

# Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Youth Football Clinic on December 21

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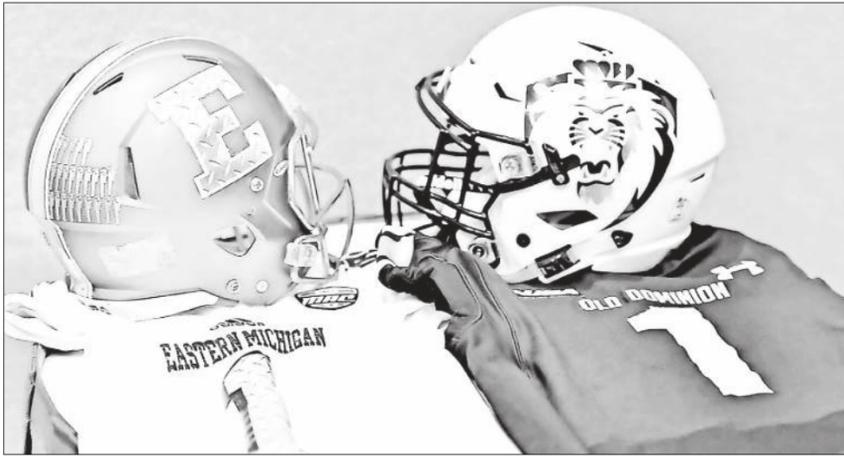
THE Popeyes Bahamas Bowl continues to bridge the gap between its participating teams and the local community through various initiatives, highlighted by its Youth Football Clinic.

This year's edition of the clinic is all set to be hosted December 21 at the Roscow AL Davies soccer field and plans to host over 200 aspiring football players between the ages of seven and 13.

Registration begins at 2pm and the clinic runs from 3pm to 4:30pm.

A combination of coaches from USA Football, Commonwealth American Football League participants, and players from both teams – the Old Dominion Monarchs and Eastern Michigan Eagles, will facilitate the event.

The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Committee has partnered with the local governing body for football, the CAFL, as the clinic looks to expand its reach and de-



THE 2016 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl will add another chapter to the budding rivalry between the Old Dominion Monarchs and the Eastern Michigan Eagles. When the teams meet at the Thomas A Robinson National Stadium at 1pm on December 23, it will be their third meeting in three years. Old Dominion has the edge in the head-to-head matchup thus far. In 2014 they scored a 17-3 victory, followed by a 38-34 win last season.

velop simultaneously with the game.

Richard Giannini, executive director of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, said his committee considered the clinic its "number one priority" when it came to fostering a relationship with the local community.

"Our number one priority is our Youth Football Clinic. That is our most important outreach at this time. The CAFL is going to help facilitate youth at that event as will continue to try to make that bigger and better and get many more involved in that clinic," he

said.

"Secondly with the exposure that we bring with major American college football, it will provide the interest for these young potential football players and make the most of whatever opportunities they have on the island. Interacting with

the youth is very important to us. Our primary goal is to establish that clinic and we will do some things moving forward as it grows in the future."

While both participating teams in this year's bowl look to make history for their respective schools on the field, it also presents an opportunity for them to take advantage of valuable life experiences within the Bahamas community.

Eagles head coach Chris Creighton said he looks forward to the off field initiatives like the clinic to positively impact his team.

"My vision for our football programme has always been to make playing at EMU one of the most incredible experiences of our guys' lives. Winning and winning championships is a part of that but at the very core I think it is about two things – life long relationships and new experiences," he said.

"So to be able to bring all of Eagle Nation football out of the country to the Bahamas, I can't tell you how

much that means for our guys to be able to experience to meet such an incredible country and the people who inhabit it. We are going to come to visit paradise but I'll tell you we're also going to do everything we can to spend time with people and build relationships."

Virginia Kelly, sports tourism marketing director, said many of the aspiring student athletes long for such opportunities.

"It presents a great opportunity for our young people to learn more about American football, and many of them I imagine will be participating in the sport for the first time," Kelly said.

"They will also have an opportunity to see and hear first-hand how sports can play a major role in learning self-discipline and put them on the path to receiving a college education."

The clinic is in conjunction with the participating teams' annual visit to the Ranfurly Home for Children.

## KATO REACHES CAREER MILESTONES

FROM PAGE 1

and Mason Woods.

Fawkes and the current Vandals roster look to make history as the football programme prepares for play in a lower division next fall.

The Vandals currently play in the Sun Belt Conference of Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) to be relegated to the Football Championship Series and play in the Big Sky Conference in 2018.

The Vandals will be-

come the first programme to make the move to drop down from the FBS to FCS since 1982, and the only one to do so without the NCAA forcing a decision.

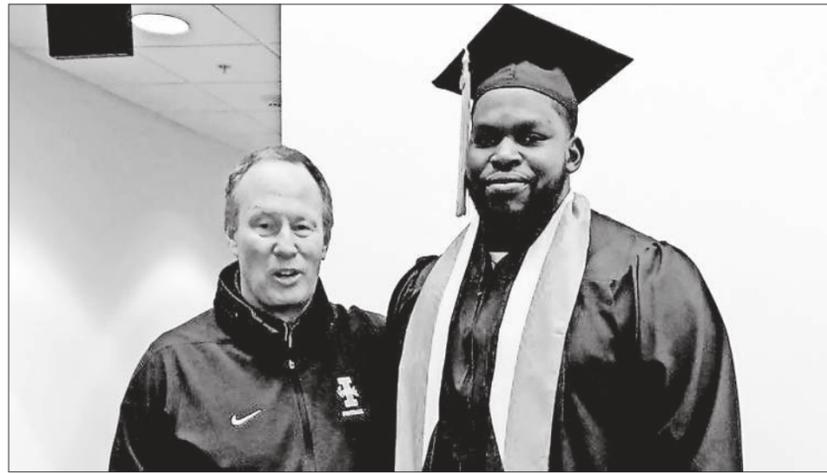
The 6'4", 303-pound guard, a native of Freeport, Grand Bahama, graduated in May while he saw his first official gametime as a member of the Vandals. In the 2014 season, he was sidelined with an injury and redshirted.

Prior to his transfer to Idaho, Fawkes spent two seasons at the JUCO level at Western Iowa where his

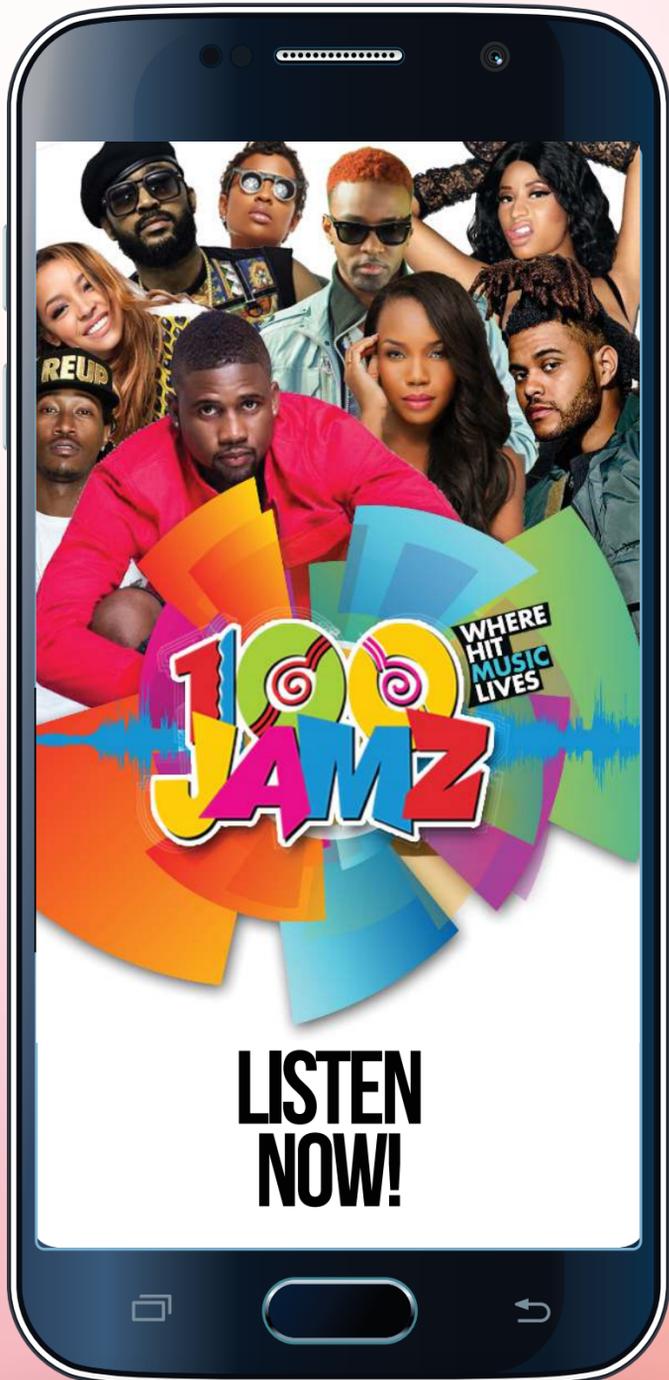
stellar play garnered attention from Division I programmes. Fawkes started every game for 11-1 Western Iowa and was a second-team Iowa Community College Athletic Conference selection.

Iowa Western was the league leader in total offence (522.5 yards per game), passing offence (257.5 yards per game), completions (274), pass attempts (441) and touchdowns (28).

The 23-year-old lineman is the son of Anthony and Bianca Fawkes.

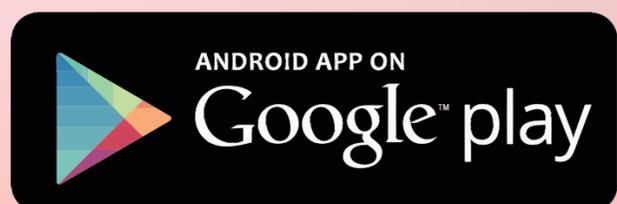
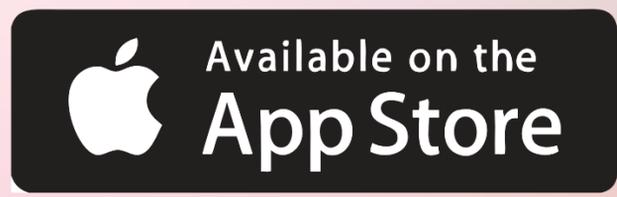


KATO FAWKES with Idaho Vandals offensive coordinator Khris Cinkovich at graduation. (Twitter @CoachCink)



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