

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION & ATHLETICS
ATHLETIC REPORT
1972-73

Dr. Paul E. Hartman
Chairman
Director of Athletics

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Overview of the 1972-73 Program

Prior to the opening of Florida International University in the fall of 1972, President Charles E. Perry decided to support an energetic athletic program. This program would encompass five intercollegiate sports, a variety of club activities, intramurals and recreational opportunities.

The program was housed in the Division of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics and was organized under the direction of Dr. Wesley Sowards, Dean of the School of Education and Dr. Paul E. Hartman, Chairman of the Division. Of importance was the philosophical belief that through an outstanding athletic program much could be done to support the goals of the university. It was felt that the public relations and interest generated by a strong athletic program would gain the support of students and future alumni. Paralleling this philosophy was also a strong feeling that athletics are an integral part of one's education regardless of the level of participation.

From the beginning emphasis was placed on supporting to the greatest extent possible the five intercollegiate sports chosen to be first at Florida International University. These

sports were soccer, wrestling, baseball, tennis and golf. All five were chosen because of their popularity in the south Florida area and because of excellent records in these activities at the nearby community colleges. It was felt that national recognition could be gained in a short time with good coaching and proper financial support.

The coaches were originally screened by Mr. Doyt Perry the advisor to the athletic program. Subsequently Mr. Tom Wonderling was appointed coach of baseball, Mr. Greg Myers coach of soccer, Mr. John Munson coach of wrestling and Dr. William Fleming coach of tennis. As the golf season drew near Mr. Doyt Perry was asked to be the interim coach. Mr. Perry was also appointed to Associate Athletic Director and Mr. Vaskin Badalow coordinator of the athletic program.

As the year progressed the success of the teams was very gratifying to those who had worked hard to initiate the program. Early in the year the teams were known as the No Names, since no mascot had yet been selected by the students, however, part way through the spring season by means of an all university vote the name Sunblazers was chosen to be the Florida International nickname.

Intercollegiate sports also contributed to the international goals of the university with the soccer team playing several games at the close of the season in the Caribbean and the

baseball team closing out their season with a number of games in Central America. Gate receipts from the baseball team's games in Nicaragua were donated to the Nicaraguan Relief Fund - a total of \$4,500.

While the intercollegiate teams were making their mark in history, a number of clubs were also affording Florida International University students an opportunity to participate and enjoy competition. Clubs started the first year included women's volleyball, softball and golf, men's basketball and lacrosse, plus judo and track which were open to both men and women. In addition, a number of smaller noncompetitive clubs were started including karate, horseback riding, remote controlled planes and cars and bowling. Intramurals were also given a try with touch football, basketball, table tennis and softball among the favorites of the students. Unfortunately many of the Florida International University students hold jobs and return home immediately after class and therefore do not take advantage of many of the organized activities available for them.

On an informal basis many recreational opportunities were available including a facility where faculty and students could work out either on a mat or by using a Universal Gym weight machine.

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The amount of time and work put in by the faculty during the first year of operation could not be measured. Many individuals paid numerous expenses out of their own pocket, put up with limited facilities and with little time welded a group of individuals together into organized winning teams. The year was capped by an athletic awards banquet in which the seniors were honored for their contributions in helping get the program off the ground and special awards were given to President Charles Perry and Mr. Doyt Perry for their wisdom and help in putting FIU on the athletic map.

Grants-In-Aid

During the initial year \$15,000 was allotted to the Athletic Department for use in athletic grants-in-aid. This money was derived from race track proceeds during charity day. An additional sum of \$7,450 was allocated half way through the year in order to support program needs in terms of winter and spring quarter entries.

Out-of-State Waivers

Ten out-of-state waivers were awarded to athletics, however, several international students had received out-of-state waivers via their own efforts prior to becoming associated with one of the athletic teams. The soccer team required the greatest number of out of state waivers since the majority of their personnel were foreign students. The baseball team was allocated the remainder of out-of-state waivers for the duration of the year.

Budget

The initial operating budget for Florida International University athletics was approximately \$60,000. This budget not only covered the intercollegiate program, but also club sports, intramurals, recreational activities and various administrative needs including some athletic training needs, office expenses, travel, awards and special events such as tournament participation.

Following is a list of expenditures by activity and a per student cost:

<u>VARSITY TEAMS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PER STUDENT</u>
Baseball	\$18,500.00	\$740.00
Golf	2,500.00	312.00
Soccer	4,800.00	320.00
Wrestling	4,790.00	480.00
Tennis	4,900.00	612.00
 <u>CLUB SPORTS</u>		
Women's Volleyball	500.00	50.00
Basketball	350.00	35.00
Women's Softball	368.00	37.00
Judo	237.31	30.00
Track	306.27	77.00
Lacrosse	3,217.31	200.00
Intramural	100.00	2.00
Bowling League	-0-	-0-
Horseback Riding	-0-	-0-
Karate Club	-0-	-0-

Facilities

If there was one low point in the initial year, it was the frustration in not seeing facilities materialize. Although architects began working on the plans during the summer months nothing was finalized until late fall. Initial bids were asked for around mid-year, however, no one bid on the project which included a baseball diamond, soccer field, multi-purpose fields, six tennis courts, and four outdoor handball courts. The facility was let for bid again and at the bidding all construction companies were well above the allotted figure.

Following this setback meetings were held with the architects to determine cause and make revisions in the specifications. Additional funds were also procured in order to meet rising costs. As of this writing the revised plans are still at the state authorization office awaiting approval.