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Golden Panthers

Newsletter

Florida International University Winter 1987-88 Vol. 6 Number 2

SEASON'S GREETINGS

FIU Athletics Begins 1987-88 Fundraising Drive

Florida International University President **Dr. Mitch Maidique**, Athletics Director **Dick Young** and nearly 200 supporters kicked off the 1987-88 Golden Panthers Fundraising Drive at a cocktail party held at Mercy Hospital on Monday, October 5.

The goal of this year's effort is to raise \$75,000 in unrestricted funds earmarked as excellence money needed to upgrade athletics scholarship numbers to the NCAA Division I national level. Over \$25,000 was pledged before November 15.

"Our program, right now, seems under-endowed and we are presently operating with the minimum number of programs the NCAA allows at the Division I level. Our goal is to fully fund our present programs so that we can compete with the very best," said Director Young.

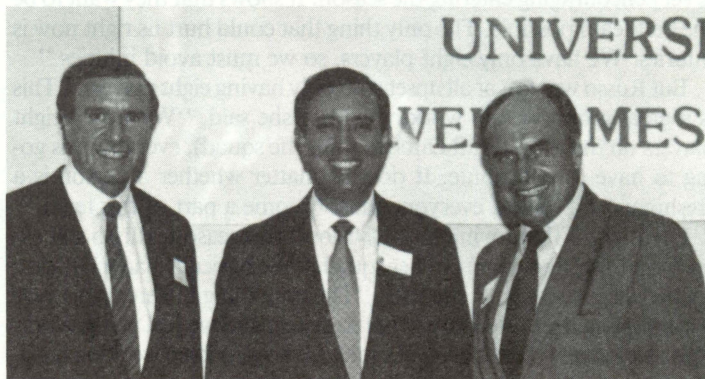
"President Maidique has made the analogy to me that he wants to see FIU become 'the UCLA of the east.' When you say UCLA to me, athletically or academically, you are talking about a prestigious program. Now, we need both the necessary external and internal support to make that analogy real," he said.

While Florida International University is the State University of Florida at Miami, athletics funding does not come in the form of tax dollars, but instead, from activities and health fees collected from the student body. While progress has been made in securing budgetary and administrative help from the University, FIU, as the youngest member of the State University System, has yet to develop many of the resources often taken for granted by its other, better-established state sister institutions.

In order to assist in this project, Young and Assistant Athletics Director **Larry Baldwin** have established a Golden Panthers Club Executive Board made up of university and community leaders. This year's board chairman is **Dr. Stuart Leeds**, director of the Kendall Medical Center in Miami.

Dr. Leeds is a sports enthusiast who, among his many credentials, is a consultant in sports medicine, running and fitness for the City of Miami and Metro-Dade County Police Departments and the Florida Highway Patrol. A graduate of the University of Miami and the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, Dr. Leeds has been associated with FIU athletics over the last several years, working as both a member of the men's basketball advisory committee and the University's search for the athletics director.

Individuals interested in assisting FIU in its quest for excellence should contact Baldwin in the Golden Panthers Club office at (305) 554-3159 or complete the donor pledge card found in this newsletter and send in care of **Florida International University, Athletics Department, Building W-4, Miami, Florida 33199.**



President Maidique flanked by Dr. Stuart Leeds (left) and Dr. Young (right) at the kick-off party at Mercy Hospital.

Season Ticket Drive is Still Underway

Season tickets for the men's and women's basketball teams can still be purchased. There are great discounts that go along with becoming a season ticket holder of the Golden Panthers. And, as Florida International University begins a new era at the NCAA Division I level, you and your family will want to take part in all the action. Nothing quite matches the thrill and excitement of college basketball as record numbers of enthusiastic fans annually fill college arenas.

If you witnessed FIU's first taste of major college basketball action last season, then you know what can be expected from Rich Walker-coached teams. If you were not here last season, the 1987-88 men's basketball team is sure to fill you with "Golden Panther Pride."

The prices for men's season tickets are as follows: an individual season ticket costs \$45.00 (for the 13 game home package), a savings of \$20.00 over the price of single game tickets. The price of a family season ticket, which admits five people (2 adults and 3 children or 1 adult and 4 children), is only \$75.00. That's a savings of \$180.00 over the cost of single game tickets for 2 adults and 3 children, and averages less than \$1.25 per person per game.

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Men's and Women's Basketball Seasons Underway

Head Coaches **Rich Walker** and **Cindy Russo** spent the last month-and-a-half preparing their teams for the 1987-88 season which began on Monday, November 30.

After finishing the 1986-87 season with a 26-3 record and south regional runner-up, the women have great optimism for the upcoming season.

Senior forwards **Debra Bullock** and **Rosalind Jones** are the two returning players that should provide an immediate spark to the team. Bullock averaged 16.9 points and 9.0 rebounds as a junior, while Jones averaged 5.5 points and 5.4 rebounds. Jones also led the team with 77 steals. "Debra and Rosalind looked really good in practice," Russo said. "We are expecting them both to be real leaders."

Junior college transfers **Adrienne Jackson** and **Giavonne Tullis** were expected to be the starting guards opening night against Bethune-Cookman. Jackson averaged 7.2 assists last season in leading St. Gregory's Junior College to the National Junior College Championship game. Tullis averaged 19 points and over six rebounds per game for Eastern Oklahoma Junior College.

Sophomore **Teresa Boring** was expected to start at the center position, but FIU should get an even bigger boost when 6-3 center **Carla Duncan** joins the team at the semester break. Boring averaged 3.1 points and 2.0 rebounds last season, when she saw action in 23 contests, starting once.

Russo was very positive about her squad's practice habits. "We had solid practices," she said. "The girls worked extremely hard, which is very encouraging entering the season. It shows that they want to be the best team possible. The only thing that could hurt us right now is injuries. We have only eight players, so we must avoid injuries."

But Russo was not at all upset with only having eight players. "This is a great group we are working with," she said. "With only eight players on the team (until Duncan joins the squad), everybody is going to have to contribute. It doesn't matter whether a person is a freshman or a senior, everyone must become a part of this team."

Even with FIU moving into Division I this season, Russo still expects a strong showing from her squad. "We basically had a Division I schedule last season," she said. "The only thing different this year is our designation. We know what to expect and we feel we can compete successfully on this level. As long as the girls keep working hard, we should win our share of games."

Additionally, the women will be competing for a conference championship for the first time. FIU has joined the New South Women's Conference, which is made up of Central Florida, Florida A&M, Georgia Southern, Georgia State, Mercer, Samford, and Stetson. Florida A&M won the inaugural league crown in 1985-86 and Georgia Southern won the championship last season.

This season's schedule is highlighted by the Third Annual Sun and Fun Classic. The eight team tournament will be held in Sunblazer Arena January 2-4. Other teams competing this year include Houston, runner-up to Southwest Conference champion Texas; Georgia Southern, champion of the New South; Radford, winner of the Big South Conference; and LaSalle, champion of the Metro Atlantic Conference.

On the men's side, Coach Walker got an early start when he whistled his first practice on October 15 at 6:00 a.m. Despite the early wake-up call, Walker says his team has responded well as they look toward the challenges ahead.

"The pieces are beginning to come together," said Walker. "The last few years have been trying at times but we're now beginning to attract some quality student-athletes to our program. Our long-range goal is to someday attain an NCAA playoff berth.

"This year, we'll have our work cut out for us as we try to turn obstacles into opportunities. It's most important that we keep things in their proper perspective this season and remember we won't be able to conquer the world all in one year."

Maybe not the world, but Walker and Athletics Director Dick Young have established a schedule that takes the Golden Panthers up against some of the finest talent in college basketball today. FIU could play as many as six teams that reached postseason competition last season including home encounters against Georgetown (December 30), New Orleans (January 30), and Xavier (February 24). On the road, FIU will battle Florida State (December 2), either Clemson or Michigan at the South Florida Holiday Classic (December 29), and could possibly meet St. Peter's College at the Merrill Lynch Classic in Orlando (December 5).

To begin the Division I quest, Walker is relying on eight letterwinners led by senior forward **Carlton Phoenix** who, at 6-5, finished second on the 1986-87 squad in scoring (14.1 ppg) and averaged 11.7 rebounds per game which ranked him tenth in the nation among all Division II opponents. But don't let the "Division II" fool you. Phoenix went head-to-head against some of the best Division I had to offer—like ACC Player of the Year Horace Grant (Clemson) and Iowa State All-American Sam Hill. In 14 of his 19 games against Division I opponents he pulled in double-figure rebounds and against the University of Northern Illinois last February 23, he established a new school mark with 23 boards.

Starting at the small forward will be senior **Sylvester Whigham**, the second leading junior college scorer in the state two seasons ago when he played at Broward C.C. Whigham is a definite outside threat whose scoring will be very much needed to offset the loss of the graduated Jerry Nash who led FIU last season with nearly 15 points per game.

Junior college transfer **Damon Armstrong** was expected to be the starting center. While only 6-8, Armstrong did manage to average 11 points and 11 rebounds per game as a center last season at Kilgore (TX) J.C.

Three guards should be sharing the majority of back-court time. Senior **David Banks** averaged 10.8 points per game a year ago for FIU including double-figure performances in four of the Golden Panther's last five games. **Ronnie Bryant** started all 25 games last season at point guard when he led the team with 2.4 assists per contest and a team-leading 38 steals. **Robert Rowe** transferred from Stetson University where he played in 54 games for that Division I program over two seasons and led the Hatters with 3.5 assists per game as a freshman.

"I expect us to play an exciting brand of basketball this season—very upbeat and very tenacious," said Walker. "As far as actual execution is concerned, there are three ingredients for success that I will be stressing to this team. First is rebounding; second, making our lay up attempts; and third, hitting 70-75% of our free throw chances."

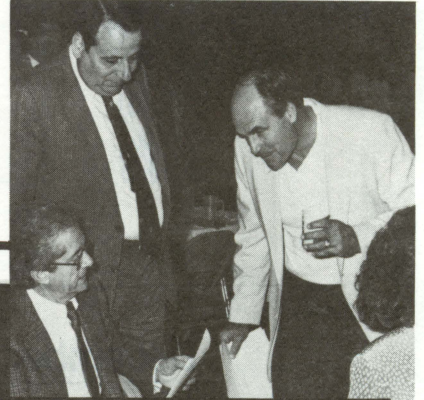


Ronnie Bryant will be one who will be counted on to stabilize FIU's backcourt as they enter their first season of Division I basketball.



Coach Walker introduces his squad to the public for the first time as they prepare for their initial season of Division I basketball in 1987-88.

Dr. Young (back right) and Circuit Court Judge John Gale (front left) discuss FIU athletics.



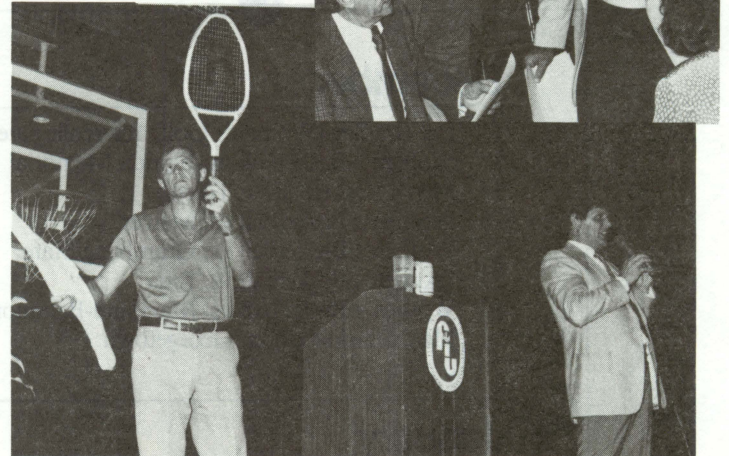
—Basketball Tip-Off Dinner a Big Success

The third annual "Stone Crab Tip-Off Dinner" took place on Tuesday, November 10 in Sunblazer Arena with over 600 people in attendance. The dinner, which is an annual fundraiser for the men's basketball team, saw its largest turnout ever. Attendance has doubled every year since 150 people showed up for the first stone crab dinner back in 1985. **Ron Perry**, a charter member of the basketball booster club, was the chairman of this year's event.

Led by master of ceremonies, **Circuit Court Judge John Gale**, special introductions were made of University President Dr. Mitch Maidique, Athletics Director Dick Young, and the Basketball Coaches, Cindy Russo and Rich Walker.

Coaches Russo and Walker introduced their 1987-88 squads along with their assistant coaching staffs, and then gave brief, but stirring, speeches about the expectations for the upcoming season.

In his speech, Walker emphasized the need for fan support through the purchase of season tickets. "We need you," he said. "We need you to buy season tickets and fill up this gym. You motivate us."



Ron Perry (left) and Steve Eckhardt (right), two charter members of the fast break club, lead the auction at the Stone Crab Dinner.

Coach Russo will be attempting to lead the Golden Panthers women's basketball team to its fourth consecutive 20-win season.



Along with the dinner and introductions, a raffle and auction took place. **Steve Eckhardt**, another of the charter members of the booster club, was in charge of procuring the prizes. Some of the give aways included a trip to the Bahamas and one to accompany the men's team on its road contest against U.S. International University in San Diego, California during February, cruises, weekend getaways to local hotels, sporting goods and season tickets to home games.

Radio personality **Ed Kaplan** did his Miami Sports Exchange talk show as a live remote from the dinner. Some of that evening's show's guests included Dr. Maidique and Dr. Young, along with Russo, Walker and **Women's Golf Coach Ken Juhn**.

DONATION PLEDGE CARD

Membership Year: September 1, 1987 — August 31, 1988

GOLDEN PANTHERS CLUB — Athletic Department
 Florida International University
 University Park — Miami, Florida 33199
 Phone: (305) 554-3159

(Please Print All Entries)

Personal Business New Member Renewal

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Spouse _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Company _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signed _____ Date _____

\$50-\$99- \$100-\$249- \$250-\$499- \$500-\$999-
 \$1,000-\$4,999- \$5,000-\$9,999- \$10,000 and Up-

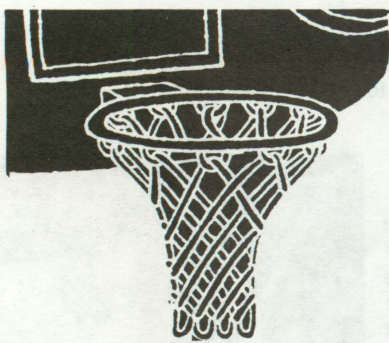
Total Pledge \$ _____

- Full payment is attached or enclosed
 Initial payment of 25%, \$ _____, is attached or enclosed, with balance to be paid as indicated below:

MONTH	AMOUNT
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

- Payroll Deduction (FIU employee)
 Gift in Kind (Type) _____
 Matching Funds (Make check payable to FIU Foundation, Inc.)
 Designated donation to: _____ (PROGRAM)

Secured by _____ (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)



Florida International University

Golden Panthers™

1987-88 Winter
Home Athletics Events

December

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 1 | Pat Bradley (Women's Golf) Intercollegiate | |
| 3 | Women's Basketball vs. Florida Memorial | (7:30) |
| 14 | Men's Basketball vs. Toledo | (7:30) |
| 20 | Women's Basketball vs. Mercer | (2:00) |
| 28 | Women's Basketball vs. Grambling State | (7:30) |
| 29 | Women's Basketball vs. Iona | (6:00) |
| 30 | Women's Basketball vs. Maryland-Baltimore County | (5:00) |
| | Men's Basketball vs. Georgetown | (7:30) |

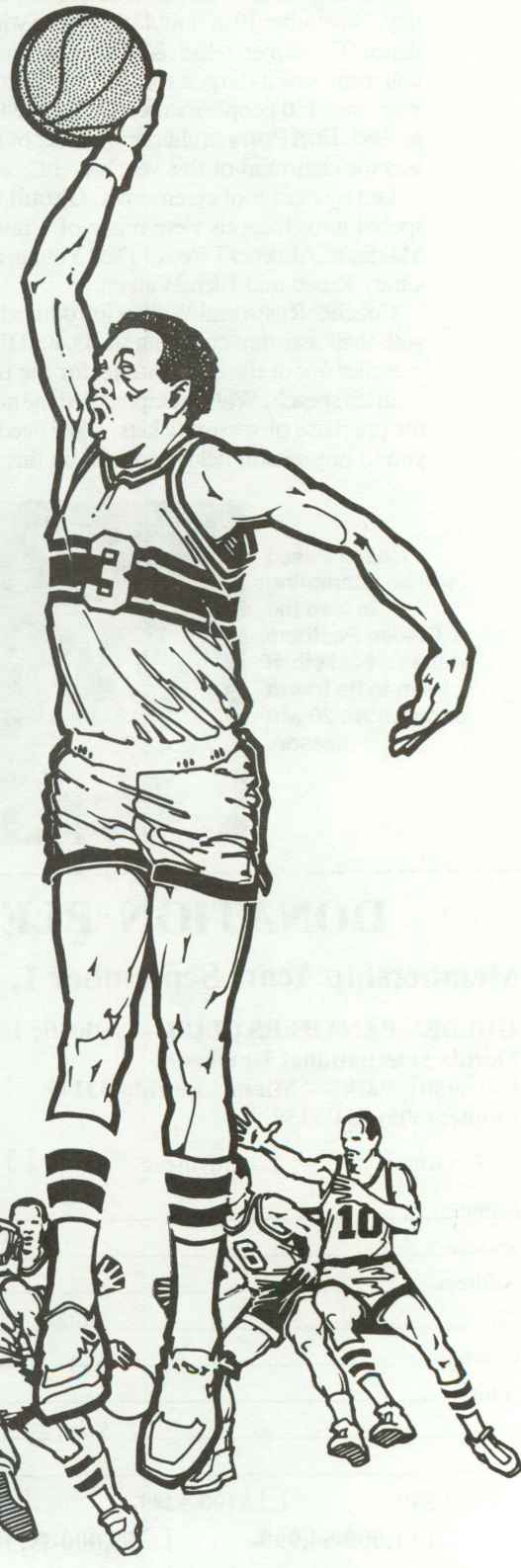
January

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 2 | Women's Basketball vs. New Hampshire | (5:00) |
| | Men's Basketball vs. American | (7:30) |
| 3 | Women's Basketball in Sun & Fun Tournament | |
| 4 | Women's Basketball in Sun & Fun Tournament | |
| 6 | Men's Basketball vs. Robert Morris | (7:30) |
| 7 | Women's Basketball vs. Georgia State | (7:30) |
| 10 | Women's Basketball vs. Florida A&M | (7:30) |
| 16 | Women's Basketball vs. Stetson | (7:30) |
| 18 | Men's Basketball vs. St. Francis (NY) | (7:30) |
| 30 | Women's Basketball vs. South Florida | (5:00) |
| | Men's Basketball vs. New Orleans | (7:30) |

February

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 2 | Men's Tennis vs. Barry | (3:00) |
| | Men's Basketball vs. Morgan State | (7:30) |
| 5 | Women's Tennis vs. Florida Southern | |
| 12 | Women's Tennis vs. Boca Raton | |
| 13 | Men's Basketball vs. Central Florida | (7:30) |
| 13 | Women's Tennis vs. Stetson | |
| 18 | Women's Basketball vs. Georgia Southern | (7:30) |
| 22 | Men's Basketball vs. Maryland-Baltimore County | (7:30) |
| 24 | Women's Basketball vs. Miami | (5:00) |
| | Men's Basketball vs. Xavier (OH) | (7:30) |
| 27 | Women's Basketball vs. Central Florida | (7:30) |

For ticket information, call 554-3161



Soccer Enjoys Winning Season

Playing its first season of Division I soccer in what turned out to be the strongest NCAA region in the nation, the Golden Panthers men's squad enjoyed a very successful 12-6-2 season that included a tie against the nation's No. 1 ranked team from the University of South Carolina team in Columbia.

Yet, what could have been, rather than what was, remains the burning question in the mind of **Head Coach Karl Kremser**.

Coming off an 11-10 record in 1986, Kremser initially considered this to be a rebuilding season for his fledgling Division I Golden Panthers. But after a 7-0-1 start that included the tie against USC, that thinking began to change. Instead, Kremser and his players were talking about an NCAA tournament bid in a region that included perennial powers Duke, Clemson, South Carolina and North Carolina.

"I was seeing constant improvement on the part of our team but with so many new players we were only playing 85-90% of our potential when we went up and tied South Carolina," said Kremser. "But from that time on, it seemed like we stopped improving. We may have even digressed a bit."

What happened was a slide that saw the team go 1-4-1 over the next six matches and drop out of tournament consideration.

"We were a good team but we never quite got that extra effort that was needed to be a great team," said Kremser. "I'm pleased that we showed improvement over a season ago, but in retrospect, I believe we are still a player or two away from really establishing ourselves in the Division I soccer world. This season gave us a real good sense of what we have to do to improve and compete at this level."

Despite the apparent disappointment, the NCAA still had FIU ranked sixth in the south region, then awarded five invitations to its postseason tournament. A win or two more during the regular season for the Golden Panthers could have made this a year to remember.

There were, to be sure, many bright spots on this year's squad. At the top of the list was the play of junior stopper and team captain **Robin Fraser** who was named as most valuable defensive player in two of the three regular season tournaments in which the Golden Panthers appeared.

"It was a disappointing season of sorts because I didn't think we played up to our expectations," said Fraser. "We could have had a much better record, but at the same time, there were signs of improvement over last year so next season should be even better."

"We weren't that far off from being a really good team this year. With few exceptions, we could have won every game we played this season," said Fraser.

On offense, junior **Dennis Brose's** skills shone bright. The junior college All-American from one season ago stepped in as the offensive leader with a team-high 11 goals. Another newcomer, **Alvin James**, came through to finish second in team scoring with six goals and two assists.

In goal, senior **Rich Kraft** recorded most of the playing time but freshman **Chris Antonopoulos** put in plenty of quality minutes and should enter 1987 as the leading contender for the starting job.

"I don't plan on being in the office much," said Kremser. "I'm going around the country to look for players who will help put us over the top." At 111-39-13 over eight seasons at FIU, the coach's record speaks for itself.

Price Optimistic of First Baseball Postseason Bid

"Mums the word" around the Golden Panthers baseball team thus far this fall with regards to information concerning the 1988 squad. It's not that **Head Coach Danny Price** is trying to hide anything. It's just that Mother Nature has refused to cooperate weatherwise and because of that, the team has been forced to spend more time in the weight room than in the batting cages.

Still, on paper at least, with six of eight everyday players and five pitchers from last season's NCAA-leading ERA staff returning, this year's team should be stronger than 1987's 41-19 squad. The 1988 Golden Panthers will have more Division I talent in back-up roles and are at least two-deep at every position.

And with this year's schedule, which begins on Friday, February 5, at home against Augusta College, which is loaded with teams that FIU will need to do well against if it hopes to receive its first-ever NCAA Division I tournament bid, Price is counting his blessings. Perennial top 20 programs from Florida State, Miami and Maine dot a schedule that includes 58 major college opponents. Also scheduled are intrastate rivals Stetson and Central Florida plus the Thirteenth Annual FIU Baseball Classic (March 4-10) with Georgetown, LaSalle and Army, and the Charlotte (NC) Invitational with UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Charlotte and Davidson College.

But despite winning 82 games over the last two seasons, the Golden Panthers still have been overlooked for a chance at postseason competition. FIU was one of six teams nationally that won 40-plus games in 1987 yet failed to receive a tourney invitation. Price, to say the least, is perplexed.

"We use to think that 40 wins would get us a tournament bid and yet after reaching that goal for each of the last two years we still fell short," said the coach. "I really don't know how many wins it's going to take for us to receive a bid, but right now, that's not really important. What is important is that we work that much harder. Maybe 45 wins is the magic number we should be shooting for."

And being the "eternal optimist" he is, Price and his coaching staff really believe that 45 wins can be attained—if Mother Nature starts to cooperate.

Pitching will have to play a major role in any success. Junior **Denny Wiseman** is the top returnee in the starting rotation. Three returnees and three newcomers will vie to join him in a four- or five-man rotation. Converted infielder and junior **David Horgan** and **Jose Calveiro**, a junior who arrives next month from the University of Arkansas Little Rock, are expected to handle the bulk of relief duty.

On the infield, Price's biggest challenge will be to find replacements for his only two starters lost from a season ago—second baseman Hector Fernandez and first baseman Tony Shade. Outfield talent is deep and plenty of preseason competition should ensue. A two-man battle will rage for the starting catching chores between junior **Nelson Caraballo** and senior **Bob Heck**.

And when all the rain has stopped and all the "ifs" are finally answered, Price hopes his Golden Panthers will find their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Season Ticket Drive

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For those low prices, you will be able to witness an exciting schedule featuring NCAA Tournament participants Georgetown, Xavier (OH) and New Orleans, intrastate rival Central Florida, plus well established teams from around the country.

The prices of women's season tickets are just as low and pack just as much action. An individual season ticket costs only \$20.00, a savings of \$12.00. A family plan will admit five people for only \$35.00, which is less than 50 cents per person per game.

Included on FIU's exciting 16-game home schedule is the Third Annual Sun and Fun Classic, which will be held January 2-4. FIU will also host cross-town rival Miami, and the Golden Panthers will compete this season for a conference championship. They are now members of the New South Women's Conference and will be playing six league games in Sunblazer Arena. If you were on hand last season as Cindy Russo's squad posted a 26-3 record and played two NCAA Tournament games in Sunblazer Arena, then you certainly realize that women's basketball packs excitement.

Be a part of it by becoming an FIU basketball season ticket holder.

WQAM Radio, Sun Chevrolet Join FIU Basketball in 1987-88

Athletics Director **Dick Young** announced last month an agreement with radio station **WQAM (560 AM)** that calls for the broadcast of seven men's and women's basketball games and a weekly coach's call-in show for the 1987-88 season. Also announced was a major sponsorship with **Sun Chevrolet** in conjunction with the radio broadcasts and with regards to a halftime contest for a new automobile.

FIU's season opener against U.S. International on Monday, November 30 from Sunblazer Arena was the start of the radio coverage with other live broadcasts scheduled for December 2, at Florida State (7:30 p.m.); December 28, at South Florida (9:00 p.m.); January 18, vs. St. Francis (7:30 p.m.); February 2, vs. Morgan State (7:30 p.m.); and February 22, vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore (7:30 p.m.). In addition, one Golden Panthers women's game on Thursday, January 7 against conference foe Georgia State will be aired.

The Rich Walker Show, featuring FIU's seven-year head coach premiered on November 24 and will also originate from radio station WQAM every Tuesday evening from 10:20 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

In making the announcement, Young said, "We hope that this is just the beginning of our relationship with WQAM and our goal is to someday have all of our home and away men's basketball games brought back live on the air to our fans."

Veteran sportscaster **Ed Kaplan** will handle the call of all games as well as host the Rich Walker Show while former professional player **Ron Perry** adds the color commentary.

In addition to being one of the major radio sponsors for FIU basketball this season, Sun Chevrolet will host "Sun Chevrolet Night" at Sunblazer Arena on Tuesday, February 2, when some lucky fan could walk away with a brand new automobile. Beginning with the Georgetown game on December 30, and at all men's and women's games throughout the month of January, individuals can sign up to compete in a basketball-shooting skills contest scheduled for February 2. Ten contestants will be selected during the New Orleans game on January 30 to compete for a chance to win the new car on "Sun Chevrolet Night."

**Dept. of Intercollegiate Athletics
Florida International University
Tamiami Trail, Miami, Florida 33199**

Booster Club Trip Planned for San Diego

The **Golden Panthers Club** is planning a **FIRST** couples trip to San Diego February 25-28, 1988 to coincide with the men's basketball game against U.S. International University on Saturday, February 27. Sound like fun? It's four days and three nights on beautiful Shelter Island in San Diego Harbor which will cost approximately \$450.00 per person and include:

Airfare	Ground and baggage handling
Lodging (double occupancy)	(hotel - airport)
Game Ticket	Daily brunch at Kona Kai Resort

Alamo Rent-a-Car will provide special discounted rates in San Diego. Those interested please call 554-3161 for additional details and preliminary bookings. There will also be a special sign-up table at the men's basketball game against Toledo on Monday, December 14. A deposit of \$100.00 per person is required by Tuesday, December 15th.



Pat Bradley making an appearance at the tournament named in her honor.

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