



University of Florida Lady Gator Basketball

2000-2001 Roster

Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	POS	Cl	Exp	HT	Birthdate	Hometown (High School/College)
5	Tombi Bell	G	Sr.	3L	5-5	4/19/79	Miami, FL (Miami Norland)
25	Monique Cardenas	G	Jr.	2L	6-1	10/17/79	Keystone Heights, FL (Keystone Heights)
34	Lindsey DeLoach	G	Jr.	2L	5-10	4/30/80	Orlando, FL (Pine Castle Christian Academy)
55	Vanessa Hayden	C	Fr.	HS	6-4	6/5/82	Orlando, FL (Boone)
1	Sherisha Hills	G	So.	TR	5-8	1/5/80	Tampa, FL (Academy of the Holy Names/Notre Dame)
21	Misty Knight	F	Sr.	3L	6-1	12/22/78	Savannah, GA (Beach)
11	Brandi McCain	G	Jr.	2L	5-3	9/21/79	Silsbee, TX (Silsbee)
43	Naomi Mobley	F	Jr.	2L	6-2	7/9/80	Jacksonville, FL (Ed White)
00	Ash'lea Moore	G	Fr.	HS	5-3	8/1/82	Gainesville, FL (P.K. Yonge)
35	Kelly Stevenson	G	So.	*	5-7	1/6/81	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL (Nease/Jacksonville)
4	Tamara Stocks	C	Sr.	3L	6-3	1/29/79	Pickerington, OH (Pickerington)
12	Tara Taylor	G	Fr.	HS	5-10	9/8/81	Huntsville, AL (Butler)
32	Jameelah Trimble	C	So.	1L	6-5	11/18/80	Opa-Locka, FL (American Senior)

Numerical Roster

No.	Name	POS	Cl	Exp	HT	Birthdate	Hometown (High School/College)
00	Ash'lea Moore	G	Fr.	HS	5-3	8/1/82	Gainesville, FL (P.K. Yonge)
1	Sherisha Hills	G	So.	TR	5-8	1/5/80	Tampa, FL (Academy of the Holy Names/Notre Dame)
4	Tamara Stocks	C	Sr.	3L	6-3	1/29/79	Pickerington, OH (Pickerington)
5	Tombi Bell	G	Sr.	3L	5-5	4/19/79	Miami, FL (Miami Norland)
11	Brandi McCain	G	Jr.	2L	5-3	9/21/79	Silsbee, TX (Silsbee)
12	Tara Taylor	G	Fr.	HS	5-10	9/8/81	Huntsville, AL (Butler)
21	Misty Knight	F	Sr.	3L	6-1	12/22/78	Savannah, GA (Beach)
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34	Lindsey DeLoach	G	Jr.	2L	5-10	4/30/80	Orlando, FL (Pine Castle Christian Academy)
35	Kelly Stevenson	G	So.	*	5-7	1/6/81	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL (Nease/Jacksonville)
43	Naomi Mobley	F	Jr.	2L	6-2	7/9/80	Jacksonville, FL (Ed White)
55	Vanessa Hayden	C	Fr.	HS	6-4	6/5/82	Orlando, FL (Boone)

*Transferred from Jacksonville University and not eligible for 2000-01 season.

Staff: Head Coach: Carol Ross (11th year, Mississippi '82)
 Assistant Coaches: Joi Williams (11th year, South Florida '88)
 Matthew Mitchell (first year, Mississippi State '95)
 Renee Ladner (first year, Mississippi '81)
 Athletic Trainer: Kellye Mowchan (third year with basketball, Florida '92)

Pronunciation Key:

TOMBI Bell TOOM-be
 Monique CARDENAS car-DEAN-us
 SHERISHA Hills sure-EE-sha
 Naomi MOBLEY MO-blee
 ASH'LEA Moore ASH-lee
 TAMARA Stocks ta-MAR-uh
 TARA Taylor TAR-uh
 JAMEELAH Trimble ja-ME-la
 JOI Williams JOY



Tombi Bell



Monique Cardenas



Lindsey DeLoach



Vanessa Hayden



Sherisha Hills



Misty Knight



Brandi McCain



Naomi Mobley



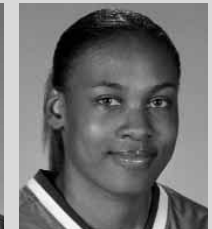
Ash'lea Moore



Kelly Stevenson



Tamara Stocks



Tara Taylor



Jameelah Trimble



Head Coach
Carol Ross

University of Florida Lady Gator Basketball 2000-01 Season Outlook

Motivation will not be a problem for the University of Florida women's basketball team this season.

When the Lady Gators are running sprints on the court or pumping iron in the weight room and they begin to tire or waiver, they only have to look into the eyes of

their teammates and coaches to remember why they are pushing themselves.

Every member of the 2000-01 Lady Gator basketball team is motivated.

Senior tri-captain **Tamara Stocks** found her motivation with less than five seconds remaining in

Florida's 75-74 loss at Wisconsin in the 2000 WNIT championship game.

"I had the shot to win the game, to win the championship for us," Stocks recalled.

"I was standing right under the basket with the ball and just missed the shot. That has been hard to sit with all summer."

Veteran assistant coach **Joi Williams** found her

motivation for the 2000-01 season a couple of weeks earlier than Stocks. It came on March 12, 2000 when the Lady Gators were being televised live on ESPN watching the NCAA Tournament selection show. Florida was not included in the field of 64 teams for the first time in eight years.

"I felt physically sick," Williams said. "All I can remember since that day is wanting to get better. I wanted to recruit harder, study opponent film longer and help make us mentally stronger so we never, ever again experience that feeling we had when we watched the selection show."

Head coach **Carol Ross** believes everyone has their own initiative about what motivates the Lady Gators to have a successful season.

"Some people are motivated by disappointment, some people are motivated by the positives. For me,

it's a little bit of all of it," said Ross, who is entering her 11th season on the sidelines. "I'm motivated by how **Tombi Bell** played last season. I'm motivated by how **Tamara**

Stocks is extremely focused. I'm motivated by the fact that **Brandi McCain** is healthy. I'm motivated by the fact that we were one of only four teams playing for a champi-

onship last March. I'm motivated by the fact that there is so much newness with our team. But more than anything, I'm motivated to return to the NCAA Tournament, to secure home court for the first and second rounds and to compete for championships."

The newness Ross refers to is the skeleton of a team that remains from last year's 21-13 squad. Several players from last season's team are no longer on the roster and two of her three assistant coaches have departed.

"A fresh start is the first thing that pops into my mind when I think toward this season," Ross said. "We lost several players and two coaches so there's a sense of getting a new start, a fresh start, simply because there has been change.

"It's like there's a whole new mind-set," Ross continued. "There

"There is a lot of new energy, from coaches and from players. We're healthy. There is a real sense of optimism. There is a sense of determination to get back to the postseason and in the hunt for a championship."

– Head Coach Carol Ross

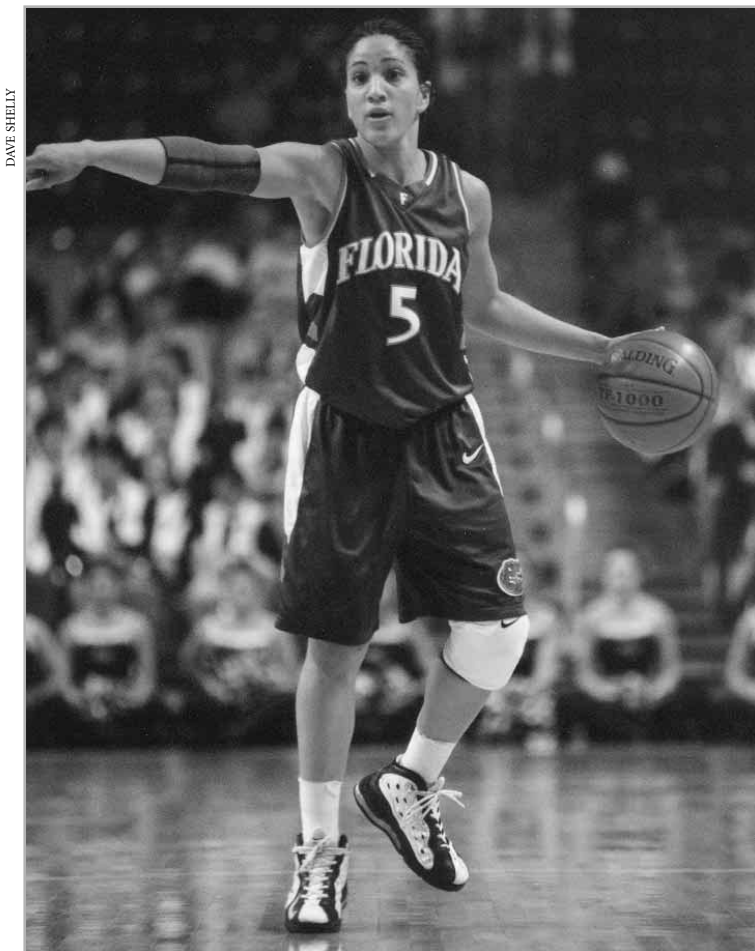
MARY JO CORSO



Junior Brandi McCain is one of the nation's most exciting guards.

is a lot of new energy, from coaches and from players. We're healthy. There is a real sense of optimism. There is a sense of determination to get back to the postseason and in the hunt for a championship. If we defend and play inside-out on the offensive end, we'll give ourselves a chance."

In layman's terms, Ross believes her team must, first and foremost,



Senior Tombi Bell dished an SEC-leading 6.0 assists per game last season.



MARY JO CORSO

Junior Naomi Mobley led the SEC in rebounding and double-doubles last year.

control the paint. From defending to rebounding to shot selection, this is where the battles will be waged.

The Inside Game

The inside game for Florida consists primarily of four players, all of whom are expected to contribute considerably.

"They will all compete for playing time," Ross said of her quartet of post players. "It's a 'quality over

quantity' position for us this year. We have two returning starters along with two talented underclassmen. They all understand that our success will be largely based on the pride and work they exude in the paint."

Stocks, a three-year starting center, is the leader in the paint for the Lady Gators this season. She has quietly topped the 1,000-point plateau during her career, averaging 9.4 points with 4.9 rebounds

per game last year. She is UF's second leading-returning scorer and rebounder.

Stocks' returning-starter front-court mate is 6-foot-2 junior **Naomi Mobley**, the team's leading returning scorer (11.4 ppg) and rebounder (9.1 rpg). Mobley's 12 double-doubles led the Southeastern Conference last year, as did her rebounding average.

Six-foot-five sophomore **Jameelah Trimble** showed the most improvement during the Lady Gator's off-season conditioning workouts. After seeing limited action her rookie season, Trimble's natural shot-blocking ability will be counted on heavily this year.

Freshman **Vanessa Hayden** from Orlando's Boone High School rounds out UF's primary list of post players. The 6-foot-4 Hayden was one of the most talented prep players in the nation last year. Her skill and talents will allow her to make a quick transition into the college game, and her contributions will be paralleled with her conditioning.

"Teams win and lose games in the paint," Ross said. "The wars of the SEC take place between the foul line and the baseline on both ends. I believe we have a tough foursome in Stocks, Mobley, Trimble and Hayden. So much is attitude and self-confidence with post players and this group has a swagger about them that I like."

The Outside Game

Another reason Ross has every reason to be optimistic about the 2000-01 season, is the point guard position. The Lady Gators enter the year with not just one, but two

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— Head Coach Carol Ross



STEPHEN MORTON

Senior Tamara Stocks has scored over 1,000-career points entering her final season.

veteran floor leaders.

Senior **Tombi Bell** started all 34 games last year, in part because of the injury woes to then-sophomore All-American **Brandi McCain**.

“Both Tombi and Brandi know what to do with the ball,” Ross said. “They are extremely unselfish and will help create more team scoring than individual scoring.”

Without a true backup, Bell endured the entire 1999-2000 season alone at the top of the key. The

5-foot-5 Bell responded with her emotion and quickness, dishing a SEC-best 6.1 assists per game and scoring 7.1 points per outing. Bell emerged as one of the most improved players in the SEC, but more importantly, became the Lady Gator’s vocal leader on and off the court.

McCain, who was among the preseason candidates for the Naismith National Player of the Year, missed the entire preseason

last year while recovering from ACL surgery. She played in eight of UF’s first nine games and seemed to be hitting stride until breaking a bone in her leg. McCain’s impact is undeniable, as the Lady Gators posted a 12-3 record with McCain taking the floor, and a 11-10 record without her services.

With over 47-percent of the minutes played last year belonging to departed players, there will be great practice battles to secure the other perimeter positions and playing time.

“There will be a lot of competition within the team this year,” Ross said. “That’s a positive aspect because the players will push each other to get better. Practice will be a battleground to hone skills to see who rises up during competition. This should be a hungry team – a team excited about getting back to work.”

The upperclassmen heading the practice battle are senior **Misty Knight** and junior **Monique Cardenas**. Both stand 6-foot-1, so their height will give them a defensive advantage and allow Ross to utilize them in the paint, if necessary. Knight extended her outside shot during the offseason. Cardenas is a gritty rebounder who earned four starting assignments last year. Junior walk-on **Lindsey DeLoach**, who returns for her third season, adds veteran depth to the perimeter.

Sophomore **Sherisha Hills**

makes her much-anticipated debut wearing the orange & blue this season, having sat out last year after transferring from the University of Notre Dame. Hills sports a well-rounded, mature game. She can create her own shots and is an excellent passer.

Tara Taylor from Huntsville, Ala., is the lone scholarship freshman perimeter player. Taylor was

“Practice will be a battleground to hone skills to see who rises up during competition. This should be a hungry team – a team excited about getting back to work.”

– Head Coach Carol Ross

instrumental in guiding Butler High to the 1999 national championship. Taylor is another player who brings a well-rounded game to the court and is expected to contribute immediately. Freshman walk-on **Ash’lea Moore**, who led P.K. Yonge in Gainesville to the Class 2A state title last year, joins Taylor as the rookies in the back-court.

Two New Coaches

Similar to Ross and Williams, both of the new coaches on the Lady Gator staff were playing in championship games to end their respective season last year. **Matthew Mitchell** was the graduate assistant for the Tennessee Lady Vols, who reached the NCAA title game before falling to Connecticut. **Renee Ladner**, who brings 18 years of coaching experience, capped a remarkable high school tenure by guiding St. John High School in Gulfport, Miss., from a 4-20 record her first season to 35-3 record and winning the Mississippi Class 2A



Renee Ladner and Matthew Mitchell joined the coaching staff this summer.

state championship 10 years later.

“Our staff has good energy,” Ross said. “They are positive, aggressive. We are all coming off playing for a championship and we’re all hungry to taste it again.”

Last year’s experiences, which ranged from injuries to disappointments to championship opportunities, have molded the character of the 2000-01 Florida squad. The Lady Gators are coming together as a team, bringing memories of last season and dreams of the future to the court.

One word describes the Lady Gators entering the 2000-01 season: Motivated.



STEPHEN MORTON

The Lady Gators are aiming for their ninth consecutive postseason appearance this year.