

Orlando rights a segregation wrong

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Better late than never! The 1958 Bulls

It took 51 years for cracker Central Florida to straighten out this sorry racial episode, but it got done Saturday.

Thirty-four members of the University at Buffalo's 1958 football team were flown to Orlando and honored at midfield during halftime of the UCF-Buffalo game.

Why? The Bulls were about to play in the school's first bowl, the Tangerine Bowl against Florida State, when the group that ran Orlando's stadium decided that having Buffalo's two black players on the field would be too much for fans to bear.

The nerve! Not just one black player on Western New York's college squad, but two?

So, if **Willie Evans** and **Mike Wilson** couldn't play, the rest of the team voted to decline the bowl invitation.

Earlier this year, Orlando Mayor **Richard Crotty** decided to make amends and set in motion the old-timers' VIP weekend trip, free of charge.

At 70-something, the 1958 players couldn't play, but they did the next best thing: They watched the new Bulls nearly upset the UCF Knights.

Oh, yes! They also received an official apology from the city at midfield during halftime.

Former halfback Evans told the UCF paper: "We appreciate the fact that there is interest in our story and that we are going to be honored at the game. More importantly, it gives us an opportunity to get together as a team one more time, and we are grateful for that."

Disclosure: I graduated from the University at Buffalo and proudly played for the Bulls.

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