

Florida head coach Andy Brandi

The Brandi File

National Coach of the Year

1996 Wilson/ITA
1989 Wilson/ITA
1988 USPTA

South Region Coach of the Year

1988, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996 Wilson/ITA

Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year

1987, 1988, 1993 and 1996

U.S. Professional Tennis Registry Coach of the Year

1996

| Year | Record | Finish |
|------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1985 | 21-6, 8-0 SEC | 1st SEC/7th NCAA |
| 1986 | 17-7, 9-0 SEC | 1st SEC |
| 1987 | 29-1, 9-0 SEC | 1st SEC/3rd NCAA |
| 1988 | 29-2, 9-0 SEC | 1st SEC/2nd NCAA |
| 1989 | 26-3, 9-0 SEC | 2nd SEC/1st NWITC/t-3rd NCAA |
| 1990 | 32-3, 11-1 SEC | 1st SEC/2nd NWITC/2nd NCAA |
| 1991 | 31-1, 11-1 SEC | 1st SEC/1st NWITC/t-3rd NCAA |
| 1992 | 30-0, 14-0 SEC | 1st SEC/1st NWITC/1st NCAA |
| 1993 | 26-2, 14-0 SEC | 1st SEC/2nd NWITC/t-3rd NCAA |
| 1994 | 23-6, 12-2 SEC | 2nd SEC/2nd NWITC/t-5th NCAA |
| 1995 | 27-3, 14-0 SEC | 1st SEC/5th NWITC/2nd NCAA |
| 1996 | 31-0, 14-0 SEC | 1st SEC/1st NWITC/1st NCAA |
| 1997 | 31-1, 14-0 SEC | 1st SEC/1st NWITC/2nd NCAA |

13 Years 353-35 (.910)

Did You Know...

That every freshman that has played four seasons under Andy Brandi since 1985...

- ◆ has played for the national title during their careers
- ◆ has been part of at least three SEC Championship squads during their careers
- ◆ earned All-SEC honors during their careers

Since 1985, Andy Brandi has coached...

- ◆ 11 student-athletes to 20 Grand Slam titles
- ◆ three student-athletes to four Honda Broderick Awards
- ◆ 22 student-athletes to 50 All-America honors
- ◆ 25 student-athletes have earned SEC Academic Honor Roll status 40 times
- ◆ 30 student-athletes to 70 All-SEC honors

AMANDA BASICA

University of Florida (1996-97)

5-8, Right-handed

Lomita, Calif. (Peninsula HS)

1997 Singles All-American

Primary Positions: No. 1/2 singles & No. 2 doubles (with Traci Green)

Final ITA Rankings: No. 15 singles & No. 20 doubles

Corel WTA Tour Rankings (as of May 26): No. 782 doubles

CAREER RECORD

| YEAR | OVERALL SINGLES | DUAL SINGLES | SEC SINGLES | NCAA SINGLES | OVERALL DOUBLES | DUAL DOUBLES | SEC DOUBLES | NCAA DOUBLES |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1997 | 40-10 | 26-5 | 13-1 | 5-2 | 27-6 | 20-2 | 9-0 | 1-1 |
| Totals | 40-10 | 26-5 | 13-1 | 5-2 | 27-6 | 20-2 | 9-0 | 1-1 |

AS A FRESHMAN (1996-97)

Earned bids to compete in the NCAA singles & doubles individual Championships... Advanced to the third round of the NCAA Singles Championships and the second round of the Doubles Championships... named the ITA South Region Rookie of the Year... Basica & Green upset No. 3-ranked Lepsi & Malhotra of Tennessee 6-4, 6-2 in first round NCAA Doubles action... Received All-America honors in singles... Garnered first team All-Southeastern Conference honors at No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles (with Traci Green)... logged an 8-3 record at the No. 1 position... teamed with fellow rookie Traci Green for a 20-2 dual match record during the regular season, where the duo tallied a 4-1 record against ranked opponents, including the 8-4 upset win over then No. 2-ranked Moros & Taylor from Texas... received a wild card entry to the Rolex Indoor Championships, where she advanced to the quarterfinals before losing to Stanford's No. 7-ranked Katie Schlukebir 6-1, 6-0... compiled a 17-8 record versus ranked opponents, including the 6-1, 6-3 victory over then-No. 7 ranked Romana Tedjakasuma of Nicholls State in the first round of the Rolex Indoor Championships... 3-2 record in three-set matches.

PRIOR TO FLORIDA

Amanda Basica (BASS-eh-ca) was the No. 1 ranked player in the USTA Girls 18s division for singles and doubles in 1995...Member of the U.S. National Team from 1993-95...Played singles and doubles at the 1996 U.S. Open juniors tournament... Won 1995 Easter Bowl Girls' 18 championships...Reached semifinals of the Wimbledon junior championships in doubles...doubles finalist in USTA National Girls' 18 Championships...Finished 1994 season ranked No. 10 in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) world junior girls' rankings (second-highest ranked American player)...Singles finalist at 1994 Canadian Open junior championships...Reached semifinals of the 1993 French Open junior championships in singles...Won 1992 singles title at the USTA National Girls' 16 Championship...Involved with USTA Training Assistance Program, 1991-92, 1996.

PERSONAL

Full name is Amanda R. Basica...Daughter of Val and Becky Basica...Born on June 20, 1978...A 1996 graduate of Peninsula High School in Palos Verdes, Calif...Began playing tennis at the age of six at the Jack Kramer Club...Enjoys rollerblading, cooking, playing Nintendo and listening to music...Undecided on a major.

BONNIE BLEECKER

Senior, 5-8, Right-handed

Indianapolis, Ind. (North Central HS)

Primary Positions: No. 5/6 singles & No. 3 doubles (with M.C. White)

Final ITA Rankings: No. 61 singles & No. 47 doubles

CAREER RECORD

| YEAR | OVERALL SINGLES | DUAL SINGLES | SEC SINGLES | NCAA SINGLES | OVERALL DOUBLES | DUAL DOUBLES | SEC DOUBLES | NCAA DOUBLES |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1995 | 28-2 | 26-1 | 13-0 | 4-0 | 11-5 | 10-4 | 2-1 | 1-2 |
| 1996 | 42-8 | 24-3 | 13-0 | 4-2 | 27-5 | 15-1 | 8-1 | 1-1 |
| 1997 | 36-8 | 23-1 | 12-0 | 0-1 | 32-3 | 23-0 | 10-0 | 0-0 |
| Totals | 106-18 | 73-5 | 38-0 | 8-3 | 70-13 | 48-5 | 20-2 | 2-3 |

AS A JUNIOR (1996-97): Bonnie Bleecker served as captain of the 1997 squad... sported an 18-match singles win streak entering the NCAA Championships, but dropped a tough 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 decision to Pepperdine's Sophia Csapo, ranked 39th, in the first round of the NCAA Singles Championships... recipient of the Tennis Magazine/ITA South Region Arthur Ashe Jr. Sportsmanship award... posted a 21-0 overall doubles record with M.C. White... earned a bid to compete in the NCAA Singles Championship for the second consecutive year... earned first team All-Southeastern Conference at the No. 5 singles and No. 3 doubles (with M.C. White) positions... named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll with a 3.72 grade point average in Telecommunications... recipient of the Dorothy Anderson Scholarship, presented to the team's best representative of balancing academics, character on & off the court and community service... clinched the dual match victory in three straight matches in mid-March, capped by the 5-7, 7-5, 6-1 win over Duke's Diana Spadea at the No. 6 singles slot... paired with White for the 8-2 doubles win to clinch UF's SEC Tournament semifinal win over Tennessee... the duo also clinched the National Team Indoor team victories over Southern Cal (8-6) in the quarterfinals and over Arizona (8-5) in the semifinals... won the 100th singles match of her career with the 6-1, 6-1 victory over Texas' Farley Taylor at the No. 5 position on March 29... highest ranked opponent she defeated was then-No. 16 ranked Baili Camino 6-1, 6-3 of Alabama in the third round of the Georgia Invitational... 5-5 versus ranked opponents... 3-4 record in three-set matches.

SUMMER OF 1996: Bleecker competed in a pair of satellite tournaments — one in Lawrenceville, Ga., and the other in Hilton Head, S.C....Spent two weeks at home in Indianapolis where she played golf everyday with her mom...Returned to Gainesville and aced both classes she took (American Literature & Statistics), while volunteering as a "Cuddler" at Shands Hospital and interning at Magic 101.3 radio station.

AS A SOPHOMORE (1995-96): Bleecker was recognized by the team as its Most Improved Player...Emerged as the team leader...Very energetic and outgoing on as well as off the court...The serve-and-volleyer earned first team All-Southeastern Conference honors at No. 5 singles and No. 2 doubles (with Divya Merchant)...Finished the season ranked No. 42 in singles and no. 27 in doubles...Named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll with a 3.36 GPA in telecommunications...Won the Georgia Invitational in January as an unranked player, plowing through four ranked opponents en route to her first collegiate title...Three of her eight losses were against Florida teammates, including the semifinal match of the Lady Seminole Classic (to Lisa Pugliese), the finals at the Women's Fall Classic (to Cathrine Insteboe) and the quarterfinals of the SEC Coaches Classic (to Pugliese)...Compiled a 7-3 record against ranked opponents, including the 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (3) upset victory over ninth-ranked Laurne Nikolaus of William & Mary in the first round of the NCAA Singles Championships...Advanced to the second round of the

NCAA Doubles Championships before bowing to fourth-ranked Keri Phebus/Paige Yaroshuk of UCLA...8-1 in three-set matches.

SUMMER OF 1995: Earned two medals (gold, silver) playing on the West squad at the 1995 U.S. Olympic Festival...Captured the gold medal in women's doubles with partner Katherine Ashley and the silver medal in mixed doubles with partner Ty Braswell of Florida State...Won the singles title at the week two event of the ITA Collegiate Summer Circuit presented by the USTA...Also participated in two satellite tournaments in Dublin, Ireland, and Portugal, losing to seeded players in the second round of each.

AS A FRESHMAN (1994-95): Named to the All-SEC first team singles squad at the No. 6 position...Selected the Evelyn Puckett Most Improved Player with teammate Lisa Pugliese at the Annual Lady Gator Tennis Booster Club luncheon...Qualified with fellow freshman Dawn Buth for NCAA Doubles Championships, reaching the second round before losing a three-set match to Keirsten Alley/Pam Nelson of California...Finished the season with a 28-2 overall singles mark and 11-5 record in doubles...Posted a 26-1 dual match mark at the No. 6 position...Undeclared in SEC at 13-0 in first season...Achieved ranking of No. 17 in doubles with Buth in final listing...Posted a 22-match win streak, the longest on the team, to end the season...Recorded a 56-6 overall aggregate set record, including a streak of 32 consecutive sets...Won first collegiate match in the opening round of the Georgia Invitational with a three-set victory over Gulberk Gultekin of Alabama Birmingham, the No. 8 seed and No. 28-ranked player in the nation...Reached the third round before losing to Tina Samara of Georgia...Joined the team in January after graduating early from Indianapolis' North Central High School in December.

PRIOR TO FLORIDA: Graduated early from North Central High School in Indianapolis, Ind., to attend Florida...Compiled an 88-2 record playing at the No. 1 position for NCHS, winning the individual state championship during her sophomore and junior seasons and helping her squad to the team title in 1992...List of titles also includes a sweep of the singles and doubles championships at the 1994 Western Closed Championships, the 1994 Franklin Indoor Championship singles title and the 1993 National Hardcourt doubles title...Ranked No. 8 in singles and No. 1 in doubles nationally in the 16's in 1993...Also participated in soccer, basketball and Tae Kwon Do...Coached by Heather Iffert in high school...Considered Arizona, Texas and Vanderbilt during the recruiting process.

PERSONAL: Full name is Bonnie Kay Bleecker...Daughter of Marc Bleecker and Mary Lou Revel...Born on April 12, 1977...A 1995 graduate of North Central High School...Hobbies include mountain biking, reading and drawing...Hopes to play professional tennis and become a tennis commentator...Finished among the top 10 percent in class of 635 students...Member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Club...Major is telecommunications.

DAWN BUTH

Junior, 5-3, Right-handed
University of Florida (1995-present)
Wichita, Kansas (Southeast High)

Five-Time All-American * 1996 & 1997 NCAA Doubles Champion

Primary Positions: No. 1 singles & No. 1 doubles (with Stephanie Nickitas)

Final ITA Rankings: No. 9 singles & No. 1 doubles * Corel WTA Tour Rankings (as of May 26): No. 474 doubles

CAREER RECORD

| YEAR | OVERALL SINGLES | DUAL SINGLES | SEC SINGLES | NCAA SINGLES | OVERALL DOUBLES | DUAL DOUBLES | SEC DOUBLES | NCAA DOUBLES |
|--------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1995 | 50-6 | 26-3 | 14-0 | 5-1 | 16-7 | 9-4 | 2-1 | 1-2 |
| 1996 | 40-7 | 28-1 | 13-1 | 5-1 | 36-1 | 17-1 | 9-0 | 5-0 |
| 1997 | 29-10 | 13-5 | 3-2 | 2-3 | 25-3 | 14-2 | 5-0 | 5-0 |
| Totals | 119-23 | 67-7 | 30-3 | 12-2 | 77-11 | 40-7 | 16-1 | 11-2 |

SUMMER OF 1997

Buth was one of six American collegiate athletes named to the USTA All-American Summer Team, joining the squad for a second straight year.

AS A JUNIOR (1996-97)

Teamed with Stephanie Nickitas and successfully defended the NCAA Doubles Championship by defeating Georgia's Michelle Anderson & Marissa Catlin 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 in the NCAA finals, becoming the first doubles team in the 16-year history of the NCAA Championships to win two doubles titles, nevermind consecutive crowns... earned All-America honors in singles & doubles... upset by Duke's Wendy Fix in the first round of the NCAA Singles Championships... Did not play from March 22, when she retired at 1-1 in the second set versus Mississippi's Agnes Muzamel after suffering an intercostal strain (pulled rib-cage muscle), to May 15, returning for the NCAA Team Championships... one of 13 women selected to the Rolex Collegiate All-Star Team... earned a bid to compete in the NCAA singles & doubles individual Championships for the third consecutive season... garnered first team All-Southeastern Conference honors at the No. 1 doubles position (with Stephanie Nickitas)... won the Gator Fall Classic, defeating Duke's Karin Miller 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2 in the finals... runner-up in the SEC Coaches Fall Classic (losing to Muzamel 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the final) and in the Rolex South Region Qualifier (losing to teammate Divya Merchant 6-2, 6-2)... advanced to the semifinals of the Rolex Indoor Championships before falling to Nicholls State's Romana Tedjakasuma 6-1, 5-7, 7-5... received a top-10 singles and doubles ranking every week throughout the season... ranked as high as third (preseason) in singles... presented the team's Rhea Stakeley Sportsmanship award... named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll with a 3.31 grade point average in Graphic Arts... 18-9 record versus ranked opponents... 6-5 record in three-set matches.

SUMMER OF 1996

Buth was one of six American collegiate athletes named to the inaugural USTA All-American Summer Team... Played in several events, highlighted by an appearance in the U.S. Open Doubles Main Draw, where she and teammate Stephanie Nickitas fell in the first round 6-1, 6-2 to former Gator standout Lisa Raymond and her partner Rennae Stubbs.

AS A SOPHOMORE (1995-96)

Buth developed her game into an all-court style, coming to the net more frequently and the results of her work paid-off...earned All-America honors in singles and doubles... closed the season ranked No. 1 in doubles (with Stephanie Nickitas) and No. 5 in singles... won a pair of grand slam doubles titles: the NCAA Championships (with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Cristina Moros/Farley Taylor of Texas) and the Rolex Intercollegiate Championships (with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 win over Anderson/Chauzu of Georgia)... provided the clinching victory in the NCAA semifinal dual match with a 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 win over UCLA's Paige Yaroshuk... All-SEC first team honors at No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles (with Stephanie Nickitas)... advanced to the semifinals of the Rolex singles draw before losing 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 to Arizona's Vicky Maes...strung together 22 straight wins after the loss to Maes before bowing to Agnes Muzamel of Ole Miss (April 27)...one of six nominees for the prestigious Honda-Broderick Award for Tennis... named ITA national Doubles Team of the Month three times (November, February & April)...earned SEC Academic honors carrying a 3.26 GPA in Natural Resources & Environment...recognized as the team's Most Valuable Player at the season-ending luncheon... 22-6 versus ranked opponents (four of those losses were to Florida teammates), including the 0-6, 7-5, 6-1 loss to Divya Merchant in the third round of the NCAA Championships...competed in the Riviera All-American (grand slam event) and advanced to the consolation finals, losing to Merchant 3-6, 6-2, 6-1...lost in the finals of the Lady Seminole Classic (September) to teammate Jill Craybas 7-6, 6-7, 7-6... was a gutsy 16-5 in three-set matches.

AS A FRESHMAN (1994-95)

Named ITA Rookie of the Year, the fourth UF player to earn the honor under Brandi...Earned All-America honors in singles...All-SEC first team selection at the No. 2 singles position...Only UF player selected for both the NCAA Singles and Doubles (w/ Bonnie Bleecker) Championships, advancing to the third and second rounds, respectively...Received the Neal Anderson Scholastic Award for the highest grade point average on the squad...Posted a 50-6 overall singles record (22-2 Fall, 26-3 Dual, 2-1 NCAA) and 16-7 doubles mark (6-2 Fall, 9-4 Dual, 1-1 NCAA)...Played at No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles...Finished season ranked No. 6 in singles as the top rated freshman in the country and No. 17 in doubles...Also listed No. 2 in singles in the South Regional Rankings...Completed the season with a 19-match winning streak in dual match play, including three wins in NCAA play...50 wins is the second-best total in the nation to NCAA champion Keri Phebus of UCLA...Posted a 25-5 record against ranked opponents, including victories over NCAA finalist and then-No. 1 ranked Kelly Pace of Texas and then-No. 7 Margie Lepsi of Tennessee in the Rolex National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships in Dallas, Texas...Reached the semifinals of the Rolex National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships and earned the distinction as the only freshman to advance into the quarterfinals...Claimed three individual titles in the fall...Only fall loss came to teammate Divya Merchant...Won the Lady Seminole Fall Classic Flight B title in first collegiate tournament and completed fall season with win at the Georgia Invitational...Also won the SEC Coaches Fall Tournament singles title, reaching the finals without dropping a set...Claimed the title by default in the finals as teammate Jill Craybas was unable to play due to an injury to her right foot...Earned recognition as 1995 SEC Singles Champion by winning the title.

SUMMER (1994)

Finished third in singles and second in doubles at the Junior Nationals...Selected to U.S. Open Junior field in both singles and doubles...Played with Tara Snyder of Wichita, Kan...Advanced to quarterfinals in singles and second round in doubles...Named to the United States team for the 22nd annual Maureen Connolly Challenge Trophy...The competition featured women age 21 and under from both the United States and Great Britain in an event at the Broadmor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo...The United States lost 6-5 with Buth providing a 6-4, 6-3 win at No. 5 singles over Claire Taylor...Buth also paired with Amanda Basica in a losing effort in doubles on the first day of competition in three sets 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 to Julie Pullin and Claire Taylor.

PRIOR TO FLORIDA

Won six national titles during prep career...Reached the semifinals of both the 1993 and 1994 Easter Bowl tournaments...Advanced to the Quarterfinals of the 1994 U.S. Open Juniors, losing to top-seeded Martina Hingis 4-6, 6-1, 4-6... Swept the singles and doubles crowns at the 1991 National Indoors 18 & under...Ranked No. 8 in the nation in the 18 & under age group in 1993, achieving a career-high ranking in 1992 of No. 6...Played No. 1 singles and doubles for Southeast High School under coach Paula Bette during freshman campaign...Won state title to conclude freshman campaign...Also competed in track for Southeast...Finished fifth in the state in the mile, after claiming the city and regional titles in the mile, 800m and 4x400m relay...Also considered Texas, Duke, Stanford and Tennessee in the recruiting process.

PERSONAL

Full name is Dawn Alexis Buth...Daughter of Dennis and Linda Buth...Born May 29, 1976...A 1994 graduate of Southeast High School in Wichita, Kansas...Father competed in basketball, cross country and track at Washington State...Has two brothers, Rhain and Shiloh...Rhain played tennis at the University of Tennessee...Selected to the honor roll all four years of high school...Member of Students Against Drunk Driving and DECA...Enjoys water-skiing, running and fishing...majoring in Graphic Arts.

TRACI GREEN

Freshman, 5-6, Right-handed

Philadelphia, Pa. (Friends Select School)

Primary Positions: No. 6 singles & No. 2 doubles (with Amanda Basica)

Final ITA Rankings: No. 20 doubles

CAREER RECORD

| YEAR | OVERALL SINGLES | DUAL SINGLES | SEC SINGLES | NCAA SINGLES | OVERALL DOUBLES | DUAL DOUBLES | SEC DOUBLES | NCAA DOUBLES |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1997 | 25-7 | 21-2 | 9-1 | 2-1 | 28-5 | 20-2 | 9-0 | 1-1 |
| Totals | 25-7 | 21-2 | 9-1 | 2-1 | 28-5 | 20-2 | 9-0 | 1-1 |

AS A FRESHMAN (1996-97)

Assumed the No. 6 singles position during the quarterfinals of the NCAA team Championships, where she posted a 2-1 mark... dropped a tough 6-0, 3-6, 6-4 decision to Stanford's 55th-ranked Teryn Ashley in the finals after leading 4-1 in the third... Green & Amanda Basica upset No. 3-ranked Lepsi & Malhotra of Tennessee 6-4, 6-2 in first round NCAA Doubles action... earned first team All-Southeastern Conference honors at No. 6 singles and No. 2 doubles (with Basica)... Provided clinching team point in the SEC Tournament Championship victory with a 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1 victory over Georgia's Kelly Baskin at the No. 6 position... Pushed then-No. 27th ranked Michelle Anderson from Georgia in the Rolex South Regional before falling 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 in the second round... Lone dual match singles loss was a 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (4) decision to South Carolina's Tracy Kotseos in the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament... Ranked 79th in the ITA pre-season rankings... Began the season 4-5 but settled down to win 19 of her last 20 singles matches to end the regular season... 0-3 versus ranked opponents... 3-6 record in three-set matches.

PRIOR TO FLORIDA

Traci Green ranked No. 16 in the 1995 USTA Girls' 18 rankings...U.S. National Team member in 1995...Reached round of 16 at the USTA National Girls' 18 Championships in 1995...Advanced to the second round of 1995 junior Australian Open...Singles finalist and doubles champion at the 1994 International Grass Court Championships...Won consolation singles event in 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival... Won title at 1992 USTA National Girls' 14 Clay Court Championships...Involved with the USTA Training Assistance Program 1993-94...An alternate for the 1996 U.S. Open juniors tournament.

PERSONAL

Full name is Traci L. Green...Daughter of Frank and Tina Green...Born on Aug. 5, 1978...A 1996 graduate of Friends Select School in Philadelphia, Pa...Began playing tennis at the age of 10 at the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis Center...Chose to play tennis over track and basketball...Enjoys reading and debates... her Mother, Tina, was inducted into the NCAA _____ Lacrosse Hall of Fame (????????), and was the first African-American woman to coach an NCAA Championship team, a feat her Temple ?????? team accomplished in 19xxxxxxx... Last Gator from Philadelphia was former UF star Lisa Raymond...Undecided on a major.

DIVYA MERCHANT (DIV-e-ah)

5-3, Right-handed

University of Florida (1994-97)

Bombay, India (Bradenton Academy)

1996 & '97 Singles All-American

Primary Positions in 1997: No. 3 singles

Final ITA Rankings: No. 23 singles

CAREER RECORD

| YEAR | OVERALL SINGLES | DUAL SINGLES | SEC SINGLES | NCAA SINGLES | OVERALL DOUBLES | DUAL DOUBLES | SEC DOUBLES | NCAA DOUBLES |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1994 | 33-12 | 21-8 | 13-1 | 0-3 | 12-10 | 6-7 | 1-3 | 0-0 |
| 1995 | 39-6 | 27-2 | 13-0 | 3-2 | 20-2 | 10-0 | 3-0 | 0-1 |
| 1996 | 42-9 | 24-4 | 11-0 | 6-2 | 25-3 | 15-1 | 8-1 | 1-1 |
| 1997 | 44-9 | 27-3 | 13-1 | 4-1 | 11-3 | 7-0 | 4-0 | |
| Totals | 159-36 | 99-17 | 50-2 | 13-8 | 68-18 | 38-8 | 16-4 | 1-2 |

AS A SENIOR (1996-97)

Divya Merchant was the lone senior on the 1997 Gator squad... voted Most Valuable Player by her teammates... earned All-America honors in singles for the second straight year, advancing to the second round of the NCAA Singles Championships before a 7-6 (4), 6-4 decision to Georgia's Marissa Catlin ended her collegiate career... with Stephanie Nickitas, became the first tennis Gators to earn first team GTE Academic All-America honors... GTE District 3 Spring At-Large Academic All-American... her 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 win over Michelle Faucher at the No. 4 position clinched the NCAA Semifinals dual match over Texas... won 24 of last 25 singles matches entering the NCAA Championships, the lone loss a 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (5) decision to seventh-ranked Cristina Moros of Texas on March 29... became Florida's all-time leader in singles victories on March 22, passing Nicole Arendt's 145 career wins, after the 6-3, 6-0 decision over Mississippi State's Nathalie Odryzinski... Florida had a dual match record of 112-10 during her four-year tenure, capturing three SEC titles, a pair of National Team Indoor titles and the 1996 NCAA Championship... Rolex South Regional Champion, defeating four ranked opponents en route to the title... advanced to the consolation semifinals of the Rolex Indoor Championships before losing to Texas' Moros 6-4, 6-3 on Feb. 8... reached the semifinals of the Gator Fall Classic (falling to Duke's Karin Miller 6-4, 6-4) and the Lady Gamecock Fall Classic (losing to Georgia's Marissa Catlin 6-3, 6-0)... competing in the NCAA Singles Championship for the fourth time... first team All-Southeastern Conference selection at No. 3 singles, becoming only the fourth Gator in the 25-year history of the program to earn first team conference honors each of her four seasons... named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll with a 3.59 grade point average in Psychology... 15-8 record versus ranked opponents... 7-3 record in three-set matches.

AS A JUNIOR (1995-96)

Merchant's skills as a baseliner are remarkable with pinpoint accuracy... earned All-America honors in singles after advancing to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Singles Championships (lost to top-seeded & second-ranked Kylie Hunt of Kansas 7-5, 6-3)... reached the second round of the NCAA Doubles draw (with Bonnie Bleecker) before losing to fourth-ranked Keri Phebus/Paige Yaroshuk of UCLA (6-3, 6-0)... second team GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-American in the at-large division, carrying a 3.75 GPA in psychology... first team All-SEC at No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles (with Bonnie Bleecker)... named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll... received the team's Dorothy Anderson Scholarship for her combination of outstanding academic work, her character on the court and dedication to the game... finished the season ranked 14th in singles and 27th in doubles ... won the Women's Fall Classic, which included a straight-set victory over third-ranked teammate Jill Craybas... won the consolation draw of the All-American Championships with a three-set victory over teammate and second-ranked Dawn Buth... lost in the second round of the Rolex Intercollegiate Championships... 14-7 versus ranked opponents, including a pair of wins over top 10 players... 4-4 in three-set matches.

AS A SOPHOMORE (1994-95)

All-SEC first team selection at No. 3 singles position and shared All-SEC second team status with Jill Craybas in doubles... Also selected to SEC Academic Honor Roll... Chosen for NCAA Singles Championships for the second consecutive season, losing in the first round... Posted a 39-6 overall

singles record (12-3 Fall, 27-2 Dual, 0-1 NCAA) and 20-2 doubles mark (10-1 Fall, 10-1 Dual)... Played No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles with Craybas... Provided crucial three-set, three-hour win in SEC Tournament Finals at No. 3 singles over Michelle Anderson of Georgia and teamed with Craybas to clinch the match and SEC title at No. 2 doubles... Recorded perfect 13-0 record in SEC play, including three wins at the SEC Tournament... Won 19 straight matches during the season... Earned highest ranking of career at No. 15 in the Rolex Collegiate Rankings during the season and finished the season ranked at No. 31 in singles and tied at No. 37 in doubles... Won the Lady Seminole Fall Classic doubles title with Craybas... Lost the Flight A singles title to Craybas at the same tournament... Received the first annual Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholar Award as an honorable mention selection given by *Black Issues in Higher Education*... Recipient of the Rheua Stakely Sportsmanship Award from the Lady Gator Booster Club

AS A FRESHMAN (1993-94)

1994 All-SEC selection at the No. 1 position... Southeast Region recipient of the ITA/Tennis Match Co-Rookie of the Year award... Recipient of the Rheua Stakely Sportsmanship Award from the Lady Gator Booster Club... Played at both No. 1 and No. 2 for UF, compiling a 21-8 dual match record... Took over at No. 1 position for last five regular season matches, as well as the 1994 SEC and NCAA Tournaments... Won first nine matches at no. 1 position before two straight losses to end the season... Posted a 12-6 record at No. 2... Paired with Anouschka Popp at No. 1 doubles for a 8-6 record that included a 3-4 dual match mark... Defeated eventual national champion Angela Lettiere of Georgia in final regular-season match to secure a victory over a top-10 opponent for the first time in her career... Repeated feat with a three-set defeat of Lettiere in the SEC Tournament final to cap off undefeated league tournament record... Won nine of 19 matches against ranked foes... Lost in the first round of NCAA Singles Championship to Laxmi Poruri of Stanford, the No. 1 seed... Finished the campaign with a No. 28 national ranking and No. 3 listing in the South Region... Posted a 12-6 mark in the fall... Won the Lady Seminole Classic in initial collegiate tournament, defeating two Florida teammates on path to the title.

PRIOR TO FLORIDA

No. 1 player in both junior and women's tennis in India... Trained at Nick Bollettieri's Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Fla., for two years before attending Florida... Played on India's Federation Cup team in 1992 and 1993... Reached a No. 35 junior world ranking after the 1991 and 1992 seasons... Won two junior International Tennis Federation (ITF) tournaments, including 1990 ITF Singapore and ITF India... Finished as runner-up in the ITF Hong Kong and ITF Bangkok... Earned wins over top-ranked collegiate players such as Danielle Scott (Arizona), Susan Klingenburg (Kentucky) and Julie McKeon (San Diego)... Also played in the 1991 Junior Wimbledon Tournament and the 1991 and 1992 Junior Orange Bowl tournament.

PERSONAL

Full name is Divya Vijay Merchant... Daughter of Vijay and Rita Merchant... Born Nov. 25, 1974... A 1993 graduate of the Bradenton Academy with a 4.0 GPA... Began playing tennis at the age of six... Enjoys movies and listening to music... majoring in psychology.

STEPHANIE NICKITAS (nic-KEY-tus)

Sophomore, 5-7, Right-handed

University of Florida (1996-present)

Tampa, Florida, (Saddlebrook Academy)

1996 & '97 Doubles All-American * 1996 & '97 NCAA Doubles Champion

Primary Positions in 1997: No. 4/5 singles & No. 1 doubles (with Dawn Buth)

Final ITA Rankings: No. 63 singles & No. 1 doubles

Corel WTA Tour Rankings (as of May 26): No. 474 doubles

CAREER RECORD

| YEAR | OVERALL SINGLES | DUAL SINGLES | SEC SINGLES | NCAA SINGLES | OVERALL DOUBLES | DUAL DOUBLES | SEC DOUBLES | NCAA DOUBLES |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1996 | 35-5 | 24-1 | 12-0 | 3-0 | 41-1 | 17-1 | 9-0 | 5-0 |
| 1997 | 35-6 | 27-3 | 14-0 | 3-2 | 31-3 | 20-2 | 8-0 | 5-0 |
| Totals | 70-11 | 51-4 | 26-0 | 6-2 | 72-4 | 37-3 | 17-0 | 10-0 |

SUMMER OF 1997

Nickitas will compete in a number of summer events, including the main draw of the U.S. Open Doubles with Dawn Buth.

SUMMER OF 1997 (list tournaments played, significant results....)

Stephanie Nickitas (nic-KEY-tus) took some time off after the NCAA Tournament to vacation in California and Colorado... played in one tournament, the A&P Classic in Mahwah, N.J, where she ?...returned to Gainesville to begin training with Coach Brandi and strength an conditioning coach Robin Schmidt... played in the main draw of the U.S. open advancing to the before falling to the 7th seeds ... something about summer school.

AS A SOPHOMORE (1996-97)

Teamed with Dawn Buth and successfully defended the NCAA Doubles Championship by defeating Georgia's Michelle Anderson & Marissa Catlin 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 in the NCAA finals, becoming the first doubles team in the 16-year history of the NCAA Championships to win two doubles titles, nevermind consecutive crowns... with Divya Merchant, became the first tennis Gators to earn first team GTE Academic All-America honors... one of 13 women selected to the Rolex Collegiate All-Star Team... posted a 3-1 record in NCAA dual match singles matches, falling to Stanford's Julie Scott 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-2 in the NCAA Championship Final, which clinched the national title for the Cardinal... sported a 20-match singles win streak entering the NCAA Championships and has won 26 of her last 27 matches, with the lone loss coming to Scott 6-1, 6-0 on Feb. 23... dropped a tough 7-5, 7-6 (6) decision to Arizona's Vicky Maes in the first round of the NCAA Singles Championships... GTE District 3 Spring At-Large Academic All-American... earned a bid to the NCAA Singles Championship for the first time, and is prepared to defend the NCAA Doubles title with Dawn Buth... earned first team All-Southeastern Conference honors at No. 4 singles & No. 1 doubles (with Buth)... received the team's Most Improved Player award... reached the quarterfinals of the Rolex South Regional Qualifier and the quarterfinal of the SEC Coaches Fall Classic before losing to Mississippi's No. 19-ranked Agnes Muzamel 2-6, 7-6, 6-4... her 6-0, 1-6, 6-3 victory over South Carolina's Tobi Rakic clinched the SEC Tournament quarterfinal win for the Gators... named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll with a 3.68 grade point average in Marketing... 3-5 record versus ranked opponents... 3-3 record in three-set matches.

SUMMER OF 1996

Nickitas was one of six American collegiate athletes to participate with the inaugural USTA All-American Summer Team... Played in several events, highlighted by an appearance in the main draw of the U.S. Open Doubles, where she and teammate Dawn Buth fell in the first round 6-1, 6-2 to former Gator standout Lisa Raymond and

her partner Rennae Stubbs.

AS A FRESHMAN (1995-96)

The lone rookie on the team made a tremendous impact for the Gators, adding strength to the doubles lineups... Captured a pair of grand slam doubles titles (both with Dawn Buth), including the NCAA Doubles title with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Texas' Cristina Moros and Farley Taylor... Other Slam title was the Rolex Intercollegiate Championship, where the duo knocked off four straight ranked opponents en route to the crown... Won all three singles matches completed at the NCAA team championships (was leading 6-2, 5-4 in first round match against Oklahoma State's Monika Wirthova when play was suspended)... Named the ITA's national Doubles Team of the Month three times (Nov., Feb., & April)... earned All-America honors in doubles... One of six nominees for the prestigious Honda-Broderick Award for Tennis... First team All-SEC at No. 6 singles and No. 1 doubles... Recipient of the Neal Anderson Scholastic award, recognizing the highest GPA on the Florida team... Dubbed the "missing link" by the media in Florida's NCAA Championship quest... Posted a combined singles & doubles record of 76-6, including a 41-1 doubles record at the No. 1 doubles position and a doubles winning percentage of 97.6 percent which established a Gator single-season percentage record... Captured the Lady Seminole Classic, the Women's Fall Classic and ITA/Rolax South Qualifier... Was 37-1 with primary partner Buth, but started the year winning four consecutive matches with Bonnie Bleecker and capturing the SEC Coaches Classic... Only doubles loss was to the Clemson pair of Woorons & Barrett (8-3 pro set decision)... Did not receive an invitation to the NCAA singles championships despite a No. 45 ranking... Provided the clinching team point in Florida's SEC Tournament championship victory with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-1 win over Vanderbilt's Spencer Shelfer at no. 6 singles ... Won 24 of her last 25 singles matches, including 14 straight to end the year... Was 1-5 versus ranked opponents (three losses were to Florida teammates).

PRIOR TO FLORIDA

No. 1-ranked junior doubles player in the world and also among the top-10 junior singles players in the United States... Claimed the USTA Nationals doubles title for three consecutive years (1992-94), while also winning the doubles titles at the 1993 Junior Italian Open, 1992 and 1993 Clay Courts and Nationals, 1994 Banana Bowl (Brazil) and the 1994 Paraguay ITF... Also swept both the singles and doubles crowns at the USTA Clay Court Nationals in 1993 and reached the semifinals in doubles at the 1994 & '95 US OPEN Juniors... also played in the Wimbledon Junior and the French Open Junior singles & doubles tournaments... Member of the U.S. National Team... Chose Florida over California, Texas, Stanford and Vanderbilt.

PERSONAL

Full name is Stephanie Irene Nickitas... Daughter of A.J. Nickitas and Irene Athans... Born on April 8, 1977... A 1995 graduate of Saddlebrook Academy in Tampa, where she was the valedictorian

M.C. WHITE

Freshman, 5-7, Right-handed
Spartanburg, S.C. (Spartanburg Day School)
1997 Singles All-American

Primary Positions: No. 2/3 singles & No. 3 doubles (with Bonnie Bleecker)
Final ITA Rankings: No. 13 singles & No. 47 doubles

CAREER RECORD

| YEAR | OVERALL SINGLES | DUAL SINGLES | SEC SINGLES | NCAA SINGLES | OVERALL DOUBLES | DUAL DOUBLES | SEC DOUBLES | NCAA DOUBLES |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1997 | 41-6 | 27-3 | 12-2 | 8-2 | 28-3 | 22-0 | 9-0 | |
| Totals | 41-6 | 27-3 | 12-2 | 8-2 | 28-3 | 22-0 | 9-0 | |

SUMMER 1997

M.C. White was one of six American collegiate athletes selected to participate on the USTA All-American Summer Team.

AS A FRESHMAN (1996-97)

M.C. White became the first Gator freshman to reach the finals of the NCAA Singles Championships since Lisa Raymond won the 1992 title... posted an 8-2 record in NCAA action, upsetting No. 1-ranked Katie Schlukibir (Stanford) twice, while losing to Lilia Osterloh (Stanford) 6-1, 6-1 in the NCAA finals... posted the second most singles victories on the team (41), three behind senior Divya Merchant's total... earned All-America honors... logged a 27-3 record in dual matches, including the lone win in the NCAA Team Championships final versus Stanford... showed continued improvement from the beginning of the season, as reflected by her 6-3, 7-5 loss to Georgia's Marissa Catlin on Nov. 9 in the third round of the Rolex South Regional Qualifier and then her 6-3, 6-0 win over Catlin to end the regular season April 20.... won the Georgia Invitational, having to defeat four ranked opponents, including three players from the hosting school, en route to her first collegiate title... reached the quarterfinals for the SEC Coaches Fall Classic before losing to teammate Dawn Buth... earned first team All-Southeastern Conference honors at No. 3 doubles (with Bonnie Bleecker)... received the team's Neal Anderson Scholastic Award, earning a 4.0 grade point average both semesters... ranked as high as 17th this season... 20-6 record versus ranked opponents this season, with one of the losses com-

ing to teammate Dawn Buth... 6-1 record in three-set matches.

PRIOR TO FLORIDA

M.C. White was ranked No. 3 in the 1995 USTA Girls' 18 rankings...Ranked No. 1 in the state of South Carolina in her respective age division 1991-1995...No. 1 ranked player for Girls 18 division in the South in 1995, also ranked in the top five in the nation...1995 silver medalist in singles at the U.S. Junior Olympic Festival...Competed in the 1996 U.S. Open juniors championship...1995 semi-finalist in the Canadian Open Juniors in doubles...Finished third in the USTA Hardcourt National Championship...Made it to round of 16 in 1995 Italian Open...Won USTA National Indoor Tournament in 1994...Member of South Carolina team that finished first in the 1994 National City Team Competition...1993 finalist in USTA Indoor Championships...Participated in tennis exhibition fund-raising events for the Mobile Meals Program (1992-95).

PERSONAL

Full name is Mary Carlisle White...Daughter of John and Karen White...Born July 16, 1978...A 1996 graduate of Spartanburg Day School with a 4.0 GPA...Four-year high honor roll member...Elected to Cum Laude Society in 1995, the highest academic honor given by her school...1993 Spartanburg Day School Athlete of the Year...Undecided on a major.