

Roland Thornqvist

Head Coach

2004 & 2006 SEC Coach of the Year

2008-09 season is his eighth at UF; 13th overall



The Roland Thornqvist File

Birthdate: March 3, 1970

Height: 6-foot-6

Hometown: Stockholm, Sweden

Education: Bachelor of Arts - Economics, University of North Carolina, 1996

Overall Head Coaching Record: 248-66 (12 years)

Record at Florida: 173-16 (seven years)

COACHING CAREER:

Women's Tennis Head Coach, University of Kansas, 1997-98 (two seasons)

Women's Tennis Head Coach, University of North Carolina, 1999-2001 (three seasons)

Women's Tennis Head Coach, University of Florida, 2002-present (seven seasons)

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2003 NCAA Champions
- 2002 NCAA Finalist
- 2005, 2006 & 2008 NCAA Semifinalists
- 2007 NCAA Quarterfinalists
- 1998 NCAA Round of 16
- 12 consecutive NCAA team appearances (1997-2008)
- 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 & 2008 SEC Regular Season Champions
- 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 & 2006 SEC Tournament Champions
- 1997 & 1998 Big 12 Conference runner-up
- Led UF to No. 1 final national ranking in 2003
- Led UF to No. 2 final national ranking in 2006
- Led UF to No. 2 final national ranking in 2005
- Led UF to No. 2 final national ranking in 2002
- Led UF to No. 3 final national ranking in 2004
- Led Kansas (1998) and North Carolina (2001) to No. 17 final national rankings
- 2004 & 2006 SEC Coach of the Year
- Helped UF receive an NCAA-best eight total bids into the 2003 Singles (five) and Doubles (three) Championships

PLAYING CAREER:

Two-time All-American at North Carolina in 1992 and 1993...three-time first-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection...1993 ACC Player of the Year...member of 1992 and 1993 Tar Heel teams that advanced to NCAA Round of 16...1993 Rolex National Indoor Singles champion...1992 and 1993 Rafael Osuna National Sportsmanship Award winner...played professional tennis for one year following the completion of his collegiate eligibility, earning a world ranking of No. 290.

There hasn't been much the Florida women's tennis team hasn't accomplished. But Roland Thornqvist, who in 2008-09 enters his eighth year as head coach of the Gators, continues to find a way to raise the standard of success in Gainesville.

The 2007-08 Florida women's tennis team survived early-season setbacks and mounted a valiant charge toward collecting championships, coming away with the program's 23rd Southeastern Conference regular-season title in the 29-year history of the event, while marching into the semifinals of the NCAA Championships for the 19th time in the last 22 years, bowing out to eventual champion UCLA, 4-2, as the Gators were the only team to win a point against the Bruins during their six-match run. Injuries dwindled the Gators' senior trio to a just two, with only Whitney Benik earning a spot in the dual match lineup by season's end, as Florida compiled a 24-3 overall record, including an 11-0 mark in conference action to produce the 17th undefeated league ledger in school history.

The 2006-07 team faced some difficult personal, off-the-court adversity from a number of its players. Several Gators became unable to compete during a large portion of the dual match season, which significantly altered the singles' and doubles' lineups. While Thornqvist was able to patch together six semi-healthy players for singles, the doubles' pairings were blown apart. In spite of it all, the team still won a share of the SEC Regular Season and Eastern Division titles, with the only loss a 4-3 decision on the road at Georgia. The 2006-07 Gators, which featured three freshmen, three juniors and one senior, earned the No. 1 national ranking on March 6, 2007, eventually receiving the No. 4 seed in the NCAA Championships and the right to host a First & Second Round Regional. Florida marched into the quarterfinals, eventually falling to national runner-up UCLA in a thrilling 4-3 decision.

Prior to the 2005-06 season, Florida had won 14 of the previous 18 SEC Tournament championships, including each of the last four. Amazingly, not once during any of those title runs did the Gators sweep every opponent en route to the crown - until the 2005-06 season, when Florida did just that, winning its fifth straight conference postseason title. Florida battled through the SEC regular season and emerged with a perfect 11-0 record and the overall league champion, as Thornqvist was recognized as the SEC Coach of the Year. The 2005-06 Gators marched into the semifinals of the NCAA Championships, where their season ended to eventual champion Stanford. Florida capped its season with a 25-2 record and ranked No. 2 in the final national poll. The Gators received the No. 4 seed in the NCAA Championships, earning the right to host the first and second rounds. The team's 4-0 victory on May 19, 2006 against Baylor in the NCAA quar-

terfinals was his 200th career win, also his 125th with the Gators.

His fourth year as head coach at Florida might have been one of the best coaching seasons Thornqvist produced as a collegiate head coach. The 2004-05 season wasn't the typical Florida tennis campaign, but somehow the Gators found their way back into a familiar position of advancing to the semifinals of the NCAA Championships for the 17th time in the last 19 years, completing the season with a 22-3 record.

Sure, Florida also captured its fourth consecutive and 14th overall SEC title. The team finished tied for second in the SEC regular season standings, as the squad has finished either first or runner-up for the 26th straight time - every year in league history.

