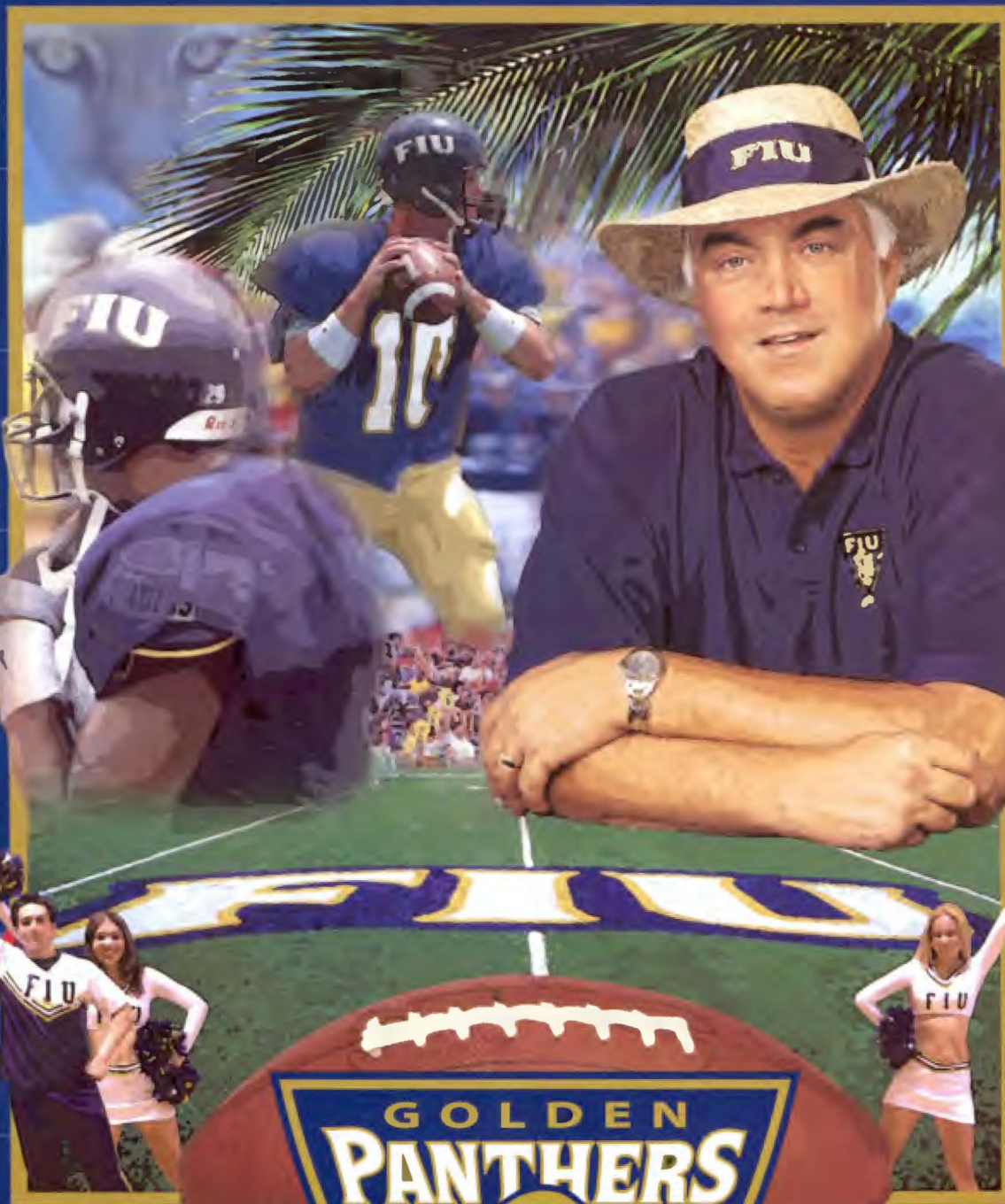


FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

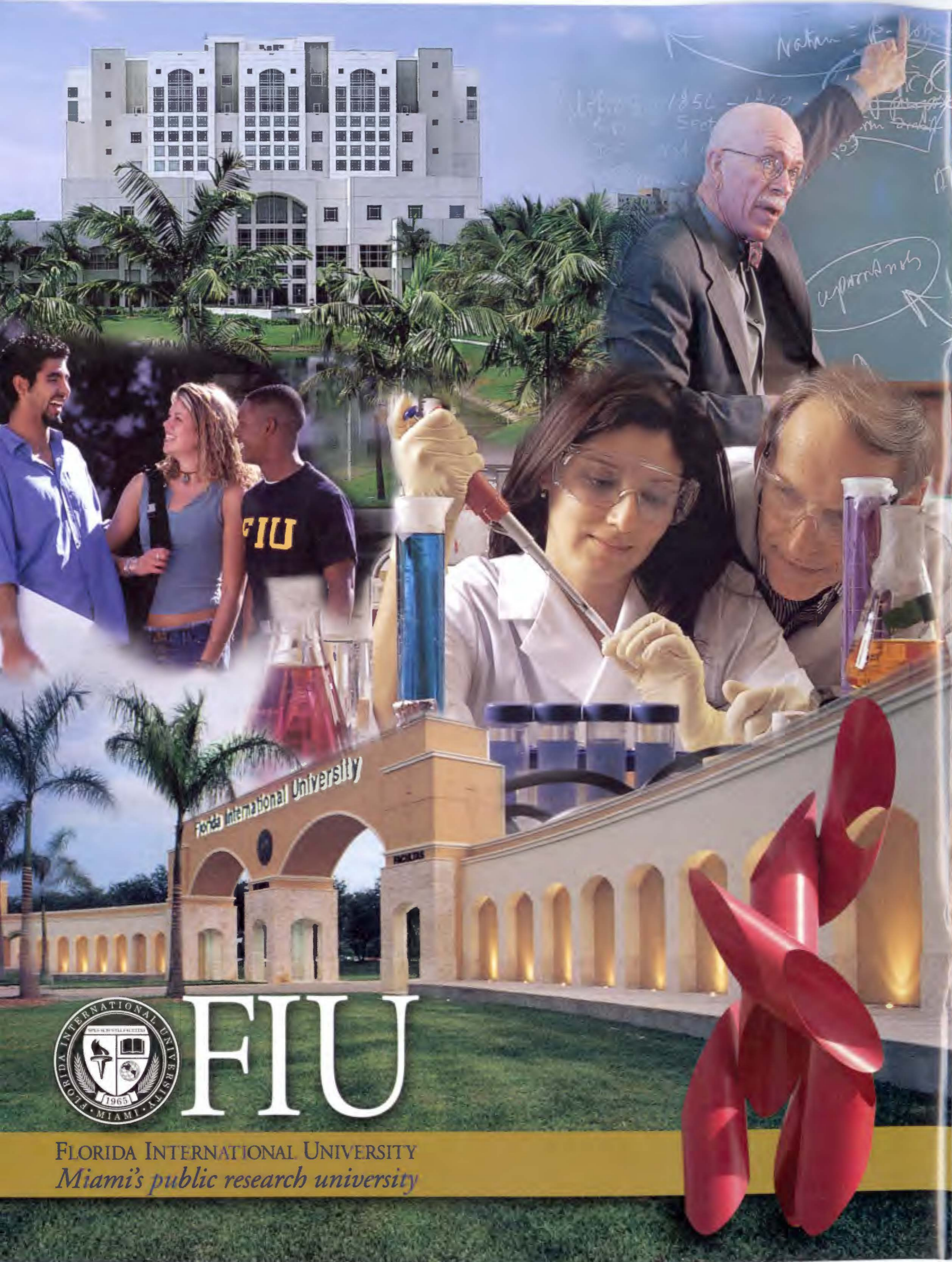


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INAUGURAL SEASON 2002 INAU... ON 2002 INAUGURAL SEASON

FIU FOOTBALL MEDIA GUIDE



FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Miami's public research university



FIU Football INAUGURAL SEASON



MISSION STATEMENT

Florida International University's Department of Athletics adheres to the belief that intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of the educational framework of the institution and the program exists to support and compliment the mission and goals of the University. The mission of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Campus Recreation at FIU is to initiate, stimulate and continually improve the athletic and recreation programs for students by (1) promoting academic excellence and educational leadership, (2) striving to obtain athletic distinction at the Division I level, (3) assuring gender equity and cultivating diversity, (4) fostering and promoting personal integrity among its participants, (5) encouraging activities and experiences which instill the value of lifelong participation for physical fitness and total well-being and (6) providing an avenue for the social development of the student through participatory interaction within and outside the athletic and campus communities.

In addition to augmenting the academic, athletic and personal development of students, events sponsored by the Department are conducted to facilitate unity, promote camaraderie and further social bonding with the community, foster and maintain institutional support from FIU alumni, university affiliates and external constituents, positively increase the visibility of the University and the Sun Belt Conference and enhance international and cultural understanding.

The Department and University fulfill these functions through the enforcement of development and adopted eligibility rules that comply with standards of scholarship, sportsmanship, personal conduct and amateurism. The Department strives to operate programs at the highest level of competition within budgetary constraints while respecting NCAA legislation, conference mandates, state and institutional regulations.

Participation in FIU Athletics will provide student-athletes with the opportunity to pursue a quality education in one of America's leading urban universities and develop a value system that encourages discipline, teamwork, self-confidence, leadership skills and sportsmanship in an equitable and diverse environment. Ultimately, the goal is to assure the experience that the students have in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is profound and meaningful and serves to form a lasting bond with Florida International University.

NCAA PRINCIPLE OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

NCAA "For intercollegiate athletics to promote the character development of participants, to enhance the integrity of higher education and to promote civility in society, student-athletes, coaches and others associated with these athletics programs and events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation, but also in the broad spectrum of activities affecting the athletics program."

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CREDITS

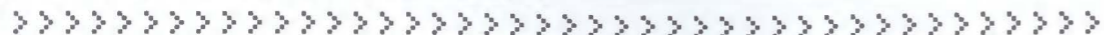
The 2002 Florida International University Football Media Guide was written and published by the FIU Athletic Media Relations Office with assistance from the University's Office of Press Relations. Questions, comments or corrections should be directed in writing to Rich Kelch (kelchr@fiu.edu). Additional copies, if available, may be purchased for \$10.00 per guide by sending a check or money order made payable to Florida International University. Mail to:

Football Media Guide c/o Athletic Media Relations
FIU University Park, Golden Panther Arena, Room 262
Miami, Fla. 33199

Photography: Geoffrey Anderson, Marc Hagemeyer, Gloria Jean O'Connell, Michael Upright, George Valcarce, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, opponent media relations directors and University Publications.

World Wide Web: Information can be found on the Internet at www.fiusports.com. Updated statistics, records and results are available at this site.

Media Information



Media credentials Credentials for all FIU games are for working media only. Requests for media credentials should be made in writing on appropriate letterhead at least one week prior to the game, with season requests made at least two weeks prior to the first game. Requests should be directed to Rich Kelch, assistant athletic director for media relations. Requests from media covering visiting teams will be confirmed with that school's sports information director.

Spouses, dates, children and other non-workers are not permitted in working media areas in compliance with the working code of the Football Writers Association of America. All media services (statistics, telephones, game info., etc.) will be readily available at your convenience.

Credentials can be picked up at the Media Will Call desk at the northwest corner of FIU Community Stadium, gate N6. Media Will Call opens one-and-a-half hours prior to kick off.

Photographers Photo credentials will be issued on a game-by-game basis only. FIU will adhere to all NCAA guidelines regarding sideline photography. Photographers and videographers are not permitted to shoot between the 25-yard lines and must wear proper credentials at all time. Photographers may only work unrestricted on the playing field or in the bench area immediately before and after the end of the game.

Parking Media parking is located on a limited basis in the west lot (No. 7) adjacent to the FIU Community Stadium. Requests for parking credentials should be submitted to Rich Kelch, assistant athletic director for media relations.

Telephones Long distance telephones will be available in the press box for working media. These phones require collect calls or a credit card for billing. Any special requests, such as multiple phone lines, should be made at least two weeks prior to the game.

It is recommended that media on deadline order phone lines by calling BellSouth at (800) 753-0115. The address of FIU Community Stadium is 11200 SW 17 Street, Miami, Fla. 33199. Media who order lines are reminded to bring a phone set since only lines are installed.

Press Policies Working space in the press box is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Credentials will be issued according to the following criteria:

- 1.) Local and state newspapers by circulation, wire services, national publications, newspapers from opponents' area and student newspapers from FIU and opponents' schools.
- 2.) Other daily newspapers with preference to those that regularly cover FIU.
- 3.) Radio and television personnel not broadcasting, but considered reporting (Seats may be provided in the stands and locker room access granted.).
- 4.) Non-daily newspapers, with preference to those that regularly cover FIU.
- 5.) Scouts.

Freelance and/or non-daily writers may be asked to produce copies of actual publications in which their work has appeared. In some cases, these materials will be requested as verification of the writers' status.

Post-Game Interviews Media will be escorted to the field with approximately five minutes remaining in the game. FIU head coach Don Strock will be brought directly to the interview room, along with requested players, as soon as he dismisses the team and declares the locker room open. FIU's locker room is open to all media. However, it is imperative that female reporters inform FIU Media Relations personnel during the game that they will need locker room access. FIU players have been assured that they will be told on a game-by-game basis whether there will be female reporters in the locker room—a courtesy we feel must be extended. Post-game quotes will also be provided after all FIU home games.

Each visiting team will set its own post-game interview policy, which will be announced in the press box during the fourth quarter. Check with the opposing team's sports information staff if you have further questions.

Interview Policy All FIU players and coaches will be available throughout the season for interviews with members of the media. It is important, however, that all requests for interviews be made through the FIU Athletic Media Relations Office at (305) 348-3164. This allows us to arrange a time that will not interfere with a student-athlete's academic schedule, which is a top priority. No player phone numbers will be given out.

Golden Panther Web Site Notes, releases, statistics and other pertinent information are available on FIU's official athletic web site: www.fiusports.com. The Golden Panthers updated statistics will be available following each game, while updated game notes should be ready by Thursday afternoon prior to the game.

FIU ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

Florida International University
Athletic Media Relations
Golden Panther Arena
University Park
Miami, Fla. 33199
Office Phone: (305) 348-3164
Office Fax: (305) 348-2963
Web Site: www.fiusports.com

Rich Kelch
Assistant Athletic Director/
Media Relations
Football Contact
Office: (305) 348-3164
Home: (954) 680-0992
E-mail: kelchr@fiu.edu

Andrew LaPlant
Assistant (Women's Soccer,
Men's Basketball, Track &
Field,
Women's Golf)
Office: (305) 348-2084
Home: (954) 349-9540
E-mail: aplant@aol.com

David Gladow
Intern (Men's Soccer, Baseball)
Office: (305) 348-6666
Home: (954) 602-1219
E-mail: athletic@fiu.edu

FIU Community Stadium Press Box Phone
(305) 348-2001
For Official Media Use Only Please



List Of Media Contacts



LOCAL PRESS

Outlet	Address	Phone	Fax	Contacts
Diario Las Americas	2900 NW 39 Street, Miami, FL 33142	(305) 633-3341	(305) 635-7668	Marino Martinez, Sports Editor
El Nuevo Herald	One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132	(305) 376-3549	(305) 376-2234	Manoia Hernandez, Sports Editor
Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel	200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301	(954) 356-2387	(305) 356-4566	Fred Turner, Sports Editor Craig Barnes, College Reporter
Miami Herald	One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132	(305) 376-2387	(305) 376-2295	Richard Bush, Executive Sports Editor Stephen Holder, Beat Writer
Miami Times	900 NW 54 Street, Miami, FL 33127	(305) 758-5834	(305) 758-5770	Garth Reeves, Editor

STATE PRINT

Boca Raton News	5801 North Congress Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33487	(561) 893-6633	(561) 893-6677	Bob Grossman, Sports Editor
Bradenton Herald	102 Manatee Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34205	(941) 748-0411	(941) 745-7097	Matt Pallister, Sports News Editor
Daytona Beach News-Journal	P.O. Box 2831, Daytona Beach, FL 32120	(904) 252-1511	(904) 253-8433	Bob Pockrass, Reporter
Florida Times Union	P.O. Box 1949, Jacksonville, FL 32231	(904) 359-4246	(904) 359-4147	Chet Fussman, Sports Editor
Florida Today	P.O. Box 419000, Melbourne, FL 32941-9000	(800) 633-8449	(407) 242-0760	Jeff D'Alessio, Sports Editor
Ft. Myers News-Press	2442 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Ft. Myers, FL 33901-3987	(941) 335-0357	(941) 334-0798	Virginia Lewis, Sports Editor
Naples Daily News	1075 Central Avenue, Naples, FL 34102	(941) 263-4790	(941) 263-4816	Tom Rife, Sports Editor
Palm Beach Post	2751 S. Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach, FL 33405	(561) 820-4440	(561) 820-4481	Tim Burke, Sports Editor
Orlando Sentinel	633 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801	(407) 420-5668	(407) 420-5069	Van McKenzie, Sports Editor
Sarasota Herald-Tribune	P.O. Box 1719, Sarasota, FL 34230	(941) 957-5172	(941) 957-5276	Scott Peterson, Executive Sports Editor
St. Petersburg Times	P.O. Box 1121, St. Petersburg, FL 33731	(727) 893-8123	(727) 893-8782	Jack Sheppard, Sports Editor
Tampa Tribune	P.O. Box 191, Tampa, FL 33601-0191	(813) 259-7655	(813) 259-8148	Nick Pugliese, Deputy Sports Editor

WIRE SERVICE

Associated Press	9100 NW 36 St., Suite 104, Miami, FL 33178	(305) 594-5825	(305) 594-9265	Steve Wine, Mark Long
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LOCAL TELEVISION

WFOR Channel 4 (CBS)	8900 NW 18 Terr., Miami, FL 33172	(305) 639-4516	(305) 639-4688	Leo Gomez, Senior Producer
WLTW Channel 23 (Univision)	9450 NW 41 St., Miami, FL 33178	(305) 471-4234	(305) 471-4236	Manny de la Fe, Sports Producer
WPLG Channel 10 (ABC)	3900 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33137	(305) 325-2485	(305) 325-2480	Steve Zager, Executive Producer
WSCV Channel 51 (Telemundo)	2340 West 8th Ave., Hialeah, FL 33010	(305) 884-0101	(305) 889-7651	Camilo Zas, Sports Producer
WSVN Channel 7 (FOX)	1401 79th St. Causeway, Miami, FL 33141	(305) 795-2719	(305) 795-2746	Jim Goodman, Executive Producer
WTVJ Channel 6 (NBC)	15000 SW 27 St., Miramar, FL 33027	(954) 622-6350	(954) 622-6107	Mike Jenkins, Executive Producer

STATE TELEVISION

FOX Sports Net Florida	20450 NW 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33169	(954) 845-9994	(954) 845-0620	Brad Heard, VP, Programming & Operations
Sunshine Network	390 Orange Ave., Suite 1075, Orlando, FL 32801	(407) 648-1150	(407) 245-2571	Jim Libertore, VP/General Manager

LOCAL RADIO

WAXY (790 AM) - Flagship	20450 NW 2nd Ave., Miami, FL 33169	(305) 653-8811	(305) 521-1416	Gary Aybar, Director of Operations
940 FOX Sports (940 AM)	7601 Riviera Blvd., Miramar, FL 33139	(954) 862-2000	(954) 862-2001	Dave Lamont, Jason Solodkin
WAQI (710 AM)	800 Douglas Rd., Suite 111, Coral Gables, FL 33134	(305) 447-1140	(305) 442-7676	Sarvelio del Valle, Sports Director
WQAM (560 AM)	20295 NW 2nd Ave., Miami, FL 33169	(305) 653-6796	(305) 650-0181	Josh Darrow, Assistant Program Director
WQBA (1140 AM)	800 Douglas Rd., Suite 111, Coral Gables, FL 33134	(305) 447-1140	(305) 441-2454	Sarvelio Delvalle, Sports Director
WSUA (1260 AM)	2100 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33145	(305) 285-1260	(305) 858-5907	Oscar Restrepo, Sports Director

FIU RELATED/STUDENT MEDIA

The Beacon	Graham Center, Room 210, University Park, Miami, FL 33199	(305) 348-1582	(305) 348-2712	Robert Sens, Sports Editor Mike Hernandez, Assistant Editor
WRGP (88.7 FM)	Graham Center, Room 214C, University Park, Miami, FL 33199	(305) 348-3575	(305) 348-6665	Messod Bendayan, Sports Director

FIU RADIO PLAY-BY-PLAY CONTACTS

Name	Address	Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Messod Bendayan (Student)	11200 S.W. 8 Street, Room GC-319, Miami, Fla. 33199	(786) 457-2513	(305) 348-6665	wrgpsports@hotmail.com
Jerry del Castillo (Spanish)	13705 S.W. 106 Terrace, Miami, Fla. 33186	(305) 408-5300	(305) 408-5377	jerrydc@bellsouth.net
Randy Kasewitz (English)	2025 Brickell Avenue, #805, Miami, Fla. 33129	(305) 785-8207	(305) 860-0333	rk67@att.net

WAXY 790 (790 AM) is the radio home of Golden Panthers football. The 25,000-watt Jefferson Pilot Communications-owned station's signal reaches from Key West, north to Palm Beach and west to Fort Myers.

MZM Productions, Inc. enters its ninth season as the radio rights holder of the Florida International University radio network. The Miami Lakes based company, owned by former Miami Dolphin tight end and current Dolphins' radio analyst **Jim Mandich**. In addition to the FIU broadcast rights, MZM produces both "Strock Talk" and the "Donnie Marsh Radio Show." MZM also owns the "Sunday Morning Sports Page" radio show heard weekly on SportsRadio 560 WQAM.

Randy Kasewitz, who has worked the last eight years as the "Radio Voice of Golden Panthers Basketball" will handle the play-by-play duties for the inaugural season of FIU football. Kasewitz is a third generation Miami native who graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Georgia in 1989 and is currently a partner and an executive vice president of MZM Productions.

Adam Levinson will join the broadcasts this season as the pre-game, halftime and post-game host as well as handle sideline reporting during the games. Levinson is a graduate of Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications with a degree in broadcast journalism. While at Syracuse, he was assistant sports director at WAER radio where he handled many of SU's football, basketball and lacrosse broadcasts.

STROCK TALK
South Florida sports fans get a weekly, year-round dose of football talk with this call-in show featuring head coach **Don Strock** and other guests which is aired on WAXY (790 AM) every Wednesday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Moderated by long-time radio voice of the Golden Panthers, Randy Kasewitz, the broadcasts take place at the new Shorty's Bar-B-Q on 2255 N.W. 87th avenue in Miami.

The Don Strock Show on WTVJ
WTVJ (Channel 6) will carry a half-hour show every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. this fall. The program will feature coach Don Strock, highlights of the previous week's game, a preview of the upcoming opponent, player interviews and features.



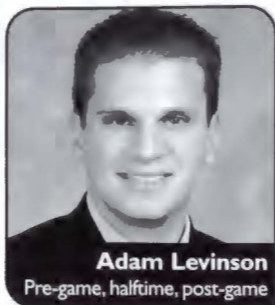
Randy Kasewitz
Play by play



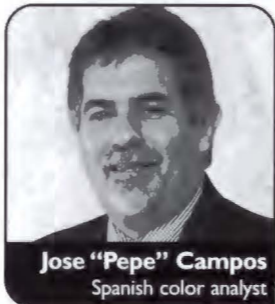
Jerry del Castillo
Spanish play by Play



Jose Sotolongo
Working the sidelines



Adam Levinson
Pre-game, halftime, post-game



Jose "Pepe" Campos
Spanish color analyst



Eddy Cora
Studio host

SPANISH RADIO
For the first time in the history of FIU athletics, all Golden Panthers football games will be broadcast in Spanish on **WHRC (1550 AM)** and **WWFE (670 AM)**. A "Hot Line" (Linea Caliente con los Golden Panthers) will air on Thursdays from 4 to 5 PM on WHRC - Cadena Azul - 1550 AM.

Jerry del Castillo will call the games en Español. He was the Spanish play-by-play voice of the University of Miami since 1994 in football, baseball and basketball. del Castillo has broadcast two national championship football games as well as the Gator and Sugar Bowls. He was also the first Spanish play-by-play broadcaster of a College World Series and he called three national championship games there.

Jose "Pepe" Campos will act this season as color analyst. He's worked as the Spanish color analyst for baseball and basketball of University of Miami broadcasts and was host of pre-game, halftime and post-game shows of the UM football games since 1999.

Working the sidelines for all games will be **Jose Sotolongo** and **Eddy Cora** will be studio host.

STUDENT RADIO
WRGP (88.1 FM), Florida International University's student radio station, which can be heard through South Miami-Dade County as well as on the Internet, will carry selected Golden Panthers football games. Sports director **Messod Bendayan** and his staff will handle the broadcast duties.

GENERAL

Location: Miami, Florida 33199
Opened: 1972
Enrollment: 33,000
Affiliation: NCAA I (Football, I-AA)
Conference: Sun Belt (Football, Independent)
Nickname: Golden Panthers
Colors: Blue and Gold
Stadium: FIU Community Stadium
Capacity: 17,000
Playing Surface: AstroPlay®
Press Box Phone: (305) 348-2001
President: Dr. Modesto A. Maidique
Exec. VP/Business & Finance: Dr. Paul D. Gallagher
Faculty Representative: Dr. William J. Keppler, Jr.
Athletic Director: Rick Mello

THE TEAM

Head Coach: Don Strock
Alma Mater: Virginia Tech, 1973
Record at FIU: First Season
Overall Record: First Season
Assistant Head Coach/Spec. Teams/TE: Bruce Hardy
Offensive Coordinator/WR: Greg Briner
Defensive Backs: Hurlie Brown
Running Backs: Renato Diaz
Linebackers: Carmen Grosso
Offensive Line: Steve Smith
Defensive Line: Jim Taubert
Assistant Offensive Line: Joe Barantovich
Assistant Defensive Backs: James Colzie
Assistant Linebackers: Curt Wiles
Football Strength Coach: Lou DeNeen
Football Athletic Trainer: Andy Simon
Football Equipment Manager: Michael McPike
Video Coordinator: Paul Argiro
2001 Record: N/A
Offense: Pro Set
Defense: 4-3
Lettermen Returning/Lost: N/A
Offensive Starters Returning/Lost: N/A
Defensive Starters Returning/Lost: N/A



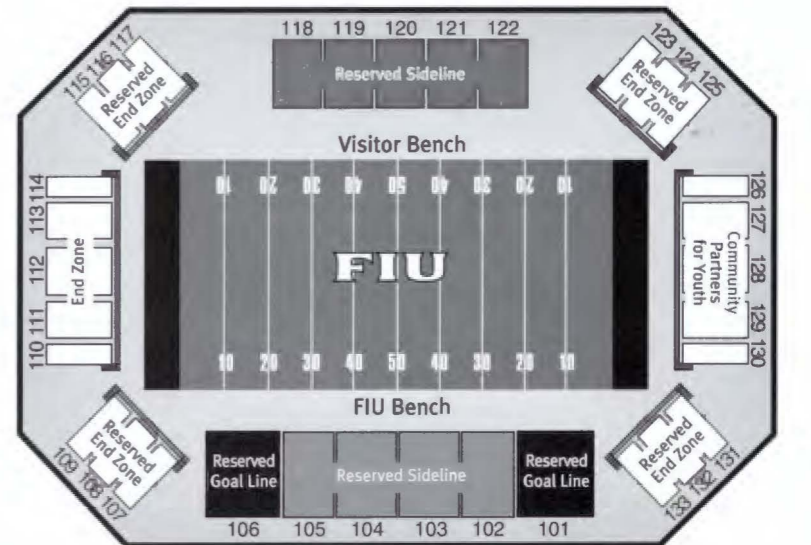
Directions to FIU Community Stadium

From Miami International Airport
Take State Road No. 836 West (Dolphin Expressway) to Northwest 107 Avenue/South exit. Proceed south on 107 Avenue to Southwest Eighth Street (SR 41/Tamiami Trail). Turn right on Eighth Street, two traffic lights to Southwest 112 Avenue. Turn left onto the FIU campus, then make right-hand turns at the first two stop signs. Make left-hand turns at the third and fourth stop signs, then proceed along Southwest 17 Street to the media parking lot (No. 7) and enter Community Stadium through the Press Gate (N6).

From I-95
Traveling north or south on I-95, exit at State Road No. 836 West (Dolphin Expressway) to Northwest 107 Avenue/South exit. Proceed south on 107 Avenue to Southwest Eighth Street (SR 41/Tamiami Trail). Turn right on Eighth Street, two traffic lights to Southwest 112 Avenue. Turn left onto the FIU campus, then go right at the first two stop signs. Make left-hand turns at the third and fourth stop signs, then proceed along Southwest 17 Street to the media parking lot (No. 7) and enter Community Stadium through the Press Gate (N6).

From the Palmetto Expressway (SR 826)
Traveling north or south on the Palmetto Expressway, exit westbound on Southwest Eight Street (SR 41/Tamiami Trail). Proceed to Southwest 112 Avenue. Turn left onto the FIU campus, then go right at the first two stop signs. Make left-hand turns at the third and fourth stop signs, then proceed along Southwest 17 Street to the media parking lot (No. 7) and enter Community Stadium through the Press Gate (N6).

From the Florida Turnpike
Exit at Southwest Eighth Street (No. 25/Tamiami Trail). Turn right on Eighth Street (SR 41/Tamiami Trail). Go three traffic lights to Southwest 112 Avenue. Turn right onto the FIU campus, then go right at the first two stop signs. Make left-hand turns at the third and fourth stop signs, then proceed along Southwest 17 Street to the media parking lot (No. 7) and enter Community Stadium through the Press Gate (N6).





UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FIU currently has more than 33,000 students, 1,100 full-time faculty and 95,000 alumni, making it the largest public university in South Florida. FIU has been ranked among the top 100 public national universities in the U.S. News & World Report annual guide to "America's Best Colleges." The magazine also ranked the University as a "Best Buy" in higher education.

The University

Florida International University - Miami's public research university - is one of America's most dynamic institutions of higher learning. In the 30 years since accepting its first class, FIU has achieved benchmarks of excellence that have taken other universities more than a century to reach.

The University offers more than 180 baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degree programs in 16 colleges and schools. This fall, the FIU College of Law opened its doors to its inaugural class, becoming the only public law school in South Florida. FIU is among the nation's 25 largest colleges and universities and is America's top university in production of Hispanic bachelor's and master's degree recipients.

U.S. News & World Report has ranked FIU among the top 100 public national universities in its annual survey of "America's Best Colleges." FIU has also been recognized as one of the top 10 public commuter universities in the nation by Money magazine. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranked FIU as the country's 18th best value in public higher education.

The University is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most distinguished academic honor society. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission and is ranked by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Doctoral/Research University-Extensive, the highest ranking in the Foundation's classification system. Sponsored research funding from external sources was more than \$60 million in 2001-02; over the past decade, research funding has increased more than 400 percent.

The Students

FIU has 33,000 students from throughout the United States and more than 150 countries. The student body is a microcosm of the diverse Miami community, with nearly 70 percent of student enrollment from minority groups: 51 percent Hispanic, 14 percent black, and 3.5 percent Asian. Approximately 10 percent of enrollment comprises international students.

The Faculty

The University has a nationally renowned faculty recognized for outstanding teaching and cutting-edge research. Seventy-seven percent of the 1,100 full-time faculty have terminal degrees. The student-to-faculty ratio is 17 to one.

The Alumni

Since opening its doors, the University has conferred more than 100,000

degrees to some 95,000 graduates. The Office of Alumni Relations sponsors alumni programs, including professional advancement, fundraising activities and social events, and communicates with alumni through the FIU Magazine, a monthly electronic newsletter and special mailings. A volunteer board of alumni leaders leads membership in the FIU Alumni Association.

The Campuses

The University has two campuses -- University Park in western Miami-Dade County and the Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC) in northeast Miami-Dade -- and two educational sites that serve nearby Broward County, including a new facility now under construction at the Academic Village in Pembroke Pines. FIU-University Park was FIU's first campus and administrative headquarters and continues to serve as the main campus today. It occupies 342 acres of lush, tropically landscaped grounds. Apartment-style and traditional residence halls, the Golden Panther Arena and other athletic facilities, the state-of-the-art, eight-story Greene Library and an environmental preserve contribute to a collegiate atmosphere that is distinctly Miami. The 40-acre Center for Engineering and Applied Science, a major research facility, is located eight blocks north of University Park. FIU-Biscayne Bay encompasses nearly 200 acres, including a natural mangrove preserve. The scenic, waterfront campus offers apartment-style housing, a library, an aquatic center, the Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center (a state-of-the-art conference facility that can accommodate up to 500 persons) and gorgeous bay views.

The Administration

In its 30 years, FIU has been led by four university presidents, beginning with Charles Perry, who set in motion the growth and development of FIU and for whom the University Park administration building is named. Modesto A. Maidique is not only FIU's current president, but also the longest serving of any current president of a public university in Florida with a tenure now in its 16th year. Under his leadership, the university's enrollment has more than doubled, its graduate programs have expanded dramatically, schools or colleges of Law, Architecture and Music have been added and the football program has been launched. A 13-member Board of Trustees, whose members are appointed by the governor of Florida, governs FIU. Led by Chairman Armando M. Codina, Trustees set policy and oversee efficient and effective administration of the institution. Current members are: Betsy S. Atkins,

Rafael Calderón, Paul L. Cejas, Alvah H. Chapman, Jr., Albert Dotson, Sr., Patricia Frost, Adolfo Henriques, Miriam Lopez, David R. Parker, Rosa Sugrañes, Dr. Herbert Wertheim and Jessica Morffi.

The Research

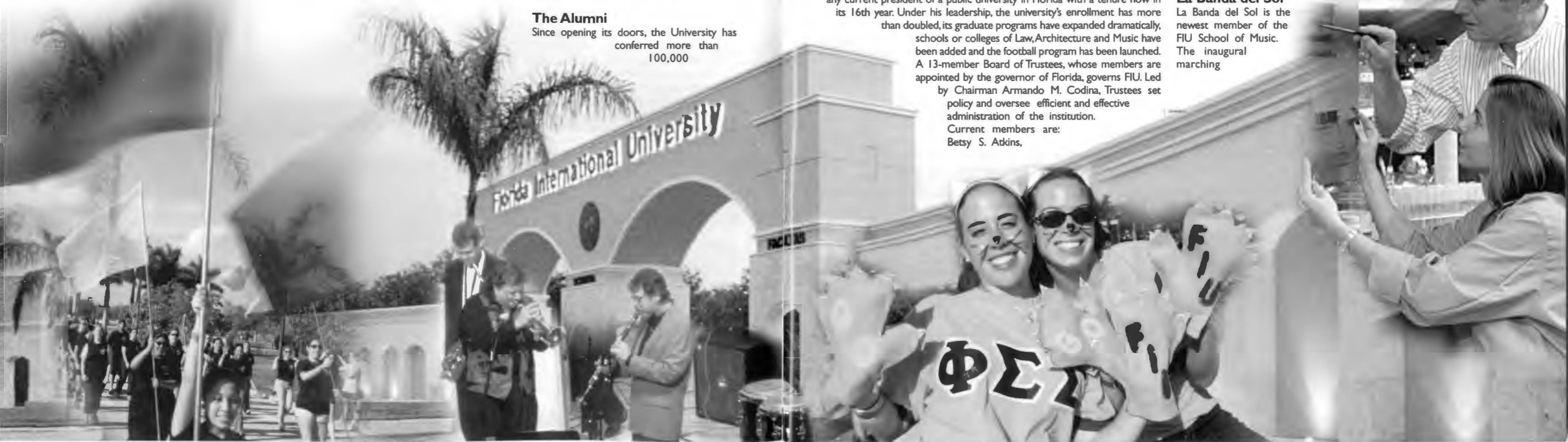
FIU's research programs have drawn increasing local, state and national recognition over the past several years, the most significant of which is the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's most comprehensive ranking, conferred in 2000. FIU is now one of only 152 universities nationwide and one of only five Florida schools to hold the designation of "Doctoral/Research University-Extensive." Of the university's \$60 million in research contracts and grants, two-thirds comes from federal grants, with the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation funding the most awards. Federal grants are considered the most competitive funding source and a key measure of the maturity of any university research program.

The Mascot

When FIU opened its doors in 1972, the Sunblazer was its mascot. The Sunblazers represented FIU for 14 years, but in 1987, President Maidique promoted a campaign to replace the Sunblazer with the Golden Panthers, a mascot that better represented FIU and its ties to Florida's natural environment, and the university adopted new school colors -- blue and gold. In the summer of 2001, the FIU Golden Panther got a makeover, and the result was a "meaner, leaner" predator ready for a fight. FIU administration and students felt that the University's maturing athletic program -- especially with the start of football -- deserved a more intimidating mascot!

La Banda del Sol

La Banda del Sol is the newest member of the FIU School of Music. The inaugural marching





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band for the university, La Banda del Sol comprises more than 100 members. Under the direction of Marching Band Director Greg Martin, the group of musicians encompasses the international flavor of South Florida.

The Golden Dazzlers

The Golden Dazzlers are the dance team at FIU. In existence since 1989, the team now consists of 20 performers. Over the course of its history, the group has won the National Cheerleading Association Dance National Championship and racked up third- and eighth-place finishes in other years. The Golden Dazzlers currently perform at all home basketball and football games, as well as school pep rallies and special events.

The Cheerleaders

In 1998, FIU's cheerleaders received national recognition when they won the National Cheerleaders Association Grand National Championship Award. The FIU Golden Panthers cheerleading squad was the first team from Florida to win the national crown. The squad is made up of 27 members who perform at all football and men's and women's basketball home games.

The Student Groups

FIU Student Government Association – FIU's University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses each has a student government association, which works closely with one other and manages a \$6.5 million budget with funds allocated to each campus. Both campuses' SGA work to improve the quality of the academic, social and professional lives of FIU's students. Students at FIU-University Park recently elected their first woman president in more than 20 years, Jessica Morfi. Adrian Carter was elected to his second term as president at FIU-Biscayne Bay.

Volunteer Action Center – FIU Volunteer Action Center (VAC), is a student-run organization, designed to provide diverse opportunities for students to serve the South Florida community through volunteerism, service learning and advocacy. Founded in 1993, the VAC has empowered more than 2,500 FIU students to give more than 30,000 hours of service to South Florida non-profit agencies. The VAC provides services to faculty and acts as a resource to enable professors to incorporate service learning or community service components into their courses. Last Spring, students from the VAC spent their spring break volunteering at the site of the World Trade Center – a project that was prominently featured on the CBS news-magazine 48 Hours.

Greek Organizations -- Social Greek-letter organizations are a relatively recent phenomenon at FIU. The first chapter, Phi

Beta Sigma, was established in the early 1980s. It was also the first Black Greek chapter and led to the founding of a National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) at FIU. Phi Sigma Sigma, in 1984, was the first women's sorority. The Panhellenic Council (PC) soon followed to govern the women's groups. There are now 20 social fraternities and sororities at FIU governed by NPHC, PC and Interfraternity Council. Recruitment activities for the chapters occur throughout the academic year. Activities that all groups participate in include community service, social events and educational programs. Fraternities and sororities are committed to the overall development of their members, encompassing academic, athletic, and personal enhancement.

The Golden Panther Club

The Golden Panther Club (GPC) is the team behind the teams. The GPC is the official student-athlete support organization at FIU.

FIU Panther Pride Points

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has ranked FIU as a Doctoral/Research University-Extensive, the highest ranking in its classification system.

FIU has a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most distinguished collegiate honorary society. FIU is the youngest university in the country with a chapter; there are 262 nationally and five in Florida.

FIU's Management Information Systems faculty was ranked 11th best in the nation in terms of research productivity by The Academy of Management Journal in 2001.

The FIU Creative Writing Program is ranked among the top 10 creative writing programs in the country by "Who Runs American Literature?" in the Dictionary of Literary Biography.

The FIU Tropical Biology Program embraces one of the largest concentrations of tropical biologists in the United States.

The FIU Latin American and Caribbean Center, recognized as one of the finest programs of its type in the world, is designated as a Title VI National Resource Center by the U.S. Department of Education.

Industry leaders recognize the FIU School of Hospitality Management as one of the nation's top five hospitality management programs.

The FIU International Hurricane Center is the nation's only university-based research facility dedicated to mitigating the damage tropical storms inflict on people, the economy and the environment.

The 2000 National CPA Examination Report noted that FIU graduate students rank first in the nation in passing the CPA exam on the first try and are consistently (last five years) in the top five in their exam scores.

The FIU Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology, established in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is the nation's largest university site for nuclear decontamination research. The DOE's Oak Ridge Laboratory earlier this year named FIU the nation's top predominantly minority university.



DR. MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE

PRESIDENT, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Dr. Modesto A. Maidique
President

In 1986, Modesto A. Maidique became president of Florida International University (FIU). During his tenure Dr. Maidique has presided over the establishment of the School of Architecture, the College of Law, and the football program, and doubled enrollment to more than 32,000 students. In addition, sponsored research has increased more than seven-fold, from \$8.5 million to more than \$60 million. In the year 2000-01, the university achieved the Carnegie Foundation's lead ranking, was awarded a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, completed the \$200-million "Campaign for FIU" and awarded its 100,000th degree. Now in his 16th year of service, Dr. Maidique is the longest-serving president in Florida's public university system.

A graduate of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Business School's PMD program, Dr. Maidique has taught at both of his alma maters and at Stanford University. He is a renowned authority on the management of high-technology enterprises. For more than two decades -- for institutions including the White House, Harvard and IBM -- Dr. Maidique has provided counsel on critical management and educational issues affecting our nation.

Throughout his career in both the corporate and academic worlds, Dr. Maidique has been involved with high technology firms in a variety of capacities: as an executive in established and entrepreneurial high technology firms; as a consultant, lecturer and

director for multinational high technology giants; and as professor and lecturer at leading universities.

In 1970, Dr. Maidique co-founded a semiconductor company that later merged with Analog Devices, Inc. (ADI), a manufacturer of integrated circuits. He also served as president and CEO of Collaborative Research, Inc., a genetic engineering company, and as a general partner of Hambrecht & Quist, a venture capital firm. He has consulted and lectured for major American firms including IBM, Rockwell International, Honeywell and Texas Instruments.

Dr. Maidique is the author of numerous articles in academic journals, a contributing author to 10 books, and a co-author of Strategic Management of Technology and Innovation, a textbook now in its third edition, which has been adopted by more than 100 colleges and universities. An article he co-authored, "The Art of High-Technology Management," is one of the best-selling articles published by the Sloan Management Review. He is also the co-author of Energy Future, a New York Times best seller on energy policy.

Dr. Maidique was appointed to President George H. Bush's Educational Policy Advisory Committee in 1989, and appointed to the Transition Task Force on Education by President George W. Bush in 2001. He serves on the boards of National Semiconductor and Carnival Corporation, is Vice Chairman of the Miami Business Forum, and is past chairman of The Beacon Council, Miami's economic development authority.



RICK MELLO

DIRECTOR OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AND CAMPUS RECREATION



Rick Mello
Athletic Director

Rick Mello was named as Florida International University's tenth director of intercollegiate athletics and campus recreation on June 16, 2000.

In two years here, he has overseen the progress of the intercollegiate football program, spearheading program and stadium improvements for that sport while making great strides in the area of Title IX/Gender Equity. Under his watch, a new volleyball locker room and a women's tennis/softball facility was constructed. He also oversaw the search for the university's first-ever women's swimming coach who will lead the Golden Panthers when they begin competition in the winter of 2003-04.

The 43-year old California native served as the athletics director chair of the Sun Belt Conference Executive Committee from 1996-98 and aided in the development of the locally-syndicated Sun Belt Conference basketball television package. He also served two consecutive terms as the SBC representative on the NCAA Division I Management Council and has been chair of the NCAA Administrative Review Subcommittee for three years.

Mello spent the five previous years as director of athletics at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock where he successfully negotiated a five-year contract with the ALLTEL Arena that generated upwards of \$200,000 in preferred seat license revenue for the university. He also enhanced the UALR Sports Hall of Fame and established the UALR Trojan Foundation and its athletic booster club.

Mello is no stranger to the South Florida community. He served three years at the University of Miami (1992-95), where he was responsible for all outside revenue generation as the associate athletic director for external operations (development, ticket oper-

ations, marketing and promotions and special events). Those units produced \$12.9 million in 1993-94, including a record \$3.11 million in annual giving through the implementation of a new priority seating plan and solicitation system.

Before Miami, Mello spent eight years at the University of California (associate director for media relations, 1984-87; football recruiting coordinator, 1987-90; and assistant athletic director for marketing and promotions, 1990-92).

Additionally, Mello was media relations director at the University of the Pacific (1983-84), assistant executive director of the Cal State Fullerton Titan Foundation (1982-83) and director of marketing and media relations for women's athletics at UCLA (1981-82).

Mello graduated Cum Laude in Journalism from Utah State University in 1980 where he served as assistant sports information director for two years.

"After an extensive national search, I am delighted that Rick Mello has accepted the challenge to lead FIU Athletics further up the ladder of success and provide leadership as we launch intercollegiate football," said University President Dr. Modesto A. Maidique. "He comes to the university at a time of great excitement, which includes the start of a College of Law. FIU students expect success on all fronts and I am sure they will not be disappointed."

Mello is married to the former Kathy Notarangelo, a licensed marriage, child and family counselor with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Their interests include antique collecting and a commitment to animals through work with national and local animal rescue organizations.



THE BIRTH OF A FOOTBALL PROGRAM

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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One of the most important aspects of an athletic program is having a solid foundation from which the team can thrive. When FIU began its push for a football program, more important than a solid playing surface or a stadium or a field house was the need for a strong leader that would create the foundation for the team. The Golden Panthers found that foundation in head coach Don Strock.

"Strock has met all of my expectations. He has done a tremendous job for FIU," said Rick Mello, FIU Athletic Director. "In selecting a coach for FIU football, my No. 1 criteria was simply this - If I had a son with the talent to play football, would I trust Don to help him excel? The answer is undeniably 'yes I would.'"

And Mello is not alone. The parents and families of 85 young men have all entrusted their son's academic and athletic futures to Strock. Since February 2001, athletes from throughout Florida and from as far north as Pennsylvania, have joined Strock in making FIU history.

When Strock began at FIU as the director of football operations in 1999, talk of football had already begun.

In 1997, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, who had found that he was constantly bombarded by the question, "When will FIU have a football team," from students, alumni and friends of FIU, began to investigate the possibility of having football at the university. He appointed a task force consisting of FIU faculty and administrators, students, alumni, and community and FIU Foundation leaders, too. The task force's report concluded that football would enhance campus life, build alumni loyalty, bring alumni back to campus and increase FIU's visibility in Florida and the nation.

After much thought and further studies, President Maidique and university officials began the process of creating a proposal to present to the Florida Board of Regents to receive approval for the start of the program in 2001.

Part of the proposal process included hiring someone who would supervise the operational aspects of developing a football program and to secure important private support from the community. It didn't take long to identify the perfect fit, Don Strock, former quarterback of the Miami Dolphins. Strock quickly became the catalyst in lobbying the (now defunct) Florida Board of Regents for approval for the team, and in May 2000, the Board recognized the university's careful planning with formal approval of intercollegiate football at FIU.

"For years I attended chamber of commerce meetings, board of directors events and

university functions, and more than any other question, I was asked 'when will we be able to cheer for an FIU football program,'" said President Maidique. "I was very happy when I was finally able to answer that question with an actual date!"

The FIU football program, which was originally planned to kick off in 2001, was held back one year after its approval, in order to expand the stadium at University Park, comply with the gender equity requirement of Title IX and search for a new athletic director. The new kick off date became Aug. 2002.

"We knew there would be some growing pains, but we've had great support from President Maidique, on down," Strock said. "I was a bit frustrated when the starting date for the program got pushed back, but in hindsight, it was probably the best thing that could have happened. Facilities are more in place. Gender equity is being addressed. All of these things are important components of our program."

On the day FIU received the green light to go ahead with a football team, Strock got into his car and, on the way to a high school, changed from the suit he was wearing into a pair of shorts and golf shirt and began the recruiting process.

"I was really excited that day," said Strock. "It is not that often that you can start something from scratch. That's one of the things that attracted me to FIU. I was going to be able to build this program my way. That meant everyone who would work with me was going to have to do things my way - giving the program and our players 100 percent of our time, effort and dedication."

Strock quickly surrounded himself with individuals who would do just that. Shortly after the BOR approval, Strock was named head football coach. He then hired a coaching staff that was knowledgeable and dedicated. Strock brought on former Dolphin teammate Bruce Hardy to help him steer the program, as well as Carmen Grosso, Greg Briner, Renato Diaz, Hurlie Brown, James Colzie III, Jim Taubert, Steve Smith, Curt Wiles, and Joe Barantovich.

Together Strock and his assistants began focusing on finding the best available student-athletes from among the thousands of high school seniors in South Florida and around the state. Because of the abundance of talent in Florida that has consistently provided outstanding players for nationally-recognized collegiate programs, few out-of-state players were recruited.

When Strock announced his first signing class on February 7, 2001, program

watchers were surprised both that he obtained the maximum 30 commitments allowable under NCAA rules and that the prospective players included several Bright Futures scholars and a number of all-state, all-district and all-county honorees.

"Our first signees were a welcomed sight," said Strock. "And as the time progressed and these guys actually arrived on campus, it was the start of the dream coming to life."

Strock, who is considered by many to be the heart of the team, knew that several things needed to fall into place if the team was going to be successful.

In order to have a true home field advantage, Strock and FIU had a new field house built and a state-of-the-art turf put into place on the existing university football stadium.

A new 15,000-square-foot field house, which includes two locker rooms consisting of 120 lockers, a 2,200-square-foot meeting area with retractable doors for large and small team gatherings, a coaches' locker room, 24 showers, a training facility expandable to 1,200 square feet, a state-of-the-art, 5,300-square-foot weight room and storage space for equipment was built, and the players love it.

FIU also dramatically enhanced its field. AstroPlay® was installed helping to provide FIU and the area high school teams that use the field with a durable, high-tech playing surface. AstroPlay® will work well with the South Florida environment. Miami-Dade County, for instance, occasionally experiences water-use restrictions, as a result of drought conditions; AstroPlay requires no water, fertilizer or pesticides. It is a grass-like, non-abrasive, polyethylene fiber matrix filled with special rubber granules. Unlike other artificial systems, AstroPlay will not compact, grow firmer and become less shock absorbent with age.

Additionally, footballs bounce on the surface just as they do with grass, and the system "gives," allowing players to use grass shoes and relieving high schools athletes of the added expense of purchasing "turf" shoes. Installation cost approximately \$825,000.

AstroPlay® manufacturer Southwest Recreational Industries, Inc., has installed the system for the New York Giants at their indoor practice facility and on the college campuses of the University of Kansas, the University of Minnesota, Oklahoma State, the University of North Carolina and Illinois University. The FIU Community Stadium is

the company's first installation in the southeastern United States.

In addition to the field and facility improvements, the FIU Community Stadium was renovated and expanded from 7,000 seats to approximately 17,000. The expanded facility will include temporary, end-zone bleachers, a press box and a luxury skybox.

Hand in hand with the home for the team, Strock started the training process for his players. Strock and his coaches have put the new players through a rigorous schedule that focuses first on their academic performance and secondly on their athletic ability.

"My No. 1 priority is that these young men learn," said Strock. "They are here to earn a college degree. On a secondary level, they are here to compete on the football field. My coaches and I want to create that balance with our new team. They will go to school, and they will do well -- only then will they play."

Each day Strock works to instill pride and confidence in his players. He wants to prepare them physically and mentally for the pressures of belonging to an intercollegiate athletic team. He wants them to get used to playing in front of new friends and fans.

Last fall Strock scheduled four public scrimmages to show his student-athletes off and to get them used to playing in front of their new supporters.

Drills and team meetings have helped to solidify the team and prepare them for the challenges that lay ahead. Last Feb. 6, the second class was signed and the final stage of preparations will now lead to the fruition of years filled with anticipation and excitement.

It will all come to a head on Aug. 29, 2002 when the Golden Panthers play their first game under the lights of FIU Community Stadium against Saint Peter's College, in front of a statewide television audience.



June 5, 2002

"Billboard Bash" at FIU Community Stadium kicks off the official marketing campaign for football season tickets.

Nov. 10, 2001

Students and fans attend first-ever BlueGold Scrimmage signaling the end of fall practice.



Oct. 9, 2001

AstroPlay®, a grass-like, non-abrasive, polyethylene fiber matrix filled with special rubber granules, is installed in Community Stadium.



Aug. 27, 2001

Players take the field; Strock conducts FIU's first football practice



Oct. 15, 2001

First-ever playing schedule announced that includes seven home games.

Mar. 12, 2002

Partnership announced with Sunshine Network to televise FIU's first-ever football game vs. Saint Peter's.

Aug. 29, 2002

KICK-OFF



1997

Presidential task force begins examining the feasibility of establishing intercollegiate football at FIU.

Sept. 1, 1999

Don Strock hired as director of football operations



May 17, 2000

Florida's Board of Regents approves the establishment of Division I-AA football at FIU

Sept. 13, 2000

Strock named head coach; announces hiring of six assistant coaches



Feb. 7, 2001

First signing class announced on National Signing Day

April 2001

Football field house construction begins



GREATER MIAMI AND THE BEACHES

»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»» FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

As the world's favorite playground on the vanguard of pop culture, global commerce, fashion and entertainment, Greater Miami and the Beaches offers visitors the cutting edge of urban chic—combined with the beauty and splendor of a tropical paradise.

For decades, visitors have been drawn to the area. But in recent years, that gravitational pull has become a vortex, attracting throngs of international celebrities, trendsetters, literati and glitterati who are quickly beguiled by the area's colorful character and warm-hearted ways.

Greater Miami and the Beaches has become a superstar of the world's travel destinations.

A Sensual Oasis

An eco-paradise of natural beauty and colorful splendor, Greater Miami is sheathed in bright, yellow light and soft, salty air. Umbrellas come in handy, but mostly for the sun. Surrounded by aquamarine waters, it is a sensual oasis with an average yearly temperature of a mild 76F. A typical day is marked by an early burst of sunrise, a few puffy clouds, a dazzling afternoon rainbow, a crimson sunset, and then clear, "Moon of Miami" skies.

The Lay of the Land

Sitting inside of Miami-Dade County, Greater Miami and the Beaches is a sprawling territory with 30 municipalities and a population of more than two million. Along with being one of the most vibrant sun-belt metropolises in the United States, Greater Miami is one of the leading capitals in the Americas, and a major crossroads for the entire world.

Located a few degrees above the Tropic of Cancer, Greater Miami is an intricate network of barrier islands, coral rock, mangrove swamps, 100-year-old banyan trees, broad causeways and scenic bridges, picturesque highways—and, of course, its world-famous miles and miles of fine white sand and breath-taking ocean surf.

Access to the area is simple and convenient. Miami International Airport, equipped with a sun deck for that last-minute tan, is just a 20-minute drive from FIU-University Park. By land, Greater Miami is accessible via the Florida Turnpike, I-95, U.S. 1 and Amtrak's rail system. The Port of Miami, the world's largest cruise port, is a nautical link that connects Miami to the Caribbean and Latin America.

Deco Delights

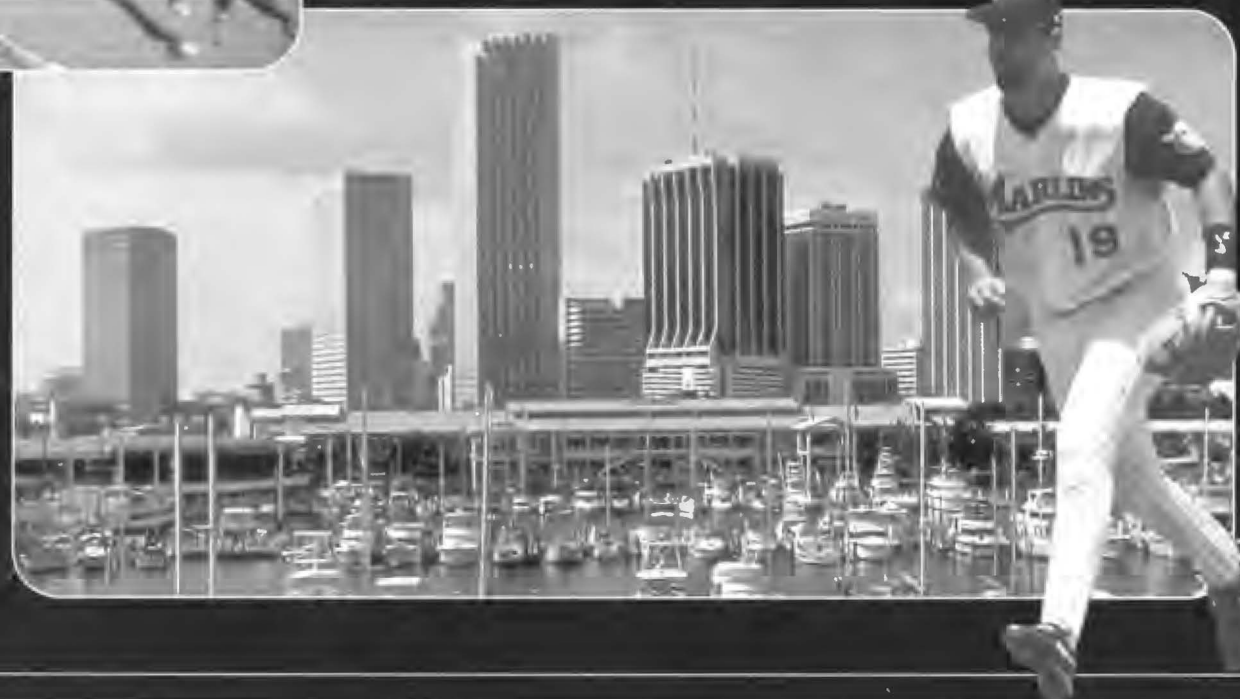
Way back in the 1930s and 40s, more than 800 Art Deco structures were built on the southern tip of Miami Beach. Today, the historically designated Art Deco District represents the largest collection of Art Deco architecture in the world, and an urban renaissance that just won't quit.

With its confetti-like colors, electrifying neon lights and sleek aerodynamic lines, the Art Deco District now serves as the backdrop for one of the world's most eccentric and in-vogue neighborhoods.

Here, first-class hotels share palm-lined streets with hip young hostels where backpackers share budget travel tips. Café-society gathers to discuss literature, politics and the arts. Long-legged models and muscular men pose for fashion magazines in the middle of Ocean Drive. Some of the finest chefs in America today, some of whom are graduates of FIU's prestigious School of Hospitality Management, dish out Miami New World, Latin and Caribbean cuisines at trendy eateries that are a must for visitors.

Downtown—Where The Lights Are Bright

From a distance, downtown Miami at night looks like a neon rainbow. Skyscrapers twinkle and



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glow, sending a signal that says the area is booming with growth and activity. The most recent addition is the \$165 million American Airlines arena, home of the Miami Heat.

Also bustling downtown is the Bayside Marketplace, a 16-acre extravaganza of shops, restaurants and attractions like the Hard Rock Café Miami. From Bayside, visitors can take a romantic gondola ride while watching the laser-light shows that beam from the adjacent 28-acre Bayfront Park, or take an exciting dinner cruise through Biscayne Bay.

Downtown's Gusman Cultural Center, an ornate 1920s theater, is home-base for the Miami Film Festival, hosted by FIU.

In The Grove

One of the area's oldest and most diverse neighborhoods, Coconut Grove has long been a bohemian hangout and the breeding ground for Greater Miami's *Tropicool* character.

Ever since the early 1900s, the Grove has attracted artists, writers and non-conformists, and remains today an important player in Greater Miami's cultural renaissance. Under a dense canopy of lush trees, the Grove is noted for its whimsical homes, busy marinas, year-round festivals and the many cafes, art galleries, restaurants and shops that line its streets.

Another must-see attraction is Vizcaya Museum & Gardens, a 70-room Italian Renaissance mansion surrounded by 10 acres of formal gardens and furnished with European antiques, site of the 1994 Summit of the Americas. Just across the street, step into the future and explore the wonders of the universe at the Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium.

Around the Town

Above and beyond the much-celebrated spots, Greater Miami has a rich

assortment of neighborhoods that offer charming nooks and crannies and off-the-beaten-path excursions.

Built in the roaring 20s, Coral Gables is a prosperous and dramatically beautiful city, marked by Spanish-style mansions, huge ficus trees, coral rock pools, lush golf courses and a commercial area that's jam-packed with specialty shops and restaurants.

Like most ethnic enclaves, Little Havana and Little Haiti are brimming with immigrant optimism. The Moorish architecture of Opa-Locka, inspired by the Arabian Nights stories, is a stunning inner-city collection of minarets, domes and horseshoe arches.

South Dade offers a more rural ambiance and features must-see spots such as Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, Miami MetroZoo, Parrot Jungle and Monkey Jungle, the Homestead Motorsports Complex and more.

The waterfront city of Key Biscayne can only be described as an island paradise. It's a peaceful, well-preserved community crowned by the bucolic Bill Baggs State and Crandon Park, two of the most beautiful beaches in the United States.

From the neon lights of the sizzling nightlife, to the tranquil stretches of inviting white sand, Greater Miami and the Beaches is indeed the epitome of urban chic and tropical magnificence. Whether experiencing it for the very first time—or taking advantage of the area's latest wave of re-invention and renaissance to rediscover its marvels all over again—Greater Miami and the Beaches has taken its rightful place among the world's leading travel destinations.

Football Facilities

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FIU Community Stadium

The FIU football team trains and plays at the newly renovated FIU Community Stadium on the University Park campus.

Opened in the fall of 1995 at a cost of more than \$3 million, the stadium is situated on land that straddles the university and Miami-Dade County-owned Tamiami Park. This cooperative effort with the State of Florida, Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation, the county commission and the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair, Inc. was the first known project in South Florida that involved a partnership of state, county and private interests.

Highlights of the facility include permanent seating for some 7,000 spectators, restrooms, concession stands, a new field house and lights for night competition.

As upgrades to the facility, the university invested another \$825,000 for the installation of its state-of-the-art AstroPlay® artificial playing surface. Billed as a new concept in turf systems, it is a grass-like, non-abrasive, polyethylene fiber matrix that is filled with special rubber granules. Field drainage is superb.

By the first kickoff on Aug. 29, FIU will also add 10,000 retrofitted seats that will raise the seating capacity to 17,000



"Compared to a lot of other I-AA programs, we're so far ahead of the game," said FIU head football coach **Don Strock**. "The playing surface is obviously first class and when the stadium seating is installed, it will look even larger than the 17,000 seats it will have."

"It's so important to have an on-campus stadium for our alumni, students and fans. It makes it so easy for our student body to come out and support the program. We're excited about where we are right now," Strock said.

The Football Field House

The Golden Panthers football program enjoys all the amenities that are usually reserved for "big-time" college football. The 15,000 square feet FIU Football Field House, which opened in time for the 2001 fall campaign, houses all the tools needed for a success program.

This \$1.8 million project includes two locker rooms consisting of 120 lockers, a 2,200-square-foot meeting area with retractable doors that can comfortably accommodate 100 or be divided for smaller team gatherings, a coaches' locker room, 24 showers, a training facility expandable to 1,200 square feet, a state-of-the-art, 5,300-square-foot weight room and storage space for equipment.

The field house is home of a fully-equipped strength training area designed to accommodate all student-athletes on an individual basis with respect to their particular sports. The program is structured to enable a student-athlete to be in the best possible condition.

Head strength and conditioning coach **Lou DeNeen** designs both in-season and off-season conditioning programs that assist student-athletes year round in improving their performances.



for the inaugural season. Ultimately, the goal is to build a 30,000-seat stadium (with long range capability to expand).

In the meantime, temporary improvements like scoreboards on either end of the playing field, a message center, sound-system enhancements, a press box and a skybox will be added to increase spectator involvement and comfort.

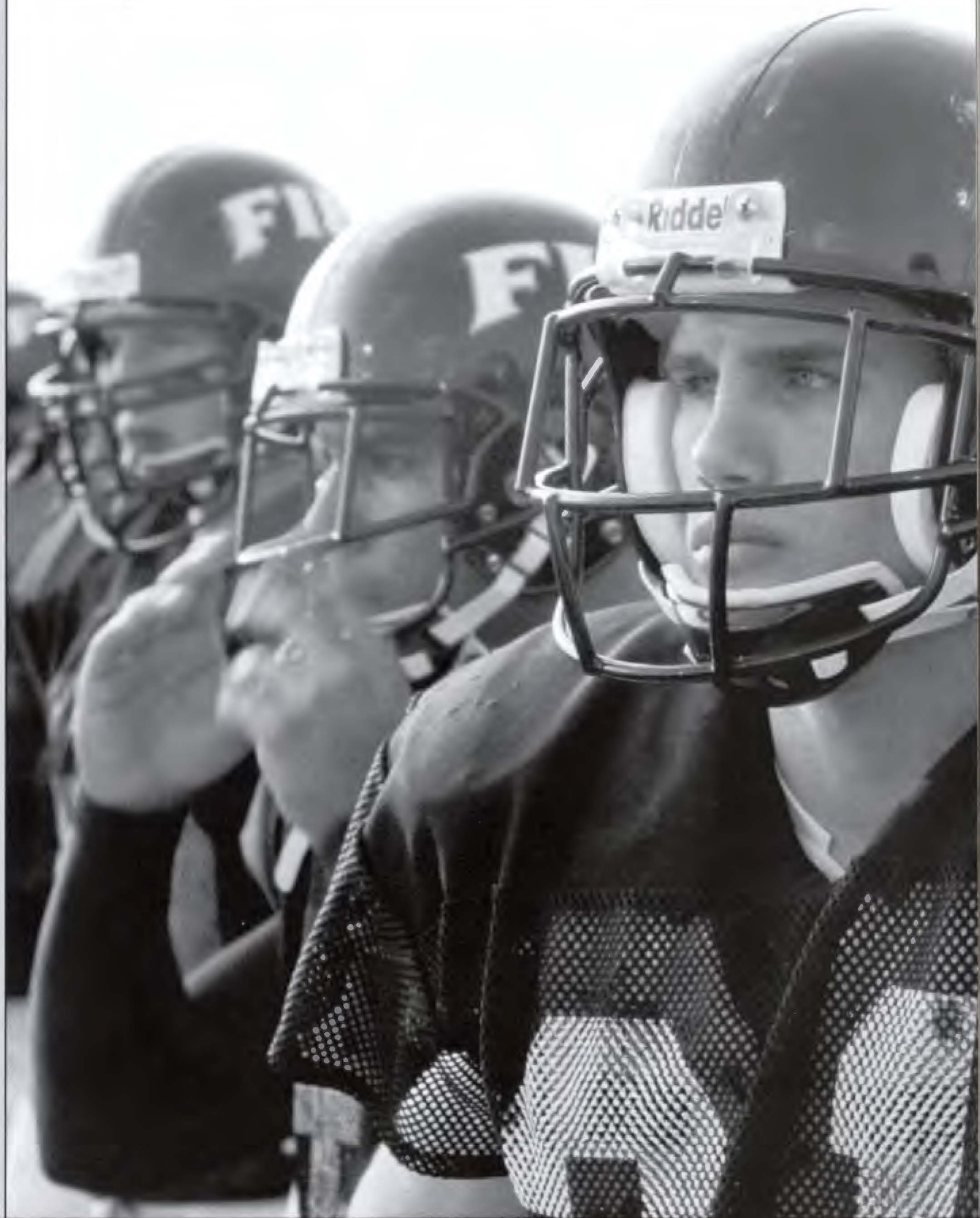
Besides FIU athletics, the site remains a primary venue for high school football and track competitions and special events. Several of the university's commencement ceremonies, homecoming festivities and concerts have all taken place within the stadium.

As a track and field venue, FIU Community Stadium's GTE Rack 4000 track is a red polyurethane/rubberized surface that runs east-west and meets Olympic standards. The eight-lane 400-meter all-weather track includes two long jump and triple jump pits, high jump and pole vault areas and a water barrier for the steeplechase.



The Team

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



HEAD COACH



DON STROCK



Don Strock, FIU's first head football coach, brings first-hand experience as a player, coach and sports enthusiast to his fledgling Golden Panthers program. Strock, who was named the university's director of football operations in 1999 and head coach on Sept. 13, 2000, led the charge before the Florida Board of Regents to obtain approval for the program in May 2000.

"The only goal we've established for this upcoming year is that our athletes are going to play hard for 60 minutes, no matter what the score," Strock said. "That's going to be our trademark as a team. Opponents may come in here with better overall talent, but they better know that they'll be in for a fight."

A veteran quarterback who played with the Miami Dolphins for 14 years, Strock started only 20 games in Miami, emerging as the team's relief specialist. His most memorable moment came on Jan. 2, 1982 when he entered the game with the Dolphins trailing, 24-0, then rallied the team before falling short, 41-38, in overtime to the San Diego Chargers. That was not only the highest-scoring playoff game but also the only game in NFL history where two quarterbacks, Strock and San Diego star Dan Fouts, both passed for over 400 yards.

A Dolphin from 1973 through 1987, Strock connected on 388 of 688 passes for 4,613 yards and received much credit for the development of Dan Marino early in his illustrious playing career.

Despite spending almost his entire career as a backup, he's in the franchise's top five in most career passing categories, including yards, touchdown passes, attempts and completions.

Strock is second in Miami Dolphin team history—behind Marino but ahead of Hall of Fame quarterback Bob Griese—in career completion percentage (56.4).

A fifth-round selection of the Miami Dolphins in 1973, Strock spent one year each with Cleveland (1988) and Indianapolis (1989). His 17-year NFL career places him in the top-10 list of longevity for a quarterback.

Strock's lifetime statistics include: 443 completions in 779 attempts for 5,349 yards with 45 touchdowns and 42 interceptions. He was involved in the NFL postseason 12 times and played in three Super Bowls (1974, 1983 and 1985) over his career.

At Cleveland, Strock joined the team in a reserve role, but was called upon to help guide the Browns to the playoffs in an unusual season of quarterback injuries. He started two of four games in 1988 and was one of four starters at quarterback as Bernie Kosar, Mike Pagel and Gary Danielson were all injury casualties. Strock signed with Indianapolis in 1989, but his role was limited.

Strock, 51, began his coaching career in 1993 with Miami of the Arena Football League, guiding the team to a 5-7 record and the playoffs. In 1994, he joined the Massachusetts Marauders (AFL), taking them to an 8-4 mark and the playoffs. Strock was offensive coordinator/quarterback coach of the Rhein Fire of the World League in 1995.

He spent the next three seasons (1996-98) as quarterbacks' coach of the Baltimore Ravens, where, in 1996, he oversaw the second-best passing attack in the NFL.

Strock's coaching philosophy includes a little from each of the head coaches he's played and worked under.

"They've all been such great influences on me," he said. "Don Shula taught me organization and I picked up the analytical end of the game mostly from Ted Marchibroda. Galen Hall in the World League taught me patience. Guys were coming and going every day in that league, yet he was patient enough to stay with a plan and get the job done. Marty Schottenheimer was a players' coach who taught me how to relate."

"Every one of these coaches had his own philosophy but the one thing they all preached was to give 100 percent on every play. They were all different people, but they all had the philosophy of surrounding the ball, going 100 MPH and if you make a mistake, continue to go all out. Nothing good happens when you go half speed. That philosophy is sound, and that's the way I believe in doing things as a coach."

Strock's outstanding college career involved a pass-oriented offense at Virginia Tech. Overall, he completed 628 of 1,174 attempts (53.5%) for 6,009 yards that still stands as Tech's career best. Strock led the nation in passing as a senior with 3,243 yards (VTU's all-time season record), made an appearance at the Hula Bowl and was voted Outstanding Offensive Player, and later to the Hall of Fame, at the Blue-Gray Classic.

Strock also still holds the Virginia Tech single-game passing record of 527 yards accomplished against the University of Houston in 1972. Following that season Strock was named a third-team All-American by the Associated Press.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in distributive education. Strock attended Owen J. Roberts High School in Pottstown, Penn. and lettered in football, basketball and baseball. He and his wife, Debby, reside in Weston, Fla.

HEAD COACH DON STROCK

- Born:** November 27, 1950
- College:** Virginia Tech University, 1973 (Bachelor of Science degree)
- Wife:** Debby
- Coaching Experience:**
 - Head Coach, Miami Hooters (Arena Football League), 1993
 - Head Coach, Massachusetts Marauders (AFL), 1994
 - Assistant Coach, Rhein Fire (World League), 1995
 - Quarterbacks Coach, Baltimore Ravens (NFL), 1996-98
- Playing Experience:**
 - Professionally**
 - Miami Dolphins, 1973-87 (Fifth Round Selection)
 - Cleveland Browns, 1988
 - Indianapolis Colts, 1989
 - Collegiately**
 - Virginia Tech (1972 All-American)
 - Associated Press All-America Quarterback (third team), 1972
 - Owns Hokies records for career (6,009), season (3,243) and single-game (527) passing yards

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH



BRUCE HARDY



When Don Strock was name director of football operations in 1999, one of his first decisions was to hire **Bruce Hardy** as the program's full-time assistant head coach.

"His experience speaks for itself with 12 years of professional football experience," said Strock. "Bruce understands and works well with these young men. He brings respectability to our organization. He is a tireless worker and a definite plus to the program."

Hardy was an outstanding prep talent. At 17, he was on the cover of Sports Illustrated, which deemed him "the best all-around schoolboy athlete in the U.S."

A Salt Lake City, Utah athletic phenomenon, Hardy earned all-state honors in three sports, starting as a power-hitting catcher who was called "the best high school athlete seen in 20 years." He was also a Class 3A MVP in basketball and football during both his junior and senior years. Recently, he was honored with induction into both the Utah Sports Hall of Fame for football and the state's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Now nearly 30 years later, Hardy recalls that talent and

looks for it in young student athletes.

"Don (Strock) and I have been friends for a long time and having the chance of working with him attracted me to FIU," said Hardy. "But even more than that was the opportunity to get into a program at the ground floor—a program that is being started from scratch. That excites me."

In 1978, Hardy was drafted in the ninth round of the NFL draft by the Miami Dolphins and played with them at tight end until 1989. During that time, he caught 256 passes for 2,455 yards and started in two Super Bowls.

Once finished with his playing career, Hardy easily transitioned to the sidelines and coached in the Arena Football League for six years, including one year as head coach of the Florida Bobcats.

Hardy has four sons, Nathan 22, Adam 20, Aaron 18, and Matthew 15.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR



GREG BRINER



Most recently the offensive coordinator for the New York/New Jersey Hitmen of the XFL, **Greg Briner** comes to FIU with 25 years of coaching experience at the college and pro levels.

Before that, he coached at SMU, where he was also named coordinator of the South offense in the 1998 Blue-Gray All-Star game. With the University of Georgia, his quarterback, Mike Bobo, led the SEC in passing and was ranked fifth in the nation. The Bulldogs won the Outback Bowl in 1998 with a record set for completion percentage (93 percent).

Prior positions for Briner included offensive coordinator at Marshall University and the U.S. Naval Academy. At Navy, 12 offensive records were set and while at Marshall, the Herd won the I-AA national championship in 1992, leading the nation in offense and scoring and his quarterback, Michael Payton, winning the Walter Payton award, the I-AA version of the Heisman Trophy.

Briner was with the Indianapolis Colts as the quality control director and then moved on to become the quarterback coach. His career began in 1976 at the University of Oregon.

"Greg is an experienced offensive coordinator at both the I-A and I-AA levels. In fact, he was my quarterback coach with the Colts in 1989" said head coach Don Strock. "He's

just the kind of coach you need in our situation. He's a good teacher and works well with the kids on the field."

Briner holds a Master's of Science in physical education from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor's of Science degree in biology from the United States International University.

He was the California Player of the Year and prep All-America quarterback at Gardena High School in Los Angeles and a member of the 1970 Rose Bowl Team at the University of Southern California.

"Our goals at FIU are the same as they would be with any established football team: control the ball, make first downs and score points," Briner said. "Just because we are a first-year program, we're not going to limit those goals. We're going to be as good as we can possibly be."

"The number of quality athletes in our area is well documented and our type of wide-open offense should be something that attracts them here."

He is married to wife Melanie.



DEFENSIVE BACKS



HURLIE BROWN



Defensive backs coach **Hurlie Brown's** wealth of experience at both the major college and professional levels was a main reason why head coach Don Strock sought his expertise for his coaching staff.

"Hurley is a young coach who is doing a heck of a job," said Strock. "He relates well with the kids and they really look up to him after his days playing major college football. I think he's going to make a great college coach."

Formerly the defensive back/special teams coach at Merritt Island High School in Florida, Brown brings three years of coaching experience and seven years professional playing experience - including one year each with the Washington Redskins and the San Francisco 49ers - and a college career played under Jimmy Johnson and Dennis Erickson at the University of Miami.

Brown was a football and academic standout as a student at Merritt Island High, from which he graduated in 1987, and he won a scholarship to Miami.

He was drafted by the Redskins in 1991, then signed as a free agent with San Francisco the following year, and later went to

play for the Sacramento Gold Miners, the San Antonio Texans and the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League from 1992-97.

Brown, however, transitioned to the sidelines very early in his career. He served as an undergraduate assistant to Erickson, coaching defensive backs at UM in 1991. After leaving Montreal in 1997, he began working at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, with special teams and defensive backs.

In 1999, he returned to his high school alma mater under head coach Gerald Hodges before joining FIU this year.

Brown's coaching philosophy is simple—let his athletes be themselves. "I want to allow my defensive backs to play. That's one of the biggest things I have learned over the years. It is my job as a coach to put my players in the right position to make a play.

"Sure, there are going to be some mistakes, but mistakes can be corrected. As long as more good plays are made than bad plays, we should be all right."

LINEBACKERS



CARMEN GROSSO



Assistant coach **Carmen Grosso** brings more than 30 years of football experience to the FIU program.

"This was my opportunity to work for a great university and to work for an outstanding head coach," said Grosso. "We're building a program here brick by brick with an eye toward becoming a successful program down the road. This is a challenge, but I'm happy to be here."

A 1967 graduate from the University of Miami (Fla.), Grosso has coached locally since 1970. He joined the staff at Miami as an assistant coach and served under coaches Howard Schnellenberger, Jimmy Johnson and Dennis Erickson. In ten years there, Grosso was on the staff of three national championship teams.

He began his coaching career at Miami's La Salle High School from 1970 through '79. Grosso also served as a tight ends coach for the University of Pittsburgh from 1983-84. He then moved on to the Dallas Cowboys as an assistant coach

in 1993 and '94, winning a Super Bowl ring with the 1994 team. Prior to coming to FIU, Grosso was an assistant coach and a guidance counselor at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Ft. Lauderdale from 1995-2000.

"Carmen is a veteran coach with experience on the high school, college and professional levels," said head coach Don Strock. "His background in guidance is another important quality of his with regards to recruiting and his contacts are invaluable."

Grosso holds a Master's of Science degree from Barry University in guidance and counseling and a Bachelor's of Arts degree in physical education from the University of Miami.

He was also a member of the armed forces as a first lieutenant signal officer serving with Special Forces in Southeast Asia for two years from 1967-69.

Grosso and his wife Jacklyn have two children: Rochelle and Robin Bidlofsky.

RUNNING BACKS



RENATO DIAZ



After four years assisting in the establishment of the Division I football program at the University of South Florida and a productive season in the Ivy League at Columbia University, **Renato Diaz** comes back home as FIU's running backs coach. His service with the Golden Panthers will mark the second time Diaz has assisted in the founding and development of a Division I-AA college football program.

In four years at South Florida, Diaz played an integral role in the development of that football program's infrastructure. He directly handled many of the administrative duties of the program including matters relating to game operations, travel, facility maintenance and development, academic affairs, NCAA compliance, player relations, community and media relations, budget management, office-staff management and all aspects of recruiting.

At Columbia University, Diaz was responsible for the development of the running backs, especially standout junior Jonathan Reese who became the first running back ever to rush for over 1,000 yards in the history of Columbia University football.

Diaz also worked with the Lion's kickoff return unit that finished 29th in the country and second in the Ivy League with a 20.95 yard per return average. His recruiting responsibilities included the states of Alabama, Arkansas, California, the Metro D.C. area, Mississippi and Ohio.

At USF, Diaz was a member of the first-ever football staff at that institution. During his years there, he served as tight ends coach, special teams coordinator and recruiting coordinator.

Prior to that, Diaz had over eleven years of coaching experience while working full time in his field of study.

"It is always exciting to start a new program and see how the university and surrounding community respond," said Diaz. "Even though I've done it before, it's still tremendously exciting. Football should be a tremendous asset to FIU."

Diaz earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from USF in 1983 then joined the U.S. Geological Survey in Miami. After three years with the U.S.G.S., Diaz was hired at Texaco's Latin America / West Africa Division in Florida where he was employed for seven years.

"Renato was one of the original coaches at the University of South Florida so his insights into what happened with them, and other little things he brings, help our program so much," said head coach Don Strock. "Not only that, but he knows the Tampa area and we were able to come out of there with several recruits thanks to his contacts and know-how."

Diaz resides in Coral Gables, Florida.

OFFENSIVE LINE



STEVE SMITH



Offensive line coach **Steve Smith** was the most recent addition to head coach Don Strock's FIU football staff. "He's a young, fiery offensive line coach who I believe has a great future," said Strock.

Smith joins the Golden Panthers after coaching the last seven years on the South Florida high school level. He coached the offensive line at Miami Southridge High School from 1996-99 and, after helping the Spartans to the 1999 state championship game, moved on to Chaminade College Prep in Hollywood, Fla. where he aided that program's impressive turnaround.

Chaminade had failed to produce a winning football season for some 25 years, but Smith was an integral part of head coach **Mark Guandolo's** staff that guided the Lions to a two-season 22-5 mark, district and regional championships and to the state semifinals last year.

Smith was a four-year high school letterwinner who went on to become an All-American as a senior and a two-time All-Ohio Athletic Conference defensive tackle at Heidelberg College in Ohio.

Following graduation, Smith was Heidelberg's defensive line student coach for a season before moving on to Temple University as a graduate assistant offensive line coach in 1992. Two years later, he was named tight ends coach for the Owls. In 1995, he moved on to James Madison University as its running backs coach.

"The offensive line is one of the most under-rated, yet one of the most important parts of a successful football team. By position, it's the largest group on the field and it's important that they work together as a unit," said Smith.

"My job is to instill discipline and expect perfection from them at every practice, at every team meeting and in the weight room. That way, in a pressure game situation, it becomes almost second nature. I want them to dictate the game to the defense, not vice versa."

Smith earned a B.S. in health education from Heidelberg and his M.A. in sports administration from Temple. He and his wife Yahelis have one son, one-year old Stephen.

Defensive Line

JIM TAUBERT



A 25-year veteran as an assistant football coach, **Jim Taubert** will continue his career on the sidelines as FIU's defensive line coach.

Taubert has experience on all levels of football, most recently having served as the linebacker coach at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Professionally, Taubert has coached for several teams in the Arena Football League including the New York City Hawks, Charlotte Rage and the Tampa Bay Storm, which he helped make into the 1991 AFL World Champions. He has also coached with the B.C. Lions of the Canadian Football League.

On the collegiate level, he has served on the coaching staffs at the University of Memphis, Bowling Green State University, Richmond, University of Tennessee at Martin, Kenyon College and Southern Illinois, where in 1983 he helped lead the team to win the I-AA NCAA championship.

"Jim has been coaching since he got out of college and he's coached with me at several different places," said head coach Don Strock. "His experience on the defensive side of the ball will be invaluable."

Taubert has also taught physical education and has worked as an ECAC football official as well as served as a high school basketball and baseball official.

"At FIU, I like the challenge of being with a brand new program," said Taubert. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help build a program from scratch. What we see, is what we're building, not what someone else has already built. There are no obstacles here other than the barriers we put up ourselves."

Presented with the Biggie Munn Award in 1974, which is given to the team's most inspirational player, Taubert lettered on the Michigan State University varsity football team for three years. He was named first-team All-Big Ten at defensive tackle and was a co-captain for the Spartans.

He is a 1974 graduate of Michigan State where he earned Bachelor's of Science in physical education and health. Taubert lives in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Defensive Backs Assistant

JAMES COLZIE III



James Colzie III comes from an athletic family where sports and education are essential. Now, Colzie will help shape the top football players of tomorrow as FIU's assistant defensive back-field coach.

"James is a well-known name in this area. He's young and continues growing in the coaching business and is constantly wanting to learn," said head coach Don Strock. "He's worked well and compliments Hurlie Brown nicely with the defensive backs."

Prior to his position at FIU Colzie played baseball with the Montreal Expos in 1997 and taught at Miami Christian School.

In 1993 Colzie accepted a scholarship to Florida State where he earned a degree in international finance and was the defensive back on that No. 1-rated Seminole defense. He was named The Miami Herald's Athlete of the Year in 1993.

A talented athlete, Colzie spent most of his childhood running between the football field, the basketball court and the baseball diamond. He was a star as a freshman and sophomore at Miami Gulliver Prep, where he played football, basketball, baseball and ran track. He later transferred to South Miami Senior High in order to face tougher competition.

He finished his high school career with 24 interceptions and was a two-time all-county defensive back and a member of the all-state team.

Also considered one of Miami-Dade's best basketball players, despite his 5-foot-9 stature, he finished his high school career with 2,144 points, averaging 22 points and 10 assists a game as a senior.

Colzie also was a career .300 hitter on the baseball diamond and stole 35 bases over a two-year period.

"Football at FIU was a long time coming," said Colzie. "Mine is a minor role, but hopefully, I'll be able to bring in and develop the kind of student-athletes the university will be proud to have and someday be graduates."

"I want to be someone that the athletes can look up to as an inspiration, or just be someone they feel comfortable enough with to come in and talk."

Colzie lives in Miami.

Offensive Line Assistant

JOE BARANTOVICH



Well-known local high school coach **Joe Barantovich** comes aboard as FIU's assistant offensive line coach.

After serving as defensive coordinator at Miami Southwest Senior High School in 1980-81 and for the next three seasons at Coral Park, Barantovich settled in at Southridge High where he's been since 1985. Coaching the Spartans defensive backs from 1985-97, he was instrumental in a pair of state championship teams in 1991 and '93.

the test chairman at Southridge since 1997, responsible for the administration of all state and district tests to the 4,000-plus members of the Southridge student body.

"Joe and I have known one another for a number of years. He has outstanding knowledge of the way the public school system works in South Florida which helps us in a number of ways," said head coach Don Strock.

Barantovich was an all-county center at Brownsville (Penn.) Area High School then went on to play football at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Penn. He graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in physical education in 1977 and earned his M.Ed. from the University in Pittsburgh in 1981. Since then, he has completed his advanced degree in Education Leadership at FIU.

He and his wife Martha, a 1994 FIU graduate, reside in Palmetto Bay with their three Tabby cats.

Off the field, Barantovich is an English and SAT Prep teacher at Southridge who has spent countless hours in the classroom, preparing students for college entrance exams. During lunch, he tutors athletes from all sports in all academic subjects. In addition, he has been

Linebackers Assistant

CURT WILES



Assistant linebackers coach **Curt Wiles** was a high school football coach for 28 years in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

He served as head coach at Miami Beach, Cooper City, Miami Southwest and Norland High Schools and as an assistant coach at Miami Beach, North Miami and Norland.

"Curt's contacts in the north end of the county are invaluable to our program," said head coach Don Strock. "He is highly respected by all the high school coaches in South Florida."

Wiles played football at the collegiate level at Temple University and at the University of Tampa, separated by a three-year stint in the Marine Corps, where he also played the sport. During his high school years, he was a prep player at North Miami Senior High School.

Wiles is the only FIU alumnus on the coaching staff. He graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in history.

"This was a great opportunity for me to help start an intercollegiate program at my alma mater and work with a head coach like Don Strock and the rest of the great coaches on this staff," said Wiles.

He lives in Davie, Fla. with his wife Janice. Their daughter, Heather, son-in-law Mark and their new grandson Brendon live in North Carolina. Their son Ty,

who played college football at the University of Minnesota-Morris, is a substitute teacher in Broward County and coaches football at Cooper City High School.



2002 Season Preview

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

10 20 30 40 50 40 30 20 10

The long wait for FIU football supporters is over as the Golden Panthers get ready to take the field for their inaugural season. It has taken nearly five years, since University President Modesto A. Maidique first established a task force to determine the feasibility of football at FIU, and now, Golden Panthers football is a reality.

Coached by NFL veteran Don Strock, win or lose, there should be plenty of excitement on the gridiron each and every Saturday, but fans will need to be a little patient, too.

"We'll play hard and fans will see some very exciting football," said Strock. "But remember that this is going to be a very young team. There are few schools anywhere in the country that will start as many freshmen as we will.

"Remember, we have no senior leadership. This is a brand-new group. We'll need some players to step forward and make plays on offense, defense and on special teams. As coaches, we'll try to put them in the best positions to do that. The staff is excited about the players we have, and those coming in. We're going to go out and play some exciting football and we plan on having a lot of fun doing that."

FIU's first-ever schedule is loaded with above-average I-AA opponents. The overall record in 2001 of the teams on the schedule was 66-51, and a couple of those (Maine and Western Kentucky) played in last year's NCAA Playoffs while another (season-opening opponent Saint Peter's) led the division in defense.

"This schedule will be a good test to see just where we stand as a program and how much improvement is needed in order to move on to the next level," Strock said.

At this point in time, the offensive-minded Strock believes the defense is the strength of his team. Other than during one spring scrimmage, the defense dominated the proceedings. That, according to Strock, wasn't all that unpredictable.

"On defense, one player makes a big play, and the entire defensive side gets the credit," reasoned Strock. "On offense, the entire unit must work together in order to be successful and that takes time and patience."

Strock and his coaching staff welcome the team to the start of fall practice on Aug. 12. Seventeen days later, the Golden Panthers debut against Saint Peter's in a game that will be televised statewide (and nationally on satellite) on Sunshine Network.

Offense

Former professional quarterback Strock will have three signal-callers in camp, but only one, redshirt freshman David Tabor, spent last year learning the system. Tabor, the All-Osceola County quarterback set county records for most yards passing (5,765) and touchdowns (57). He completed 63.2 percent of his attempts (48 of 76) in six fall scrimmages for 545 yards and two touchdowns.

But two true freshmen enroll at FIU this fall with eyes on the starting assignment. Highly-recruited Jamie Burke threw for 2,835 yards as a senior and led the state with 34 touchdown passes. He was a second-team all-state player and runner-up as Florida's Class 2A Player of the Year. Also expected to compete for playing time at quarterback is All-Space Coast Conference pick Josh Padrick who accounted for almost 1,800 all-purpose yards as a high school senior.

Strock hopes for a balanced offense, a 50-50 mix of pass and run and, because of that, hopes to have seven or eight receivers who will play key roles. Two transfers who will get long looks are sophomores Harold Leath (West Virginia) and Cory McKinney (UConn). Leath participated in spring drills and turned heads with six receptions for 93 yards and a touchdown. McKinney was a first-team all-state selection out of high school.

True freshmen C.J. Smith and Gentry Jackson are also expected to contribute. Smith has prep all-star experience with great hands and good speed while Jackson was the utility player of the year in Florida last year. Besides wide receiver, he can also fill in as a defensive back if the need arises.

Back after spending a redshirt year at FIU are receivers like Everett Mitchell, Julius Eppinger, Lenorris Hestor, Andre Rollins and Michael Edge. Mitchell is expected to see action as a third-down slot-back receiver and Eppinger averaged nearly 11 yards on 14 catches last fall. Hestor (pelvis), Rollins (ACL) and Edge (collar bone) all look to rebound from injuries.

Another freshman who could play into the rotation is walk-on Dan Landrau, a favorite receiver of quarterback Burke at Cardinal Mooney High School. Among his prep accomplishments was being named an area Player of the Week after setting a new state record with nine catches for 225 yards in one game.

Tight ends Edwin Pierre and Joe Struyf also figure into the mix. Pierre was an all-state and all-county selection who ranked among the top tight ends in Florida in 2000. Struyf was a team MVP in three different sports in high school. He led FIU last fall with 18 pass receptions, 201 yards and three touchdowns.

Strock sees the team mainly running the one-back offense with redshirt freshman Tori Robinson, junior Jerrid Lundstedt and true freshman Dravien Jones as the top contenders there. Robinson was the prize of 2001's recruiting class and led all fall rushers with 291 yards on 61 carries and two touchdowns. Lundstedt, a transfer from Southern Illinois University, was one of the top backs in all three spring scrimmages, rushing for 145 yards and a touchdown. Jones is a tough inside runner who was his prep team's MVP after rushing for 1,111 yards last season.

Sophomore Rashod Smith and junior O.J. Price will probably be the first called upon when the two-back offense is employed, as will fullbacks, freshmen Adam Gorman and Adam Radno and sophomore Aston Wilson.

Strock saw potential in his returning offensive line, but went out and recruited size and toughness to help bolster that area. Eight new true freshmen offensive linemen were brought in who average better than 6-feet-4 and 283 pounds each.

"Everyone of the players we had in last year worked hard and at times showed potential, but the offensive line aggressiveness and toughness needs to be improved. That's why we went out and added depth, there," said Strock.

Defense

Strock and his coaches went out and built a defense they believe can compete right away. "Defense is probably the strength of this team, right now," he said. "Our secondary is very strong. The linebacker corps seems solid. We may need a little more help on the line, but overall, I'm pleased."

The coaches seemed settled on the backfield as far back as the end of last fall's practice. Freshman Kris Thomas and sophomore Kevin Timothee are penciled in as the starting cornerbacks. Freshmen Nick Turnbull and John Haritan should be the starting safeties. Thomas is a good cover back who is physical and likes to mix it up. Timothee is another speedster with good cover ability. Turnbull is a playmaker who ranked third on the squad last fall with 28 tackles (14 solo) and led the defense with a pair of interceptions. Haritan showed tremendous improvement in the last year and led the defense with 34 tackles (20 solo) last fall.

A host of others will compete for nickel and dime assignments including sophomore Greg Moss and freshmen Matt Castillo, Terran Bell, Travis Brown and Randy Arnold at the corners, and freshmen Gerrod Bodie, James Knapp,

Demeritt Rucker and Everett Baker at the safeties. Moss is the top nickel back on the depth chart and Arnold is a great athlete who should come in and immediately compete for playing time. Baker is another good athlete who has made a lot of plays as a high school free safety and Knapp has endeared himself to the coaching staff by doubling as the long snapper on punts.

Among a solid group of linebackers, freshmen Dane Ireson (strong side), Lance Preston (middle) and Kyle Salas (weak side) have the inside tracks on starting. Ireson, one of only two players on the roster from outside of Florida, made 19 tackles (11 solo) in the fall. Preston is a tough, physical linebacker, expected to make a lot of tackles. Salas has gotten himself bigger and stronger in the weight room and he made plenty of important defensive plays during the fall and spring scrimmages.

Capable backups at linebacker include sophomore Johnathan Sturrrup who will be used in third-down nickel situations, and freshmen Shaun Dudley and Ethan Cherasia who are expected to compete against Preston and Ireson, respectively.

On the defensive line, Strock has identified freshmen Christopher Horne and Payton Williams as his starting ends. Horne came on in spring drills with 11 tackles and 2.5 quarterback sacks over the last two scrimmages. Williams had 21 tackles (13 solo) in five fall scrimmages and far-and-away dominated the line with 11 quarterback sacks.

The two starting tackle spots are up for grabs, however. Redshirt freshmen Josh Alexander, George Gonzalez, Nick Carreño and sophomore Ira Turner along with true freshmen Terrance Allen and Brandon Higdon will all compete for those two spots.

Special Teams

Kickers have come and gone from camp, but one who has remained is freshman Adam Moss, a strong-legged place kicker who showed promise on kick-offs and long field goal attempts. A former soccer player and softball star while attending the International School of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Moss converted four of eight field goal attempts in fall scrimmages with a long of 38 yards. As a punter, Strock will rely on sophomore Doug Jones who accepted a scholarship to the University of Arizona out of high school but never attended there and spent his freshman year away from football while attending Miami-Dade C.C.



get ready
to roar!

WHERE THEY'RE FROM

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

ARIZONA

Mountain Pointe Aaron Hardy (Mountain Pointe)

FLORIDA

Belle Glade Titorian Freeman (Glades Central)
Bill Grant (Glades Central)
Ali Samara (Glades Central)

Brandon John Shanahan (Brandon)

Casselberry John Haritan (Lyman)
Aston Wilson (Lake Howell)

Clewiston Timothy Dierks (Clewiston)
Danny O'Neal (Clewiston)

Coral Springs Adam Moss (American Heritage)
Ed Wenger (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Davie Pedro Farias (Cooper City)

DeLand Cory McKinney (DeLand)

Ellerton Matt Mathews (Palmetto)

Fernandina Beach Brandon Higdon (Fernandina Beach)

Ft. Lauderdale Dannon Monroe (Plantation)
Kevin Timothe (Plantation)

Ft. Myers Glen Fox (Ft. Myers)

Hallandale Travis Brown (Hallandale)

Homestead Jack Kilburn (South Dade)
Jerrid Lundstedt (South Dade)

Hollywood Rod Baldwin (Hollywood Christian)
Duante Foster (Hollywood Christian)
Lance Preston (Chaminade College Prep)
Demeritt Rucker (Chaminade College Prep)

Key West Chaz Jimenez (Key West)
Patrick Lewin (Key West)

Kissimmee Everett Baker (Osceola)
David Tabor (Poinciana)

Lantana Lagrant Perry (Santaluces)

Marathon Joseph Struyf (Marathon)

Merritt Island Terrance Allen (Merritt Island)
Josh Padrick (Merritt Island)

Miami Gerrod Bodie (Palmetto)
Nick Carreño (Belen Jesuit Prep)
Jordan Chacon (Palmetto)
Diamos Demeritt (Norland)
Shaun Dudley (Palmetto)
Julius Eppinger (Miami Senior)
George Gonzalez (Southridge)
John Gonzalez (Coral Reef)
Christopher Home (Carol City)
Doug Jones (Monsignor Pace)
John Kelly (North Miami)
Larry Leon (Florida Christian)
Greg Moss (Norland)
Edwin Pierre (North Miami)
Tori Robinson (Southridge)
Andre Rollins (Carol City)
Ronny Silva (Avon Old Farms, Conn.)
T.J. Singletary (Coral Gables)
Rashod Smith (Northwestern)
Johnathan Sturup (Monsignor Pace)
Ira Turner (Killian)
Jermell Weaver (Northwestern)

Miami Springs

Matthew Castillo (Miami Springs)
Ethan Cherasia (Miami Springs)

Miramar

Carlos Ruiz (Hialeah Miami Lakes)
Nick Turnbull (Flanagan)

Naples

Adam Radno (Lely)

North Miami

Payton Williams (Northwestern)

Odessa

Josh Gravitt (Hillsborough)

Orlando

Michael Edge (Cypress Creek)
Joe Thomson (Dr. Phillips)

Palm Beach Gardens

Patrick Mullen (Dwyer)

Pembroke Pines

James Knapp (Westminster Academy)
Olen Price (Flanagan)

Port Orange

Gentry Jackson (Spruce Creek)

Plantation

Kyle Salas (Plantation)

Rockledge

James Black (Rockledge)

Riviera Beach

Lenorris Hester (Suncoast)
Everett Mitchell (Suncoast)
Josh Alexander (St. Joseph's Academy)

St. Augustine

Adam Gorman (St. Petersburg Catholic)

St. Petersburg

Sanford

Ed Leverenz (Seminole)

Sarasota

Jamie Burke (Cardinal Mooney)
Dan Landrau (Cardinal Mooney)

Sebastian

Dravien Jones (Sebastian River)

Tamarac

Kris Thomas (American Heritage)

Tampa

Victor Cernius (Tampa Catholic)
Clint Janis-Smith (Jefferson)
Harold Leath (Wharton)
David Vaughns (Robinson)

Tallahassee

Randy Arnold (FAMU)

Valrico

Terran Bell (Fork Union Military Academy, Va.)

PENNSYLVANIA

Elverson Dane Ireson (Owen J. Roberts)

BY CLASS

True Freshmen: 27
Redshirt Freshmen: 38
Sophomores: 14
Juniors: 6
Seniors: 0

PRONUNCIATIONS

Nick Carreño cah-RAIN-yo
Ethan Cherasia chair-ah-SEE-ah
Victor Cernius sir-KNEE-us
Timothy Dierks DERKS
Dan Landrau LAND-row
Harold Leath LEETH
Joseph Struyf STRIFE

GOLDEN PANTHERS

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#92
Defensive Lineman
Position
Freshman
Class
6-2 • 264
Height • Weight
St. Augustine, Fla.
Hometown
St. Joseph's Academy
Previous School/Other

Josh Alexander

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who will battle for a starting defensive tackle spot...played in four of the six fall scrimmages with 15 tackles (six solo) and recorded a pair of sacks...bench pressed 350 pounds by the end of spring practice. **High School:** Highly decorated...tabbed a first-team Blue Chip All-American and an honorable mention selection to the USA Today All-America team...Associated Press Class 1A third-team all-state...All-St. John's County selection...one of only four players from Florida selected to play in the National High School Football Game in Dallas, Tex. that featured 70 of the top prep players in the country...Florida's all-time high school sack leader with more than 50 over his high school career...recorded 101 tackles (57 solo) with 19 sacks and three blocked punts as a senior in 2000...also played scholastic baseball, was the senior class president and a Bright Futures Scholar...coached in football by Val Gunn. **Personal:** Born 3/25/83...nicknamed "Rattlesnake"...chose FIU over interest shown by Florida State, Florida, Southern California, Texas A&M and Auburn...son of Steve and Torree Alexander...Sports Management major.

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman expected to see action in a reserve role and on special teams...played in all six fall scrimmages with 18 tackles (11 solo) and an interception...recorded another three tackles in the spring games. **High School:** Played four years of football and well as four seasons of indoor and outdoor track and field...helped Fork Union to a pair of state football titles in 1998 and '99...voted first-team all-state, all-league and third-team All-Central Virginia...as a senior, made 46 tackles with three interceptions, six breakups and a fumble recovery...also worked as a running back, carrying the ball 24 times for 207 yards...an honor roll student who graduated with an advanced diploma...two-year member of his high school's band and chorus...coached by Mickey Sullivan. **Personal:** Born 10/10/82...chose FIU over interest shown by St. Francis, South Florida, Elon, West Virginia Wesleyan and Appalachian State...son of Theo Bell and Kathy Donnelly...father Theo played as a wide receiver with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1975-85...Industrial Engineering major.



#29
Defensive Back
Position
Freshman
Class
5-10 • 179
Height • Weight
Valrico, Fla.
Hometown
Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy
Previous School/Other

Terran Bell



#5
Defensive Back
Position
Freshman
Class
5-11 • 192
Height • Weight
Miami, Fla.
Hometown
Palmetto H.S.
Previous School/Other

Gerrod Bodie

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman to be used as a backup strong safety and on special teams...played in five of the fall scrimmages and ranked second on the defense with 32 tackles (19 solo), an interception and was tied for the team lead with two fumble recoveries...picked up three more tackles in the spring. **High School:** A three-year starter who was named an honorable mention all-county performer by The Miami Herald...had 40 tackles (24 solo) in 11 games his senior campaign...also recorded a quarterback sack and two tackles for losses that season...named Palmetto's Linebacker of the Year following both his junior and senior years and was the MVP on defense in 2000...helped Palmetto to district titles two straight years...an all-around prep athlete who also lettered in basketball and track...coached in football by Jim Kroll. **Personal:** Born 9/16/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Georgia Southern, Ole Miss and Cincinnati...Computer Engineering major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#77

Defensive Lineman
Position

Freshman
Class

6-3 • 255
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

Belen Jesuit Prep
Previous School/Other

Nick Carreño

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who will enter fall drills looking to secure a starting defensive tackle position...played in five fall scrimmages with 23 tackles (nine solo) and ranked tied for second on the team with four sacks...recorded three more tackles in the spring. **High School:** An all-county athlete in two sports, football and wrestling...first-team All-Miami-Dade in football after 84 tackles, 12 sacks and a fumble recovery as a senior...following that season, competed in the Dade/Broward Counties all-star game...voted his school's Most Improved Wrestler and honorable mention All-Miami-Dade after placing fourth in the region and qualifying for the state meet as a heavyweight...also competed in high school track, registering a 45-foot-6 shot put...coached in football by Richard Stuart. **Personal:** Born 9/5/82...chose FIU over interest shown by UCF and Florida Atlantic...son of Jose and Annie Carreño...Dentistry major.



FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman projected to back up in the defensive backfield and play on special teams...saw action in five of the fall scrimmages with 20 tackles (10 solo) and an interception...had five tackles over the three spring games. **High School:** Excelled at the prep level in both football and basketball...made 50 tackles with three interceptions, three fumble recoveries and a blocked punt on the gridiron while averaging 10 points and four rebounds on the hardwood...named the basketball team's Most Valuable Player...winner of Miami Springs' Golden Hawk Award as well as its Scholar Athlete Award...coached in football by Carl Goins. **Personal:** Born 7/27/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Wagner and Florida Atlantic...son of Robert and Nola Castillo...Business Administration major.



#37

Defensive Back
Position

Freshman
Class

6-0 • 172
Height • Weight

Miami Springs, Fla.
Hometown

Miami Springs H.S.
Previous School/Other

Matt Castillo

FIU Notes:

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who came to FIU as a tackle but has since been moved to center...coaches hope he will be in competition for the starting position this fall...managed to gain 11 pounds since arriving at FIU last fall. **High School:** Extremely powerful prep player who held Tampa Catholic's school record with a leg press of 1,085 points...a first-team All-Hillsborough County performer who participated in the county's East/West high school all-star game...versatile enough to be pressed into service as a full back for two games as a senior...rushed for 128 yards and a touchdown...voted the Crusaders' Rookie of the Year as a sophomore, Most Improved as a junior and Offensive MVP as a senior...Bright Futures Scholar and a member of the National Honors Society. **Personal:** Born 8/19/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Columbia, Dartmouth, Lafayette, South Florida and Auburn...son of Victor and Victoria Cernius...Engineering major.



#75

Offensive Lineman
Position

Freshman
Class

6-4 • 285
Height • Weight

Tampa, Fla.
Hometown

Tampa Catholic H.S.
Previous School/Other

Victor Cernius

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#54

Linebacker
Position

Freshman
Class

6-1 • 219
Height • Weight

Miami Springs, Fla.
Hometown

Miami Springs H.S.
Previous School/Other

Ethan Cherasia

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who will compete for the starting strong-side linebacker...played in all six fall scrimmages with 26 tackles (17 solo) and had six more tackles in spring drills. **High School:** A two-year letterwinner and all-district performer...as a senior, made 107 tackles, two interceptions, blocked a punt, had three sacks, recovered four fumbles and made three other tackles that caused fumbles...as an offensive fullback that same season, carried the ball 46 times for 342 yards (7.43 yard average) and a touchdown...also had catches that amounted to 50 yards and a touchdown...voted the team's Most Valuable Player...played in the Nike All-Star game and was nominated to play in the 2001 Florida/Georgia and Florida's North/South all-star games...coached by Carl Goins. **Personal:** Born 8/11/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Southeast Missouri State, Murray State, Eastern Kentucky and Bethune-Cookman...son of Orrie and Kathy Cherasia...Criminal Justice major.

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who enters fall practice expected to compete for the starting middle linebacker position...played in all six of the fall scrimmages with 26 tackles (12 solo)...recorded eight tackles over the three spring games. **High School:** Three-year starter who was a third-team all-county selection of The Miami Herald...had 54 tackles (40 solo) with three that caused fumbles and a fumble recovery...led the Panthers' defense with eight quarterback sacks and had five tackles that resulted in losses behind the line of scrimmage...helped the Palmetto team win a district championship...named as the team's Defensive MVP and won the Weightlifting Award...also competed in high school track and field...coach in football by Jim Kroll. **Personal:** Born 9/1/82...chose FIU over interest shown by Southern Illinois, Massachusetts and Youngstown State...son of Barrington Dudley and Ingrid Love...undecided major.



#55

Linebacker
Position

Freshman
Class

6-0 • 229
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

Palmetto H.S.
Previous School/Other

Shaun Dudley

FIU Notes:



#82

Wide Receiver
Position

Freshman
Class

6-3 • 191
Height • Weight

Orlando, Fla.
Hometown

Cypress Creek H.S.
Previous School/Other

Michael Edge

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who ended up missing most of fall practice with a broken collar bone...played in the first fall scrimmage and caught three balls for 30 yards with a long of 13...came back in the last spring game with two catches for 39 yards...expected to compete for time in the rotation at the flanker and wide receiver positions. **High School:** Outstanding talent who played four years of football, three of basketball, two of track and a season of baseball...set a new Black Bears' record for catches during his junior season and tied the school mark for interceptions in one game...as a senior, caught seven passes for 250 yards and made 34 tackles with two interceptions and a pair of fumble recoveries as a defensive back...selected to the all-county and all-conference teams...named all-city in basketball and was the team's MVP in 2001...coached in football by Dave Langdon. **Personal:** Born 11/15/82...chose FIU over interest shown by UCF, Bethune-Cookman, Florida Atlantic, South Florida, Louisville and High Point...son of Richard and Janet Edge...Business Administration major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#83

Wide Receiver
Position

Freshman
Class

5-9 • 159
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

Miami Senior H.S.
Previous School/Other

Julius Eppinger

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who is expected to compete for a regular slot receiver spot...caught 14 passes in five of six fall scrimmages for 153 yards for an average of nearly 11 yards per catch...grabbed a 10-yard touchdown reception in the second spring scrimmage and caught three more balls in the final spring game. **High School:** A third-team All-Miami-Dade County selection as a senior and a member of the county all-star team...caught 45 passes for 950 yards as well as five rushes for the Stings, good for 55 yards...also played AAU basketball...one of the 5,000 Role Models of Excellence...coached by Earl Tillman. **Personal:** Born 7/31/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Elmhurst and Catawba...son of Artye and Shirley Eppinger...Business major.



FIU Notes: Redshirt sophomore who is a big pass-rushing defensive end...slowed in the fall by a wrist injury, but came on in the spring to record 11 tackles and a pair of sacks over three scrimmages. **2000 (Freshman):** Attended and competed with the Florida Atlantic program during its practice year as the Owls prepared for their first season of intercollegiate football. **High School:** Played football and basketball at Hollywood Christian, earning all-county honors in both sports for two straight years (1999-2000)...team MVP, Class 2A basketball Player of the Year and The Herald's Athlete of the Year in 2000...coached in football by Ken Cannon. **Personal:** Born: 1/3/82...son of Victor and Ann Foster...Criminal Justice major.



#86

Defensive End
Position

Sophomore
Class

6-2 • 243
Height • Weight

Hollywood, Fla.
Hometown

FAU/Hollywood Christian School
Previous School/Other

Daunte Foster

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman, expected to compete for the starting left-side defensive tackle...played in all six fall scrimmages with 19 tackles (nine solo) and three quarterback sacks. **High School:** Offensive lineman who garnered numerous honors on the grid-iron...first-team all-county, third-team all-state and a Bigger-Faster-Stronger (BFS) second-team All-American...selected the Spartans Most Valuable Offensive Lineman as a sophomore and the team's Most Valuable Offensive Player as a senior...also participated for two years with the track and field team and wrestled for one season...coached in football as a senior by Mike Shapiro. **Personal:** Born 9/3/82...chose FIU over interest shown by Northeastern, Southeast Kentucky and South Florida...son of Jorge and Frances Gonzalez...Business major.



#59

Defensive Lineman
Position

Freshman
Class

6-2 • 243
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

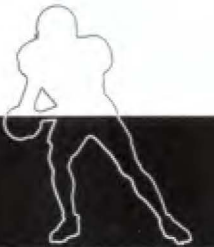
Southridge H.S.
Previous School/Other

George Gonzalez

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman, expected to compete for the starting left-side defensive tackle...played in all six fall scrimmages with 19 tackles (nine solo) and three quarterback sacks. **High School:** Offensive lineman who garnered numerous honors on the grid-iron...first-team all-county, third-team all-state and a Bigger-Faster-Stronger (BFS) second-team All-American...selected the Spartans Most Valuable Offensive Lineman as a sophomore and the team's Most Valuable Offensive Player as a senior...also participated for two years with the track and field team and wrestled for one season...coached in football as a senior by Mike Shapiro. **Personal:** Born 9/3/82...chose FIU over interest shown by Northeastern, Southeast Kentucky and South Florida...son of Jorge and Frances Gonzalez...Business major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#94

Defensive End
Position

Sophomore
Class

6-0 • 246
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

FAU/Coral Reef H.S.
Previous School/Other

John Gonzalez

FIU Notes: Redshirt sophomore expected to take on the role of a third-down pass-rushing defensive end...played in the fall at fullback getting one carry for a minus-one yard...moved to the defensive side of the ball in the spring and recorded three tackles and a sack...managed to gain 23 pounds since arriving at FIU last fall...bench pressed 370 pounds by the end of spring practice. **2000 (Freshman):** Attended and competed with the Florida Atlantic program during its practice year as the Owls prepared for their first season of intercollegiate football. **High School:** An all-county selection at Coral Reef in 1999 and 2000 with a career 139 carries for 837 yards (six yard average)...coached by Earnest Perkins. **Personal:** Born 4/27/82...son of John and Jill Gonzalez...undecided major.

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who should be used extensively at fullback in the two-back set...good blocker who will be counted on to effectively pick up blitzes...third-leading rusher in the fall gaining 71 yards on 16 carries with a long run of 13 yards. **High School:** A four-year starter and an all-academic team nominee...first-team All-Pinellas County and honorable mention all-state...rushed 71 times for 477 yards (6.1 yards per carry) with 11 touchdowns as a senior...capable receiver with 27 catches, good for 497 yards and two TDs, an average of 18.4 yards per reception...also played outside linebacker on defense when necessary, and made 15 tackles...over four years for the Barons, recorded 1,500 rushing yards, another 1,100 yards in the air and had 34 touchdowns...an outstanding prep baseball player...named all-county in baseball all four years with a career average .335, 21 home runs and 124 RBI...earned team MVP honors in both football and baseball as a senior...played two seasons of AAU baseball with his team finishing third in the national tournament...coached in football by Dan Mancuso. **Personal:** Born 3/23/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Florida Atlantic, Villanova, UCF and Boston College...son of Robert and Kaye Gorman...older brother Ted was an All-America rugby player at UCF...Criminal Justice major.



#44

Running Back
Position

Freshman
Class

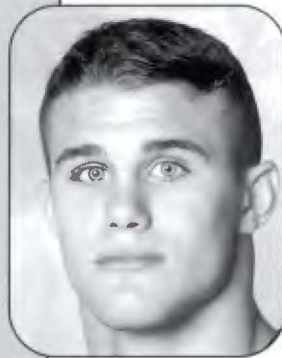
5-11 • 207
Height • Weight

St. Petersburg, Fla.
Hometown

St. Petersburg Catholic H.S.
Previous School/Other

Adam Gorman

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who impressed coaches with tremendous improvement over the fall and spring...comes into fall practice as the starting strong safety...led the team last fall with 34 tackles (20 solo) over six scrimmages with an interception and two fumble recoveries...had a team-leading five tackles in the final spring game...ended last spring bench pressing 300 pounds. **High School:** The Orlando Sentinel's Seminole County Defensive Player of the Year...2000 honors include all-conference, all-county, Florida Athletic Coaches' Association all-district, South Orlando Kiwanis Club All-Central Florida and honorable mention all-state...selected to compete in the Dixon Ticonderoga second annual Central Florida all-star game...led the county in tackles, collected 105 solo and 65 assists...added 18 tackles for losses, three sacks and three interceptions as a senior...over his last two years, racked up 327 tackles and more than 400 over his three-year high school career...as a first-time punter, averaged 38 yards per kick and turned five low snaps into four first downs...also competed with Greyhounds wrestling, weightlifting and track teams...undefeated as a senior heavyweight wrestler...voted Most Outstanding Heavyweight Wrestler in four tournaments that year...finished his prep wrestling career with a 39-1 record...coached in football by Bill Caughell, Jr. **Personal:** Born 11/15/82...chose FIU over interest shown by Colorado and Florida Atlantic...raised by his grandmother Irabelle Linker...Criminal Justice major.



#31

Defensive Back
Position

Freshman
Class

5-11 • 192
Height • Weight

Casselberry, Fla.
Hometown

Longwood Lyman H.S.
Previous School/Other

John Haritan

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who impressed coaches with tremendous improvement over the fall and spring...comes into fall practice as the starting strong safety...led the team last fall with 34 tackles (20 solo) over six scrimmages with an interception and two fumble recoveries...had a team-leading five tackles in the final spring game...ended last spring bench pressing 300 pounds. **High School:** The Orlando Sentinel's Seminole County Defensive Player of the Year...2000 honors include all-conference, all-county, Florida Athletic Coaches' Association all-district, South Orlando Kiwanis Club All-Central Florida and honorable mention all-state...selected to compete in the Dixon Ticonderoga second annual Central Florida all-star game...led the county in tackles, collected 105 solo and 65 assists...added 18 tackles for losses, three sacks and three interceptions as a senior...over his last two years, racked up 327 tackles and more than 400 over his three-year high school career...as a first-time punter, averaged 38 yards per kick and turned five low snaps into four first downs...also competed with Greyhounds wrestling, weightlifting and track teams...undefeated as a senior heavyweight wrestler...voted Most Outstanding Heavyweight Wrestler in four tournaments that year...finished his prep wrestling career with a 39-1 record...coached in football by Bill Caughell, Jr. **Personal:** Born 11/15/82...chose FIU over interest shown by Colorado and Florida Atlantic...raised by his grandmother Irabelle Linker...Criminal Justice major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#89

Wide Receiver
Position

Freshman
Class

6-3 • 182
Height • Weight

Riviera Beach, Fla.
Hometown

Suncoast H.S.
Previous School/Other

Lenorris Hester

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who should contend for a starting wide receiver of flanker position this fall...despite playing in only three scrimmages, ranked second on the team in the fall with 10 catches good for 190 yards and a touch-down, then injured his pelvis, missing the rest of the fall and all of spring practice. **High School:** Played four years of football and basketball and ran three seasons of track...voted Best Offensive and Best Defensive Player on the Suncoast football team as a senior...caught 20 passes for 260 yards and made 60 tackles and two fumble recoveries...played in the Outback All-Star Game...in basketball, averaged 11 points, six rebounds and three assists and received the team's Best Offensive and Most Dedicated Player awards...helped the Chargers basketball team to a district championship and the track team to a state



runner-up finish...coached in football by Jimmie Bell. **Personal:** Born 12/17/81...son of Derrick and Juanita Brown...undecided major.

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who established himself as the starting left defensive end...played in three of the fall scrimmages with seven tackles (five solo) and four quarter-back sacks...came on big in the spring with 11 tackles and 2.5 sacks over the last two scrimmages...managed to gain 16 points since first arriving on campus last fall. **High School:** Third-team All-Miami-Dade County performer for the Chiefs...senior statistics included 76 tackles, seven sacks, five forced fumbles and two interceptions...helped Carol City to three district titles...member of the school's Key Club...playing youth football and was a four time MVP...coached by Walt Fraser. **Personal:** Born 9/12/82...chose FIU over interest shown by Hampton and Texas Southern...son of Mary Horne...Elementary Education major.



#97

Defensive Lineman
Position

Freshman
Class

6-3 • 220
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

Carol City H.S.
Previous School/Other

Chris Horne

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman and one of only two players on the roster from outside the state of Florida...projected as the starting strong-side linebacker this season...played in all six of the fall scrimmages with 19 tackles (11 solo). **High School:** Named the Pioneer Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year following his senior campaign...an all-county selection who was voted as the league MVP...all-league selection for three consecutive seasons...had 89 tackles with eight sacks and six interceptions, five of which he ran back for touchdowns...also caught 21 passes with six touchdowns...competed in track and field, throwing the javelin and shot put and running the 100-meter dash and 4x100m relays...coached in football by Tom Barr. **Personal:** Born 11/5/82...chose FIU over interest shown by Colgate, Shippensburg and East Stroudsburg...son of Earl and Debra Ireson...undecided major.



#56

Linebacker
Position

Freshman
Class

6-2 • 218
Height • Weight

Elverson, Penn.
Hometown

Owen J. Roberts H.S.
Previous School/Other

Dane Ireson

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#52

Linebacker
Position

Junior
Class

5-9 • 207
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

Miami-Dade C.C./
North Miami H.S.
Previous School/Other

John Kelly

FIU Notes: Redshirt junior who was invited onto the team after participating in a try-out camp that was open to the general student body...expected to see action as a back-up middle linebacker and on special teams...recorded 12 tackles (four solo) in five fall scrimmages and another five tackles in three spring games...bench pressed 365 pounds by the end of spring practice. **Junior College and High School:** Hadn't competed in any organized football since the sixth grade. **Personal:** Born 8/2/78...son of Timothy and Allison Kelly...Finance major.

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who will be used as a back-up safety and as the long snapper on punts...made 11 tackles (five solo) over five fall scrimmages along with five tackles and an interception in the spring. **High School:** Played a season of football and baseball at Westminster making 85 tackles while hitting .302 with two home runs...all-county, all-conference and an honorable mention all-state football player...member of Westminster Academy's 2000 baseball state championship squad...spent his first three years of high school at Hollywood Christian where he played football, baseball and basketball...participated with Youth Ministries...coached in football at Westminster Academy by Bill Long. **Personal:** Born 5/10/82...chose FIU over interest shown by the University of Buffalo and Holy Cross...son of James and Nixia Knapp...Sports Management major.



#42

Defensive Back
Position

Freshman
Class

5-11 • 201
Height • Weight

Pembroke Pines, Fla.
Hometown

Westminster Academy
Previous School/Other

James Knapp



#9

Wide Receiver
Position

Sophomore
Class

6-3 • 190
Height • Weight

Tampa, Fla.
Hometown

West Virginia University/
Wharton H.S.
Previous School/Other

Harold Leath

FIU Notes: Sophomore eligible after transferring to FIU prior to last spring...expected to earn the starting split end spot...caught six passes in the spring for 93 yards and one touchdown. **2000 (Redshirt):** Spent the season as a member of the West Virginia University scout team. **High School:** Played three seasons of football and basketball and ran track for two years at Wharton...an all-county performer and twice named MVP of the football team...caught 45 passes for 900 yards and 11 touchdowns for the Wildcats...played free safety and returned punts and kickoffs...all-county, leading scorer and team MVP in basketball, averaging 13 points per game...winner of the Hustle Award in track...received Wharton's Most Athletic Award...honors student...member of Interact and the Senior Clubs...played AAU basketball...coached in football by Richard Woods. **Personal:** Born 12/26/81...son of Harold Leath, Sr., and Ava Drisdorn...uncle Dewayne Drisdorn was a starting strong safety in football at Florida A&M...Business major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#69

Offensive Lineman
Position

Freshman
Class

6-3 • 278
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

Peddie Prep School (NJ)/
Florida Christian School
Previous School/Other

Larry Leon

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who is expected to play a back-up role at an offensive tackle spot and work on special teams...managed to bulk-up 15 points since arriving on the FIU campus last fall. **2000 (Peddie Prep):** Helped the Falcons to the Maple League finals and was named as a Player of the Week. **High School:** Second-team all-county 2A performer who was part of the Patriots district champion and regional finalist...team co-captain as a senior...strong-side tackle, center and long snapper...Florida Christian running backs rushed for more than 5,200 yards during the three seasons that he was a member of the starting offensive line...recipient of the 110% Award and Patriot Award for football prowess...also competed with the FCS track team where he threw the discus and shot put as well as with the basketball and baseball teams...voted Most Improved in basketball...coached in football by Chris Rivera. **Personal:** Born 6/17/82...full name Lazaro Leon...chose FIU over interest shown by Monmouth, Mt. Union, Columbia, St. Peter's and Lafayette...son of Lazaro and Marta Leon...International Business major.



#63

Offensive Lineman
Position

Freshman
Class

5-11 • 244
Height • Weight

Key West, Fla.
Hometown

Key West H.S.
Previous School/Other

Patrick Lewin

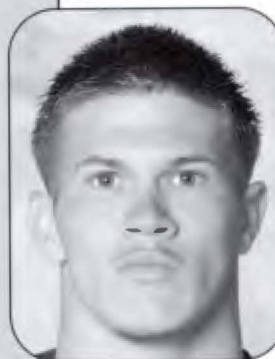
FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman to be used as a backup offensive guard and will help with special teams...managed to gain some 20 pounds since his arrival at FIU in the fall of 2001. **High School:** Four-year varsity letterwinner at Key West...a second-team all-state selection as a senior...twice named all-county and was voted the Conchs' Best Defensive Lineman...won academic English honors...coached by Greg Kremer. **Personal:** Born 2/1/82...full name is David Patrick Lewin...chose FIU over interest shown by Sacred Heart and Valdosta State...son of Kent and Monica Lewin...undecided major.



FOOTBALL FIU FOOTBALL FIU FOOTBALL FIU FOOTBALL

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#38

Running Back
Position

Junior
Class

5-11 • 197
Height • Weight

Homestead, Fla.
Hometown

Florida Atlantic/Southern
Illinois/South Dade H.S.
Previous School/Other

Jerrid Lundstedt

FIU Notes: Junior eligible who is a tough tailback-type runner...will be in the mix for playing time in the one-back offense...carried the ball 16 times in the six fall scrimmages for 55 yards and a touchdown...one of the top backs in all three spring scrimmages, rushing for 145 yards and a touchdown...bench pressed 365 pounds by the end of spring practice. **2000 (Sophomore):** Attended and competed with the Florida Atlantic program during its practice year as the Owls prepared for their first season of inter-collegiate football. **1999 (Freshman):** Attended Southern Illinois University where he played five games on special teams and made two tackles...earned Dean's List honors. **High School:** Played four years of football and wrestled for one season at South Dade...second-leading rusher in Miami-Dade County as a senior with 1,800 yards...also made 104 tackles with six interceptions as a defensive back...first-team all-county and second-team all-state recognition following that season...twice named the Buccaneers' MVP...member of South Dade's 1999 state championship wrestling team...coached in football by Don Drinkhahn. **Personal:** Born 10/25/80...son of Jack and Rhonda Lundstedt...Nursing major.



FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who is projected to be the starting left offensive tackle...put on some 13 pounds since first arriving on campus last fall. **High School:** Started 37 straight games on the offensive line at Palmetto...voted the team's Outstanding Lineman and was selected as a Manatee County all-star and to the all-district team...helped the Tigers to the district championship...played in the PAL Bowl game that pitted all-stars from Manatee against Sarasota County...named All-Gulf Coast Area afterwards...also competed in prep baseball, track and field, basketball and weightlifting...advanced to district competition in the shot put...coached in football by Bob Bowling. **Personal:** Born 4/9/82...full name Talmadge Mathews...chose FIU over interest shown by Connecticut, Louisville, Furman, The Citadel, Florida Atlantic and UCF...son of Talmadge and Billy Ruth Mathews...married and with wife Suzanne the couple have a one-year-old son, Lee...General Construction major.



#79

Offensive Lineman
Position

Freshman
Class

6-4 • 282
Height • Weight

Ellerton, Fla.
Hometown

Palmetto H.S.
Previous School/Other

Matt Mathews



#48

Linebacker
Position

Junior
Class

6-2 • 212
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

West Virginia State/
Miami Edison H.S.
Previous School/Other

Geurby Mertil

FIU Notes: Junior eligible who will be used as a back-up linebacker and on special teams...involved in five tackles over three spring scrimmages after transferring to FIU over the holiday break. **2000 (Freshman):** Played in nine games at West Virginia State making four tackles (two solo), one of those forcing a 3-yard loss. **1999 (Redshirt):** Spent the season as a member of the West Virginia State scout team. **High School:** Played three seasons of football at Miami Edison for coach Curry Bell. **Personal:** Born 4/6/79...son of Fertilen and Ann Mertil...Therapeutic Recreation.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Wide Receiver
Position

#2

Freshman
Class

5-9 • 173
Height • Weight

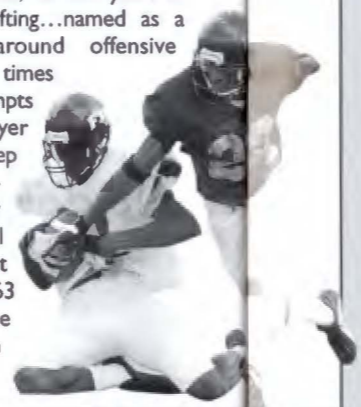
Riviera Beach, Fla.
Hometown

Suncoast H.S.
Previous School/Other

Everett Mitchell

in the 400-meter dash...coached in football by Jimmie Bell. **Personal:** Born 9/9/82...nicknamed "Mann"...chose FIU over interest shown by Missouri, Eastern Kentucky and Miami...son of Everett Mitchell and Joyce Jean Henderson...father played four years of football at Lincoln (Mo.) University...Electrical Engineering major.

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman with good moves down the field...expected to see action as a third-down slot back receiver...ranked second on the squad last fall with 16 receptions in five scrimmages, good for 152 yards and a touchdown...grabbed two scoring passes in the second of three spring scrimmage. **High School:** Played four years of football, four years of basketball, ran two years of track and competed in two years of powerlifting...named as a Suncoast Athlete of the Week...an all-around offensive threat...caught 32 passes for 842 yards, rushed 45 times for 573 yards and completed 19 of 36 pass attempts for 653 yards...numerous Most Valuable Player awards while competing in both recreation and prep football, including the Chargers' MVP in 1998-99...in basketball, averaged 16.2 points and nearly five steals and assists per game...earned basketball recognition as an Athlete of the Week, Best Defensive Player and Most Improved...ran a 50.63



FIU Notes: Sophomore eligible who will be used as an H-Back and motion receiver...caught nine passes for 75 yards over five fall scrimmages. **2000 (Freshman):** Spent the season as a redshirt at Fordham University...member of the Student Government Association. **High School:** Played four years of football at Plantation for coach Frank Hepler, helping the Colonels to three straight district and regional championships...finished among the top-20 percent of his graduating class...an amateur bowler who was a three-time division champion. **Personal:** Born 11/26/81...son of Monrow Monroe and Willie Blake...Accounting major.



Tight End
Position

#88

Sophomore
Class

6-4 • 208
Height • Weight

Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Hometown

Fordham/Plantation H.S.
Previous School/Other

Dannon Monroe

FIU Notes: Walk-on redshirt freshman with a strong-enough leg to handle kick offs and long field goal attempts...converted four of eight field goal tries in fall scrimmages with a long of 38 yards. **High School:** A soccer and softball player while attending the International School of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia where he was team MVP and an all-tournament selection...transferred to American Heritage for his junior and senior years where he still continued with soccer but also participated in football and basketball...coached in football at American Heritage by Byron Walker. **Personal:** Born 1/25/83...son of Raymond and Cathy Moss...Hospitality Management major.



Kicker
Position

#14

Freshman
Class

6-2 • 191
Height • Weight

Coral Springs, Fla.
Hometown

American Heritage School
Previous School/Other

Adam Moss



PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Defensive Back
Position

#8

Sophomore
Class

5-6 • 169
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

**Virginia Union/
Miami Norland H.S.**
Previous School/Other

Greg Moss

FIU Notes: Sophomore eligible who is a great cover back and a fierce competitor...top nickel back on the depth chart...made 27 tackles (20 solo) over the first four fall scrimmages before going down with broken jaw...returned in the spring to make five tackles over two scrimmages. **2000 (Freshman):** Played in nine of the 11-game Virginia Union schedule with 25 tackles (19 solo) and two of those resulted in losses...made three interceptions for the Panthers, broke up seven other passes and recovered a fumble...following the year, named to the CIAA all-rookie team. **High School:** A three-sport participant at Norland...played basketball and track in addition to football...a Miami-Dade all-star and recipient of the Coach's Award as a senior...made 50 tackles that season with five interceptions, one fumble recovery and two touchdowns...coached in football by current FIU assistant Curt Wiles. **Personal:** Born 9/2/82...nicknamed "G.T"...son of Gregory Moss and Debra Deal...cousin Santana Moss was a wide receiver with the University of Miami and now plays for the New York Jets...Physical Education major.



FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who enters fall practice as the No. 1 tight end on the depth chart...had 14 catches for 132 yards and a touchdown with a long of 30 yards in five fall scrimmages...caught seven passes, good for 71 yards in three spring games. **High School:** Helped North Miami to its first back-to-back winning seasons in 10 years...an all-state and all-county selection on offense as a senior...ranked among the top tight ends in the state of Florida in 2000...caught 15 balls and scored five touchdowns while recording seven sacks on defense...two-time team MVP for his play at tight end, as a defensive end and at line-backer...played basketball and competed in wrestling as a junior...honorable mention all-county wrestler as a junior...member of the Pioneers' 1999 district champion basketball team...high school service hours including time spent with the Feed the Homeless and Give an Extra Hand organizations...coached in football by Gil Lora. **Personal:** Born 6/11/82...chose FIU over interest shown by Iowa State, Rutgers, Florida Atlantic, South Florida, Florida A&M and Auburn...son of Jeanette Pata...Education major.



Tight End
Position

#85

Freshman
Class

6-2 • 238
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

North Miami H.S.
Previous School/Other

Edwin Pierre

FOOTBALL FIU FOOTBALL FIU FOOTBALL FIU FOOTBALL FIU F

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#43

Linebacker
Position

Freshman
Class

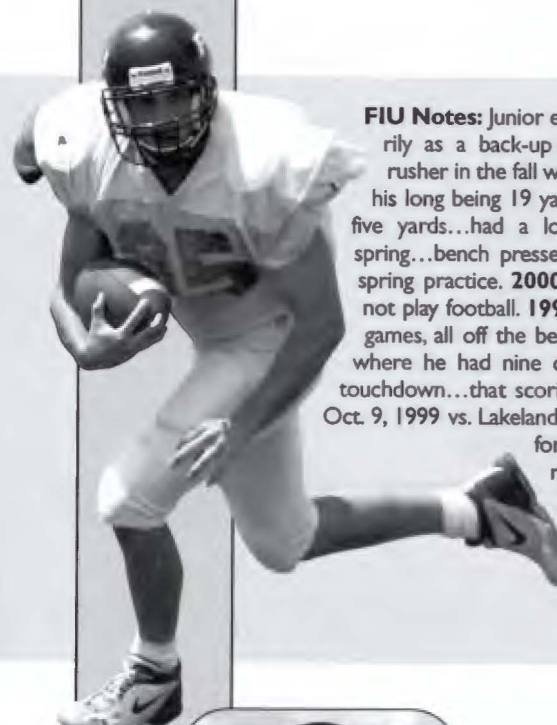
6-0 • 223
Height • Weight

Hollywood, Fla.
Hometown

Chaminade College Prep
Previous School/Other

Lance Preston

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman projected as the starting middle linebacker...tough and physical, expected to make a lot of tackles...had 19 tackles (seven solo) in five fall scrimmages and another 10 in the three spring games. **High School:** Two-year starter and a member of Chaminade's 2000 district championship squad...82 tackles led the defense...13 of those resulted in losses and six were quarterback sacks...a first-team all-county selection by both The Herald and Sun-Sentinel...honorable mention all-state...team captain...also played a year of baseball for the Lions...coached in football by Mark Guandolo. **Personal:** Born 6/6/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Fordham, Hofstra and Norwood...son of Mike and Annie MacDonnell... Construction Management major..



FIU Notes: Junior eligible who will be used primarily as a back-up running back...fourth-leading rusher in the fall with 56 yards on 18 carries with his long being 19 yards...also caught one pass for five yards...had a long run of 32 yards in the spring...bench pressed 305 pounds by the end of spring practice. **2000 (Sophomore):** Sat out, did not play football. **1999 (Freshman):** Played seven games, all off the bench, for Concordia University where he had nine carries for 19 yards and one touchdown...that scoring run went for 10 yards on Oct. 9, 1999 vs. Lakeland College...also had one catch for 11 yards and had two kick-off returns totaling 34 yards. **High School:** Earned four football varsity letters, two in track and one in baseball at Flanagan...voted special teams' MVP as a junior and Offensive MVP as a senior for the Falcons...coached by Chris Hipsley. **Personal:** Born 12/22/80...full name is Olen J. Price...son of Olen and Donna Price...Management Information Systems major.



#35

Running Back
Position

Junior
Class

5-9 • 186
Height • Weight

Pembroke Pines, Fla.
Hometown

Concordia (Ill.) University/
Flanagan H.S. Previous School/Other

O.J. Price

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who coaches look to excel in the one-back offense...good size...hard runner and good blocker who figures prominently in the team's plans...leading rusher last fall with 291 yards on 61 carries and two touchdowns...also caught six passes for 25 yards... sat out most of spring drills for medical reasons before running for 36 yards on eight carries in the final spring game. **High School:** Helped the Spartans reach the second round of the state playoffs and a 10-2 season record in 2000... rushed for 730 yards and seven touchdowns that year...also excelled in track where he was a first-team all-county selection after being a part of the school's record-breaking 4x100m relay team (41.02)...coached in football by Mike Shapiro.



#6

Running Back
Position

Freshman
Class

6-0 • 213
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

Southridge H.S.
Previous School/Other

Tori Robinson

Personal: Born 9/26/82...full name Taurean Robinson... chose FIU over interest shown by Northeastern and Youngstown State...son of James and Juanita Robinson...Business major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#3

Wide Receiver
Position

Freshman
Class

6-4 • 205
Height • Weight

Miami, Fla.
Hometown

Carol City H.S.
Previous School/Other

Andre Rollins

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman coming off ACL surgery of the left knee last fall...hopefully, his rehabilitation is far enough along to allow him to compete for a starting spot...prior to the injury, had seven catches in three fall scrimmages, good for 50 yards. **High School:** Speedster who was a two-year district champion in track's 110-meter hurdles...also competed in the 300m dash...ran a 4.4, 40-yard dash...voted Most Athletic in his senior class...National Honor Society member...coached in football by Walt Fraser. **Personal:** Born 1/14/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Florida, UCF, Alabama and North Carolina...son of Noah and Connie Rollins...Business major.

FIU Notes: Sophomore eligible who will compete for the starting center position...has put on some 10 pounds since first arriving on campus last fall...bench pressed 395 pounds by the end of spring practice. **2000 (Freshman):** Competed in two games on the offensive line, both coming off the bench, at Jacksonville University. **High School:** Played two seasons of football and two of water polo at Hialeah Miami Lakes...voted HML's Most Valuable Offensive Lineman and was an honorable mention member of The Miami Herald's all-county team...also was an all-county performer in water polo as a goalie whose average margin of victory was 17.5 points...coached in football by Jeff Rogers. **Personal:** Born 9/30/81...son of Carlos and Maria Ruiz...Finance major.



#62

Offensive Lineman
Position

Sophomore
Class

6-1 • 267
Height • Weight

Miramar, Fla.
Hometown

Jacksonville University/
Hialeah Miami Lakes H.S. Previous School/Other

Carlos Ruiz

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman expected to start at the weak-side linebacker position...showed tremendous improvement over the past year as he has gotten bigger and stronger...made a lot of important plays during fall and spring scrimmages...had 13 tackles (nine solo) in five fall scrimmages and another 11 in three spring games. **High School:** Three-year starter at Plantation that advanced to the third round of the 2000 state playoffs after upset victories over Carol City and Deerfield Beach...had 114 total tackles, an interception, six fumble recoveries and three quarterback sacks...second-team All-Broward County selection of both The Herald and Sun-Sentinel...honorable mention all-state...coached by Frank Helper. **Personal:** Born 5/30/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Massachusetts and Connecticut...son of Albert and Jan Salas...grandfather Robert Rousbaugh played collegiate football at the University of Miami and for a time in the NFL...Engineering major.



#45

Linebacker
Position

Freshman
Class

6-1 • 213
Height • Weight

Plantation, Fla.
Hometown

Plantation H.S.
Previous School/Other

Kyle Salas

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#71
Offensive Lineman
Position
Freshman
Class
6-2 • 256
Height • Weight
Belle Glade, Fla.
Hometown
Glades Central H.S.
Previous School/Other

Ali Samara

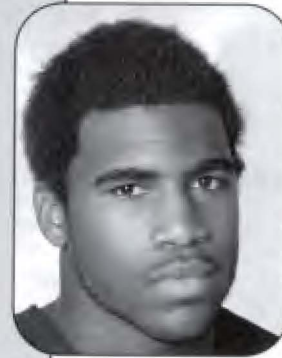
FIU Notes: Expected to compete for the starting right offensive guard position...has worked hard in the weight room to increase strength...gained 16 pounds since arriving at FIU last fall...bench-pressed 355 pounds by the end of spring practice. **High School:** An important member of the three-time Class 3A state champion Raiders...three-year starter who anchored both the offensive and defensive lines...10 of his tackles as a senior were for losses...named all-area by The Palm Beach Post...winner of the Most Improved Award in 1999, and the Offensive Line Award and Coach's Award as a senior...National Honor Society and a member of the student council...selected Mr. Glades Central in a vote by the student body...coached by Willie Bueno. **Personal:** Born 6/21/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Marshall, Rutgers and Florida Atlantic...son of Jay and Hina Samara...International Business major.

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who moved from defensive back to linebacker last fall...suffered a broken leg in the fall and it's hoped he can come all the way back...being counted on to perform well on special teams. **High School:** Played three years of football, ran four years of track and played two seasons of prep basketball while attending three different high schools...named Coral Gables' track team's Most Valuable Sprinter after a personal best 10.8 in the 100-meter dash...also voted Most Improved...in football, had 78 tackles as a senior with two interceptions...coached in football at Coral Gables by Joe Montoya. **Personal:** Born 1/18/83...full name Anthony Singletary...chose FIU over interest shown by Florida Atlantic and Iowa...son of Anthony and Terry Singletary...undecided major.



#24
Linebacker
Position
Freshman
Class
6-3 • 203
Height • Weight
Coconut Grove, Fla.
Hometown
Coral Gables H.S.
Previous School/Other

T.J. Singletary



#4
Running Back
Position
Sophomore
Class
5-7 • 184
Height • Weight
Miami, Fla.
Hometown
**Bryant (R.I.) College/
 Northwestern H.S.**
Previous School/Other

Rashod Smith

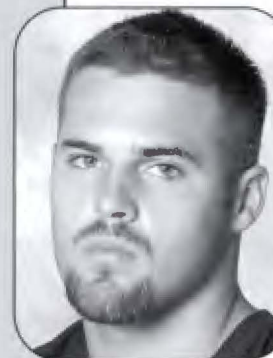
FIU Notes: Sophomore eligible who should see most of his playing time in the two-back backfield...great quick-ness...second-leading team rusher in the fall with 154 yards on 19 carries for an average of 8.1 yards per carry...scored a touchdown and his long run of the fall was 44 yards...top ball carrier in the spring with 32 carries for 137 yards and two touchdowns. **2000 (Freshman):** He immediately raised eyebrows at Bryant, averaging better than 60 yards over the first two games of the year before breaking a toe and never returning to play there...he carried the ball 32 times for 121 yards and a touchdown. **High School:** Third-team all-county running back on Northwestern High School's

1998 state championship team and the following year, he was the Bulls' Offensive MVP...finished tenth in the county in rushing as a senior...member of Northwestern's state champion track team...coached in football by Billy Rolle. **Personal:** Born 9/27/82...son of Karla Smith...undecided major.



PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#81
Tight End
Position
Freshman
Class
6-1 • 223
Height • Weight
Marathon, Fla.
Hometown
Marathon H.S.
Previous School/Other

Joseph Struyf

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman battling for the starting tight end position...led the squad last fall with 18 pass receptions, 201 yards and three touchdowns...caught five passes for 26 yards and a touchdown in the spring. **High School:** An all-around athlete at Marathon, playing football, baseball, soccer and hockey...three-time MVP in baseball and football and all-county in both sports, as well as in soccer...twice named as The Key West Citizen's Player of the Year and a state 1A finalist for Player of the Year in baseball with a prep career batting average of .560...in football, rushed for 2,019 yards on offense, made 164 tackles on defense and averaged 41.7 yards punting...coached in football by Jerry Jones. **Personal:** Born 7/25/82...chose FIU over interest shown by UCF, Bemidji State, Lehigh and Miami of Ohio...son of Kerry and Debbie Struyf...Biology major.

FIU Notes: Sophomore eligible who will be used as a nickel linebacker on third down situations...also will also help out on special teams...recorded 21 tackles (11 solo) over five fall scrimmages...picked up four more tackles during the spring games. **High School:** Hadn't competed since 1999 when he was an honorable mention all-county linebacker at Pace...recorded 130 tackles as a senior with five fumble recoveries...coached by Joe Zaccheo. **Personal:** Born 4/22/82...son of Wendell and Kathy Sturrup...Physical Education major.



#53
Linebacker
Position
Sophomore
Class
5-9 • 202
Height • Weight
Carol City, Fla.
Hometown
Monsignor Pace H.S.
Previous School/Other

Johnathan Sturrup

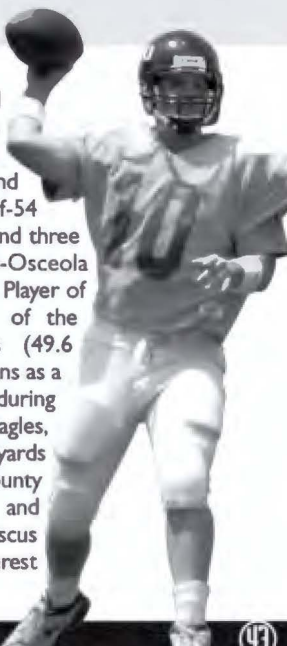


#10
Quarterback
Position
Freshman
Class
6-1 • 212
Height • Weight
Kissimmee, Fla.
Hometown
Poinciana H.S.
Previous School/Other

David Tabor

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who will compete for the starting quarterback position...completed 63.2 percent of his passes last fall (48 for 76) for 545 yards and two touchdowns...connected on 31-of-54 passes (.574) in the spring for 338 yards and three scores. **High School:** First-team All-Osceola County quarterback...also named district Player of the Year and was a four-time Player of the Week...completed 132-of-266 passes (49.6 percent) for 1,918 yards and 17 touchdowns as a senior in 2000...19 pass interceptions...during his three-year prep career with the Eagles, completed 414 of 822 (.504) for 5,765 yards and 57 touchdowns, both of which are county records...also ran four years of track, and

played three years of basketball and a season of soccer...holds the Poinciana school record with a discus throw of 165-feet...coached in football by Mike Cullison. **Personal:** Born 10/10/82...chose FIU over interest shown by South Florida and Lynore Rhyme...son of David and Susan Tabor...undecided major.



PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#22
Defensive Back
 Position
Freshman
 Class
6-1 • 187
 Height • Weight
Tamarac, Fla.
 Hometown
American Heritage School
 Previous School/Other

Kris Thomas

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who is expected to be the starting boundary corner back...good cover back who is physical and likes to mix it up...made 22 tackles (14 solo) over the six fall scrimmages with an interception...had eight tackles with a fumble recovery in the three spring games. **High School:** A two-time all-state performer who had 21 interceptions over his scholastic career...had two kick returns that went for touchdowns and four offensive scores...named to the all-county team three times...played basketball for the Patriots and also ran the 400-meter dash, 4x400m relay and was a high jumper...coached in football by Byron Walker. **Personal:** Born 10/19/82...nicknamed "Super Man"...chose FIU over interest shown by Marshall, FAU, Virginia Tech and North Carolina State...son of Lynn Ana Darrah...Business major.

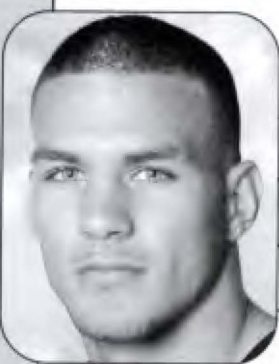
FIU Notes: Sophomore eligible who is a strong candidate for the starting field corner back spot...possesses nice size and good speed...good cover ability...expected to make a lot of big plays...had 14 tackles (nine solo) with a fumble recovery in five fall scrimmages...contributed another five tackles in spring games...bench pressed 305 pounds by the end of spring practice. **2000 (Freshman):** Recruited by and attended the University of Mississippi but did not see action during his true freshman season. **High School:** Selected first-team all-county by The Herald and was a second-team All-Broward defensive back pick of The Sun-Sentinel...honorable mention All-State selection...team's Most Valuable Defensive Back...as a senior, was credited with 75 tackles and two pass interceptions while also rushed for over 100 yards on offense...earned three letters in track...coached in football by Frank Hepler. **Personal:** Born 11/30/81...son of Denise Timothee...Broadcast major.



#27
Defensive Back
 Position
Sophomore
 Class
6-0 • 184
 Height • Weight
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
 Hometown
Ole Miss/Plantation H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Kevin Timothee

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman expected to step in as the starting free safety...a playmaker who will be looked to for making big plays...ranked third on the team in the fall with 28 tackles (14 solo) and led the defense with two interceptions...had another 11 tackles and a pair of interceptions in the three spring games...bench pressed 305 pounds by the end of spring practice. **High School:** Played four years of football and three of basketball at Flanagan...three-time all-county selection...named all-state after 193 tackles and a county record 23 interceptions as a senior...appeared in Who's Who in Sports and was a southeast region All-American...averaged 21.7 points and 13 rebounds for the Falcon basketball team...coached in football by Larry Brown. **Personal:** Born 7/28/81...chose FIU over interest shown by Florida, UCF, Jacksonville, Colorado State and Boston College...son of James and Patricia Turnbull...Management Information Systems major.



#21
Defensive Back
 Position
Freshman
 Class
6-2 • 215
 Height • Weight
Miramar, Fla.
 Hometown
Flanagan H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Nick Turnbull

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#98
Defensive Lineman
 Position
Sophomore
 Class
6-1 • 247
 Height • Weight
Miami, Fla.
 Hometown
Killian H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Ira Turner

FIU Notes: Sophomore eligible who will be competing for a starting spot at a defensive tackle...one of the top tacklers in the fall with 27 (13 solo), along with one sack and one fumble recovery...picked up another 11 tackles over the three spring games. **High School:** Played four years of football and competed one year with the track team at Killian...as a senior, made 60 tackles with six quarterback sacks and four fumble recoveries...coached by Sam Miller. **Personal:** Born 2/28/82...full name Ira Turner IV...chose FIU over interest shown by Florida A&M, Eastern Kentucky, Bryant and Emporia State...son of Ira Turner III and Loretta Price...sister Lamekia plays collegiate basketball at The Brown Mackie College...Management Information Systems major.

FIU Notes: Junior eligible who will work as a back-up linebacker and be part of special teams...enrolled in school prior to the 2002 spring semester and contributed two tackles during the three spring games. **High School:** Played four years each of football, basketball and track at Robinson...named the Class of '99s Best Male Athlete after an all-county senior campaign...member of the National Honor Society...coach by Bud Hodgens. **Personal:** Born 5/10/81...son of David and Edna Vaughns...Business major.



#57
Linebacker
 Position
Junior
 Class
6-2 • 210
 Height • Weight
Tampa, Fla.
 Hometown
Robinson H.S.
 Previous School/Other

David Vaughns



#50
Offensive Lineman
 Position
Freshman
 Class
6-0 • 265
 Height • Weight
Coral Springs, Fla.
 Hometown
St. Thomas Aquinas H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Ed Wenger

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who will be competing for the offensive left guard starting position. **High School:** An all-county and honorable mention all-state lineman who was instrumental in St. Thomas Aquinas' 1999 state championship and 2000 state runner-up finishes...state qualifier and two-time all-county honoree in the shot put for the Raiders' track and field team with a personal-best toss of 52'6.50"...voted the team's Most Valuable Field Event Performer award...numerous academic awards include Bright Futures Scholar, Junior Orange Bowl Committee's Scholar Athlete for Class 4A and the Bishop John J. O'Leary Scholar-Athlete Award...named to the Principal's Honor Roll for his entire junior and senior years and to the Spanish Honor Society...coached in football by George Smith. **Personal:** Born 8/30/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Dartmouth, Columbia, Georgetown, South Florida and Holy Cross...son of Edward and Debbie Wenger...Criminal Justice major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#99
 Defensive Lineman
 Position
 Freshman
 Class
 6-2 • 231
 Height • Weight
 North Miami, Fla.
 Hometown
 Northwestern H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Payton Williams

FIU Notes: Redshirt freshman who has been penciled in as the starting right defensive end...had 21 tackles (13 solo) in five fall scrimmages and dominated the line with 11 quarterback sacks...added seven tackles and three more sacks in spring drills...managed to gain six pounds since first arriving on campus last fall. **High School:** Competed in football and baseball at Northwestern...recorded 93 tackles with 13 sacks as a senior, after which he was named the Bulls' Best Defensive Lineman...helped Northwestern to the 1998 state football championship...threw the shot put and discus in track...winner of an academic science award...coached in football by Billy Rolle. **Personal:** Born 5/27/83...chose FIU over interest shown by Florida, North Carolina State, Rutgers, Missouri, Boston College and Kentucky State...son of David and Kathy Williams...older brother David is a tight end playing at the University of Miami...Computer Engineering major.

FIU Notes: Sophomore who will be redshirted this year after transferring from Jacksonville University in the spring...bench-pressed 325 pounds by the end of spring practice. **2001 (Freshman):** Played in 11 games at Jacksonville, rushing the ball 16 times for 45 yards with a long run of 10 yards...also caught six passes for 41 yards. **High School:** Two-year starter at Lake Howell who saw time at running back, quarterback, linebacker and safety...as a senior, passed for 866 yards and 11 touchdowns...ran for 158 yards and two touchdowns in a 42-41 victory over Pine Ridge...at the 2001 Down Under Bowl all-star game, named Team Florida MVP...ran for 415 yards with six touchdowns as a junior...also lettered twice in track and weightlifting and once in baseball...finished third at the district meet in track's 300-meter hurdles...coached in football by Mike Bisceglia. **Personal:** Born 7/22/83...son of Aston and Heather Wilson...father Aston was a collegiate track athlete at Kingston Tech in Jamaica...Pre-Law major.



#34
 Running Back
 Position
 Sophomore
 Class
 5-11 • 210
 Height • Weight
 Casselberry, Fla.
 Hometown
 Jacksonville University/
 Lake Howell H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Aston Wilson



FOOTBALL FIU FOOTBALL FIU FOOTBALL FIU

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#58
 Defensive Lineman
 Position
 Freshman
 Class
 6-4 • 270
 Height • Weight
 Merritt Island, Fla.
 Hometown
 Merritt Island H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Terrance Allen

Being counted on to come in and immediately contribute at either a defensive end or tackle spot...good size and speed...possesses great potential to become an above-average college defensive lineman...played his first full season of prep football in 2000 for the Mustangs' Class 4A Final Eight team...a three-year letterwinner for Merritt Island's basketball team...runs a 4.8, 40-yard dash and is bench pressing 350 pounds...coached by Gerald Hodgin...also recruited by Louisville.

A two-way player in high school who will concentrate on mastering a defensive back position in college...ran for 745 yards on 101 carries, in six games last season, but missed the final three contests of the year due to an ankle injury...caught 31 passes for 348 yards with a combined 15 touchdowns scored...intercepted four passes and returned one of those 99 yards for a touchdown...all-region his final two season...runs a 4.5, 40-yard dash...coached by Michael Thomas...also recruited by Florida A&M and Georgia Southern.

#1
 Defensive Back
 Position
 Freshman
 Class
 5-10 • 175
 Height • Weight
 Tallahassee, Fla.
 Hometown
 FAMU H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Randy Arnold



#13
 Quarterback
 Position
 Freshman
 Class
 6-4 • 215
 Height • Weight
 Sarasota, Fla.
 Hometown
 Cardinal Mooney H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Jamie Burke

Highly-recruited quarterback who threw for 2,835 yards and led the state with 34 touchdown passes at Cardinal Mooney...both were new school records...voted the runner-up Class 2A Player of the Year...became the first player in state history to pass for more than 500 yards in a game, last season vs. St. Petersburg Catholic...USA Today Old Spice 2001 Red Zone Player of the Year...voted Class 2A second-team all-star...Gridiron Greats 2001 Team Elite...PrepStar Magazine 2001 all-region team selection...named Student Sports National High School Athletes' Player of the Week on Oct. 17...Street & Smith's 2001 High School "Prep Senior to Watch"...runs a 4.8, 40-yard dash...sat out his junior season in high school after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee...pitched for the varsity baseball team as a freshman, compiling a 3-1 record as a starter and helping Cardinal Mooney to the district 3A championship...coached in football by Mike Dowling...also recruited by Florida, Pittsburgh, Marshall and Bowling Green. **Personal:**

Born 11/1/83...son of Robert and Cindy Burke...family's athletic history includes Andy Robert Elmer Wyant (cousin of grandfather) who is noted by Ripley's Believe It or Not as having played more minutes of college football than any man in history: four years at Bucknell and four more while earning a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, going both ways and never missing a minute of play...undecided major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Offensive Lineman
Position

#76

Freshman
Class

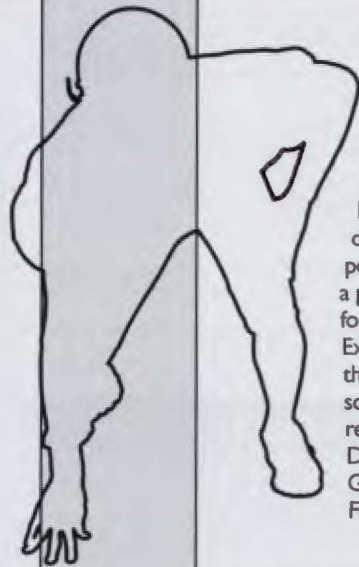
6-4 • 250
Height • Weight

Clewiston, Fla.
Hometown

Clewiston H.S.
Previous School/Other

Timothy Dierks

Good, punishing blocker who also played defensive end at Clewiston...won the Best Blocker award for three seasons...winner of Senior Awards in football, basketball and track...member of the National Honor Society and the Future Business Leaders of America...runs a 4.9 in the 40-yard dash...coached by Al Morrell...also recruited by Louisville, Rutgers, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pittsburgh and North Carolina State. **Personal:** Born 5/2/84...son of Ronald and Beverly Dierks...Computer Science major.



Should compete for time as a tackle...voted all-conference and was a first-team All-Lee County selection...All-Southwest Florida first team...named as a game MVP by a local radio station...a solid two-year starter and a stalwart on both the offensive and defensive lines...helped the Green Wave to 2001 and '02 district championships...graded out at 80-plus percent...runs 5.2 in the 40-yard dash...also was a prep wrestler who finished third at regionals and fourth at state in 2000...winner of the 2000 Excellence in Academic Award and participated in the FCA over his last three years of high school...coached in football by Sam Sirianni...also recruited by South Florida, Florida A&M and Delaware. **Personal:** Born 7/24/84...full name Glen D. Fox III...son of Glen and Denise Fox...father played two years of football while attending Highland Community College...undecided major.



Offensive Line
Position

#70

Freshman
Class

6-6 • 270
Height • Weight

Fort Myers, Fla.
Hometown

Fort Myers H.S.
Previous School/Other

Glen Fox

Can come in and help immediately at the flanker position...big receiver with good hands...voted all-area as a junior and participated in the Outback Bowl following his senior campaign...caught 40 balls last season, good for 800 yards and 14 touchdowns...had 47 receptions as a junior for 876 yards...had a 72-yard touchdown pass breaking two tackles during a run down the sideline against Royal Palm Beach...helped Glades Central to three-straight championship years...selected Most Improved as a member of the Raiders' track team...ran the 400m event in a time of 50.1...runs a 4.4, 40-yard dash...coached by Willie Bueno...also recruited by South Florida, UCF, Illinois State, Pittsburgh and Ball State. **Personal:** Born 10/21/83...son of Joe and Iletha Freeman...Zoology major.

Wide Receiver
Position

#15

Freshman
Class

6-0 • 185
Height • Weight

Belle Glade, Fla.
Hometown

Glades Central H.S.
Previous School/Other

Titorian Freeman

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Offensive Lineman
Position

#73

Freshman
Class

6-3 • 273
Height • Weight

Odessa, Fla.
Hometown

Hillsborough H.S.
Previous School/Other

Josh Gravitt

Will compete for playing time at the left offensive tackle position...voted first-team all-conference and all-county...team captain...chosen to play in the Hillsborough County all-star game as a starter...sporting an 80 percent blocking percentage as a senior...very intelligent player who competed at all five line positions in high school...runs a 5.2, 40-yard dash...three-year starter for head coach Earl Garcia. **Personal:** Born 1/18/84...son of James and Denise Gravitt...Criminal Justice major.

Running Back
Position

#26

Freshman
Class

5-11 • 185
Height • Weight

Belle Glade, Fla.
Hometown

Glades Central H.S.
Previous School/Other

Bill Grant

Three-year letterwinner who was a starter for a program that compiled a 49-1 record over the last four seasons, including one state championship...runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds...coached by Willie Bueno.

Defensive Lineman
Position

#64

Freshman
Class

6-3 • 295
Height • Weight

Fernandina Beach, Fla.
Hometown

Fernandina Beach H.S.
Previous School/Other

Brandon Higdon

Brings good size to the defensive tackle position...will be counted on to come in and contribute immediately as a freshman...had 23 tackles for loss and six quarterback sacks as a senior...selected to play in the Shriners Bowl in Jacksonville...named all-county defensive tackle...voted MVP of the team...also named Defensive Lineman of the Year, three out of four years...compiled 389 tackles with 19 sacks over his prep career...combined for 38 tackles for losses in his last two high school seasons...runs the 40-yard dash in 5.1 seconds...coached by Bob Howard...inducted into the National Honor Society...academic letterwinner and a member of the 11th grade student council...also recruited by Maryland, Illinois State and The Citadel. **Personal:** Born 1/21/84...son of Edison and Kathy Higdon...Civil Engineering major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Wide Receiver/Defensive Back

#18

Freshman

5-11 • 175

Port Orange, Fla.

Spruce Creek H.S.

Gentry Jackson

A tremendous athlete who will first be tried as a wide receiver...the kind of performer coaches want out on the field...participated in the Funcoast Football Classic...first-team All-Florida as a utility back...seven interceptions over his high school career...played two years at quarterback where he threw for over 800 yards and 11 touchdowns, while running for 383 yards and five scores...special teams standout, with three field goal, three punt and two extra-point blocks...team MVP as a senior after being voted co-MVP as a junior...four-year letterwinner who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.6...played for coach George Janan...also recruited by Northwestern, Alabama, Cornell, Navy, Miami of Ohio and Georgia Southern. **Personal:** Born 11/9/82...son of Leo and Melody Jackson...Computer Science major.



#23

Wide Receiver

Freshman

6-2 • 190

Tampa, Fla.

Thomas Jefferson H.S.

Clint Janis-Smith

Big, tall receiver with good speed and hands...will be counted on to play right away...three-year prep letterwinner...played in the state championship quarterfinals and semifinals...named all-league and all-county as both a junior and senior...participated as a Hillsborough all-star...played both wide receiver and defensive back at Jefferson...runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds...coached by Mike Simmonds...also recruited by Marshall and Troy State. **Personal:** Born 7/23/84...nicknamed "C.J."...son of Steven and Tammie Janis...Business major.



#33

Running Back

Freshman

6-2 • 222

Sebastian, Fla.

Sebastian River H.S.

Dravien Jones

The big back coaches have been looking for...tough inside runner...in his final game as a senior, rushed for 130 yards on 20 carries including a 67-yard touchdown run...ran for 1,111 yards in total last season and 2,450 yards and 17 touchdowns over his scholastic career...missed two games his junior year due to a separated shoulder, but still ran for 846 yards and seven touchdowns...named team's MVP in both 2000 and '01...chosen Student of the Month for Nov. 2001...runs a 4.6, 40-yard dash...also has played as a fullback...coached by Randy Bethel. **Personal:** Born 2/3/84...son of Romance Jones and Vivian Hall-Smith...Sports Management major.

GOLDEN PANTHERS



PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Wide Receiver

#84

Freshman

6-3 • 185

Sarasota, Fla.

Cardinal Mooney H.S.

Dan Landrau



Position receiver who can run from the slot...second-team all-area and honorable mention all-state receiver...named as an area Player of the Week after setting a new state record with nine catches for 225 yards in one game...selected to the all-region team by Gridiron Greats magazine...invited to play in the "Down Under Sports" all-star game...also played basketball, ran track and was on the weight lifting team...coached in football by Mike Dowling...also recruited by Georgia Tech, Georgetown, Holy Cross, Washington & Jefferson and Jacksonville. **Personal:** Born 3/1/84...son of Felix and Jennifer Landrau...Business Administration major.



Tight End

#90

Freshman

6-4 • 242

Sanford, Fla.

Seminole H.S.

Ed Leverenz

Big and strong with good speed and hands...should fit well into the passing game...blocking tight end used in the winged-T formation at Seminole...known for his blocking but was an effective weapon in play-action situations...second-team all-district...selected to play in the Pinellas County all-star game...runs the 40-yard dash in 4.8 seconds...coached by Sam Roper.



#66

Offensive Lineman

Freshman

6-8 • 320

Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Dwyer H.S.

Patrick Mullen

Expected to compete for the starting offensive left tackle position...first-team All-Florida selection...first-team all-district, all-conference and all-area...team MVP and anchor of the Dwyer offensive line...helped the Panthers to a state runner-up finish in 2000...member of the National Honor Society...runs the 40-yard dash in 5.2 seconds...coached by Jack Daniels...also recruited by Florida, Auburn, Miami, Tennessee, UCF and Florida Atlantic. **Personal:** Born 5/6/83...son of Thomas and Susan Mullen...undecided major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#78
**Offensive Lineman/
 Defensive Lineman**
 Position
Freshman
 Class
6-4 • 255
 Height • Weight
Clewiston, Fla.
 Hometown
Clewiston H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Danny O'Neal

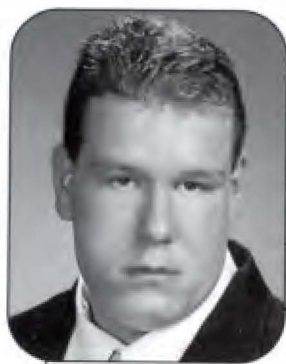
Will compete for the starting right offensive tackle spot...two-year starter at Clewiston...All-Hendry/Glades area team...helped the Tigers to the 2001 district and regional football championships...went to the track and field district and regional meets and finished third in the region for the shot put and discus...threw 50-feet in the shot and 160-feet in the discus...bench presses 340 pounds...runs a 5.1 in the 40-yard dash...listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students...coached in football by Alberto Morrell...also recruited by Eastern Michigan and Florida Atlantic. **Personal:** Born 9/7/83... nicknamed "DJ"...son of Danny and Nancy O'Neal... Criminal Justice major.



#16
Quarterback
 Position
Freshman
 Class
6-3 • 190
 Height • Weight
Merritt Island, Fla.
 Hometown
Merritt Island H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Josh Padrick

Expected to compete for quality playing time at quarterback...named first-team All-Space Coast Conference as both a junior and senior...passed for over 1,300 yards his senior year and ran for another 486...threw for nine touchdowns and rushed for three more...picked as a Player of the Week...state qualifier in track his junior year as a high jumper, with a personal best of 6-feet-8...named Most Outstanding Field Performer on the team for two consecutive years...voted the school's Athlete of the Year in 1999...runs the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds...coached in football by Gerald Hodgkin...also recruited by North Carolina Greensboro, Army, Florida Atlantic, UCF and Marshall. **Personal:** Born 2/14/83...son of Jerry and Eva Padrick...Athletic Training major.



#72
Offensive Lineman
 Position
Freshman
 Class
6-6 • 305
 Height • Weight
Brandon, Fla.
 Hometown
Brandon H.S.
 Previous School/Other

John Shanahan

Will be tried at both the left and right tackle positions...honorable mention All-Hillsborough County...All-Western Conference and a member of Team Elite...first-team East/West All-Star Game participant...team captain...averaged 1.5 pancakes per game...also played on the defensive line in crucial situations...awarded the Dick Lewis Blocking Award as a senior...runs a 5.2 in the 40-yard dash...coached by Ernest Hayes...also recruited by South Florida, Minnesota and Vanderbilt. **Personal:** Born 9/3/84...son of Michael and Patricia Shanahan...Criminal Justice major.

PLAYER PROFILES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



#61
Offensive Lineman
 Position
Freshman
 Class
6-3 • 320
 Height • Weight
Miami, Fla.
 Hometown
Avon Old Farms (Conn.) H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Ronny Silva

Should compete for playing time at either the left or right guard position...first-team all-league...All-New England team in Class 1A...can take down two people...led the team in pancakes and was instrumental in Avon Old Farms' team success...recorded 11 quarterback sacks and eight more tackles for loss...won the Golden Hawk Football Club Heavy Weight Championship with 1,485 pounds...runs the 40-yard dash in 5.0 seconds...came to this country from Peru as a freshman and spent his first three years of high school at Miami Springs H.S. where he played two years of football and soccer...in soccer, scored 11 goals with eight assists as a senior...helped the Miami Springs soccer team win a district championship...coached at Avon Old Farms by Kevin Driscoll and at Miami Springs by Buddy Goins...also recruited by Connecticut, Rutgers, Syracuse, Maryland, Boston College and Massachusetts. **Personal:** Born 11/2/81...son of Javier David Silva...undecided major.



#51
Offensive Lineman
 Position
Freshman
 Class
6-4 • 270
 Height • Weight
Orlando, Fla.
 Hometown
Dr. Phillips H.S.
 Previous School/Other

Joe Thomson

Offensive center who will compete for a starting spot...selected All-Metro Conference...played in the conference Senior Bowl...led Dr. Phillips in pancake blocks...graded out blocking at over 80 percent...anchor of the Panthers' offensive line...team captain...runs the 40-yard dash in 5.1 seconds...coached by Dave Langdon. **Personal:** Born 2/24/85...son of James and Lavnja Thomson...undecided major.



#40
Linebacker/Def. Back
 Position
Junior
 Class
6-2 • 205
 Height • Weight
Miami, Fla.
 Hometown
**University of Miami (Fla.)/
 Northwestern H.S.**
 Previous School/Other

Jermell Weaver

Junior eligible who also has played some defensive back in college...expected to challenge for quality playing time...good instincts and a nose for the ball. **2001 (Sophomore):** Played in four games for national champion Miami with six solo tackles on the season. **2000 (Freshman):** Battled back from a torn pectoralis muscle suffered while summer weightlifting. **1999 (Redshirt):** Spent the season as a member of the UM scout team. **High School:** Listed as the No. 10 linebacker on PrepStar Dream Team Top 100, and No. 3 in the SEC Region...also selected to the Super 30 All-SEC Region by PrepStar...SuperPrep's No. 43 player in Florida...named first-team Class 6-5A all-state and all-county as a senior...Florida's No. 6 outside linebacker of 1998 on The Florida Times-Union Super 75...helped Northwestern to the 1998 Class 6A state title...led team with 110 tackles, 26 sacks, five fumble recoveries and returned one fumble for a score...collected 15 sacks during his junior season playing at defensive end...coached by Billy Rolle. **Personal:** Born 12/28/80...son of Tomalena Weaver and Paul Gibson...twin brother Jarrell is a junior linebacker at the University of Miami (Fla.)...Business major.

INAUGURAL SEASON

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23
St. Peter's	@ FIU (Aug. 29)	@ Fordham	@ St. Francis (PA)	LA SALLE	@ Canisius	SIENA	DUQUESNE	MARIST	@ St. John's	@ Fairfield	@ Iona	Open	Open
Elon	Open	FIU	@ Furman	JOHNSON C. SMITH	@ N.C. A&T	@ NW State	@ Gardner- Webb	@ East Tennessee St.	Open	HOFSTRA	LIBERTY	@ Charleston So.	WOFFORD
Butler	Open	TIFFIN	@ FIU	WISCONSIN- STEVENS PT.	@ Morehead State	@ Dayton	AUSTIN PEAY	SAN DIEGO	DRAKE	@ Valparaiso	@ Quincy	Open	Open
Bethune- Cookman	vs. Morgan State (Sept. 1)	@ Florida Atlantic	@ Morris Brown	vs. FIU (Lockhart Stm.)	NORFOLK STATE	@ Morgan St.	DELAWARE STATE	@ South Carolina State	Open	@ North Carolina A&T	@ Hampton	HOWARD	vs. Florida A&M
Georgetown	Open	@ Lehigh	HOLY CROSS	FAIRFIELD	@ FIU	FORDHAM	@ Davidson	@ Lafayette	BUCKNELL	MARIST	Open	@ Colgate	@ Towson
Western Kentucky	@ Kansas State	KENTUCKY STATE	WESTERN ILLINOIS	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	@ McNeese State	@ No. Iowa	FIU	@ SW Missouri St.	INDIANA STATE	ILLINOIS STATE	Open	@ Southern Illinois	Open
Maine	CENTRAL CONN. ST.	WILLIAM & MARY	@ Villanova	@ Howard	RHODE ISLAND	@ James Madison	@ UMass	@ FIU	HOFSTRA	Open	DELAWARE	@ Richmond	NEW HAMPSHIRE
Gardner- Webb	MORGAN STATE	@ Georgia Southern	EAST TENN. STATE	@ Chattanooga	Open	@ Liberty	ELON	Open	@ FIU	TENNESSEE- MARTIN	@ Charleston Southern	SAVANNAH STATE	Open
Jacksonville	Open	LENOIR- RHYNE	@ Davidson	PRESBYTERIAN	AUSTIN PEAY	@ San Diego	Open	@ Morehead State	@ Charleston Southern	@ FIU	EDWARD WATERS	WAGNER	@ PFL Championship
Albany	Open	@ Montana	CENTRAL CONN. STATE	@ Sacred Heart	@ Stony Brook	WAGNER	@ Drake	CANISIUS	ST. FRANCIS (PA)	@ Robt. Morris	@ FIU	MONMOUTH	Open
Florida Atlantic	@ USF (Aug. 29)	BETHUNE- COOKMAN	@ James Madison	@ Eastern Kentucky	Open	@ Nichols State	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	Open	@ Troy State	@ UConn	MORRIS BROWN	@ Eastern Illinois	FIU

SUPPORT STAFF

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Jan Allen
Associate A.D./
External Operations

Mike Becker
Assistant A.D./Compliance

Julie Berg
Associate A.D./
Internal Operations

Lou DeNeen
Strength & Conditioning
Coordinator

Dr. Robert Dollinger
Internal Medicine

David Evans
Director of Football
Development

Ana Fogarty
Student Assistant

Gigi Garcia
Head Athletic Trainer

Mike Garrity
Game Day Operations

Dr. Keith Hechtman
Team Physician

Rich Kelch
Football SID

Andrew LaPlant
Athletic Media Relations
Coordinator

Michael McPike
Head Football Equipment
Manager

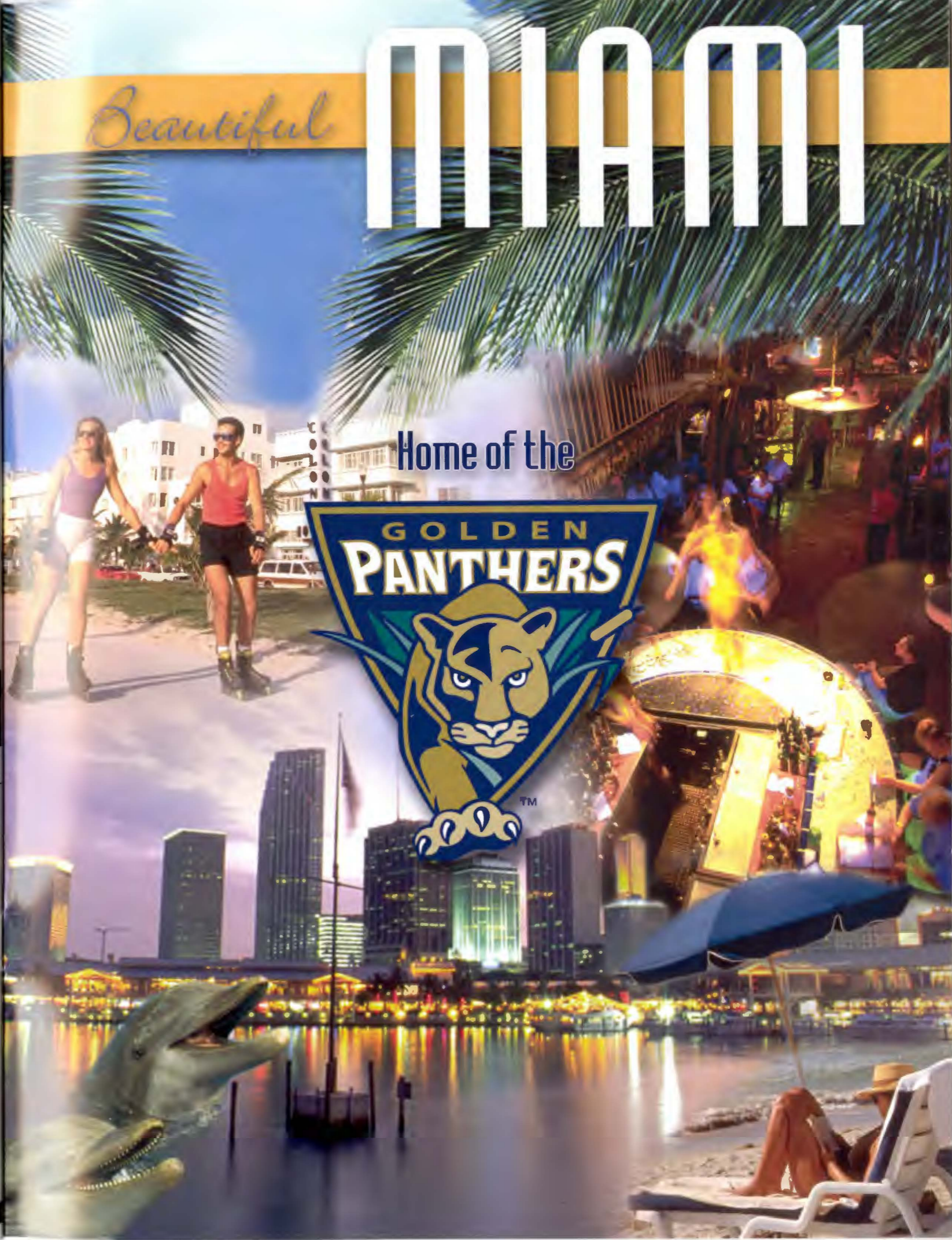
Bart Mondell
Assistant Athletic Director/
Stadium Director

Jenny Robles
Administrative Assistant

Andy Simon
Head Football Trainer

Pauline Winick
Director of Football
Marketing

Dr. John Zvijac
Team Physician





FIU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 2002

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Date	Opponent	Time (ET)
Aug. 29	SAINT PETER'S (TV)	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Elon	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	BUTLER	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 21	vs. Bethune-Cookman (in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	GEORGETOWN	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Western Kentucky	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	MAINE	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 26	GARDNER-WEBB (HC)	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	JACKSONVILLE	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 9	ALBANY	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Florida Atlantic (Pro Player Stadium, Miami, Fla.)	3:00 p.m.

(TV) Sunshine Network live telecast. (HC) Homecoming
All Times Eastern.

Home games in **BOLD CAPS** played at FIU Community Stadium, University Park.

All games broadcast live on WAXY (790 AM) and in Spanish on WHRC (1550 AM) & WWFE (670 AM)



1ST FOOTBALL GAME

