

FIU-FAU merger shot down at hearing

by Jeffrey L. Kleinman

Sunblazer Editor

An effort to combine FIU with Boca Raton's Florida Atlantic University continued to receive failing grades from administrators, faculty and business leaders alike at a Nov. 13 public hearing on the Bay Vista Campus.

"No, no, a thousand times no," Acting FIU Vice President Paul Gallagher told a state education subcommittee at the third and final hearing on a possible merger of South Florida's two public universities.

Gallagher said education would not improve with a merger. "I believe the people who believe this are misguided," he said. "Creating a super-university can't give us any more support. It will just lay another layer of bureaucracy on something we are operating effectively now."

If the merger does take place, it has been said that a chancellor would oversee each school's president.

During the summer, the Florida Legislature assigned the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC) to study the feasibility of a merger.

All of the speakers addressing the commission argued against the merger except FIU business Professor Doria Bonham-Yeamman.

Bonham-Yeamman, who taught at Palm Beach Junior College and FAU before moving to FIU when it opened in 1972 said, "we need coordination to improve research capabilities and to better serve students living in Broward County -- an area located between the two universities."

Bob Hogner, a business professor and president of the FIU chapter of the United Faculty of Florida, spoke out for

his union against any attempt to combine the schools.

"The damage would outweigh any potential developments," said Hogner. He said that merging Florida State University with the University of Florida "would make more sense."

The president of the FIU Foundation, the university's fundraising organization, said a merger would have a "direct negative influence" on fundraising.

"People give because they've been touched by what Florida International University and Dade County have done for them," said Foundation President James Orovitz. Dade and Palm Beach counties are so different, he said, that when Miami was electing its first Hispanic mayor, Palm Beach was welcoming "the future King of England."

Leaders from the South Florida business community also spoke out

against a merger.

"From a business standpoint, each (university) is doing its job and should stay as it is," said Catherine Fahringer, an executive with CenTrust Bank and past president of the FIU Foundation.

The Legislature also discussed a possible FIU-FAU merger in 1971 and 1980. But with last summer's campaign to improve FIU and FAU with the comprehensive Southeast Plan, merger talk became intense. Some South Florida lawmakers have said that lobbying for money would be easier with one comprehensive university serving the tri-county area.

The PEPC sub-committee will draft a report on the testimony it has heard during the three meetings and present it to the Legislature Feb. 1. The report is only a recommendation and PEPC director Furlong said the Legislature could commission another study if it wishes.

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Pain is pleasure for donors

by Valerie Greenberg

Sunblazer Ass't News Editor

A little bit of pain can go a long way. Forty-four FIU students donated blood Nov. 13 on the Bay Vista Campus, making the Student Government blood drive a success, according to Diane Prokos and Josie Silio, Student Government Association homecoming committee co-chairpersons.

The drive, which ran from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., was staffed by employees of the South Florida Blood Service -- blood suppliers for Dade, Broward and Monroe county hospitals.

"It was very successful," said Prokos. "It was supposed to end at 5:30 p.m., but we still had more people who wanted to donate. We even had to turn two students away because we just didn't have enough time.

"There is such a need for blood in the community," she said, "and when we make the opportunity to donate available to them on campus, they do it."

"I know people need blood, and not enough people give it," said Michelle Hines, one of the student donors. "It is not asking too much for a person to give."

Forty-seven students volunteered to donate blood, but three did not meet required health standards, according to Silio.

Most of the student donors had given blood before, according to Silio. Approximately 15 students were donating for the first time, and the majority said they would donate again at the next SGA sponsored blood drive, she said.

The last blood drive on BVC, sponsored by the administration in April, collected only 10 pints of blood, said Prokos.

"We reached our goal and exceeded it," said Silio. "But with as many students as we have here, we should have had more donors."

Silio said SGA will be sponsoring a blood drive during the early part of 1986, and with increased publicity, she expects the turnout to be even greater.

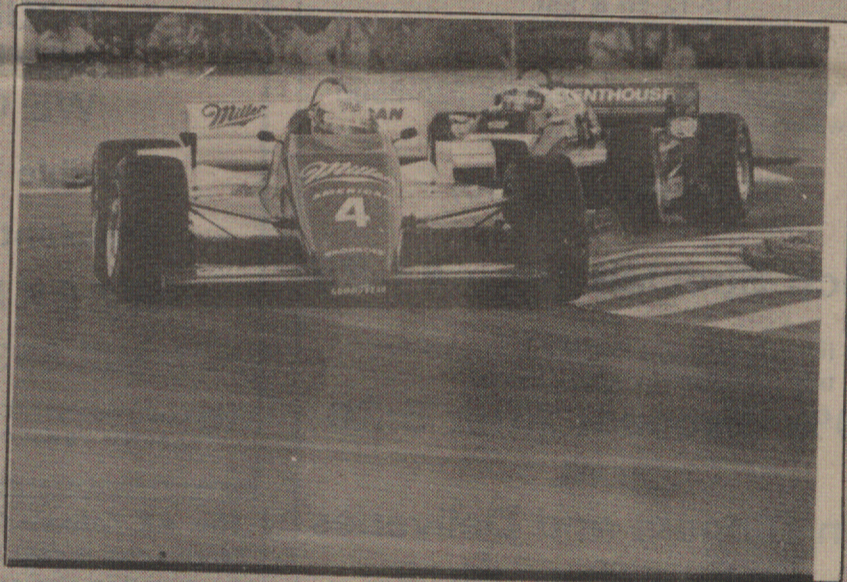


Photo by Gary Boisson

AND ROARING TO THE FINISH... is Danny Sullivan, the winner of the 1985 Beatrice Indy Challenge at Tamiami Park. More on page 6.

County looking to widen road

by Jeffrey L. Kleinman

Sunblazer Editor

With an eye on widening the only access road to the Bay Vista Campus, Dade County's traffic division recently hired a consulting firm to electronically count passing cars, according to Robert Williams, county traffic systems manager.

The traffic survey was the first step in widening the 1.3 mile, two-lane road.

A new stadium -- built off the 151st Street road last year -- and a North Miami law prohibiting the opening of an existing road on the south end of the campus, make the widening project a must, said Brad Biggs, FIU assistant vice president for administrative affairs.

"When the stadium has an activity and when we have an activity, traffic could be a problem," said Biggs.

The results of the survey will be discussed by FIU, the county and the city of North Miami, and a decision whether to widen the road will be made

on a yet-to-be-determined date, Biggs added.

North Miami City Engineer John D'Amanda said it's about time the county looks at a widening project. He said he tried to convince the county to include the project in a five-year capital improvement plan, but the county -- up until now -- had other priorities.

He called for the widening in a May 29 report to the North Miami City Council.

"The first step (to widening the road) is to introduce it to a long-range program" and this may be it, D'Amanda said.

In a series of unsuccessful negotiations with North Miami, FIU officials tried to open an existing extension of 135th Street.

Toward the end of those negotiations, on May 22, 1984, the city of North Miami passed an ordinance prohibiting FIU from using the 135th Street road, originally built for the now-defunct Interama development. That road is now blocked.

SGA faces more seats than candidates

by Valerie Greenberg

Sunblazer Ass't News Editor

Write-in candidates for the Student Government Association Senate elections are desperately needed, according to Election Committee Chairman Howard Swerdloff.

"The elections are being held with a poor turnout of candidates," said Swerdloff. "In order to have the student body of FIU fully represented with the most qualified senators, we seriously need write-in candidates."

Swerdloff said fewer candidates run in the fall than in the spring, when the SGA Executive Board is elected. Four schools have fewer candidates running than the number of open Senate seats, and one school has an

equal number of candidates to the open positions, Swerdloff said.

•The School of Education has two candidates for five seats.

•The College of Engineering & Applied Sciences has one candidate for four seats.

•The College of Nursing has no candidates for three seats.

•The School of Public Affairs & Services has one candidate for four seats.

•The College of Business Administration has four candidates for four seats.

Write-in candidates may begin campaigning Nov. 19, the first day of the three-day polling period, and must receive at least two votes to be considered official candidates, Swerdloff said.

Artists lecture Nov. 26

Two art historians will speak in a "Symposium on Women's Art" at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 26 in UH 323 on the Tamiami Campus.

Josephine Withers, who teaches at the University of Maryland will speak on the topic of "Musings about the Muse." Paula Harper, who teaches at the University of Miami, will speak on "The Women of Impressionism."

The lectures are sponsored by the Women's Studies Center and the Student Government Association. Call 554-2408 for further details.

Dancing in the dark

FIU dancers will perform original works at 8 p.m. Nov. 21 and 23 in VH 100 on the Tamiami Campus.

Professional artists will also perform ballet, jazz and modern dance. The ensemble will be directed by Lee Brooke, visiting dance instructor, with the assistance of Leslie Neal, FIU dance instructor. Ticket prices are \$6 for the general public, \$5 for students and \$2 for students with an FIU I.D.

Dancing in the dark II

As part of Homecoming '85, the Student Government Association is sponsoring a Homecoming Dance on the Bay featuring live music by "The Voice."

The dance, which will include a free buffet, will begin at 9 p.m. Nov. 22 near the pool area on the Bay Vista Campus.

Coming up...

Discover yourself

The Wellness Center is sponsoring a lunchtime seminar on self affirmation at 12:15 p.m. Nov. 20 in UH 316 on the Tamiami Campus. The seminar is free for the FIU community. Call 554-2434 for further details.

Faculty meets Nov. 26

The Faculty Senate will conclude this semester's meeting schedule at 12:15 p.m. Nov. 26 in PC 432 on the Tamiami Campus.

Anti-nuke rally organized

There will be an anti-nuclear rally featuring speakers, petitions, literature and participation of local and national groups. The rally, timed to deliver a message for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, will be at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 20 in the UH Forum on the Tamiami Campus.

Stop and go

The student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers will be touring the Dade County Traffic Signals and Sign Shop.

Anyone interested in going on the tour, should report to the VH parking lot on the Tamiami Campus at 1 p.m. Nov. 20.

Thank you

The Catholic Campus Ministry on the Tamiami Campus is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Day lunch Nov. 28 at St. Agatha's Parish (across the street from the dorms on 107th Avenue). If you are interested in attending, call Father George at 223-5982.

Thank you II

The Criminal Justice Student Society will present a free Thanksgiving lunch at 12 p.m. Nov. 25 in room 245 on the Bay Vista Campus.

If you are planning to attend call 940-5850.

Fee committee meets

There will be an open hearing to discuss the university's health fee at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 20 in UH 210 on the Tamiami Campus.

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Editor's Forum

by Jeffrey L. Kleinman



Leaky pens make me blue. Going to class without man's favorite writing instrument may seem ridiculous. But I just started a pen boycott. Going cold turkey isn't easy. Up until now, I carted 20 pens everywhere, evenly distributed between my shirt pocket and a zip-tight plastic bag. There is one risk, however, in carrying so many pens: The Leak Factor. Leaky pens have cost me hundreds of dollars in ruined shirts and pants that have been forever stained with blotches of ink coming from porous pens. Most pens are bad leakers. I just wish they would give some type of warning before they start regurgitating. At least if an alarm sounded as the ink started to escape, I could quickly pull the pen out of my pocket before much damage is done. Being a journalist doesn't help matters any. Reporters always carry pens and stash them in every available crevice. Shirt pockets, pants pockets, shoes, socks, underarms and ears are popular hideaways.

Leaky pens have cost me hundreds of dollars in ruined shirts and pants that have been forever stained with blotches of ink.

When I arrived home one day with a leaky pen tucked behind one of my ears, my folks had a panic attack. They saw my blue ear, thought my circulation had stopped and threatened to rush me to the doctor. Little did they know that different parts of my body turn blue every day depending on where I store my pens. Try handling food or touching someone with hands that are fully bathed in liquid blue. You'll see stray imprints transferred to your hot dog. The solution for getting rid of ink-stained clothes, ears and hot dogs rests with a boycott. If you are assaulted by pens with leaky bladders, tell your professors that you refuse to write with pens in class because they end up writing on you. Sorry this article has to end now, but the typewriter ribbon is tangled and is rubbing off on my hands. Oh yeah, and about typewriter ribbons...

Letters policy

The Sunblazer welcomes your views on the basis of timeliness, interest, clarity, taste and space. Letters must be signed with the writer's name and his relationship to the university. Telephone numbers must be included so we may verify your letter. We may condense and will correct errors of spelling and grammar. Please address letters to: The Sunblazer, FIU Bay Vista Campus, SC 253, North Miami, FL 33181.

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Bless you Juan Valdez

'Coffee is my cup of tea'

by Valerie Greenberg

This is a tribute to Juan Valdez. I don't know Juan personally. I'm not even sure the man really exists. But if he does exist, he's probably dragging a reluctant mule through the mountainous jungles of Columbia in search of my next breakfast libation. For those who don't remember, Juan was the pre-coffee generation plug for the Coffee Growers Association. And right around the time Juan appeared on our television screens, I became addicted to the caffeinated, aromatic brew. Now I get my fix daily. I buy it by the pound and use it by the ounce. I have special spoons for it, and yes John DeLorean, I've even used a straw. I'd grow it at home if I could get away with it. Coffee is my catalyst. Coffee is to me what marijuana is to Paul McCartney. We're like Bill Cosby and pudding; Karl Malden and plastic money -- I don't leave home without it. Yes, coffee is my cup of tea.

But coffee may not be all it's ground up to be. I expect to hear any day of some medical report naming coffee a carcinogen, and alas, the brew of brews will go the way of asbestos and Marlboros. Rumor has it that top medical experts are pooling their beans and poring over the problem right now, scheming to make the coffee connoisseur a social outcast. The Surgeon General has said that by the year 2000, coffee drinkers will not be permitted to guzzle in public places and will have to resort to the outdoors to get their fix.

But coffee is undeniably an American tradition. It goes great with apple pie. Even George Brett pitches the bean on national television. Some establishments even cater to java junkies with machines that freebase coffee from solid to semi-solid form 10 cups at a time. And comforting to Richard Pryor groupies, it's not flammable. So this morning, as every morning, I join the millions of Americans who awake to the aroma of percolating pleasure to drink a toast to Juan Valdez. Muchas gracias, Juan.

(Valerie Greenberg is the assistant news editor.)

Mother nature losing battle

To the Editor:
Muhley grass is moving in mauve waves across the watery prairie. The delicate flowers of this grass are carried on long stalks as fine as tracery. They give the open plains a purplish haze.
 --Georgia Tasker in *The Miami Herald*, Oct. 24, 1982
 The purple haze of *Muhlenbergia schreberi* will not be seen on many acres of the Tamiami Campus this year. Neither will spring's Yellow Pineland Heliotrope and Rain Lilies or summer's South Florida Goldenrod. The damage done by rock plow, roller and road grader will take several years and a reopening of the compacted soil to return to its former state. However, these acres have been disturbed before. The first disturbance was after the 1974 start of construction of the Tamiami Canal and its accompanying canal. This canal began to lower the water table and created the dry prairie that has been used as cattle ranch, air field and university. The disturbed areas recovered to become attractive and interesting. For example, Professor Martha Meagher has used them as on-campus field trips. On one of these field trips last year, her class was on the way to see an unusual oak (growing from a cabbage palm that has been spared so far) when she spotted an unusual weed (a wildflower in the wrong place).

Then she discovered another and then another. There were 20 or more noteworthy species between the OE parking lot and the Tamiami Trail. Now all have been disturbed. The Tamiami Trail and the land use as an air field have brought in seeds from all over South Florida and the world. For example, the Giant Foxtail was brought in from millet seeds from China in 1931. Six years ago, these same fields were the habitat for native Florida terrestrial orchids not usually this far south. Many migrating birds arrived in the south this year to find their brood-rearing fields turned into dusty parking lots. The brightly striped Killdeer who will have no camouflage from predators is an example. The native burrowing owls, meadow larks, night hawks, and morning doves are also disturbed and compete for fewer feeding areas. The grey fox of the preserve fed on the cotton rats of the fields. Neither has been seen since the parking lot work began. FIU has signs posted proclaiming it an Audubon Sanctuary. How could this happen?

Harvey Love
 FIU groundskeeper

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Kremser's Krew gets big victories

Playoff-bound 'Blazers beat Div. I Indiana, Clemson

by Robert Stark

Sunblazer Sports Editor

Well, they're back in regular form. The FIU men's soccer team that had its fans wondering in the stands a few months ago, proved to be one of the best in the nation recently.

On the weekend of Nov. 9-10 in the McDonald's Classic at FIU, all coach Karl Kremser's team did was defeat two teams that were first and second in Division I last year. That's right, Division I.

On Nov. 9, the Sunblazers (13-4-4) took on Indiana University (11-7-1), which was the runnerup team last year in Division I. And before a crowd of 600, FIU defeated the Hoosiers 2-1 in overtime, as Alex Muro scored the winning goal with just 1:19 left.

The next day, FIU had the opportunity to prove that they definitely belong in Division I. Against defending Division I champ Clemson (17-2-2) Kremser's Krew did just that, and more.

The Sunblazers, while handing Clemson only its second defeat of the season, shut out the Tigers 2-0. Led by the tremendous play of goalkeeper Marc Wolff and goals by Fernando Mulens and Munga Eketebi, the

Sunblazers not only captured the McDonald's Classic championship but they earned themselves a bid to the NCAA Division II Championships.

The team got the news Nov. 11 that they would be seeded as one of the top four teams in the country, and be given a bye in the first round of matches scheduled for this past weekend. FIU will, in effect, play the winner of the Barry-St. Louis game.

'We're playing as a team, not like a bunch of individuals.'

--coach Karl Kremser

Thus, FIU's first playoff match of the year will be played the weekend of Nov. 23-24. Where it will be played depends on two factors; one, if Barry (9-3-3) wins, it is very likely the game will be played at FIU; two, if St. Louis (10-5-2) wins and draws a good crowd, the game will be in St. Louis.

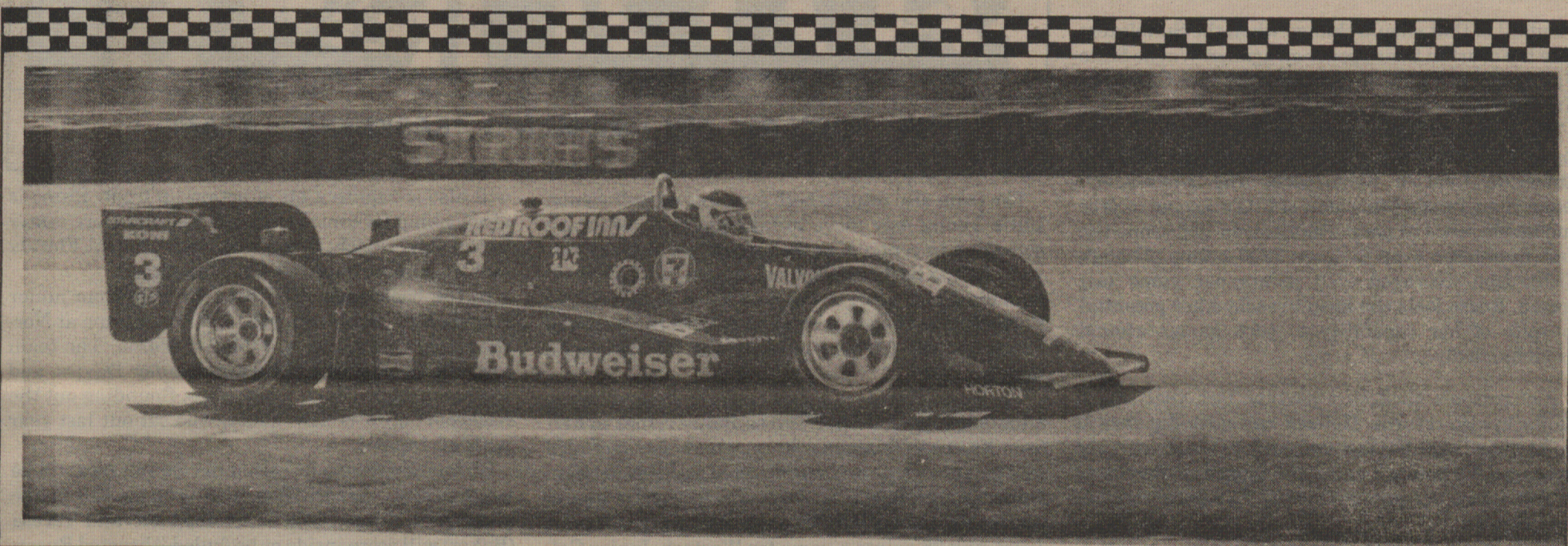
The team appears ready for the challenge. After a strange and disappointing start at 3-3-1, the Sunblazers have lost just once in their last 14 outings and have outscored their opponents 36-12 (something they weren't even coming close to earlier in the season).

"There's no question that we've been playing well these last couple of weeks," said Kremser, who next coaching victory will be his 100th. "We're playing as a team, not like a bunch of individuals."

Once again, they're playing as Kremser's Krew.

At the same time of the McDonald's Classic was the Beatrice Indy Challenge at Tamiami Park. Parking was not a major problem, but the noise may have been.

In the Nov. 12 issue of the Miami News, Clemson coach Dr. I.M. Ibraim was quoted as saying after his team's loss, "It's disastrous that they had this auto race so close. It's very distracting for the players. I should never have accepted the invitation to come here...and I won't again -- not at this time of the year."



CRUISIN' ALONG Bobby Rahal cruises his March 85C/Cosworth DFX to a second place finish in the Beatrice Indy Challenge, Saturday, Nov. 9 at Tamiami Park. Rahal lost the lead to Danny Sullivan on the 79th lap after leading for 70 of the first 73 laps. Rahal and Sullivan finished third and fourth respectively in the final CART standings behind Al Unser Sr. and Al Unser Jr.

Photo by Gary Boisson

The Sunblazer

An Independent Student Newspaper at Florida International University, North Miami/Miami, Florida

FIU paper searches for new spring staff

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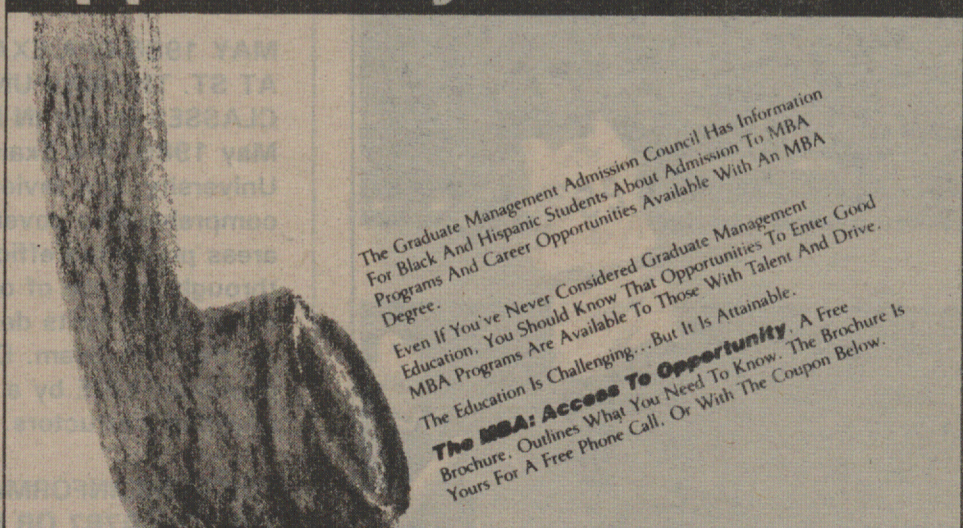
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45's rotate into fashion

Singles spin back to rock 'n' roll forefront

by David Colodney

Sunblazer Features Editor

Singles. 45 rpms. The little records with the big hole in the middle.

Call them what you want, but the single, once the modus operandi of rock'n'roll until the album pushed it aside, is making a comeback -- bigtime.

"It's stronger than ever," said Calvin (who refused to give his last name), manager of the Peaches at 47 NW 167 St. in North Miami Beach.

Albums pretty much were viewed as a waste of plastic better suited for singles, the source of airplay, publicity and money.

As soon as the Beatles recorded "Rubber Soul" albums changed. They immediately became "concepts," and became the preeminent recorded form through the '70s.

But things changed. Including the plight of the 45.

The single has come back with a vengeance in the '80s, mostly Calvin said, because of a "tightening economy."

"People aren't going to pay \$9 for something they haven't heard yet," he said. "Hardly anyone stands in line anymore to buy albums."

Another boost to the single is the advent of the 12-inch single, an extended dance mix of the standard 7-inch. "There are radio stations in this market that play 12-inch. Business is better than ever," Calvin said.

Still, some see the 45 comeback as overrated.

"It's gone up a little, but not much," said Lydia Ojeda, manager of the Vibrations at 14700 Biscayne Blvd. "Otherwise, people are buying 12-inch."

Ojeda said that any credit for the 45 resurgence, if there is any, should go to special, star-studded efforts such as USA for Africa and the new "Sun City" single against apartheid.

"That's what does it," she said.

Artists lately have been using the single's flip side as a showcase for material left off the album. On Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA" LP, not one

flipsides...

INXS, REM best of latest singles crop

by David Colodney

Sunblazer Features Editor

OK, sales of 45's are up. Singles are back and they're better than ever. There are even maxi-singles, extended play singles (EP's) and now a bigger than ever 12-inch, which is a full 5-inches more than the normal single.

Fine. But singles are still the Rodney Dangerfields of rock'n'roll. They don't get no respect. No respect at all. They don't even get a column reviewing them. Only albums do. Until now.

Realizing that this discrimination must end somewhere, The Sunblazer leaps to the rock'n'roll vanguard by offering a once a month (or so) piece reviewing some noteworthy stuff on the smaller vinyl. No (album) jacket required.

The best new single around now is "This Time" by INXS. The song is a great '60s style-number in the old Rolling Stones style. It's amazing how influential the Stones were as a singles act. Vocalist Michael Hutchence looks, moves and sounds like Mick Jagger. It's a great song, period. "I'm Over You" is the non-album track flip side. Nowhere near as exciting as the 'A'-side, "I'm Over You" congers up a murky feeling over some funky bass. It's OK, but nothing like "This Time."

"Take on Me," the first single from a-ha, has been all over the radio for a while now. Still, if

hasn't worn thin yet. It's a real breezy pop song chock full of catchy phrasings and nice harmonies. Unfortunately, the other side is an insult to any lover of 'B'-sides. Bland and clichéd, "Love is Reason" is also unfortunately available on their album. "My morals are changing fast/ I told you it wouldn't last." Neither will this song. No further comment.

Look for ABC's new 12-inch, "Vanity Kills". It's a great dance tune in traditional ABC style. Probably the only other worth while track besides "Be Near Me" on their new LP.

REM is band that has made its mark on the rock scene, after a mere two years from their debut album's release. "Murmur" nabbed this four-piece Georgia act Rolling Stone's best new artist award in 1983.

Since then, they have made their mark as a singles act as well. The latest 45 culled from their current "Fables of the Reconstruction" LP is "Driver 8" and is one of the best singles of the year. Slightly obscure lyrics and an evocative vocal from Michael Stipe drive this one. The flip is a non-LP track called "Crazy," which is a lyrically obscure tune in the mold of the "Murmur" disc.

Also worth looking for is "Radio Free Europe/ "Sitting Still," the band's first single, which has received tons of airplay lately.

of the album's six singles had a 'B'-side on that record. That helps sales, Calvin said, because it is a "marketing ploy" by the manufacturer.

"There's nothing left to pull after a while. If you have a 16-song album, and you've already pulled 15

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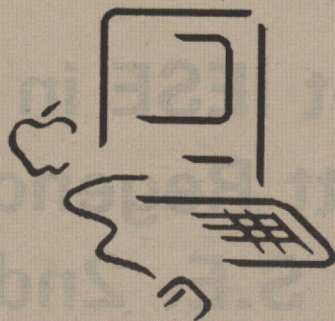
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Basketball teams have post-season bids in mind

Men's team depends on triple threat

"Going for it."
That's how coach Rich Walker terms the 1985-86 FIU men's basketball season. And why not? His Sunblazers are coming off their best season in the four-year history of the program at 19-8 with three experienced seniors on the roster.

So with the team's opener on Nov. 22 against Wayne State University at Miami Christian High School, Walker has many expectations.

"I'll be expecting leadership from my seniors and I believe that overall, the chemistry of this group is very good," said Walker. "In the final analysis, you can have all the talent in the world on paper, but you need that chemistry in order to be successful."

That chemistry will be centered around the Sunblazers' triple threat: Patrick McDonald, Andre Laz and Hector Rodriguez. These three combined to average more than 21 rebounds per game last season, more than half of the team's average of 40 per game.

'These players have paid their dues and they're hungry.'

--coach Rich Walker

McDonald (6-foot-5-inches, 190 pounds), is considered one of the finest players in Division II. After averaging 16.3 points per game and 9.5 rebounds per game last year, he became the second Sunblazer ever to score 1,000 career points. He is also the second leading all-time scorer at FIU (his 1,125 points are just 166 fewer than leader Mark Hollin's 1,291 total).

McDonald was also selected to the second-team All-South team by the coaches in the region. "Patrick has a number of skills and he uses them all well. He's a complete ball player and one of the most talented I've ever coached," said Walker.

Seniors Laz and Rodriguez know the FIU system and both are expected to provide consistency up front. Laz (6-foot-7-inches, 225 pounds) ranked third on the team in scoring (10.6) and rebounding (6.0), while Rodriguez (6-foot-8-inches, 230 pounds) was fourth in scoring (10.1) and second in rebounding (6.9).

"Andre is a real stabilizer," said Walker. "He learned a lot last year and I expect his shooting to improve."

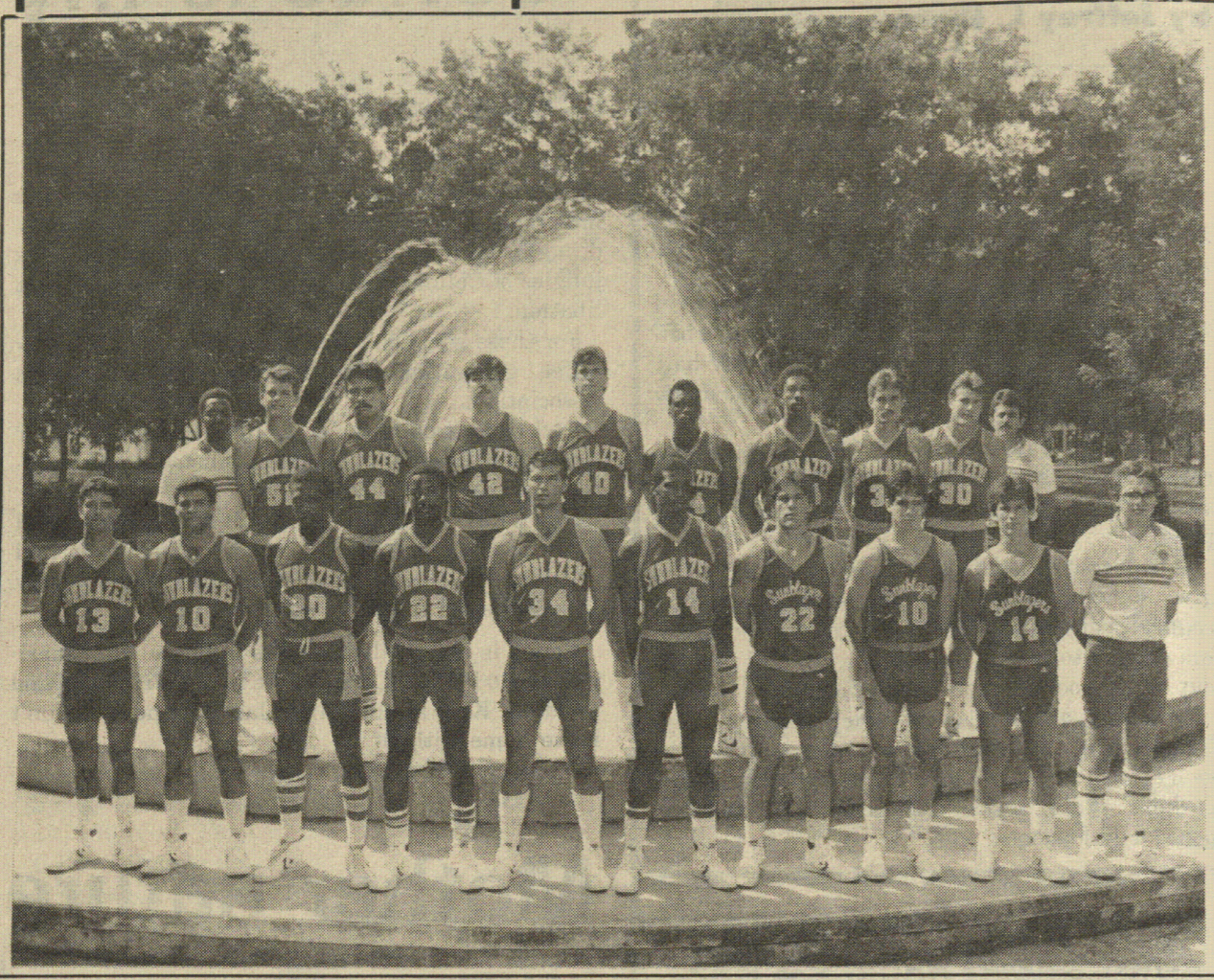
"Hector is a fine contributor. He's got a great pair of hands and he's about the finest passer on the team."

With those three and a pleasant addition of junior transfer John Stiver, and you begin to understand why Walker is hoping this squad will be dominating play under the boards.

Stiver transferred from Biola College in California where he averaged 10 points per game for the 1983-83 National Christian College Athletic Association national champions.

Others to see action at forward include juniors Bernie Cantens (1.4 ppg.), Ed Thompson (1.2 ppg) and freshman Jim Hulett.

With the recent dismissal of experienced guard Wyman Roberts (ineligible because of a new Division I age rule), the guard spot is open. Senior George Quintairo (2.7 ppg) has the potential to step in as the starting point guard. But anyone of four players could



THE 1985-86 FIU MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

earn himself the starting off-guard position. Sophomores David Banks, Ken Payne, junior Ed Hughes and freshman Elvis Lopez are fighting for that job.

Back-up help will be expected from junior Bill Radeka; sophomores Robert Torricella, Johnny Guardiola; and freshman Gus de Ribeaux.

The FIU schedule contains plenty of outstanding Division II competition, the likes of which the Sunblazers need to defeat in order to attain a post-season playoff invitation. Programs, the caliber of Cheyney State, Florida Southern, Columbus (GA) and Division I's Drexel and Arkansas State, will be an accurate gauge of the team's progress.

Ultimately, with the experience, FIU will be seeking the school's first 20-victory season and an NCAA tournament bid. "It's a realistic enough goal for us to believe we can have an excellent year," said Walker.

"These players have paid their dues and they're hungry," he added. "We're striving for gold this year."

Arena as a home?

As far as FIU's home games go, Dade-South, Dade-North and Miami Christian High School will have to do.

The Sunblazers Arena, which is currently having the wood floor sanded and varnished, isn't expected to be ready for the Sunblazers until early February.

Capacity for the arena will be about 5,039. Capacity for the Miami Christian gym is 1,200, while both Dade gyms hold about 5,000.

FIU will tip off the 1985-86 season with the Hardee's and FIU "Stone Crab Tip-Off Dinner" on Wednesday evening, Nov. 20, two days prior to the Sunblazers 1985-86 opener against Wayne State University.

The dinner will give the public a chance to meet and greet head coach Rich Walker, his staff, and the entire Sunblazer team.

Cocktails will be served beginning at 7 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. at the University House Ballroom on the Tamiami Campus.

Tickets are \$15.00, which includes dinner and all drinks. All proceeds will benefit the Sunblazers' basketball program. For additional information or tickets, call the FIU Athletic Office at (305) 554-2756.

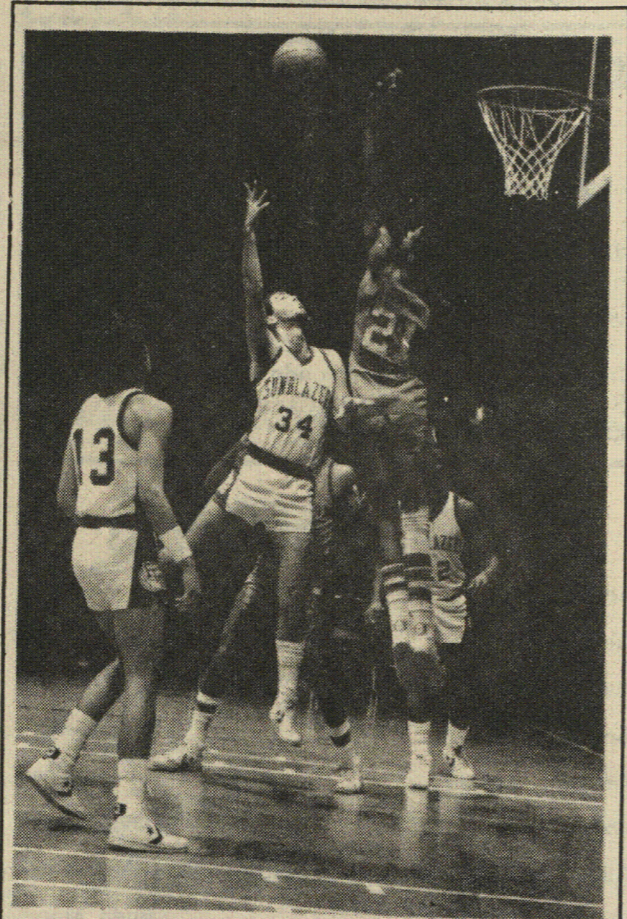


Photo by Jerry Margolin
George Quintairo (34) is expected to take up the slack at the point guard spot for the Sunblazers.

Women 'Blazers' 'possessed' for playoffs

On paper, the 1985-86 edition of the FIU women's basketball team appears solid. And as head coach Cindy Russo says, they are, in a sense, possessed. If so, it would seem that FIU is headed for a playoff berth that has eluded the team for the past few seasons.

Russo's team missed qualifying for the playoffs last year when they were ranked fourth in the final regional poll. Only the top three teams are selected for post-season play. In effect, FIU missed out despite posting a 22-6 record with a strong schedule. That's why Russo says her team is possessed -- because they're dead set on getting a tournament berth in their final year before moving up to the Division I ranks next year.

With four starters returning and strong team speed, Russo feels the team will be a run and press team. "We're born to run," said Russo. "We could have a team that's very exciting. For the past two years, with the big people we had in the middle, we really haven't had that much of a fast-breaking team."

But all of that should change when the Sunblazers take the court in their opener on against Wayne State University at 6 p.m. on Nov. 22 at Miami Christian High School.

The most significant factor the Sunblazers have going for them this year is the presence of returning All-American Lynette Richardson. The 5-foot-9-inch senior from Tampa owns most of FIU's scoring records and needs just 410 points this season to become the first Sunblazer ever to score 2000 points. Though Richardson averaged 25.3 points per game last season, Russo feels she hasn't reached her potential in spite of her capability to turn games around singlehandedly.

Richardson's backcourt partner last year, Janet Hollack, also returns. Hollack has started games at point guard over the last two seasons. Last year, she averaged 8.9 points a game and topped all returnees in free throw percentage, hitting 73.9 percent of her free throws.

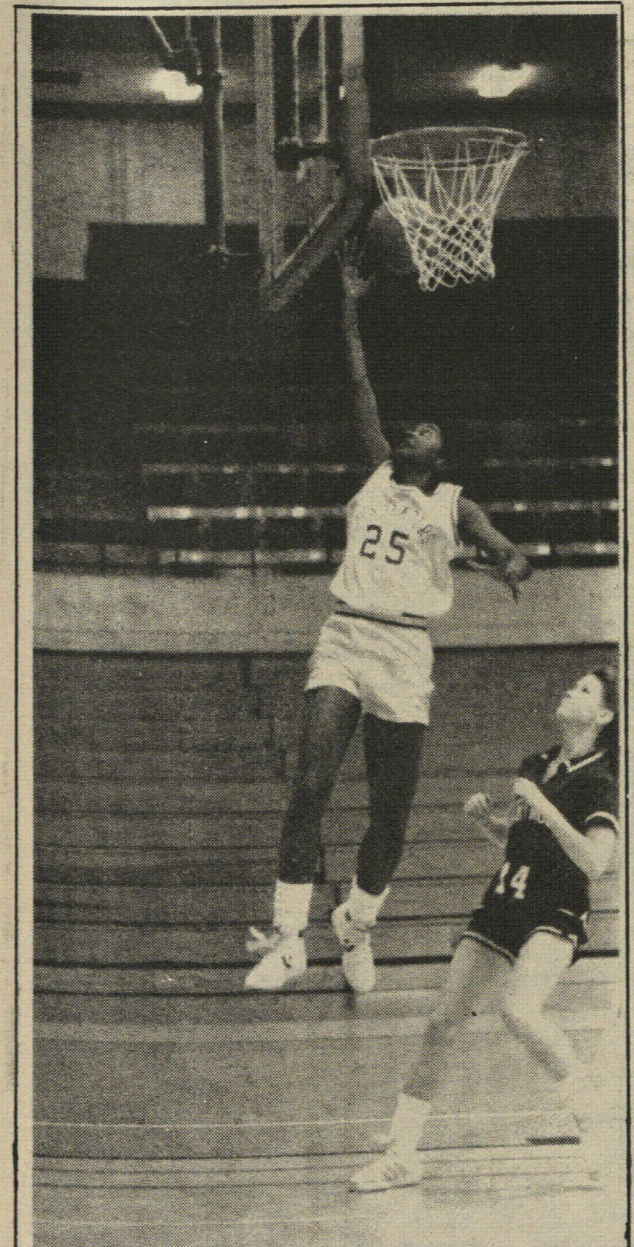
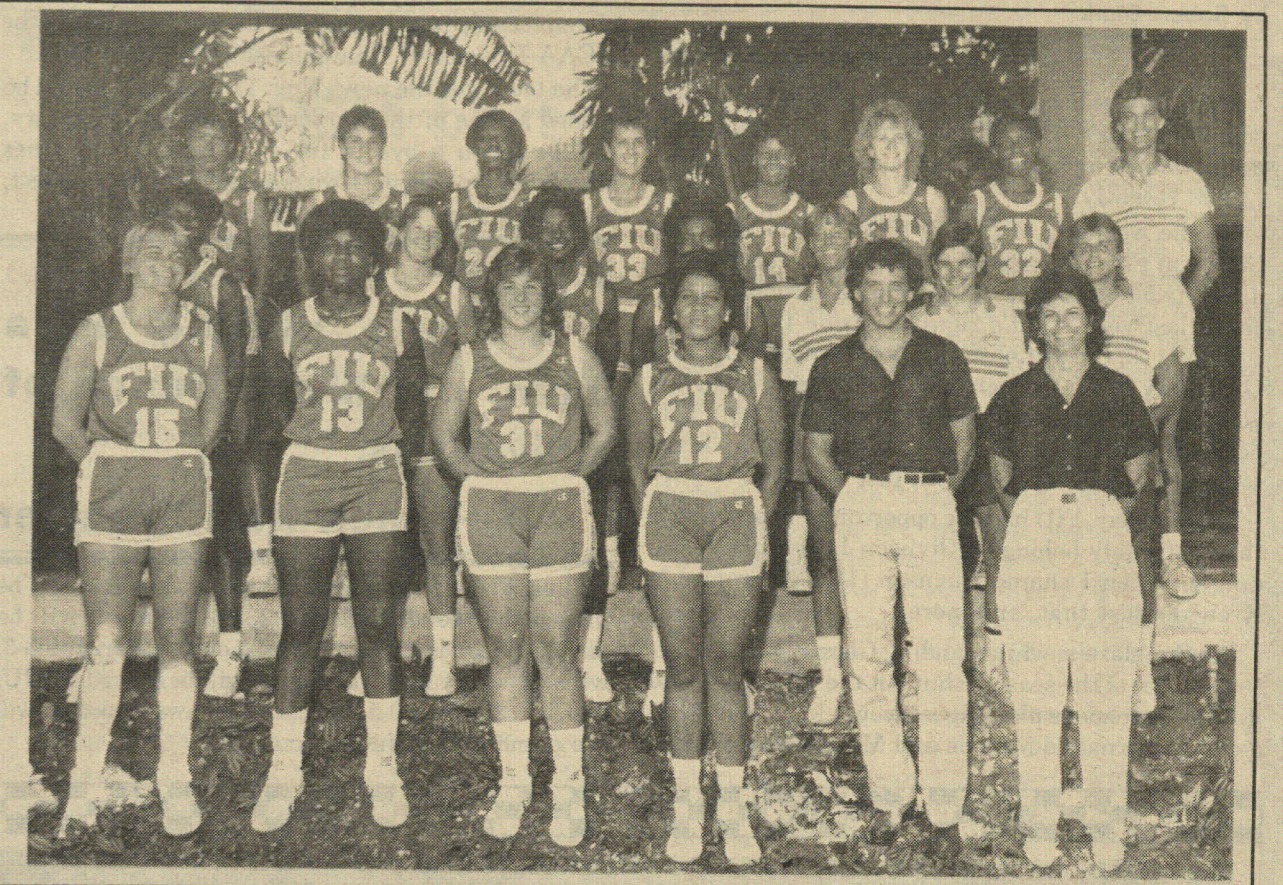


Photo by Jerry Margolin
FIU's Lynette Richardson will be the force of the offense this year. Last year, the All-American averaged 25.3 points per game.



THE 1985-86 FIU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The team also returns both forwards as well. Senior Lillie Young may move to take place of last year's sensation in center Kim Pelligrini. Young may prove to be the best replacement, as she led FIU in rebounding last year, averaging 8.8 a game. Senior Corey Kruse, the other returning forward, averaged 7.1 points and 6.0 rebounds a game for last year's squad.

Up front, Russo can choose from among many talented players. Junior Teresa Baker comes to FIU from Eastern Oklahoma State, where she averaged 19.7 points a game and was selected as All-American. Junior Sandra Bogan, who can play forward or guard, was fourth among JUCO women in scoring last year, averaging 26 points a game for Westark Junior College (AR).

Returnees Lisa Vines (3.9 ppg) and Renae Siplin

will also see quite a bit of action up front. Russo is also looking for contributions from sophomore center Susan Radosevich, a transfer from Central Florida and freshman center Denise Vangates.

In the backcourt, FIU looks for help from junior Angela Hill, who averaged 15 points a game at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M last season. The team also has sophomore returnees Jennifer Davies and freshman Jean Taylor as backups. Rounding out the backcourt crew is Lily Vento, who sat out last year with an injury.

Ultimately, Russo feels that her Sunblazers will be tough to stop. "Sandra (Bogan) can pop the ball in like a machine, Richardson is unstoppable and Teresa (Baker) will score inside or be fouled," boasted Russo. "Hollack is consistent and Hill can run and penetrate."

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Men's schedule for Nov.-Dec.

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Nov. 22	Wayne St. Univ.	Miami Christian H.S.	8 p.m.
Nov. 24	Southern Tech. Inst.	Valdosta, GA	2 p.m.
Nov. 27	Concordia College (NY)	Miami Christian	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 30	Elmhurst College	Dade-North	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	Florida Southern	Lakeland, FL	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	St. Thomas	Dade-North	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	Belmont Abbey College	Dade-South	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	Ark. State Univ.	Jonesboro, Ark.	6:35 p.m.
Dec. 21	Drexel Univ.	Jonesboro, Ark.	6:35 p.m.
Dec. 23	Cheyney St. Univ.	Dade-South	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 30	Southampton College	Dade-South	7 p.m.

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