



University of Florida ¹⁹⁹⁹⁻²⁰⁰⁰ Lady Gator Basketball

Florida Lady Gators (21-13 overall, 6-8 SEC) 1999-00 Season Review

1999-2000 Team Information

Co-Captains: Kelly Freeman & Brandi McCain
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost from '99: 12/1
 Starters Returning/Lost from '99: 4/1
 Newcomers: 2
 Seniors/Jr./So./Fr.: 4/4/4/2

1999-2000 Season Review

Overall Record: 21-13
 SEC Record: 6-8 (tied-6th)
 SEC Tournament: 1-1 (advanced to quarterfinals)
 Postseason WNIT: 4-1 (advanced to final)
 Final National Rankings: Florida was not ranked

Honors & Awards

SEC Academic Honor Roll: (5) Monique Cardenas, Lindsey DeLoach, Kelly Freeman, Misty Knight, Tiffany Travis
 All-SEC: 2 athletes with 3 honors
 Tonya Washington (first team coaches, second team media),
 Tiffany Travis (second team, coaches)
 All-Americans: none

Game-Day Coverage

Radio: Every game aired LIVE on WRUF 850AM (Gainesville)
 with Steve Babik, while several games were offered to the
 Gator Basketball Network
 Internet: Every game was LIVE on gatorzone.com
 Television: 18 Televised Games

Lady Gator Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Carol Ross (Mississippi, 1982)
 Overall Record: 205-104 (10 seasons)
 Florida Record: 205-104 (10 seasons)
 SEC Record: 65-53
 Assistant Coaches: Joi Williams (South Florida, 1989),
 Beth Dunkenberger (Randolph-Macon, 1988)
 & Bobbie Kelsey (Stanford, 1996)
 Administrative Assistant: Margie Brinza (Florida, '95)
 Secretary to Carol Ross: Lani McQuade (Holy Names)
 Athletic Trainer: Kellye Mowchan (Florida, '91)
 Strength Coach: Karin Spence (Florida, '88)
 Basketball Phone: 352-375-4683, ext. 5511
 Basketball FAX: 352-395-7586

Program History

Overall Record: 418-320 (26 seasons)
 NCAA Appearances: 7 (1993-94-95-96-97-98-99)
 NCAA Record: 7-7 (advanced to Regional Final in '97)
 NWIT Appearances: 2 (1985-2000)
 NWIT Record: 6-2 (advanced to national final in '85 & '00)

1999-2000 Schedule & Results

Overall: 21-13 (Home: 11-3; Away: 8-9; Neut: 2-1)
 SEC: 6-8 (Home: 5-2; Away: 1-6)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
NOVEMBER		
Fri. 12	Slovan Bratislava (Exh.) (DH)	W 80-61
Wed. 17	U.S.A. National Team (Exh.)	L 63-99
Fri. 19	FLORIDA ATLANTIC (DH)	W 98-71
Fri. 26	at #20/19 Purdue (SUN)	L 50-90
Sun. 28	at Central Florida (SUN)	W 93-56
DECEMBER		
Wed. 1	at Miami	W 85-77
Sat. 4	WEST VIRGINIA (DH) (SUN)	W 98-56
Tue. 7	at Florida State (SUN)	W 82-74
Sat. 18	vs. Pepperdine (1)	W 73-70
Sun. 19	at California (1) (FOX-West)	W 85-72
Tue. 28	W. KENTUCKY (2) (SUN)	W 79-65
Wed. 29	#-/25 BOSTON COLLEGE (2)	L 61-66
JANUARY		
Mon. 3	WISCONSIN-GB	W 91-47
Thu. 6	#20/18 MISSISSIPPI ST* (SUN)W	85-72
Sat. 8	at #6/5 Penn State (CBS)	L 67-91
Mon. 10	KENTUCKY*	L 58-72
Thu. 13	#7/7 GEORGIA*	L 71-78
Thu. 20	at #10/10 Auburn* (CSSE)	L 69-92
Sun. 23	at South Carolina*	W 76-62
Sun. 30	SOUTH CAROLINA* (SUN)	W 79-63
FEBRUARY		
Tue. 1	WESTERN MICHIGAN	W 72-56
Thu. 3	at #3/2 Georgia*	L-ot 76-81
Sun. 6	at Vanderbilt* (SUN)	L 66-84
Thu. 10	ARKANSAS*	W 87-73
Sun. 13	at #2/3 Tennessee* (Comcast)	L 78-97
Thu. 17	MISSISSIPPI*	W 80-51
Sun. 20	at #22/18 Mississippi St* (FOX)	L 57-66
Thu. 24	at #12/9 Louisiana St.* (CSSE)	L 66-71
Sun. 27	ALABAMA* (DH)	W 84-60
MARCH		
Thu. 2	vs. Arkansas (3) (CSSE)	W 96-86
Fri. 3	vs. #2/3 Tennessee (3) (FOX)	L 79-91
Wed. 15	at Dayton (4) - 1st Rnd (TWC)	W 97-93
Fri. 17	at Memphis (4) - 2nd Rnd	W 74-71
Tue. 21	MARYLAND (4) - QF	W 77-57
Sat. 25	at Arkansas (4) - Semifinal	W 83-62
Wed. 29	at Wisconsin(4) - Final (SUN)	L 74-75

*Times listed are LOCAL to site; #Associated Press/USA Today opponent ranking; *Southeastern Conference game; FOX – FOX Sports Net South; SUN – Sunshine Network; CSSE - College Sports Southeast; Time Warner Cable; (DH) Double-header with UF men's team; (1) Oakland Tribune Classic, Oakland, Calif.; (2) STATE FARM CLASSIC, Gainesville, Fla. (3) SEC Tournament, Chattanooga, Tenn.; (4) Postseason WNIT*

Florida's 1999-2000 Season in a Nutshell

Eleven of Florida's 12 regular season losses were against teams that competed in the 2000 NCAA Tournament, including four defeats to teams earning a No. 1 seed in the "Big Dance"... UF played 15 games against NCAA Tournament teams, and an additional four games against teams in the WNIT (not including the teams UF faced during the tournament)... 10 of UF's 12 regular season losses were against nationally ranked opponents... and the other two losses were against teams that had been nationally ranked at some point during the season... UF rebounded from losing its All-American point guard **Brandi McCain**, who missed 19 regular season games because of injuries... the Lady Gators posted the seventh 20-win season in school history... UF advanced to the WNIT championship game for the second time in program history.

WNIT Review

The 'Road Warriors' of the WNIT fell one shot short of capturing the tournament title, losing to Wisconsin 75-74 in front of a vocal 13,006 Badger fans in Madison.

The championship game was Florida's fourth of five WNIT games it played away from the friendly confines of the Stephen C. O'Connell Center. The Lady Gators began their adventure - fresh off their disappointment of missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time in eight years - by traveling to Dayton, Ohio, for the first round of the 32-team field and winning the 97-93 shoot-out. Less than 48 hours later, Florida played at Memphis and posted a thrilling come-from-behind 74-71 victory to reach the quarterfinals. The Lady Gators finally played host to a WNIT game, thrashing Maryland 77-57 for the right to travel to defending-WNIT champion Arkansas, which Florida defeated for the third time this season, with a 83-62 win in the semifinals.

Wisconsin hosted every round of the WNIT en route to the championship.

No O'Dome

Florida was unable to place a bid to host a first or second round WNIT game due to the SEC Gymnastics Championships, which was contested in the O'Connell Center during the available dates of those rounds.

Third Time in the WNIT - Second time in the Postseason

Florida competed in the *postseason* WNIT once prior to this season. All-American and future '92 U.S. Olympian **Tammy Jackson** guided the Lady Gators to the finals of the 1985 event, where they lost to LSU 75-54 in Amarillo, Texas.

Last year, Florida played in the 16-team *preseason* WNIT. The Lady Gators knocked off Arkansas State and Baylor, en route to a third place finish. Florida lost to eventual champion Colorado State in the semifinal, before defeating Indiana in the consolation game.

Disappointment Despite Strong RPI

Despite a Rating Percentage Index (RPI) in the top-22 and a strength of schedule listed as top-5, Florida did not receive a bid into the NCAA Tournament. The Lady Gators were the only team with an RPI in the top-30 that did not receive an invitation to the "Big Dance." Florida had participated in each of the last seven NCAA Tournaments.

Stat Analysis

Florida (21-13)	Category
77.8	Points Per Game
72.0	Opp. Points PG
+5.8	Scoring Margin
43.6	Rebounds PG
38.4	Opp. Reb. PG
+5.2	Rebound Margin
43.4	FG %
42.7	Opp. FG %
31.1	3-Pt. FG %
29.1	Opp. 3-Pt. FG %
68.3	FT %
Washington, 18.6	Leading Scorer
Mobley, 9.1	Leading Rebounder
Bell, 6.0	Assist Leader
Travis, 35.2% (25-71)	3-Pt. FG %
Washington, 34.0% (48-141)	

Graduating Class

This was final collegiate season for five Lady Gators - four seniors & one junior.

The Seniors:

Kelly Freeman is on schedule to earn her degree in Exercise & Sport Sciences - Sport Management in August of 2000 following a summer internship.

Erin O'Neil is scheduled to earn her degree in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation in the spring of 2001.

Tiffany Travis concludes her studies this spring semester and will receive undergraduate degree in Health Science - Rehabilitative Services. On April 25, the Charlotte Sting made her the 27th overall pick (11th pick in 2nd round) in the WNBA draft.

Tonya Washington is expected to earn her degree in Recreation - Program Delivery in August of 2000 after completing a required internship. On April 25, the Washington Mystics made her the 18th overall pick (2nd pick in 2nd round) in the WNBA draft.

The Junior:

Candace Cunningham, who in her third season at the University of Florida, is on pace to earn her degree in Criminal Justice in May of 2000 -- one year ahead of schedule! She plans to enroll in law school next fall, so this was her final year with the team.

Last Time-Out

Florida rallied during the final three minutes of the game but fell one point short of overcoming a 15-point deficit in a 75-74 loss to Wisconsin (21-12) in the championship game of the WNIT. The thrilling game was played at the Kohl Center before 13,001, the second largest crowd in WNIT history and the fourth largest ever to see the Badgers play at home.

The Lady Gators had two shots to win the game in the final 20 seconds, but missed both to end the season with a 21-13 overall record.

"This was a championship caliber game," coach Carol Ross said. "I'm disappointed that we didn't win, but we gave a championship effort.

"I'm so proud of our team," Ross said. "We played four of our five WNIT games on the road and just by reaching the final is a testament to the character of the players on our team. We just fell one shot short tonight."

Florida made a furious run in the final 3:20 of the game,

cutting Wisconsin's 75-65 lead down to two points with 50 seconds remaining. Tombi Bell made one of two free throws with 23.5 seconds remaining as Florida closed within one, 75-74. Wisconsin was called for traveling on the rebound of the missed free throw, which gave UF the ball with 20.3 seconds to go. Tonya Washington's long jumper hit the front of the rim. The rebound bobbed around and fell into Tamara Stocks' hands, but her shot rattled in and out of the basket and Wisconsin's Nina Smith snared the final rebound of the game.

Naomi Mobley led Florida with 19 points and a game-high 13 rebounds, recording her fourth straight double-double. Senior **Tiffany Travis** scored 18 points in the final game of her collegiate career. **Tamara Stocks** and **Tonya Washington** both tallied 12 points, with Stocks grabbing 12 rebounds, including 10 on the offensive end. Tombi Bell added 11 points with seven steals.

Welcome Back

During Florida's 96-86 win over Arkansas in the first round of the SEC Tournament, the Lady Gator's welcomed the return of All-American point guard **Brandi McCain**, who scored 10 points and dished six assists in her first game back since breaking her fibula on Dec. 28. McCain checked into the game at the 14:08 mark of the first half. She collected her first assist less than 10 seconds after checking into the game and scored on her first shot attempt, which came with 12:59 on the first-half clock. The 5-3 McCain hit all six free throw attempts.

She played the following night in the quarterfinals against Tennessee, and scored 13 points, on 3-of-3 shooting from beyond the three-point line, in 20 minutes of work.

More details about McCain's injuries woes this season are detailed later in these notes.

Losing in the Win

All-American point guard **Brandi McCain** fractured the fibula (the small, non-weight bearing bone) in her **left** leg during the Dec. 28 win over Western Kentucky.

Prior to the SEC Tournament, she played in two too many games to receive a medical redshirt this season.

McCain hit 16 of her last 17 free throw attempts prior to being sidelined.

The 5-foot-3 **McCain**, who was named First-Team All-SEC last year, was sidelined for UF's first game and exhibition season after tearing the ACL in her **right** knee on July 5th while playing with the USA World University Games team. She returned to game action on Nov. 26 against Purdue, 128 days after undergoing surgery on July 21. She played 22 minutes coming off the bench, entering the game at the 17:46 mark of the first half and hit an eight-foot jumper on her first attempt.

The RPI -- Florida is top-25

The Rating Percentage Index (RPI) has been used by the NCAA since 1984 to supplement the selection of at-large teams and the seeding of all teams for the NCAA women's basketball tournament. The NCAA does not release its RPI listing to the public.

Double-Doubles in 1999-2000

Brandi McCain 0 (4 career)		Tamara Stocks 3 (7 career)	
[*99-Miami	14 pts- 17 ast]	[*98-Purdue	18 pts- 11 reb]
[*99-at Stetson	19 pts- 11 ast]	[*99-at Baylor	14 pts- 10 reb]
[*99-at Alabama	20 pts- 10 ast]	[*99-Indiana	16 pts- 14 reb]
[*99-Florida State	16 pts- 14 ast]	[*99-W. Michigan	12 pts- 10 reb]
		[*99-South Carolina	22 pts- 15 reb]
		Central Florida	13 pts- 11 reb]
		Georgia	12 pts- 10 reb]
		Wisconsin-WNIT	12 pts- 12 reb]
Naomi Mobley 12 (14 career)		Tiffany Travis 0 (1 career)	
[*99-Central Florida	21 pts- 10 reb]	[*98-North Carolina	14 pts- 11 reb]
[*99-Tennessee	13 pts- 14 reb]		
Florida Atlantic	14 pts- 14 reb]		
Boston College	12 pts- 17 reb]		
Mississippi St	21 pts- 14 reb]		
South Carolina	11 pts- 12 reb]		
South Carolina	10 pts- 11 reb]		
Georgia	21 pts- 14 reb]		
LSU	10 pts- 10 reb]		
Arkansas-SEC	17 pts- 16 reb]		
Memphis-WNIT	13 pts- 10 reb]		
Maryland-WNIT	13 pts- 12 reb]		
Arkansas-WNIT	17 pts- 11 reb]		
Wisconsin-WNIT	19 pts- 13 reb]		
Erin O'Neil 1 (1 career)		Tonya Washington 3 (14 career)	
West Virginia	13 pts- 12 reb]	[*98-Florida State	16 pts- 11 reb]
		[*98-Central Fla	21 pts- 13 reb]
		[*99-Arkansas St.	25 pts- 12 reb]
		[*99-at Baylor	19 pts- 11 reb]
		[*99-Geo. Wash	19 pts- 20 reb]
		[*99-at Stetson	16 pts- 11 reb]
		[*99-California	25 pts- 11 reb]
		[*99-Florida State	20 pts- 13 reb]
		[*99-Georgia	18 pts- 10 reb]
		[*99-Tenn.-SEC	11 pts- 10 reb]
		[*99-Arizona-NCAA	23 pts- 16 reb]
		California	14 pts- 10 reb]
		South Carolina	13 pts- 10 reb]
		Georgia	29 pts- 13 reb]

It is derived from three component factors: Division I winning percentage (25%), schedule strength (50%); and opponent's schedule strength (25%). Games against non-Division I opponents are not used in calculating the RPI.

Different RPI Listings	RPI	SOS
College Basketball News	22	6
	www.rpiratings.com/womensrpi.htm	
CollegeRPI.com	20	5 (FINAL)
	www.CollegeRPI.com	
WBCA/Summerville	21	4 (FINAL)
	www.wbca.org	
SOS=Strength of Schedule		

Lost in the Madness

Florida coach **Carol Ross** captured her 200th career victory when the Lady Gators defeated Alabama 84-60 on February 27. Ross is already the Lady Gator's all-time winningest coach.

Lady Gators to Watch

For the season consecutive season, Florida's line-up featured a "T-Party." Four of the Lady Gator's five starters had first names that began with the letter "T." All four were extremely instrumental in the team's success this season.

Seniors **Tonya Washington** and **Tiffany Travis** lead the Lady Gators in scoring this season and both have topped the 1,000-point plateau for their careers.

Junior **Tombi Bell** is the starting point guard and leads the squad in assists and charges taken.

Junior **Tamara Stocks** anchors the paint for the Lady Gators again this season. She held her own in UF's exhibition game against the US National Team on Nov. 17, scoring a team-high 15 points with five rebounds.

No Excuses for Not Scouting Us

1999-2000 Florida Lady Gator Basketball

The Lady Gators have played before the television camera 18 times during the 1999-00 season, posting a 9-9 record when playing on the tube.

Record vs. Ranked Opponents

The Lady Gators are 28-59 all-time versus top-25 ranked opponents (AP rank) under coach Carol Ross. During 10 years with Ross at the helm, UF is 9-37 against top-10 teams and 19-22 versus teams ranked Nos. 11-25. The Lady Gators have pulled 19 upset victories over higher-ranked teams under Ross.

Under Ross, UF is 12-20 at home versus top-25 teams, 8-29 on the road and 8-10 at neutral site arenas.

The Lady Gators were 1-10 against top-25 teams this season.

Milestone, Milestone, Milestone

Seniors **Tiffany Travis** and **Tonya Washington** along with junior **Tamara Stocks** all topped the 1,000-point plateau this season. It is the first time in program history that three Lady Gators have passed the milestone in the same season.

Milestone Review

Senior **Tiffany Travis** became the 13th Lady Gator to reach the 1,000-point plateau for her career on Wed., Dec. 1 at Miami, when she scored 17 points in the victory. The milestone shot was a 3-pointer from the left baseline with 10:53 remaining in the game.

Tonya Washington joined Travis on Jan. 3, when her 16-foot jumper with 9:20 remaining in the game against Wisconsin-Green Bay broke the 1,000-career point mark. What makes the accomplishment even more impressive is the fact that this is only her third year of varsity action, having sat out her freshman year.

Junior center **Tamara Stocks** became the 15th Lady Gator to score 1,000-career points, when she converted a short jumper from under the basket against Maryland on March 21 in the WNIT quarterfinals. The milestone bucket came with 13:22 remaining in the first half.

Faster Than a Speeding Bullet

Sophomore **Brandi McCain** was ranked as the third fastest player in the country in a poll conducted by the *Women's Basketball Journal*. The publication asked several coaches around the nation, "who is the fastest player to run the length of the court." Louisiana Tech's Tamicha Jackson and Tennessee's Semeka Randall topped the list.

Here we go again!

Twice this season, Florida played four games over an eight-day span. The hectic schedule began on Sunday, Jan. 30, when the team defeated South Carolina 79-63. The Lady Gators hosted Western Michigan on Feb. 1, traveled to Georgia on Feb. 3, before ending the run at Vandy on Feb. 6.

Florida logged a 2-2 record this time and a 1-3 record during its last adventure, which included three games against ranked teams.

Stat Checking

UF Record Watch

Career Points

1. Merlakia Jones (92-95) 2,001
6. Keturah Bell (82-86) 1,531
7. **Tiffany Travis (97-00) 1,488**
8. **T. Washington (98-00) 1,448**
9. Rhvonja Smith (87-91) 1,398
10. Sophia Witherspoon (88-91) 1,381
11. LaTonya McGhee (89-93) 1,347
12. Cheryl Fisher (77-81) 1,221
13. Janna Bragg (84-88) 1,098
14. Talatha Bingham (96-99) 1,039
15. **Tamara Stocks (98-) 1,025**

Career Assists

1. Camille Rattledge (86-90) 816*
2. Mahogany Hudson (94-98) 497
5. Roonie Scovel (80-84) 360
6. **Brandi McCain (99-) 301**
8. **Tombi Bell (98-) 292**

*All-time SEC leader

Career Blocks

1. Quientella Bonner (76-81) 230
5. LaTonya McGhee (89-93) 88
6. **Tamara Stocks (98-) 74**

Whew!

UF's season-opening road stretch sent the Lady Gators on the road for six of their first eight games.

Sunshine Success

In 10 seasons under coach **Carol Ross**, the Lady Gators have posted a 44-4 record against other teams from the state of Florida. UF capped a perfect 4-0 record this season against instate rivals, defeating Florida Atlantic, Central Florida, Miami and Florida State.

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. FAU's **Yolanda Griffith**, the No. 1 overall selection in the 1997 ABL draft and current member of the WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs and US National Team, contributed 38 points and 15 rebounds in the effort.

Since that loss, UF has won 35 consecutive games against its Sunshine State rivals.

Sunshine Gators

Florida's roster featured eight players from the Sunshine State.

Lady Gator Captains

Senior **Kelly Freeman** and sophomore **Brandi McCain** were the co-captains of the 1999-2000 squad. Captains are elected by the team during the preseason.

McCain was the first sophomore to be selected as captain by her teammates since former Lady Gator-great **DeLisha Milton** assumed the reigns in 1995.

Streaky 11s

Freshman **Nikki Tibbs** hit the first 3-pointer of her college career on Nov. 26, connecting from long range on her last of five attempts against Purdue. In UF's next game, she nailed all three of her treys. She then missed her next 11 attempts, before connecting on one bomb against Ole Miss.

The rookie, who owns the national high school record for career treys (406), missed her first 11 long range attempts before ripping the nets.

High School Highs

***Tonya Washington** set the NATIONAL high school scoring record (boys & girls) at Paxton (FL) HS: 4,489 points

***Nikki Tibbs** set the NATIONAL high school record for career 3-point field goals at Butler (AL) HS: 406

***Tibbs** also set the NATIONAL prep record for 3-point field

1999-2000 Starting Line-Ups

Games Record Line-Up (F-F-C-G-G)

1-21, 25 19-10 Mobley, Washington, Stocks, Bell, Travis
27-34
22-24, 26 2-2 Travis, Washington, Mobley, Bell, Cardenas

Consecutive Starts

Travis 47 games
Washing' 42 games
Bell 34 games
Mobley 34 games
Stocks 8 games

Total Career Starts

Stocks 94 McCain 33
Travis 68 Freeman 22
Washington 49 O'Neil 9
Bell 36 Cardenas 4
Mobley 35

1999-00 Primary Starting Lineup

	Florida Lady Gators (21-13)	PPG	RPG	Misc.
F 44	Tonya Washington (6-0, Sr.)	18.6	6.9	34.0-3fg%
F 43	Naomi Mobley (6-2, So.)	11.4	9.1	56.9-fg%
C 4	Tamara Stocks (6-3, Jr.)	9.4	4.9	46.0-fg%
G 5	Tombi Bell (5-5, Jr.)	7.1	3.7	6.0 apg
G 12	Tiffany Travis (5-10, Sr.)	16.5	4.3	35.2-3fg%

goals in a season during her senior year: 154 in 1999

***Jameelah Trimble** blocked an eye-popping 218 shots her senior year at American Senior (FL) HS

Where are they Now?

Former Lady Gator head coach Debbie Yow is now the athletics director at Maryland, a team Florida defeated in the WNIT quarterfinals. Coach Yow posted a two-year record of 41-18 from 1983-85. During her final season, Florida reached the finals of the WNIT.

Red, White (Orange) and Blue

Former Lady Gator standout **DeLisha Milton** is a member of the 2000 U.S.A. women's Olympic basketball team that is scheduled to compete in Australia beginning in September.

Milton brought her current American teammates to Gainesville in November for an exhibition game against the Lady Gators. She scored 13 points in the USA's 99-63 win.

Ross' Roots

UF head coach **Carol Ross** was a four-year starter for the Lady Rebels from 1978-81, when Ole Miss logged a 93-50 record. She was named to the inaugural SEC All-Tournament team in 1980 and still holds the school record for steals in a career (333), season (135 in 1980) and in a game (11 vs. Southeastern Louisiana in 1980). Ross is one of only two players to record 1,000 points, 500 assists and 250 steals in a career.

WE Got Next!

A total of six former Lady Gators play professional basketball in the WNBA. Only two other schools (Louisiana Tech and Stanford) boast more WNBA stars than Florida.

Tammy Jackson '85 - Houston Comets (3-time WNBA champion)

Merlakia Jones '95 - Cleveland Rockers (member of 2000 All-Star team)

DeLisha Milton '97 - Los Angeles Sparks (2nd overall draft selection)

Murriel Page '98 - Washington Mystics (3rd overall draft selection)

Bridget Pettis '93 - Phoenix Mercury (team's all-time 3-point leader)

Sophia Witherspoon '91 - Portland Fire (leading scorer two seasons ago for N.Y. Liberty)

It's a Miracle!

Joining the Lady Gator's Sunshine Network television talent team this season was WNBA Orlando Miracle head coach and general manager **Carolyn Peck**.

Peck was joined in the announcer's booth by veteran commentator **Beth Mowins**.

A fun note: Peck's debut game as color analyst was on Nov. 26 at *Purdue* -- where Peck guided the Boilermakers to the NCAA title last season.

Baby Gators

UF collected a pair of players during the early signing period:

Vanessa Randall (Boone HS/Orlando, FL) is one of the top post players in the country... a 6-foot-4 center, Randall averaged 14.2 points, 12.1 rebounds and 7.4 blocks last year, while her team advanced to the Class 6A final four for the second consecutive year... Randall was named MVP of the state final four in 1998... signed on November 11, 1999 at 4:39 p.m.

Tara Taylor (Butler HS/Huntsville, AL) is a 5-foot-10 perimeter player who helped lead Butler High School to its third consecutive Class 6A state title and a 33-2 record... averaged 14.2 points, 8.1 rebounds and 4.0 assists per game her junior season... ranked No. 80 according to the 1999-2000 Blue Star Top 100 Seniors report and No. 44 by the All-Star Girls Report... signed on Nov. 10 at 7:00 a.m.

And One Makes Three

In addition to Randall and Taylor, sophomore **Sherisha** (sure-EE-sha) **Hills** will join the Lady Gators for the 2000-01 season. Hills transferred from Notre Dame during the summer following her freshman year. She is required to sit-out this season due to NCAA transfer rules.

Hills, a 5-foot-8 guard from Tampa, Fla., did not practice with the Lady Gators during the fall, opting to concentrate on academics and the adjustment. Her first practice with the team was on Dec. 26.

At Notre Dame, Hills averaged 7.0 points, 2.6 rebounds and 2.0 assists. She started four of the 29 games she played.

Hills played her prep ball at Academy of the Holy Names, graduating in 1998. She averaged 21.2 points, 7.5 rebounds, 4.6 assists, 4.9 steals and 2.5 blocked shots during her career, while leading the team to a 116-19 record.

She was recently named *Tampa Tribune's* Female HS Basketball Player of the Decade.

Underwent knee surgery on April 5.

1999-2000 National Polls

Associated Press

Final Poll

1.	Connecticut (41)	1,097
2.	Tennessee (3)	1,055
3.	Louisiana Tech	1,001
4.	Georgia	970
5.	Notre Dame	860
6.	Penn State	843
7.	Iowa State	785
8.	Rutgers	770
9.	UC-Santa Barbara	736
10.	Duke	712
11.	Texas Tech	662
12.	Mississippi State	605
13.	Purdue	567
14.	Old Dominion	543
15.	LSU	503
16.	Auburn	377
17.	Boston College	312
18.	Oklahoma	270
19.	Virginia	265
20.	Oregon	226
21.	Arizona	216
22.	Tulane	214
23.	N.C. State	210
24.	Xavier	96
25.	Michigan	89

Others of Note Receiving Votes:

(t-33) Vanderbilt 13, (t-40) Wisconsin 1

USA Today/ESPN

Final Poll

1.	Connecticut (40)	1,000
2.	Tennessee	954
3.	Penn State	909
4.	Rutgers	890
5.	Georgia	830
6.	Louisiana Tech	752
7.	Texas Tech	725
8.	LSU	702
9.	Notre Dame	647
10.	Iowa State	638
11.	Duke	614
12.	Old Dominion	508
13.	Oklahoma	434
14.	Virginia	433
15.	Mississippi State	380
16.	Purdue	362
17.	Boston College	268
18.	North Carolina	243
19.	Auburn	239
20.	Arizona	214
21.	UCSB	209
22.	Alabama-Birmingham	170
23.	N.C. State	153
24.	Tulane	142
25.	Vanderbilt	111

Others of Note Receiving Votes:

(t-40) Western Kentucky 6

Florida Week-by-Week in the 1999-2000 Polls

Week	AP	USA Today
Preseason	rv (7/12)	rv (7/14)
Nov. 15	rv (7/11)	no poll
Nov. 22	rv (7/9)	rv (7/14)
Nov. 29	rv (7/10)	rv (7/13)
Dec. 6	rv (7/9)	-- (7/12)
Dec. 13	rv (7/12)	-- (8/11)
Dec. 20	rv (7/11)	--(8/12)
Dec. 27	rv (7/10)	rv (8/12)
Jan. 3	-- (8/10)	rv (8/12)
Jan. 10	rv (8/11)	rv (8/11)
Jan. 17	-- (8/10)	-- (8/11)
Jan. 24	-- (8/9)	-- (8/10)
Jan. 31	-- (8/8)	rv (8/11)
Feb. 7	-- (8/8)	-- (8/10)
Feb. 14	-- (8/10)	-- (8/10)
Feb. 21	-- (8/9)	-- (8/9)
Feb. 28	-- (8/9)	-- (8/8)
March 6	-- (8/9)	-- (8/9)
March 14	-- (8/10) - FINAL	rv (8/9)
April 4	no poll	-- (9/10) - FINAL

(opponents in Top-25 / total receiving votes)

1999-2000 Awards, Honors & Milestones

Awards, Honors & Milestones

- *WNIT Championship game (second in school history)
- *20-win season (seventh time in school history)
- *200th-career coaching win by Carol Ross (Feb. 27 vs. Alabama)
 - *record at milestone: 200-102
- *400th program win (Dec. 4 vs. West Virginia, W 98-56)
 - *Record at win mark: 400-309 (26th year)
- *200th home win (91-47 vs. Wis.-Green Bay, Jan. 3, 2000)
 - *record at milestone: 200-91
- *(Tied) Program-record five (5) players named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll (also five named in 1992)
- *First-ever appearance on CBS (national telecast), Jan. 8, 2000
- *18 television appearances
- *Eighth Consecutive Postseason Appearance
- *First time three players scored 1,000th point in same season
 - *Tamara Stocks, Tiffany Travis and Tonya Washington

Team Records

- *Most free throws in a season (549)
 - *record was 475 set in 1999
- *Most free throw attempts in a season (804)
 - *record was 720 set in 1999
- *Most games played in a season (34)
 - *record was 33 set in 1995, '97 and '99
- *Most points scored in a season (2,646)
 - *record was 2,625 in 1995)
- *Most field goal attempts (2,304)
 - *record was 2,267 in 1995
- *Most rebounds in a season (1,481)
 - *record was 1,465 in 1995
- *(TEID) Most away wins in a season (8)
 - *record is 8 won in 1995

Individual Season Records

- *Most free throws by a junior (Tombi Bell, 107)
 - *record was 98 by DeLisha Milton in 1996
- *Most steals by a junior (Tombi Bell, 84)
 - *record was 68 by Mahogany Hudson in 1997
- *Most assists by a junior (Tombi Bell, 204)
 - *record was 192 by Camille Ratledge in 1989
- *Most turnovers by a junior (Tombi Bell, 138)
 - *record was 121 by Mahogany Hudson in 1997
- *Most free throws in a SEC game (Tombi Bell, 13 vs. USC)
 - *record was 12 by Ketura Bell vs. Tennessee, 2/2/86
- *Most games started by a sophomore (Naomi Mobley, 34)
 - *record was 32 by Tamara Stocks in 1999
- *Most minutes played by a senior (Washington, 1,173)
 - *record was 1,120 by Murriel Page in 1998
- *Most field goals by a senior (Tonya Washington, 266)
 - *record was 257 by Merlakia Jones in 1995
- *Highest field goal pct. by a sophomore (Mobley, 56.9%)
 - *record was 56.8% by DeLisha Milton in 1995
- *Most free throw attempts by a junior (Tombi Bell, 158)
 - *record was 157 by Murriel Page in 1997
- *Most points by a senior (Tonya Washington, 631)
 - *record was 623 by Merlakia Jones in 1995
- *Most points in a season (Tonya Washington, 631)
 - *record was 623 by Merlakia Jones in 1995
- *Highest Three-Point Pct, career (Tonya Washington, 36.0%)
 - *record was 32.6% by Dana Smith (1994-98)

Individual Honors & Awards

Carol Ross

- *200th-career coaching win (Feb. 27 vs. Alabama)
- *2000 Coaches vs. Cancer Champion Award recipient

Monique Cardenas

- *SEC Academic Honor Roll

Candace Cunningham

- *SEC Good Works Team

Lindsey DeLoach

- *SEC Academic Honor Roll

Kelly Freeman

- *SEC Academic Honor Roll

Misty Knight

- *SEC Academic Honor Roll

Brandi McCain

- *Preseason candidate for Naismith Player of the Year

Naomi Mobley

- *Postseason WNIT All-Tournament Team

Tamara Stocks

- *1,000-career points by Tamara Stocks (March 21 vs. Maryland)
 - *15th Lady Gator to reach the plateau
- *State Farm Classic All-Tournament Team (at Florida)

Tiffany Travis

- *All-SEC, Second Team (coaches)
- *SEC Academic Honor Roll
- *1,000-career points by Tiffany Travis (Dec. 1 at Miami)
 - *13th Lady Gator to reach the plateau
- Oakland Tribune Classic (at Cal) All-Tournament Team

Tonya Washington

- *Postseason WNIT All-Tournament Team
- *All-SEC, First Team (coaches)
- *All-SEC, Second Team (media)
- *1,000-career points by Tonya Washington (Jan. 3 vs. Wis.-GB)
 - *14th Lady Gator to reach the plateau
- *State Farm Classic All-Tournament Team (at Florida)
- *MVP of Oakland Tribune Classic (at Cal)