

ATHLETICS BANQUET

APRIL 18, 2026





MISSION

BUF Athletics is a distinctive athletic program that exists to: disciple student-athletes for the advancement of the Kingdom, develop skills and character, and display the University's spirit of excellence and passion.

VISION

Compete for Christ.

Compete for Championships.

Champion Christ in all things.

Culture of Conviction and Character.



MESSAGE FROM ATHLETICS

Nothing worth doing is ever easy. What we have accomplished with the blessing and help of the Lord this year has been exciting and certainly worth all the time and effort that has been put in by student-athletes, coaches, and athletic staff.

BUF Athletics began an incredible journey in August of carrying out our vision of Competing for Christ, Competing for Championships, Championing Christ in All Things, and creating a Culture of Conviction and Character. This required a strong level commitment, perseverance, and an unwavering faith in the Lord.

Our theme this year as an athletic program was “To The End.” The Scripture this theme is based off is Galatians 6:9-10, which says, “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.” I am extremely grateful to report that we have made strides towards achieving the mission of BUF Athletics, creating a culture that honors the Lord, and competing with excellence and passion each day.

This is just the beginning. We are continually aiming towards growth on and off of the competition surface, knowing that “God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

Thank you for your commitment to BUF Athletics. The best truly is yet to come! Go Eagles!

Nathaniel Hughes
Athletic Director

PROGRAM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Nathaniel Hughes, Athletic Director

Sponsor Recognition & Talon Club Membership

Matthew Fredryk, Associate Vice President of Development

Reflection & Prayer

Dr. Clayton Cloer, President

Dinner

Introduction of Speaker

Nathaniel Hughes, Athletic Director

Keynote Speaker

Stacy Stafford, Lead Pastor, Four Hills Church

Athlete of the Month & Athletic Achievements

Nathan Cloer, Sports Information Director

Scholar Athlete Recognition

Wayne Albury, Assistant Athletic Director

Eagle POWER Weight Room Achievements

Nathaniel Hughes, Athletic Director

Fall Sport Recognition

Cross Country - Coach Tim Wanamaker

Women's Volleyball - Coach Thais Franca

Winter Sport Recognition

Men's Basketball - Coach Nathaniel Hughes

Spring Sport Recognition

Softball - Coach Joanie Albury

Baseball - Coach Wayne Albury

Silent Auction Results

Nathaniel Hughes, Athletic Director

Athletic Director Awards and Closing Remarks

Nathaniel Hughes, Athletic Director

EAGLES



TM

ATHLETICS

EST. 2025

TALON CLUB MEMBERS

Everson Family

Franklin Family

Fredryk Family

King Family

Ward Family

Talon Club Members serve a crucial role in preparing Student Athletes to Advance God's Kingdom with their Calling.

Membership in the Eagles Talon Club (ETC) provides support for the BUF Athletic Fund that assists teams with travel, uniforms, equipment, and post-season competition.

2026-27 Memberships can be purchased online or in the Wellness Center lobby during the Athletic Awards Banquet

bufeagles.com/talonclub



Connor Ward
Lakeside Dorm Resident

“My brother went to a larger secular university, where in a few of his classes, he turned in papers that went with a Christian worldview, and the professor gave him a bad grade because he just didn’t like it. Professors there teach with a worldly worldview. However, professors here and at other Christian universities will teach not only what is in the Bible, but they will also give you reasons and opportunities that you can do that in your [future] workplace.”

DEVELOPING BUF ATHLETICS

Today's students are facing a significant spiritual challenge in finding a community that actively champions their faith. On secular campuses, intense pressure to conform threatens to erode the core beliefs that once defined many young men and women. For student-athletes, these pressures are amplified, testing their convictions on and off the field.

BUF Athletics is growing in its mission to provide competitive athletic programming for young men and women, who will grow athletically, academically, and spiritually.

BUF ATHLETICS FUNDRAISING

\$320,729.75

raised in FY 2024-2025

CORPORATE & CHURCH SPONSORS





Advancing God's Kingdom Through **Discipling Student-Athletes**

BUF Athletics is a distinctive athletic program that exists to disciple student-athletes for the advancement of the Kingdom, develop skills and character, and display the University's spirit of excellence and passion.

Those that have arrived at BUF from other institutions have shared the pressure to choose between fully committing to competition or living for Christ.

Student-athletes are encouraged to compete to win by relentlessly pursuing excellence in everything that they do as a means to honor the Lord. Above all else, coaches encourage them to intentionally leverage their talents and abilities as a means to point others toward Christ.



Barbara Demarco
BUF Women's Volleyball

“Coming to BUF is different from playing in other places... Here we have another goal. In some other schools, the main goal is just volleyball [or sports] 24/7, which can be very exhausting when you're an athlete and specifically a Christian... So, in other places that I've been to, that was never a priority, being a Christian... Coming to BUF gave me exactly what I needed in terms of playing volleyball and keeping my focus on God. It just gave me the right match.”



LAUNCHED IN FALL 2025

Baptist University of Florida is a proud member of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). This program uses intercollegiate athletics to further the Great Commission and is committed to equipping student-athletes and coaches to make a positive impact for Christ.

ATHLETIC TEAMS

Recruitment began in 2024 and by the end of Fall 2025, BUF had five athletic teams with plans to create more teams in the near future. The following teams competed during the 2025-2026 season:

- Men's & Women's Cross Country
- Women's Volleyball
- Men's Basketball
- Baseball
- Softball

HOUR-A-THON FUNDRAISER

\$23,341 IN ONE WEEK!

During the Fall 2025 semester, student-athletes rallied together and contacted friends and family members asking them to donate and support BUF Athletics.

During this fundraiser, \$23,341 was raised in just one week!





Teeing up a New Era: **Men's & Women's Golf**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Men's and Women's Golf for the 2026-27 season! At BUF, golf is more than a game; it is a platform for discipline and integrity.

By expanding our athletic offerings, we are inviting student-athletes to sharpen their skills on the green while strengthening their conviction in Christ. Join us as we tee up this new chapter for BUF Athletics.

There will be many more details in the days ahead. Stay up-to-date with the latest by bookmarking bufeagles.com and make sure you are following BUF Athletics on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



















An architectural rendering of the Baseball & Softball Athletic Complex. The image shows a top-down view of the facility, including a large baseball field and a softball field, with surrounding structures and seating areas. The rendering is in a dark, monochromatic style with gold highlights.

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ATHLETIC COMPLEX

BUF ATHLETICS COMPLEX: BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Today's students are facing a significant spiritual challenge in finding a community that actively champions their faith. On secular campuses, intense pressure to conform threatens to erode the core beliefs that once defined many young men and women. For student-athletes, these pressures are amplified, testing their convictions on and off the field.

This Athletics Complex is a direct solution to this problem. More than just a sports facility, it cultivates an environment where spiritual formation thrives. This \$900,000 project includes a 200-foot softball field and a 400-foot (center) baseball field, each accommodating 600 fans.

Beyond the fields and stands, the complex equips our coaches and faculty to disciple, develop, and display the spirit of BUF through state-of-the-art facilities.

- A state-of-the-art Field House, Batting Cages, Field Lighting, and a Press Box will enable our coaches and faculty to continue to develop the skills and character of our student-athletes at a professional level.
- Beautiful, well-maintained grass fields, enhanced by professional-grade lighting for both the playing areas and surrounding facilities.
- Concessions and Bathrooms will provide a clean and comfortable space for family, fans, and the community.

Your investment in this complex ensures that students at Baptist University of Florida will emerge as Christian leaders, boldly advancing God's Kingdom and living out their calling with a steadfast purpose. This new complex will provide the platform for our student-athletes to display excellence and a passion for their faith to the world. By supporting this campaign, you are helping to build a legacy of leaders who are prepared to make a lasting impact for Christ.

Please consider your role in this mission and join us in building a home for our future leaders. More information at:
www.bufdevelopment.org/buf-athletic-complex



**THANK YOU FOR ADVANCING
GOD'S KINGDOM, TOGETHER.**



**Baptist University
Of Florida**

bufdevelopment.org | 5400 College Drive, Graceville, FL 32440 | 800.328.2660