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UF 24   OKLAHOMA 14

A FAMILIAR RING



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF players hold the Coaches' Trophy after the team won the BCS National Championship Game 24-14 in Dolphin Stadium in Miami Gardens Thursday night.

Gators once again boast top football program thanks to defense

By **PHIL KEGLER**
 Alligator Staff Writer
 pkegler@alligator.org

MIAMI – Titled town is alive and well again. It just took a little longer to realize this time.

This one was a far cry from the blowout two years ago in Glendale, but the fireworks and confetti were just as sweet for the Gators.

Brandon Spikes knows that Gainesville now contains the best football program in America.

"If ya'll want us," Spikes said, "You gotta come get us."

Oklahoma will be left wondering, yet again, about its struggles in BCS contests as it lost its

fifth straight BCS game and third straight national championship game Thursday night in Dolphin Stadium.

At the same time, Urban Meyer became the first coach to win two BCS national championships.

"It feels great," Meyer said. "It is humbling when you consider all the great coaches and players who have and opportunity to do it. It only shows the professional way that our coaches and players prepare every week."

And a year after the Gators' defense was embarrassed by Michigan in the Capital One Bowl, it had its sweet revenge in front of 78,468 fans, the largest crowd ever for a football game at Dolphin

Stadium.



While the majority of the defense is made up of the same players from a year ago, linebacker Ryan Stamper said the unit has come miles from the young squad that gave up 41 points to Michigan in last year's Capital One Bowl.

UF held Oklahoma to a season-low in points, and the Gators won 24-14, clinching their second national championship in three seasons.

This was a Sooners offense that had scored a NCAA-record 702 points this season and came into Thursday scoring 60 points

in five straight games.

"In the offseason, we told our defense if they got stops this year, we would win a national championship," wide receiver Percy Harvin said. "We're No. 1 now."

This was a game where UF quarterback Tim Tebow wasn't at his best, at least early on. The Offensive MVP ended the game 18-of-30 passing for 231 yards, with two touchdowns and two interceptions. He added 109 yards on 22 carries on the ground. He told his teammates at halftime when the score was tied at 7 that they were going to pull it out, according to safety Major Wright.

"Tebow's a man of his word," Wright said.

SEE BCS, PAGE 22

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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AROUND GAINESVILLE

Lucky underwear, birthdays determine final score

By **THOMAS STEWART** and **MORGAN COLLINS**
Alligator Writers

The game was in Miami, but you wouldn't know it from the noise at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center during the BCS National Championship Game Thursday night.

10,300 pairs of arms and legs chomped and stomped in the stands of the O'Dome as fans watched the Gators snag their second title in three years on four jumbo screens in the corners of the stadium.

Fans sprung from their seats in unison after the Gators drew first blood against the Oklahoma Sooners in the first quarter and stayed on their feet through much of the night.

After each touchdown, fans hollered, hopped around and high-fived.

They wore orange and blue shirts, wigs, hats, jerseys, beads, scarves, plastic Hawaiian leis, and face paint while a small group of

cheerleaders and pep band members tried to add to the energy of the already pumped-up crowd.

There was a brief period of panic around 10:45 p.m. when the video feed cut out and a rotating Gator logo replaced the game.

After what seemed like hours but was only a minute or two, a relieved crowd cheered when the image was restored.

Across campus in the Orange & Brew, the crowd held their collective breath and clasped their hands in prayer as the Sooners approached the Gator goal-line at the end of the first half. The intoxicated crowd screamed and pounded the tables after the Gators denied the Sooners end-zone entry.

Amid the sea of orange and blue, a lonely Oklahoma fan shook his head. He declined to comment when asked for his reaction to the game.

Meanwhile, Shannon Corwin, a UF mathematics junior, said the Gators were going to win because it was her birthday. "They won last time on my birthday too," she said

with an empty Blue Moon sitting on the table in front of her. "I'm good luck."

Her friend Kate O'Neal, an education senior, thought the Gators would win for a different reason.

"They won last time on my birthday too. I'm good luck."

Shannon Corwin
UF mathematics junior

"I'm wearing my lucky underwear," she said.

The atmosphere off campus was equally spirited.

On the sidewalk outside of Tijuana Flats, a football fan in an alligator skull-topped UF cap greeted passers-by, telling them how great it to be a Florida Gator.

Midtown bars and restaurants filled with fans but were noticeably emptier than the 2007 championship, said 23-year-old Christopher Cedros, a bouncer at The Swamp

Restaurant.

"This is a little more mellow than last time," he said, as he checked IDs at the restaurant's entrance.

On the restaurant's outdoor patio, the mood was more animated than mellow.

Fans knocked down pitchers of beer and plates of hamburgers and fries, as three big-screen TVs played ESPN highlight reels of UF and Oklahoma's football seasons.

Inside the restaurant, people clanked orange and blue hand-clappers to the beat of the song "Chicken Fried" by The Zach Brown Band.

Fans cheered the Gators' dazzling offensive drives and defensive stops but jeered referee calls in favor of Oklahoma.

The whistle for halftime snapped them out of their football frenzy, as fans took rest room breaks and ice cream seekers rushed to Ben & Jerry's during halftime.

Ben & Jerry scoopers Shannon May, 20, and Brittany Isom, 18, were ready for the onslaught of customers. Staff made extra waffle cones

and cookies to prepare for the night, May said.

May, a junior marketing major from Clearwater, was a little disappointed about working during the game.

"I tried hard to give my shift away," she said.

As soon as the clock ran out, fans poured out of the O'Dome and rushed University Avenue in Gator Championship tradition.

Chants of "It's great to be a Florida Gator" and "Orange" and "Blue" filled the night. Streams of toilet paper sailed over the crowd and people stood on top of crosswalk signals. Across the street, a shirtless fan did pull-ups from the top of a street pole.

"I'm having the best time of my life," said Ely Mercil, a fan who climbed a greased light pole.

His hands and arms were covered with the PAM cooking spray authorities applied to poles before the game to discourage climbing.

"We destroyed Okalahoma. We own this shit," he yelled.



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Ryan Pinto / Alligator



Ryan Pinto / Alligator



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

ABOVE: Sid Carlo, of Brooksville, Fla., holds up a sign while hunting for tickets for himself and his 15-year-old son before the BCS National Championship Game at Dolphin Stadium in Miami Gardens Thursday morning.

LEFT: A man cheers for the Gators' win over the University of Oklahoma in the BCS National Championship Game while others celebrate on University Avenue on Thursday night.

People walk towards West University Avenue to join others after the Gators' 24-14 win against the University of Oklahoma in the BCS National Championship Game on Thursday night.

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Editorial

It's that time of year again. Quickly becoming as commonplace as luminaries like Homecoming and spring break in Cancun, it's the unofficial kickoff to the spring semester — UF finding itself in the BCS National Championship Game.

With this seemingly annual celebration of UF's football awesomeness comes trips to locales such as Phoenix and Miami, an extended drop/add period, and no class the day after the big game.

Oh wait — well, let's move on to the BCS/we-know-you-missed-it-oh-so-much edition of this semester's...

Darts & Laurels

What should have been a week full of smiles and school-girl giggling over the possibility of a second football championship in three years sadly found itself upended by the unscrupulous actions of our "beloved" president.

With his first **DART** of the new semester (insert shock here), **President Bernie Machen** is on a record-setting pace to reach epic levels of infamy on the pages of the Alligator in 2009. Early Vegas-line figures show Machen as an odds-on favorite to take home the crown as the most heavily darded individual of the new year.

Refusing to accommodate UF students while our football team battles for gridiron glory really strikes a chord with the Editorial Board. Homecoming gets a three-day weekend just so Fratty McFrat and Suzie Sorority can chug oversized quantities of jungle juice to the point of inebriation? Come on, Bernie, you have to admit you really stuck it to us on the fourth day of school.

Hmm, we wonder where the UF higher-ups will be at 8:30 on Friday morning? Fat chance we find them wide-eyed and cheery at another one of those, yawn, symposiums they just love to attend.

On a much brighter note, the Editorial Board would like to give the entire **UF football team** a goddamn-you-guys-are-good **LAUREL** for their accomplishments this season. Urban Meyer's tenure in Gainesville has seen unparalleled success for the program — giving us even more to brag about to our lowly friends from high school who have the unfortunate luck of attending Florida State.

Win or lose, we will not soon forget a highlight-reel season, from Superman, err, Tim Tebow's heartfelt press conference to a gutsy fourth-quarter comeback against then top-ranked Alabama — sans superstar wide receiver/every-position-imaginable Percy Harvin.

Back to the harsh realities that not everything can be as great as UF football, the Editorial Board frowns upon anyone who exploits the not-so-deep pockets of the Gator Nation, especially given the current economic climate.

We're looking at you, **West University Avenue bars** — guilty for jacking up the price of booze knowing damn well that hordes of UF students far more concerned about academics than football would be staying in town to catch the game. Here's a come-on-did-you-really-have-to **DART** for taking our business 364 other days of the year for granted and making a night out in Gainesville really feel like Miami for us — minus that whole charm and ambiance thing.

Hardly a shock if you've been keeping score at home — but the Editorial Board would like to present this week's final award to a former dart gone good. For his attempts to show Congress that bleeding blue and orange trumps all political obligation, we award **Rep. Cliff Stearns** a well-deserved **LAUREL** as a consolation prize for being stuck watching the game amid the undereducated wannabe sports fans who roam the streets of D.C.

That's all for this week. Win or lose — have a safe weekend.

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OPINIONS EDITOR

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Opinions

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Column

Partial coverage breeds U.S. apathy

As the battle between Israeli and Hamas fighters in Gaza stretches into its second week, not enough Americans are speaking up against the outrageous destruction of innocent lives.

Wars are covered in terms of numbers: casualties, rockets fired, troops sent in. Now that the death toll in Gaza has topped 700 people — at least 40 percent of whom are women and children — what does that mean to the American people?

The answer is not enough.

What we don't see paints a horrific image of people suffering with no place to go.

Children are arriving at hospitals in Gaza where doctors do not have the resources required to give them the treatment they need, and hospital morgues are filled to the brim, with more corpses arriving each day. Whole families, simply by being in the wrong place at the wrong time, have been killed in an instant.

To Americans, this war simply isn't terrible enough for us to care. Yes, it is sad. And yes, it is a shame. But Americans just do not get the full picture of the human cost of the war. As a nation, we are not outraged nearly enough by the wanton killing of civilians currently taking place.

Thousands of miles away, the crisis in Gaza seems alien and foreign. However, this is no excuse. Regardless of how far removed the civilians stuck in a battle zone are, there is no reason to accept their deaths as nothing more than a necessary cost of war.

Average Americans are protected from the gruesome images of foreign wars with light, fluffy "news." On the day that rockets were fired into Israel from southern Lebanon, one of the top news stories on CNN's Web site was about "cute things falling asleep."



Naudia Jawad
Speaking Out

Should the news outlets, driven by advertising revenue, be blamed for simply pandering to their audiences?

In a word, yes.

Supposedly, there was a time when journalists had a duty to inform people even if what they were telling them was not what people wanted to see. Somewhere down the road,

however, things changed, and they stopped showing us scenes that might be too graphic for our taste.

Is it because the country has been involved in some form of war since 2001 that the concept of war has lost its zing? Is war just not sexy enough for the news to cover anymore? Or is it simply a case of viewers being fatigued by coverage of wars?

Regardless of why it is occurring, we cannot accept these partial stories and allow this to carry on, for as long as we do, we are doing a huge disservice to the people of Gaza.

Both Hamas and Israel need to stop hitting civilians immediately, but they are not the only ones to blame for these merciless killings. Each moment we let pass without speaking up and demanding that the leaders of the world work together to stop the violence, we are silently allowing these acts to continue.

It is time for Americans to stop hiding behind the shield of the news outlets and see for themselves what lies beyond their television sets. The people caught in the crossfire don't have time for us to ignore the big picture anymore.

Naudia Jawad is a journalism graduate student.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.

Reader response

Today's question: Did you storm University Avenue last night?

Thursday's question: Are you going to class on Friday?

53% YES

47% NO

173 TOTAL VOTES

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LOCAL

Middle schoolers arrested for assaulting classmate

By **KATIE EMMETS**
Alligator Writer
kemmets@alligator.org

Three middle school students were arrested this week in connection with the sexual battery of one of their classmates.

On Dec. 15 at Kanapaha Middle School, two 14-year-old males were accused of restraining and sexually assaulting a 13-year-old female when the teacher stepped out of the classroom. A 13-year-

old male was also arrested for threatening to harm students who cooperated with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office investigation, said Steve Maynard, ASO spokesman.

The four students are mentally disabled.

According to the ASO arrest report, one of the male students rubbed the girl's legs and the other put his hand under her skirt.

The two male students then pushed her on the couch and

"The ASO Special Victims Unit has undergone special training to be able to speak with children."

Steve Maynard
ASO spokesman

held her down while one sexually assaulted her, according to the report.

The school reported the incident to ASO the following day.

"The ASO Special Victims Unit has undergone special training to be able to speak with children," Maynard said.

After the ASO Special Victims Unit spoke to the girl who was reportedly assaulted and students who were in the room, officials decided they had probable cause to arrest the two students, Maynard said.

One 14-year-old male student was arrested Monday and charged with sexual battery and

false imprisonment, and another 14-year-old male student was arrested Tuesday and charged with false imprisonment.

The school board is investigating the portion of the crime that deals with the teacher leaving the classroom unattended, Maynard said.

Because all involved students are mentally disabled, he said it is up to the court to decide if the students knew they were committing a crime.

Jews and Palestinians unite to protest conflict in Gaza

■ THE GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Jews and Palestinians came together Thursday afternoon to protest the conflict in the Gaza Strip.

Led by Scott Camil, coordinator for the

Gainesville chapter of Veterans for Peace, protesters stood at the corner of University Avenue and 13th Street holding signs protesting the violence in the Middle East.

"I am a Jewish person," Camil said. "It's really important for Jews and Palestinians to work together and do what we can to raise awareness and set an example."

Violence is not an acceptable means of conflict resolution, he said.

Local News Camil said that because \$3.5 billion in U.S. tax money goes to Israel each year in the form of weapons, it makes the conflict American citizens' business.

"I have been to the Gaza Strip, and the

living conditions there are unacceptable," Camil said. "[Conditions] are not good enough for my family, and if they are not good enough for my family, they are not good enough for any family."

The protesters will meet again Friday afternoon.

— KATIE EMMETS



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Florida earns 10th in education quality

■ THE STATE EARNED AN F IN SCHOOL SPENDING.

By **MATTHEW BEATON**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The Florida education system tied with Vermont for 10th place in overall education quality, according to Education Week's Quality Counts 2009 report.

Florida's overall grade for 2009 was a 79.6, or a C-plus, which is an improvement over its score in 2008. Since 2007, the state jumped in ranking from No. 31 to No. 10.

The overall grade was derived from individual grades each state received in six separate fields. These fields included chance-for-success, K-12 achievement, finance, standards, transition and alignment and the teaching profession.

In each of these categories, the state earned a C-minus or better.

The state earned a 90.8 (A) in the standards, assessment and accountability category. The one sore spot is the 51.7 (F) Florida earned in spending, a sub-category of school finance.

The high marks were a welcomed opportunity for Tallahassee to laud the efficacy of its education system.

"We've been improving in all areas," said Tom Butler, press secretary for the Florida Department of Education. "Florida is making improvements and building a foundation from the earliest grades on up... and I think we are seeing the fruits of that process."

Local parents agreed with the study's ratings, and some even believed that their children's education was superior to the study's findings.

"My child, personally, I think is getting a better education [than the study indicates]," said Holly Nelson, whose daughter attends Fort Clarke Middle School. "I think that [the school] is doing a

great job."

Some local school administrators criticized the lack of state funds and agree that Florida deserves an F in spending. The grade is only slightly lower than the national average of 67.

Florida also earned an F in Spending in last year's study, and local school administrators are concerned that a proposed 2 percent across-the-board cut on education spending will exacerbate the situation. The Florida House of Representatives is considering the proposal.

"[The state of Florida] is trying to run social services and education off a 6 percent sales tax. It's absurd," said Don Lewis, principal of Abraham Lincoln Middle School. "[Florida's rating] would be higher if the appropriate funding would come in like it should."

Florida's teachers and administrators have been forced to pick up the slack, Lewis said.

He credited Florida's high grade to the quality and resilience of Florida teachers and administrators.

"Considering the lack of funding, it's remarkable to me that you have educators who continue to do and serve so well," Lewis said. "[Our teachers] are so well prepared...I don't know how we retain them."

Overall: C+ (79.6)

- Chance for Success: C+ (77.3)
- K-12 Achievement: C (71.2)
- School Finance: C- (71.2)
- Standards, Assessment & Accountability: A- (90.8)
- Transitions & Alignment: C+ (78.6)
- The Teaching Profession: B (84.2)



Ryan Pinto/Alligator

Cheering the Champs

People walk toward West University Avenue to join other fans celebrating the Gators' 24-14 win against the University of Oklahoma in the BCS National Championship Game on Thursday night.

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VOLUME 102 ISSUE 72 MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

SWEETER THAN SUGAR



Harrison Diamond / Alligator Staff

Members of the UF football team celebrate as they view the announcement that they will play in the BCS National Championship Game in Miami on Jan. 8 against Oklahoma. They got the news during a dinner in the Gator Room in the Heavener Football Complex at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Sunday night.

Gators earn spot in BCS Championship Game against Oklahoma

By EVAN DREXLER
Alligator Staff Writer
edrexler@alligator.org

field after UF defeated Alabama on Saturday evening. Still, the sweetness of those oranges couldn't compare to the sweetness of the news UF got Sunday night. For the second time in three years, the Gators will be playing in the BCS National Championship Game. UF, No. 2 in the only BCS standings that matter, will head 300 miles south to take on No. 1 Oklahoma at Dolphin Stadium in Miami on Jan. 8, seven days after the Orange Bowl is played at the same venue. The two teams have never met. The Gators finished just .018 points ahead of No. 3 Texas in the standings, the Longhorns being their only barrier to a matchup with the Sooners. To say waiting for the announcement was nerve-racking for coach Urban Meyer would be a gross understatement.

SEE BCS, PAGE 15

■ UF rolled its way to a 31-20 win against Alabama on Saturday evening in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, scoring two touchdowns late. See Story, Page 16.



Fat dog survives freezing to sidewalk
SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP)—A dog weighing more than 120 pounds survived being frozen to a sidewalk overnight on Wednesday, probably because he was insulated by layers of fat, authorities said. The Sheboygan County Humane Society says the "morbidly obese" dog, an aging border collie mix named Fifty, froze to the sidewalk when he was left out overnight Wednesday. Shelter manager Carey Payne says few dogs could survive the single-digit temperatures, and it was probably the fat that made the difference.

■ For a photo gallery from the Southeastern Conference Championship Game against Alabama, visit www.alligator.org/gallery.

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Partly cloudy
67/50

visit www.alligator.org

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009
DEADLINE
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009**

Cuba exhibit debuts

By **TATIANA GONZALEZ**
Alligator Contributing Writer

The items that sit inside glass cases tell Cuba's story – a map of the island nation from 1606, a book of poetry from a slave who would become a famous intellectual, and even photos of a future UF professor who joined Fidel Castro's revolution.

These and other rare items can be seen today until Jan. 23 in the CUBA: Past, Present and Future Exhibit of Rarities display at the Smathers Library.

"These materials have never been exhibited before," said Richard Phillips, head of the Latin American Collection at UF. "We're very excited."

The exhibit, open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, consists of rare books, maps, photographs and other items spanning more than 200 years of Cuban history and culture.

A signed book of poetry by Cuban national hero Jose Marti sits in one case, while another display contains

insurance policies expressing the dehumanization of slaves in the early colonial days of the Caribbean islands.

The exhibit, which has been in the making since October, consists of private donations along with items from UF libraries and other departments, Phillips said.

The athletic department donated a trophy from a 1926 track meet between **On Campus** UF and a university in Havana. Another

UF library donated a 1929 letter from the President of Cuba to UF President John Tigert expressing the desire for closer relations and exchanges with the university.

Phillips said UF has one of the top collections pertaining to the post-1950s Caribbean and Latin America.

The exhibit debuts today on the second floor of Smathers Library.

On Sunday, there will be an opening reception at the exhibit from 4 to 7 p.m. to mark the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution and Castro's rule.

Panel wants impeachment

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The University of Florida's Student Government has a panel that wants to impeach the governor of the state.

The panel, which is made up of students, faculty and staff, has been working on the issue for several months. It has held several public hearings and has received many suggestions from the community.

The panel's report, which was released last week, calls for the impeachment of Governor Charlie Crist. The report says that Crist has violated the Florida Constitution in several ways, including his handling of the state's budget and his relationship with the federal government.

The panel also calls for the impeachment of several other state officials, including the attorney general and the state treasurer. The report says that these officials have also violated the Florida Constitution in various ways.

The panel's report is a landmark document in the history of the University of Florida. It is the first time that a panel of students, faculty and staff has called for the impeachment of a state official.

The panel's report is a call to action for the people of Florida. It asks the people to demand that their state officials be held accountable for their actions.

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First hearings are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of 19 January 2009

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UF left out of college review

UF was not one of the six Florida schools named in The Princeton Review's list of the 100 Best Value Colleges for 2009, released Thursday.

But according to UF spokesman Steve Orlando, UF is absent from the list because of an e-mail blip between UF's Office of Institutional Planning and Research and The Princeton Review.

New College of Florida, Florida State University, the University of South Florida, the University of North Florida, the University of Central Florida and Rollins College made the list. FSU and New College of Florida ranked in the top ten for pub-

lic colleges.

Orlando said The Princeton Review e-mailed questions to UF to gather ranking information. UF replied, but The Princeton Review never received the message.

UF Academics

"I feel pretty certain we would be considered an excellent value," Orlando said.

Orlando said that Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine ranked UF as the No. 2 best valued public college in 2008, behind the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

— BRITTANY DAVIS

LOCAL

Patients use painting for therapy

By **CHELSEA KEENAN**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Doris saw the picture of the palm tree and knew. She liked the mixture of greens, yellows and oranges.

But her pre-painting warm-up was different than most.

Rather than mixing colors on a palette or envisioning her artwork on a blank canvas, she sang "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

Doris participated in a program called Art Without Boundaries, which uses a combination of singing, painting and movement as a form of therapy.

This therapy, called MnemeTherapy — whole brain therapy — helps people with Alzheimer's disease, autism and learning disabilities.

"The art shows the triumph of the human spirit, and we're here to support that triumph," said artist and founder of Art Without Boundaries Noell Hammer.

More than 20 clients from Al'z

Place, a local center for Alzheimer's patients, will have one-on-one 30-minute sessions with Hammer on Thursday and Friday to create their own works of art.

During the sessions, clients choose a piece of artwork Hammer has painted and recreate it.

"I'm amazed by some of their work."

Elsie Cichoracki
resident nurse

Executive director of ElderCare of Alachua County Anthony Clarizio said artwork the clients produce will be sold at a silent auction on Jan. 31.

The money raised at the auction will serve as a fundraiser for the clients of Al'z Place.

"This is not kindergarten art," Hammer said. "These are actually things you'd put on a wall and enjoy."

Hammer started Art Without Boundaries nine years ago in South

Florida, but now the program and therapy are used in 21 states.

"This is a disease that is all about, 'I can't,'" she said. "But we say you can."

Hammer said that although the program has physical benefits for patients, its main purpose is to take away the fear that so many Alzheimer's patients live in.

The artwork is also beneficial to people other than the clients, like their families, Hammer said.

"It says to their family members that this person can still do things," Hammer said. "They can still produce beauty."

Staffers can see the results, too. "They all come out looking so proud about their work," said resident nurse Elsie Cichoracki. "I'm amazed by some of their work."

Once the palm tree painting was complete, both Hammer and Doris admired their hard work.

"It's perfect," Doris said. "I love it," Hammer said. "It's so beautiful."

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heartlines

Six (6) prizes will be awarded by XX in-house judges. Deadline for submission is 4pm on Feb 6th. All Heart-Line messages placed will be automatically entered in the contest. Winners will be notified prior to Feb 13th. Winners will be announced in the Feb 13th edition. Positive ID required to collect winnings. Officers, directors, employees & their family members of the Alligator, or affiliates of the contest are not eligible to enter contest. You do not need to be present to win. Prized cannot be transferred. Gratuity and sales tax not included. Dinner certificate must be used by March 31, 2009. No purchase necessary to enter. Contact Classified Office for details.

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5 Real Estate	10 For Sale	15 Services	20 Event Notices	25 Lost & Found

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2 For Rent unfurnished

1,2,&3BRSPACIOUSHomesAvailableNOW!
No Move-in Fees!
1/1 Loft (very unique)-\$649 1/1 Flat (800 sq ft)-
\$699, 2/2 for only \$769, 3/2 for only \$899-\$969
352-377-7401
4-22-08-72-2

ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED!
At the price you want
No Move-in Fees! Move in TODAY!
1, 1 w/den & 2 BRs - Reduced Rates!
FREE UF parking * FREE Gym
Pets Welcome * 352-332-7401
4-22-72-2

●●●PARKING●●●
Private, Secure, Guaranteed. 60 sec to UF.
Reserve now! Reasonable rates. 352-538-
2181. Can leave mssg. 4-22-08-72-2

Your Mom
wants you to live here
1, 2, or 3 BR
Great Deals
Pet friendly, Gated
(352)372-0400
4-22-72-2

JANUARY SPECIALS!
Why wait to move in the Fall?
Luxury 1/1 @ \$699
No Deposit - Move in TODAY!
352-335-7656 www.thepolosuf.com
4-22-72-2

Affordable, Quiet, Comfortable
1's from \$539 * 2's from \$375/person
Close to UF, Shands, Butler Plaza
Pet Friendly * 376-1248
www.hiddenvillageapt.com
4-22-08-72-2

AS BIG AS A HOUSE!
Huge 4BR TH W/D inc.
FREE UF Parking*FREE Gym
Call for specials 332-7401 4-22-72-2

A Lot for so Little!
1&2 Beds from \$699!
Free Tanning!*Full W/D!
Pet friendly*Lots of Space
No move-in fees: 372-8100!
4-22-08-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Downtown Luxury & Cash Back 4 Fall!
Too Good To Be True!
Perfect Location-Great Price
W/D*Wood Floors*Bring Your Pets!
Great parking-walk to bars-bike to UF
Reserve now! 338-0002
4-22-72-2

MUSEUM WALK
Gainesville's Best Kept Secret
Leasing for Fall & NOW!
Luxury 2/2's & 3/3's
FREE Cable, FREE Tanning, FREE Alarms
Walk to UF *379-WALK
4-22-72-2

THREE BLOCKS TO UF!
2br/1ba from \$700
No Move-in Fees! Water included
Wood floors avail! Pets loved!
FREE Parking! 372-7111
4-22-08-72-2

LAKWOOD VILLAS
Large 1, 2 & 3 bdrm Floor Plans;
Starting at \$695
Furniture Packages Inc. Washer/Dryer;
Workout Rm, Tennis Court; Swimming Pool;
Sauna etc. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 10-3
700 SW 62nd Blvd 877-781-8314
www.lakewoodvillas.com
4-22-08-72-2

● **SPYGLASS** ●
Individual Leases: Furniture Packages,
Incl Washer/Dryer, FREE Highspeed Internet;
Every Unit is an End Unit
Mon-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 11-2
701 SW 62nd Blvd 888-267-5078
www.spyglassapts.com
4-22-08-72-2

ACROSS FROM UF!
No Move-in Fees! Pets loved.
Studios - \$549, includes electric!
Wood floors available. FREE parking.
372-7111 Collegemanor.org
4-22-08-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

* Where in the world is Hidden Lake?
You may want to find these luxury apts!
3/3's start at \$425 person for Immediate
2/2's are \$490 person, Includes Cable & Internet
Call Now 352-374-3866
4-22-08-72-2

AVAILABLE TODAY!
1BRs * As low as \$514
\$0 move in fees
Pets ok, W/D Avail, Wood Floors Avail, Pool
371-0769 CollegeParkUF.com
4-22-08-72-2

Walk to Class!
1brs from \$599 - 150 ft from UF!
\$0 move-in fees! Move-in Today!
FREE parking! Pets Welcome!
372-7111 CollegeManor.org
4-22-08-72-2

Vaulted ceilings, resort style pool...
And more!! Your luxurious 4/4 is waiting!
COME IN TODAY
and receive a personal check for...
\$300!!!!!!
352-271-3131
4-22-72-2

Action Real Estate Services
Houses to Condos
1-4 BR, Starting at \$450
www.action-realtors.com
352-331-1133
4-22-08-72-2

Moving in the FALL?
Close to UF - Tanning, 3 Pools
24 hr gym, Billiards Room
B-ball, V-ball & Tennis courts
352-335-7656 www.thepolosuf.com
4-22-72-2

Gator Championship Special
Sign a lease and get up to \$1,800 cash
Visit our models and sign for Fall 09

Huge, luxury 1br-4brs with TVs in kitchen
Beach-entry pool*free tanning*pet friendly
*352.376.0696 * www.EnclaveUF.com*
4-22-08-72-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Now you can easily submit your classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to
www.alligator.org/classifieds
Visa and Mastercard accepted.



2 bed luxury condos for rent.
Granite tops, tall ceilings, private balcony,
super quiet construction. \$1600/mo.
Call Eric Wild at 352-870-9453
4-22-72-2

★ ★ ★ 4BR/2BA HISTORIC HOUSE ★ ★ ★
10 blocks to UF. Near downtown. High ceiling,
wood floor, cent A/C, W/D, tons of character.
Avail Now 237 SW 4th Ave. \$980/mo 352-214-
9270 4-22-08-72-2

● **WOODLAND VILLAS** ●
2BR units starting at
\$695. Gated community.
Private courtyards.
M-F 10-6 Sat. 10-2
5950 SW 20th Ave.
888-803-7678
www.woodlandvillas.com
4-22-08-72-2

● **THE PALMS** ●
Walk to UF
Spacious 2/2 condo
Guaranteed parking. Pool.
Starting @ \$1250.
230 SW 2nd Ave. 494-6027
www.gainesvillepalms.com
4-22-08-72-2

MOVE IN TODAY!!
Great Specials on all our units!
Minutes to UF, Shands, & SFCC!
1/1, 2/2, & 3/3 units available!
352-335-7656 www.thepolosuf.com
4-22-72-2

● **THE GROVE VILLAS** ●
Rental Community
1 1/2 mo. FREE RENT
1BR Loft Style Starting at \$600
Gated Community 6400 SW 20th Ave.
888-373-0849
4-22-08-72-2

1/1, Ridgeview, free water, next to park, on
the bus line, cent H/A, courtyard, 2 miles to
UF, convenient to shopping, no smoking, no
pets. \$470 SD, \$470/mo 562-2824 1-12-
08-35-2

STUDIO & 1BR - Walk to UF
Available Dec & Jan 1st.
\$410-\$495/mo.
Gore Rabell Real Estate
378-1387 Gore-Rabell.com
4-22-08-72-2

2b, 1b * 1 block MidTown *
2 Car Decal WiFi-Internet * Washer & Dryer*
Jan-July 204 NW 18 St Manny 352 317 4408
1-20-08-41-2

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT PRICE, RIGHT NOW
Steps from VA, Shands, Vet School & UF.
1 & 2 Bedrooms from \$625. Grad student &
VA/Shands discounts Renovated units avail
Union Properties@Summit House 376-9668
4-22-08-72-2

Spacious 1 & 2 & 3 bedrooms starting at
\$525. \$625 & \$795. Different floor plans
some with enclosed patios or balconies.
Italian Tile, bedrooms carpeted, D/W, W/D
hookups, verticals Central Heat & air. Lots
of storage space. Near bus route .332-7700
1-30-38-2

SUN ISLAND
1BRs from \$580 2BRs from \$650
Sun Bay ● Sun Key ● Sun Harbor
352-376-6720
4-22-08-72-2

SERENOLA PINES APTS
Off SW 34th St near post office
1BR \$515, 2BR \$580
Call for daily specials
352-335-0420 1-30-08-48-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

WOODLAND TERRACE APTS
Off SW 34th St near post office.
2BR \$535
Call for daily specials
352-335-0420 1-30-08-48-2

Available TODAY!
No move-in fees & 1 mo free
2/2 : 975 sq ft - \$705
3/2 : 1096 sq ft - \$866
pinetreegardens.com * 376-4002
4-22-08-72-2

PET'S PARADISE
\$375 - \$650. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR,
privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099 1-20-
08-21-2

Room in 3br house includes all
utilities, internet and washer/dryer. Ten min-
utes from campus. One at 400 and one at
350. 3331 nw 29th ave Call 850-803-5342
1-9-08-15-2

100+ Apts: Walk to UF
Live within 3 blocks of Criser Hall * Studios
to 6BR Houses * Virtual tours & photos *
www.ForRentNearUF.com * 352-376-6223
4-22-72-2

Summit House 1 BR Condo for \$605 per
mo. Quiet, near VA and Shands, \$250 se-
curity. Lease negotiable. Call 352-672-1482
1-13-08-15-2

3BR 2BA House for rent. Privacy fence, new
wood floors, fireplace and attached garage.
Quiet neighborhood, Off Tower Rd. ONLY
\$950/mth 352-494-6485 1-16-08-14-2

MONTICELLO CONDO 2BR/2BA
1 car garage. Pool & tennis court privileges.
Across from GHFC. No pets. \$1000/mo. Call
331-6872 1-20-08-15-2

★★ **3/2, 3 Blocks to UF** ★★
W/D, Pets, Dec Free
\$1200/mo. 352-375-8256
4-22-76-2

BRAND NEW FOR AUG 09
CAMPUS VIEW PLACE
2BR/2BA OR 3BR/3BA
Luxury Suites near Shands,
Norman Hall, UF Sorority Row
1240 SW 9th Road
Please visit us at the model
1185 SW 9th Road 1-5pm
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.campusviewplace.com 4-22-75-2

LEASING FOR AUG 09
Quality Student Housing
Near UF, Norman & Shands
1,2,3,4 & 5 BR Properties
List Avail Jan 20th!!
Please call or email us to
Receive a list before they
Are all gone!!!
Union Properties 352-373-7578
info@rentgainesville.com
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-75-2

CAMPUS VIEW SOUTH
Now Leasing 2BR/2BA
Luxury Dual Suites
1185 SW 9th RD \$1000/mo
Close to UF, Norman Hall
& Sorority Row.
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-75-2

WWW.RENTGAINESVILLE.COM
Check out all of our available listings!
1, 2, 3 & 4BR Properties.
Many have been drastically reduced
For immediate occupancy!
Union Properties 352-373-7578 4-22-75-2

NOW LEASING
2BR/1.5BA MidTown Apts
Parking/laundry hkups
Walk to UF \$850/mo
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-75-2

MOVE IN TODAY
Casa East end unit
2BR/2.5BA \$800/mo
Pets OK w Fee
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-75-2

PET FRIENDLY!
3BR/3BA w room to run
behind Hilton on SW 34th ST
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-75-2

Worship Guide

For more information contact
Kaela Hill, Alligator Advertising,
at 376.4482.

Jewish

Student Centers

Chabad Lubavitch
Jewish Student Center
-Your home away from home.
-Friday Night Live!
-Services & Shabbat Dinner.
-7:30pm Spring Semester
-352-336-5877; 2021 NW
5th Ave.
-(5 blocks north of the sta-
dium)
-www.JewishGator.com

Methodist

Grace United
Methodist Church
Sunday Bible Study 9:30am
Sunday Worship 9:00 &
10:45
9325 W. Newberry Rd.
352-332-8770 gracefl.org
www.facebook.dj/passport

Methodist

Southwest United
Methodist Church
Open and inclusive, family
away from home, Informal
Traditional Worthship, Classes
and activities will be planned
using student input.
Sunday worship 10:45am
2400 SW Williston Rd
352-378-4931

Presbyterian

Faith Presbyterian Church
10Am Worship
9Am Sunday School
5916 NW 39th Avenue
Gainesville
Phone: 352-377-5482
www.fpc-gnv.org

Presbyterian

First United Methodist
Traditional Sunday Worship
8:25am and 10:55am. All
Ages Sunday School Groups
- 9:45am.
Wednesday Dinner (\$2
Students) and Classes - 5:30-
7:30pm
419 NE 1st St. www.fumcgnv.org
(352) 372-8523

Presbyterian & Disciples
of Christ Student Center
Open, affirming and spiritual-
ly diverse. Taize worship Sun.
at 7pm. \$1 Dinners Weds. at
7pm. Theology on tap Tues.
Stubbies Pub Downtown 8pm.
1402 University Ave.
376-7539 pdsc.org

the independent florida
alligator

2 For Rent unfurnished

Available NOW
1BR/1BA w/laundry hkups
Pets OK w/fee close to UF
Water, sewer & trash incl.
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-75-2

\$995/MO 3BR/2BA
NEAR UF!! w/d incl.
2041 NW 7th Place
Large family room w/fireplace
Hardwood floors & nice yard
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-75-2

★CAMPUS EDGE CONDO★
2/2 Walk to UF, Shands & VA. Tile floor, W/D
in unit, avail fall. Reasonable rate. 239-250-
6149, 239-992-2449 1-30-08-19-2

5BR/3BA HOUSE
Block from law school, biking distance from
UF. W/D incl. Pets ok. Huge yard. \$1600/mo.
Call Solomon 262-3472 2-3-08-20-2

● 2BR/2.5BA - \$725/mo.
● 2BR/1.5BA - \$625/mo.
Off SW 34th St. Close to UF, Shands, shop-
ping & dining. Fenced yard, util room. private
parking, pets ok. Call Solomon 262-3472
2-3-08-20-2

University Terrace West
1 Female needed \$325/mo
Lease through July 2009
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-72-2

WALK TO SANTA FE
2bd/2ba \$750/mo
1 car garage. dw, mw, wd incl
Fenced yard. Avail Now!
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-72-2

Mallorca Unit near Royal Park
2BD/2.5BA Avail Now!!
Beautiful, luxury townhouse
w/ garage. \$950/mo
Union Properties 352-373-7578
www.rentgainesville.com 4-22-72-2

Visit www.gatorpads.com
for available units or call
352-284-0316 / 352-281-0733
Houses, Duplexes, Condo, Townhouses.
Walk/Bike/Bus to UF. Neat, clean, quality
1-30-08-18-2

HERE IT IS! RENT REDUCED...UPSCALE
Charleston Place Condo, 2/2, W/D in unit, just
repainted, all tile floors, DW, screened porch, 2nd
floor, call 352-335-3787 1-12-09-5-2

2 story 2 bdrm 2 bth w/firplace in Shell Rock
Villas. Nice area close to UF, Oaks Mall and bus
stop. \$625 mo plus security dep \$600. Call Ms.
Mitchell (678) 642-1223 1-12-09-5-2

2BR/2BA Townhouse, small pets ok! private
courtyard, icemaker, dishwasher, washer/dryer
hookup. walk to restraunts/grocery. \$799. mo.
quiet neighbors. 318-0089 2-4-09-21-2

Room for rent with private bathroom in 2/2.5
townhouse. 2.5 miles from UF. W/D upstairs;
alarm; common areas furnished. \$450/month
& half of utilities. Negotiable. Call Jenn (352)
672-0238
1-20-09-10-2

DUCK POND! Historic 3/1 house for rent in
walking distance to downtown, bike to UF.
Hardwood floors, large backyard. 723 NE 8th
Avenue. Cats OK. \$1100/month. Call Kris 352-
514-4544 1-9-09-4-2

2bd/2.5batownhouse. Petfriendly. Closetol-75
and bus route to main campus. New paint and
2parkingspaces. Rentis\$750amonthplus\$10
perpet. Januaryfree!!CallRhondaat(727)-243-
4688. 2-3-09-20-2

Roomy 1BdRm/1Bath NowAvail; Brandywine,
Old Archer Rd. \$650 per mo incl. water. Ready
to move in. First floor, carpeted, private. Full
kitchen. Very nice. Call 813-924-7192 while lasts.
1-20-09-10-2

3BR/2B House near Westside Park.
Beautiful hardwood flrs. Lg LR, DR, Family
Rm. Dishwasher, Cent AC&Htr. Free laundry
fac. Fenced, landscaped yd. Monthly prepay
discount. 1019 NW 36th Dr. \$1395/mo+Util.
773-206-1774 1-20-09-10-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

House 4br 3 bath, 3000+sf, 1 mile to UF, w/d,
pets ok, \$1900. 352-213-3943 1-12-5-2

LOTS OF GREENSPACE
2BRhome.\$700/mo.352-378-9220or213-3901
1-20-09-10-2

FREE SCOOTER
when you sign a one year lease. Near UF,
3BR/2BA + Office, fenced, pets OK, lawn care
many extras. \$1650/mo. 1003NW22nd St. 352-
256-3945 1-16-9-2

Rocky Point Apartments
3/2 W/D hkps Pets welcome!
\$899.00 call now 352-376-1619 2-3-09-20-2

The Greens at West End-2bd/2bacondo, vaulted
ceilings, computer nook, screened porch,
attached 1 car garage. Rent is \$1100/mo. Call
Anna at 352-318-2183. 1-13-09-5-2

1BR apt. w/pvt gated courtyard located in small
professional complex @ 3320 SW 23rd St. Single,
mature applicants only. \$540.00/mo small pets
ok @ \$25.00/mo 352 377-2150 Please leave a
msg. 1-21-09-10-2

Spacious 1BR/1BA Condo
*Only 1.8 mi to UF
*Completely remodeled
*Pool, clubhouse, fitness center
*\$675/mo. Call 954-650-8919 1-13-09-5-2

4BED3BATHHOUSEFORRENTSTARTINGAUG
1, 2009. On University Ave near the corner of
NW30th St. \$2,000 per month, pets OK. Large
backyard and deck. Call 630-390-6612. 2-27-
09-37-2

BEAUTIFUL CONDO FOR RENT IF FIRST MONTH
FREE! 3 bed/2 bath, laminate wood floors,
fenced back deck, 1.5 mile to UF! All appliances
included. Available NOW! Please call (352) 384-
3604 or email kanderson@gmail.com 1-13-
09-5-2

★★Duckpond Duplex★★
2BR/1BA in quiet neighborhood. Close to down-
town & on bus line. Spacious, carpeted, W/D on
premises, D/W, Cent H/AC. No dogs. \$650/mo
Available now 352-376-0080 1-21-09-10-2

POOL HOUSE AVAIL NOW!
BiketoUF4BR/3BA, over2000sf, nice area 1mi
toUF. 2816WUnivAve. \$1500/mo or can divide
into 3/2 for \$1200/mo. Pool service extra 376-
6183, 352-327-2931 1-13-09-5-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

2BR/2.5BA Townhouse condo near UF. Wired
for inet + sec system, W/D hk-up, appliances,
comm pool, 2 Master BRsw/own BA, Ideal for 2
to share. 1st & sec dep req. \$1100/mo 954-805-
7827 dennismiller@tycoint.com 1-21-09-10-2

Duckpond
2 bd 1.5 ba 1200 sq ft townhouse in heart of
historic neighborhood. w/d Blocks to down-
town shops & restaurants. 508 NE 4th A ave
avail immediately \$795/mo 379-4952
1-21-09-10-2

2/1.5 Newly Renovated Townhouse. Avail Jan 1st.
Close to Shands, Park N Ride 2, and Shopping.
Incl W/D, cent A/C, Private Patio, & Pool. \$745/
mth & \$500 Dep. No Pets Pls. 772-538-5792 or
Itsao12@hotmail.com 1-14-09-5-2

1 br/ba apartment in Hidden Village off Archer
road close to UF. Take over lease til July 31,
2009. Only 629.00 a month. Huge backyard area
for your dogs to run and quiet neighborhood.
Many residents either bus, bike, or ride scooter
to class. Call 352-246-4630 for this quiet oasis.
1-14-09-5-2

● 1BR/1BA w/lg STUDY - Great Location ●
1blk to UF/Shands Avail Now! Energy efficient,
some utils. Very spacious, carpet, decal park
Prefer grad student/mature. \$650. postj@bell-south.net
352-376-0080, 284-3873 1-30-09-
16-2

POOL HOUSE 7 Blocks to campus
4 bedroom 3 bath avail now till August
\$2350 and \$2550 for next year
1 room also avail now \$400 352-222-0211 1-14-
09-5-2

1 & 2 BD Cottages starting at \$500/mo
Historical Downtown, W/D hookups,
porches, Bike to UF 10-15 mins. Great
Size! Cute! Must See! \$99 Deposit special
rentalworkshop.com 505-9264, 870-0904
1-16-08-7-2

Immaculate and newly renovated historic
home. New hardwood flrs, appliances, paint.
Walk to campus. 3/1. \$800/mo for two occu-
pants through July 31st. 911 NW 10th Ave. 215-
7199 2-6-09-20-2

2BR/1BA Spacious. 7209 SW 45th Lane,
Gainesville. Cent H/AC, W/D hk-up. \$600/
mo. \$500 sec dep. No pets. Call 386-462-
0994 1-23-09-10-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

- :: 2 Blocks To UF :: -
Room in 4br condo incl utils, internet, cable TV,
pool. Very Nice \$375. 283-8777
www.Gainesville-Rooms-4-Rent.com 4-22-09-
68-1

3 Subleases

\$425-1 or 2 females needed for Univ. Terrace
condo on 34th; utilities included; unfurnished,
bus routes 12 and 35; call 352.514.3398 or
email anu87@ufl.edu 1-12-08-8-3

Arlington Square (2b/2ba) - \$1025/mo-
UF Campus/Downtown Gainesville. Avail 12/
18/08. Utils not incl. Must be willing to take
over existing lease. Security deposit free.
Contact sean6cly@ufl.edu or 239-410-1603
2-9-08-30-3

1Br/1BA FURNISHED in a 4B/4B @
Gainesville Place apts. All INCLUSIVE
(utilities, cable, internet) \$425/month
FLEXIBLE LEASE TERMS
mrxracer@cfl.rr.com OR 321-302-1175 1-
20-08-14-3

Sublease brand new apartment at the
Woodlands of Gainesville. 1 bedroom
in a 2Br/2Ba, vaulted ceilings, fully fur-
nished \$660 a month. If interested please
call (954) 801-7557 1-9-08-5-3

The Laurels 1/1 townhome. Private gated
community avail now thru Aug. W/D incl. w/
free tanning, HBO & showtime. Semi-furn w/
various amenities. \$869/mo (negotiable) Call
Ashley 941-915-6439 1-9-08-3-3

3 Subleases

Nice 2/2 apt close to campus and downtown!
W/D, dishwasher, ceiling fans, pets allowed!
avail now thru July 31. \$800/month. 110NW9th
Terr. Call Lindsey @ 561-398-6720 1-13-08-6-3

Sublease 1 BD/1BA unfurn. apt. @ Pine Rush
Villas from January to July. \$529/mo + utilities.
Contact Paul at 352-222-0279 for details. 1-9-
4-3

4/4 Fully furnished apartment with first month
free. Utilities included. \$500 per month. Located
in Lexington Crossing. For more info call (813)
390-7761. 1-13-09-6-3

\$425 Sprigs sublease in 2/2 fully furnished apart-
ment at The District on 62nd Blvd. All utilities
included (cable, internet, water, electricity).
Located on bus routes 20 and Lator Gator C.
Females preferred. Call 704-989-3168 ASAP!
1-9-4-3

1 bed 1 bath, part of a 3 bed 3 bath apart-
ment with two other roommates. Very spacious, great
location, vaulted ceilings. \$385 a month. In the
polos, 2330 SW Williston Rd. apt. 2825. Call 386-
490-5947 1-20-10-3

1BR/1BA apt for sublease at Summer Place
Villas. \$560/month, includes water. Available
NOW! Call 941-457-3444 or swatts@ufl.edu
1-27-09-15-3

Furnished or unfurnished 1/1 in 3/3 in
Stoneridge (3800 SW 34 St.) available im-
mediately. \$365/month + utilities. January
rent is FREE. Great roommates. 817-504-
6884, KathrynL@ufl.edu. 1-13-09-5-3



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thiele

9		6	3
6		3	7
2	8	9	6
2	1	3	
6	2	7	
7	4	8	9
3	5	1	6
8	7	4	2

★ Sudoku ★★ Challenge
★★★ HARD MODE
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3 Subleases

Sublet Madison Point. Furnished bedroom with private bath and large closet in 3BR unit. \$450. + Util. Neg. Available immediately. 239-370-0418, 239-370-8201, 239-596-1901 1-13-09-5-3

2 BLOCKS TO STADIUM

Sublease 1BR in 4BR house. Share w/ 3 male UF students. Available now. \$495/mo. Call 352-4790 1-13-09-5-3

Magnolia Manor Apartment 2/2 \$640/mo spring/summer. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, updated appliances. Closet to campus on routes 34, 9, 36. No room towing. Available now. Call 352-336-0000 or ashlei87@ufl.edu. 1-13-09-5-3

\$420 + 1/2 utilities - Sublease 1BR in a 2/1 house with female UF student; screened in porch, fenced-in backyard, carport, close to bus route, parking decal included, pets ok. Call Barbara for more info 954-673-9822 1-29-14-3

Furnished room in 2br/1ba Apt, Hawaiian Village. \$290/mo + utilities. 3526823392 marianogr80@hotmail.com 1-9-09-1-3

1/1 in towne parc for \$635/month Immediate move in! Ill pay Jan. rent and move-in fees! great pet /family community. apt is unfurn 813 817-1524 or jakepapp@ufl.edu 1-15-5-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
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The Landings 336-3838
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4-22-72-4

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HANDYMAN NEEDED Disc 4wk Share 2/2MH Furn rm avail now \$200 N/R dep. \$400/mo; \$100/wk incl util. 2 wk adv. laun/cook svc avail N/A, N/S, N/D. Cara+ 30 day notice 2 vacate. Nr bus/shops Sm caged pet ok 331-0762 1-12-11-4

Non-smoking, quiet roommate, m/f, needed to share a 2 br/2 bath townhouse asap. in the Rockwood Villas on 62nd Blvd. \$395/month. MikeReed@cfl.rr.com 1-9-08-7-4

● 2 br 1ba condo with 1 br for rent. Central air and heat. 2 pools in complex. Walking distance to Shands and UF. Rent 395/mo
● 1BR avail w/private bath in large NW house \$425/mo. Call Mike 352-316-3930. 1-13-09-8-4

Master BD w/ Private Bath

in 4BD/3BA house off NW 16th Ave. DW, W/D, Cox cable w/ networked i-net, new carpet, ceiling fans. No cats/dogs \$450 incl util 328-4995 1-15-10-4

Room for rent in a 2 bed 2 bath house. Very close to campus, large bathroom, New appliances/furniture, w/d, dishwasher, flexible lease. Call Terry at: 352-473-6930. 1-9-08-5-4

Looking for male college student (preferred) to share 4BR/4BA condo with same. Own bathroom. W/D, high speed internet. Includes utilities \$475/mo (available immediately) 863-634-1893 1-12-08-5-4

Very close to campus 4/2 remodeled condo opens to lovely courtyard and pool. \$425 w/ UT cable and internet included. (for sale or rent) call 352-870-0291 2-17-09-30-4

Share 3 BR furn. TH Casablanca West with 2 UF students. \$300/mo., + 1/3 utilities. Smoking patio only. Male or Female. Avail. now. Near bus stop. 786.514.5319 (Max) or 786.299.8626 1-13-09-6-4

4 Roommates

Male roommate needed. Share furn 3BR/2BA house w/ yng prof \$400/mo +1/2 util Directv, ph, wireless, Vonage, elec. W/D, ofc space pvt BA (morn) lg yd fenced, pets ok, trees, wooddeck, hottub, pond. UF-15 min drive, near bus, Lakeview Ests 352-682-6297 1-27-15-4

PEACE, PETS, TREES & GREAT ROOMMATES! 1BR available in house near all! See craigslist: https://post.craigslist.org/manage/975799217/gsyua for more/contact info. 1-13-09-5-4

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female wanted to share brand new 3br/3ba home near campus. washer & dryer included. \$500 plus 1/3 utilities. non-smoking, serious students only. 813-610-1698 1-16-7-4

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Looking for quiet roommate to share 3BR/3BA house. \$380/mo includes util. Has pool, tennis and clubhouse. Call 352-328-8299 or robertoleider@gmail.com 1-14-09-5-4

Roommate needed 2BR/2.5BA furn townhouse in Brighton Park on bus route to UF every 15 mins. \$400/mo + util. No lease required. Call Bobby 352-665-0751 1-14-08-5-4

2 Female roommates NS/ND to share a new 4/2 house in a quiet neighborhood 3 mi. W of I-75. w/ cable, internet & security alarm. \$475/mo. util. incl. Call 352 331 8794 2-20-30-4

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2 Female roommates needed! Huge brand new house off 13th. own private bathrooms. Master bedroom \$419 a month, other room \$387 a month. Call (717) 434-0991 1-15-5-4

Roommate to share 3BR/2.5BA in Casablanca East, \$400/mo (incl util, internet, CaTV), semi-furn w/ bed, TV std, night std, closet shelves), bus stop very close, avail now! Nicole 954.629.8978 1-14-09-4-4

5 Real Estate

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5 Real Estate

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6 Furnishings

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 Experienced & reliable for nights & weekends. Apply in person b/t 3-5. Napolatanos 606 NW 75th St. 1-12-08-9-14

WAREHOUSE STAFF!!
 FT/PT inventory control, flex hrs. Great job for students! Will work around class schedule. Apply at Concessions Office, South End Zone Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, next to the Gator Sport Shop 352-375-4683 x6500 1-12-09-5-14

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Petsitter Wanted
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 4011 NW 43rd St Suite A 1-12-5-14

14 Help Wanted

TECHNICIAN POSITION FT/PT
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Bookkeeper - Office Manager (PT) needed for local law office. Must be proficient in Quick Books. Email resume to: robjac@myimmigrationlaw.com 1-21-09-11-14

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Part-time Student Assistant needed to assist with survey development, data analysis and research. To review posting & apply see https://jobs.ufl.edu, requisition #0801253. Screening will begin on Friday, January 16 and will continue until the position is filled. The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution & women & minorities are encouraged to apply. If an accommodation due to a disability is needed to apply, call (352)392-4621 or TDD 1-800-955-8771. 1-16-09-9-14

Part-time Public Relations Student Assistant needed to promote the Healthy Gators 2010 coalition. To review posting & apply see https://jobs.ufl.edu, requisition #0801214. Screening will begin on Friday, January 16 and will continue until the position is filled. The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution & women & minorities are encouraged to apply. If an accommodation due to a disability is needed to apply, call (352)392-4621 or TDD 1-800-955-8771. 1-20-09-10-14

Outgoing students needed to distribute flyers on 1/12 & 1/13. Flexible hours. \$10 to \$12.00 per hour. Please call 1-800-927-9194 1-12-09-5-14

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2009 recruiting class lays foundation for future titles

■ GATORS APPROACH SIGNING DAY WITH SPEED AND SIZE IN MIND.

By **TYLER JETT**
Alligator Writer

While the Gators' tickets to the BCS National Championship Game were punched Dec. 6 with a win against Alabama, the journey began much earlier.

Not in August, but in February 2006, when many of the current UF players committed to take snaps in Gainesville.

National Signing Day this year is Feb. 4, and until then, coaches will call, host, visit and send letters to high school seniors in hopes of swaying them to their schools. The work done over the next few weeks will lay the groundwork for the next few years.

Last weekend, the Gators got a boost to their class at the U.S. Army and Under

Armour All-American games when they received oral commitments from linebacker Jon Bostic, offensive tackle Xavier Nixon and wide receiver Andre Debose.

The Gators already have 16 commitments — 14 oral — for next season and have put a priority on two things: swiftness and bulk. Speed has been a UF trademark for years, so it's no surprise the team has targeted quick skill players. But the number of linemen bound for Gainesville (already 10 combined defensive and offensive) is surprising.

Debose, of Sanford Seminole High, is considered one of the most explosive players in the class. Recruiting Web sites and forums have been making Debose-Percy Harvin comparisons for months, despite what Debose thinks.

"I don't compare myself to nobody," Debose said.

He is not as technically sound as other top receivers, but he impressed scouts at the Under Armour Game, and Mike Bakas of Scout.com said Debose has emerged as a potential game-breaker

"I don't compare myself to nobody."

Andre Debose
Wide receiver

"There were probably 10 or 11 receivers (at the Under Armour Game) — all four-, five-star guys — and Debose was the most explosive kid among them," Bakas said.

Nixon is the No. 1 offensive tackle on Scout.com and is very athletic, considering his 6-foot-6, 285-pound frame. The Fayetteville, N.C., Jack Britt High star plays basketball for his high school team, which could help him dominate in pass protec-

tion, where footwork is key.

While much of the class is set, UF is still pursuing a few recruits who could push this year's class from the top 20 to the top five.

The Gators have found themselves in some head-to-head recruiting battles over players like Maryland-based linebacker Jelani Jenkins (Penn State), Georgia native linebacker Jarvis Jones (Georgia) and Seffner Armwood High defensive end Ryne Giddins (South Florida).

Then there's cornerback Greg Reid. Reid orally committed to Florida last February but has recently de-committed and will visit Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi State — now home to former UF offensive coordinator Dan Mullen — later this month.

Oral commitments are non-binding until a national letter-of-intent is signed on National Signing Day on Feb. 4.

UF opens with OU

By **EUGENIO TORRENS**
Alligator Writer

It's not déjà vu. Relax, you're not seeing double.

For the second night in a row, a Gators-Sooners matchup is in the works. The UF gymnastics team will open its season against Oklahoma at 7 p.m., one night after the two schools clashed for the national championship in football.

"It's a crazy coincidence," sophomore Alicia Goodwin said.

One school is feeling great about Thursday's outcome, while the other hopes to salvage an unusually orange-blue-crimson-and-cream tinted weekend.

"We definitely want to start our season with a really strong win," Goodwin said. "It's against Oklahoma, so if we (and the football team) win, that'll be great."

But this meet would be important regardless of the Gators' opponent.

"It's important for everyone, seniors versus freshmen, to start off 1-0," junior Maranda Smith said. "Even for those of us, like myself, that have competed before, it always feels good to start the season with a win, so it goes hand in hand."

Junior Melanie Sinclair said even a BCS national championship wouldn't quell her hopes of beating Oklahoma.



Sinclair

"Who wants to lose? I love winning," Sinclair said. "I know I want to beat them, just as bad, or more."

The football team may have had to wait more than a month for its showdown with Oklahoma, but the wait for the gymnastics team has been longer and perhaps even more unbearable.

"We've been working so hard and doing really well, it just flew by, and I'm so excited that the first meet is here," Smith said.

Even in Thursday's practice, there was an air of anticipation about the Oklahoma meet.

"This is what they work for," UF coach Rhonda Faehn said. "They're natural-born performers and they love it. They would much rather be out there on the competition floor competing than in the gym training."

All the practice and mock meets have led to a familiar scenario: a confident UF team.

"I feel like (Oklahoma is) going to be competition, and it always depends who's going to bring it that day," Sinclair said. "But I have no doubts about how great our gymnastics team is as well."

Smith said in order to do well, the team has to focus on itself more than its competition.

"I feel that we can win, in that we're a better team," Smith said.

This is more than just the second matchup between UF and Oklahoma in as many days.

"Starting out with a win is going to help us, in the future, build up the confidence and know that we can go in there and do it," Sinclair said.

Brooks' 31 lead Gators to win

By **BOBBY CALLOVI**
Alligator Writer
bcallovi@alligator.org

For nearly two hours, UF made the third-largest crowd in women's basketball history forget they had come to view the BCS National Championship in the O'Connell Center following the basketball game.

The 6,500 Gators fans cheered on the women to an 80-66 victory in their Southeastern Conference opener against Mississippi State, extending their school-record winning streak to 15 games.

The first 37 minutes saw seven lead changes, as neither team could pull away from the other.



Women's Basketball

With just under three minutes left, the No. 18 Gators finally claimed the game's first double-digit lead and put the Bulldogs down for good.

It was only right for senior guard Sha Brooks to hit the layup that finished off Mississippi State.

Brooks ended the night 12 of 21 for a career-high 31 points — she is the first to score 30 points for UF since Bernice Mosby dropped 31 on Dec. 22, 2003.

The start of SEC play forced Brooks to elevate her play.

"You got to step it up," Brooks said. "(SEC play) is a whole 'nother level, you just have to bring your 'A' game every night, and that's what I did."

Although the game stayed close throughout, the Gators controlled the pace for most of the second half.

They made a deliberate effort to take care of the ball to reduce the number of turnovers and, consequently, Mississippi State's chances off them. The Gators allowed just 2 points off eight turnovers in the second half com-

pared to 19 points off 12 before the break.

Another halftime adjustment that led to their second-half success was the switch to more zone defense, after the Bulldogs had success against the Gators' man-to-man defense.

"We played a lot more zone in the second half than we did in the first half, and that got them off-balance a little," UF coach

Amanda Butler said. "They are such a great attacking team, and (the zone) took some of their weapons away."

The game went as well as Butler could have hoped, except for an injury to guard Jennifer Mossor, who left the game with 12 minutes remaining after a right knee injury and did not return to the game. Butler was unsure how serious the injury is.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator

UF guard Sha Brooks is jostled by an Alabama player during the Gators' 80-65 victory over the Crimson Tide on Jan. 13, 2008.

Former Gator Huertas leads Rebels into Gainesville

By **MIKE DIFERDINANDO**

Alligator Staff Writer
mdiferdinando@alligator.org

It doesn't take much for old friends to become familiar foes.

When UF (13-2) takes the court against Mississippi (9-5) on Saturday, the Gators will try to avoid being haunted by a ghost of the past.

Rebels guard David Huertas, a UF transfer, was a member of the 2006 national championship team.

Huertas, who leads Mississippi in scoring with 20 points per game this season, said farewell to Gainesville after his freshman year because of concerns over playing time.

Now, UF coach Billy Donovan hopes he won't be stung by the one who got away, and Mississippi coach Andy Kennedy knows Huertas will be ready to play his

old team.

"No question his emotions will be charged," Kennedy said.

Huertas scored 7 points in the Rebels' 89-87 win against the Gators in Oxford last year.

Senior Walter Hodge looks forward to going toe to toe with his long-time friend once again.

Hodge, who played with Huertas as a freshman at UF, goes back quite a ways with the Rebel sharpshooter.

Like Hodge, Huertas is a native of Puerto Rico, and the two have fond memories of playing with and against each other as children.

"It will be just like back home," Hodge said.

Hodge said he regularly talks to his old teammate, and they are both looking forward to Huertas' homecoming.

"I spoke to him two weeks ago. Just to see how he's doing and

wished him good luck," Hodge said.

The two guards came off the bench for UF during the Gators' 2006 national title run.

Huertas, a junior, has been forced to shoulder the load for Mississippi this season after injuries to three of the Rebels' top four scorers.

Eniel Polynice, Trevor Gaskins and Chris Warren have all been sidelined with knee injuries, leaving the Rebels almost solely dependent on Huertas on the offensive end of the floor.

"We've had to try and reinvent ourselves a couple of different times this season," Kennedy said. "But we realize this is the hand we've been dealt."

With Huertas now the focal point of the Rebels attack, Kennedy worries the guard might make Saturday's game a little too personal.

"I don't want him to put too much pressure on himself," Kennedy said. "That's what we're trying to guard against."

Kennedy will have his hands full trying to calm a young team that he says is more than eager to start off conference play against the Gators.

"They have never been in Gainesville before, so they're excited about it," he said.

"I don't think that would be the case if they had been there before."

For UF, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

The Gators start Southeastern Conference play with the same record they did last season — and the same questions.

A young team, a short bench and an inexperienced frontcourt are all cause for concern.

But Donovan is optimistic this year's team will be more prepared for the long road they are about to travel down.

"Having been through the con-



AP Photo

Mississippi guard David Huertas tries to shoot over defenders during Mississippi's 88-68 loss to Mississippi State in Starkville, Miss.

ference once, I think there is a little more of an awareness of what's in front of them," Donovan said.

It's the freshmen who keep the coach up at night.

While Donovan has tried to explain the jump they are about to make, no explanation may be good enough.

"In life, we learn and grow from our own individual experiences,"

Donovan said. "They just might have to see it for themselves."

Wins and losses may hinge on how fast Erving Walker, Kenny Kadji and Ray Shipman acclimate to the SEC.

"In the non-conference, you're not really playing for anything other than to get better," Donovan said. "I think we're all playing for something now."

UF Men's Basketball 2009 Schedule



Date	Opponent	Time*
Jan 10	Ole Miss	6:00 p.m.
Jan 14	at Auburn	8:00 p.m.
Sat Jan 17	Arkansas	2:00 p.m.
Wed Jan 21	at South Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Sun Jan 25	at Vanderbilt	1:30 p.m.
Wed Jan 28	Georgia	8:00 p.m.
Sat Jan 31	at Tennessee	9:00 p.m.
Tue Feb 3	South Carolina	9:00 p.m.
Tue Feb 10	at Kentucky	9:00 p.m.
Sat Feb 14	at Georgia	3:30 p.m.
Wed Feb 18	Alabama	7:00 p.m.
Sat Feb 21	Vanderbilt	3:00 p.m.
Tue Feb 24	at LSU	9:00 p.m.
Sun Mar 1	Tennessee	2:00 p.m.
Wed Mar 4	at Mississippi State	8:00 p.m.
Sat Mar 7	Kentucky	2:00 p.m.
Thu Mar 12	SEC Tournament†	TBA

*All times are ET. †Held in Tampa

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QB's fortitude more important than stats

By **BRIAN STEELE**
Alligator Staff Writer
bsteele@alligator.org

MIAMI — It's funny to think that a player who committed two turnovers served as a stabilizing influence on the winning team.

Sam Bradford had the better statistics at the end of the game with 256 passing yards and two touchdowns, but it was Tebow who got to hold the coaches' trophy in the Gators' 24-14 win against the Sooners.

After doing something he had never done in the first half — throwing two interceptions in one game. Tebow transformed to 2007 Heisman-winning form by running linebackers over and stampeding into the history once again. Tebow finished with 231 yards through the air and two touchdowns.

"I struggled in the first half," Tebow said. "I just tried to get the ball out quick, and they did a good job of getting to me early on. We had to make some adjustments."

Tebow finished with 109 yards

on the ground, and most of them came in the second half.

"I was coming out here trying to play with everything I had," Tebow said.

So it would make sense that he went into halftime and told his team he wouldn't let them down.

"The guy was furious," junior receiver David Nelson said of

Tebow.

After hearing Oklahoma cornerback Dominique Franks trash talk earlier in the week about how Tebow would be the fourth-best quarterback in the Big 12, Nelson said they should send some chocolates and flowers to Franks for motivating Tebow even more.

"Tebow was just being Tebow," said junior receiver Percy Harvin, who stole much of the offensive spotlight with 171 total offensive yards. "He's been the man all year. He's our great inspirational leader. When he comes into the game, he lifts everybody up."



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF quarterback Tim Tebow rushes for a gain during the second half of the Gators' 24-14 national championship win against Oklahoma in Dolphin Stadium in Miami Gardens Thursday night.

Meyer becomes first coach to win two BCS national championships

BCS, from page 1

The rest of the country can vouch for that. After UF's only loss of the season to Mississippi, countless clips of Tebow promising to outwork every other play in America were replayed on ESPN. Now, it would be tough for anyone to argue Tebow isn't a man of his word.

He had an uncharacteristic first half, throwing two interceptions, matching his entire season total to that point.

On UF's second drive of the second half, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner took over. He led the Gators 75 yards on 13 plays and did most of the heavy lifting himself. He ran six times for 48 yards and completed one pass for 11 yards.

"He's just one of those guys," Oklahoma defensive back Nic Harris said, "You give him your best shot, he's going to get back up."

Then the defense once again added a stop

of its own. The Sooners moved their way down the field, but Stamper stopped Oklahoma running back Chris Brown on 3rd-and-1 and forced Oklahoma to attempt a 49-yard field goal.

UF defensive end Carlos Dunlap showed his massive wingspan and blocked the kick, tying a school record for blocked kicks in a single season (9).

The offensive spark came from Harvin, who said after the game he felt about 90 percent. The junior playmaker finished with five catches for 49 yards and 122 yards rushing on 9 carries along with one touchdown.

"There's no better feeling. Nobody gave us a chance to win the game," Harvin said. "They said we weren't tough enough."

The Gators defense did allow Brown to gain 110 rushing yards on 22 carries, but they had big stops against the junior running back.

The Sooners seemed to be poised to score after taking over at the Gators' 26-yard line

"There's no better feeling. Nobody gave us a chance to win the game."

Percy Harvin
UF wide receiver

in the second quarter after a Tebow interception. Brown ran three straight times to take the ball to the UF 1-yard line. But the junior was stuffed two straight times for no gain by UF defensive linemen Jermaine Cunningham and Torrey Davis.

Both teams entered Thursday night's game averaging more than 45 points, but it was the defenses who left their mark early leading to a scoreless opening 15 minutes. Oklahoma was held scoreless in a quarter for only the sixth time this season and the first in the opening quarter of play.

UF free safety Major Wright upped the in-

tensity when he ran across the field to break up a pass intended for an open Manuel Johnson. The Oklahoma wide receiver had beaten cornerback Joe Haden down the left sideline after a pump fake by Sam Bradford. Wright did his best Reggie Nelson impression, laying Johnson out and leaving him dazed on the ground.

In the end, Tebow came through. In the fourth quarter, after a key Ahmad Black interception, the junior quarterback led his team on a 11-play, 76-yard drive that ate up 6:52 of clock time and essentially sealed the victory.

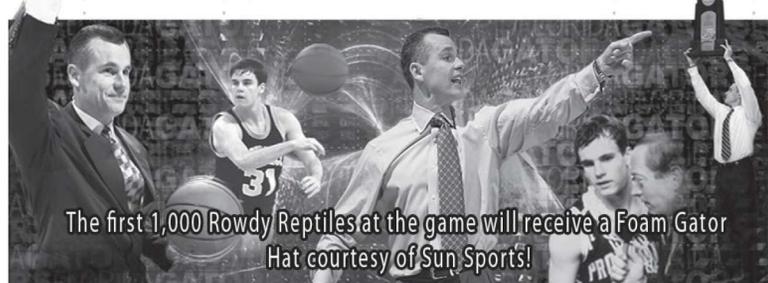
It was an old standby that would clinch the victory for UF. Tebow ran to his left, jumped and hit a cutting David Nelson.

"I promised the guys that I would go out and play with all my heart," Tebow said. "I was so motivated tonight. Oklahoma's a great team and they came out and played hard. I'm so proud of my teammates right now. I can't put into words — it was just an incredible night."

Florida Basketball

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Harris fails to slow speedster

HARVIN, from page 24

on his leg, causing Harvin's body to jolt, and it left the receiver on the ground for several minutes.

"He tried to slow me down, and it didn't work," Harvin said. "I expected that because everyone knew about my injury, but I was able to push through it and didn't let it stop me."

That was the second scare for Gators' fans with Harvin, who was rumored to have tweaked his ankle again in practice this week.

Those suspicions were backed up on UF's first play, when Harvin remained on the sideline, but any questions about his health were answered two plays later, when

he caught a 3rd-and-8 slant from quarterback Tim Tebow, worked his way to the right sideline and outran a few defenders for a gain of 19 yards.

Harvin's trouble decelerating was clear after the play. He had to jog another 25 yards before turning back to the huddle, but the run brought renewed confidence.

"That was the first time I planted while running that fast, so when I did that play, I knew I was going to be okay," Harvin said.

While he knew Harvin wouldn't be completely healthy, UF coach Urban Meyer

"The one thing about him is, the brighter the lights, the better he plays," Meyer said. "He's a bigtime performer, a little like (Tebow).

EVAN, from page 24

from bad refereeing to bad sportsmanship, bad fan etiquette and even a mistimed jet flyover during the third line of the national anthem.

Oklahoma fans booed while Murphy was cramping on the ground in the third quarter. UF fans booed during Oklahoma's fight song after Sooners fans remained quiet during the Gators'.

Both sets of fans booed after referees couldn't figure out how to get the clock to read the correct time, and the lethargic tempo of the game got to the players.

"The slow pace of the first half, that really wore down on the defense," defensive end and the game's Defensive MVP Carlos Dunlap said. "It got us to the point where you want to think about pointing fingers."

But in the end, the ugly duckling turned into a graceful swan for UF.

The Gators cemented their legacy as the best team in the country. Years from now we'll be wondering how in God's name Mississippi came into The Swamp and upset the national champions.

The only ones who still think this game was hideous, a disaster, a game that will be forgotten in 15 years?

That would be the Oklahoma Sooners.

For UF, though, the end result is all that matters. They leave South Florida as national champions for the second time in three years.

Now that's beautiful.



Harrison Diamond/Alligator Staff

UF safety Ahmad Black intercepts a throw in the Gators' 24-14 win against Oklahoma on Thursday.

Black, Wright both pick off Bradford's passes

DEFENSE, from page 24

game this season.

But nothing set the tone quite like the Gators' second-quarter red-zone stops. When it appeared Oklahoma had finally figured out the Gators defense, as they got their up-tempo offensive attack going midway through the second quarter, UF

made its first red-zone defensive stop.

With Oklahoma facing first and goal at the 9-yard line, the Sooners opted to run the ball four straight times with running back Chris Brown. The Gators defense held each time.

Just before halftime, the Sooners began to move the ball down the field effortlessly once again — this

time to the 6-yard line — until safety Major Wright snagged a tipped pass intended for Johnson on the final play of the second quarter.

"That was indescribable," said defensive end Carlos Dunlap, who was named the defensive player of the game. "It felt really good when we were making those stops. It felt like we were doing what we were doing all year."

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1926

Harvin returns from injury to lead Gators to victory

By **MIKE McCALL**
Alligator Staff Writer
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MIAMI – Earlier this week, UF receiver Percy Harvin said the only lingering effect from his sprained ankle was that it made it hard to slow down.

Luckily for Harvin, most of his work in the No. 1 Gators' 24-14 win against No. 2 Oklahoma in the BCS Championship Game involved speeding up.

The junior led UF in rushing with 122 yards and a touchdown on just nine carries, and he added another 49 yards on five catches, a productive night from a player whose health was in question right up until kickoff.

UF receivers coach Billy Gonzales said Harvin only took about nine snaps in each practice this week. He wasn't sure the playmaker would be his usual self.

"We didn't know what to expect," Gonzales said. "It was one of the hardest game plans to put together because we didn't know if he'd be able to go all the way. What an awesome performance from him."

In addition to his touchdown, a 2-yard run to make the score 14-7 in the third quarter, Harvin was instrumental in the Gators' other scoring drives.

He kicked off UF's second possession with a 15-yard reception, a drive that ended with a 20-yard touchdown from receiver Louis Murphy for the game's first score.

Then, he opened a fourth-quarter drive with a 52-yard carry down the right sideline to Oklahoma's 26, and he followed that up with a 12-yard run.

He was on a roll and looked poised for a second touchdown, but after the play, Sooners safety Nic Harris yanked

SEE HARVIN, PAGE 23



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

UF wide receiver Percy Harvin is pushed out of bounds by Oklahoma defensive back Lendy Holmes after a reception in the first half of the BCS National Championship Game on Thursday night at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

Sparks start flying after half

MIAMI

This was the ugliest game you've ever seen for the first 40 minutes. This game was a train wreck. A slow-paced, whistle-filled, commercial-clogged mess of a game.

This was a game that had a timeout called by each side just before a punt and then saw UF get flagged for roughing a punter.

This was a game that had Louis Murphy flagged for enthusiastically signaling he just made a first down.

This was a game that saw Tim Tebow double his interception total on the season in just 23 minutes of game time.

And then the last 20 minutes happened.

In that time, the game that you thought ditched you — the speedy, back-and-forth, smooth-flowing game — returned. Both teams scored touchdowns to keep the game tied at 14. Percy Harvin became that liquid, cuts-



Evan Drexler
The Drex Factor
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like-a-razor running back who burned Oklahoma for a combined 64 yards on back-to-back plays. The UF special teams got a rally-killing field goal

block from Carlos Dunlap. The Sam Bradford-led Sooners opened up the fast-snap offense with success.

The game you wished would hurry up and end suddenly became a jewel worthy of a crystal trophy.

Ugly or pretty, gritty or flashy, mind-numbingly boring or edge-of-your-seat exciting, the Gators are the 2008 National Champions.

But the first part of the contest was more of a nightmare than a dream. There was a lot of bad about this game,

SEE EVAN, PAGE 23

UF DEFENSE

Secondary steps up in win

By **KARL HYPOLITE**
Alligator Staff Writer
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MIAMI – The prevailing sentiment entering the BCS National Championship Game was that whichever team played defense would win the game.

What everyone failed to consider was the possibility that both defenses would show up and play well.

After weeks of hearing about the possibility that both teams could combine for 100 points, neither team scored a single point in the first quarter of UF's 24-14 victory over Oklahoma.

"It's all about defense and we pride ourselves in playing great defense," linebacker Brandon Spikes said. "And we came out and played great defense today."

No play provided proof of this as much as Ahmad Black's fourth quarter interception with ten minutes remaining in the game. With the Sooners attempting to take the lead after a Jonathan Phillips field goal put the Gators up 17-14, Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford attempted a pass down the middle to Juaquin Iglesias. Iglesias appeared to reel the pass in, but Black came in at the last moment and stole

the ball away.

"At first I thought they both might have come down with it," linebacker Ryan Stamper said. "But when I saw that he came up with it I knew that if our defense went out and scored we would win it."

UF's defense set a defensive tone early when Major Wright laid a big hit on Oklahoma receiver Manuel Johnson on what would have likely been a touchdown had Wright not come over.

"It's just part of my game and it's just reading the quarterback and he brought me right to the ball," Wright said. "After that hit I told him it would be a really physical game."

Four plays later, Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford was sacked by linebacker Brandon Hicks.

There was a plethora of dubious firsts for Oklahoma provided courtesy of UF's defense. The Sooners were held without a score in the first quarter for the first time this season. UF's second quarter score also marked the first time Oklahoma was not the first team to score in a

SEE DEFENSE, PAGE 23



Black

SCOREBOARD

NBA	
Mavericks	99
Knicks	94
NHL	
Coyotes	3
Lightning	2

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

■ The UF football team finished its season with a win in the BCS National Championship Game for the second time in the last three years. Look for a complete wrap up of the Gators' season in Wednesday's Alligator.

ALLIGATORSPORTS POLL QUESTION

Today's question: Is Tim Tebow the greatest college football player of all time?

	Percent (Votes)
UF by >5	87% (111)
UF by <5	9% (12)
OU win	3% (4)
127 TOTAL VOTES	

Previous question: What will be the result of the BCS National Championship Game?