



Head Coach Carolyn Peck

1999 Associated Press National Coach of the Year
1999 WBCA National Coach of the Year
1999 Big Ten Coach of the Year

In her second year as head coach of the University of Florida women's basketball team, Carolyn Peck orchestrated the greatest one-season turnaround in program history. The 2003-04 Gators posted a 19-11 overall record, winning 10 more games than they did last season, when the team posted a 9-19 record. The 1982-83 team posted an 11-16 record that was followed by a 19-9 record the next season.

What makes the one season swing even more impressive is the fact that UF's schedule was ranked as the third toughest in the country. The Gators posted a 6-5 record against nationally ranked teams, while finishing the regular season tied for fourth place in the mighty Southeastern Conference race, earning the No. 4 seed in the SEC Tournament after being picked during the preseason by the SEC media to finish in eighth place in the conference standings.

The 2003-04 Gators earned a bid into the NCAA Championship, receiving the No. 5 seed in the Midwest Region. The team eliminated New Mexico in front of 16,029 rabid Lobo fans in the first round, before falling to 15th-ranked and fourth-seeded Baylor in the next game.

Peck's 2003-04 Gator squad, which featured just one scholarship senior, posted six upset victories against nationally ranked teams, the second most in school history. UF was 3-3 on the road against nationally ranked foes. Prior to the team's 83-73 upset over No. 11/9 Georgia on January 18, the last time UF defeated a nationally ranked opponent on the road when the Gators were unranked themselves was back on Jan. 16, 1994, when UF stunned No. 10 Alabama 80-75.

The 2002-03 season marked the first time in 13 years the Gators took the court under a new head coach. **Carolyn Peck** was introduced on April 3, 2002, as the eighth women's basketball head coach in Florida history.

Peck inherited a squad that featured just one player - junior center **Vanessa Hayden** - who boasted more than one year of Division I basketball experience. Unfortunately for the Gators and Hayden, she fractured her left fibula during the December 7 game at N.C. State and missed 10 crucial games as a result. Her absence, combined with the addition of five true freshmen - the most since the 1994-95 season - resulted in some tough times on the court.

The youngest Gators had no time to adjust to college life or the rigors of SEC play. The returners, as young as they were, had to learn a new system and philosophy under a new coaching staff.

Everyone, from the players to the coaches, were literally thrown into battle and forced to 'learn on the job.' Florida's schedule consistently ranked among the top 15 toughest in the country throughout the season. After a rough start to open the SEC slate, the Gators settled down, regained their confidence and showed great improvement with each game. Despite the team's struggles on the court, Peck remained the eternal optimist and the Gators followed her positive leadership.

One of the highlights for the 2003 Gators was their continued dominance of their in-state rivals. UF won all four games it played against other Sunshine State teams, and extended their win streak to 43 consecutive decisions.

Prior to taking the helm of the Florida program, the last time Carolyn Peck graced the college basketball hardwood, she walked off the court with a huge smile on her face and a piece of the 1999

NCAA championship net grasped firmly in her hand. She accomplished her goal of winning an NCAA title. Four days later, Peck realized another lifelong goal - coaching professional basketball - as she assumed the reigns of the budding WNBA Orlando Miracle franchise.

On Wednesday, April 3, 2002, Peck stood before a packed room in the Women's Club on the University of Florida campus and enthusiastically announced her return to the college game. Peck, who actively served as Head Coach and General Manager of the Miracle since April 1, 1999, charmed the media and athletics personnel in attendance that afternoon in Gainesville as she talked about becoming the eighth women's basketball head coach in Gator history.

"Never in my wildest dream did I ever think that the opportunity that has presented itself at Florida would happen to me, or at least happen to me so soon. I am extremely excited," said Peck, who is one of the most visible and popular personalities in the women's game. "There is no other school in the country that has the support, the facilities, the total package like the University of Florida. I feel extremely lucky because Jeremy Foley is one of the most unique athletic directors in the country. Working for him and Ann Marie Rogers is a privilege. I'm extremely thankful for the opportunity to come and work with them."

"Carolyn Peck was the first person who came to mind when we began looking for the next women's basketball head coach at the University of Florida," Foley said. "Carolyn's coaching and basketball pedigree is second to none, having worked with some of the most highly respected coaches in the game. I have had the opportunity to interact with her for the last couple of years and she is an extremely enjoyable person to be around on and off the basketball court. It's a bonus that she also comes with a national championship ring already on her finger."

Peck actually was named Head Coach and General Manager of the Miracle on July 6, 1998, the summer before she guided Purdue University to the 1999 NCAA championship with a 62-45 win over Duke on March 28. Four days later she officially assumed the reigns of the inaugural WNBA franchise and led the Miracle to a 44-52 record in three seasons, including a trip to the 2000 playoffs. During the off-season in Orlando, Peck worked as the color analyst for Sunshine Network on multiple UF women's televised games. She served in a similar capacity for ESPN's coverage of the 2002 NCAA Tournament.

It was during her second year as head coach of the Boilermakers when Peck orchestrated Purdue's national title run, as the team compiled a 34-1 record and she was recognized as the Associated Press and the WBCA Division I National Coach of the Year. In her first season as a head coach, Peck helped Purdue to a 23-10 mark and a trip to the 1998 NCAA "Elite Eight," where the team lost 72-65 to Louisiana Tech. The team won a pair of Big Ten Tournament titles with Peck at the reigns, while the 1999 squad became only the second team in the 17-year history of the Big Ten to skate through the regular-season conference slate undefeated (16-0). Her peers and the league's media recognized Peck's accomplishments, as both groups named her the Big Ten Coach of the Year following the perfect run in 1999.

Peck was an assistant coach at Purdue for one year under

University of Florida Gator Women's Basketball

Head Coach Carolyn Peck (continued)

Nell Fortner prior to being promoted the following season after Fortner departed to become the head coach of the USA National Team, which went on to win the gold medal at the 2000 Olympic Games. During the 1997 season when she was an assistant alongside former Lady Gator Kerry Cremeans, Purdue compiled a 17-11 ledger, won the Big Ten title and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The Boilermakers posted a 74-22 record in three years with Peck, including a 57-11 mark in her two seasons as head coach.

Also during her two years at the helm of the Purdue program, eight different players combined for 11 Academic All-Big Ten honors and one player - Stephanie White-McCarty - was the GTE Academic All-American of the Year.

Prior to her stay in West Lafayette, Ind., Peck spent the 1996 season as an assistant coach at the University of Kentucky, after serving as an assistant coach at the University of Tennessee in 1994 and 1995. The Lady Vols logged a 65-5 record while Peck was under the tutelage of Pat Summitt, and helped the team capture a pair of Southeastern Conference titles and reach the national championship game in 1995.

Those three years weren't the only experience Peck had in the SEC. Peck played her college ball at Vanderbilt from 1985-88. During

her four-year career, the 6-foot-4 center averaged 10.6 points and 5.8 rebounds. She totaled 1,240 points, 679 rebounds and 180 blocks helping the Commodores to a 77-42 record and appearances in the 1986 and 1987 NCAA Tournament. Peck, who played all four years under head coach Phil Lee, was named team captain in her final two years and she earned Second Team All-SEC honors her final season. Peck earned her B.A. degree in communications in 1988, after which she was a marketing consultant for a television station in Nashville. She spent the next two years in pharmaceutical sales with a Fortune 500 company.

Peck then returned to the hardwood, playing professionally in Japan from 1991-93 with the Nippondenso Corporation. She was the league's leading rebounder her final two years and helped her team win the league championship her last season.

A native of Jefferson City, Tenn., Peck was a two-time prep All-American at Jefferson County High School and was named Tennessee's Miss Basketball in 1987. She has one older brother, Steve, and one younger brother, Michael, who was an assistant coach with the Gator women's team in 1998. Carolyn later hired Michael to be an assistant under her with the Orlando Miracle in 2000 and 2001, and at UF in 2003.

Head Coach Carolyn Peck

Carolyn's College Coaching 'Peck'-ing Order

<u>Season</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Overall W-L</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Postseason</u>
1994	Tennessee	Assistant Coach	31-2	11-0 (1 st)	NCAA Sweet 16
1995	Tennessee	Assistant Coach	34-4	11-0 (1 st)	NCAA Runner-up
1996	Kentucky	Assistant Coach	8-19	2-9 (12 th)	—
1997	Purdue	Assistant Coach	17-11	12-4 (t-1 st)	NCAA 2nd Round
1998	Purdue	Head Coach	23-10	10-6 (t-3 rd)	NCAA Elite Eight
1999	Purdue	Head Coach	34-1	16-0 (1 st)	NCAA Champions
2003	Florida	Head Coach	9-19	1-13 (t-11 th)	—
2004	Florida	Head Coach	19-11	8-6 (t-4 th)	NCAA 2nd Round

Overall Record at Florida: 28-30 (.483) / two years

Overall Record as College Head Coach: 85-41 (.675) / four years

Overall Record as a Collegiate Assistant & Head Coach: 175-76 (.697) / eight years

Carolyn Peck at a Glance

Full Name: Carolyn Arlene Peck

Hometown: Jefferson City, Tenn.

Date of Birth: January 22, 1966

Height: 6-foot-4 (without heels!)

Education: Vanderbilt (B.A. in Communications, 1988); Jefferson County High School (1985)

Playing Background: Vanderbilt (1985-88); Japanese Professional League (1991-93)

Collegiate Coaching Highlights:

*Named 1999 Associated Press National Coach of the Year

*Named 1999 WBCA National Coach of the Year

*Voted 1999 Big Ten Coach of the Year (coaches & media)

*Coached Purdue to 1999 National Championship

*Coached PU to the 1998 & 1999 Big Ten Tournament Championships

*Guided PU to the 1999 Big Ten Regular Season title

*Assistant Coach for the 2004 U.S. Junior World Championships Qualifying Team

*Assistant Coach for the 1997 U.S. Jones Cup Team (silver medallist)

Did you Know Carolyn Peck ...

* was introduced on April 3, 2002 as the eighth head coach in UF women's basketball history

* is the youngest (and tallest) head coach in the SEC

* has nine years of experience in the SEC (two as a head coach at UF; four as a player at Vanderbilt; two as an assistant coach at

Tennessee; one as an assistant coach at Kentucky)

* is 2-0 all-time as a head coach *against* Florida

* while simultaneously serving as Purdue's head coach and the Orlando Miracle's general manager, Peck made her first coaching appearance in the Sunshine State on Dec. 21, 1998, when the Boilermakers defeated the Florida Gators in Gainesville, 84-76

* was an assistant coach for Kentucky the first time she ever graced the sidelines of the TD Waterhouse Centre, where her Orlando Miracle team called home. The Wildcats' opponent in the game — Florida, which won the 69-46 decision on Dec. 16, 1995

* was the head coach and general manager of the WNBA's Orlando Miracle from 1999-2001 (three seasons)

* was the recipient of the inaugural Trailblazer of the Game Award, presented by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated national sorority. The group initially planned to present the award in Tampa on April 3, 2002, but Peck was forced to postpone the ceremony because that was the day she was officially introduced as UF new head coach. Sonja Garcia, the immediate past regional director, said Peck "was a natural choice for the honor because she possesses the poise, character, style and grace that make her a role model for young women of all races, colors and nationalities."

* was specifically requested by legendary comedian Bill Cosby that she introduce him as the headline performer at 2002 Gator Growl, the largest student-run pep rally in the country which took place at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Nov. 15, 2002 with sellout crowd of 58,403 people in attendance as part of UF Homecoming activities.

University of Florida Gator Women's Basketball

What Others are Saying about

Carolyn Peck:

What UF assistant coach Kerry Cremeans, who coached with Carolyn at Purdue, Says About Carolyn Peck...

"I believe in Carolyn Peck and in her ability to make a difference at Florida. She was able to make an impact at Purdue and it resulted in a national championship."

What Hall of Fame Member & Basketball Analyst Ann Meyers Says About Carolyn Peck...

"Carolyn thrives on challenges. She knows the SEC from every aspect, having been a player and a coach in the league. She knows what it takes to be successful and I think she will be."

What Katie Douglas – a Player Coached by Carolyn Peck - Says About Carolyn Peck...

"As a coach she is very easy to play for. I enjoyed playing for her at the collegiate and at the professional level because she carries those same personalities on and off the court. You know that you can always go and talk to her but at the same time she is intense and likes to get down to business but she also likes to have a lot of fun."

"She is really easy to talk to and very friendly. When she was recruiting me, she was very easy to talk to and over the years I really got to know her. You could just go into her office and talk about anything from life to basketball or whatever you needed to talk about. I just think that her opening that door and being the person that she is really allowed our relationship to blossom."

What Former UF Head Coach Carol Ross Says About Carolyn Peck...

"I've been a Carolyn Peck fan for a long time. I can't think of anybody I'd rather have take this program and run with it."

What Coaching Colleague Michael Cooper (Head Coach of WNBA Champion L.A. Sparks) Says About Carolyn Peck...

"Carolyn keeps the morale of her team up and she is a great defensive coach as well as an offensive coach. She is also a great situational coach, she knows what to do in the right situation during the course of a game."

"As a person, there is no one nicer, more fun or more energetic than she is."

Carolyn Peck in the NCAA Tournament

1998 (Purdue: No. 4 Seed in Midwest)

Round	Opponent	Site	Result
First Round	Washington	H	W 88-71
Second Round	Colorado State	H	W 77-63
Sweet 16	Notre Dame	N1	W 70-65
Elite Eight	Louisiana Tech	N1	L 72-65

1999 (Purdue: No. 1 Seed in Midwest)

First Round	Oral Roberts	H	W 68-48
Second Round	Kansas	H	W 55-41
Sweet 16	North Carolina	N2	W 82-59
Elite Eight	Rutgers	N2	W 75-62
Semifinal	Louisiana Tech	N3	W 77-63
Final	Duke	N3	W 62-45

2004 (Florida: No. 5 Seed in Midwest)

First Round	New Mexico	A	W 68-56
Second Round	Baylor	N4	L 68-56

Neutral Sites: N1=Lubbock, Texas; N2=Normal, Ill.; N3=San Jose Calif.; N4=Albuquerque, N.M.

Carolyn Peck vs. All Opponents

	Overall	at UF
Alabama	1-1	1-1
Arkansas	0-2	0-2
Arizona	2-0	
Auburn	1-1	1-1
Ball State	1-0	
Baylor	0-2	0-2
Bethune-Cookman	1-0	1-0
Boston	1-0	1-0
Central Florida	2-0	2-0
Colorado State	1-0	
Duke	1-0	
Fla. Internat'l	0-1	
Florida	2-0	
Florida State	2-0	2-0
Furman	1-0	
George Washington	1-1	1-1
Georgia	2-3	2-3
Houston	0-1	0-1
Illinois	3-1	
Indiana	3-1	
Indiana State	1-0	
Iowa	3-1	
Kansas	1-0	
Kentucky	1-1	1-1
Lamar	1-0	1-0
LaSalle	1-0	1-0
Long Beach State	1-0	1-0
Louisiana State	0-3	0-3
Louisiana Tech	2-1	
Massachusetts	1-0	1-0
Miami	1-1	1-1
Michigan	1-2	
Michigan State	4-0	
Minnesota	3-0	
Mississippi	1-2	1-2
Mississippi State	0-2	0-2
New Mexico	1-0	1-0
North Carolina	1-0	
North Carolina State	0-1	0-1
Northern Illinois	2-0	
Northwestern	5-0	
Notre Dame	1-1	
Oakland	1-0	1-0
Ohio	2-0	
Ohio State	4-0	
Old Dominion	0-1	
Oral Roberts	1-0	
Oregon State	0-1	0-1
Penn State	4-0	
Providence	1-0	
Richmond	0-1	0-1
Rutgers	1-0	
Santa Barbara	1-1	1-1
South Carolina	1-1	1-1
South Florida	2-0	2-0
Stanford	1-1	
Temple	1-0	1-0
Tennessee	1-3	0-3
Valpariso	1-0	
Vanderbilt	2-2	2-2
Virginia	1-0	1-0
Washington	1-0	
Wisconsin	2-1	
Totals	85-41	28-30

BOLDFACE indicates 2003-04 opponent

Assistant Coaching Staff



Assistant Coach Kerry Cremeans One Year at Florida

Hometown: Wheelersburg, Ohio

Education: Florida (B.S. in Exercise Science, 1994)

Coaching Experience: Assistant coach at Florida (2003-present); Assistant coach at Purdue (1996-2003); Graduate assistant coach at Kentucky (1994-96)

Playing Background: basketball letterwinner at Florida, 1990-94

Date of Birth: August 9, 1972

Height: 5-foot-7

Of Interest:

*Member of a coaching staff with Carolyn Peck for four years prior to 2003-04

*Assistant coach with Purdue's 1999 NCAA championship team, as well as for 2001 national runner-up squad

*Spent the previous seven seasons as an assistant coach at Purdue

*Graduated from UF as one of the top three-point shooters in program history



Assistant Coach Michael Peck Three Years at Florida

Hometown: Jefferson City, Tenn.

Education: Marshall (B.S. in Journalism, 1996)

Coaching Experience: Assistant Coach at UF (2002-present); Assistant Coach at WNBA Orlando (2001); Assistant Coach at Penn State (1998-2001); Assistant coach at UF (1997-98)

Playing Background: basketball letterwinner at Marshall, 1991-95

Date of Birth: August 1, 1972

Height: 6-foot-7

Of Interest:

*An assistant coach with Penn State during its 2000 Final Four season

*Brought a top 10-ranked recruiting class to Penn State

*Played college ball at Marshall during his senior year under current Gator men's coach Billy Donovan

*Florida head coach Carolyn Peck is his older sister

*Served as an assistant coach at Florida during the 1998 season

*Met his future wife Rachel in Gainesville while he was assistant coach at UF



Assistant Coach Charlene Thomas-Swinson Two Years at Florida

Hometown: Takoma Park, Maryland

Education: Auburn (B.S. in Business Management, 1992)

Coaching Experience: Assistant Coach at UF (2002-present); Assistant Coach at WNBA Orlando (1999-01); Head Coach at St. John's (NY) University (1996-99); Assistant Coach of USA Women's Select Team (1998); Assistant Coach at Auburn (1993-96)

Playing Background: four-year basketball letterwinner at Auburn, 1983-87

Date of Birth: December 11, 1965

Height: 6-foot-1

Of Interest:

*An assistant coach for the last three years with the WNBA's Orlando Miracle, 1999-01

*Played college ball at Auburn from 1983-87, when former UF head coach Carol Ross was an assistant coach during her entire four-year career

*Head Coach at St. John's University for three years, 1996-99

*Four-year assistant coach at Auburn, where the Tigers reached the NCAA Elite Eight in 1996

*Her husband Aaron is a professional basketball player in Europe (Spain)