



University of Florida Women's Basketball 2001-02 Season Review

Information as of April 25

2001-02 Final Records

Overall: 18-11
Southeastern Conference: 8-6 SEC (tied-fourth)

Postseason

2002 NCAA Seeding: No. 6 in MIDWEST Region (at-large)
NCAA Record: 0-1 (lost in first round)
History: Ninth Appearance (1993-94-95-96-97-98-99-01-02)

Final Rankings (AP/USA Today-ESPN)

Associated Press: Tied-24th
USA Today/ESPN Coaches: receiving votes

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Carol Ross (247-121 in 12th season overall & at UF)
Assistant Coaches: Joi Williams (12th year),
..... Matthew Mitchell (second year) & Renee Ladner (second year)

Game-Day Media Coverage

Radio: Every game aired LIVE in Gainesville
..... with several games offered to the Gator Radio Network
Internet: audio for all 29 games aired LIVE through GatorZone.com
Television: 14 Games (ESPN, ESPN Fullcourt, Fox Sports Net South,
..... Fox Sports Net Southwest, Comcast, Sunshine Network)

Primary Starting Lineup

University of Florida (18-11, 8-6 SEC)

#	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Misc.
24	Courtney Cooper	F	5-9	Jr.	9.3	7.7	45.5% FG
25	Monique Cardenas	F	6-0	Sr.	9.8	6.9	39.6% FG
55	Vanessa Hayden	C	6-4	So.	17.1	11.8	50.6% FG
11	Brandi McCain	G	5-3	Sr.	15.9	3.7	32.9% 3FG
12	Tara Taylor	G	5-10	R-Fr.	6.0	2.8	29.5% 3FG

Off the Bench

#	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG	Misc.
3	Tishona Gregory	G	5-5	Fr.	4.4	1.5	13 starts
13	Trish Patterson	F/C	6-2	Jr.	3.4	3.1	46.5% FG
23	Tamia Williams	G	6-0	Fr.	3.2	2.1	1.9 apg
5	Kelly Stevenson	G	5-7	So.	3.0	0.5	2 GP-injury
1	Sherisha Hills	G	5-8	Jr.	2.4	1.0	10 GP-injury
34	Lindsey DeLoach	G	5-10	Sr.	0.6	0.4	8 GP
00	Ash'lea Moore	G	5-3	So.	0.3	0.3	12 GP

2001-02 Starting Line-Ups

Games Record Line-Up (F-F-C-G-G)

1-3	2-1	Cardenas-Cooper-Hayden-McCain-Williams
4, 17-28	7-6	Cardenas-Cooper-Hayden-McCain-Taylor
5-16, 29	9-4	Cardenas-Cooper-Hayden-McCain-Gregory

Consecutive Starts

Cardenas	58 games	McCain	91	Gregory	13
McCain	34 games	Cardenas	63	Williams	3
Hayden	29 games	Cooper	29	Hills	2
Cooper	29 games	Hayden	29		
Gregory	1 game	Taylor	13		

2001-02 Florida Lady Gator Schedule & Results

Overall: 18-11 (Home: 11-2 - Away: 6-5 - Neutral: 1-4)

SEC: 8-6 (Home: 5-2 - Away: 3-4) - tied for fourth

Date	UF Rank	Opponent	Time/Result
NOVEMBER			
Fri. 16	13/13	OAKLAND (DH)	W 84-65
Tue. 20	12/13	HIGH POINT	W 93-65
Sat. 24	12/13	vs. Southern California (1)	L 68-71
Sun. 25	12/13	vs. #23/rv Wisconsin (1)	L 49-61
Thu. 29	19/18	at Florida State	W-ot 78-74
DECEMBER			
Sat. 1	19/18	vs. Creighton (2)	W 78-67
Sun. 2	19/18	at Tulane (2)	L 51-57
Thu. 6	20/18	at Lamar (SUN)	W 88-45
Sat. 8	20/18	at South Florida	W 90-66
Tue. 18	20/20	ELON (DH)	W 81-53
Fri. 21	20/20	#14/12 COLORADO	W 61-50
Fri. 28	16/17	DUQUESNE (3)	W 80-51
Sat. 29	16/17	KENT STATE (3) (SUN)	W 73-47
JANUARY			
Thu. 3	15/16	#2 TENNESSEE* (COM)	L 64-88
Sun. 6	15/16	at #17/21 Auburn* (SEC-TV)	W 70-61
Thu. 10	18/15	at Louisiana State* (SUN)	L 59-84
Sun. 13	18/15	ALABAMA* (SUN)	W 83-77
Sun. 20	18/18	MISSISSIPPI* (SUN)	W 75-73
Thu. 24	18/18	at #6/5 Vanderbilt*	W 62-51
Sun. 27	18/18	#17/16 GEORGIA* (ESPN)	W 73-64
Thu. 31	12/15	at #2 Tennessee* (SEC-TV)	L 66-86
FEBRUARY			
Sun. 3	12/15	#11/9 SOUTH CAROLINA* (SUN)	L 59-69
Sun. 10	14/14	at Mississippi*	W 74-73
Thu. 14	14/14	KENTUCKY* (SUN)	W 81-59
Sun. 17	14/14	at #24 Georgia* (SEC-TV)	L 62-73
Thu. 21	16/15	ARKANSAS*	W 64-58
Sun. 24	16/15	at Mississippi State*	L 63-83
Thu. 28	22/17	vs. Auburn (4) (SEC-TV)	L 57-70
MARCH			
Sat. 16	t24/21	vs. BYU (5) (SUN/ESPN FC)	L 52-90

Times EASTERN unless noted; AP/USA Today-ESPN ranking;
*Southeastern Conference game; SEC-TV - FOX Sports Net South, FOX Sports Net Southwest & Sunshine Network will televise; SUN - Sunshine Network television; COM - Comcast Sports Southeast TV; (1) University of the Virgin Islands Paradise Jam, St. Thomas, VI; (2) Tulane Invitational, New Orleans, LA; (3) STATE FARM CLASSIC, Gainesville, FL; (4) SEC Tournament, Nashville, TN; (5) NCAA Championships, Ames, Iowa

2001-02 Milestones, Honors, Awards & Misc. Items

Misc Team Notes

- *Ninth NCAA Tournament Bid in the last 10 years
- *Tenth Consecutive trip to a Postseason Tournament
- *Program-Record 6 Players Named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll
- *Finished tied-for-fourth in the SEC (eighth top-5 SEC finish in the last 10 years)
- *Second Largest Home Crowd (5,065 vs. Georgia, Jan. 27)
- *450th Program Win (Dec. 28 vs. Duquesne)
- *Earned 100th top-25 ranking in AP National Poll
- *Won the State Farm Classic (home tournament) for the 10th time in the 12-year history of the event
- *14 Televised Games
- *Tied Program record for consecutive road games played (7 straight)
- *First-ever trip to the Carribean (played in Paradise Jam in U.S. Virgin Islands)

Carol Ross

- *Finalist for Naismith National Coach of the Year
- *Resigned on March 22, 2002

Carolyn Peck

- *Named UF's eighth women's basketball head coach on April 3, 2002

Monique Cardenas

- *Goodwill Gator Award (team award for the player who unselfishly gave her time and attention to the community and volunteer affairs)
- *Fightin' Gator Hustle Award (team award based on charges, deflections & defensive rebounds)
- *SEC Academic Honor Roll
- *SEC Player of the Week, Jan. 28
- *SEC Good Works Team

Courtney Cooper

- *The Stopper Award (team award for the player who played the best defense within the team's structure)
- *Dedicated Gator Award (team award for strength and conditioning)
- *State Farm Classic All-Tournament Team (hosted by UF)

Lindsey DeLoach

- *Mary Myers Elliott Unsung Gator Award (team award for the player who made significant contributions, on the court, but never received recognition)
- *SEC Academic Honor Roll

Vanessa Hayden

- *Associated Press Honorable Mention All-American
- *womenscolleghoops.com Honorable Mention All-American
- *WBCA/Kodak District 3 All-American (6 player team)
- *First Team All-SEC (coaches)
- *Second Team All-SEC (media)
- *SEC Player of the Week, Dec. 31
- *MVP State Farm Classic (hosted by UF)
- *SEC Player of the Week, Dec. 10
- *Tulane Invitational All-Tournament team
- *Paradise Jam All-Tournament team
- *Most Improved Gator (team award for the player who made the most progress throughout the season)
- *Led the nation in blocks per game (4.3 pg)
- *Ranked fourth in the nation in rebounding (11.8 pg)
- *Triple-Double - 2nd in UF history (vs. Kent State, 12/29) - 17 pts, 12 reb, 10 blk
- *UF record for Blocks in a Season
 - *was 104 by Quientella Bonner (1981)
- *Reset UF record for Blocks in a Game (10 vs. Kent State, 12/29)
- *UF record for Blocks in a Game (9 vs. Colorado, 12/21)
 - *was 8 by Quientella Bonner (vs. Alabama, 1/22/79)
- *UF Sophomore Record for Blocks in a Season
 - *was 50 by Keturah Bell in 1984
- *TIED UF home court record for most points scored by a Lady Gator (36 vs. Oakland, 11/16)
 - *tied Cheryl Fisher (vs. Miami, 2/18/80)
- *Recognized in *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in the Crowd (Jan. 21)

Brandi McCain

- *WBCA/Kodak District 3 All-American (6 player team)
- *Played in the WBCA Senior All-Star Challenge (held in San Antonio on March 30th)
- *Finished second at ESPN's Three-Point Championships (played at Men's Final Four in Atlanta on March 28th)
- *Finalist for Naismith Player of the Year (1 of 20 players)
- *Finalist for Conesco Nancy Lieberman Step Up Award as the nation's top Division I point guard (1 of 15 players)
- *Second Team All-SEC (coaches)
- *Second Team All-SEC (media)
- *SEC Academic Honor Roll
- *Most Improved GPA Award (team award)
- *Most Valuable Gator (team award for the player who was the most value to this team throughout the season)
- *Set UF record for consecutive games scoring a 3-pointer (30 straight -- 21st straight game vs. Creighton, 12/1)
 - *record was 20 by Bridgett Pettis in 1993
- *Tulane Invitational All-Tournament team
- *Preseason Candidate for Naismith Player of the Year
- *Preseason First Team All-SEC (media poll)

Trish Patterson

- *Most Improved Gator (team award for the player who made the most progress throughout the season)

Kelly Stevenson

- *SEC Academic Honor Roll

Tara Taylor

- *Most Improved GPA Award (team award)

2001-02 University of Florida Numerical Roster

No.	Name	POS	CL	EXP	HT	Birthdate	Hometown (High School/College)
00	Ash'lea Moore	G	So.	1L	5-3	8/1/82	Gainesville, FL (P.K. Yonge)
1	Sherisha Hills	G	Jr.	1L	5-8	1/5/80	Tampa, FL (Academy of the Holy Names/Notre Dame)
3	Tishona Gregory	G	Fr.	HS	5-5	3/19/83	Romulus, MI (Detroit King)
5	Kelly Stevenson	G	So.	TR	5-7	1/6/81	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL (Nease/Jacksonville)
11	Brandi McCain	G	Sr.	3L	5-3	9/21/79	Silsbee, TX (Silsbee)
12	Tara Taylor	G	Fr.	RS	5-10	9/8/81	Huntsville, AL (Butler)
13	Trish Patterson	F/C	Jr.	TR	6-2	9/7/77	Toronto, Canada (Eastern Commerce/Miami Dade CC)
23	Tamia Williams	G/F	Fr.	HS	6-0	5/12/82	West Palm Beach, FL (Palm Beach Gardens)
24	Courtney Cooper	G/F	Jr.	TR	5-9	9/27/80	Miami, FL (Northwestern / Miami Dade CC)
25	Monique Cardenas	G/F	Sr.	3L	6-0	10/17/79	Keystone Heights, FL (Keystone Heights)
34	Lindsey DeLoach	G	Sr.	3L	5-10	4/30/80	Orlando, FL (Pine Castle Christian Academy)
55	Vanessa Hayden	C	So.	1L	6-4	6/5/82	Orlando, FL (Boone)

2001-02 Lady Gator Coaching & Support Staff

Head Coach: Carol Ross (12th year, Mississippi '82)
Assistant Coaches: Joi Williams (12th year, South Florida '88),
 Matthew Mitchell (second year, Mississippi St. '95) &
 Renee Ladner (second year, Mississippi '81)
Strength Trainer: Karin Werth Spence (Florida '88)
Athletic Trainer: Kellye Mowchan (fourth year with bball, Florida '91)
Student Trainer: Erika Miller
Administrative Asst.: Margie Gill (Florida '95)
Sports Information: Kathy Cafazzo (Penn State '93)
Managers: Andreia Alexander, Tiffany Lomax, Iris O'Neal, Sarah Sanders & Stefano Trompeo

Pronunciation Key:	
Monique CARDENAS	car-DEAN-us
TISHONA Gregory	tuh-SHAWN-uh
SHERISHA Hills	sure-EE-sha
ASH'LEA Moore	ASH-lee
TARA Taylor	TAR-uh
TAMIA Williams	tuh-ME-uh
JOI Williams	JOY

University of Florida Quick Facts

General Information

Location: Gainesville, Florida (pop. 90,100)
Founded: 1853
Enrollment: 45,937
Nickname: Lady Gators
Colors: Orange and Blue
Conference: Southeastern (SEC)
Home Court: Stephen C. O'Connell Center (12,000)
President: Dr. Charles Young (UC-Riverside, '55)
Athletics Director: Jeremy Foley (Hobart, '74)
Associate AD - Women's Sports:
 Ann Marie Rogers (Michigan St.)
Office: 352-375-4683
Faculty Rep: Dr. Nicholas Cassisi (Western Reserve, '57)
Ticket Office: 352-375-4683, ext. 6800
Athletic Web Page: www.gatorzone.com
Sports Offered: (18) Basketball (M&W), Baseball, Football,
 Golf (M&W), Gymnastics (W), Soccer (W),
 Softball, Swimming & Diving (M&W), Tennis (M&W),
 Track & Field (M&W, XC), Volleyball (W)

Lady Gator Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Carol Ross (Mississippi, 1982)
Overall Record: 247-121 (12 seasons)
Florida Record: same
SEC Record: 84-62
Assistant Coaches: Joi Williams (South Florida, 1989)
 Matthew Mitchell (Mississippi St., 1995)
 Renee Ladner (Mississippi, 1981)
Administrative Assistant: Margie Gill (Florida, '95)
Secretary to Carol Ross: Lani McQuade (Holy Names)
Athletic Trainer: Kellye Mowchan (Florida, '91)
Strength Coach: Karin Werth Spence (Florida, '88)
Basketball Phone: 352-375-4683, ext. 5511
Basketball FAX: 352-395-7586

2001-02 Season Review

Overall Record: 18-11
SEC Record: 8-6 (tied-fourth)
NCAA Championship: 0-1 (first round)
SEC Tournament: 0-1 (first round)
Regular-Season Tournaments: 3-3 (one title)
Captains: Monique Cardenas, Lindsey DeLoach
 & Brandi McCain

2002-03 Team Information (as of March 20)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost from 2002: 9 / 3
Starters Returning/Lost from 2002: 3 / 2
Newcomers: 5
Seniors/Jr./So./Fr.: 3 / 3 / 3 / 5

Program History

Overall Record: 459-339 (28 years)
NCAA Appearances: 9 (1993-94-95-96-97-98-99-01-02)
NCAA Record: 8-9 (advanced to Regional Final in '97)
WNIT Appearances: 2 (1985-2000)
WNIT Record: 6-2 (advanced to national final in '85 & '00)

2001-02 University of Florida Season Review

2001-02 Postseason Awards Banquet, held April 7, 2002

Almost 200 people were on hand in the Touchdown Terrace to salute the success of the 2002 Gator squad and say farewell to former head coach Carol Ross. In one of the more emotional moments of the evening, Ross introduced her replacement Carolyn Peck to the audience and presented Peck with her infamous towel that Ross clutched on the sidelines throughout her 12-year career.

The following awards were voted on by the players and coaching staff:

Goodwill Gator (player who unselfishly gave her time and attention to the community and volunteer affairs) – **Monique Cardenas**

The Stopper (player who played the best defense within the team's structure) – **Courtney Cooper**

Mary Myers Elliott Unsung Gator Award (player who made significant contributions, on the court, but never received recognition) – **Lindsey DeLoach**

Most Valuable Gator (player who was the most value to this team throughout the season) - **Brandi McCain**

Most Improved Gator (player who made the most progress throughout the

season) - **Vanessa Hayden & Trish Patterson**

The following awards were achieved based on specific statistical accomplishments:

Fightin' Gator Hustle Award (charges, deflections, defensive rebounds) – **Monique Cardenas**

Lady Gator Award (complete student-athlete award based on athletic statistics & academic achievement) – **Vanessa Hayden**

Dedicated Gator (strength and conditioning award) – **Courtney Cooper**

Most Improved GPA – **Tara Taylor & Brandi McCain**

Highest Overall GPA - **Lindsey DeLoach** (3.99 GPA)

Carol Ross Resigns

On March 22, head coach **Carol Ross** stunned the college basketball community by announcing her resignation after 12 successful years on Florida's sideline. She stepped down as the Lady Gator's all-time winningest coach, with a 247-221 record.

In 1994, Ross was selected by her peers as the SEC Coach of the Year and the WBCA District 9 Coach of the Year. In 1997 she again received WBCA District 9 Coach of the Year honors for lifting UF to its first top 10 national ranking and a trip to the NCAA Championship Elite Eight. Following the 2001 season, she was awarded both honors after leading the Lady Gators to a 24-6 overall record and a second place finish in the SEC. Ross was a finalist in 2001 and 2002 for the Naismith National Coach of the Year award.

At Florida, Ross tutored 21 student-athletes to SEC Academic Honor Roll status 34 times and 15 to All-SEC honors 26 times.

Carolyn Peck Hired

On Wednesday, April 3, UF Athletics Director Jeremy Foley introduced **Carolyn Peck** as the eighth head coach of the Women's Basketball program. Peck, one of the most visible and popular personalities in the women's game, returns to the college hardwood after serving as Head Coach and General Manager of the WNBA's Orlando Miracle since April 1, 1999.

Season Finale

Florida made its ninth NCAA Championship appearance in the last 10 years. The Lady Gators lone hiccup during the stretch was in 2000, when UF played in the WNIT and reached the title game, losing to host Wisconsin 75-74 in Madison.

In 2002, UF entered the NAAs as the No. 6 seed in the Midwest Region but lost to No. 11-seeded BYU 90-52 in the first round in Ames, Iowa.

Other NCAA Tid-Bits

The Lady Gators have been the No. 6 seed once before this year's placement. UF was the No. 6 seed in the 1995 East Regional. That team won its first round game before losing to hosting Virginia.

All nine of UF's NCAA bids have come under Head Coach Carol Ross.

Starting Small

The average height of Florida's starting lineup was 5-foot-8.

Florida's bench didn't provide any help, as the average height of the 2002 squad is 5-foot-7 1/2.

Say Cheese!

Vanessa Hayden and **Brandi McCain** were named to the six-player 2002 WBCA Kodak District 3 All-America team.

McCain Attended 2 Final Fours in 2002

Senior **Brandi McCain** was at the 2002 men's & women's Final Four. McCain was one of 17 senior NCAA Division I players selected for the 2002 Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) All-Star Challenge. She also participated in ESPN's Slam Dunk and Three-Point Championships, played in Atlanta (site of the men's Final Four) on March 28th, where she finished second in the eight-player contest, losing in a final round playoff.

McCain was the fourth Lady Gator to be selected for the senior All-Star Challenge and is the first to participate in the Slam Dunk & Three-Point Championship.

Former Lady Gators Mahogany Hudson (1998), Murrell Page (1998) and Tombi Bell (2001) all have played in the All-Star Challenge, which began in 1998.

There is a new twist to the 2002 WBCA All-Star Challenge. On Saturday, March 30, the 2002 USA Basketball National Team – featuring former UF star **Merlakia Jones** — brought it's A-Game to the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and defeated the top 20 senior collegiate

Gator Bites ...

* **Vanessa Hayden** ended the 2001-02 season having blocked at least one shot in 46 consecutive games, including swatting a UF record 10 against Kent State on Dec. 29. During that game, Hayden recorded only the second **TRIPLE-DOUBLE** in program history, contributing 17 points, 12 rebounds & 10 blocks. **DeLisha Milton** is the only other Lady Gator to tally a triple-double.

Vanessa Hayden tied the NCAA record for average blocked shots in a season by a sophomore. She matched the national record of 4.3 per game held by Stefanie Kasperski, who set the mark in 1988 playing with Oregon.

* **Vanessa Hayden** is six blocks shy of swatting the 200th of her career.

* Head Coach **Carol Ross** was three wins shy of her 250th coaching victory.

* **Brandi McCain** netted 230 three-pointers during her career. The total ranked No. 2 all-time, behind the 246 recorded by Talatha Bingham (1995-98).

2001-02 National Polls

Associated Press Poll March 11, 2002 - FINAL

1. Connecticut (44)	1,100
2. Oklahoma	1,031
3. Duke	1,020
4. Vanderbilt	935
5. Stanford	931
6. Tennessee	907
7. Baylor	826
8. Louisiana Tech	769
9. Purdue	734
10. Iowa State	658
11. Kansas State	640
12. Colorado	589
13. South Carolina	535
14. Texas	424
15. Old Dominion	438
16. North Carolina	418
17. Texas Tech	314
18. Minnesota	293
19. Cincinnati	263
20. Colorado State	239
21. Boston College	232
22. LSU	192
23. Florida International	141
24. FLORIDA	112
Penn State	112

Others Receiving Votes: Arizona St. 105, Arkansas 44, Notre Dame 39, Indiana 35, UNLV 23, Georgia 17, Villanova 16, TCU 13, **BYU** 11, Wisconsin 9, UC Santa Barbara 8, Creighton 5, Drake 5, Mississippi St. 4, New Mexico 4, Virginia Tech 4, Syracuse 2, Kent St. 1, Pepperdine 1, Temple 1

USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll 2002 Final Poll

1. Connecticut (40)	1,000
2. Oklahoma	960
3. Tennessee	898
4. Duke	875
5. Vanderbilt	835
6. South Carolina	737
7. Old Dominion	716
8. Stanford	689
9. Colorado	647
10. Kansas State	560
11. North Carolina	512
12. Texas Tech	503
13. Texas	473
14. Purdue	445
15. Baylor	421
16. Iowa State	385
17. BYU	347
18. Penn State	325
19. Louisiana Tech	264
20. Drake	244
21. Minnesota	204
22. LSU	128
23. Cincinnati	107
24. Colorado State	83
25. TCU	79

Others Receiving Votes: Boston College 65, Florida 48, Mississippi St 46, Arkansas 45, Florida Intl 44, Georgia 44, Iowa 39, Arizona St 34, Notre Dame 28, Santa Barbara 26, Tulane 19, Indiana 13, Liberty 13, Villanova 11, Virginia 11, Oregon 10, UW Green Bay 9, Houston 8, Wisconsin 8, Clemson 6, North Texas 6, UNLV 4, Creighton 2, Virginia Tech 2, Pepperdine 1, St Peters 1

Florida Week-by-Week in the 2001-02 Polls

Week	AP	USA Today/ESPN
Preseason	13 (4/13)	12 (5/14)
11/12/01	no poll	13 (5/14)
11/19/01	12 (5/12)	13 (5/13)
11/26/01	19 (7/13)	18 (5/13)
12/3/01	20 (7/13)	18 (6/12)
12/10/01	20 (9/12)	20 (9/13)
12/17/01	20 (9/11)	20 (9/12)
12/24/01	16 (9/11)	17 (9/12)
12/31/01	15 (9/10)	16 (9/12)
1/7/02	18 (8/9)	15 (8/12)
1/14/02	18 (7/10)	18 (9/12)
1/21/02	18 (7/10)	18 (8/11)
1/28/02	12 (7/11)	15 (8/10)
2/4/02	14 (7/11)	14 (6/11)
2/11/02	14 (6/10)	14 (6/11)
2/18/02	16 (5/10)	15 (6/11)
2/25/02	22 (5/9)	t-17 (5/12)
3/4/02	24 (5/10)	21 (5/11)
3/11/02	t-24 (5/12)FINAL	21 (5/12)
April	no poll	rv-27 (6/12)

(opponents in Top-25 / total receiving votes)

Florida in the National Rankings

- * All-time number of weeks ranked in AP: 113
- * Highest AP ranking: 5th, Nov. 24, 1997
- * High USA Today/ESPN rank: 5th, Nov. 25, 1997
- * First AP ranking: 19th on Dec. 26, 1983

BOLDFACE indicates 2001-02 opponent

players in the country, 100-59. McCain scored one point with three rebounds and one assist in 18 minutes of action.

Half-and-Half

Six of the 12 members on the 2002 squad entered the year having **never** played in a regular season game at UF. Of the six who returned with experience, two are walk-ons and the another (Sherisha Hills) saw action in just 16 games before a knee injury last year.

Tied for Fourth

The Lady Gators finished the SEC regular season in a three-way tie for fourth place in the league standings. It is the eighth time in the last 10 years that UF has finished in the top five of the SEC.

Get Smart!

A program-record six members of the Florida team earned SEC Academic Honor Roll status, the league announced.

Tombi Bell, Monique Cardenas, Lindsey DeLoach, Misty Knight, Brandi McCain and **Kelly Stevenson** all met the academic requirements to receive the award to surpass UF's previous high of five players on the 1999 academic team.

The league changed the criteria to reflect the entire 1999-2000 academic year, which explains the inclusion of players who graduated after last season.

Florida and Tennessee each had six

players named to the 2002 Academic Honor Roll, the best among the other league schools.

McCain Named Naismith Finalist

Florida senior **Brandi McCain** was one of the top 20 finalists for the 2001-02 Naismith Female Collegiate Player of the Year, the Atlanta Tipoff Club

Gators Everywhere!

A total of 9 former Lady Gators played in the WNBA during the 2001 season -- the second most of any school in the nation (behind Stanford).

Record vs. Ranked Opponents

This season, UF is 4-5 against nationally ranked teams.

The highest ranked opponent UF has ever defeated was ranked No. 5 in the nation (see stats later in this packet for details).

The Lady Gators are 38-66 all-time versus top-25 ranked opponents (AP rank) under coach Carol Ross. During 11-plus years with Ross at the helm, UF is 12-40 against top-10 teams and 26-25 versus teams ranked Nos. 11-25. The Lady Gators have pulled 25 upset victories over higher-ranked teams under Ross.

Under Ross, UF is 19-23 at home versus top-25 teams, 11-32 on the road and 8-11 at neutral site arenas.

Bumps & Bruises

Sherisha Hills was recovering from multiple knee surgeries and was listed as day-to-day for a majority of the season. As a result she saw limited action this season, but contributed extremely crucial minutes.

Sophomore **Kelly Stevenson** tore the ACL in her right knee during the final play of the team's practice on November 22. Last season Stevenson tore the ACL in her left knee. In two games this season she averaged 21.5 minutes. She underwent surgery on January 2nd.

Seniors Saluted

Florida honored its three seniors prior to its final regular-season home game on Feb. 21st against Arkansas. **Monique Cardenas, Lindsey DeLoach** and **Brandi McCain** made their final regular season appearance in the O'Connell Center.

During their four-year career, Cardenas, DeLoach and McCain have helped Florida win a total of 82 games, including 31 in the SEC.

Cardenas and DeLoach are on schedule to earn their degrees this May, while McCain has one year left of course work since she spent most of her collegiate summers playing with different USA teams.

Blocking "Big V"

Sophomore

Vanessa Hayden

became the first-ever Lady Gator to lead the nation in a statistical category, when she averaged 4.3 blocks per game this season.

That average matched the NCAA record for blocks by a sophomore, equalling the mark set by Oregon's Stefanie Kasperski in 1988.

She also ranked fourth in the nation in rebounding, grabbing 11.8 per game.

Hayden also led the SEC in blocks and set a new SEC record with 4.3 blocks per game.

SEC Yearly Block Leaders

Year	Player	School	G	BL	Avg.
1981	Quientella Bonner	Florida	28	104	3.7
1982	Eugenia Conner	Ole Miss	32	55	1.7
1983	Heidi Olsen	LSU	27	105	3.9
1984	Keturah Bell	Florida	27	48	1.8
	Barbara Bootz	Georgia	27	48	1.8
1985	Katrina McClain	Georgia	29	87	3.0
1986	Katrina McClain	Georgia	31	87	2.8
1987	Katrina McClain	Georgia	32	73	2.3
1988	Carolyn Peck	Vanderbilt	28	57	2.0
1989	DeeDee Franklin	LSU	28	93	3.3
1990	Linda Godby	Auburn	35	73	2.1
1991	Heidi Gillingham	Vanderbilt	31	87	2.8
1992	Heidi Gillingham	Vanderbilt	31	131	4.2
1993	Heidi Gillingham	Vanderbilt	33	105	3.2
1994	Heidi Gillingham	Vanderbilt	33	90	2.7
1995	Angela Gorsica	Vanderbilt	35	106	3.0
1996	Angela Gorsica	Vanderbilt	29	89	3.1
1997	Angela Gorsica	Vanderbilt	31	118	3.8
1998	Teresa Geter	Tennessee	39	90	2.3
1999	Tawana McDonald	Georgia	27	56	2.1
2000	Tawana McDonald	Georgia	35	90	2.6
2001	Tawana McDonald	Georgia	33	103	3.1
2002	Vanessa Hayden	Florida	29	126	4.3

UF Blocked Shots

Record Book

Career Blocks

230	Quientella Bonner, 1976-81
194	Vanessa Hayden, 2000-pres.
172	DeLisha Milton, 1993-97
160	Keturah Bell, 1982-86
121	Tammy Jackson, 1981-85
88	LaTonya McGhee, 1989-93

Blocked Shots in a Season

126	Vanessa Hayden, 2001-02
104	Quientella Bonner, 1980-81
98	Quientella Bonner, 1978-79
68	Vanessa Hayden, 2000-01

Blocked Shots in a Game

10	Vanessa Hayden vs. KENT STATE (12-29-01)
9	Vanessa Hayden vs. COLORADO (12-21-01)
8	Vanessa Hayden at South Florida (12-8-01)
	Quientella Bonner vs. ALABAMA (1-22-79)

2002 NCAA Div. I Blocked Shots Per Game Leaders

(Final Stats)

Name, Team	CL, Ht	G	Blks	BKPG
Vanessa Hayden, Florida	So., 6-4	29	126	4.3
Sonja Brown, Southern Miss.	Jr., 6-5	28	101	3.6
Sarah Richey, La-Lafayette	Jr., 6-1	28	86	3.1
Amanda Barksdale, Notre Dame	Jr., 6-3	26	78	3.0
Jordan Adams, New Mexico	Jr., 6-3	31	92	3.0

2002 NCAA Div. I Rebounds Per Game Leaders

(Final Stats)

Name, Team	CL, Ht	G	Reb	RPG
Mandi Carver, Idaho St.	Sr., 6-2	27	336	12.4
Jermisha Dosty, St. Mary's (Cal)	Sr., 6-3	29	344	11.9
Rosalee Mason, Manhattan	So., 5-10	29	344	11.9
Vanessa Hayden, Florida	So., 6-4	29	343	11.8
Jennifer Butler, UMass	Jr., 6-3	30	353	11.8

Twice as Nice

In the 14-game SEC schedule, Florida played Georgia, Tennessee and Ole Miss twice this season, while facing the other eight league teams once.

Unfamiliar Territory

How inexperienced was the 2001-02 Lady Gator squad?

Senior **Monique Cardenas** was the only player on this year's team who has ever played in five of the arenas UF is scheduled to play in this season. The rest of the squad will be lacing up their hightops for the first time ever at Auburn, Vanderbilt, Tennessee and LSU.

Senior **Brandi McCain** was a member of the 1999-00 team that played in those gyms, but this game was one of 19 game

that McCain did not play that year due to injury.

1-2-3-4-5

During her career, senior **Monique Cardenas** has seen game action at all five positions on the floor. Most recently the 6-0 versatile player has posted up at the center spot! Cardenas frequently switches between the paint and the perimeter, depending on the personnel on the court. As a freshman she was the second-string point guard behind Brandi McCain.

Monique has referred to herself as a player "with a post-player mentality in the body of a guard."

Ross' Roots

UF head coach **Carol Ross** was a four-year starter for the Lady Rebels from

1978-81, when Ole Miss logged a 93-50 record.

Carol Ross became the fourth women's basketball player ever to be inducted into the University of Mississippi Athletic Hall of Fame, when she was honored on September 1, 2001.

Ross was named to the inaugural SEC All-Tournament team in 1980 and still holds the school record for steals in a career (333), season (135 in 1980) and in a game (11 vs. Southeastern Louisiana in 1980). Entering the 2001 season, she was No. 4 for career assists (531), her season total of 208 assists is the second-highest and her single game total of 13 dishes ranks tied-for-fifth in Lady Rebel history. Ross is one of only two players to record 1,000 points, 500 assists and 250 steals in a career.

Rebel Roots, Part II

UF assistant coach **Renee Ladner** also played her college ball at Ole Miss. The former **Renee Rutland** ran the hardwood in Oxford from 1977-81 and was a teammate of Carol Ross.

Familiar Face

On February 10th, Ole Miss head coach **Ron Aldy** squared off against Florida for the sixth time since taking the helm of the Lady Rebel program five years ago. Aldy was the Lady Gator associate head coach for five seasons prior to leaving for Oxford. UF compiled a 110-44 record during his tenure in Gainesville, including five trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Aldy also was Carol Ross' high school coach at Grenada Kirk Academy.

Football Bowl Connection

The Florida Gator football team defeated Maryland 56-23 on January 2nd in the FedEx Orange Bowl.

The current Maryland Athletics Director is **Debbie Yow**, who was the head coach of the Lady Gator Basketball team for the 1983-84 and 1984-85 seasons. Yow guided UF to a 41-18 overall record during her two-year tenure, including a 6-10 mark in SEC play.

The 1984-85 team posted a 22-9 record and played in a postseason tournament for the first time in program history, reaching the championship game of the WNIT. This was the first 20-win season in program history.

Gainesville native **Tammy Jackson** was a senior co-captain of the team. Jackson went on to become a member of the 1992 U.S.A. Olympic Team and has won four WNBA championships with the Houston Comets.

The Perfect 10

The Lady Gators claimed their 10th State Farm Classic title in the 12th year of its existence, with wins in the 2001 event over Duquesne and Kent State. The only years UF failed to capture the championship was in 1991, when Stephen F. Austin topped the Lady Gators, and in 1999, when Boston College snuck into Gainesville and halted UF's seven-year run as champions.

Magnolia Madness

Three of the four members on the Lady Gator coaching staff are natives of the Magnolia State (aka Mississippi).

Head coach **Carol Ross** is from Oakland, assistant coach **Renee Ladner** is from Gulfport and assistant coach **Matthew Mitchell** hails from Louisville. In fact, Mitchell is a 1995 graduate of MSU, where he earned a BA degree in marketing. Ross and Ladner both attended Ole Miss, making for a fun rivalry on the staff.

Seven-UP!

The Lady Gators concluded a brutal seven-game road trip on December 8th with a 90-66 win at South Florida. UF posted a 4-3 record during the road adventure.

The seven-game stretch tied the program record for the longest such streak. The 1988-89 team opened its season playing its first seven away from Gainesville (going 4-3), while the 1981-82 squad also logged a seven-game trip early in the schedule, ending the run 4-3.

Traveling Stats

Miles Traveled (as the crow flies) during UF's seven-game road trip:

Gainesville to St. Thomas	1,346 miles
St. Thomas to Gainesville	1,346 miles
Gainesville to Tallahassee	128 miles
Tallahassee to Gainesville	128 miles
Gainesville to New Orleans	457 miles
New Orleans to Gainesville	457 miles
Gainesville to Beaumont, TX	709 miles
Beaumont, TX to Tampa, FL	721 miles
Tampa to Gainesville	118 miles
Total Miles Traveled:	5,410 miles!

Welcome Home?

The Lady Gators were excited about concluding their long seven-game road trip... however the team went directly from road warriors to studying fiends. Final exams ran from Sat., Dec. 8 through Fri., Dec. 14.

Century Ranking

When Florida was ranked No. 20 in the December 10, 2001 Associated Press national poll, it marked the 100th time in program history that the Lady Gators have received a top-25 ranking in the media's weekly poll. All expect two of those weekly rankings came under the direction of head coach Carol Ross.

Homecoming Queen

Senior All-American **Brandi McCain** returned to her native land of Texas and led the Lady Gators with 26 points in a solid 88-45 victory over Lamar University on December 6. Lamar, located in Beaumont, is 18 miles south from McCain's hometown of Silsbee.

Brandi, who was one of the most popular & talented players in Silsbee High School history, had her basketball jersey officially retired following her stellar four-year career. Her mom, Marie, prepared a delicious home-cooked meal for the team the night before the game. A large crowd was in the stands cheering for Brandi.

Long-Range Record

Brandi McCain set UF's all-time record for consecutive games scoring a 3-pointer, when she connected on her first of two treys against Creighton on December 1 in the first round of the Tulane Invitational. McCain past former Lady Gator and current WNBA star **Bridget Pettis** (Phoenix), who sank a trey in 20 straight games during the 1993 season.

Snapped!

Brandi McCain hit at least one 3-point field goal in a program-record 30 consecutive games. The streak ended on January 10, when she went 0-7 beyond the arc at LSU. **Bridget Pettis** hit in 20 straight during the 1993 season.

Moore Family in Action on Same Day

UF sophomore **Ash'lea Moore** is no stranger to New Orleans, having made the trip several times to watch her brother, **Willie Jackson**, play football for the NFL's New Orleans Saints. Willie is in his eighth year in the NFL and his second with the Saints.

Shortly after the Saints defeated the Carolina Panthers in the Superdome on Sunday, Dec. 2, Willie headed over to Fogelman Arena to watch the Lady Gators face the hosting Green Wave in the championship game of the Tulane Invitational.

Ash'lea has another older brother, **Terry Jackson**, who just completed his third year in the league, playing all three seasons with the San Francisco 49ers.

Statistically Speaking...

* In the **NATIONAL** Statistics ...
... **Vanessa Hayden** LEDS the nation in blocked shots (4.3 pg) and ranked No. 4 in rebounding (11.8 pg), while **Brandi McCain** ranked No. 28 for steals (3.18 pg).

* In the **SEC** Statistics - **All Games**...
Vanessa Hayden ranked No. 1 in rebounding (11.8 pg), No. 1 in blocks (4.3 pg), No. 2 in double-doubles (15) & for No. 4 in scoring (17.1 pg).
Brandi McCain ranked No. 10 in scoring (15.9 pg), No. 5 in assists (4.93 pg), No. 2 in steals (3.10 pg) and No. 3 in 3-point FG made (2.76 pg).

Monique Cardenas ranked No. 8 in rebounding (6.9 pg).
Courtney Cooper ranked No. 4 in rebounding (7.7 pg).

* In the **SEC** Statistics - **SEC Games** (FINAL)...
Vanessa Hayden ranks No. 1 in rebounding (10.9 pg), No. 1 in blocks (4.21 pg) and No. 10 in scoring (15.9).
Brandi McCain ranks No. 6 for assists (5.0 pg), No. 3 for 3-pointer made per game (2.78 pg), No. 3 for steals (3.1 pg), No. 6 for free throw pct. (81.8%) & No. 16 for scoring (14.6 pg).
Monique Cardenas ranks No. 20 for scoring (12.3 pg) and No. 12 for rebounding (6.3 pg).
Courtney Cooper ranks No. 7 in rebounding (7.5 pg).

Rookie Rotation

Three different freshmen earned a starting assignment for the Lady Gators this season. **Tamia Williams** was the first to get the nod, starting the first three games of the year. She became the first freshman to start a game since the 1998-99 campaign, when current senior Brandi McCain started every game that season. **Tara Taylor** earned her inaugural start on Nov. 25 against Wisconsin, while **Tishona Gregory** heard the call on Nov. 29 at Florida State.

Come One, Come All

One of the traditions of the State Farm Classic is the annual Kids Clinic, which was held during the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 29 in the O'Connell Center. Approximately 100 youth in the eighth grade and younger participated in the free one-hour clinic.

Home Grown Gators

Eight of the 12 players on the Lady Gator roster are natives of the Sunshine State.

Talent Tales

UF head coach **Carol Ross** and assistant coach **Renee Ladner** were college teammates at Ole Miss, where they were coached by **Van Chancellor**, who serves as the color analyst for all "SEC Game of the Week" broadcasts. In fact, Chancellor was Ladner's coach at Harrison Central High School in Gulfport, Miss., before both moved on to the college scene.

UF assistant coach **Matthew Mitchell**, who does a remarkable Van Chancellor impression, is from the same hometown of Louisville, Miss., as Coach Chancellor.

Sunshine Success

In 12 seasons under coach **Carol Ross**, the Lady Gators posted a 52-4 record against other teams from the state of Florida. Only two teams from the Sunshine State appear on the Lady Gator schedule this season and UF won both: at FSU November 29 & at USF December 8.

Florida Atlantic was the last team from the Sunshine State to defeat the Lady Gators, claiming the 84-63 win on Feb. 16, 1993. FAU's **Yolanda Griffith**, the No. 1 overall selection in the 1997 ABL draft and current member of the WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs and 2000 Olympic Team, contributed 38 points and 15 rebounds in the effort.

Since that loss, UF has won 39 consecutive games against its Sunshine State rivals.

Baby Gators

UF officially received signed National Letters of Intent from five prep stars on Wed., Nov. 14, 2001. The class is rated No. 9 by Blue Star Reports.

Brittany Davis - 6-2, Forward, Gainesville, FL (Buchholz HS)

The Gainesville Sun 2001 Class 4A-6A Player of the Year ... 2001 adidas Top Ten Camp ... 2001 Street & Smith All-America Honorable Mention ... 5A All-State First Team ... her junior year averaged 22 points, 10 rebounds, two blocks and one steal per game ... first player from Gainesville to sign scholarship papers with the Lady Gators since Tammy Jackson in 1981 (Jackson played for the 1992 U.S. Olympic Team and has been a member of the WNBA's Houston Comets since the team's inception) ... ranked: Blue Star No. 59, ASGR No. 55 ... Buchholz High School coach is Chris Gardner.

Dalila Eshe (da-LEE-la ES-shay) - 6-2, Forward, Chattahoochee, FL (Florida HS (Tallahassee))

2001 Nike All-American ... 2000 adidas Top Ten Camp Underclass All-Star (2000) ... 2001 Blue Chip Best of the Best ... 2001 Street & Smith All-America Honorable Mention ... First Team All-Big Bend Conference ... two-time 2A First Team All-State ... averaged 20 points, 11 rebounds and 4 blocks per game her junior ... Florida High School coach is Gary Rady and AAU coach is Kimberly Davis

Sarah Lowe (LOW) - 5-7, Guard, Wynnewood, PA (Lower Merion HS (Ardmore, PA))

2001 Street & Smith Honorable Mention All-American ... 2001 adidas Top Ten Camp ... USA Today Player to Watch ... averaged 15.5 points, 6.0 rebounds, 5.6 steals and 5.0 assists her junior year, when she led Lower Merion to the league finals ... named All-County as a junior by the Philadelphia

Inquirer ... rated No. 82 by the All-Star Girls Report ... totaled 463 points as a freshman and 400 points as a sophomore ... played with the AAU Philadelphia Belles U15 team ... ranked: Blue Star No. 39, School Sports No. 47, ASGR No. 97 ... from the same high school as NBA star Kobe Bryant ... Lower Merion High School coach is Lauren Friel.

Bernice Mosby - 6-2, Forward, Brooksville, FL (Hernando HS)

Named the St. Petersburg Times All-Suncoast Girls Basketball Player of the Year as a junior, when she led Hernando High School to the Class 4A regional final with a 23-4 record and averaged 22.7 points and 12.8 rebounds ... 2001 adidas Top Ten Camp Upperclass All-Star, 2001 Street & Smith All-America Honorable Mention, 2001 AAU 16U All-American, 4A All-State Third Team, Region Player of the Year, All-Conference First Team ... ranked: ASGR No. 29, Blue Star No. 46 ... Hernando High coach is Walt Cermak and AAU Clearwater Green Wave coach is John East.

Danielle Santos - 5-10, Guard, Marietta, GA (Wheeler HS)

Nominee for the McDonald's All-America High School game ... 2001 First Team All-State ... 2001-02 Preseason Top 10 Player in Georgia ... All-Metro Atlanta First Team ... All-Area First Team ... as a junior averaged 13.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 6.0 steals and 5.6 assists per game, leading Wheeler to a 27-4 record and the Elite Eight of the state tournament, losing to the eventual champion ... ranked: ASGR No. 80 ... Wheeler High School coach is Krista Kilburn.

Tennessee Team Ties

UF assistant coach **Matthew Mitchell** joined the Lady Gator staff during the summer of 2000, leaving the graduate assistant coach position he held at Tennessee. Mitchell was replaced by **Amber Stocks**, who is the older sister of recent Lady Gator graduate **Tamara Stocks**.

Tennessee assistant coach **Mickie DeMoss** was the head coach at Florida from 1979 to 1983. During her four-year tenure the Lady Gators compiled a 45-68 overall record, including a 3-29 mark in SEC play. After leaving Florida, DeMoss was an assistant coach at Auburn, where she was on the coaching staff with current UF head coach **Carol Ross**.

First Time

The Lady Gators traveled over 1,300 miles from Gainesville on their inaugural road trip of the season. UF played in the Paradise Jam in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands on Nov. 24 & 25. This was the first time in program history Florida has ventured to the Caribbean for a tournament.

WNBA Draft Day Success

Brandi McCain and **Monique Cardenas** both were selected in the 2002 WNBA Draft. McCain was selected by the Cleveland Rockers as the eighth pick in the second round of the 2002 WNBA Draft. The 5-foot-3 guard was the 24th overall pick in the 64-player draft Friday afternoon. The Portland Fire made Cardenas the 53rd overall selection, choosing the 6-foot guard with the fifth pick of the fourth round.

McCain and Cardenas become the 11th and 12th different Lady Gators to be selected in the WNBA Draft in the six-year history of the event and continued Florida's streak of having at least one player pick in each draft. The Gator pair were two of 11 players from the Southeastern Conference drafted today.

The University of Florida has a strong presence in the WNBA, with nine former Lady Gators appearing on 2001 Opening Day rosters, the second-highest total of any other school in the country behind Stanford's 13.