

## **Buffalo State to join Empire 8 as football affiliate**

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ROCHESTER, NY (Empire 8 Conference) Buffalo State College will join Empire 8 football starting in 2012 as an affiliate member. The Bengals will join Alfred University, affiliate Frostburg State University, Hartwick College, Ithaca College, affiliates Salisbury University and Springfield College, St. John Fisher College, and Utica College. "Speaking for the Empire 8 and all of our members, we are indeed pleased to have Buffalo State join us as conference affiliate in football," said Dr. Thomas Meier, President of the Empire 8 and of Elmira College. Empire 8 Commissioner Chuck Mitrano added, "We are very excited to begin this partnership with Buffalo State. They are a fine academic institution with a rich and storied football history that will add to the quality of the football conference. For many years, college football fans in our geography had hoped to see this kind of relationship and we are thrilled to embark on this historic association." Buffalo State is the largest comprehensive college in the State University of New York system and offers 140 undergraduate and 60 graduate academic programs in the arts, sciences, education, and professional areas of study. More than 11,000 undergraduate and graduate students call Buffalo State their academic home. "The Buffalo State Bengals are proud to be joining the Empire 8 football conference," said Buffalo State College's interim president Dr. Dennis K. Ponton. "We look forward to competing in a league with such a strong academic reputation and storied history in intercollegiate athletics." "I am thrilled for Buffalo State College football to be joining the Empire 8 conference," said Head Coach and Director of Athletics Jerry Boyes. "This is a great fit for Buffalo State and we look forward to once again playing a regular schedule against so many of our traditional in-state rivals as well as some other familiar foes." In eight seasons, the Empire 8 has recorded 20 postseason victories with five of the six current teams playing in at least one postseason game during that time. The current Empire 8 teams have posted a 54-23 record against non-conference Division III opponents over the past three years for a .701 winning percentage. For more on Empire 8 visit [www.Empire8.com](http://www.Empire8.com).