ron Gannello | 3.20 |
| Mike Gaydosz | 3.13 |
| Alex Lazo | 3.55 |
| Jeff Mills | 3.66 |
| David Pruce | 3.53 |
| Brandon Shaughnessy | 3.24 |
| Jason Smalarz | 3.36 |

ON THE AIRWAVES

All UB football games can be heard on WGR Sports Radio 55 this season with

Rick Maloney (play-by-play) and **Chris Brown** (color analysis) on the call.

The games can also be heard over the internet by going to UB's website (buffalobulls.com).

ON THE TUBE

The Bulls will get plenty of exposure on television this season with two road games aired live in Buffalo and all five home games rebroadcast in the Buffalo market.

In addition, for the sixth consecutive season, head coach Craig Cirbus will join Assistant Athletic Director Paul Vecchio for **Bulls Football Focus** on the Empire Sports Network. The show will air this year on Tuesday nights at 9:00 pm on Empire Sports Network.

Empire will also air the Bulls' game at Marshall live on September 30th at 7:00 pm, while Adelphia Cable's HTTV will broadcast UB's battle with Ohio the following week in Athens at 7:00 pm.

In addition, the four remaining home games will also air on tape delay on Adelphia with **Brian Blessing** and **Mark Collins** on the call with **Gary Pufpaff** handling sideline duties.

Here is the Adelphia schedule:

| Game | Replay Date/Time |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Bowling Green | 9/24 (1:00 pm, 8:30 pm) |
| Ball State | 10/22 (1:00 pm, 8:30 pm) |
| Kent State | 11/5 (1:00 pm, 8:30 pm) |
| Miami, OH | 11/19 (1:00 pm, 8:30 pm) |

THE COACHING MATCHUP

The Bulls are coached by Craig Cirbus (Buffalo, '80) in his sixth year as head coach after spending 11 seasons as an assistant for legendary Joe Paterno at Penn State.

Cirbus has a 17-41 career record and earned NCAA Division I-AA Independent Coach of the Year honors after leading UB to an 8-3 record in 1996 – UB's first winning season in over a decade.

Gary Blackney is in his 10th season at Bowling Green where he holds an all-time record of 58-44-2 heading into this Saturday's game.

Blackney was named the Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year following both the 1991 and 1992 seasons when the Falcons went a combined 21-3 and won both the California Raisin Bowl and the Las Vegas Bowl.

Blackney is a native of Plainview, NY and is a 1967 graduate of the University of Connecticut.

RECORD BOOK UPDATE

The following Bulls find themselves in the UB all-time record book:

| Player | Category | Place/No. |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Chris Shelly | Forced fumbles, career | T-5th/5 |
| Craig Rohlfis | Forced fumbles, career | T-9th/3 |
| Scott Keller | Field goals, career | 4th/15 |
| Scott Keller | Extra points, career | 2nd/54 |
| Scott Keller | Points kicking, career | 4th/99 |
| Mike Masucci | Total punts, career | 2nd/164 |
| Mike Masucci | Total punting yards, career | 2nd/6,276 |
| Dahnel Singfield | Kickoff returns, career | 3rd/42 |
| Dahnel Singfield | KO return yardage, career | 2nd/888 |
| Joe Freedy | 200-yd passing games, career | T-8th/3 |

STILL LOOKING FOR PAYDIRT ON KICKOFF RETURN

Although the Bulls kickoff return game ranked among the top half of the MAC last season, the Bulls have gone 113 straight games without returning a kickoff for a score.

You have to go back to Oct. 14, 1989 when Alan Bell returned a kickoff 89 yards for the last time a Buffalo player took a kickoff back for six.



UB WEEKLY FOOTBALL RELEASE • PAGE VII

• GAME RECAP – WEEK 3 •

CONNECTICUT 24, BUFFALO 21

SEPTEMBER 16, 2000 • UB STADIUM

BUFFALO, NY

•Scoring Summary•

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Connecticut | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 24 |
| Buffalo | 3 | 10 | 0 | 8 | 21 |

| Team | Per. | Time | Scoring Play |
|------|------|-------|--|
| UC | 1 | 8:56 | Heyl 21 FG, 3-0 |
| UB | 1 | 3:36 | Keller 20 FG, 3-3 |
| UB | 2 | 11:55 | Forde 38 pass from Freedy (Keller kick), 3-10 |
| UC | 2 | 8:06 | Collins 6 pass from Tracey (Heyl kick), 10-10 |
| UB | 2 | :12 | Keller 23 FG, 13-10 |
| UC | 3 | 8:48 | Fitzsimmons 22 pass from Tracey (Heyl kick), 17-13 |
| UC | 4 | 9:18 | Small 2 run (Heyl kick), 24-13 |
| UB | 4 | 2:21 | Forde 3 pass from Freedy (McKine pass), 24-21 |

•Team Statistics•

| | Huskies | Bulls |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| First downs | 22 | 21 |
| Rushing Attempts-Yards | 38-139 | 36-101 |
| Passing yards | 199 | 259 |
| Passing (C-A-I) | 20-37-0 | 26-39-1 |
| Offensive plays | 75 | 76 |
| Total net yards | 338 | 360 |
| Average gain per play | 4.5 | 4.7 |
| Fumbles (number-lost) | 1-1 | 1-1 |
| Penalties (number-yards) | 4-20 | 5-37 |
| Interceptions by (number-yards) | 1-8 | 0-0 |
| Number of Punts-Avg. | 6-29.5 | 6-38.0 |
| Punt returns-yards | 1-5 | 3-19 |
| Kickoff returns-yards | 5-116 | 4-85 |
| Possession time | 30:23 | 29:37 |
| Third down conversions | 8-of-16 | 8-of-17 |
| Fourth down conversions | 0-of-1 | 0-of-0 |
| Sacks (number-yards) | 1-7 | 3-14 |

•Individual Statistics•

Rushing: UB: Gordon 9-45, McDonald 17-39, Freedy 6-9, Brereton 2-8, Dwarte 2-0. UC: Small 29-137, Tracey 7-5, Benson 1-(-1), Team 1-(-2).
Passing: UB: Freedy 26-39-1 259, Team 0-1-0 0. UC: Tracey 20-37-0 199.
Receiving: UB: McKine 10-122, Forde 6-95, Gordon 5-11, McDonald 3-7, Shaughnessy 2-24. UC: Fitzsimmons 4-49, Timko 4-37, Hill 3-42, Small 3-16, O'Connor 2-27, Sorrells 2-19, Collins 2-9.
Time of game: 3:17. **Attendance** – 13,678

• GAME RECAP – WEEK 2 •

RUTGERS 59, BUFFALO 0

SEPTEMBER 9, 2000 • RUTGERS STADIUM

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

•Scoring Summary•

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Buffalo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rutgers | 17 | 14 | 28 | 0 | 59 |

| Team | Per. | Time | Scoring Play |
|------|------|-------|---|
| RU | 1 | 13:52 | Ohene 3 run (Barone kick), 7-0 |
| RU | 1 | 3:09 | Barone 31 FG, 10-0 |
| RU | 1 | 3:09 | King 7 pass from McMahon (Barone kick), 17-0 |
| RU | 2 | 2:48 | Stringer 20 pass from McMahon (Barone kick), 24-0 |
| RU | 2 | 1:17 | Johnson 7 pass from McMahon (Barone kick), 31-0 |
| RU | 3 | 12:44 | Anderon 2 run (Barone kick), 38-0 |
| RU | 3 | 9:39 | King 15 pass from McMahon (Barone kick), 45-0 |
| RU | 3 | 6:13 | Anderson 8 run (Barone kick), 52-0 |
| RU | 3 | 2:26 | Stringer 15 pass from McMahon (Barone kick), 59-0 |

•Team Statistics•

| | Bulls | Scarlet Knights |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| First downs | 17 | 19 |
| Rushing Attempts-Yards | 37-(-7) | 39-187 |
| Passing yards | 223 | 266 |
| Passing (C-A-I) | 24-25-1 | 19-29-0 |
| Offensive plays | 82 | 68 |
| Total net yards | 216 | 453 |
| Average gain per play | 2.6 | 6.7 |
| Fumbles (number-lost) | 5-3 | 3-1 |
| Penalties (number-yards) | 5-44 | 2-20 |
| Interceptions by (number-yards) | 0-0 | 1-39 |
| Number of Punts-Avg. | 9-32.3 | 3-42.0 |
| Punt returns-yards | 0-0 | 7-102 |
| Kickoff returns-yards | 5-93 | 1-22 |
| Possession time | 33:02 | 26:30 |
| Third down conversions | 2-of-16 | 3-of-11 |
| Fourth down conversions | 1-of-4 | 0-of-2 |
| Sacks (number-yards) | 0-0 | 4-33 |

•Individual Statistics•

Rushing: UB: McDonald 6-16, Gordon 12-15, Smith 1-14, Dwarte 3-13, Grundy 4-8, Brereton 1-2, Singfield 1-1, Freedy 7-(-42), Team 2-(-34). RU: Ohene 6-75, Leonor 10-40, Thomas 5-24, McMahon 2-24, Anderson 8-23, Ciurciu 1-3, Hinton 4-1, Stanton 1-0, Lovelace 1-(-1), Jones 1-(-2).
Passing: UB: Freedy 24-45-1 223. RU: McMahon 17-25-0 249, Jones 2-4-0 17.
Receiving: UB: McKine 4-58, Shaughnessy 4-46, McDonald 4-27, Singfield 3-32, Lindsay 3-24, Dwarte 2-19, Forde 1-8, Bartoszek 1-5, Grundy 1-4, Gordon 1-0. RU: King 5-73, Johnson 4-16, Smith 3-41, Stringer 2-35, Hobbs 1-57, Carty 1-19, Lovelace 1-9, Thomas 1-9, Mahoney 1-8.
Time of game: 3:11. **Attendance** – 26,511



• GAME RECAP – WEEK 1 •
SYRACUSE 63, BUFFALO 7
SEPTEMBER 2, 2000 • CARRIER DOME

SYRACUSE, NY

•Scoring Summary•

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Buffalo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Syracuse | 13 | 22 | 21 | 7 | 63 |

Team Per. Time

| | | |
|----|---|-------|
| SU | 1 | 11:50 |
| SU | 1 | 7:36 |
| SU | 2 | 12:06 |
| SU | 2 | 8:22 |
| SU | 2 | 5:15 |
| SU | 3 | 12:06 |
| SU | 3 | 7:49 |
| SU | 3 | 5:27 |
| SU | 4 | 6:27 |
| UB | 4 | :34 |

Scoring Play

| |
|---|
| Davis 1 run (Shafer kick), 7-0 |
| Davis 2 run (kick failed), 13-0 |
| Johnson 4 run (Tyree pass from Nunes), 21-0 |
| Brown 2 pass from Nunes (Shafer kick), 28-0 |
| Harris 91 fumble return (Shafer kick), 35-0 |
| Brown 1 run (Shafer kick), 42-0 |
| Davis 20 run (Shafer kick), 49-0 |
| Tyree 20 blocked punt return (Shafer kick), 56-0 |
| Ferri 25 run (Shafer kick), 63-0 |
| Singfield 34 pass from Freedy (Keller kick), 63-7 |

•Team Statistics•

| | Bulls | Orangemen |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| First downs | 14 | 23 |
| Rushing Attempts-Yards | 33-102 | 50-304 |
| Passing yards | 168 | 82 |
| Passing (C-A-I) | 16-36-2 | 6-9-1 |
| Offensive plays | 69 | 59 |
| Total net yards | 270 | 386 |
| Average gain per play | 3.9 | 6.5 |
| Fumbles (number-lost) | 4-3 | 2-0 |
| Penalties (number-yards) | 6-38 | 10-88 |
| Interceptions by (number-yards) | 1-5 | 2-25 |
| Number of Punts-Avg. | 8-29.8 | 4-32.8 |
| Punt returns-yards | 3-34 | 4-52 |
| Kickoff returns-yards | 10-108 | 2-90 |
| Possession time | 31:59 | 28:01 |
| Third down conversions | 3-of-17 | 2-of-5 |
| Fourth down conversions | 1-of-1 | 0-of-0 |
| Sacks (number-yards) | 2-23 | 3-27 |

•Individual Statistics•

Rushing: UB: McDonald 8-76, Brereton 4-26, Walker 5-19, Jackson 1-2, Dwarte 2-2, Grundy 1-0, Gordon 5-(-2), Freedy 7-(-21). SU: Brown 18-157, Ferry 7-55, Johnson 5-27, Scott 3-25, Davis 4-24, Nunes 5-23, Jackson 1-19, Anderson 2-6, Cusumano 2-0, Team 1-(-2), Williams 2-(-30).

Passing: UB: Freedy 16-36-2 168. SU: Nunes 5-8-1 25, Anderson 1-1-0 57, Williams 0-0-0 0.

Receiving: UB: Singfield 6-121, Forde 3-19, Bartoszek 2-13, Shaughnessy 1-11, Barber 1-11, Gordon 1-6, McDonald 1-1, McKine 1-(-14). SU: Woodcock 3-75, Campbell 1-4, Brown 1-2, Johnson 1-1.

Time of game: 3:01. **Attendance** – 40,634

UB BULLS AMONG THE
MAC/NATIONAL LEADERS

• JOE FREEDY •

3rd in the MAC in passing average per game (216.7)

4th in the MAC in total offense per game (198.7)

10th in pass efficiency rating (102.1)

• ANDRE FORDE •

9th in kickoff return average (19.1)

• ZEKE MCKINE •

T-5th in pass receptions per game (5.00)

• SCOTT KELLER •

T-6th in field goals per game (0.67)

• BUFFALO BULLS TEAM RANKINGS IN THE
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (13 TEAMS) •

12th in rushing offense per game (65.3 ypg)

4th in passing offense per game (216.7 ypg)

10th in total offense per game (282.0 ypg)

12th in scoring offense per game (9.3 ppg)

12th in net punting per attempt (26.0 ypg)

9th in punt return average (8.8 ypg)

10th in kickoff return average (15.1 ypg)

10th in rushing defense per game (210.0 ypg)

5th in pass defense (182.3 ypg)

11th in pass efficiency defense (153.8)

7th in total defense – yards per game (392.3 ypg)

13th in scoring defense per game (48.7 ppg)

12th in turnover margin per game (-2.67)

7th in sacks per game (0.6 per game)





Bulls Two-Deep

• OFFENSE •

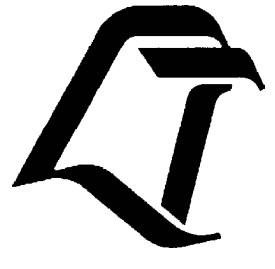
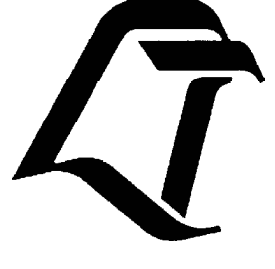
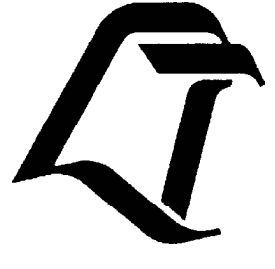
| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| FL 86 - Zeke McKine | 9 - Danel Singfield | |
| TE 88 - Brandon Shaughnessy | 84 - Chad Bartoszek | 87 - Mark Campanella |
| LT 74 - David Pruce | 79 - Andy Avery | |
| LG 58 - Matt Baniewicz | 58 - Aaron McMickle | |
| C 60 - John Nolan | 64 - Kevin Dunn | 68 - Aaron McMickle |
| RG 62 - Gabe Kogler | 56 - Rob Meyer | |
| RT 66 - Tim Hedges | 71 - Brian Johnessee | 69 - Jason Hayden |
| TB 26 - Bam McDonald | 28 - Marquis Dwart | 42 - Kenon Jackson |
| FB 27 - Marvin Brereton | 31 - Derrick Gordon | 34 - Theron Walker |
| QB 15 - Joe Freedy | 13 - Mike Gaydosz <i>or</i> | 11 - Randall Secky |
| SE 81 - Andre Forde | 80 - Rob Barber | 17 - Al Brocutto |

• DEFENSE •

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| LT 37 - Jamie Guerra | 91 - Omari Jordan | 90 - Steve Fleming |
| NG 96 - Bob Dzvonic | 50 - Marcus Claret | 78 - Ron Gannelo |
| RT 43 - Joe McKoy | 95 - Terrance Dawson <i>or</i> | 93 - Lorenzo Jones |
| LOLB99 - Duane Williams | 45 - Kulaa Bacheyie | 33 - Jason Coley |
| LILB 49 - Chris Gray | 54 - Brandon Nishnick <i>or</i> | 21 - Lamar Wilcher |
| RILB 36 - Brandon Jordan | 38 - Chris Shelly | 54 - Brandon Nishnick |
| ROLB59 - Marcus Cole | 19 - Noah Burroughs | 45 - Kulaa Bacheyie |
| S/CB 20 - Carlos Spencer | 23 - Javunt Pratt <i>or</i> | 16 - Valdis Terrell |
| SS 46 - Tory Smith | 22 - Youdlain Marcellus | |
| FS 24 - Craig Rohlfs | 5 - Bobby Johnson | 30 - Mark Quinn |
| W/CB 35 - Mike Lambert | 4 - Mark Graham | |

• SPECIAL TEAMS •

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| P 98 - Dallas Pelz | 85 - Mike Masucci | |
| PK 7 - Scott Keller | 98 - Dallas Pelz | |
| HLD 13 - Mike Gaydosz | 15 - Joe Freedy | |
| LS 24 - Craig Rohlfs | 51 - Kevin McCarthy | |
| SS 88 - Brandon Shaughnessy | 24 - Craig Rohlfs | 51 - Kevin McCarthy |
| PR 26 - Bam McDonald <i>or</i> | 86 - Zeke McKine <i>or</i> | 24 - Craig Rohlfs |
| KOR 9 - Danel Singfield | 81 - Andre Forde | 86 - Zeke McKine |



Falcons Two-Deep

• OFFENSE •

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
| SE 8 - Andre Pinchem | 14 - Cleon Grant | |
| LT 79 - Rob Fehrman | 70 - Beau Carmon | |
| LG 78 - Dennis Wendel | 71 - Matt Tyla | |
| C 72 - Jon Mazur | 71 - Matt Tyla | |
| RG 68 - Mike Bodnar | 61 - Ryan Yeager | |
| RT 76 - Malcolm Robinson | 77 - Eric Gilbo | |
| TE 86 - Ross Durham | 80 - Jason Van Dam | |
| QB 15 - Andy Sahn | 1 - Ricky Schneider | |
| RB 22 - Joe Alls | 27 - John Gibson | |
| FB 47 - Craig Jarrett | 40 - Eric Clark | |
| FL 18 - David Bautista | 36 - Steen Grant | |

• DEFENSE •

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| DE 90 - Ryan Wingrove | 58 - Rodney Dawson | |
| DT 88 - D.J. Owchar | 54 - Chris Glantzis | |
| NG 92 - Brandon Hicks | 54 - Alex Glantzis | |
| DE 44 - D.J. Durkin | 57 - Casey Williams | 97 - Will Teague |
| OLB 2 - Khary Campbell | 28 - Marcus Allen | |
| MLB 10 - Chris Della Vella | 50 - Chris Haneline | |
| OLB 10 - Garry Fisher | 33 - Geno Burden | |
| LCB 6 - Emmanuel Hendrix | 24 - Ken Dobbs | |
| RCB 30 - Michael Malone | 20 - Janssen Patton | |
| SS 26 - Chad Long | 19 - Jason Morton | |
| FS 9 - Sergio Lund | 3 - Karl Rose | |

• SPECIAL TEAMS •

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| P/KO 48 - Pat Fleming | |
| PK 98 - Kyle Turano | 13 - Mike Knapp |
| PR 26 - Chad Long | 22 - Joe Alls |
| KR 22 - Joe Alls | 18 - David Bautista |
| HLD 15 - Andy Sahn | 48 - Pat Fleming |
| SNP 99 - Ryan Diepenbrock | 82 - Jason Dailey |