

University Information

Name: Florida International University
 Chartered: 1965
 Location: Tamiami Trail
 Classification: State of Florida University System
 President: Harold B. Crosby
 Director of Athletics: Tom H. Wonderling
 Assistant Director of Athletics: Gerald Hunsicker
 Affiliation: AIAW, Division II, Region III
 Conference: Independent
 Nickname: Sunblazers
 Colors: Blue & Gold
 SID: Rich Kelch
 Phone 552-2756

FIU In Review

Florida International University opened its Tamiami Campus in the fall of 1972 with 5,667 students—the largest first-year enrollment of any college or university in the history of the United States. Enrollment is expected to grow to 30,000 by the early 1980's when the North Miami Campus is in full operation.

An accredited member of the State University System, FIU serves juniors, seniors and graduate students. Admission is open without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age or national origin.

Academically, FIU offers the benefits of higher education's proven features blended with the innovations of progressive ideals. The University has developed individualized study programs including off-campus, real-life career experiences.

Academic divisions include the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business and Organizational Sciences, School of Education, School of Health and Social Services, School of Hotel, Food and Travel Services and the School of Technology.

The University has three main goals: to provide action-oriented education for students so they can live more personally satisfying and socially applicable lives; to serve the Greater Miami and South Florida region in meeting the ecological, cultural, social and urban challenges it faces; and to become a major international center with an emphasis on helping to achieve a greater mutual understanding among the Americas and throughout the world.

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SUNBLAZERS



1978

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
 Miami, Florida



Dr. Judy Blucker
 Softball Coach

Judy Blucker knows what it takes to produce a champion. She coached Florida State to the 1970 state softball crown, then was chosen to the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) All-American Team as a player in 1972. Since coaching softball at Florida International, she has led her teams to a combined record of 45-28 in three seasons and a third place finish in the 1974 state tournament.

An outstanding intercollegiate athlete at Memphis State University, she later earned her master's degree from North Carolina-Greensboro and her doctorate at Florida State.

After coaching both the Sunblazers softball and volleyball teams for several years and winning two consecutive state volleyball championships, Coach Blucker has decided to devote her full time to softball in the hope of realizing her immediate goal — winning the state softball title in 1978.



Cindy Russo
 Assistant Softball Coach

While 1978 will be Assistant Coach Cindy Russo's first exposure to coaching intercollegiate softball, her records in women's college basketball speak highly of her as both a teacher and a strategist.

At her first coaching assignment at Portsmouth Catholic High School in Portsmouth, Virginia, her women's basketball squad won the championship in each of the five years she coached there.

In 1975, she was named as an assistant coach at her alma mater, Old Dominion, where she played a major role in helping the Lady Monarchs capture the #9 basketball ranking in 1977.

As head coach of this year's women's basketball team at Florida International University, Russo took the Sunblazers through a tough regular season schedule and into the AIAW Regional Tournament in her first season.

Last summer, while playing softball in her home state of Virginia, she helped her team to a second place finish in the ASA District Regionals.

"I'm really looking forward to this challenge," said Russo, "and especially looking forward to working under Coach Blucker this season."

1978 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Time	Date	Opponent	FIU
3:30	Thu., March 9	University of Miami	FIU
2:00 3:30	Mon., March 13	Palm Beach Junior College	Lake Worth
2:00	Wed., March 15	Miami-Dade North	FIU
	Wed., March 15	University of Florida	
	Fri., March 17	Miami-Dade North Invitational	Miami-Dade North
	Sat., March 18		
2:00 3:30	Wed., March 22	Palm Beach Junior College	FIU
3:00	Thu., March 23	Miami-Dade New World Center	Away
3:30	Mon., March 27	Broward Community College	FIU
3:30	Tue., March 28	Miami-Dade South	FIU
	Fri., March 31	USF Invitational Tournament	Tampa
	Sat., April 1		
3:30	Mon., April 3	Miami-Dade New World Center	FIU
4:00	Wed., April 5	University of Miami	Univ. of Miami
3:00	Thu., April 6	Miami-Dade North	Miami-Dade North
	Fri., April 7	Miami-Dade South Invitational	Miami-Dade South
	Sat., April 8		
3:00	Wed., April 12	Miami-Dade South	Miami-Dade South
	Fri., April 14	Univ. of Fla. Invitational	Gainesville
	Sat., April 15		
3:30	Wed., April 19	BCC Central (Double Header)	
	Thu., April 20	FAIAW State Tournament	Orlando
	Sat., April 22		
	May 4-6	Regionals	Tallahassee



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY Softball Roster 1978

Outlook

When the Sunblazers open their 1978 softball schedule against the University of Miami on March 9, Coach Judy Blucker will field a team with little previous intercollegiate experience.

Only four players return from last year's 24-14 squad, yet Coach Blucker is confident of a shot at the FAIAW State crown in April.

Seniors Shirley Coleman (.430 average with 8 HR's in '77) and Wendy Martin (4 HR's in '77), along with newcomer Gail Fitzgerald, an Amateur Softball Association (ASA) All-American, will be heavily counted upon to help propel the Sunblazers into post-season play.

This year's schedule is seen as the toughest in the team's four year history. Besides a difficult regu-

lar season slate, the team will participate in the Dade-North, Florida State, Dade-South and University of Florida Invitationals.

Highlights of 1976-1977 Softball Season

In the past, the Florida International softball program has rested on a firm foundation of local talent developed in the strong Miami-area leagues. The first squad in 1975 finished third in State competition with a 14-5 won-lost record. In 1976, the Sunblazers lost seven games by one run but still completed the season with a 12-11 mark. Last year, the team went on to a 24-14 record, finishing fourth in State competition and placing second in both the Dade-North and Dade-South Invitationals.

Name	Hometown	Uniform Number	Class
Deborah Arve	Miami, Florida	3	Jr.
Letha Brown	Baltimore, Md.	6	Jr.
Nanci Busha	Miami, Florida	30	Sr.
Alma Carr	Miami, Florida	25	Jr.
Shirley Coleman	Miami, Florida	27	Sr.
Lillian Craft	Hollywood, Florida	39	Jr.
Debra Davis	Hialeah, Florida	34	Sr.
Margaret Egan	Lake Worth, Florida	24	Jr.
Gail Fitzgerald	Satellite Beach, Fla.	9	Jr.
Janet Goliger	Miami, Florida	5	Sr.
Judy Garrow	Hialeah, Florida	11	Sr.
Brenda Harrell	Miami, Florida	14	Jr.
Susan Jackson	Lake Worth, Florida	1	Sr.
Wendy Martin	Hialeah, Florida	2	Sr.
Linda McTague	Battle Creek, Michigan	10	Jr.
Marie Treadway	Miami, Florida	7	Sr.