



# 2007-08 SEASON REVIEW



Depree Bowden, the lone senior on the 2007-08 squad, had the best season of her four-year career, leading the Gators in scoring (13.4 ppg), steals (68) and three-point field goals (55).

To say that the Amanda Butler Coaching Era got off to a successful start would not even begin to do justice in explaining the remarkable job Florida's first-year head coach did during the 2007-08 season.

After inheriting virtually the same squad that won just nine games the previous year, Butler and her staff produced the greatest one-year turnaround by a coach in their first year in program history, winning 19 games while facing 17 different teams that earned a postseason bid. Butler also became the program's first head coach to guide Florida to a postseason berth, as the squad competed in the WNIT, reaching the third round.

Additionally, Florida shattered the preseason expectations of the Southeastern Conference's head coaches, who picked the Gators to finish 11th in the final standings of the 12-team league. The Gators finished four places ahead of those predictions, posting a 6-8 record and tying for seventh in the mighty SEC that once again produced two of the Final Four teams, including the national champion.

Individually, junior **Marshae Dotson** flourished under Butler's tutelage, emerging as a First-Team All-SEC performer in a conference that featured 10 players selected in the 2008 WNBA Draft. The 5-foot-11 forward ranked among the league's top 10 in scoring (13.1 ppg), rebounding (7.9 rpg), field goal percentage (53.1%) and free throw percentage (67.9%). Senior **Depree Bowden** had the best season of her four-year career, leading the Gators in scoring (13.4 ppg), steals (68) and three-point field goals (55), which led Florida's perimeter shooting to a program-record 179 treys. Junior **Sha Brooks** became the unselfish utility guard, running the point when needed while canning spectacular long-range shots and keeping the opposition's defense honest with her slashing drives to the basket. She contributed 12.3 points in addition to a team-leading 87 assists, with 62 steals, 48 three-pointers and shooting 79.8 percent (103-129) from the free throw line, the second-best percentage in the SEC.

Those accomplishments by the team and the those three players, however, are just a small sampling of the success Florida enjoyed throughout the 2007-08

## FLORIDA'S SEASON-ENDING STARTING LINEUP

No.	Name	POS	CL	HT	GP/GS	PPG	RPG	Notes
44	Marshae Dotson	F	Jr.	5-11	33/32	13.1	7.9	First-Team All-SEC (coaches)
42	Aneika Henry	C	Jr.	6-3	33/24	4.6	5.6	team-best 63 blks; 53.1% FG
2	Lonnika Thompson	G	So.	5-4	32/21	3.2	1.5	32.0% 3FG (16-50)
3	Sha Brooks	G	Jr.	5-7	33/33	12.3	3.1	12 straight dbl-figure score games
20	Depree Bowden	G/F	Sr.	5-11	33/33	13.4	5.1	avg. 18.0 ppg in SEC Tournament

### Gators Off The Bench

24	Sharielle Smith	F	So.	5-10	31/10	8.4	6.0	10 starts, 27.7 minutes per game
22	Jennifer Mossor	G	So.	5-9	26/5	8.3	2.0	missed 7 games to injury/illness
12	Brittaney Thomas	G	So.	5-8	32/7	4.1	1.2	13.6 minutes per game
15	Kim Critton	G	Jr.	5-7	33/0	2.8	2.2	39 of 72 rebounds were offensive
50	Ebonie Crawford	C	Fr.	6-3	25/0	0.7	1.3	5.8 minutes per game; 25 games played in 15 games, 5 pts scored
1	Kerri Simpson	G	Fr.	5-9	15/0	0.3	0.4	walk-on; 2 games played, 2 min.
10	Jordan Parker	G	Fr.	5-6	2/0	0.0	0.0	walk-on; 2 games played, 2 min.
14	Ndidi Madu	C	Fr.	6-3	1/0	4.0	3.0	OUT for season (ACL tear Nov 11)

## 2007-08 SEASON AT A GLANCE

Overall Record:	19-14
Southeastern Conference Record (finish):	6-8 (tied-7th)
Postseason:	WNIT, Round of 16 (Third Round)
SEC Tournament:	1-1 (Quarterfinals)
Regular-Season Tournaments:	2-0 (1 event, champions)
All-SEC:	1 Gator, 2 Honors (Marshae Dotson: First Team Coaches', Second Team Media)
SEC Academic Honor Roll (2):	Depree Bowden & Marshae Dotson
SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll (2):	Ebonie Crawford & Ndidi Madu

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:	Amanda Butler (Florida, BS '95, MS '97)
Records (at UF / overall):	19-14 (first year) / 59-36 (third year)
Assistant Coaches:	Susie Gardner (Georgia, '86/'88), first year Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick (Wake Forest, '00/'01), first year David Lowery (Mississippi State, '00), first year Janna Maquette (Davidson, '02), first year
Assistant to the Head Coach:	Janna Maquette (Davidson, '02), first year

### 2007-08 TEAM INFORMATION

Captains (3):	Depree Bowden, Marshae Dotson & Susan Yenser
Seniors (1):	Depree Bowden
Juniors (4):	Sha Brooks, Kim Critton, Marshae Dotson & Aneika Henry
Sophomores (4):	Jennifer Mossor, Sharielle Smith, Brittaney Thomas & Lonnika Thompson
Freshmen (4):	Ebonie Crawford, Ndidi Madu, Jordan Parker & Kerri Simpson
Additional (1):	Susan Yenser (sat out season per NCAA rules for transfers)

### GAME-DAY MEDIA COVERAGE

Radio:	Every game aired LIVE on WRUF-AM850 in Gainesville - audio simulcast on Cox Channel 96 with Steve Babik, Steve Russell & Brittany Davis
Internet Audio:	Audio of all 33 games aired LIVE thru <a href="http://www.GatorZone.com">www.GatorZone.com</a> (FREE of charge)
GatorVision Online:	9 home games offered during the service's fifth season
Television:	11 Games (Sun Sports, FSN Florida, FSN South, FSN Southwest, COX Sports, Comcast Sports)

season during Coach Butler's inaugural stint, which provided a glimpse into the success and growth in the program's near future.

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2007-08 CAMPAIGN:

### TOUGH WHEN IT WAS TIGHT

Florida sported a 10-3 record during the 2007-08 season in games that were decided by six points or less, with three of the last four regular-season games contributing to the mark, as well as the Gators' 60-55 win over Florida Gulf Coast in the WNIT second round.

The Gators ended the regular season with a 72-66 win at Ole Miss (March 2), after falling at home to South Carolina, 69-65, on February 24th. UF defeated Arkansas, 75-73, on February 17th, with Sha Brooks hitting two free throws with 1.2 seconds remaining to seal the win.

### SENIOR CITIZEN

Depree Bowden was the lone senior on the 2007-08 Gator roster and her leadership was on display from the preseason until the final game. Bowden capped her career with 987 points, increasing her scoring average each year and leading Florida with 13.4 points in her finale.

She assumed the top spot on UF's scoring chart following her impressive two-game showing at the SEC Tournament, where she contributed a team-high 18.0 points, hitting 7-of-11 from the three-point arc (63.6%) and 14-of-24 shots overall (58.3%). Bowden also dished eight assists with just two turnovers in the league's postseason event.



Amanda Butler was the eighth different full-time head coach in the 34-year history of the Florida women's basketball program and became the FIRST to guide the Gators to a postseason berth in their first year on the sidelines. Butler guided UF to 10 more wins than the 2006-07 squad compiled, marking the greatest one-year turnaround in program history.

She graduated on May 3, 2008, with a bachelor's degree in Criminology and plans to attend graduate school.

### WHO ELSE WAS HOT?

Sha Brooks scored in double-figures in the final 12 games of the year. During that span, she averaged a team-best 15.3 points per game, connecting on 34.4 percent (22-64) from the three-point arc, while dishing 32 assists and collecting 27 steals, also team-highs. Additionally during those last 12 games, Brooks converted 42-of-51 free throws (82.4%), including her 2-of-2 effort with 1.2 seconds remaining in the thrilling 75-73 victory over Arkansas on February 17.



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## MOVING ON UP

No other Southeastern Conference team made a bigger improvement from the 2006-07 season to the 2007-08 season than the Gators, who won four more SEC games in 2008 than in 2007, had a greater improvement in their place in the final league standings (from 11th in 2007 to tied-for-seventh in 2008) and made a bigger jump from preseason expectations (voted 11th in SEC Preseason Coaches' Poll).

## THE "BIG THREE"

During the preseason, Florida's 'Big 3' were expected to produce big things ... and they did not disappoint. The trio of Depree Bowden, Marshae Dotson and Sha Brooks combined for 1,281 of UF's 2,257 points (56.8%), 530 of 1,300 rebounds (40.8%), 221 of 417 assists (53.0%) and 187 of 310 steals (60.3%) during the season.



Aneika Henry blocked 63 shots during the season, which was the most ever swatted by a Gator junior.

Bowden, the lone senior on the 2007-08 squad, picked up where she left off the previous season, contributing a team-best 13.4 points and 5.1 rebounds, with a team-high 68 steals along with 80 assists. She took just took over the leading scoring spot following her 15-point effort against Tennessee in SEC Tournament quarterfinal round game (March 7).

Dotson was the undersized work-horse in the paint again during the season, leading UF in rebounding (7.9 rpg) and holding the scoring (13.1 ppg) title for the majority of the year until the end of the SEC



Junior Marshae Dotson emerged as a First-Team All-SEC performer in 2007-08, ranking among the league's top 10 in scoring (13.1 ppg), rebounding (7.9 rpg), field goal percentage (53.1%) and free throw percentage (67.9%).



## 2007-08 Florida Gator Basketball Team

Standing (left-to-right): Athletic Trainer Aimee Struk, Assistant Coach David Lowery, Head Coach Amanda Butler, Assistant Coach Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick, Marshae Dotson, Nididi Madu, Aneika Henry, Ebonie Crawford, Sharielle Smith, Susan Yense, Assistant Coach Susie Gardner, Video Coordinator Edwina Johnson, Assistant to the Head Coach Janna Magette, Strength & Conditioning Director Karin Werth; Middle Row, Seated: Brittney Thomas, Kerr Simpson, Jennifer Mossor, Depree Bowden, Kim Critten, Sha Brooks, Lonnika Thompson; Front Row, Seated: Managers Meagan Edward, Billy McCall, Jr., and Serena Wilson

Tournament. She exploded with a 20-point, 14-rebound effort against LSU on February 3rd, netting her eighth double-double of the season and collected her ninth double-double on March 2 at Ole Miss in the regular-season finale, when she tallied 11 points and 13 rebounds, helping the Gators rally for the 17-point comeback win. She was named the MVP of the State Farm Classic (Dec. 29) after tagging Alabama A&M for 26 points and 10 rebounds in the title game. She topped the 1,000-point plateau for her career during the February 10th game at Mississippi State.

Brooks continued to be a steady offensive contributor, averaging 12.3 points, but emerged as more of a complete player, tallying a team-best 87 assists with 62 steals, and played a team-long 32.2 minutes per game. She topped the 1,000-point plateau for her career during the December 22nd game against Saint Louis.

## THE SILENT SWATTER

Aneika Henry blocked 63 shots during the season, which, surprisingly, was the most ever by a Gator junior. It ranked as the sixth-most in a season in UF history, five blocks behind the 68 all-time swatter Vanessa Hayden blocked during the 2000-01 season. Hayden also owns the single-season record with 126 blocks during the 2001-02 campaign.

## HOME SWEET HOME

Fourteen of Florida's 19 wins during the season came within the friendly confines of the O'Connell Center, where they sported a 14-5 record. The 14 wins tied for the second most home wins in program history. The 1997-98 squad (when Amanda Butler was a UF assistant coach) ended the year with a 16-0 record that included two wins in the NCAA Tournament, while the 1993-94 Gator team (Amanda Butler's senior year), compiled a 14-0 mark.

## HIT A THREE ... GIVE A THREE

With its second of eight 3-pointers in the SEC Tournament quarterfinal game against Tennessee (March 7), the 2007-08 Gator squad became the most prolific three-point shooting team in program history, topping the 169 treys sank by the 2004-05 group. Florida capped the season with 179 three-pointers.

During that same SEC Tournament game, the Gators had allowed its 2007-08 opponents to move into second place in the record books for the most treys against Florida, trailing only the 194 sank by foes



On December 22nd versus Saint Louis, junior Sha Brooks became the 19th Gator to score 1,000 points during her career, nailing a three-pointer from the right side of the arc that put her over the top of the milestone. She eclipsed the mark in her 72nd career game, the seventh fastest in program history.

during the 1996-97 season. Florida allowed 189 three-pointers during the season.

## BUILDING BLOCKS

UF's first of three blocked shots against Florida Gulf Coast on March 24th was the team's 100th of the season. It was the eighth different time a Gator squad had blocked at least 100 and the first time since the 2003-04 season.

## 2007-08 BY THE NUMBERS

**987:** career points scored by senior Depree Bowden

**164:** career 3-point field goals by Sha Brooks, the third-most in UF history (No. 2 is 230 by Brandi McCain, 1998-02)

**120:** games senior Depree Bowden played during her career, a total that ranked tied-for-sixth with Crystal Parker (1992-96), who sits sixth on the all-time Gator list (No. 1 is 129 by Tamara Stocks, 1997-2001)

**94:** games played by Sha Brooks and Marshae Dotson (every game of their respective careers)

**91:** consecutive games started by Sha Brooks (has started all except one game during her collegiate career)

**65:** consecutive games Marshae Dotson has scored (has scored in all except one game during her collegiate career) ... she has grabbed at least one rebound in EVERY game she has played

**19:** overall wins compiled by the 2007-08 squad, helping Amanda Butler tie the Gator record for victories by a first-year head coach in UF history

**14:** home wins in 2007-08 (14-4), tied for the second-most in program history with the 1993-94 team that posted a 14-0 home record (the 1997-98 Gator squad was 16-0)

**2:** Gators (Sha Brooks & Marshae Dotson) who topped the career 1,000-point plateau during the 2007-08 season

**+10:** the improvement in wins by the 2007-08 team (2006-07 record was 9-22), tied for the best in program history with the 2003-04 squad that posted a 19-11 record after a 9-19 mark the previous year

## FROM WAY DOWNTOWN

Sha Brooks drained a career-high seven three-pointers against Tennessee on February 28, when she connected on 7-of-11 from behind the arc en route to a season-high 27 points.

The seven treys tied for the second-most in a game in UF history, one behind the eight Bridget Pettis canded against Georgia on Jan. 20, 1993. Brooks' seven 3-pointers were the most by a Gator since Brandi McCain also hit seven against Washington on March 18, 2001 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.