



the independent florida

alligator

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VOLUME 105 ISSUE 43

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

Gators earn No. 2 seed in NCAA Tournament

■ UF WILL PLAY UCSB IN TAMPA ON THURSDAY.

By GREG LUCA
Alligator Staff Writer
gluca@alligator.org

ATLANTA— Just hours after a crushing defeat in the finals of the Southeastern Conference Tournament, the Gators found new life.

With Sunday's announcement of the 2011 NCAA Tournament field came the revelation that Florida received the No. 2 seed in the Southeast region, a higher spot than widely predicted.

The Gators will face 15-seed University of California Santa Barbara on Thursday in Tampa.

"We are really excited about being in the NCAA Tournament," UF coach Billy Donovan said. "I'm very happy for our players and our staff for the opportunity to compete."

Florida will head into the matchup hoping to rebound from Sunday's 70-54 loss to Kentucky.

Playing perhaps their best basketball of the season, the Gators entered the contest on a four-game winning streak but fell one win short of sweeping the SEC

championships.

"It hurts, but we've been here before," senior forward Chandler Parsons said. "We're not going to hang our heads after one loss.

"We want to make a run in the Tournament. It hurts right now, and I'm sure it's going to hurt later, but we've got to move past that and look forward."

"We are really excited about being in the NCAA Tournament. I'm very happy for our players and our staff for the opportunity to compete."

Billy Donovan
UF men's basketball coach

The Gators are 6-0 following losses so far this season and have won those contests by an average of 19.3 points per game. This trend is not lost on Donovan or his players, who have spoken all year about how well they handle adversity.

"We're a resilient group, and, if anything, this will help us focus that much more in practice," junior guard Erving Walker said.

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 24



AP Photo

UF guards Erving Walker and Kenny Boynton are back in the NCAA Tournament, as the Gators received a No. 2 seed in the Southeast region and will face No. 15-seed UCSB on Thursday in Tampa.

Students safe in Japan

By MEREDITH RUTLAND
Alligator Writer

Alyssa Post was buying groceries Friday afternoon when the store went dark and started trembling.

Post, a 21-year-old East Asian Languages and Literatures senior at UF who is studying in Tokyo, had just put cream cheese into her grocery cart when the city was rocked by the 8.9-magnitude earthquake that began off the country's northeast coast.

She and the other 11 UF students who were in Japan at the time are safe, said

Kirsten Laufer, UF's study abroad assistant director.

She said one UF student was in Niigata, about 100 miles from the center of the earthquake, and four were in Tokyo.

The rest were in cities farther south and west, away from the heart of the earthquake and the path of the tsunami that tore through Japan's coastal towns.

Post, who is from Miami, said store employees told her to abandon her groceries and get outside. None of the food fell

SEE JAPAN, PAGE 5

International News



■ The UF men's track and field team won its second straight NCAA indoor championship over the weekend, becoming just the fourth team to ever win back-to-back indoor titles. See Story, Page 21.

Police: Man gets stuck in hamper during break-in

MESA, Ariz. — A man is in custody after he broke into a town-home and got stuck in a clothes hamper underneath the window he climbed through. Mesa police say 20-year-old Michael Trias was arrested on suspicion of burglary and criminal damage.

The East Valley Tribune reports a resident inside the home heard the commotion of Trias becoming entangled in the hamper at about 9 a.m. Thursday. The owner of the home restrained Trias and was able to take him outside and call police. No property was taken from the home, but there was some damage done to the window.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ After filling out an NCAA Tournament bracket on Page 12, check out alligatorSports.org, sign up for our bracket challenge and compete against the alligatorSports staff.

Today

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visit www.alligator.org

Now as the calendar creeps closer to Tuesday — election day — they are nearing the end.

Of the 13 candidates vying for the three seats, most said they have enjoyed campaigning despite the break-neck speed that accompanies running for public office.

"If there was a free block of time on the calendar, it quickly got filled with a campaign activity," said Poe, who is running for re-

SEE ELECTIONS, PAGE 5

News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

"Italiani Nuovi or Nuova Italia? Attitudes Toward Granting Citizenship to Second- generation Immigrants in Contemporary Italy"

Today, 11:45 a.m.

Turlington Hall Room 3312

Italy is home to an ever-growing population of children of immigrants born and raised in the country but who do not have Italian citizenship due to the restrictive regime in place. Although many children of immigrants have the opportunity to apply for citizenship upon their 18th birthday, a series of conditions and provisions render the process difficult and preclude many of them from applying at all. This talk by Georgia Bianchi, Sociology Doctoral Candidate, explores Italians' views about granting citizenship to second-generation immigrants in Italy. This event is sponsored by the Center for European Studies.

Business Fashion Show

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
Dressing the part for a job can be just as important as actual performance in the workplace. Come out to the Women's History Month Business Fashion Show to celebrate past decades of style for the modern woman. All looks will be inspired by popular decades and can help students learn how to dress professionally

FORECAST

TODAY

SUNNY
81/52

TUESDAY

PARTLY
CLOUDY
80/54

WEDNESDAY

SUNNY
78/51

THURSDAY

SUNNY
79/51

FRIDAY

SUNNY
80/54

for their future careers.

Sixth Annual UF Law Student/ Faculty Art Show

Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Legal Information Center
The Art Law Society will be hosting its annual art show at the Levin College of Law. There will be free food, live music and a silent auction benefiting the local arts in medicine program. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate the arts for a good cause.

Free Yourself: No Photoshop Needed

Thursday, 11 a.m.

Plaza of the Americas
This exhibit will transform one's idea of true beauty. Come experience an event that will inspire confidence and push individuals to be liberated from their negative views of body image, allowing them to truly embrace their beauty.

Female in the Fine Arts

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Orange & Brew
UF's Women's History Month and Students Taking Action Against Racism (STAAR) are hosting

"We Rock the Mic Right." Women's History Month is a month devoted to the accomplishments of women throughout history. This event will showcase the work of UF students.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an e-mail with "What's Happening" in the subject line to ebehrman@alligator.org. Please model your submissions after above events. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials. If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or send an e-mail to editor@alligator.org.

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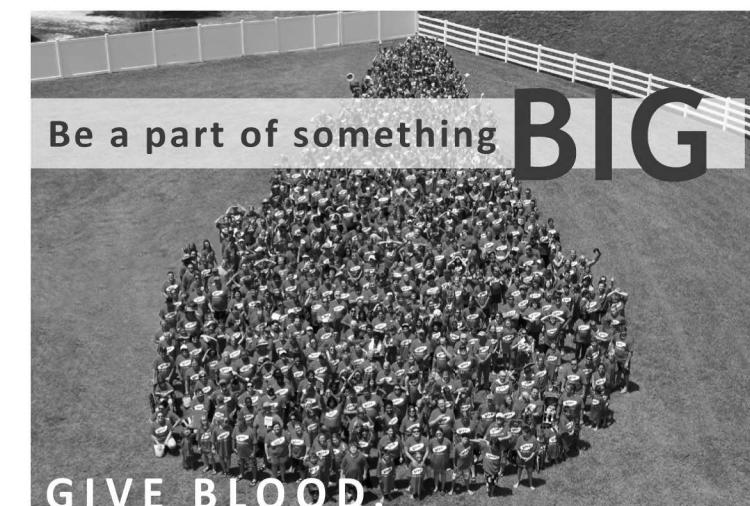
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③ Clean up our streets

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Gina Chitko / Alligator

Final Countdown

The Space Shuttle Discovery rolled down the launch pad and into retirement at the Kennedy Space Center on Feb. 24. The shuttle returned to Earth on Wednesday.

UF ACADEMICS**Business college ranks in top 50****By MINA RADMAN**

Alligator Writer

The Warrington College of Business Administration has been ranked one of the top 50 business programs in the country.

The UF business school jumped 13 spots from 2010 to place 42nd in Bloomberg BusinessWeek's 2011 ranking of 113 undergraduate business programs in the nation's colleges and universities.

It is the highest ranking for the school since the magazine began ranking programs six years ago.

"Obviously our students are doing a great job in interviews and programs," said Brian Ray, director of the business school and associate dean of the college.

"We are very happy with the rankings and pleased recruiters are seeing the talent of students."

Brian Ray

director of the business school

The ranking shows the strengths of changes made in the college in

the last few years, Ray said.

Warrington has implemented two new professional courses students are required to take: public speaking and a professional writing class. The college also began offering students a variety of minors, including accounting and entrepreneurship.

Ray said professional recruiters placed Warrington 10th among the schools ranked.

"We are very happy with the rankings and pleased recruiters are seeing the talent of students," Ray said.

.. THIS WEEK in GAINESVILLE ..

March 20, 1964: Albert II, the alligator mascot of UF, is "gatornapped." University police find the gate still locked and a hole cut through the fencing at the top of his pen. A few days later, campus police receive reports of a 7-foot alligator chained to a flagpole on Florida State University's campus.

March 14, 1986: Northeast Gainesville is hit with an early-morning tornado that leaves first-estimate damages at \$1.7 million.

Touching down at the Northgate Shopping Plaza at 6:17 a.m., the twister moves a mile and a half in eight minutes to the Lamplighter mobile-home park near Gainesville Regional Airport.

The tornado throws trees into cars and rips the

roofs off of unlucky shops but causes no deaths or injuries.

March 17, 1998: John Haupt, a man charged with making harassing phone calls and false 911 reports, runs as a candidate for Gainesville mayor from inside the Alachua County Jail.

If elected mayor, Haupt plans to build an underground railroad system and increase incoming revenues.

Haupt previously ran for a City Commission seat in 1996 and worked as a researcher with UF's department of research and graduate education for 13 years. In the mayoral election, he receives 379 votes, which amounts to 4 percent of total votes cast.

InsideUF

Your campus news source

UF director adds modern edge to French play

UF faculty member Tim Altmeyer is adding a modern touch to the March 18-27 production of "The Madwoman of Chaillot," a play first done in the months following World War II.

Written amid the German occupation of France during the war, the play by Jean Giraudoux signaled the rebirth of French theater.

Staging Giraudoux's lunatic dramatic poetry with the angry, exulting heartbeat of current outre' entertainer Lady Gaga, director Altmeyer and choreographer Kristin O'Neal bring this classic French comic fable into 21st-century America.

"Through ridiculous humor and unapologetic righteousness, the questions presented to the French nation, then ravaged and humiliated by war, are still worth pondering nearly 70 years later by a modern American

culture that is strangely, presciently reflected in the imaginary world of Giraudoux's invention," Altmeyer said.

At a cafe in the heart of Paris, a group of powerful promoters, political and financial, scheme to unearth a vast store of oil believed to be beneath the Chaillot, with no regard for either the city or its inhabitants. Their devious plot comes to the attention of Aurelia, the Madwoman of Chaillot, who, serving as protector of her home, devises her own scheme to thwart them, enlisting her strange cadre of friends in a war of good and evil.

The fantastical, outlandish world of this updated production is realized by designers Anne Tully (scenic), Ryan Bible (lighting) and Lee Martin (costumes), and features Nichole Hamilton (Hip-

View these stories and more at www.insideuf.ufl.edu

Survey starts March 15

Undergraduate Gators will again have a chance to speak up and improve the college experience with a 20-minute questionnaire called the 2011 Student Experience in the Research University, or SERU, survey.

The survey opens March 15. Students can access it on ISIS. Students eligible to take the survey include all currently enrolled undergraduate students and class of 2015 freshmen ages 18 and over.

Show comes to Phillips

The 2010-2011 national tour of "Spring Awakening" comes to Gainesville March 22 for one performance at the Phillips Center for Performing Arts.

The eight-time Tony Award-winning Broadway musical features "The most gorgeous Broadway score this decade," according to Entertainment Weekly.

Tickets are on sale now and start at \$40. They can be purchased at the Phillips Center Box Office, University Box office at the Reitz Student Union and all Ticketmaster outlets. Online purchases can be made at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge by phone call 352-392-2787 or toll-free in Florida at 800-905-2787. Group orders for 10 or more may be placed by calling 352-392-2787.

InsideUF is produced by the University Relations Office for faculty, staff and students. Editor - Ron Wayne

UF Calendar of Events

For a listing of events, or to submit an event to the calendar, click "UF Calendar" at www.insideuf.ufl.edu.

UF UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
The Foundation for The Gator Nation

ON CAMPUS

UF researcher outlines strategy to save bananas

By REBECCA DANTA

Alligator Contributing Writer

The banana plant may be at risk of extinction due to the spread of a disease.

Randy Ploetz, a researcher at UF's Tropical Research and Education Center in south Florida, has created a six-part plan which he is sharing with the banana industry to prevent the spread of the disease to the Western Hemisphere.

Tropical Race 4, a variant of Panama disease, destroyed entire banana plantations in Southeast Asia in 1990. If the disease spreads to South America, there would be a significant impact on Florida consumers who rely on imports of the fruit because of Florida's unfavorable environment for growing bananas.

Ploetz said if the disease does spread to South America, the Cavendish banana people know today would become extinct.

"I don't have a crystal ball, so I don't know when it's going to happen," he said. "But what has happened in the past with diseases like this is they do move."

Ploetz's plan lays out strategies on how to

keep Tropical Race 4 out of America and what to do in the case of an outbreak. He aims to educate banana producers, researchers and anyone involved with the banana market in the Western Hemisphere.

"This affects virtually anyone who consumes the typical Chiquita banana seen in grocery stores."

Randy Ploetz

researcher at UF's Tropical Research and Education Center

"My goal is to let people know that this thing is lurking," he said. "They need to be prepared on how to keep it away and what to do when it comes."

Ploetz said if the disease spreads to the Western Hemisphere, it will wipe out entire banana plantations in countries such as Ecuador, where bananas are the biggest export.

"This affects virtually anyone who consumes the typical Chiquita banana seen in grocery stores," he said.

Movie festival kicks off

By SHELLEY GREENSPAN

Alligator Contributing writer

Gainesville's first Jewish Film Festival starts today and is designed to entertain and educate the Gainesville community on Jewish culture.

The festival kicks off tonight with a screening of "The Yankles," a movie about a washed-up, ex-professional baseball player who gets a second chance at life and love by managing a Jewish orthodox yeshiva baseball team.

Presented by the UF Hillel, the Gainesville Jewish Film Festival presents a dynamic and exciting perception of Judaism and the global Jewish community, according to organizers.

Amanda Solomon, the arts director for UF Hillel's student leadership board and the main coordinator behind the event, said she hopes the film festival will highlight Jewish culture worldwide as well as erase negative stereo-

types people tend to cling to.

Each night has a specific theme based on the importance to Jewish history and Jewish identity as a whole. For six nights, broad themes, such as "social action" and "Jews in sports," were chosen to ensure everyone can connect to the films in some way, Solomon said.

In addition to the film, there will be a speaker featured after each screening.

All screenings are free and open to the public and will take place at the Hippodrome Theatre from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The festival runs through March 29.

Jeannie Bobroff, a member of Gainesville's Jewish community, said the film festival will inspire many local Jewish residents to get involved in the community.

"A large-scale event like this film festival is just what the community needs to be proud of where they're from," Bobroff said.

**1st Annual
Gainesville Rugby
St. Patrick's Golf Tournament**

Saturday, March 19th at 1pm

West End Golf Course - 12830 W Newberry Rd.

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12 UF students were in Japan last week

JAPAN, from page 1

off the shelves but she saw a 7-story building sway like a palm tree in a hurricane.

She fell asleep in her dorm room to the rocking of aftershocks, which she stopped feeling around midnight.

She had read how-to booklets on what to do during an earthquake, but she said they didn't help much.

"I feel like I wasn't really prepared, so I was probably lucky that I was at the store, where people knew what to do," she said.

She said none of the buildings near her fell, mainly because newer Japanese buildings are made to withstand strong earthquakes.

Taka Hamada, a 23-year-old UF journalism junior, said he couldn't believe what had happened. His mom and younger sisters live in Hiroshima, which is on the country's west coast. He said they are safe.

He kept watching news broadcasts and saw the death count and floating bodies.

"It's cliche, but it's like a movie," he said. "It's like something that you never expect to happen in Japan."

City elections will take place Tuesday

ELECTIONS, from page 1

election for District 2.

Susan Bottcher, who is running for the District 3 seat, said comfortable shoes are essential for campaign season, especially during weekends when she walks door to door talking to as many Gainesville voters as she can.

District 3 candidate Rob Zeller said the busiest part has been the dozen or so forums and paper questionnaires.

"They take a lot more time to answer than I thought," he said.

But for most candidates, campaigning hasn't been just hectic. Sacrifices have been made.

"I haven't seen my kids much in the last four weeks," said Zeller, who has three young children. "My daughter wants to see me more."

His 5-year-old daughter, Lily, will have a birthday soon after the election, and he doesn't want to miss it.

But if there's a run-off, he'll be swamped again.

"If there's another election, then I have to get back to the grindstone," he said.

For James Ingle, who's running for a seat in District 2, wedding planning has been delayed.

"I am engaged to the most patient woman in the world," he said of his fiancee and campaign manager, Trisha Dunne.

The wedding itself is still on track for April 19, but Ingle said the campaign has made an already hectic process even more stressful.

While many candidates carefully are budgeting their time with the typical campaign activities, one has taken a different approach. Selwach said he decided not to take do-

nations from anyone, so he has no need for fundraisers. He put \$2,500 of his own money into his campaign.

He also said he doesn't want to clutter up people's mailboxes with junk, so he didn't make campaign fliers. Nor has he campaigned door to door.

"Do you like it when you're at home and someone comes and knocks on your door?" he asked. "No, you don't."

He's christened his store, Best Jewelry and Loan Pawnbroker, as his official campaign base. There, he meets with citizens and makes his case.

Candidates said campaigning has taught them about what they can accomplish. Campaigning even can be fun.

Angulo, another candidate for District 3, said he and his team were relatively inexperienced but still were able to pull off some victories, such as locking up an endorsement from the African American Accountability Alliance.

When they found out, Angulo and Gainesville City Commission his campaign manager were speechless in their elation.

"We just looked at each other for a second, because we couldn't believe we'd won it," he said.

Selwach said he had fun at the Tea Party forum and felt relaxed. During the forum, he stood up and declared himself to be "Diamond Rick the Pawn Broker," a parallel to "Joe the Plumber" from the 2008 presidential election.

Ingle said he's become close friends with people he didn't even know before he started running.

Because of this, he doesn't mind going door to door every weekend and most weekdays. In fact, he said he enjoys it.

"People are great. I'd say nine out of 10 of them want to talk to you about the city," he said.

The Board of Directors of Campus Communications, Inc., publisher of

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announces the openings for the positions

Editor,

a paid position as head of the Editorial Division and as an unpaid member of the Board of Directors

Managing Editor/Print

AND

Managing Editor/Online,

Paid positions. Unpaid member of the Board of Directors.

Summer Semester: May 10, 2011 to August 15, 2011

The applications for these positions are available at the reception desk at the entrance of the first floor of *The Alligator* Building at 1105 W. University Ave., **each weekday between 1:00 and 4:00pm from now until March 25**. Please do not call. Further written information is available at the time an application is picked up. Please allow up to 15 minutes at that time to read information you will need for the application process. The application must be returned to the same desk by **2:00 pm, April 1. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE**. Interviews and selections by the Board of Directors will be held at *The Alligator* offices in a meeting open to the public beginning at **2:00 pm, Friday, April 15**. Applicants must be present at that meeting to be considered. Applicants must be degree-seeking college or university students. Preference will be given to those who have experience at *The Alligator*.

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ALPIN HONG
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Editorial

Run-on Sentence

Delaying restoration of felons' rights a crime

We understand that people forfeit some of their rights when they break the law. It's just, and it's part of the due punishment our justice system provides.

However, we were left scratching our heads Wednesday, when Florida's state clemency board made it harder for nonviolent felons to regain those rights upon release from prison.

Just four years ago, former Gov. Charlie Crist saw a problem with the massive delays in restoring the rights to vote, run for public office, sit on a jury or hold specific occupational licenses.

He granted these felons immediate restoration of their rights — and by "immediate," we mean it would take months or years for the paperwork to work its way through Florida bureaucracy.

Gov. Rick Scott sees things differently, as does Attorney General Pam Bondi.

They, along with other members of the board, decided people who have served their time and followed court orders would have an additional sentence tacked on to jail time and restitution: five years of revoked rights.

That's five years before they can even begin jumping through hoops to get the rights back. It's five years before people who normal society has a vested interest in re-assimilating can again start feeling like a normal citizen.

We fail to understand the board's reasoning for this change in policy.

In fact, with his vague talk and secrecy surrounding the decision, we suspect the governor himself doesn't have a decent reason for it.

There has been talk that the members of the board simply wanted to pull strings to ensure a disproportionately black and Democrat voting block was eliminated from the upcoming elections. The Miami Herald even went as far as to call the policy change a return to Jim Crow laws, stating that the state has "gone back a century."

Whether that's true and whether people agree with the board's decision have yet to be seen, but we are alarmed by the secrecy that surrounded the change.

Meeting to vote on a proposal made public only at the beginning of the same meeting doesn't sound like the Florida's fabled "Government in the Sunshine" to us.

Just the opposite: It sounds like shady business.

We hoped the board members would understand the idea of a deliberate government and at least give the opposition time to gather its thoughts and speak on a given issue.

Instead, the governor and his ilk are using the finesse of a steamroller and the speed of a jet to reshape the state to fit their vision.

When Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam voiced his concerns — albeit weakly — over the speed at which the board was moving, it should have sent up red flags. His objection and near-immediate coalescence speaks volumes about Gov. Scott's modus operandi.

Even if Floridians haven't noticed it yet, our governor is working to get what he likes, not what the people need or want.

And that's a scary reality.

the independent florida alligator

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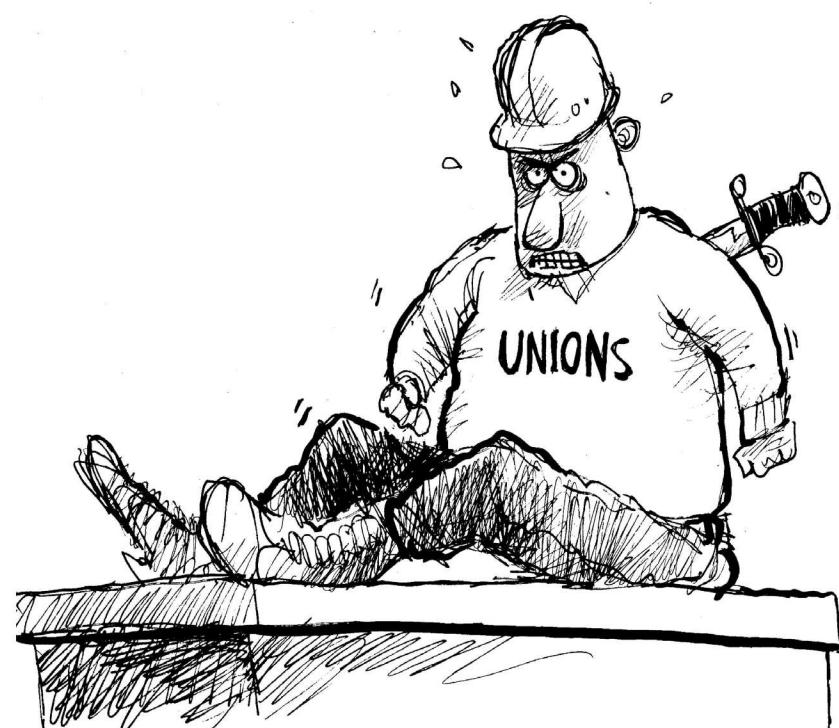
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Opinions

ALLIGATOR

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Column

Freedom, fairness support traditional marriage

Freedom and fairness are two of the bedrock principles upon which our nation was founded. As such, they provide potent pressure against any who appear to disfavor them.

For this very reason, people who advocate for gay marriage have sought to co-opt these ideas and claim them as their own. What many people who favor traditional marriage fail to recognize is that these advocates are, in fact, correct.

The debate surrounding the definition of marriage does ultimately depend on fundamental freedoms and fairness.

However, these two cornerstones of American society favor a traditional definition of marriage. How is this? It's simple.

Every American, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, is entitled to certain fundamental freedoms, and society has accommodated these freedoms and balanced its interests against those of the individual. Marriage is, essentially, a state-sanctioned institution with societal rights and responsibilities accompanying its unique status.

Thus, our society has a vested interest in maintaining the institution's integrity.

What is this interest, though? Is it the stability of the institution?

Although this argument has merit, it falls short. Consider that interracial marriage was once expressly forbidden, but it is widely accepted today.

Is it the economic aspect of marriage?

Again, this argument might have merit, but it is weak.

Economic reasons are seldom sufficient when discussing issues of fundamental freedoms and fairness.



Zack Smith
letters@alligator.org

Is it to protect the rights of the parties involved with — or incident to — the marriage?

This answer is closer to the truth.

Keep in mind that the state provides tax benefits for the marriage.

It also oversees probate proceedings when one partner in the

marriage dies.

It even enforces child support and custody agreements when a marriage, sadly, fails. Perhaps, though, the answer lies in none of these arguments.

Our society's most compelling interest in maintaining the integrity of marriage is that this institution is one of the hallmarks which itself defines a society.

Thus, fairness dictates that every member of our society has an equal voice to determine what the definition of something as fundamental as marriage will be. At the moment, society has accepted the traditional view that marriage is between only one man and one woman.

This prevailing view may change, though, as the electorate becomes increasingly younger.

Because of this possibility of change, the people who favor traditional marriage must continue to advocate for their beliefs.

They must embrace the powerful ideas of freedom and fairness by encouraging others to exercise their voices in advocating for a traditional definition of marriage.

Zack Smith is a first-year law student. His column appears on Mondays.

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

Reader response

Today's question: Have you ever received an automatic traffic ticket?

Friday's question: Will your Spring Break make Charlie Sheen proud?

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

41% YES
59% NO
88 TOTAL VOTES

UWire

Obama's Guantanamo about-face a necessary concession

President Barack Obama on Monday rescinded his two-year-old directive banning military tribunals at Guantanamo Bay. In a new executive order, Obama clears the way for resuming military trials at the naval base. This is regrettable, considering the president campaigned on — and committed to, once taking office — closing Guantanamo within a year of his inauguration. Still, the concession is a prudent one. Guantanamo is a nearly impossible issue, one that may be black-and-white in moral terms but is very gray in practice, and the reforms that the president has included in his most recent order alleviate much of what Americans have found so distasteful regarding the military base.

In order to deal with the 172 prisoners currently detained at the naval base, the new executive order reinstates a system allowing prisoners to be tried by military courts. Numerous obstacles have stood in the way of trying prisoners in civilian

**Tufts Daily
Editorial Board**

UWire

court and have forced them into legal limbo and indeterminate detention. The new executive order remedies this by allowing prisoners either to be tried on-site by a military tribunal or to make a plea bargain. Because many detainees were tortured to obtain information, evidence gained from such tactics would be thrown out in court, weakening the prospect of conviction.

The new order attempts to solve this problem by requiring compliance with international treaties barring inhumane treatment. But a fundamental problem remains: Because evidence obtained under duress is inadmissible — even in these military tribunals — the government faces a “Sophie’s choice” between releasing or illegally detaining people it reasonably believes to be terrorist threats. This is the problem of Guantanamo.

Perhaps most important of all, the order establishes a pro-

cess of periodic review by several federal agencies of the prisoners’ threat to our security. This will decide whether prisoners should be tried, released or transferred to another country.

Nonetheless, the new executive order fails to address many core issues pertaining to Guantanamo. Administration officials have insisted that the president remains committed to closing the base in the near future, but the order sheds little light on when that will be. And because Obama made it clear that the order only applies to current and not future detainees, it is unclear how the base will be used in coming years.

The new decision has left the long-term plans for Guantanamo up in the air. Commendable as this executive order is, it is far from resolving an issue that has remained a sore point in the United States for years.

By Tufts Daily Editorial Board, Tufts Daily, Tufts University via UWire

UWire

Generating revenue is real goal of automated traffic tickets

Like many functions of the state, authoritative traffic precautions were implemented for the purpose of collecting a revenue stream under the guise of safety. The most outrageous measure has been an effort to squelch driving violations through the use of automated ticketing machines or ATMs. If a motorist runs a red light, a camera takes a picture of the vehicle and then sends a ticket through the mail to crack down on running red lights.

Besides the creepy Big Brother implications of these measures, the machines come with a number of reasons to be prohibited. The cameras ignore the basic function of due process

by automatically ticketing drivers, relinquishing their ability to immediately contest violations. Most importantly, though, studies show the cameras actually lead to an increase in intersection accidents in complete opposition of the program’s hopes.

Redflex Traffic Systems Inc., the company that manufactures ATMs, earns a portion of the revenue, partially to pay for the devices. But even more egregious, this company gets to dictate where the cameras are installed based on a location that is profitable, not necessarily one that promotes greater safety. In line with the profit motive, numerous cities have been caught shortening the duration of yellow

Taylor Lutz
UWire

lights, in a “dangerous fundraising initiative,” according to the Huffington Post.

Regardless of any benefits from the use of ATMs, the machines ignore the premise of “innocent until proven guilty.” Due to the reality that traffic cameras are incapable of differentiating between an automobile owner and the actual driver, the machines send tickets to the owner of the vehicle. In addition, many citizens have been ticketed for taking legal right-hand turns, being treated the same as those who blatantly have violated red lights.

As the money-making ATMs have been in-

stalled in 450 communities nationwide, studies have assessed the effectiveness of these enforcement mechanisms. As many would not expect, the University of South Florida found that traffic cameras “significantly increase crashes and are a ticket to higher insurance premiums.” Instead of proceeding through yellow lights, drivers slam on the breaks to avoid tickets and often end up increasing the amount of rear-end collisions at intersections.

The state always claims to hold the intent of safety and concern for the citizenry, but this is no solution to traffic control.

By Taylor Lutz, Daily Evergreen, Washington State University via UWire

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Uneasy in the Big Easy

Mardi Gras fails to live up to the hype

By KAT BEIN
Alligator Staff Writer

I'd never been to Mardi Gras before, or even to New Orleans, but I was instructed to expect the worst.

I was told men would follow me with beads, begging to see my goodies. I was told urine and alcohol would flow in the streets. I was insane, they said, for going.

That would have been awesome if that were the case. I pride myself on my ability to rage and ride the chaos until the booze wave drowns us all.

But Fat Tuesday wasn't exactly what I expected.

I arrived Monday evening and checked into my fancy hotel near the French quarter. My rag-tag foursome was only slightly out of place among the old and rich. They were dressed for the opera; we were dressed for a zombie apocalypse.

We got ready in our room, then headed out for Zoolu, a warehouse rave in the central business district.

But first we made a detour to Bourbon Street, the fabled Mardi Gras headquarters.

The street was barricaded, shut down and filled with stumbling, doe-eyed drunks.

Men leered from centuries-old balconies, pointing and shouting at girls on the street to show their breasts for plastic beads. The girls giggled and said, "Me?" Everyone drank fruity iced cocktails from tall, skinny plastic goblets and wore blinking jewelry bought from strolling light-up-toy vendors.

Though there was a general sense of lawlessness and a faint smell of ganja, none of it felt spontaneous or out of control. Bourbon Street was a dirty, booze-fueled Disney World that smelled like vomit and human waste.

We moved toward Canal Street through the hoard of revelers and past mounted police officers to our final party destination, which was packed with thousands of young people.

My friends and I danced and goofed off while acrobatic girls dangled from the ceiling. Some crazy man in a wacky bodysuit blew up a giant plastic bubble, then danced his way inside of it.

The show went on until 3 a.m., and then we moved to another

club for the after-party, hanging out in VIP until about 6 a.m., when we decided it was time to hit the road.

I woke up on Fat Tuesday sometime after noon to the sound of parades outside my window. When I made it to the street, I found the whole town taken over by every kind of person in the world.

Instead of cars, bright and colorful floats with different themes drove down the streets, hip-hop and top-40 songs blasting from their speakers. Riders cheered, threw things and waved. Candy, beaded necklaces and confetti showered the bystanders of all ages. About 1 million people attended.

I reflected on the fact that this is a religious holiday, but Mardi Gras is even more godless than Christmas shopping, although perhaps just as commercialized. No one had praying on their minds, but they were spending a lot of money.

We began moving away from the main arena and north on Decatur Street, past Cafe Du Monde and toward Marigny.

The farther we walked, the fewer lost tourists we found and the more interesting things became. We started seeing fewer people in sad blue wigs and feathered boas in exchange for more intricate garb. Instead of families and cute couples, we met crusty kids and street bands.

I got the sense we'd stumbled into the more interesting side of the party.

As the sun went down, the street opened back up for cars to drive squeamishly over the filth. Beaded necklaces got caught in turning tires, popping and sparkling as they were crushed. Mounds of garbage lined the sidewalks, which were covered in a glistening, slimy mess of who knows what. The smell was unholy.

When the clock struck midnight, it officially became Ash Wednesday. The partiers of Bourbon Street were kicked off by a barrage of police headed by the kind of religious screamers who yell their sermons on Turlington Plaza.

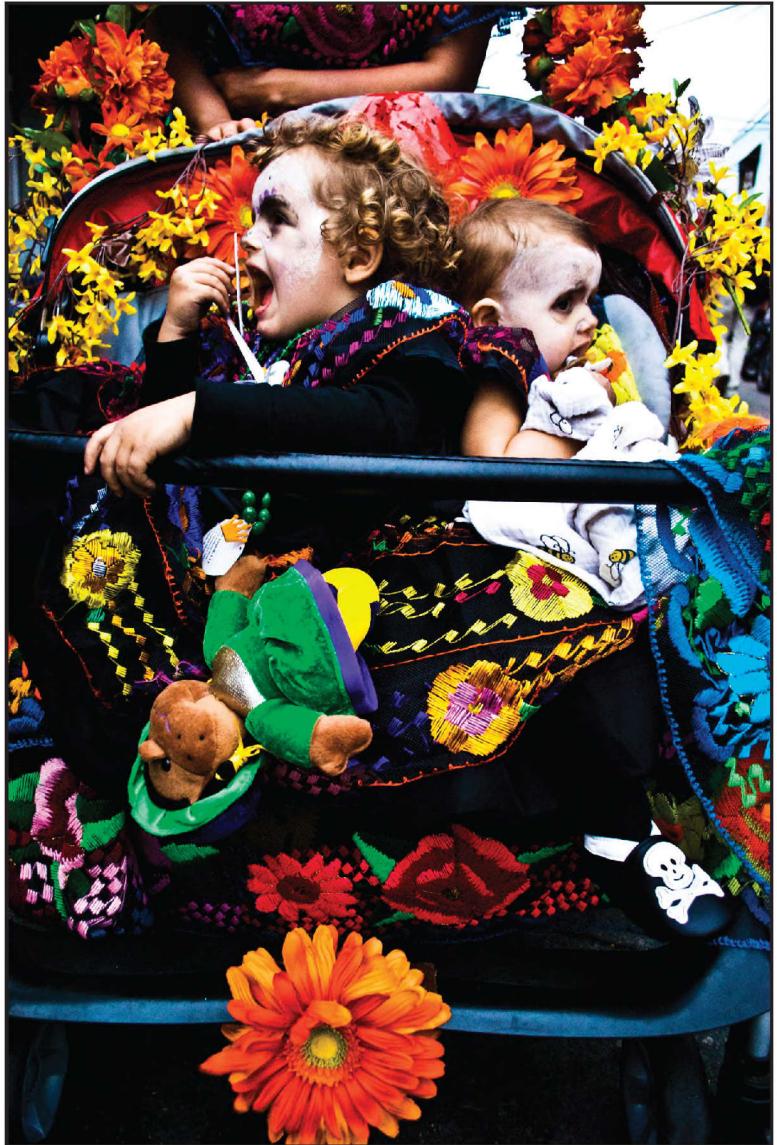
Back on Decatur, some people still hung on, dancing in the streets and on cars while a traveling band played a few tunes. But the festivities basically were over.

I expected the party to keep going. But, nope, that was pretty much it. Back to Florida I went, with a handful of beads, a bad hangover and a few stories that hold no water to those of Charlie Sheen.

But at least I got laid.

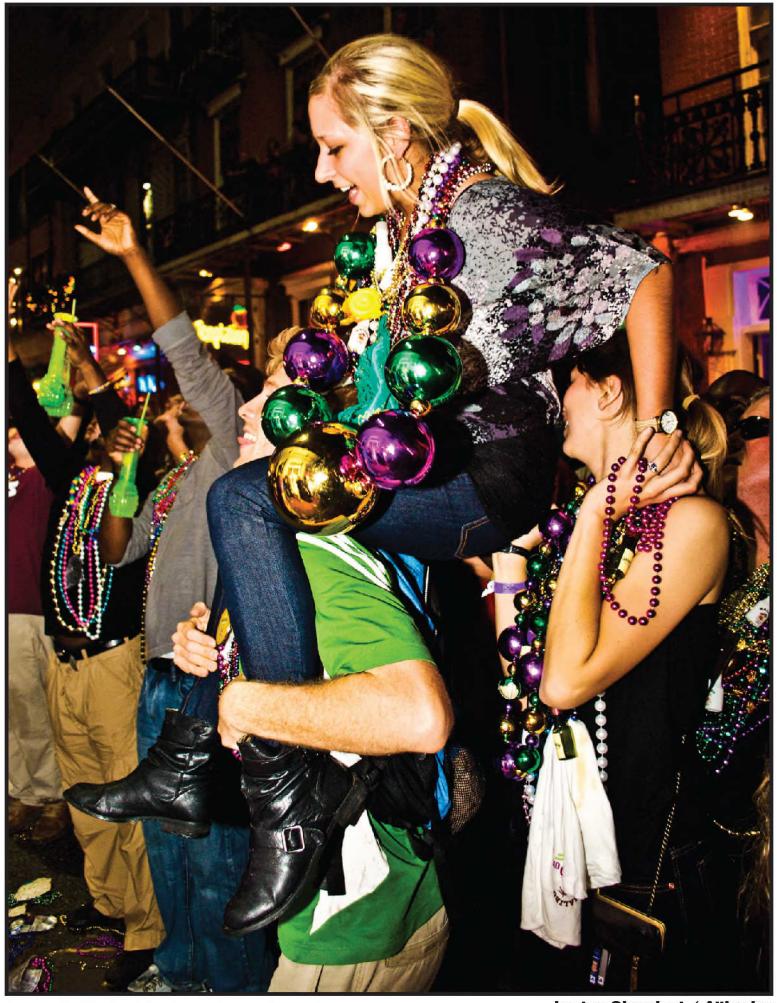


Cars drive over beads and trash left behind from a parade on Canal Street in New Orleans on Tuesday.



Jordan Streetzel / Alligator

Mardi Gras children sit in a stroller on Frenchmen Street in New Orleans on Tuesday.



Jordan Streetzel / Alligator

A woman climbs on top of her friends to catch more beads on Bourbon Street in New Orleans on Tuesday.

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March Madness

 Don't go overboard with the upsets. Higher-seeded teams are usually seeded higher for a reason.

 However, there are going to be a lot of upsets. Pick at least two dark horses per region, even if it means choosing teams randomly to do so. Sometimes, that's the most effective method.

 Pay attention to location. Keep an eye on trendy Big East teams faced with the disadvantage of being shipped out West.

 Just go chalk. This is about money. You won't win any popularity contests, but those are for politicians and homecoming queens. You know who else isn't very popular? Mark Zuckerberg. But his cash keeps him company.

 Think about the conference. A 28-4 team in the WAC obviously isn't as good as a 28-4 team in the Big East.

 Beware of teams entering the Tournament amid a major slump or with injuries (examples: Villanova, Georgetown, Florida State, BYU) or those entering on a hot streak (especially conference tournament winners).

 Teams seeded 7-11 this year are all essentially the exact same: pretty decent.

 Even though you're close to the situation, try to stay far, far away from it. Don't get caught up in the orange and blue and blindly predict Florida into the Final Four. You'll hate the Gators when it's all said and done if you lose your pool because of them.

Rosa Taveras / Alligator Staff



With all due respect to the holiday season, March Madness really is the most wonderful time of the year. Feel free to use the bracket on Pages 12 and 13 and challenge us in our bracket challenge online at alligatorSports.org, where fame and fabulous prizes await the winner. Searching for helpful hints, tips and tricks to solve the mystery of the NCAA Tournament? Look no further.

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alligatorSports columnists give a lesson in NCAA Bracketology

FINAL FOUR: Ohio State, UConn, Kansas, Pittsburgh.

This year's NCAA Tournament could either prove to be topsy-turvy and upset-filled or predictably chalk. I'm leaning toward the latter at this point, taking three No. 1 seeds and a streaky No. 3 seed. Kemba Walker can send UConn deep into the Tournament on his own, and this is the type of year where an elite player can make a true impact because the field is so weak.

While I definitely don't love either team, I'm taking Kansas over Ohio State in the championship game, and the Jayhawks' Marcus and Markieff Morris become the nation's most beloved twins since the Olsens.

DARK HORSE: I'm breaking the rules and taking two No. 13 seeds here: Morehead State in the Southwest, and Belmont in the Southeast.

There are few players I like more than Eagles big man Kenneth Faried, who averaged 17.6 points, 14.5 rebounds and 2.4 blocks per game while leading Morehead State to a 24-9 record. If Vanderbilt falters to Richmond in the first round and Morehead State upsets Louisville, the Eagles have a clear route to a Sweet Sixteen matchup against Kansas.

Belmont, meanwhile, won 30 games and reeled off 19 victories in the Atlantic Sun. The Bruins haven't lost since Jan. 25. While I love No. 4-seed Wisconsin's red-headed, Jewish sensation Mike Bruesewitz, Belmont is more than capable of earning a Sweet Sixteen date with Pitt by beating the Badgers and either Kansas State or Utah State in the second round.

FLORIDA FORECAST: While they certainly seemed worthy with a four-game winning streak leading up to Sunday's loss to Kentucky, the Gators were fortunate to pull out a No. 2 seed — and even luckier to be placed where they are.

The Southeast sets up well for Florida, which can breeze by UCSB in its first game. If Michigan State finds its footing, the Spartans could be a difficult draw in the next round, but UF is cohesive enough to advance.

BYU would have presented a thrilling rematch in the Sweet Sixteen, but the loss of Brandon Davies will likely keep the Cougars from moving past the first weekend. UF, then, should have its way with St. John's provided a last-minute switch of venue to Madison Square Garden.

The Gators' remarkable run will come to an end, however, against Pitt in the Elite Eight.

FINAL FOUR: March Madness is back, and you know what that means: It's time to make "educated" predictions on games that involve two teams you have never even seen bounce a basketball before.

So, I might as well throw out my wild opinion: Ohio State, UConn, Kansas and BYU.

That doesn't sound too crazy. But I like the idea of Kemba Walker and Jimmer Fredette carrying their teams deep into the tournament.

DARK HORSE: Belmont.



Anthony Chiang

Chiang Reaction
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This team has won Tournament games in the past, and it has the depth to make a run this season. Eleven of Belmont's players average double-digit minutes.

FLORIDA FORECAST:

The Gators have pretty good depth too.

As a No. 2 seed for the first time since 2003, Florida finds itself in prime position to do some damage this time around.

The Gators should get out of Tampa and to the Sweet Sixteen without a problem, but that's where it will end for them.

A rematch against Jimmer and BYU is sure to await them in the third round. And as you can see by my Final Four predictions, I think the Gators will lose that game.

It has been a good year for Florida, but it is a little over its head with a No. 2 seed. UF's shooting is too inconsistent to make a deep run.

I don't think a team that loses to Jacksonville and UCF should ever be rewarded with such a high seed.

BYU will expose that and will end UF's season for the second consecutive year.

FINAL FOUR: Ohio State, Kansas, Pittsburgh and San Diego State.

You don't need to be reminded about that time the Buckeyes walked into Gainesville and cruised to an 18-point victory. Kansas will be carried, like it has all year, by the Morris twins. You never root against twins. They're just too cute.

Pitt is as tough as any team in the nation. As long as they keep the score close late in the second half, you have to believe the Panthers' guards will be able to carry them to victory. And San Diego State? Why not. It just seems like the Final Four would be more fun with them at the party.



Tyler Jett

The Jett Stream
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Twitter: @JettStreamin

DARK HORSE: Missouri. The Tigers have been a disappointment since Big 12 play started, but with a little luck, they have the potential to upset anybody. Coach Mike Anderson, who worked at Arkansas during the 40 Minutes of Hell days, implements a nasty press that has keyed a couple unexpected runs in past tournaments.

Remember 2004, when Anderson led UAB past No. 1 Kentucky in the second round? Or how about 2009,

when No. 3-seed Mizzou fell minutes short of the Final Four?

Cincinnati, I'm putting you on notice. And Connecticut, watch yourself. You're next.

FLORIDA FORECAST: The Gators could not have scored a much luckier draw. If the opening weekend goes chalk, UF will have a pretty favorable Sweet Sixteen matchup against BYU.

The hot-shooting Stormin' Mormons could have made a deep run, but Brandon Davies was seduced by a real Fanny Alger — if you know what I mean. While Davies was searching for treasure like Joseph Smith, BYU's national title hopes tanked.

Florida will walk off the court winners, and Billy Donovan will be as popular as top Utah citizens Deron Williams, Matt Stone and Trey Parker. You bastards!

But that is as far as Florida will get. A loss two days later will keep the Gators from their fifth Final Four trip.

When I Drink Too Much...

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"...I start fights with anyone I catch looking at my girl; then she and I end up arguing all night. I'm not usually such a jerk." -Chris, 22

Vegas trip for Big Dance yields more than simply March Madness

Red, are you shitting me? Vegas, four days, all expenses paid for the NCAA Championship. Out of sight. Yeah, I'm definitely in."

Red, my bookmaking partner, makes me seem Spartan. With him, anything done to excess equals success.

If Red lifts the phone, he bets \$10,000. He bets everything: football, hoops, hockey, baseball — anything.

Red bets with a big-time Brooklyn bookie, Dennis.

Because he's a gambler, Dennis vacations in Vegas. He takes action all year, then relaxes by gambling.

I've watched Dennis throw craps. He covers every number with 5-large, then backs up his initial bets with \$5,000 more by taking the "free odds."

That's \$60,000 a roll.

During a four-day holiday, Dennis donates Dumpsters of money to casinos. Casinos treat Dennis well.

Because Red's betting allows Dennis to finance his own compulsion, he tells Red, "Come with me to Vegas. Bring anyone you want. Just sign my name. Everything's on the house."

Red and I are partners and great friends, but no way can I compete with his appetite for drugs, women or gambling.

Red needs a babysitter. He thinks I'm right for the job.

Screw that. I'll nip this in the bud.

I pack my bag, set the alarm for 6 a.m. and head for my local pub. The dilettante behind the bar over serves me.

Paralyzed, I pass out on my couch at 5 a.m.

When the alarm rings, I awake, dressed and drunk. I head for Vegas.

The cab driver drops me at Stewart Interna-

tional Airport where Red awaits.

"Where the hell you been, man? I was worried about you. I didn't think you were going to make it. Jesus Christ, you're shitfaced. It's 6:30 a.m. How did you get whacked so fast?"

"I'm still drunk from last night. I need a screwdriver or a Bloody Mary or something. I'm f***ing dying."

We board the plane and are assigned the last two seats on the left aisle in the back.

I gasp to the stewardess, "How soon before I can get a drink?"

She laughs, "Shortly after airborne, we'll start cocktail service."

True to her word, after we lift off, she starts hauling me and Red screwdrivers.

We start slamming screwdrivers as if the aircraft is delivering us to the gallows. The sugar from the vodka and O.J. resurrects me.

I shift to full party mode. I'm laughing, but obnoxious.

It's not yet 8 a.m. Old ladies crowd these junkets to play slots. I can feel intense, nasty stares.

Being a belligerent drunk, I begin breaking balls. I lean forward and yell, "Come on, you old goats, loosen up. You're on your way to Vegas for Christ's sake."

I'm so whacked even Red's embarrassed.

I laugh loud and hard. When it happens, I can't catch my breath. When I try, the air intake sounds like a hyena. The laugh is either infectious or annoying. It depends on the amount of whiskey poured.

At the moment, it's unbearable.

To avoid me, Red rises and chats up the two stewardesses. He tells the girls that he and I are heading to Vegas to bet \$200,000 on the championship game and paints a charming fairytale about the attaché case in the overhead being stuffed with the "mob's" money.

Airlines were still civilized in 1992, so the

stewardesses are gullible knockouts.

After a couple hours on the plane, most passengers have had enough. Red and I are laughing away, still pounding screwdrivers, when a foghorn voice stuns me.

"You the two guys making all the noise

back here?"

I squint through the boozy fog. My one good eye rests on what appears to be a hairy, dungaree-clad cement truck.

We're going to have a beef, and this guy seems to have us outnumbered. He's the whole package: motorcycle boots, spiked leather wristbands, chains — a central casting Hell's Angel.

Then, a surprise.

"You guys sound like fun. Here's my contribution."

He extends his hand and places in mine a lovely montage of pharmaceuticals, reds, blues, yellows.

I'm relieved and say, "Thanks, man. You're a sport."

I chase them down with a belt from the screwdriver.

I wake up and glance first at my watch, then at the three crumpled-up bills on the night stand. What happened? Where am I?

It's 9:30 p.m. I'm in a hotel room.

"Oh, shit, the game."

I need a drink.

I hit the shower and head for the nearest bar. I hear screaming coming from the packed lounge. The circular bar is wrapped around four TV sets, all tuned to the championship game.

I wade through clouds of tobacco smoke and spot Red roaring between the two stewardesses from our flight.

"What the hell happened?" I ask, saddling up next to the blonde.

"Oh my God. We thought you'd get us fired. No one could wake you up. We took you off the plane in a wheelchair."

"A wheelchair? Jesus Christ. Then why are you two here?"

"Well, before you passed out, you were a lot of fun."

Halftime rolls around, and Mike Krzyzewski's Blue Devils are crushing Michigan, so I finally grab Red's attention.

"Hey man, fill me in later on how you got me up to the hotel room. Meanwhile, how does that expense account thing work?"

He says, "Just eat and drink wherever you want in the hotel, then sign Dennis' name and room number."

"Cool. Hey girls, you want to have a bite to eat?"

Three hours later, the check for \$1,400 includes steaks, wine, champagne and buckets of Courvoisier V.S.O.P.

After our feast, the girls and I enter the casino. Three security guards have a drunken, angry Red at the wrong end of their revolvers. I freeze at the entrance then pirouette 180 degrees. I don't stutter.

"Come on, girls. This is no place for us. Let me show you my hotel room."

Red never calls me to baby-sit anymore. Somehow, I feel cheap and used. Where did I go wrong?

Bill O'Connor is a Vietnam veteran, former Bronx firefighter and pub and restaurant owner. O'Connor is currently a journalism major at UF and a standup comic. The irreverent and acerbic O'Connor performs free standup around Gainesville.



Bill O'Connor
Confessions of a
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*"...I send my mom texts I really shouldn't... texts meant for my girlfriend. Let's just say my mom now knows way too much about me."
-Mike, 21*

HOW THEY GOT HERE: COLLEGE BASKETBALL SEASON IN REVIEW

BIG 12

Regular-season champion:
Kansas (32-2, 14-2)

Tournament champion:
Kansas, defeated Texas 85-73 in the final

How they did it:
Kansas dominated opponents on the interior thanks to junior twins Marcus and Markieff Morris. The frontcourt duo averaged a combined 30.9 points and 15.4 rebounds per game.

Player of the Year:
Marcus Morris, Kansas junior forward (17.3 points, 7.2 rebounds per game)

PACIFIC-10

Regular-season champion:
Arizona (27-7, 14-4)

How they did it:
Derrick Williams carried the Wildcats all season long, as he was the only player to average double figures in scoring with 19.1 points per game. He also led the team in rebounds and blocks per game, while shooting 61.5 percent from the field and an incredible 60.3 percent from three.

Tournament champion:
Washington (23-10, 11-7), defeated Arizona 77-75 in the final

How they did it:
After an underwhelming regular season, the talented Huskies got hot at the right time, winning three games in three days to claim the Pac-10 Tournament championship. Washington was led by the talented inside-outside duo of senior forward Matthew Bryan-Amaning (15.5 points, 8.1 rebounds per game) and junior guard Isaiah Thomas (16.8 points, 6 assists per game).

Player of the Year:
Derrick Williams, Arizona sophomore forward (19.1 points, 8.1 rebounds, 0.7 blocks per game)

BIG TEN

Regular-season champion:
Ohio State (32-2, 16-2)

Tournament champion:
Ohio State, defeated Penn State 71-60 in the final

How they did it:
The Buckeyes played only seven players but still had the nation's most complete team. With freshman Jared Sullinger dominating inside and senior Jon Diebler raining threes, the Buckeyes were the last remaining unbeaten at 24-0.

Player of the Year:
JaJuan Johnson, Purdue senior center (20.5 points, 8.2 rebounds, 2.3 blocks per game)

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

Regular-season champion:
Florida (26-7, 13-3)

How they did it:
The Gators won the SEC championship with their balanced scoring, as four players averaged between 11.3 and 14.4 points per game. Senior Chandler Parsons displayed why he is one of the nation's most versatile players, leading the team in rebounds and assists per game.

Tournament champion:
Kentucky (25-8, 10-6), defeated Florida 70-54

How they did it:
As is becoming tradition with John Calipari's teams, the Wildcats relied on a crop of supremely talented freshmen. Brandon Knight (17.5 points, 4.2 assists, 4.0 rebounds per game) and Terrence Jones (16.5 points, 9.0 rebounds per game) lead a team that only gives six players significant minutes.

Player of the Year:
Chandler Parsons, Florida senior forward (11.5 points, 7.8 rebounds, 3.5 assists per game)

BIG EAST

Regular-season champion:
Pittsburgh (27-5, 15-3)

How they did it:
Pitt grinded out win after win with an experienced lineup and physical play. The Panthers rank eighth nationally in rebounding and run their half-court offense as well as any team in the country.

Tournament champion:
Connecticut (26-9, 9-9), defeated Louisville 69-66 in the final

How they did it:
The Huskies became the first team to ever win five Big East Tournament games in five days behind a heroic performance from junior Kemba Walker, who averaged 23.9 points, 5.4 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 1.9 steals for the season.

Player of the Year:
Ben Hansbrough, Notre Dame senior guard (18.5 points, 4.3 assists, 3.9 rebounds per game)

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

Regular-season champion:
North Carolina (26-7, 14-2)

How they did it:
The Tar Heels got off to a relatively disappointing 17-6 start before winning nine consecutive games. UNC is led by freshman Harrison Barnes, who got his college career off to a slow start but has averaged 22 points per game in March.

Tournament champion:
Duke (30-4, 13-3), defeated North Carolina 75-58 in the final

How they did it:
After losing explosive freshman superstar Kyrie Irving early in the season, the Blue Devils had to lean heavily on seniors Nolan Smith and Kyle Singler, who responded in a big way.

Player of the Year:
Nolan Smith, Duke senior guard (21.3 points, 4.6 rebounds, 5.1 assists per game)

NATIONAL STORYLINES

BIG DANCE GETS BIGGER

For the first time ever, the NCAA Tournament features 68 teams in 2011. The Tournament will be structured as it normally is, though there will now be a pair of "First Four" games, where the final four at-large teams compete for 12 seeds and the lowest-ranked four conference champions compete for 16 seeds.

BYU ROLLER COASTER

The Cougars made positive and negative headlines this season. Led by senior guard Jimmer Fredette, BYU stormed out to a 27-2 record and a No. 3 ranking. But days after the Cougars completed a sweep of San Diego State, sophomore forward Brandon Davies was suspended for the season due to a violation of BYU's honor code. The Cougars have been a different team without Davis, finishing the year 3-2.

BIG EAST DOMINANCE

The Big East displayed its strength from top to bottom, earning an unprecedented 11 bids to the NCAA tournament. The Big Ten made a late surge to get seven teams in the field, followed by three conferences with five (Big 12, ACC and SEC) and the Pac-10 with three. The Mountain West also emerged as a national presence, as San Diego State and BYU earned top-three seeds in the Big Dance.

Jocelyne Sanchez / Alligator Staff

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12 Autos
13 Wanted
14 Help Wanted
15 Services

16 Health Services
17 Typing Services
18 Personals
19 Connections
20 Event Notices

21 Entertainment
22 Tickets
23 Rides
24 Pets
25 Lost & Found

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RACK 1

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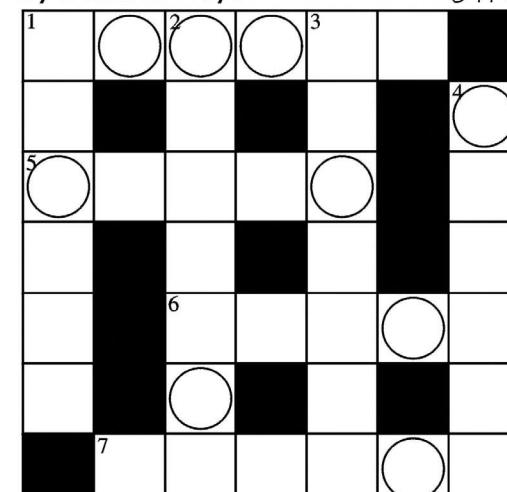
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MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

ALLIGATOR

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UF TRACK & FIELD

No. 1 Florida repeats as national indoor champion

By JOE MORGAN

Alligator Writer

The No. 1 Gators faced the same question week after week throughout the season. Could they win back-to-back national championships?

As coach Mike Holloway maintained throughout the year, repeating wasn't a concern for his team. They were just "focused on 2011."

But once the repeat was accomplished, Florida finally let loose.

"This is the kind of stuff you dream about as a kid," heptathlon All-American Gray Horn said. "To go out and do something incredible."

The Gators won the NCAA Indoor Championships in College Station, Texas, with 52 total points, 12 more than second-place and host Texas A&M.

But halfway through the meet, this weekend's win seemed like it wouldn't come to fruition.

Florida scored just eight points Friday with junior Will Claye's second-place finish in the long jump, which was lower than Holloway's anticipated 12-15 points.

Things began to look even more bleak for the top-ranked Gators when they trailed No. 5 Brigham Young by 16 points

through the first eight events.

"We had a lot of fight in us, and we showed that," Holloway said. "We never worry about anybody

else. We just needed to come out and be Florida. And that's what we did.

"We had some bad luck,"

Holloway continued. "People wanted to know what was wrong with Florida. There was nothing wrong with Florida."

Thanks to the efforts of individual national champions Claye (triple jump) and sophomore Jeff Demps (60m dash), as well as All-American performances by Horn (heptathlon), junior Christian Taylor (triple jump) and Dumisane Hlaselo (men's mile run), the Gators scored 34 points in the final nine events to clinch the meet.

Gunning for his third consecutive national title in the triple jump, Taylor finished second to Claye.

"We had some adversity," Holloway said. "But I told them that true champions respond to adversity."

In addition to becoming just the fourth school to win consecutive NCAA Indoor Championships, UF also saw a few of its athletes set several records.

Claye set a school and an NCAA meet record with his 17.32m/56-10 mark in the triple jump. Horn's 5,890 points in the



Cheryl Treworgy - PrettySporty.com / Alligator
The Florida men's track and field team poses after winning the 2011 NCAA Indoor Championships in College Station, Texas, on Saturday. UF is the fourth team to win consecutive national indoor titles.

SEE TRACK, PAGE 24

Gators sweep Rhode Island

By TOM GREEN

Alligator Writer
tgreen@alligator.org

Sunday was like déjà vu for Gators fans.

For the second time this season, No. 1 Florida (14-2) fooled its opponent with a hidden-ball trick in a crucial situation, as UF swept Rhode Island with an 8-6 win in McKethan Stadium.

Just like when Florida executed the playground trick against Boston College, Sunday's feat came with two outs and after a game-tying RBI by the opposing team.

"As long as it keeps working, I'm all right with it," junior Preston Tucker said. "They had a lot of momentum going.... Anything that can get us out of that inning can help us a ton."

Holding on to a 1-0 lead in the top of the second, Florida starter Karsten Whitson (3-0, 2.21 ERA) allowed three straight Rams batters to reach base, walking catcher Milan Adams then giving up singles to third baseman Dan Haverstick and second baseman Pat Fortunato.

Fortunato singled to center to score Adams,

squaring the game at 1-1 and giving the Rams two baserunners.

That's when the Gators pulled off the sandlot tactic.

Center fielder Bryson Smith bobbed the ball in the outfield before tossing it to second baseman Josh Adams, who never gave the ball back to Whitson.

Moments later, Adams tagged Haverstick out at second to end the scoring threat and halt the Rams' momentum.

"I really wasn't planning on keeping it," Adams said. "He just kind of got off the bag, and I tagged him. ... Whenever you can take outs like that, you do it."

Following the play, the Gators tacked on three unanswered runs over the next three innings to take a 4-1 advantage.

After closing the gap to 4-3 in the top of the sixth, it was Adams who again pulled the rug

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 24



Adams

UF falls to UK in SEC final

By GREG LUCA

Alligator Staff Writer
gluca@alligator.org

ATLANTA—In the first two games of the Southeastern Conference Tournament, the Gators were able to overcome slow starts with dominant second halves.

But Sunday, their late-game magic finally ran out.

No. 15 Kentucky (25-8, 10-6 SEC) came out of the gate strong and never let up, outmuscling No. 12 Florida (26-7, 13-3 SEC) 70-54 to claim the SEC Tournament Championship.

"The difference, I thought, was we weren't physical enough," UF coach Billy Donovan said. "I just didn't think that our frontcourt guys, when they

got the ball, did very much with it."

Starters Alex Tyus and Vernon Macklin combined for 12 points and only eight shots, as the Wildcats denied post feeds and forced the Gators' big men away from the rim.

Florida was equally ineffective driving the ball to the hoop, which led to Kentucky taking 29 free throws to Florida's eight.

"The game was won at the free-throw line," Donovan said. "When someone takes 21 more free throws than you, it's hard to overcome."

The Gators' inability to score from

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 24

ONLINE

Want to catch up on what you missed in the world of Florida sports over Spring Break? Then head over to alligatorSports.org, where we've been updating every day.

alligatorSports Podcast

Greg Luca, Jesse Simonton and GatorBait.net's Kyle Maistro join host Adam Berry to discuss a wide range of topics involving the NCAA Tournament bracket and how Florida will fare.

BRACKET CHALLENGE

Check out alligatorSports.org, sign up and compete against your favorite Alligator writers in our online Bracket Challenge. If you beat sports editor Adam Berry, a grand prize awaits.

POLL QUESTION

Today's question: How far will the Gators men's basketball team advance in the NCAA Tournament?

UF storms past AU

By THOMAS NASSIFF
Alligator Writer

While one member of the UF women's tennis program received recognition for a career-spanning achievement Sunday, another found her first success of the season.

Before the No. 1 Gators lined up to face Auburn at Linder Stadium, UF coach Roland Thornqvist was recognized for his 300th career win, which came Feb. 18 over Miami.

Thornqvist humbly accepted a plaque for his achievement before Florida (15-1, 4-0) breezed through a quick 4-0 dismantling of the Tigers (2-12, 0-4).

The Gators continued their success on the doubles courts, coming up with wins on Courts 2 and 3 only 47 minutes after play began as all three Gators doubles pairings overpowered their opponents.

Lauren Embree and Joanna Mather overcame a slow start and put together the best showing on

Court 2. They quickly turned a 3-0 deficit into a 7-3 lead, then wrapped up the match with an 8-4 win.

But the highlight of the day came when sophomore Brittany Borsanyi saw her first singles action of the season.

Borsanyi matched up with Auburn's Taylor Cohen on Court 6 in her first singles match since last April.

"[Brittany] played what I thought was flawless tennis," Thornqvist said. "She made good decisions with the ball and looked as sharp as she has in the two years she's been at Florida."

Borsanyi left with a 6-0, 6-1 victory, exemplifying the efficient attitude Thornqvist has consistently looked for in his team this season.

"It was an amazing feeling to be out there," Borsanyi said. "That's probably what made me play so well."



Tennis

UF SOFTBALL

Gators bounce back, rout Bulls

By STEPHEN SHEEHAN
Alligator Writer

While it wasn't a perfect weekend, it was certainly close.

After losing to No. 16 Nebraska on Saturday, the No. 2 Florida softball team (25-1, 2-0 SEC) responded with a 10-2 drubbing of South Florida to finish a 4-1 weekend at the USF Under Armour Showcase in Clearwater.

The Gators rebounded in a big way with nine hits, including three home runs, after being shut out for the first time all season Saturday.

Led by the hot hitting of Megan Bush, UF scored double-digit runs for the eighth time this year.

The senior first baseman was a force all weekend, launching three home runs, including a solo shot in the third inning against the Bulls.

She added a sacrifice fly in the fourth and a single in the sixth, pushing her average to .451.

"This weekend, I was seeing the ball better than I ever have before," she said. "My approach has been much more relaxed, especially with two strikes."

The two hitters in front of Bush, Kelsey Bruder and Brittany Schutte, continued to frustrate opposing pitchers.

Bruder reached base in all four plate appearances and didn't stop there.

The left fielder scored three runs on three walks and a single, even stealing a base, while Schutte showed off her signature power with a three-run

homer in the third and a double in the fourth.

As one of the most experienced players on the team, Bush makes it her job to carry the lineup even when the younger players have struggles.

"I want to be better hitting behind them, so they can get better pitches," she said. "I've always put a lot of pressure on myself, but now, I'm trying to have fun and not focus on my mechanics and just hit."

Although sophomore Ensley Gammel allowed two runs and walked three, the Gators' pitching staff performed well all weekend.

Freshman Hannah Rogers drew the start and earned her 11th win, tossing four scoreless innings. Senior Stephanie Brombacher, meanwhile, improved to 14-0 and said UF's high-scoring offense has taken a lot of pressure off her this year.

Despite taking the loss against Nebraska, Rogers has firmly established herself as a dependable and dominant complement to Brombacher.

While the Gators weren't able to pull out the win against the Cornhuskers, Brombacher said the game was tight and was a good test against a top-flight pitcher.

"The loss doesn't define us," Bush said. "We know we're not going to go undefeated now, but we don't play to not lose. We want to win, and we'll never go out there and play scared."



Bush

What's on the Web

Diver Dodson qualifies for NCAAs

Florida senior Monica Dodson once again led the Gators diving teams at the NCAA Zone Diving Championships in Athens, Ga., qualifying for the 2011 Women's NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships on Saturday. Dodson, the only UF diver to qualify for this year's NCAA meet, has gone to the championships the past three years. "Monica knew what she had to do, and she stepped up big time and got it done," UF coach Donnie Craine said. "I'm looking forward to seeing what she can do against some of the best divers in the country."



alligatorSports Podcast and Video Show

No school, no paper – no work? Not so fast. Alligator sports editor Adam Berry joined basketball beat writer Greg Luca on the journey to Nashville, Tenn., for Florida's 86-76 win over Vanderbilt that clinched the Gators' first regular-season SEC championship since 2007. The duo brought back an array of multimedia content for your enjoyment, including a special, on-location video show and a podcast recorded in Adam's Toyota Echo while driving on Interstate 75.

While you were enjoying your time away from Gainesville or mourning the often-miserable Spring Break weather, every Florida spring sport was in action. Be sure to check out [alligatorSports.org](#) for full coverage of everything you missed. Here's a brief glimpse.



UF lacrosse crushes O'Leary's alma mater

As a two-time All-American in lacrosse and field hockey, Florida coach Amanda O'Leary led Temple to a 19-0 record and the 1988 national championship in her senior season. Despite O'Leary's familiarity and good rapport with Temple, the No. 14 Gators (6-1) did not take the Owls lightly. Sparked by a 9-0 run, Florida cruised to a 19-4 on Saturday in Disney Stadium. The Gators continued to display their offensive diversity, as at least seven players scored a goal for the fourth consecutive game. Kitty Cullen led UF with five goals and added an assist.

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Gators confident poor showing vs. Kentucky won't carry into Tournament

BASKETBALL, from page 1

Over the course of the season, the Gators have found that losses force them to take a closer look at the things they can do to get better.

After victories, the team typically focuses on keeping its momentum going instead of evaluating its imperfections. The Gators have yet to drop back-to-back games this season.

"When you win, I think it doesn't show the mistakes that you made in games," sophomore guard Kenny Boynton said.

"We can watch this film, see the mistakes that we made and correct them to be ready for the first round of the NCAA Tournament."



Walker

Before the selection, the team was adamant that its seeding was irrelevant. But the Gators admitted location would be significant.

Of the eight potential regional sites, Tampa was by far the closest.

"I would think we could have the most fans and be able to pack the house," Walker said. "It's always good to have."

Still, Donovan and his players emphasized that every team is strong at this stage of the season, and each game will be hotly contested.

The Gators figure to be prepared, as they are confident that one bad showing won't affect the way they've played over the past month.

"This will blow over," Boynton said. "We're going to get right back to where we were."

Returning to form will be critical, as the Gators will face the UCLA-Michigan State winner with a victory over UCSB.

If seeding holds, Florida would square off against BYU in the Sweet Sixteen and Pittsburgh in the Elite Eight.

"It's definitely a whole new season," Walker said. "Everybody is 0-0, and it's new life. We've just got to be ready to go."

If their words are any indication, the Gators are prepared for Thursday and beyond.

"You have to come out ready to play like it's the last game you're ever going to play," freshman center Patric Young said.

Trick play shifts momentum; Adams drives in three

BASEBALL, from page 21

out from under URI. The senior belted a bases-clearing, three-RBI double to center to extend UF's lead to 7-3.

"Momentum kind of swung our way," said Adams, who led the Gators with seven RBIs on the weekend. "It was one of those things to get the team going and give everybody a little comfort feeling there at the end."

URI threatened to nullify Adams' efforts in the final two frames, as the

Rams tagged freshman righty Matt Campbell for three runs in the eighth before right-hander Anthony DeSclafani (1.50 ERA) came in from the bullpen to record his second save of the season.

DeSclafani pitched 1.1 scoreless innings but allowed two runners to reach base in the ninth before striking out pinch hitter Greg Annarummo, giving the Gators their fourth straight weekend

series sweep to open the season.

ETC.: The Gators tied a season high by stranding 12 runners on base, nine of whom were left in scoring position. ... Mike Zunino is 4 for 4 stealing bases this season after swiping second in the fourth. ... The Gators' 14-2 start matches their best since 1992. ... Righty Keenan Kish made his collegiate debut Saturday, while junior right-hander Justin Poovey made his first appearance Friday. Both tossed scoreless ninth innings.



Baseball

Scoreless stretches, outside shooting halt UF's run

HOOPS, from page 21

the line proved to be critical, as they also struggled from the field.

Florida shot just 38.6 percent for the game, including a combined 7 for 26 from guards Erving Walker and Kenny Boynton.

"We weren't aggressive enough attacking the paint," Walker said. "You're not going to shoot the ball well every game. ... You've just got to battle through that."

Florida managed to keep it close with strong defense, holding Kentucky to just 41.7 percent shooting.

The Gators hit a few major slumps in the contest, going scoreless for a 7:09 stretch in the first half and a 5:28 stretch in the second half.

"I don't think they did anything different from when we played them a couple of weeks ago, but I think they did a great job," Boynton said.

Freshman Scottie Wilbekin sparked UF with eight points in a 1:15 stretch despite entering Sunday scoring 2.5 points per game.

After Florida took a 24-21 lead, the Wildcats responded with a 10-0 run to gain an advantage they would never relinquish.

Demps, Claye lead Florida with individual indoor titles

TRACK, from page 21

heptathlon set a UF record, and Demps broke a school record by winning the 60m dash in 6.53 seconds, surpassing his winning mark last year by 0.04 seconds.

"Coach just set me aside and told me to run my race. It's a nice track. It took me a while to adjust to the surface."

Jeff Demps
UF junior sprinter

"Coach just set me aside and told me to run my race," Demps said. "It's a nice track. It took me a while to adjust to the surface."

Even the normally reserved Holloway finally let loose with his athletes after completing the comeback in historic fashion, enjoying the team's consecutive NCAA crowns.

"I feel amazing right now," Holloway said. "Just so amazing."

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