Can this man save the Gators?

"He loves a challenge and thrives on pressure. He's been in other programs that have not had great athletes, but he has developed those young men into winners that can compete against the best athletes there are. He has the ability to relate his success and his way of winning to his players. And that's what coaching and winning are all about. That to me, is the secret to Steve Spurrier's success."
— Allen Trammell, UF halfback, 1963-65

By MIKE DAME

When Stephen Orr Spurrier landed on the UF campus in 1963, few envisioned the impact he would have on Gator football. But the modest quarterback from Johnson City, Tenn., quickly displayed his greatness, becoming the school's only Heisman Trophy winner and capturing an eternal place in the hearts of Gator faithful along the way.

Now, some 23 years later, Spurrier has come home to coach the team he served so well. His pledge: To propel UF's football program past Florida State University and the University of Miami as the best this state has to offer.

And why not? Everything Spurrier has touched has turned to gold.

In the mid-1980s, during three seasons as coach of the Tampa Bay Bandits of the now-defunct United States Football League, Spurrier led the franchise to a 35-10 record and two consecutive playoff appearances. The past three seasons at Duke University, Spurrier resurrected the Blue Devils with his wide-open offense and guided them to their first Atlantic Coast Conference title since 1962.

But, as the adage goes, you can't live on reputation alone. Spurrier, 44, faces several demanding challenges at his troubled alma mater.

Can he repair UF football's tainted public image? Can he fulfill his promise of graduating 70 percent of his players? Can he convince potential high school recruits that he fulfilled his promise of graduating 70 percent of his players? Can he convince potential high school recruits that UF, a school mired in an ongoing NCAA investigation, is the ideal athletic and academic institution for them?

Can Spurrier revitalize Gator football?

The consensus is a resounding "Yes."

"You don't see the kind of person Steve really is because of the glare of his coaching accomplishments," said Chris Kennedy, academic coordinator in the Duke athletic department. "People who know him will tell you there's more to him than you think there is."

The 'Golden Boy'

"The good ol' Gator days are back."
— Gay McDonald, wife of UF attorney Tom McDonald, who negotiated Spurrier's contract

The clock was ticking down in the 1966 UF-Auburn contest, and like the familiar script to an old movie, quarterback Steve Spurrier knew the task that lay before him. With the score tied at 27, the Gators faced fourth down, and a long field goal would give UF the victory.

After a masterful two-minute drill by Spurrier that brought UF inside the 40-yard line, the Gators' senior quarterback called timeout and strode to the sideline to confer with Coach Ray Graves. Both Graves and Spurrier agreed: The field goal was out of kicker Wayne Barfield's range. So Spurrier waved his teammate off the field and booted the only field goal he ever attempted. The 40-yarder defeated Auburn 30-27.

"It's just that innate, God-given ability of leadership, of believing in himself," said Trammell, UF Letterman's Club president. "He made everybody else believe, and the reason he made everybody else believe is because he performed."

After Spurrier's playing days, however, many doubted he could become a successful coach.

Early in his coaching career, Spurrier was known as "the country club coach." Rare was the day when Spurrier missed an afternoon on the golf course, and several coaches tagged him as the golden boy sorely lacking the work ethic necessary in becoming a successful teacher of the game.

That perception vanished as his success grew and he proved his dedication to the coaching profession.

"It broke my heart when he decided to go to Florida," said Jackie Shankle, a staff assistant with The Iron Dukes, Duke's booster club. "He's a great man and he has the best offensive mind in the country. He's a laid-back sort of man, but he works very hard. You don't realize how hard he's working because of his personality."

During his 10-year professional football career with the San Francisco 49ers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Spurrier spent his off-seasons relaxing in Gainesville. No job. No career plans. Just hour upon hour of playing the links.

When he landed his first coaching job in 1978 as an assistant to UF head coach Doug Dickey, he soon realized his priorities in life rested with coaching.

Since then, Spurrier has developed a sparkling image and staggering success as head coach at Tampa Bay and Duke. But can he perform the same magic at UF?

"We're all convinced that Spurrier's a good coach," said UF political science senior Chris David. "When my roommates and I first heard that he offered the job, we got together and called Duke and asked to speak to Coach Spurrier. He wasn't there, but we left a message with his secretary. Please come coach our Gators because we'd really appreciate it and if you come, we'll take you out to dinner on us!"

New head football coach Steve Spurrier said he plans to make UF football the best the state has to offer.
Police Blotter

Kentucky Fried Robbery
Gainesville police are still investigating a Tuesday night armed robbery at Kentucky Fried Chicken, 1251 E. University Ave., L.S. Sadle Darnell said.

An unidentified black male wearing a panyhose on his head, a red-orange hooded sweatshirt and dark pants demanded money from the cashier at about 8:30. The suspect left around the back of the building, running east near the In-N-Out restaurant on Southwest Second Avenue, Darnell said.

Although witnesses did not see a weapon, the suspect's hand was wrapped in a bag, leading police to believe he was armed. Darnell said. Police describe the suspect as 5 feet 1 inch tall, in his 20s and weighing about 200 pounds.

What's Happening

M.L.K. Day: Alice Hasings will speak Monday at noon at Tigert Hall for the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. A march down University Avenue will follow. Call 392-8855.

Sabbath Services: Hillel Foundation Sabbath Services, Reform and Conservative, will be held tonight at 7 at 16 NW 18 St. Call 372-8448.

Medical Honors: Junior Honors

Medical Program Orientation, a program to help get an early start on medical school, will meet Tuesday night at 7 in the Community Room C-111. Call 392-3071.

United assistant; Graduate Students United meets Saturday at 2 p.m. in McGuire Village Common Room. Call 392-0274.

Awards celebration: The Black Graduate Student Organization will sponsor a Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Celebration on Friday night at the Holiday Inn University Center. Tickets available at Little Hall Room 452. Call 373-9376.

Les Bon Vivants: The French Club will meet tonight at 5 in the Orange & Brew. Call 396-8690.

Dance: UF Folk Dancers will meet tonight at 8 in the Norman Hall Gym. Call 378-3883.

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Minorities hurt by CLAST

Results show higher failure rates for blacks, Hispanics

By CHRISTY HARRIS
Alligator Writer

With more UP students having failed the CLAST since standards were raised last August, some administrators say the test is unfair to minorities, who were especially hard hit.

Results from the Oct.7 College Level Academic Skills Test show that although fewer UF students failed than projected with the higher standards, blacks and Hispanics' failing rates increased almost twice as much as whites. Administrators say there are several reasons for the lower passing rates.

Minority Student Affairs Dean Willie Robinson said part of the reason for lower minority scores is culturally different learning styles for blacks and Hispanics.

"Part of the problem is due to differences in preparation, particularly in urban school areas," Rob-

Robinson said.

Latin American Studies Director Terry McCoy said Hispanics may have done worse on the test because English isn't their first language.

"They're working out of two languages and English is not necessarily their first," McCoy said. "It would affect the math test too because they have to read and assimilate the instructions."

All state university students must pass the CLAST — a four-part exam covering math, reading, grammar and writing skills — before receiving an associate's degree or advancing to upper division study.

The minimum passing score was raised last year from 270 to 295 in English and English skills, and math was raised from 275 to 285. The passing essay score will be raised from four to five this year and math will be raised to 295 in 1991.

Jeanine Webb, director of the Office of Instructional Resources, said the most meaningful difference in scores was seen in the English language skills section of the test.

"It has traditionally been an easy test, but in order to meet the standards (of the English language skills part), students had to get so many of those items right," Webb said.

Aside from the English language skills section, Webb said the scores on the other three sections didn't decrease significantly.

"For the person who didn't pass, it's meaningful," Webb said. "But for the general population, it is not a meaningful test.

Robinson said preparation for the CLAST at UF isn't adequate, and that scores won't improve until changes are made.

"The difference with an institution like UF is that it is a research-based institution," he said. "There is not a lot of emphasis on remedial-based preparation.

But UF may not need as much remedial preparation as other schools. Webb said most of UF's students already were scoring at the new levels on the math section and they fared better than any of the other state schools' students.

"Statewide, our students perform so much better on this exam than those at other institutions," Webb said.

Keith Legg, interim academic affairs associate vice president, said those who do fail usually pass the second time around.

"But not everyone thinks the answer is that they will win," Legg said.

Clifford Strong, Loyal Fraternal Order of the 99 commandant, said minorities will continue to do worse on standardized tests until society realizes the tests are written without the black community in mind.

"The Loyal Order is a national non-Greek organization dedicated to educate, motivate and protect the black community.

"The ACT and SAT are designed in Princeton, New Jersey, by intellectuals who have little if any contact with the black community," Strong said. "It's unrealistic to expect them to do well. We should reemphasize standardized tests as a measure of academic potential.

Legg said the CLAST measures competency, not academic potential, and biases are worked out of each question on the test.

"The skills required are not extraordinary," Legg said. "They're needed in the work place."

For students who do fail, programs specifically designed to help them are available. The Of-

see CLAST, page 4

Tougher CLAST

Failing rates for UF students taking the College Level Academic Skills Test increased after the standards were raised August 1. In March 1989, 2,667 whites, 172 blacks and 170 Hispanics took the CLAST. In October 1989, 1,658 whites, 196 blacks and 99 Hispanics took the test.

50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
March 1989
October 1989
White
Black
Hispanic
source: Office of Instructional Resources

3 vie for treasurer’s post

By ANA ACLE
Alligator Writer

Although former Student Body Treasurer Alan Levine recommended three names for the interim treasurer's post Thurs-

day, he said two of the candidates don't stand a chance.

Levine, who resigned effective Jan. 5 to take an internship in Orlando, recommended David Winialski, Scott Thomas and Pat Siracusa for the vacant position.

The interim treasurer will serve in Student Council until a permanent successor is chosen during the Feb. 14 student election.

Levine said he'd like to see Winialski succeed him, and added he chose Thomas and Siracusa because he doesn't think they will win.

Student Senate will vote Tuesday on the nominations. If senate rejects all nominations, Levine must submit three more names.

Winialski is a neuroscience graduate student working toward a master's degree. He is also the treasurer of the Board of College Councils, a student group that oversees the budgetary processes for each college council, and he has had two years experience as the executive director for graduate student affairs.

Thomas, an accounting major, is Student Body President Ed Scales' chief of staff.

Both Thomas and Winialski said they consider the nomination an honor and added they were chosen because Levine was impressed with their past efforts. Siracusa couldn't be reached for comment.

Siracusa, a liberal arts junior, is a former student senator.

Tickets for George Carlin will go on sale Tuesday

Tickets to see comedian George Carlin will go on sale Tuesday at 10 a.m. at University Box Office and all TicketMaster locations. Student Government Productions has announced Carlin is scheduled to perform Feb. 2 at the O'Connell Center.

Student prices are $8.50, and students can buy as many tickets as they want with their fee card, said SGP Chairman Raul Mateu. General public seats are $14.

Carlin has appeared on Late Night With David Letterman and The Tonight Show. The comedian also has done seven Home Box Office specials.

Carlin's opening act has not been scheduled, but Mateu said it probably will be a local comedian. Mateu said SGP might sponsor a competition among local comedians, with the winner opening for Carlin.

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FDA recalls Jarvik artificial hearts

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Food and Drug Administration has recalled the historic Jarvik artificial heart, citing problems in its manufacturing and reports of adverse reactions, officials said Thursday.

The makers of the artificial heart, Symboin Inc., were notified by letter that the FDA withdrew approval for further use of the device, an FDA spokeswoman said.

Named after its inventor, Utah physician Robert Jarvik, the artificial heart had been implanted in more than 150 patients. It is a fist-sized, electrically powered combination of graphite, polycrylamid, Dacron, Velcro and metal.

The device first made history in late 1982 when doctors placed it in the chest of Barney Clark, a Seattle dentist dying from a degenerative heart condition.

Clark lived for 112 days with the artificial heart, dying in March 1983 at the age of 63.

Mother sought in 9-year-old girl’s slaying

CHICAGO (UPI) — Police were seeking the mother of a 9-year-old girl whose body was found Thursday beneath a message scrawled in blood and signed “her mother.”

Authorities, responding to a call from a worried grandmother, said they found the child’s body — with a single stab wound in her chest and her face shredded — with the message: “Keisha Maxey, 9 years old. The system or the power of Satan, nothing can hurt her anymore. She passed Jan. 9, 1990 between 2 and 4 o’clock. Her mother.”

Police withheld the name of the child’s mother, who remained at large at midday.

The victim, found in an abandoned apartment building, was tentatively identified as Khalah E. Muhammad, born April 5, 1980, the Cook County medical examiner’s office said.

Police found the girl’s fully clothed body lying on sofa cushions on the second floor of a vacant apartment.

Children witness mother’s death in shooting

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (UPI) — A woman in the process of moving from her drug-ridden neighborhood was shot to death Wednesday night while her three young children looked on in horror, police said.

Maria Jusino, 33, was shot in the stomach outside a house, the apparent innocent victim of a shooting by three men who opened fire at another target.

Jusino and her children were leaving the house at 630 p.m. when three men fired several shots in her direction in an apparent attempt to shoot someone else, a police spokesman said.

Her three children, all under eight years of age, saw their mother collapse in the street and watched from a police car as ambulance crews tried to save her life.

She was pronounced dead at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Residents said the neighborhood is overrun by drug dealers and users. They said guns were common and young men openly deal drugs on the street.

Neighbors told police Jusino had moved into the house of relatives about two months ago but decided to leave because she was afraid of the crime in the neighborhood.

They said she was loading a van with her belongings moments before she was shot.

A search by police failed to turn up the gunman.

CLAST from page 3

Opinion of Instructional Resources offers a program for students who have failed one or more sections of the CLAST.

The program is available to all students who need help, but is required for those who have failed the CLAST twice, Webb said.

The Gator chapter of the NAACP also has a program to help people who may have trouble with the test. Althea King, the president of the local chapter of the NAACP, said the group recommends using the tutors available at the University of Florida.

Another option that may help students with the CLAST is a newly offered English class.

One section of an alternative 1000-level English class, ENC 1145, Topics for Composition, is offered this semester. Because it focuses on writing on a particular topic, it may help students who would have difficulty with the essay section.

Legg said UF tries to steer students who need work writing essays into the class. They usually are transfer students from community colleges.

“We’re inviting students in there that the failed the CLAST at least once and haven’t had ENC 1102,” Legg said. “There’s a bigger dose of composition, out of the mind of freshman English Carol Smith said she wouldn’t recommend the class over ENC 1101 or 1102 though.

“Each person’s needs are different,” Smith said.

Smith said one section of the new class wouldn’t be enough to make a conclusion about whether it will help. She said she believes students automatically will write better when the minimum score is raised.

And the writing will have to get better. Webb said with the essay portion’s minimum standard going from four to five July 31, she’s concerned about the effect. She estimated only about 80 percent of UF’s students would pass the essay with the tougher standard.

“We’ll see dramatic changes,” Webb said.

Although Legg, from academic affairs, said UF encourages freshmen to take the CLAST, King, from the NAACP, said people aren’t informed about it early enough.

“We’re trying to increase awareness of the CLAST,” King said.

“A lot of people don’t take it seriously. We want to show there there are places to go for help.”
Clinic fight goes to state capital

By MIKE CARR
Alligator Writer

UF women's rights advocates are tired of being treated like little girls by UF administrators, the president of UF's National Organization for Women said.

So Friday, Joyce Leggette will take the fight to save UF's Women's Clinic to the state capital. In Tallahassee, she will try to enlist the help of State University System Chancellor Charles Reed to stop the closing of the clinic, which was proposed by Infirmary Director Boyd Kellett last fall.

Kellett plans to abolish specialty clinics at the Infirmary and replace them with five health teams that will treat all ailments.

"UF officials are saying, 'don't worry little girls; everything will be all right,'" Leggette said. "But we aren't going to take their word. We are going to the top."

"Without a doubt administrators are treating us like little girls," said Wendy Maynard, President of Campus Organized Against Rape, who will also attend the meeting with Reed. "They're basically saying 'This is what we are doing. Now be a good little girl and go along with it.'"

But Health Affairs Associate Vice President Ken Finger, doesn't think a meeting with Reed is the answer.

"It's unnecessary for them to go (to Tallahassee)," said Finger, who is Kellett's boss. "They have not used the university system in my opinion. I have not met with any of them."

But Leggette said she set up the meeting with Reed because she was unable to get fingers support.

Kellett works through the UF president, Finger said.

"They are under the mistaken impression that Kellett has proposed a negative change when he will actually be improving services," Finger said.

"The 1,800 signatures represent a positive feeling for a good women's program, which we will keep (under a different name)."

The Tallahassee meeting is the most recent move by campus NOW to fight the clinic's abolition. Students protested the plan Dec. 5 at a demonstration outside the clinic and at a Student Health Advisory Board meeting Dec. 6.

Patient Petty fans get floor tickets

More than 80 Tom Petty fans who didn't back down from long lines Wednesday were able to buy floor tickets from the University Box Office, but they may have to move for Petty's equipment, O'Connell Center director Lionel Dubay said.

Dubay said 84 extra seats went on sale about 2 p.m. Wednesday. The seats were reserved for Petty's sound-mixing board, but were made available because of the demand for tickets, he said. Since Petty's production staff didn't specify what seats would be reserved for the equipment, O' Dorne personnel set aside six rows on the floor in front of the stage, then released half of them for sale.

"We, as a precaution, killed more seats than had to be done," Dubay said.

The 84 seats may have to be moved depending on where the equipment is set up. If that happens, the seats will not be moved off the floor, Dubay said.

Many who waited in line for tickets Wednesday were surprised they got floor seats. UF sophomore Eric Brown got in line at about 6:30 p.m. Brown had a floor seat.

"I was nervous about even getting a ticket," he said.

-- MIKE BRUSELL
Opinions

The new year always brings with it a host of wishes and promises. As a result, we have lots of laurels and only a few darts. So let's enjoy the spirit of the new year and enjoy the decade's first installment of

Darts & laurels

LAUREL to Leonardo's Pizza By The Slice and Leonardo's 706 for replacing their styrofoam pizza trays with biodegradable, pressable paper trays. We know the paper is more expensive but Leonardo's is keeping the cost just about the same by covering the trays with tin foil. The Millhopper Square Leonardo's and about a million other restaurants in Gainesville haven't caught on yet but hopefully they'll get the idea.

DART to all UF Physical Plant workers who drive and park their ugly blue trucks on the SIDEWALK. Maybe our goal of getting UF to keep traffic off campus during the peak hours was a bit lofty considering the biggest offenders are UF employees. We've got to get them off the SIDEWALK first. We'll hang on to our dream of a safe campus, but for now we'll settle for getting two-ton trucks off the SIDEWALKS.

LAUREL to UF's right waste coordinator, Al Krause, and his staff for setting up next week's phone book recycling drive. And LAUREL to the student groups who are volunteering to do the collecting, including the Environmental Action Group, the Environmental Law Society.

Throwing one old phone book in the garbage may not seem like a lot but lots of them literally take up tons of valuable landfill space. The campus drive is ready to collect five tons of phone books — 45,000 to 60,000 pounds of paper — and ship them through Jacksonville to South America where they will be shredded for insulation material.

It's a shame we couldn't recycle them at home but at least someone is doing something. Bring your books from home and look for the dumpsters in the commuter parking lots. Anyone who drops off their book with a student group at a campus site will get a coupon for a free coke from Gator Dining Service.

DART to Student Government Productions Chairman Raul Mateu for making grandiose 1990 promises that he can't keep. We wouldn't mind if he couldn't give us the best seats for the Tom Petty concert. But we do mind when he promises them and then doesn't deliver.

Not only did he con hundreds of UF students to stand in line at the Student Union, he never told anyone there would be no special priority for students. An announcement Wednesday morning would have given fans in the back of the line the option of toughing out the wait or using their two hours to run over to Sears for tickets — and probably better seats.

LAUREL, reluctantly, to Mateu and his staff for getting Petty here in the first place. We're not sure if Petty decided to come on his own or if Mateu is telling the truth when he says he worked hard to get him here. (He's the one who promised us great seats, remember?) We're not really sure why Petty has been away so long but we're glad he's coming and giving SGP the privilege to book him. The students could really use any extra cash made off this show.

College 'cocoon' doesn't last long

I guess it's about that time when most of us wonder why we ever bothered coming to college. Drop-add lines are miles long. Our schedules are empty, most classes are full, and our fingers and faces are permanently ink-stained from the spring semester. Desperation leads to indifference as we skim the newspaper for possible classes in "Poultry Science," "Swallow" and "Vegetable Crops.

It's looking pretty bad.

But eventually we manage to fill our schedules and our studying, sleeping, partying routines begin anew. It's scary when you think about how much our lives have changed in 10 years. That's when I begin to appreciate these last couple of years.

We are no longer children. We rarely need permission from our parents to do the things we want to do. We are not quite adults and therefore have no heavy-duty responsibilities.

We are living in this grayish world of in between, a purgatory really, far away from real life. Think about how lucky we are.

We never again will be as free, as youthful, as unattached as we are right now. We are existing in a collegiate cocoon with a life expectancy of four years. We have all of life's essentials surrounding us and, if we're lucky, they're free. Loans, scholarships or parents pay for schooling, apartments, bills, food and clothing. On the weekends, there is a buffet of parties to choose from.

College is when we can really get to know ourselves and discover our potentials and drawbacks.

Amidst our numbers there is bound to be an undiscovered congress person, scientific genius, Picasso or Streisand. This is the time to cultivate our dreams and take practical steps toward reaching them. College really is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Maybe that's why some graduates are afraid to leave. Graduation is for sure the last binding link to youth and protection. It's all responsibility from there.

I'm going to enjoy the two years I've got left here. I'm sure I'll remember these days with longing 10 years from now when I've got a deadline at a newspaper in an hour, a screaming editor whose ulcer is bigger than his belly and a husband who called to say he's bringing his parents home for dinner.

And won't I be sorry.

These are truly the last days of youth. So enjoy them. Live them. Thoroughly. Because we all know, but often forget, that we'll never be the same again.

Debbie Ceiper is an Alligator writer.

Political science needs more faculty

Editor: Like the author of your editorial "Everybody Share," on Jan. 10, the Political Science department regrets the necessity of restricting the first two days of drop-add to its majors.

This decision was reached because our students, all too frequently, find themselves approaching graduation without being able to obtain sufficient credit hours to meet the requirements of the major.

The root of the problem, as you noted, is insufficient staffing to meet the needs of UF students who wish to take courses in Political Science.

Your editorial recommended addressing the problem instead by giving majors priority status during the advanced registration period. As it happens, we requested precisely such a solution during a meeting with the Registrar last fall.

The request was not honored, leaving us no alternative but to hold the first two days of drop-add exclusively for our majors.

Anticipating the problems this would cause for non-majors, we took a number of steps to accommodate them. We voluntarily increased class sizes by 10 percent over normal limits, additional sections taught by adjunct faculty were scheduled and our two most heavily subscribed undergraduate courses are available through correspondence.

The department also reserved some class spaces for non-majors. These spaces were only made available to students with appointments on the third and fourth days of drop-add. These steps help explain why spaces were still available in most of our classes by 10 a.m. Wednesday, after most non-majors had completed departmental drop-add.

These short-term solutions are forced upon departments like ours that have too few faculty to satisfy student demands. The problems will remain as long as Florida witholds funds from higher education.

An institution that can find $400,000 to pay a football coach could also do more to meet the real needs of its students.

Kenneth D. Wald
Chair of political science
James Barkla
Undergraduate Coordinator
They read my name off and a lot of people thought it was my son, probably," Spurrier said. "But I was embarrassed about not graduating for about 14 years until I did it. It's something I should have done a lot earlier."

Mike Gannon, a UF professor and former assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, gave the invocation at Spurrier's graduation ceremony and was surprised to see the former Gator great walk across the stage. "I was startled, and most pleasantly so," Gannon said. "That said a lot about the man."

Instead, what took Spurrier 18 years to accomplish, he expects his players to do, on a much tighter schedule. At Duke, Spurrier earned a reputation among his colleagues as a man devoted to academic excellence. Fifteen of his 19 senior Duke football players — 79 percent — graduated last year.

UF's latest graduation rates were far off that mark. Only five of 22 football players recruited as freshman in 1983-84 graduated by Aug. 31, 1988 — 22.7 percent.

Spurrier has established a goal of some day graduating 70 percent of his new players. Incentives are built into his five-year contract to encourage results. UF professor Jane Brockmann, president of UF's chapter of United Faculty of Florida, said Spurrier's goals are admirable. But she questions the incentives included in his contract.

"You can't legislate a graduation rate," Brockmann said. "I think a lot of faculty would question the process that is getting set up for inducing (higher graduation rates). Imagine paying a professor for giving a student an 'A' in a course. Or paying a department or a professor for increasing the number of majors in their department. That would be considered very unprofessional."

At Duke, Spurrier gave academic coordinator Kennedy the freedom to establish the academic practices he thought were best for the Blue Devil football players. "It's hard to do this job if you don't have support from coaches, because that filters down to the players," Kennedy said. "But it was always clear here that's what came first. If somebody needed to miss practice for a lab or some kind of academic reason, they could do it. If I needed him to punish somebody for something, he would do it without any problem."

Professor Gannon said Spurrier's academic goals for his players can be reached only by recruiting serious students.

Kennedy agrees. "It's not as hard as it sounds," he said. "You look for people who can play, but who also have a legitimate interest in academics. They don't have to be geniuses, but you kind of filter out the guys that clearly have no interest in going to school."

A change of heart "Miami and Florida State aren't going to get the cream of the crop anymore." — Mike Pittman, head football coach at Suwanee High School in Live Oak

A few months ago, many Gator fans around the state already had given up on UF's 1990 recruiting season. With the prospect of a possible NCAA probation and the gradating class of 1989, the state's talented high school crop weren't looking at UF.

But since Spurrier's arrival, the Gators' sagging recruiting effort has received a much-needed shot of adrenaline.

"You have already had a wave to the Spurrier charm is Chiefland High senior Mike Pittman, the 6-4, 240-pound Blue Devil. The kid is tight and verbally committed in December to attend Notre Dame — without considering UF a finalist."

But just days after Spurrier's announcement, the new coach was at McBride's door. He left with McBride's word to visit UF before signing on the dotted line with Notre Dame.

"Just Spurrier walking into Florida has made a great impact on recruiting," said Pittman. "I met Coach Spurrier last year as a freshman in the class of '90 and very honest with you."

Academic irony "I couldn't have asked for more." — Chris Kennedy, Duke University

It took Spurrier 18 years to earn a bachelor's degree in physical education from UF in 1981.

"He's come home to the Gator country and in a position to do things his way," said Steve Spurrier's brother, Scotty, to say, "Go Gators," they knew they wanted their father to return to UF.

And now that Steve Spurrier has been named the Gators head football coach, both girls can spend more time with their family.

"We were hoping all along that this would be his choice but we didn't want to put too much pressure on him," Lisa said.

Their mother, Jerri, will continue her college education at UF, where it began 26 years ago. She moved from Gainesville 15 credits short of a bachelor's degree in economics and never completed her requirements elsewhere. She wasn't interested in graduating from any other school, Lisa said.

But when her husband decided to return to his alma mater, the family finally was able to rally around the same football team.

Both Lisa, an exercise science senior, and Amy, a junior in marketing, said they've always been faithful Gator fans. But when the Duke University Blue Devils played on television at the same time as the Gators, they watched the team their father coached before heading to

"Just Spurrier walking into Florida has made a great impact on recruiting," said Pittman. "I met Coach Spurrier last year as a freshman in the class of '90 and very honest with you."

"We've got the fitness facilities. We're putting natural grass down on the field and with the advantage of a Florida degree, we should be able to excel easily," Spurrier said.

That's the cycle I hope to establish here, and we want our football players, when they're 35, 40, 45 years old and in a position to contribute back to their university, they can come back to Gainesville and watch the young Gators play."

And Spurrier said it shouldn't be a problem getting those successful student-athletes to UF.

"We've got the finest facilities. We're putting natural grass down on the field and with the advantage of a Florida degree, we should be able to excel easily," Spurrier said. "We've got everything going for us here. We just have to go out and get the message across and have a better track record in graduating our players."

As for that little statistic known as the win-loss record, James said no one is better for UF than Spurrier.

"Steve brings integrity and inspiration to our players," James said. "We're not going to get outcoached on the field, either. If we have the personnel on the field, and typically Florida's going to have those great athletes, we're not going to get outcoached."

"He's come home to the job that he really needs to do in. He's one of us."

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Amy and Lisa Spurrier
Family
from page 7

Florida Field.
"Once we knew the Blue Devils were going to win, then we'd go watch the Gators play and scream and cheer like everyone else," Lisa said.

Sharing their father's last name has raised people's expectations about their athletic abilities, but Dad never drove them to prove themselves in any sport, they said.

Still, Lisa and Amy avoided asking their father's advice about football as they were growing up, preferring to play tennis and jog.

"There was always an unspoken agreement that we wouldn't do anything that Dad could coach us in," Amy said, laughing.

Their brother Steve, who will graduate this year from high school in North Carolina, doesn't share that aversion. He played for the school's football team despite pressure to play as well as his Heisman Trophy-winning father.

Scotty is the other athlete in the family, Lisa said. He already swims, runs and plays baseball, basketball, volleyball, golf and football.

Spurrier is already training his younger son, Lisa said.

"My dad's goal right now is to make him the golfer of the family." As Lisa and Amy were growing up, the family split its time between homes in Gainesville and San Francisco, where Spurrier played nine seasons with the National Football League's 49ers.

Once in 1976, when Lisa attended one of her first football games, fans boosed her father, then the quarterback of the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Lisa, then 9, joined the crowd thinking the boos were directed at the referee.

The next day The Tampa Tribune announced in a headline: Even daughter boos Spurrier.

Football has always been more than a game in the Spurrier household, Lisa said.

"We lived our lives by the football season, and as we've grown up, we've learned to love it."

---

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Crimson Tide names Stallings head coach

United Press International
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Gene Stallings, a player under Paul "Bear" Bryant and later head coach at Texas A&M, Thursday was named the 22nd head football coach at Alabama, replacing Bill Curry.

"I'm an on-the-field football coach," said Stallings, who was missed this season as co-wr of the Phoenix Cardinals. "I'm looking for the guy who's going to give total commitment."

Alabama President Roger Sayers and Athletic Director Cecil "Hootie" Ingram made the announcement of Stallings' appointment during a news conference.

Stallings, 54, was flanked by former Alabama players Bart Starr, Lee Roy Jordan and others, and his wife, Ruth Ann, as he accepted the job.

"Gene Stallings was the choice of Bear Bryant to succeed him as football coach when he retired," Jordan said. "Maybe it wasn't to be."

Although Curry had a successful record with Alabama, he wasn't really accepted by the fans. One of the marks against him was his playing for Georgia Tech and did not have any ties to Bryant, who retired at the end of the 1982 season and died in January 1983.

Curry left Alabama to take the head coaching job at Kentucky.
Reese to quit as women's swim coach

Randy Reese, head coach of the UF men's and women's swimming teams, said Thursday he will step down as women's coach effective March 18—the day after the NCAA finals.

Reese, one of the last coaches in the country to direct both squads, said demands of leading both were not allowing athletes to fill their potential.

AROUND SPORTS

"It was very difficult to make this decision," Reese said. "The women's team is very special to me. However, in dealing with recruiting and the day-to-day counseling of swimmers, it has become impossible for me to give my best to such a large group."

"I want both teams to have a greater winning streak of conference and national titles and I don't think we could accomplish that with me coaching both squads."

In his 14 years at UF, Reese has coached the women to a record of 114-6 (950). The Lady Gators (9-0) are ranked No. 4 nationally.

Reese coached the women to an NCAA championship in 1982 and an AIAW championship in 1979. His Lady Gators never have finished lower than third in the NCAA and have won eight of nine Southeastern Conference titles. He has coached 76 All-Americans, including Olympic gold medalists Tracy Caulkins, Mary Wayte, Theresa Andrews and Dana Torres. His efforts garnered him the NCAA "Coach of the Year" award for 1982 and 1988.

Swimmers in Miami

The UF men's and women's swim teams take to the water this weekend as they head south to face Miami in their first meets of the spring.

The Gators (5-2) face the 4-2 Hurricanes, while the women (9-0) meet the 5-1 Lady 'Canes in Coral Gables on Sunday.

UF faces Auburn

The UF women's basketball team can rebound from a pair of recent tough losses. But not easily.

UF travels to Auburn, Ala., to face the nation's 15th-ranked Lady Tigers, who reached last year's national championship game before falling to Tennessee. Although they (10-4) lost four starters from last year's squad, Lady Gators coach Carol Whitmire said her squad will have its hands full.

Whitmire said her team needs to harass Auburn's 6-foot-6 senior center, Linda Godby, into a less than average game of 17 points and eight rebounds.

But Auburn has more than just a dominating inside player. Junior guard Carolyn Jones leads the Lady Tigers in scoring with 20 points a game, and also collects nearly six boards a game.

UF (9-4) is led on the inside by sophomore center Erica Lang, who had 19 points Wednesday against Florida State, and junior forward Rhona火花, Smith, averaging 17 points and eight rebounds a game.

Runners hold meet

The UF men's and women's track teams hope to use the Florida All-Comers Meet on Sunday in the O'Connell Center as a warmup for the tough competition that lies ahead.

The Gators will compete against an estimated 1,600 runners from near the Atlantic seaboard.

Field events begin at 11 a.m., while running events start at 1 p.m. Admission is free.

The men's squad — coming off the best season in its history in which it finished second and third at the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships, respectively — returns All-Americans Tyrone Kemp, Mark Everett, Earl Diamond, Tom Puxstys and Stacer Simmons.

The Lady Gators, also looking for some on-track experience, feature two freshmen and four sophomores who are expected to do well in events.

Alligator writer Sharon Gines, Gregg Doyel and Joseph Todd contributed to this report.

First wave of recruits to visit football team

By RON KASPISKE
Alligator Writer

UF will get its first chance to sell the new era in Gator football today as the first wave of high school prospects arrive on campus for their 48-hour recruiting visit.

Because of the circumstances surrounding the late arrival of new coach Steve Spurrier, the Gators are starting their weekend recruiting orientations a week later than most schools.

Recruiting coordinator Jim Goodman said this weekend will be crucial to how UF fares during the signing period.

Goodman said 14 or 15 high school seniors are expected to arrive today.

"We've been trying to catch up," Goodman said. "We've been on the phone all week, but now it's time to show these kids what UF is all about.

"Basically what we'll try to do is show them the academic aspects of the school, have them recruits who will be on campus.

Goodman did say, however, that among the team's needs are a fullback, a tight end, some offensive linemen and some defensive backs.

"The key is to have the recruits spend as much time with Coach Spurrier as possible," Goodman said. "Since he's been here, no one has said no to considering Florida before signing somewhere else."

Spurrier and his staff will return to the road Monday as they continue to visit as many players as possible before Feb. 14, the national signing day. Spurrier will be in the Pensacola area recruiting on Monday.

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**Sports**

**OPENING NIGHT**

Wave of optimism surrounds UF gymnastics team despite loss of Kerr, Wittmeier as season gears up

By SHARON GINN
Alligator Writer

It there truly is strength in numbers, the UF gymnastics team may have a difficult season ahead.

Most certainly, it will be an unpredictable one.

Tonight, UF will play host to Georgia College and Iowa in its season opener at the O'Connell Center. And loyal fans who attend the 7:30 p.m. meet may notice that last year's top three performers will be missing from the lineup.

Entering this season, the team was prepared for the loss of leader Melissa Miller, as the six-time All-American completed her career with the Gators in 1988. But no one imagined the two gymnasts expected to compete for the top spot this year—Lynette Wittmeier and Janice Kerr—would be sidelined with injuries before the season even started.

Now, with only seven returning gymnasts and one new co-captain (senior Dwayne Schmitzus) and with her father, former UF coach Bob Schmitzus, lacking the depth it has had in recent years. But head coach Ernestine Weaver, entering her 11th season with the Gators, hasn't lost confidence in her team's abilities.

"It's tough, but OK, we don't cry and say 'See you next year,'" Weaver said. "Everyone has to perform. We still have eight girls in the gym and we have to get them to fulfill their potential.

"I'm a freshman last year proved herself to be a top all-around (all four event scores combined) performer, injured her left knee during practice Dec. 11. Kerr, a two-time All-American, tore the Achilles tendon of her left leg at the Jan. 4 practice.

Both will sit out the 1990 season. For Kerr, a senior, this was her last year of eligibility.

"Your immediate heart goes out to the kid," Weaver said. "She's beautiful. She's done.

But, she said, things should be kept in perspective.

"All of these girls have something (else) they're going to be doing," Weaver said. "We want to win and we like to put on a show, but this is an extracurricular activity. That's what we're here for.

"They're going places, doing things. This is not a professional sport.

Without their top two returnees, there's no telling who will steal the show at tonight's meet. It could be junior All-American Pam Titus, or senior Karen Brennalt, or sophomore Melissa Kuchter.

"This year," Brennalt said, "there will be no consistent leaders. Every meet will be a surprise."

ALLIGATOR PHOTO

"We've been upset so much that I'm just taking it as it comes," Chatman said. "I need both Dwayneys and both Dwaynes need me. We're just beating ourselves.

The team did not hold practice Thursday and met with DeVoe's. They were not available for comment after the meeting.

DeVoe defended his coaching decision and said the Gators need to concentrate on this weekend's game.

"We've just got to play well in the next ballgame," DeVoe said. "We have to make sure we're ready to play.

In order to win, the Gators (5-5 overall, 1-2 in the Southeastern Conference) also have to eliminate the turnovers—48 in the last two games. And UF must not overlook a Tiger team picked in the preseason to finish in the lower half of the SEC.

Auburn (4-9, 1-2) defeated Mississippi State on Wednesday night 98-71. Two weeks ago, Mississippi State defeated nationally ranked Louisiana State.

By DAN STIFFLER
Alligator Staff Writer

The UF basketball team returns to the O'Connell Center on Saturday to try to stop the bleeding—on and off the court.

When the Gators take the floor at 1:30 p.m. against the Auburn Tigers, they will try to rebound from an 89-63 loss to Kentucky in Lexington, Ky., on Wednesday night—a game that left a bad taste in the mouths of the Gators players.

For the first time since the Nov. 30, 1988, game against Siena College, UF's front line ccenter Dwayne Schmitzus and forwards Dwayne Davis and Livingston Chatman never were on the court at the same time.

Back in 1988, the reason was simple: Schmitzus was serving a four-game suspension for the well-documented incident in which he allegedly used a tennis racket to fend off some UF students outside a Gainesville nightclub.

And when the trio did start last year, it recorded an 18-9 mark.

But Wednesday night, that was a lineup Coach Don DeVoe couldn't use.

It was a decision the Gators players did not look upon favorably.

"If he (DeVoe) keeps us three out of the game together, we'll have a losing season," Davis said following Wednesday's game.

"We've been here for three years and he changes combinations and that's not right. I'm going to talk to him tomorrow (Thursday). I'm frustrated and mad."

That's a sentiment with which Chatman agreed.

"I've been upset so much that I'm just taking it as it comes," Chatman said. "I need both Dwayneys and both Dwaynes need me. We're just beating ourselves.

Many of the players were upset with Coach Don DeVoe's decision to change the starting lineup.

Looking forward, looking back. The three-team meet tonight is billed as the Gatorade Opener. Admission is free for UF students with proper identification.

Nearly 4,800 UF partisan packed the O'Connell Center last season to watch the Gators earn easy victories against Towson State and Georgia College, based largely on UF's depth. Tonight's meet could be a completely different scenario, as the Gators have only eight women on the squad.

Even though the last season-opener wasn't the best of nights for Christina McDonald, who tore the anterior cruciate in her right knee, the Gators attained their highest season-opening score ever with a 188-95. McDonald returns this year and is expected to be a top gymnast.