

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES TEAMS



1988

The 1988 Florida squad moved into the national spotlight by advancing to the College World Series for the first time in school history. A historic season for the Gator Baseball program included the 1988 SEC Regular-Season and Tournament titles, the NCAA East Regional Crown, the first College World Series appearance in school history and a final national ranking of fifth by *Collegiate Baseball*.

"There's no way we're going to be satisfied with just the SEC Championship each year," stated UF coach Joe Arnold, who picked up his 500th career win and earned SEC Coach of the Year honors during the season.

The Gators, who were picked sixth in the SEC preseason coaches' rankings, did not achieve success in the 1988 season without a few setbacks. Arnold's club lost its SEC Tourney opener to Georgia, 8-3, then reeled off four straight victories in three days, never allowing more than three runs in a game. The Gators battled back from the consolation bracket at the SEC Tournament to upend host Mississippi State twice to take home the SEC championship. After dropping its NCAA Regional opener in Tallahassee, UF rebounded to post four wins in a row, knocking off Florida State along the way, to seize the coveted NCAA East Regional trophy.

Florida established a school record with 48 wins against a schedule rated as the second-toughest in college baseball, including 31 games against nationally-ranked opponents. In fact, the Gators re-wrote the record books as they totaled 25 victories against SEC competition, combining the regular-season and league tourney contests. The '88 Gators also set school marks for at bats (2,177), innings pitched (576), strikeouts (482) and games played (68).

1991

1991 proved to be a campaign to remember, as the Gators bounced all the way back from a disappointing 29-30 showing in which they failed to make the postseason. Florida notched a school-record 51 wins, appeared in the school's second College World Series and registered a program-best third-place national finish. Entering the year, head coach Joe Arnold had high hopes for an improved performance. Arnold knew it, the team knew it and the fans knew it. Few people, however, could have predicted just how good things would be for the Gators in 1991.

Boasting solid pitching and timely hitting, the Gators powered their way to the SEC Tournament title with a 4-0 mark. Florida capped a near-flawless four-day run in Baton Rouge, La., by defeating top-seeded LSU, 8-4, for its fifth championship at the event.

Hosting the NCAA East Regional, the Gators returned to the friendly confines of McKethan Stadium at Perry Field as the number one seed. The Orange and Blue did not disappoint the home crowd either, going 4-0 to snag the Regional hardware. Right-hander John Burke twirled UF's first no-hitter in 13 years and Brent Killen belted a home run in the bottom of the ninth to nip Furman in the first round, 2-0. In game two, Marc Valdes tossed a 3-0 shutout against Jacksonville to keep the Gators' in the winners' bracket. Consecutive triumphs over N.C. State, including a 3-2, 10-inning decision in the final, punched the ticket to Omaha.

At the College World Series, Florida eliminated top-seeded Florida State en route to a third-place finish. When all was said and done, the 1991 squad was recognized as one of the greatest in UF baseball history. Finishing 51-21 overall, the Gators were 16-8 during the SEC regular season and registered an eight-game winning streak spanning the SEC and NCAA Regional Tournaments to leave their own imprint of success on the program.

1988 ROSTER

Brent Addison	IF	Mike Moberg	OF
Ned Brigham	OF	Jim Nahas	RHP
Pat Chesley	C	Tim Oxley	RHP/DH/OF/1B
Steve Coley	1B/DH	Mike Parks	RHP
Tim Cox	RHP	Herbert Perry	IF/RHP
Jerry Creamer	LHP	Brian Reimsnyder	OF
Todd Douma	LHP	Ted Rich	IF
Tommy Edwards	2B	Allen Rutledge	3B
Jose Fernandez	C	Steve Toister	LHP
Joe Gaspard	RHP	Johnny Wiggs	LHP
Jeff Gidcumb	RHP	Steve Zerr	OF
Ken Hagan	OF/IF	Head Coach: Joe Arnold	
Tyson Johnson	RHP	Assistant Coaches: Doug Corbett, Dave Howard, Ben Hayes	
Joe Klancnik	RHP		
Mario Linares	C/IF/OF		
Jamie McAndrew	RHP		
Mark McAninch	C/IF		
Julio Mendez	SS		

1991 ROSTER

Jason Beaird	IF	Brian Duva	OF
Jimmy Bell	C	Brent Killen	1B
Doug Brennan	LHP	Eddie MacDonald	IF
Rick Britton	OF	Nick McClellan	RHP
John Burke	RHP	Ken Mercer	C
Bo Camposano	OF	Min Park	RHP
Cord Corbett	LHP	Kevin Polcovich	SS
Palmer Knight	1B	Brian Purvis	OF
Mario Linares	C	Ron Scott	LHP
Dave Majeski	OF	Joe Spellman	LHP
Scott Monk	RHP	Marc Valdes	RHP
Herbert Perry	3B/1B	Head Coach: Joe Arnold	
John Pricher	RHP	Assistant Coaches: Dave Howard, Scott Lovekamp, Tim Touma	
Ted Rich	IF		
Joe Russo	3B		
Brent Stuart	RHP		
David Valdes	2B		
Rob Bonanno	RHP		

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES TEAMS



1996

The 1996 season was an eventful one for the Gators and was highlighted by the team's third appearance at the College World Series. Florida made the journey to Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium with a squad that returned just two players from its 25-man roster during the 1995 campaign. Head coach Andy Lopez's youthful contingent, sporting 19 freshmen among its 26 newcomers, entered the season out of the national polls. Unfazed, Florida set 33 offensive school records in 1996, produced 50 victories and claimed a share of the SEC regular-season title. Nicknamed the "Comeback Kids" after racking up 25 come-from-behind victories, the club overcame four-run deficits six times during the year.

The Gators won the SEC Eastern Division for the first time since 1992, split the SEC regular-season crown with Alabama and LSU and was the runner-up at the SEC Tournament. Florida made its 15th NCAA Tournament appearance in school history and hosted a Regional for the fourth time since 1989. UF cruised to a 7-0 shutout against Bucknell in its opener before turning back N.C. State, 12-9, in game two. The Gators then stunned South Florida on Chuck Hazzard's solo shot in the 13th inning to advance to the regional championship game. Nursing a tenuous 3-2 lead, Florida sealed its spot in Omaha by exploding for nine runs in the bottom of the eighth inning during a 12-2 win over Massachusetts.

In its first action at the 1996 College World Series, Florida was staring defeat in the face before outfielder Brad Wilkerson cranked a grand slam to defeat Florida State, 5-2. Relegated to the consolation bracket following a 9-4 setback to LSU, designated hitter Chuck Hazzard blasted a pair of home runs and the Gators used the strong pitching of Tommy Bond to defeat Florida State, 6-3, for the second time in four days and oust the Seminoles. Next up for Lopez's charges was a rematch with LSU, a team that the Gators handled four-straight times during the regular season. However, it was the Bayou Bengals who would take a 2-1 decision on their way to the national championship.

1996 ROSTER

Ron Ackerman	OF	Jeff Jackson	RHP
Nick Alvarez	C/3B	Todd Johannes	C
Travis Andre	IF	John Kaufman	LHP
Charles Aulet	RHP	Chris Knollin	RHP
Tommy Bond	RHP	Octavio Medina	C
Thomas Brewer	RHP	Brian Ogle	OF
Eric Castaldo	C	Matt Parker	RHP
Chris Chism	OF	Dock Pollard	OF
Mario Diaz	OF	Paul Rigdon	RHP
Matt Duncan	3B	Sergio Rodriguez	LHP
David Eckstein	2B	Jacob Roll	RHP
Rick Eckstein	IF/OF	Shane Seroyer	C
Mark Ellis	IF	Freddie Smith	OF
Ward Entreklin	IF/OF	John Tamaro	SS
Josh Fogg	RHP	Sean Walsh	OF
Mike Floyd	OF	Danny Wheeler	RHP
Neril Griffith	OF	Head Coach: Andy Lopez	
Brian Haught	IF/OF	Assistant Coaches: Gary Henderson, Steve Kling, Eric Ekdahl	
Chuck Hazzard	OF/DH		
Greg Hillengas	RHP/OF		

1998

Florida captured the 1998 Southeastern Conference regular-season title and advanced to the College World Series for the second time in three years while producing its best offensive season in school history. The Gators established three new standards and seven players hit 10 or more home runs during the season. UF's 41 regular-season wins tied a school record accomplished three previous times (1981, 1991 and 1996) and its 21 SEC victories matched the 1985 squad for most league wins. In addition, Florida won the outright conference title for the first time since 1988.

Florida entered its own NCAA Regional as the top seed and was the prohibitive favorite to advance from the six-team regional into the College World Series. UF entered the event with a 31-4 home record and had strung together a school-record 18 consecutive wins at McKethan Stadium earlier in the season.

The Gators took advantage of a boisterous home crowd and survived a scare from sixth-seeded Monmouth in the opening tilt to grab a 12-8 win on Mark Ellis' three-run double in the eighth. In its second outing, Florida tallied nine runs during the first two innings to overwhelm Richmond, 15-3. That day wasn't over for the Gators, as they were set to face Wake Forest, the only other undefeated team in the regional, later in the day. Faced with a thin pitching staff, UF coach Andy Lopez used closer Josh Fogg for six-plus innings. The All-American entered the contest with two outs in the first and kept his squad on track for an 12-9 victory over the Demon Deacons.

With a CWS berth on the line, Florida advanced to Omaha with a 7-6 come-from-behind win over Illinois. Florida rallied three times, from deficits of 2-0 (6th), 5-4 (8th) and 6-5 (11th), in front of a McKethan Stadium record crowd of 5,150 fans. Derek Nicholson's bases-loaded single in the bottom of the 11th triggered a massive celebration and sent the crowd into a state of delirium.

Florida entered the College World Series as the top seed for the first time in school history, bettering the previous high seed of No. 2 in 1996. SEC rival Mississippi State pulled off a 14-13 upset in the first game, sending the Gators into the elimination round. Although it held a 4-3 record in CWS do-or-die games and had taken its last three such affairs, UF saw its season end with a 12-10 loss to Southern California in 12 innings.

1998 ROSTER

Travis Andre	INF	Matt McClendon	RHP
Tommy Bond	RHP	Stuart McFarland	LHP
Keith Brice	RHP	Pete McKinney	INF
Josh Canales	INF	Dan Mooney	C
Jeff Cardozo	RHP	Derek Nicholson	OF
Greg Catalanotte	OF	Alan Rhine	INF
Kevin Coleman	RHP	Banks Robinson	INF
Jason Dill	1B/OF	Sergio Rodriguez	LHP
Dwight Edge	OF	Tommy Rose	RHP
Mark Ellis	INF	David Ross	C
Mike Floyd	OF	Shane Seroyer	OF
Josh Fogg	RHP	Matt Siegel	INF
Ryan Gleichowski	LHP	Casey Smith	OF
Michael Gray	RHP	Randy Sterling	RHP
Ben Grezlovski	RHP	K.O. Wiegandt	RHP
Brian Haught	OF	Brad Wilkerson	1B/P/OF
Chuck Hazzard	1B/DH	Spencer Williams	OF
Matt Heath	C	Taylor Wood	INF
Dan Heard	OF	Head Coach: Andy Lopez	
Todd Johannes	C	Assistant Coaches: Gary Henderson, Steve Kling, Rick Eckstein	
Tim Johnson	INF		
Kevin Keen	RHP		
Ty Martin	INF		