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1974?

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

BASEBALL

TOM H. WONDERLING

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## SECTION I

### The Beginning of a New Program

Florida International University, which began operation September, 1972, is not any place for a faint-hearted baseball coach.

"I don't expect to win any NCAA titles in the first year," said university president Charles E. Perry, "but I'll re-evaluate that position the second year."

Confidently planning to meet the challenge - even though it may have been a little tongue-in-cheek is Tom Wonderling whose Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee, team won the Ohio Valley Conference Championship in 1971 with a 38-12 record.

Wonderling was selected from more than 100 applicants by Paul E. Hartman, Chairman of the University's Division of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics and Doyt L. Perry, Associate Director of Athletics.

Wonderling was just the aggressive, energetic, successful young talent that Hartman and Perry were looking for.

Why did Wonderling want the job?

"Because in the creative and experimental attitude at Florida International I see a bright future for athletics, as well as education," Wonderling answers.

Recruiting was Wonderling's first chore and his efforts were aimed primarily at the junior college level in Florida International's immediate area. The University is an upper division (junior and senior level) institution and must depend largely on the community college for students.

With the players he gathered in Florida, and a few who followed from Austin Peay State University, Wonderling feels he has done pretty well.

"I'm still looking for a couple more pitchers and an infielder," he said, "but what coach wouldn't want a couple more pitchers?"

The new school is going to play a 56-game spring schedule and a 10 game tour of Central America.

"We don't want to be too aggressive until we get our feet on the ground," Wonderling explains.

However, he has plans to get aggressive.

"We'll get the nation's best," he says. "We'll play exhibitions against some of the minor league clubs in Florida,

and we are going to tour one foreign country a year to play exhibitions."

The team will be playing home games on a borrowed field this spring, but work will be under way on a one million dollar sports complex, which will include a game field, a practice infield, five batting cages, four pitching machines and a field house.

Wonderling glows with enthusiasm when he thinks about it all, but somewhere in the back of his mind has got to be President Perry's "we'll re-evaluate that position next season."

## SECTION II

### F.I.U. Sunblazers Open Season

Taking on an impressive 53-game schedule in its first year, Florida International University opens its 1973 baseball season against Miami-Dade Junior College, South, on Saturday, February 10, Head Baseball Coach Tom Wonderling announced.

The University slated games with such intercollegiate powers as Florida State University, Southern Illinois and the University of Miami. Other opponents included Cornell University, Seton Hall University of New Hampshire, Eastern Illinois and St. Joseph's College.

Florida International took on the UM Hurricanes four times during the season and wrapped up the year on April 28 against Miami-Dade South. The University also was invited to play in the Embry-Riddle Invitational in Daytona Beach March 14-16.

Since last September, Wonderling's 23-man squad played exhibition games with various Florida colleges and universities and Wonderling said he was "very pleased" with the

outcome of the exhibition play.

"Our main objective was to determine our strengths and weaknesses, to move the talent around and find out how much depth we had," he said. "Our pitching depth was questionable and we needed another infielder. We helped solve that by recruiting a number of players who completed their junior college requirements during the fall."

Eight players were picked up at the beginning of the University's winter quarter and Wonderling pointed to some of the standouts. "Mike Sanz, who started at shortshop, was very impressive. Larry Hoskin, our first baseman, also impressed me.

In the eight, Wonderling also picked up three hurlers -- John Perez of Dade South, Ralph Alvarez of Dade North, and Guy Bellavance, a French-Canadian who attended Palm Beach Junior College. They backed up Wonderling's two top pitching prospects, right-hander Frank Baumgardner, who comes from Miami-Dade North, and lefty Bill Fireline, from Austin Peay State University.

Wonderling named his starting line-up, made up of Douglas Cornett, Richmond, Kentucky, catcher; Larry Hoskin,

Suffield, Mass., 1B; Martin Jacobs, Hollywood, Fla., 2B; Mike Sanz, Miami, Fla., shortstop; Jim Knox, Pittsburgh, Pa., 3B; Danny Price, Whitakers, North Carolina, left field; and Derek Crass, Clarsville, Tenn., center field; and Howie Finkelstein, Miami, Fla., right field.

On February 17, Florida International played the second half of a doubleheader against Florida State. Between games, all lumni from Florida State and Miami-Dade Junior Colleges were honored.

Most of Florida International's home games were played at Tamiami Park, adjacent to the University's Tamiami Campus. A number were also played at Miami-Dae, North and South, Wonderling noted. "Miami-Dade, North and South, has been very cooperative in extending their facilities to us," he added.



### SECTION III

#### Sunblazers Tour Three Latin American Countries

Florida International University's Sunblazers baseball team, which posted a winning 34-22 record in its first year, will left on a 10-day, ten game tour of three Central American countries on Friday, May 4.

The 28-man squad, including Head Coach Tom Wondeling, and Assistant Coaches Frank Merchant and Robert Delgado, toured Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and play three games in each country. The Sunblasers returned to Miami, May 14.

This was the first Latin American tour for the club. Coach Wonderling said he is planning to make it a yearly affair.

On May 5-6, Florida International played in Guatemala, with a doubleheader on the 6th.

The Sunblazers were in Honduras on May 8-9-10, for games with the Honduras military team; Verdun -- one of the top amateur teams; and the University of Honduras.

On May 11-12-13, the Sunblazers played Nicaragua's

top amateur federation team, which was the runner-up in the 20th World Games held last November in that country.

The Sunblazers nine wrapped up a 56-game schedule last Saturday, losing to Miami-Dade South, 5-0 -- the same team they won the season opener against, 6-0, last February 10.

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Baseball in Central America . . . where college ball-players are given the hearty welcome of professionals, in a land where people from all levels of society abandon their television sets to attend athletic activities. When it comes to goodwill, the Florida International University baseball squad and Coach Tom Wonderling entered Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, to play a ten game schedule, with the promotion of American collegiate interests in mind. They emerged from Latin American soil with seven wins under their belts, to give the Sunblazers at 41-25 record, in what Wonderling termed to be "the culmination of a hard working, patient, and understanding season on the part of his players, under adverse conditions, where they traveled almost daily to distant junior college fields within the Miami area to meet the majority of their opponents."

The visit to Central America, which had its beginning in Guatemala, marked the end of the efforts of the school's inaugural baseball squad, in its first year within the collegiate baseball ranks.

Confidence was instilled into the F.I.U. team in the initial game against Motos Suzuki, where Miamian Howie Finkelstein gave the Sunblazers an early lead with a three run homer in the second inning and a run scoring double in the third, producing an 8-5 victory. Florida International swept the remaining two games, 5-1 over Municipal and a 16-1 hitting barrage over the Universidad de San Carlos, where they lashed out 21 hits to remain undefeated until they hit the diamond in the second game played in Honduras.

Following Jerry Walsh's game winning double against the Honduras Air Force, which sent Ron Hodges and Jim Knox in to score and eventual victory of 9-7, the Sunblazers had a disappointing finish against the Verdun ball club. A 3-0 FIU lead was stopped after a grand slam home run off FIU relief pitcher, Terry Willis in the sixth inning fired up the opposition and proved to be a fatal blow as FIU lost its first game in Central America.

The FIU nine, led by Danny Price, Marty Jacobs, and Carlos Perez, who each collected three hits and the able pitching arm of former Miami-Dade North product, Frank Baumgardner, bounced back in the series with an 8-2 win over Medias Verdes. Baumgardner pitched 7 and one third innings of two hit ball, before he strained a muscle and was replaced by Ralph Alvarez.

The Sunblazers played their remaining four games in Nicaragua for the benefit of the relief fund, established to rebuild the city of Managua, destroyed by an earthquake last December. The FIU bats could not manage to get the runs across, as the Nicaraguan All-Stars utilized their defensive efforts to stop FIU, 4-2. Canadian pitcher for the Sunblazers, Guy Bellevance could not match the Latin talent, and hurled for four innings before he was relieved by FIU's number one pitching prospect, former Austing Peay star, Bill Fireline, who tossed for five innings of no-hit ball.

Florida International's winning ways were revived in the 107 degree heat against the Leon ball players. Sam Lombardo pitched a five hit shutout to give the Sunblazers a final 3-0 and their sixth victory of the trip. Price, who was up at bat four times, earned two hits and a two run double in the

fifth inning.

Chinadega could not catch up to FIU's 7-4 rout, despite a rally in the ninth inning, to give the Sunblazers their final win on an enjoyable visit to Latin America. They dropped their concluding game, 5-2, to Equipo Nacional, after becoming victim of the best pitching talent in Nicaragua.

## SECTION IV

### F.I.U. Sunblazers Complete Successful Year

Coach Tom Wonderling's squad had an impressive beginning compiling a record of 34 wins and 22 losses, they beat the University of Miami in the first game to be played between the two schools. After splitting its first six games, the Sunblazers took off on a streak, winning 13 of the next 16 games in the first half of March. They are also 1 for 1 in tournament play, taking the Embry-Riddle Invitational in Daytona Beach. The team also played five doubleheaders, winning four and splitting the fifth.

Outfielder Danny Price, a junior from North Carolina, paced the Sunblazers hitting with a fine .352 average. Another outfielder, Derek Crass, hit .312. Bill Fireline led the pitching with 7 wins and 3 losses.

The highlight of the baseball season was a 10-day, 10-game tour of three Central American countries in May.

The F.I.U. Sunblazers completed the fall season 17-3, spring season 34-22, and tour of Central American countries 7-3; for a successful year of 58 wins and 28 losses.

SECTION V  
1972-73 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Baseball Roster

Name	Date of Birth	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	B	T	Cl	F.I.U. Address & Phone
#16 Alvarez, Ralph 372 West 46 St. Hialeah, Fla. 33012 (305) 823-4064	3/7/53	P	6'2"	170	R	R	Jr.	372 West 46 St. Hialeah, Fla. 33012
#17 Argiz, Antonio 2924 W. Wilder Tampa, Fla. 33614 (813) 872-7159	10/18/52	P	6'	174	R/L	R	Jr.	2137 NW 24 St. Miami, 33142 (305) 635-3724
#28 Baumgardner, Frank H. 17201 NW 49 Ave. Miami, 33054 (305) 624-0203	8/19/51	P	6'5"	210	R	R	Jr.	11195 SW 1 St. Apt. 311 Miami, 33144
#23 Bellevance, Guy 2055 Boal Levesque Duvernay, Quebec Canada (514) 669-9726	1/28/51	P	6'4"	200	R	R	Jr.	11195 SW 1 St. Apt. 211 Miami, Fla. 33144
#5 Cannon, Willie R. 22210 SW 115 Ave. Miami, 33170 (305) 233-2370	9/6/52	OF	5'9"	155	R	R	Jr.	22210 SW 115 Ave. Miami, 33170
#32 Cornett, Douglas Route #5 Hillcrest Richmond, KY (606) 623-2236	6/5/72	C	6'4"	230	R	R	Jr.	4670 NW 79 Ave. Apt. #1F, Miami 592-0747
#10 Crass, Derek 138 Kingewood Dr. Clarksville, Tenn. (615) 645-4450	2/18/52	OF	5'8"	160	R/L	R	Jr.	10843 SW 3 St. Miami, 33144 (305) 223-3701
#7 Finkelstein, Howard 1001 SW 74 Ct. Miami, 33144 (305) 261-1417	11/7/50	OF	5'6"	155	L	L	Sr.	1001 SW 74 Ct. Miami, 33144 (305) 261-1417

Name	Date of Birth	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	B	T	Cl	F.I.U. Address and Phone
#31 Fireline, Bill 1706 Brentwood Dr. Owensboro, KY 42301 (502) 683-1822	8/12/52	P	6'1"	195	L	L	Jr.	11005 SW 1 St. Miami, 33144 (305) 223-0708
#2 Green, Wes 2113 Belmont Dr. Clarksville, Tenn. (615) 647-0673	12/24/53	2B	5'8"	140	L	R	Jr.	1195 SW 1 St Apt. 221 Miami, 33144
#3 Hollar, Phil 2267 Chandler Ave. (813) 936-8265	8/3/52	P	5'10"	180	R	L	Jr.	11220 NW Flager Miami, 33126
#26 Hoskin, Larry H. 13 Brandwine In. Suffield, Conn. 688-5836	12/31/51	1B	6'2"	190	L	L	Jr.	1195 SW 1 St. Apt. 221 Miami, 33144
#21 Jacobs, Marty 3468 Pierce Hollywood, 33021 (305) 981-0961	5/7/53	2B	6'2"	175	R	R	Jr.	1195 SW 1 St. Apt. 221 Miami, 33144
#15 Knox, James 492 Troutwood Dr. Pittsburgh, Penn. (412) 366-5331	10/11/52	Inf	6'	170	R	R	Jr.	11005 SW 1 St. Miami, 33144 223-0708
#6 Mihalyak, Dave A. 361 Brock Street Bristol, Conn. 16010 (203) 582-5211	7/20/51	Inf	6'	175	R/L	R	Jr.	7480 SW 122 St. Miami, 33156 251-3953
#35 Perez, Carlos 8960 SW 56 St. Miami, 33165 274-5853	8/2/52	C	5'10"	190	R	R	Jr.	8960 SW 56 St. Miami, 33165 274-5853
#19 Perez, John E. 108 Kimwood Place Wyckoff, N.J. 07481 (201) 891-5250	12/27/50	P	6'	178	R	L	Jr.	7480 SW 122 St. Miami, 33156 251-3953





SECTION VI

1973 CUMULATIVE BASEBALL STATISTICS REPORT

Florida International University Independent District Three NCAA University  
 Division-Association Member  
 CONFERENCE

Miami, Florida  
 CITY, STATE

Tom Wonderling  
 1973 COACH

FULL SEASON: 41- 25  
 W - L - T

BATTING LEADERS

\*CLASS BY FR., SO., JR. or SR.

(Min. 2.5 at-bats per game played by team)

FIRST, LAST NAME	Pos.	CL*	BR-L	G	AB	R	H	AVG
Danny Price	OF	JR	R	61	226	38	79	.350
Derek Grass	OF	JR	R	62	229	49	71	.310
Marty Jacobs	2b	JR	R	62	226	39	67	.297

2B	3B	HR	TB	SB	RBI	BB	SO
12	2	2	100	14	39	21	25
5	2	2	86	24	36	35	14
13	3	9	113	9	45	27	27

Slugging pct. leader (TB ÷ AB):

SLUG.  
PCT.

Marty Jacobs	2b	JR	R	62	226	39	67	.297
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13	3	9	113	500	45	27	27
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(Min. 45 innings)

PITCHING (ERA) LEADERS

FIRST, LAST NAME	CL*	R-L	G	GS	CG	W	L	SHO	IP	ER	R	H	BB	SO	ERA
Bill Finaline	JR	L	20	10	3	9	7	0	91	20	47	23	37	59	2.77
Ralph Alvarez	JR	R	18	6	5	6	3	0	79	28	41	63	44	79	3.29
Frank Baumgardner	JR	R	18	10	4	5	6	1	82	31	50	72	72	78	3.40

NOTE: If your team leader in TOTAL doubles, triples, home runs, total bases, runs batted in, stolen bases, most victories or strikeouts is not listed above, please list him below with number of games played (most doubles - John Doe, ss, 10 in 30 games).

most triples, Mike Sanz, ss, 4 in 60 games

TEAM TOTALS

BATTING	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	TB	SLUG PCT	RBI	SB	BB	SO	BAT AVG
	65	1380	374	507	27	27	27	771	.407	312	107	339	127	.297

PITCHING	IP	ER	R	H	BB	SO	ERA	FIELDING	PO	A	E	TC	DP	AVG
	549	225	337	1077	105	711	3.77		1172	122	71	10	71	.971

## 1973 BASEBALL RESULTS

OPPONENT	OWN SCORE	OPP. SCORE	OPPONENT	OWN SCORE	OPP. SCORE
1. <u>Miami-Dade, South</u>	6	0	29. <u>West Chester St. U(Pa)</u>	3	2
2. <u>Broward C.C.</u>	3	5	30. <u>U. of New Hampshire</u>	2	6
3. <u>Florida State U.</u>	4	7	31. <u>Pace College (N.Y.)</u>	9	3
4. <u>Miami-Dade, North</u>	2	5	32. <u>U. of New Hampshire</u>	2	4
5. <u>Miami-Dade, North</u>	6	4	33. <u>U. of New Hampshire</u>	2	14
6. <u>Broward C.C.</u>	2	9	34. <u>Wesleyan U. (Conn)</u>	7	6
7. <u>St. Joseph's College Pa.</u>	9	6	35. <u>Wesleyan U. (Conn)</u>	21	1
8. <u>St. Joseph's Col. (Pa)</u>	5	2	36. <u>Colby College (Maine)</u>	6	4
9. <u>Eastern Ill. U.</u>	1	2	37. <u>Wesleyan Un. (Conn)</u>	8	7
10. <u>Eastern Ill. Un.</u>	9	6	38. <u>Montclair St. U. (N.J.)</u>	6	9
11. <u>Eastern Ill. Un.</u>	4	3	39. <u>New Haven University Conn</u>	5	4
12. <u>Belmont College Tenn.</u>	13	5	40. <u>Montclair St. U. (N.J.)</u>	9	8
13. <u>Belmont College (Tenn.)</u>	7	6	41. <u>Miami-Dade, North</u>	7	10
14. <u>Belmont College (Tenn)</u>	10	7	42. <u>U. of Miami</u>	2	14
15. <u>Middle Tenn. St.</u>	4	5	43. <u>Miami-Dade, South</u>	5	2
16. <u>Middle Tenn. St.</u>	11	8	44. <u>Fla. Memorial Coll.</u>	6	7
17. <u>U. of Miami</u>	3	1	45. <u>Spring Arbor Coll.</u>	8	4
18. <u>Mercer University Ga.</u>	6	1	46. <u>Spring Arbor Coll.</u>	15	4
19. <u>Wabash College (Ind)</u>	5	6	47. <u>U. of Miami</u>	1	10
20. <u>Embry-Riddle U.</u>	14	4	48. <u>Fla. Memorial</u>	9	0
21. <u>Wabash College</u>	4	1	49. <u>Biscayne College</u>	11	4
22. <u>Miami-Dade, South</u>	8	9	50. <u>Miami-Dade, North</u>	8	11
23. <u>Cornell Uni.</u>	2	1	51. <u>John Jay College (N.Y.)</u>	5	0
24. <u>Cornell Uni.</u>	5	4	52. <u>U. of Miami</u>	3	5
25. <u>Seton Hall Uni.</u>	0	1	53. <u>Biscayne College</u>	7	3
26. <u>Seton Hall Uni.</u>	13	12	54. <u>Fla. Bible College</u>	13	4
27. <u>Southern Ill. U.</u>	1	9	55. <u>Fla. Bible College</u>	8	3
28. <u>West Chester St. U. Pa.</u>	5	8	56. <u>Miami-Dade, South</u>	0	5

CENTRAL AMERICA TOUR

<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>OWN SCORE</u>	<u>OPP. SCORE</u>
57. Motes Suzuki, Guatemala, C.A.	8	5
58. Municipal, Guatemala, C.A.	5	1
59. Universidad de Guatemala, Guatemala, C.A.	16	1
60. Air Force, Honduras, C.A.	9	7
61. Verdun, Honduras, C.A.	4	7
62. Medias Verdes, Honduras, C.A.	8	2
63. All-Stars, Nicaragua, C.A.	2	4
64. Leon, Nicaragua, C.A.	3	0
65. Chinandega, Nicaragua, C.A.	7	4
66. Equipo-Nacional, Nicaragua, C.A.	2	5

Fall Season 17-3

Spring Season 34-22

Central America  
Tour 7-3

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58 Wins - 28 Losses

PITCHER	REC.	I.P.	H	ER	SO	BB	ERA.
Alvarez	6-3	79	63	28	79	44	3.29
Argiz	4-1	61 2/3	58	29	34	19	4.09
Baumgardner	5-6	81 2/3	72	31	78	72	3.40
Bellavance	3-2	38	42	19	22	15	4.50
Fireline	8-3	94	82	29	58	37	2.77
Hollar	3-2	43 1/3	49	23	40	21	4.78
Perez, J.	2-5	49	65	27	31	28	4.96
Scott	3-0	39	47	21	22	16	4.84
Perez, C.	2-1	20	18	10	24	10	4.50
Hoskin	0-0	3 2/3	9	2	1	0	4.91
Knox	1-0	5 1/3	5	1	0	2	1.69
Finkelstein	0-1	8	10	4	9	4	4.50
Hodges	1-1	12 2/3	14	3	18	8	.213
Lombardo	1-0	9	5	0	7	4	.000
Willis	1-0	9 2/3	9	2	13	2	.186

PLAYER	GP	INN	AB	R	H	AVE.	1B	2B	3B	HR	TB	SB	RBI	BB	SO	HP	SAC	PO	A	E	AVE.
Price	61	528	226	39	79*	.350*	63*	12	2	2	101	14	39	21	25	2	4	67	4	2	.973
Crass	62*	530*	229*	49*	71	.310	62	5	2	2	86	24*	36	35	14	3	18*	96	54	18	.894
Jacobs	62*	503	226	39	67	.297	42	13*	3	9*	113*	9	45*	27	27	4*	4	107	131	24*	.909
Sanz	60	463	181	38	50	.276	42	3	4*	1	64	7	28	38*	31	4*	7	79	142*	22	.910
Cornett	57	258	179	21	47	.262	34	9	2	2	68	2	33	26	45*	1	3	38	20	6	.907
Knox	52	375 1/3	146	39	35	.240	28	4	3	0	45	10	20	33	22	2	6	41	103	14	.912
Finkelstein	48	324	115	25	30	.261	20	6	1	3	47	8	25	31	28	2	1	71	4	1	.988
Strickland	47	327	137	21	32	.234	21	10	1	0	44	6	17	14	30	1	1	164	32	13	.937
Walsh	41	204	105	15	35	.333	27	7	1	0	44	5	19	13	12	1	2	65	6	3	.960
Cannon	39	128	94	30	23	.245	15	4	2	2	37	15	8	29	11	2	6	23	5	2	.934
Mihalyak	38	212	104	30	26	.250	21	1	1	3	38	8	16	23	28	2	6	42	0	0	1.000
Yates	36	250	89	15	24	.270	20	2	1	1	31	1	13	25	19	3	3	246*	10	4	.985
Perez, C.	34	213	61	5	15	.248	12	3	1	1	21	0	6	7	15	2	2	15	34	4	.925
Green	23	120	56	14	14	.250	11	1	0	0	17	2	5	6	9	0	0	34	32	6	.917
Hoskin	17	112 2/3	41	5	8	.195	3	3	1	1	16	0	4	10	11	0	3	85	8	3	.968