



Florida Lady Gator Basketball

1998-99 Season Review

Overall Record: 19-14 (8-7 home; 7-4 away; 4-3 neutral)

Southeastern Conference: 6-8, tied for 8th (1-6 home; 5-2 away)

Final National Polls: Associated Press - none; USA Today/ESPN - receiving votes

Postseason: NCAA First Round



Primary Starting Lineup

University of Florida

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	PPG	RPG	Misc.
F	12	Tiffany Travis	5-10	Jr.	14.5	4.2	85.2 FT%
F	44	Tonya Washington	6-0	Jr.	16.7	8.3	48.7 FG%
C	4	Tamara Stocks	6-3	So.	11.2	6.0	53.0 FG%
G	11	Brandi McCain	5-3	Fr.	13.0	3.3	7.5 assists per game
G	33	Talatha Bingham	5-8	Sr.	8.4	3.7	29.9-3pt FG%

Head coach Carol Ross (Mississippi, '82): 184-91 in nine seasons at UF & overall

1998-99 at a Glance

The 1998-99 basketball season opened for the Lady Gator basketball team under a cloud of uncertainty. With the loss of three heralded seniors, including Kodak All-American Murriel Page, few knew what to expect from Carol Ross' young club that sported just one senior, Talatha Bingham. While two other SEC teams bid adieu to three starters, none lost as many veterans as Florida. After enjoying unprecedented success during the last five seasons, the Lady Gators had finally come to the crossroads: would it be a rebuilding year? Or had the program's foundation been solidified to the point where it would simply reload with fresh, young talent to carry the program's banner?

Playing one of the toughest schedules in program history, the Lady Gators proved that their foundation was indeed solid and they can compete year-in and year-out on the national level. Sure, there were learning bumps and bruises along the way during the 1998-99 season. But when the scrapes healed, Florida found itself competing in the NCAA Tournament for the seventh consecutive year - one of just 11 teams to compete in the "Big Dance" every year since 1993.

The season came to a grinding halt with a frustrating 87-84 overtime loss to Arizona in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. However, the Lady Gators finished the year with a 19-14 record and proved to everyone that they didn't necessarily need a single superstar to generate wins.

A balanced team emerged, with four players averaging double-figure scoring. Junior Tonya Washington led the way with 16.7 points to go along with a team-high 8.3 rebounds per game. Fellow junior Tiffany Travis, who spent the summer rehabilitating a knee injury, tallied 14.5 points and 4.2 rebounds. Sophomore Tamara Stocks battled inside the paint against opposing post players, in addition to nursing chronic back problems, while 11.2 points and 6.0 rebounds per outing.

Those three, along with Bingham, who contributed 8.4 points and 3.7 rebounds per game, and the rest of the squad were fueled and energized by one of the nation's spunkiest point guards - Brandi McCain. UF's 5-foot-4 freshman floor general rarely looked like a rookie as she scored 13.0 points and dished an SEC-best 7.5 assists per game.

McCain and her troops became road warriors, as nine of the team's first 12 games were scheduled away from Gainesville. The Lady Gators played their first eight games over a 16-day span with just two of those games at home. After UF's 75-65 season opening victory over Arkansas State at home in the first round of the Preseason NIT, the Lady Gators hit the road for a wild, wild ride en route to starting the season with a 9-2 record. Along the 16-day adventure in which the Lady Gators traveled 7,462 miles, UF played four games in seven days, in three different time zones, used four different starting line-ups and played seven different teams that all received votes in the national polls!

The opening months of the season propelled the Lady Gators to a 7-4 overall record in unfriendly arenas, tying the program record for wins on opponents' courts. Those wins gave UF the confidence it needed to survived the grueling SEC slate, as they

Airing the Lady Gators in '99

Radio: All 33 games aired on WRUF in Gainesville, with several offered to The Gator Radio Network with Steve Babik;

Internet: All games aired LIVE on <http://www.uaa.ufl.edu>;

Television: 13 games (8 Sunshine Network, 3 Fox Sport South, 1 ESPN, 1 espn2)

1998-99 Schedule & Results

Overall 19-14 Home: 8-7 Away: 7-4 Neutral: 4-3

NOVEMBER

3	Tue.	Mississippi All-Stars (Exh.)	W 91-67
7	Sat.	Athletes in Action (Exh.) (DH)	W 77-65
14	Sat.	ARKANSAS ST. (1)	W 75-65
16	Mon.	at Baylor (1)	W 70-58
19	Thu.	at Colorado State (2)	L 65-80
20	Fri.	vs. Indiana (2)	W 72-67
22	Sun.	vs. #13/16 G. Washington (3)	W 82-59
24	Tue.	MIAMI	W 85-69
28	Sat.	vs. Marquette (4)	L 61-77
29	Sun.	vs. Villanova (4)	W 52-49

DECEMBER

3	Thu.	at Stetson	W 98-76
5	Sat.	SW TEXAS (DH) (SUN-TV)	W 89-47
10	Thu.	at #9/8 Alabama*	W 77-71
19	Sat.	at Illinois (5) (espn2)	L 77-97
21	Mon.	#3/3 PURDUE	L 76-84
28	Mon.	WESTERN MICHIGAN (6)	W 94-59
29	Tue.	CALIFORNIA (6)	W 96-70

JANUARY

3	Sun.	at Kentucky* (SUN-TV)	W 77-63
7	Thu.	at #4/4 Georgia*	L 72-84
11	Mon.	CENTRAL FLA (SUN-TV)	W 89-59
14	Thu.	#25 AUBURN*	L 71-76
17	Sun.	at South Carolina*	W 78-66
21	Thu.	#1/1 TENNESSEE*	L 64-77
24	Sun.	LOUISIANA ST* (SUN-TV)	L 71-80
28	Thu.	KENTUCKY*	L 70-80
31	Sun.	VANDERBILT* (FSS-TV)	W 78-69

FEBRUARY

4	Thu.	at Arkansas* (SUN-TV)	W 87-77
7	Sun.	at Mississippi*	W 86-63
11	Thu.	FLORIDA ST (SUN-TV)	W 106-89
15	Mon.	#25 ALABAMA* (ESPN)	L 73-75
18	Thu.	#14/12 GEORGIA* (SUN-TV)	L 66-91
21	Sun.	at Mississippi St.*	L 56-68
25	Thu.	vs. #9-seed Vanderbilt (7) (TV8)	W 64-61
26	Fri.	vs. #1-seed Tenn(FSS/SUN) (7)	L 82-90

MARCH

12	Fri.	vs. Arizona (8) (SUN-TV)	ot-L 84-87
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*Southeastern Conference game; All times Eastern
FSS - Fox Sports South; SUN-TV - Sunshine Network;
(DH) Double-header with UF men's team; (1)
Preseason NIT; (2) WNIT Final Four; Fort Collins,
Colorado; (3) Reebok Challenge, Boston, Mass.; (4)
Ronald McDonald Classic, Durham, NC; (5) SEC/Big
Ten Challenge, Champaign, IL; (6) State Farm
Classic, Gainesville, FL; (7) SEC Tournament,
Chattanooga, Tenn.; (8) NCAA Championship,
Piscataway, N.J.

1998-99 Florida Lady Gators

Numerical Roster

No.	Name	POS	Cl	Let.	HT	Birthdate	Hometown (High School)
4	Tamara Stocks	C	So.	1L	6-3	1/29/79	Pickerington, OH (Pickerington)
5	Tombi Bell	G	So.	1L	5-5	4/19/79	Miami, FL (Miami Norland)
11	Brandi McCain	G	Fr.	HS	5-3	9/21/79	Silsbee, TX (Silsbee)
12	Tiffany Travis	G/F	Jr.	2L	5-10	3/20/78	Gulfport, MS (Harrison Central)
13	Erin O'Neil	C	Jr.	2L	6-3	7/31/78	Winnipeg, Manitoba, (Glenlawn Collegiate Institute)
14/34	Lindsey DeLoach	G	Fr.	HS	5-10		Orlando, FL (Pine Castle Christian Academy)
21	Misty Knight	F	So.	1L	6-1	12/22/78	Savannah, GA (Beach)
24	Kelly Freeman	F	Jr.	2L	6-0	1/29/78	Brentwood, TN (Brentwood)
25	Monique Cardenas	G	Fr.	HS	6-0	10/17/79	Starke, FL (Keystone Heights)
33	Talatha Bingham	G/F	Sr.	3L	5-8	9/1/77	Pearl, MS (Pearl)
42	Candace Cunningham	F	So.	1L	6-1	8/21/79	Valparaiso, FL (Niceville)
43	Naomi Mobley	F	Fr.	HS	6-2	7/9/80	Jacksonville, FL (Ed White)
44	Tonya Washington	F	Jr.	1L	6-0	12/30/77	Paxton, FL (Paxton)

Staff: Head Coach: Carol Ross (ninth year, Mississippi '82)
 Assistant Coaches: Joi Williams (ninth year, South Florida '88)
 Beth Dunkenberger (second year, Randolph-Macon '88)
 Bobbie Kelsey (first year, Stanford '96)
 Athletic Trainer: Kellye Mowchan (first year with bball, Florida '91)

Pronunciation Key:

TOMBI Bell TOOM-be
 TALATHA Bingham ta-LAY-tha
 Monique CARDENAS .. car-DEAN-us
 Naomi MOBLEY MO-blee
 TAMARA Stocks ta-MAR-uh
 JOI Williams JOY

posted a 5-2 league record away from the O'Connell Center. Unfortunately, the Lady Gators weren't as successful at home, where the team logged an 8-7 overall record, including a 1-6 conference mark.

UF advanced to the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament for the seventh straight year and secured a bid into the NCAA Tournament, becoming one of a record-eight teams from the conference that received a berth to the NAAs. Ten of the 12 SEC schools competed in the postseason, with two landing in the WNIT, including Arkansas, which won the 32-team tournament.

The 1998-99 team will be remembered as a Lady Gator squad that faced several obstacles and plenty of adversity throughout the season, but fought until the final horn blared. The Lady Gators held their heads high, knowing that they were reloading for the future.

Miscellaneous highlights from the season:

Gator Tales...

During UF's final game of the season, **Brandi McCain** reset UF's all-time single season assists chart, passing Camille Ratledge's 228 in 1989... **McCain** set UF's freshman record for steals, breaking DeLisha Milton's mark of 69 thefts set in 1994... against Mississippi State, **Talatha Bingham** became the 12th Lady Gator to reach the 1,000-point mark for her career... **Bingham** started 115 games during her career, one shy of tying DeLisha Milton's record of 116 career starts... sophomore **Tamara Stocks** did not start UF's game against Georgia (Feb. 18), snapping her streak of 60 consecutive starting assignments -- Stocks had started every game of her career.

Also for the Record

UF's final game of the season was the 128th game senior Talatha Bingham played in during her career, tying her with Murriel Page for most games played by any Lady Gator in the history of the program.

Lady Gator head coach Carol Ross

Florida's **Carol Ross** concluded her 20th season intertwined in SEC women's hoops. She is the only head coach in the league who also played four years for an SEC women's program. Ross was a starting guard at Ole Miss from 1978-82, where she was named to the inaugural SEC All-Tournament team and still holds the school's records for most steals in a game (11), in a season (135) and in a career (333). She was an assistant coach at Auburn for seven years before taking the helm of the Lady Gators, where she finished her ninth season and is the school's all-time winningest coach.

During the summer of 1998, Ross was the head coach of the USA

1998-99 Starting Line-Ups

Game	Record	Line-Up (F-F-C-G-G)
1, 3, 26-28		
30-33	4-5	Travis, Washington, Stocks, McCain, Bingham
2	1-0	Bingham, Washington, Stocks, McCain, Bell
4-6, 8-12	7-1	Freeman, O'Neil, Stocks, McCain, Bingham
7	0-1	Freeman, Washington, Stocks, McCain, Bingham
13-19, 21-		
-25	6-6	Travis, Freeman, Stocks, McCain, Bingham
20	1-0	Freeman, Mobley, Stocks, McCain, Bingham
29	0-1	Travis, Washington, O'Neil, McCain, Bingham

Consecutive Starts

Bingham 76 games
 McCain 33 games
 Travis 13 games
 Washing 8 games
 Stocks 4 games

Total Career Starts

Bingham 115 Freeman 22
 Stocks 64 Washington 14
 Travis 34 O'Neil 9
 McCain 33 Bell 2
 Mobley 1

Women's Select Team, that posted a 7-1 record against the national teams from Puerto Rico, Poland and Spain.

Mighty McCain

Freshman **Brandi McCain** became the talk of the team. She was named to the first team All-Freshman team by Women's Basketball News Service on Feb. 19 and became the first-ever UF freshman to be voted first team All-SEC by the league's coaches.

The Lady Gator's "Texas Tornado," McCain, who is a native of Silsbee, Texas, piled up a mound of accomplishments: she sports nearly a 2-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio... led the SEC in total assists and average assists per game... her 17 assists against Miami was the single highest total in the nation this year... among national leaders in assists... set a UF single-game assist record, dishing 17 against Miami... named the SEC Player of the Week on Dec. 14, after leading UF with 20 points and 10 assists in a 77-71 upset at No. 8 Alabama... her last of eight assists versus Tennessee gave her sole possession of first place on UF's freshmen assist chart... broke UF's freshmen record for steals in a season.

Lady Gators to Watch

"This year's team is going to be different from Florida teams of the past few years. It's going to be a lot more balanced than it has been in a long time. There could be a different hero every night." -- UF coach Carol Ross

Last year the Lady Gators turned to all-everything Kodak All-American Murriel Page for points, rebounds, leadership... you name it! This season opened without an established "go-to" player, but several Lady Gators stepped up to the challenge.

1998-99 National Polls

Associated Press 1999 Final Poll

1. **Purdue (39)** 1,047
2. **Tennessee (2)** 1,009
3. Louisiana Tech (1) 967
4. Connecticut 899
5. Old Dominion 883
6. Texas Tech 819
7. **Colorado State** **785**
8. Notre Dame 751
9. Rutgers 700
10. Clemson 656
11. Duke 656
12. **Georgia** **532**
13. Virginia Tech 515
14. North Carolina 510
15. UCLA 432
16. Oregon 388
17. UC Santa Barbara 370
18. Penn State 306
19. Iowa State 269
20. Virginia 262
21. **LSU** **253**
22. **Alabama** **152**
23. Tulane 112
24. Florida International 88
25. Toledo 63

UF opponents receiving votes: (26) Auburn 41, (28) Illinois 28, (29) Kentucky 24, (32) Marquette 13

all UF opponents in boldface

USA Today/ESPN 1999 Final Poll

1. **Purdue (33)** **825**
2. Duke 783
3. Louisiana Tech 751
4. **Tennessee** **724**
5. **Georgia** **704**
6. Rutgers 625
7. UCLA 555
8. Connecticut 535
9. Texas Tech 506
10. Old Dominion 500
11. Iowa State 486
12. **Colorado State** **470**
13. Clemson 462
14. Virginia Tech 398
15. North Carolina 369
16. **LSU** **345**
17. Notre Dame 298
18. Penn State 269
19. Oregon 211
20. SW Missouri State 99
21. Virginia 99
22. Kansas 98
23. UC-Santa Barbara 86
24. Xavier 76
25. **Alabama** **72**

UF opponents receiving votes: (26) Auburn 45, (t28) Illinois 36, (t28) Kentucky 36, (33) Arkansas 20, (t40) Arizona 7, (**t40**) Florida 7, (t46) Marquette 2

Florida Week-by-Week in 1998-99

Week	AP	USA Today
Preseason	22 (11)	20 (14)
Nov. 16	20 (12)	no poll
Nov. 23	13 (12)	17 (15)
Nov. 30	21 (11)	20 (14)
Dec. 7	17 (16)	16 (17)
Dec. 14	13 (16)	13 (17)
Dec. 21	20 (13)	18 (16)
Dec. 28	20 (16)	20 (16)
Jan. 4	19 (14)	20 (13)
Jan. 11	18 (12)	18 (10)
Jan. 17	21 (11)	19 (10)
Jan. 25	rv (11)	rv (9)
Feb. 1	rv (10)	rv (11)
Feb. 8	rv (11)	rv (10)
Feb. 15	rv (12)	rv (11)
Feb. 22	rv (12)	rv (11)
March 1	rv (10)	rv (11)
March 8 Final	— (10)	— (11)
Final USA	no poll	rv (12)

(total opponents receiving votes)

Lady Gator Poll Notes

- * All-time number of weeks ranked in AP: 80
- * Highest AP ranking: 5th, Nov. 24, 1997 (was 6th on March 3, 1997)
- * High USA Today/ESPN rank: 5th, Nov. 25, 1997 (was 6th on April 1, 1997 (final poll))
- * First AP ranking: 19th on Dec. 26, 1983

In addition to freshman **Brandi McCain**, junior **Tonya Washington** stepped up offensively. The 6-0 forward, who established the national HS scoring record with 4,389 points at Paxton (Fla.) HS, averaged 10.8 ppg in 1998. She was voted second team All-SEC by the league's coaches after leading UF in scoring and rebounding, including netting a career-high 26 points against Miami (Nov. 24) and snaring 20 rebounds against George Washington (Nov. 22).

Tiffany Travis sizzled offensively during the last third of the season.

Injury Update

Tamara Stocks struggled all season with a sore back, but still played every game.

Tombi Bell was on the receiving end of a Tamara Stocks-elbow in practice Jan. 9 which fractured her nose. She missed a little action and wore a protective mask during the second half of the season.

Good-Bye January!

UF's January home stand was anything but hospitable to the Lady Gators. After extending its program-best home winning streak to 21-games in December, UF has gone 4-5 in the O'Connell Center, including a 2-4 record in January. In fact, the Lady Gators lost four consecutive home games, the first time that this has occurred since the 1979-80 season. The longest home losing streak in the 25-year history of the program was a five-game stretch during the 1979-80 season under head coach Mickie DeMoss.

Sliding Polls

Home woes led to UF's dropping out of the top-25 national polls for the first time since the 1996-97 season. The Lady Gators had been ranked in the AP poll 39 consecutive weeks until the Jan. 25th ranking, a streak that began with the Jan. 6, 1997 poll, when UF appeared at the No. 25 spot. The Dec. 29, 1996 ranking was the last time UF did not appear in the top-25. In the USA Today-ESPN Coaches poll, UF does not appear in the rankings for the first time in 36 weekly rankings. The last time UF did not appear in the Coaches' top-25 was on Jan. 20, 1997.

Welcome Back

Leading scorer and rebounder **Tonya Washington** returned to the

court on Feb. 4 after missing five games due to a knee injury. UF struggled to a 2-3 record during her absence, but posted two impressive road wins following her return to action.

UF in tough arenas

The Lady Gators played four SEC opponents on the road LAST season that sported double-figure home court win streaks entering the game. This season, UF has knocked-off Alabama's 21-game home winning streak with a 77-71 upset on Dec. 10, but lost at Illinois, which had won 13 consecutive games at home before defeating UF.

In 1998, Tennessee won 17 straight entering its game with UF, while Alabama had a 16-game streak, Vanderbilt a 15-game run and LSU 13 in a row. The Lady Gators went just 1-3 in those non-hospitable arenas, only halting the Commodores' run.

Explosive Bench (Lots of TNT)

During the majority of the season, coach Carol Ross opted to bring juniors **Tiffany Travis** and **Tonya Washington** off the bench, giving the Lady Gators one of the more potent pines in the game. They led UF in scoring and rebounding.

On the Tube

The Lady Gators have posted a 7-5 record this year in televised games.

Streakers

Florida won a program-record 21 consecutive games in the O'Connell Center until losing to No. 3 Purdue 84-76 on Dec. 21st. Georgia had been the last team to steal a win in Gainesville, where it posted a 66-64 victory on Feb. 19, 1997 to secure the SEC regular season title over Alabama & the Lady Gators. UF is 65-13 at home over the last five-plus years.

Record vs. Ranked Opponents

UF was 2-7 this season versus teams that were ranked in the top-25 at the time of tip-off (George Washington, Alabama-twice, Purdue, Georgia-twice, Auburn and Tennessee-twice).

The Lady Gators are 27-49 all-time versus top-25 ranked opponents under coach Carol Ross. During those nine years with Ross at the

helm, UF is 9-31 against top-10 teams and 18-18 versus teams ranked Nos. 11-25.

Under Ross, UF is 11-18 at home versus top-25 teams, 8-22 on the road and 8-9 at neutral site arenas.

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

Freshmen **Monique Cardenas** and **Naomi Mobley** were born and raised in the Sunshine State, so naturally, seeing snow would be an unusual site. This year, the pair of rookies saw snow for the first time ever when the team traveled to Fort Collins, Col., to play in the Preseason NIT. However, while the Lady Gators were there, it did not snow. Cardenas and Mobley were treated to their first-ever snowfall on Jan. 2, when UF visited Lexington for its Jan. 3 meeting with Kentucky.

Play of the Day

Tiffany Travis' buzzer-beating 3-pointer against Kentucky was selected as CNN's Jan. 3rd Play of the Day. Her shot even got the nod over the NFL's San Francisco 49ers last second touchdown pass against the Packers in the playoffs. Travis received the ball on the far left sidelines just inside the half-court line before she heaved the final shot of the Lady Gator's 77-63 victory.

On the job training

With backup point guard Tombi Bell missing games three through six due to an injury, the direction of the Lady Gator offense rested solely on the shoulders of freshman Brandi McCain. The rookie patrolled the floor like a veteran, while running the floor for 231 of a possible 240 minutes during those six contests Bell missed.

Forget the NBA's schedule...!

Nine of the team's first 12 games were scheduled away from Gainesville.

The Lady Gators played their first eight games over a 16-day span and just two of those games were played at home. After UF's season opening victory over Arkansas State, 75-65, the Lady Gators hit the road for a wild, wild ride.

Along the 16-day adventure in which the Lady Gators traveled 7,462 miles... UF played four games in seven days, in three different time zones, used four different starting line-ups and played seven different teams that all received votes in the national polls!

Recapping the trip: the Lady Gators traveled to Waco, Texas, for a Monday night (Nov. 16) game against Baylor at 7 p.m., CT, returned to Gainesville on Tuesday morning, before setting out to Fort Collins, Col., on Wednesday (Nov. 18) at 3:00 p.m., ET to compete in the Preseason WNIT Final Four Thursday and Friday evenings (Nov. 19-20). The troops then departed the hotel at 3:15 a.m., MT Saturday morning (Nov. 21) to begin traveling to Boston for Sunday's (Nov. 22) 1:00 p.m., ET contest against No. 13 George Washington. After the 82-59 upset victory over the Colonials, the Lady Gators returned to Gainesville at 12:30 a.m., ET Monday morning ready to host Miami Tuesday evening (Nov. 24)! After a filling Thanksgiving Day dinner, the squad headed to Durham, N.C., to play back-to-back games (Sat. & Sun.) in the Duke Women's Classic. Whew!

It's not over until...

Two of the Lady Gator's wins this season have come after the squad has fallen behind by over 10 points midway through the second half. The Lady Gators overcame 12-point deficits against both Indiana and Villanova to rally for the win. Against the Wildcats, UF trailed by nine with 5:05 to go!

UF has won two games when trailing at halftime and claimed another when tied entering the locker room.

Last year, UF was 0-7 when trailing at halftime.

Youthful Lady Gators

Talatha Bingham was the lone senior on UF's 13-member squad, which returned two full-time starters (Bingham & Tamara Stocks) along with Tiffany Travis, who started nine games before suffering a knee injury last January.

Stat Checking

UF Record Watch

Career Points

1. Merlakia Jones (92-95)	2,001
2. Murriel Page (95-98)	1,915
11. Janna Bragg (84-88)	1,098
12. T. Bingham (96-99)	1,039

Career Assists

1. Camille Ratledge (86-90)	816*
2. Mo Hudson (95-98)	497

*All-time SEC leader

Career 3-Point FG

1. T. Bingham (96-99)	246
2. Dana Smith (95-98)	142
3. Kerry Cremeans (91-94)	109
4. Bridget Pettis (91-93)	106

Assists in a Season

1. Camille Ratledge (1988)	237
1. Brandi McCain (1999)	246
3. Camille Ratledge (1990)	228
4. Camille Ratledge (1989)	192
5. Mahogany Hudson (1997)	170
6. Roonie Scovel (1982)	164
7. Camille Ratledge (1987)	159
8. Amanda Butler (1991)	154
9. Dana Smith (1998)	152

Assists by a Freshman

1. Brandi McCain (1999)	246
2. Camille Ratledge (1987)	159
3. Amanda Butler (1991)	154

Florida's History of Double-Doubles

Double-Doubles in 1998-99

Brandi McCain 4

Miami	14 pts- 17 ast
at Stetson	19 pts- 11 ast
at Alabama	20 pts- 10 ast
Florida State	16 pts- 14 ast

Naomi Mobley 2

Central Florida	21 pts- 10 reb
Tennessee	13 pts- 14 reb

Tamara Stocks 4 (5 career)

['98-Purdue	18 pts- 11 reb]
at Baylor	14 pts- 10 reb
Indiana	16 pts- 14 reb
W. Michigan	12 pts- 10 reb
South Carolina	22 pts- 15 reb

Tiffany Travis 0 (1 career)

['98-North Carolina	14 pts- 11 reb]
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Tonya Washington 9 (11 career)

['98-Florida State	16 pts- 11 reb]
['98- Central Fla	21 pts- 13 reb]
Arkansas St.	25 pts- 12 reb
at Baylor	19 pts- 11 reb
Geo. Washington	19 pts- 20 reb
at Stetson	16 pts- 11 reb
California	25 pts- 11 reb
Florida State	20 pts- 13 reb
Georgia	18 pts- 10 reb
Tennessee-SEC	11 pts- 10 reb
Arizona-NCAA	23 pts-16 reb

Career Double-Doubles

65	Murriel Page	1995-98
58	Quietella Bonner	1976-81
51	Tammy Jackson	1981-85
47	DeLisha Milton	1994-97
45	LaTonya McGhee	1989-93
29	Keturah Bell	1982-86
28	Merlakia Jones	1991-95

Double-Doubles in a season

27	Murriel Page	1997-98
21	Tammy Jackson	1982-83
18	Quietella Bonner	1976-77
18	Murriel Page	1996-97
17	DeLisha Milton	1993-94
16	Tammy Jackson	1981-82
15	LaTonya McGhee	1990-91
15	Merlakia Jones	1993-94
15	Quietella Bonner	1977-78
14	Murriel Page	1995-96
14	Quietella Bonner	1980-81

Consecutive Double-Doubles

13	Murriel Page	1997-98
10	Quietella Bonner	1976-77
10	Tammy Jackson	1982-83

Florida's '99 NCAA Fun Facts

8 - Florida was one of a record-eight teams from the Southeastern Conference (SEC) that earned a bid into the '99 NCAA field.

11 - Florida is one of only 11 other schools that has competed in each of the last seven NCAA Tournaments.

14 - The Lady Gators played 14 different teams that played in the '99 NCAA Tournament.

18 - The Lady Gators played 18 games against teams that played in the 1999 NCAA Tournament.

19 - Florida was one of 19 other schools that had both its men's & women's teams competing in the NCAA Tourney.

Nine is Fine

During the Jan. 31st victory over Vanderbilt, freshman **Monique Cardenas** became the ninth *different* Lady Gator to post a double-figure scoring effort this season. Cardenas joined **Tonya Washington, Tiffany Travis, Brandi McCain, Tamara Stocks, Talatha Bingham, Tombi Bell, Erin O'Neil** and **Naomi Mobley** in 1998-99 double-figure Lady Gators.

Going all the Way

Senior **Talatha Bingham** recorded 12 career 40-plus games (including 46 at Texas & 40 of 45 at Arkansas in '97). Junior **Tonya Washington** played 42 minutes against Arizona and the entire 40 minutes against Baylor and Tennessee, freshman **Brandi McCain** ran the floor for 43 minutes against Arizona and logged at least 40 minutes five times this season (at Colorado State, at Alabama, vs. Purdue, Vanderbilt and vs. Arizona) and **Tamara Stocks** logged her first full game against Vanderbilt this season.

Quite a Schedule

Excluding the 16-team preseason NIT, the Lady Gators played an exciting schedule that featured 15 games against teams that competed in the postseason in 1998. Each of UF's first seven opponents this season received at least a few votes in the national polls at the time of tip-off.

UF's T-Party

Florida featured a lineup at some point during its games when all five players on the court had a first name that began with the letter "T" – Talatha, Tamara, Tiffany, Tombi and Tonya!

Sunshine Success

In nine seasons under coach Carol Ross, the Lady Gators have posted a 41-4 record against other teams from the state of Florida. This season, UF has already defeated Miami (85-69), Stetson (98-76), Central Florida (89-59) and Florida State (106-89).

Florida Atlantic was the last team from the Sunshine State to steal a victory over the Lady Gators, claiming the 84-63 win on Feb. 16, 1993. Since that loss, UF has won 31 consecutive games against its interstate rivals.

Clinic Welcomed Lady Gator Pro Stars

On Dec. 28th, three of six former Lady Gators who now play professional basketball returned to Gainesville to participate in a free basketball clinic and autograph session for children who were in the eighth grade or younger. Over 300 kids attended the 2-hour event. There was also a presentation at halftime of the Lady Gator game later that evening to honor UF's former stars.

Tammy Jackson (WNBA's Houston Comets), **Murriel Page** (WNBA's Washington Mystics) and **Sophia Witherspoon** (WNBA's New York Liberty) returned to their alma mater for the event, and gave the pregame pep-talk to the Lady Gators prior to their win over Western Michigan.

Merlalkia Jones (WNBA's Cleveland Rockers), **DeLisha Milton** (ABL's Portland Power) and **Bridget Pettis** (WNBA's Phoenix Mercury) were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Milton & Page on 1999 USA National Team

Former Lady Gator standouts **DeLisha Milton** and **Murriel Page** were named to the 11-member USA Women's National Team that competed in the 1999 Winter European tour.

Silver Anniversary

The 1998-99 season marked the 25th anniversary of varsity women's basketball played at the University of Florida. It was also the 20th season of SEC women's basketball.

And 1 makes 13

Freshman **Lindsey DeLoach** made the 1998-99 Lady Gator squad as a walk-on. DeLoach wore jerseys No. 14 (white), No. 15 (blue) and No. 34 (orange).

Awards/Milestones in 1998-99

Talatha Bingham

- *SEC Academic Honor Roll
- *1,000 career point (at Mississippi State, 2/21/99)
 - Became 12th Lady Gator to reach the 1,000-point plateau
- *TIED-Most games played (128)
 - tied with Murriel Page

Candace Cunningham

- *SEC Academic Honor Roll

Misty Knight

- *Sophia Witherspoon Academic Award (Fall, 1998)
 - awarded to one UF student-athlete (in any sport) each semester for their dedication and effort in the classroom

Brandi McCain

- *Freshmen All-America Team, Women's Basketball Journal
- *First Team Freshman All-American, Women's Basketball News Service
- *First Team All-SEC, coaches' team
- *Honorable Mention All-SEC, media team
- *Most assists in a season (248)
 - record was 237 by Camille Ratledge in 1988
- *Most assists in a season by a freshman (248)
 - record was 157 by Camille Ratledge in 1987
- *SEC Player of the Week (Dec. 14, 1998)
- *Most assists in a game by Brandi McCain, 17 (vs. Miami, 11/24/98)
 - record was 16 by Camille Ratledge vs. Austin Peay, 12/28/89
- *State Farm Classic Most Outstanding Player (Dec. 30)

Tamara Stocks

- *SEC Academic Honor Roll

Tiffany Travis

- *State Farm Classic All-Tournament team (Dec. 30)
- *CNN's Play of the Day (Jan. 3, buzzer 3-pointer vs. Kentucky)

Tonya Washington

- *Second team All-SEC, coaches' team
- *Second team All-SEC, media team
- *Preseason WNIT All-Tournament team
- *Duke Classic All-Tournament team
- *State Farm Classic All-Tournament team (Dec. 30)

Team Milestones

- *Selection to seventh consecutive NCAA Tournament
 - one of only 11 other teams in the country
- *All-Time largest home crowd, 5,031 vs. Tennessee, Jan. 21, 1999
 - record was 4,906 vs. Alabama on Feb. 16, 1997
- *Consecutive home wins, 21 (began March 1997 - ended Dec. 1998)
 - record was 20 (stretched from Dec. 1993 - Feb. 1995)
- *Defeated Alabama in Tuscaloosa for the first time since January 1994
 - also snapped UA's 20-game home winning-streak
- *Advanced to the Final Four of the Preseason WNIT
- *State Farm Classic champions (Dec. 30)

Team Records

- *Most 3-point Field Goals, season (136)
 - record was 135 in 1994
- *Most 3-point Field Goal Attempts, season (475)
 - record was 467 in 1994
- *Most Free Throws, season (475)
 - record was 472 in 1997
- *Most Free Throw Attempts, season (720)
 - record was 693 in 1995

Lady Gator Head Coach Carol Ross

SEC Women's Basketball Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

In the past 20 years, no sport, more than women's basketball, has experienced more growth or achieved more accomplishments. Below are a few highlights as the SEC celebrates 20 years of excellence in women's basketball:

NCAA

* SEC teams have earned appearances in 16 of 17 NCAA Final Fours, an accomplishment unmatched by any other league.

* SEC squads have filled 21 of the 68 Final Four berths, including two in 1988 (Auburn and Tennessee), 1989 (Auburn and Tennessee), 1995 (Georgia and Tennessee), 1996 (Georgia and Tennessee) and 1998 (Arkansas and Tennessee).

* SEC teams have made 14 appearances in a nation-high 11 NCAA Championship Games, winning six national titles (Tennessee: 1987, 1989, 1991, 1996, 1997, 1998) and seven runner-up finishes. The league had the distinction of providing both national finalists twice in its history: in 1989 (Tennessee 76, Auburn 60) and in 1996 (Tennessee 83, Georgia 65).

* SEC teams have won 182 NCAA Tournament games against only 94 losses (.659) for an average of 10.7 NCAA wins per year. In addition, 11 of the 12 current members have appeared in the NCAA Tournament.

* The SEC is the only league to ever have seven teams invited to the NCAA Tournament and earned this honor five times (1986, 1991, 1995, 1996, 1997).

HONORS

* The SEC has had 41 student-athletes named as a First-Team All-America selection.

* The league has had three Honda-Broderick Cup Award winners (1988-Katrina McClain, Georgia; 1990-Bridgette Gordon, Tennessee; 1998-Chamique Holdsclaw, Tennessee).

* Two Naismith Player of the Year winners have come from the SEC: Georgia's Saudia Roundtree ('96) and Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw ('98).

* SEC teams have provided 79 All-Region performers, including 17 Most Outstanding Players.

* Over the past 17 years, 27 Final Four All-Tournament Team members have come from SEC schools. In 1996, the entire all-tournament team was made up of SEC players.

* Six NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship winners and 11 Academic All-Americans.

POLLS

* Since the AP poll began in 1983 and the USA Today/ESPN poll in 1986, the SEC has never failed to place at least four members in each of the final polls.

* SEC teams have been ranked 260 consecutive weeks in the AP Poll. League teams have been ranked 1,758 times, including 993 Top 10 appearances and 474 Top 5 appearances.

* Six SEC teams are ranked in the Top 25 of the AP all-time composite final poll.

PROS

* SEC schools have 61 former players currently playing in professional leagues. The breakdown is as follows: 20 WNBA, 31 ABL, 10 overseas.

* Since women's basketball was added as an Olympic sport in 1976, the SEC has produced 22 Olympians.

Ross vs. All Opponents

Alabama	8-7
Alabama State	2-0
Appalachian State	1-0
Arizona	1-1
Arizona State	1-0
Arkansas	8-1
Arkansas State	2-0
Auburn	4-8
Barry	1-0
Baylor	1-0
Bethune Cookman	4-0
Boise State	1-0
Bowling Green	1-0
California	1-0
Central Florida	6-0
Clemson	0-1
Colorado State	0-2
Connecticut	0-1
Duke	1-1
East Carolina	1-0
E. Michigan	1-0
Fairfield	1-0
Florida Atlantic	3-1
Florida A&M	1-0
Fla. International	1-0
Florida State	11-2
Furman	2-0
Georgetown	1-1
George Washington	2-0
Georgia	3-11
Georgia Southern	2-0
Hampton	1-0
Huntsville	1-0
Illinois	1-2
Indiana	1-0
Indiana State	1-0
Iowa	1-0
Kansas	1-0
Kansas State	1-0
Kentucky	8-3
Louisiana State	7-3
Louisiana Tech	1-0
Loyola Maymount	1-0
Lynn	1-0
Manhattan	1-0
Marquette	1-1
Massachusetts	1-0
Memphis	0-1
Mercer	1-0
Miami	6-1
Mississippi	7-2
Mississippi State	6-3
Montana	1-0
Montana State	1-0
New Hampshire	1-0
New Mexico State	1-0
New Orleans	1-1
North Carolina	1-1
N.C.-Charlotte	2-0
North Carolina State	1-0
North Texas	1-0
Ohio	1-0
Old Dominion	0-1
Pennsylvania	1-0
Pepperdine	0-1
Purdue	0-2
Radford	1-0
Rhode Island	1-0
Richmond	0-1
Rutgers	1-0
St. Bonaventure	1-0
San Francisco	1-1
South Alabama	1-1
South Carolina	8-1
South Florida	5-0
Southern Cal	1-0
Southern Mississippi	1-2
Southwest Texas	2-0
Southwestern Louisiana	1-0

Ross' Record

Year	Overall	SEC	Finish	Home	Postseason
1990-91	17-11	3-7	t8th	10-4	—
1991-92	15-13	4-7	t7th	8-5	—
1992-93	19-10	6-5	t4th	9-3	NCAA
1993-94	22-7	8-3	3rd	14-0	NCAA
1994-95	24-9	7-4	t4th	10-2	NCAA
1995-96	21-9	6-5	t5th	9-1	NCAA
1996-97	24-9	9-3	t3rd	9-3	NCAA
1997-98	23-9	10-4	t2nd	16-0	NCAA
1998-99	19-14	6-8	t8th	8-7	NCAA
Total	184-91	59-46		94-25	7 NCAA

Charting the 18 Upsets

Ross' teams have defeated When her team was...

No. 18 Vanderbilt, 74-68 (home)	Not Ranked (1-9-91)
No. 19 Bowling Green, 69-67 (away)	Not Ranked (3-17-93)
No. 10 Alabama, 80-75 (away)	Not Ranked (1-16-94)
No. 10 Georgia, 59-46 (away)	UF No. 18 (2-8-95)
No. 11 Alabama, 97-88 (home)	UF No. 18 (1-15-95)
No. 17 Ole Miss, 69-48 (home)	UF No. 20 (2-11-96)
No. 10 Vanderbilt, 83-73 (neutral)	UF No. 18 (3-2-96)
No. 12 Iowa, 68-58 (neutral)	Not Ranked (12-13-96)
No. 12 Auburn, 71-58 (home)	Not Ranked (1-4-97)
No. 17 LSU, 74-57 (home)	UF No. 24 (1-18-97)
No. 8 Tennessee, 71-62 (home)	UF No. t-19 (1-21-97)
No. 11 Vanderbilt, 70-56 (home)	UF No. t-19 (1-25-97)
No. 6 Alabama, 83-72 (neutral)	UF No. 10 (3-2-97)
No. 5 La. Tech, 71-57 (neutral)	UF No. 7 (3-22-97)
No. 5 North Carolina, 68-48 (neutral)	UF No. 9 (11-23-97)
No. 6 Vanderbilt, 62-46 (away)	UF No. 14 (2-1-98)
No. 13 G. Washington, 82-59 (neutral)	UF No. 20 (11-22-98)
No. 9 Alabama, 77-71 (away)	UF No. 17 (12-10-98)

Carol Ross has invested 19 years in the SEC

Four years as a player (Ole Miss)
Seven years as an assistant coach (Auburn)
Eight years as a head coach (Florida)

Carol Ross at a Glance

Ninth year at Florida

Hometown: Oakland, Miss.

Education: Ole Miss (B.S. in Education, 1982)

Highlights:

- *Named head coach of the 1998 USA Select Team
- *Named 1997 WBCA District 9 Coach of the Year
- *Named 1994 SEC Coach of the Year
- *Six consecutive NCAA Tournament berths
- *Five consecutive 20 win seasons
- *All-time winningest coach at Florida
- *Coached players on both 1992 & 1996 U.S. Olympic teams
- *Coached the 1997 Wade Trophy winner
- *Coached 1997 SEC Player of the Year
- *Coached Florida's first-ever first team All-American (Kodak & Associated Press)
- *Helped 15 students-athletes to All-SEC accolades
- *Tutored 26 student-athletes to SEC Academic Honor Roll status

Stephen F. Austin	0-2	Utah	1-0
Stanford	0-1	Vanderbilt	7-6
Stetson	5-0	Villanova	1-0
Tennessee	1-10	Virginia	0-2
Tennessee State	2-0	Virginia Tech	2-0
Tennessee Tech	1-1	West Virginia	2-1
Texas	3-1	Western Michigan	1-0
Texas A&M	0-1	William and Mary	1-0
UC-Santa Barbara	0-1	TOTAL	184-91

Misc. Information

SEC Teams Receiving NCAA Tournament Bids with Losing Conference Records

Year	Team (record)	Round Advanced (lost to... site)
1986	Kentucky (4-5)	First Round (Drake - away)
	Vanderbilt (4-5)	Second Round (Oklahoma - away)
1987	Vanderbilt (4-5)	Second Round (JMU - away)
1989	Mississippi (4-5)	Elite 8 (Auburn - neutral)
1990	LSU (4-5)	First Round (Southern Miss - away)
1991	Mississippi (4-5)	First Round (S. F. Austin - away)
	Vanderbilt (4-5)	Sweet 16 (Tennessee - away)
	Kentucky (4-5)	First Round (JMU - away)
1993	Georgia (4-7)	Second Round (Stanford - away)
1999	Florida (6-8)	First Round (Arizona - neutral)

UF's 1999 Opponents, Listed by Final RPI (AP) Records are PRIOR to postseason play

Rank	Team	Div. I Record		Sched. Strength		RPI
		W	L	Rating	Rank	
1.	x-Tennessee	28	2	.7121	1	.7361
2.	x-Purdue	28	1	.5573	47	.6605
6.	x-Colorado St.	31	2	.5585	43	.6441
9.	x-Georgia	23	6	.5920	19	.6373
17.	x-Alabama	19	10	.6317	2	.6208
18.	x-Kentucky	20	10	.6206	5	.6184
22.	x-Auburn	19	8	.5772	27	.6056
23.	x-Florida	19	13	.6223	4	.6034
25.	x-Louisiana St.	20	7	.5477	62	.6000
27.	x-Miss. St.	16	10	.6074	10	.5976
28.	x-Marquette	21	7	.5507	54	.5959
37.	x-Illinois	18	11	.5932	16	.5891
38.	Mississippi	15	12	.6170	7	.5889
48.	Vanderbilt	13	14	.6314	3	.5790
50.	Arkansas	15	14	.6131	8	.5779
51.	G. Washington	19	9	.5490	58	.5779
67.	Arkansas St.	16	13	.5661	39	.5562
68.	Miami-FL	15	13	.5787	25	.5555
73.	Baylor	16	13	.5486	60	.5487
88.	Indiana	13	18	.5927	17	.5370
101.	W. Michigan	19	9	.4602	222	.5275
104.	Villanova	14	14	.5332	85	.5255
108.	California	12	15	.5440	68	.5221
125.	South Carolina	11	16	.5455	66	.5116
144.	x-C. Florida	19	9	.4306	270	.4986
154.	Florida St.	7	20	.5780	26	.4908
271.	SW Texas	5	21	.4790	178	.4067
289.	Stetson	7	20	.4062	298	.3815

1999 NCAA Midwest Sub-Regional Teams

12.	x-Rutgers	26	5	.5624	41	.6290
29.	x-Arizona	17	10	.6021	12	.5948
99.	x-Dartmouth	18	8	.4743	186	.5287

x = NCAA Tournament Bid