

BAHAMAS BOWL
BUFFALO vs CHARLOTTE

Buffalo tops Charlotte 31-9 in Bahamas Bowl

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) Buffalo got its first bowl win, and Jaret Patterson put an exclamation point on his record-setting season.

Patterson ran for 173 yards and two touchdowns, Kyle Vantrease passed for a touchdown and ran for another and Buffalo got its first bowl win in four tries by beating Charlotte 31-9 on Friday in the Bahamas Bowl.

“I’m just really proud of this group guys and how hard they worked,” Bulls coach Lance Leipold said. “We overcame a lot.”

Patterson had 32 carries for the Bulls (8-5), who were winless in three previous bowl appearances. He finished the year with a slew of school single-season records, including 330 carries, 1,799 yards and 19 rushing touchdowns.

Antonio Nunn caught a 12-yard touchdown pass from Vantrease on the first Buffalo drive to open the scoring, and Vantrease capped a marathon 15-play, 74-yard, 8-1/2-minute drive by plunging in from the 1 with 3:33 left in the half to push the Bulls’ lead to 14-0.

Patterson scored on a 6-yard run midway through the third quarter to make it 24-0, then sealed the win with a 10-yard TD rush late to cap a 16-play scoring drive.

“He wore us down,” Charlotte coach Will Healy said.

Victor Tucker caught a 51-yard catch-and-run touchdown pass from Chris Reynolds late in the third quarter for Charlotte (7-6), which saw its five-game winning streak snapped. Charlotte was in a bowl game for the first time.

Reynolds completed 15 of 24 passes for 198 yards.

The bowl game was the first of 40 to be played this season.

THE TAKEAWAY

Buffalo: The Bulls had lost all three of their previous bowl trips by double-digits, but never trailed in this game. Buffalo ended the season with six wins in seven games, the only misstep in there being a three-point loss at Kent State on Nov. 14.

Charlotte: The bowl loss may sting for a bit, but it’s important to note that the 49ers - in only their fifth season at the FBS level - had been 2-10, 4-8, 1-11 and 5-7 before this year. Charlotte not only got to a bowl but did so in a year where it was picked to finish last in Conference USA’s East division.

BALANCED TRIP

During their days in the Bahamas, the teams took part in a youth clinic, dance contests, a pinball tournament and some beach and pool time. Temperatures Friday were in the mid-70s in the Bahamas, mid-50s in Charlotte - and mid-20s in Buffalo. “To be able to get down here in the sun is really nice for us,” Bulls defensive end Taylor Riggins said.

TOUGH DEBUT

Charlotte went scoreless on its first seven possessions and punted on only one of those. The 49ers missed a field-goal attempt - Jonathan Cruz’s 33-yard try late in the first quarter got caught up in the 25 mph right-to-left breeze and sailed well past the left upright - plus had two other drives stopped on downs and two more snuffed out by turnovers. The other possession was erased by the end of the first half, without the offense even getting on the field after Charlotte’s Marquavis Gibbs intercepted a pass by Vantrease and ran it back to near midfield as the second quarter ended.

ODD FINISH

The teams shook hands and Buffalo began celebrating thinking the game was over - but there were three seconds left on the clock. So the teams headed back to their sidelines, Charlotte then called time-out, and Reynolds got sacked on the “second” final play.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
BUFF	7	10	7	7	31
CLT	0	0	6	3	9

Scoring Summary -----

	BUFF	CLT
FIRST QUARTER		
BUFF TD 9:12 Antonio Nunn 12 Yd pass from Kyle Vantrease (Alex McNulty Kick)		
3 plays, 1 yard, 2:37	7	0
SECOND QUARTER		
BUFF TD 3:33 Kyle Vantrease 1 Yd Run (Alex McNulty Kick)		
12 plays, 59 yards, 5:28	14	0
BUFF FG 1:25 Alex McNulty 31 Yd Field Goal		
0 plays, 0 yards	17	0
THIRD QUARTER		
BUFF TD 5:22 Jaret Patterson 6 Yd Run (Alex McNulty Kick)		
1 play, 0 yards, 0:13	24	0
CLT TD 2:20 Victor Tucker 51 Yd pass from Chris Reynolds (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		
4 plays, -2 yards, 1:55	24	6
FOURTH QUARTER		
CLT FG 10:50 Jonathan Cruz 32 Yd Field Goal		
0 plays, 0 yards	24	9
BUFF TD 1:43 Jaret Patterson 10 Yd Run (Alex McNulty Kick)		
3 plays, 22 yards, 1:19	31	9

Team Stats	BUFF	CLT
First Downs	19	15
Passes for First	5	10
Rushes for First	13	4
Penalties for First	1	1
Third Down Efficiency	7-14	5-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-2	2-4
Total Yards	282	278
Total Plays	63	55
Avg Gain Per Play	4.5	5.1
Net Yards Rushing	205	80
Rushes	46	31
Yards Per Rush	4.5	2.6
Net Yards Passing	77	198
Comp-Att	8-17	15-24
Yards Per Pass	4.5	8.3
Times Sacked	0	5
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-16
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	3	1
Punt Average	42.7	39.0
Penalties	2	3
Penalty Yards	30	20
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	33:12	26:48

Individual Stats

RUSHING

BUFFALO	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Jaret Patterson	32	173	5.4	2	21
Kevin Marks	12	27	2.3	0	7
Kyle Vantrease	2	5	2.5	1	4
CHARLOTTE	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Benny LeMay	13	45	3.5	0	8
Victor Tucker	1	12	12.0	0	12
Micaleous Elder	2	10	5.0	0	7
Chris Reynolds	14	10	0.7	0	8
Aaron McAllister	1	3	3.0	0	3

PASSING

BUFFALO	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kyle Vantrease	8	17	77	4.5	1	1	80.5
CHARLOTTE	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Chris Reynolds	15	24	198	8.3	1	1	21.5

RECEIVING

BUFFALO	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Antonio Nunn	5	53	10.6	1	23
Zac Lefebvre	2	18	9.0	0	12
Daniel Lee	1	6	6.0	0	6
CHARLOTTE	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Tyler Ringwood	5	64	12.8	0	25
Victor Tucker	3	61	20.3	1	51
Cameron Dollar	4	48	12.0	0	29
Micaleous Elder	2	18	9.0	0	10
Ryan Carriere	1	7	7.0	0	7