



FIU FOOTBALL

Frequently Asked Questions about FIU Football

WHY DID FIU REQUEST A FOOTBALL PROGRAM?

The football proposal comes after a great deal of thought, deliberation and analysis. A successful football program at the university will enhance campus life, help build identification with and loyalty to the university, enhance interest in other sports, enhance private fund raising for all sports and increase FIU's name recognition in the press.

WHAT IS FIU'S FOOTBALL TIMELINE?

FIU will begin a Division I-AA football team in the fall of 2002. Between the BOR's approval and the first game, FIU will hire a coaching staff, begin recruiting and begin expansions to its existing on-campus stadium.

WHAT ELEMENTS AT FIU PROMOTE A SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL PROGRAM?

FIU is in an excellent position to begin a successful football program. FIU has an on-campus stadium, which will be expanded in the next several years to accommodate 23,000 seats. FIU has approximately 70,000 alumni who live in South Florida, many of whom have already expressed great interest in supporting the team. FIU also has a student-supported dedicated football fee, which is used to supply a steady source of funding for the program.

WHAT OTHER UNIVERSITIES HAVE ADDED I-AA TEAMS IN RECENT YEARS?

Within the past several years University of South Florida, Portland State, SUNY-Albany, SUNY-Stony Brook, Alabama State, and Savannah State have added I-AA programs. Locally, Florida Atlantic University will initiate its I-AA team in 2001.

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HOW WILL FIU FUND THE NEW FOOTBALL PROGRAM?

To date approximately \$1.8 million have been raised and placed into an escrow account. Prior to the start of football in 2002, the program will have approximately \$3.6 million escrowed. This total comes from the student-supported dedicated fee, which each student pays each semester. In addition, approximately \$4 million has been raised in cash and commitments to date from local supporters and businesses that wish to help fund the program from its inception.

HOW DOES FIU PLAN TO MAINTAIN GENDER EQUITY IN ITS SPORTS TEAMS?

Currently, FIU's men's and women's participation is nearly equal. In order to offset the disparity football will create, FIU will add two women's sports in the next several years. Women's rowing will be initiated in 2002 and swimming will begin in 2004.

WHY HAVE WOMEN'S ROWING AND SWIMMING BEEN CHOSEN AS THE NEW SPORTS?

Both the swimming and rowing teams will be added to enhance our athletics program on the North Campus. The campus is located on Biscayne Bay, which makes rowing a natural addition. The North Campus is also already equipped with an Olympic-size pool.

WHAT IS THE PARTICIPATION RATE OF WOMEN AND MEN IN ATHLETICS AT FIU?

Currently, the participation of men and women in FIU sports is nearly equal. During the next several years, the numbers will reflect the addition of three new sports teams. The following chart provides the estimated numbers of men and women student-athletes at FIU during the next five years.

YEAR	WOMEN	MEN
1999 - 2000	111	107
2000 - 2001	112	100
2001 - 2002	112	100
2002 - 2003	145 ¹	160 ²
2003 - 2004	150 ³	180 ⁴
2004 - 2005	182 ⁵	180

¹ Rowing - Women (33)

² Football (60)

³ Women's Rowing (5)

⁴ Football (20)

⁵ Women's Swimming (32)