

the independent florida alligator

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida
We Inform. You Decide.

Florida pitcher
Hannah Rogers
threw the third no-
hitter of her career
last weekend. Read
the story on page
16.



VOLUME 108 ISSUE 106

WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Warrington makes largest donation in UF history



vRyan Jones / Alligator Staff

Al and Judy Warrington speak at a gala event held in their honor in Emerson Alumni Hall on Friday night. The Warrings became the first \$100 million donors after announcing a \$75 million pledge at the event.

CAMPUS

Health center opens with wound-healing chambers

JADE CASTRO

Alligator Contributing Writer

When Jay Bell talks about taking patients for a dive, he isn't talking about scuba diving.

The patients, or "divers," who walk through the door of the new UF Health Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center won't dive into the depths of the ocean. Rather, they will walk into one of the center's two hyperbaric chambers.

"We speak in a lot of nautical terms with

this because we deal in sea level and atmospheric pressure," said Jay Bell, program director of the center. "We say we dive a patient when we put them in here, and we call them divers."

Patients placed into the chamber are put under the same oxygen pressure they would face below sea level.

The chamber pumps 100 percent oxygen through the patient's blood, which stimulates

SEE HYPERBARIC, PAGE 4

Former football alum arrested with marijuana

Deonte Antwon Thompson was released Saturday, pg 3.

Volta owner to judge annual barista competition

He had to take a coffee history test, pg 5.

Today



76/56

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Gunshot fired at Midtown

JENNA LYONS

Alligator Staff Writer

jlyons@alligator.org

Kaitlin Deglman's birthday celebration went out with a bang.

The 19-year-old UF animal science sophomore was celebrating her upcoming birthday Saturday night at Club Envy when a gunshot was fired inside.

Gainesville Police arrested 25-year-old Rodney Sheffield after they said he battered a bar patron that night, but it is unknown who fired the gunshot that followed the fight, GPD spokesman Officer

Ben Tobias wrote in an email. No one was injured.

At about 1:40 a.m., Deglman was up on stage dancing with friends when she said she heard a loud popping noise.

Suddenly, she said, everyone was yelling, and bouncers were pushing people off the stage. Deglman said she looked over to her left and saw an officer pointing a gun.

"At that point I'm like, 'Oh my gosh. That was a gunshot,'" she said.

SEE GUNSHOT, PAGE 4



Volunteers rally to make over school

They renovated the library, pg. 5.



News Today

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Midterm relaxation days

The Library Ambassadors welcome you to join us for two days of relaxation. Today from 3 to 4 p.m., we will have Orion, a sweet, friendly therapy dog, while playing "The Lion King" and serving refreshments. On Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., we will have a variety of board games. Both events will be held in Library West, Room 212. Email libraryambassadors@uflib.ufl.edu for more information.

Unity PR Assoc. Karnaval Celebration

Join Unity PR Association as it celebrates the reintroduction of its organization with a Karnaval in the Weimer Hall courtyard Tuesday at 7 p.m. There will be traditional carnival treats, a raffle and prizes. Following the celebration there will be a brief presentation about the organization's new mission, upcoming meetings and events.

Society of Women Engineers General Body Meeting

On Tuesday at 6:15 p.m., come out to hear what is going on with SWE in the coming weeks and how to get involved. We will also have student speakers talk about their internship experiences, from how they got them to what they were like.

Sustainable UF craft event

Sustainable UF is proud to present the first Green It Yourself event of the year. Stop by Weil Hall, Room 234, Wednesday between 4 and 6 p.m. to make crafts out of magazines. We will have examples to show how to make the crafts, but you can always come up with something on your own. Contact Angela Neal at angela.neal@ufl.edu with questions.

Mugs with Menches

Get artistic with UF Hillel at the Mugs with Menches program at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Reitz Union Arts and Crafts Center, located in the basement. Menche is a Yiddish word meaning a person with integrity and honor. Students will have a chance to relax, listen to Israeli music and express their artistic sides.

A Night of Magic: Disney Edition

RUB Entertainment invites you to "be our guest" at our event, "A Night of Magic: Disney Edition" on Thursday in the Grand Ballroom at 8 p.m. Dress up as your favorite characters and make your own pair of Mickey ears. Take pictures with Capt. Jack Sparrow, decorate a mug at the Mad Tea Party, get a caricature done and test your trivia, karaoke and costume skills for some magical prizes. For more information, email rub.special-events@gmail.com.

FORECAST

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
THUNDER-STORMS 76/56	CLOUDY 78/58	RAIN 67/38	PARTLY CLOUDY 63/38	PARTLY CLOUDY 71/48

Gay Movie Night

On Friday at 7:30 p.m., the Pride Community Center, 3131 NW 13th St., will show "The Perfect Wedding." Gay Movie Night is a free service of the Pride Community Center. A \$2 donation is requested to cover cost of snacks.

Yoga with UF Hillel

Hillel is hosting a yoga class every other week to give students a chance to take a break from the week and relax. Please bring your own mat or towel to UF Hillel for a free yoga session every other Sunday from 7 to 8 p.m. Contact Paige at arts@uhillel.org with questions.

Restoring Bambooville

A group of students are working to present a formal proposal to the lakes, vegetation and landscaping committee as well as the Land Use and Facilities Planning committee to bring back Bambooville. To help, find the Facebook page 'Restore Bambooville' or contact Elliot Larkin at Larkin@ufl.edu or Nick Chrone at NChrone@ufl.edu. You may also sign the petition on change.org.

Empowerment service trip to Colombia

Sign up to go on one of Children Beyond Our Borders' Bound For Peace service trips to the beautiful cities of Medellín or Cartagena in Colombia. Volunteers are trained to build and execute education empowerment workshops for at-risk youth in Colombia. There will be a one-week trip during Spring Break and two two-week trips at the end of the summer. Trip prices vary but include housing, food, transportation and a plane ticket. If you are interested in signing up or have any questions, email the coordinators at servicetripinfo@chbob.org or visit chbob.org.

Ubisoft Facebook drawing

Ubisoft is one of the world's largest video game producers and is represented at UF. Enter February Frenzy for a chance to win cash prizes and free swag. Enter by going onto the Ubisoft at University of Florida Facebook page and clicking on the link in the latest status update. Like all three pages and enter your name and email address.

Men's Appreciation Ceremony Nominations

The Institute of Black Culture is seeking nominations for its men's appreciation ceremony. The ceremony will recognize outstanding men whose work and lives have helped make a difference in their communities. The nominee should have served as a leader and role model to other men, students, colleagues and/or his community. The selected recipients will be honored at the Suit & Tie: Honoring Our African American Men award ceremony April 10 in Ustler Hall. Nomination forms can be found at bit.ly/1ipguu8 and are due tomorrow.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to kgriffis@alligator.org. To ensure publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 5 p.m. Please model your submissions after above events and keep them 150 words or fewer. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

CORRECTIONS

A story in Friday's Alligator incorrectly identified the Engineers' Week concert as an electronic dance music concert. The concert actually showcased a variety of genres.

A story in Friday's Alligator incorrectly stated that Sachs Media Group owns Nikon. The group is not associated with Nikon.

**Have an event planned?
Add it to the Alligator's
online calendar:
alligator.org/calendar**



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 email editor@alligator.org.

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Adriana Barbat / Alligator

Royal Greetings

Queen Quet, head-of-state for the Gullah/Geechee nation, speaks with Headmaster of Oak Hall School Richard Gehman and his wife, Vicki, during her visit to Gainesville on Friday. Her visit was part of the Gullah/Geechee Land & Legacy World Tour to promote the group's contributions to society.

• THIS WEEK in GAINESVILLE •**Feb. 23, 1995**

Some students who live on campus weren't allowed to remain in their dorm rooms in Fall because some were reserved for student athletes after UF's Yon Hall athletic dorm closed. Students living in a dorm had first priority of returning to that room. Students affected were notified, and housing staff said they didn't foresee any issues arising from the change.

Feb. 24, 2003

A group of more than 20 people launched a survey to count the number of local homeless people and determine their needs. The information gathered would help determine the amount of funding needed in grant applications and aid programs. The survey also provided information on how people become homeless. Some common reasons included a shortage of jobs, health problems and criminal records, which can be a red flag on job applications.

Feb. 23, 2010

The Student Government Elections Commission ordered UF's Student Alliance party to stop soliciting at apartment complexes. Witnesses said they saw Student Alliance candidate Ben Cavatano knocking on doors at the Gateway of Gainesville and saw campaign fliers on vehicles throughout the complex. Unite Party president James Tyger filed a complaint. Election Commission chairman Andrew Brown said knocking on doors in a nonsolicitation zone is a violation of election code.

— STEVEN KATONA

Gator football alum arrested

JENNA LYONS

Alligator Staff Writer

jlyons@alligator.org

Gainesville Police arrested former Gators football player Deonte Antwon Thompson early Saturday morning after officers found marijuana in the car he was riding in.

Officers arrested 25-year-old Thompson on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to an arrest report.

At about midnight, Thompson was riding in car police stopped for not having its headlights on, according to the report.

When the driver pulled over at the 1300 block of East University Avenue,

the officer noticed the smell of weed, according to the report. A records check revealed the driver's license was revoked.

Officers searched and found a jar in a Gucci backpack, which contained four plastic bags filled with about 30 grams of marijuana, according to the report.

Thompson said he owned the bag and described its other contents but said the marijuana wasn't his, according to the report. The driver and another passenger said the weed was theirs. The passenger said he owned the bag but couldn't describe its contents, according to the report. All three were taken to the Alachua County Jail.

Thompson was booked at about 1 a.m. and released the same day after meeting a \$7,000 bond.

STATE

Paula Deen says she's 'back in the saddle' after setbacks

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI BEACH — Paula Deen continued maneuvering for a comeback Sunday, turning a beachside cooking demonstration into a public apology for the racist comments that decimated her career last year.

The former Food Network star took the stage at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival, and she asked the crowd if they minded if she talked about something serious for a moment. Without explicitly discussing the comments she has admitted making, she said she was glad to be back and "I am not a quitter."

She told a cheering crowd of several hundred fans, "If anybody did not hear me apologize, I would like to apologize ..."

Last summer, during a legal dispute with a former employee who accused her of racial discrimination and sexual harassment, she acknowledged having used racial slurs in the past. Deen has mostly stayed out of the spotlight since then, but lately, she has made it clear she wants back in. Earlier this month, she announced that private investment firm Najafi Companies is investing millions to help her make a comeback.

Before a roaring crowd Sunday, fellow celebrity chef Robert Irvine got down on his hands and knees while Deen straddled his back and rode him across the stage, a re-enactment of a gimmick they'd done during a previous festival.

"I'm back in the saddle!" she yelled.

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Advocates push for dating violence awareness

ABIGAIL DOUPNIK

Alligator Contributing Writer

Outshined by a month that glorifies relationships, February is also Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and locals advocates are offering advice to raise awareness.

According to the National Institute of Justice, 1 in 5 college students has been a victim of relationship violence, and 1 in 3 women will experience a form of relationship violence at some point in her lifetime.

Debbie Weiss, University Police victim advocate, described the pattern of abuse as cyclical, going from a phase of "wooing" to violence and then returning to the "wooing" phase to regain the victim's trust.

"I have heard many times the bruises

"You can always call. We have a 24/7 hotline. It gives opportunities for victims to say, 'This is what I'm going through. I don't want to go through it anymore, what do I do?'"

Jennifer Heard

Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center victim advocate therapist

will go away, and the scars will heal, but the pain of mental and emotional abuse will last much longer," she said.

Jennifer Heard, a victim advocate therapist at Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center, said she stresses the importance of accessing free counseling offered by local organizations.

"You can always call," she said. "We have a 24/7 hotline. It gives opportunities for victims to say, 'This is what I'm going through. I don't want to go through it anymore, what do I do?'"

UF students have access to Sexual Trauma/Interpersonal Violence Education, known as STRIVE, a peer-education group overseen by GatorWell that works toward the prevention of relationship violence.

Rita Lawrence, GatorWell interpersonal violence prevention coordinator, said the program aims to prevent potentially dangerous relationships from becoming violent.

"It's more of a primary prevention focus," she said. "There are a lot of other warning signs you can look for."

LOCAL

Artist combines poetry with martial arts

JULIANNE HUHN

Alligator Contributing Writer

A barefoot Sheila Barksdale stepped onto the mat, raised a 3-foot long sword into the air and recited poems by Emily Dickinson.

In Barksdale's demonstration, called "Interpreting the Sword," she shared her passion for painting, poetry and Japanese swordsmanship Saturday afternoon at the Archer Community Center.

Scattered among various Aikido martial arts movements, Barksdale showed off her paintings and discussed the meanings behind them. She said during the show that Dickinson's work and the Aikido art form are linked by their abilities to free the mind.

"Emily Dickinson chose her words very carefully," she said, which was one link to Aikido.

Barksdale said she received her first black belt in Aikido last year and has been performing with a Japanese sword, or katana, for about four years.

Thomas Huffman, sensei of Aikido at the Unified Training Center, is a black belt in four areas of martial arts and has been practicing for almost 30 years. He said Barksdale is a shodan, or black belt, which signifies that she knows the basics and can begin learning higher practices.

"She's got enough knowledge that she knows what she is doing in these styles," Huffman said.



Matthew Marty / Alligator Staff

Santa Fe College student Velinda Davis talks to artist Sheila Barksdale on Saturday at the Archer Community Center at the "Interpreting the Sword" event.

No one at Envy was injured

GUNSHOT, from page 1

An officer in the club noticed Sheffield fighting with a bar patron. The shot was fired while the officer attempted to break up the scuffle, Tobias said. The officer held Sheffield, the other patron and several bystanders at gunpoint while waiting for backup because he didn't know where the shot came from.

Another fight broke out behind the officer and Sheffield used it as a diversion to run away, Tobias said. A lieutenant called for backup to handle the chaos. Alachua County Sheriff's deputies and University Police soon arrived to help.

Responding officers captured Sheffield outside, Tobias said. An officer found a 9 mm handgun near the scene of the original fight, and police noticed a bullet hole in a nearby baseboard. However, officers don't know who the gun belonged to.

At about 2 a.m., officials sent a UF Alert to students, faculty and staff.

Sinaya Harding, a UF animal science and anthropology junior, said she left right before the shot was fired. She said she felt "weird vibes" at the club that night.

"You could tell that a lot of people there were not students at all," the 20-year-old said. "After a while, we weren't really feeling it anymore."

It can help heal years-old wounds

HYPERBARIC, from page 1

the regrowth of damaged blood vessels and tissue, Bell said. The device also kills bacteria and infections in order to help chronic wounds heal faster.

The center, which opened last Monday, was brought about by the partnership between UF Health and Healogics, the largest wound-care provider in the country.

In addition to the hyperbaric chambers, the facility, located at 3951 NW 48th Terrace in Suite 211, has five exam rooms where patients can receive more traditional treatments — like artificial skin graft replacement.

The majority of patients who undergo treatment at the center are there because of wounds that have not healed within 30 days. These can stem from a wide variety of causes, including trauma accidents and conditions related to diabetes.

Grads' wage gap grows

► IT'S THE WIDEST IN 50 YEARS.

SONIA PORTALUPPI

Alligator Contributing Writer

The earning gap between high school and college graduates has stretched to its widest level in 50 years.

According to an analysis by the Pew Research Center, young adults with high school diplomas presently earn 62 percent of the typical college graduate's income, compared with 81 percent in 1965.

The analysis attributes this to the standardization of college degrees as a requirement for better-paying jobs.

UF economics professor Steven Slutsky said the shift is also due to massive technological changes that occurred after 1965.

Today's economy is polarized between high- and low-wage work, making college degrees more necessary to get past the wage gap, according to the Pew Research Center's analysis.

But for degree-seeking students, finances are a big consideration. About two-thirds of students take out education-related loans, and 86 percent said they believe it will be worth the high price tag, according to Pew.

The national average of undergraduate college debt is about \$29,000, and UF's average is a little more than \$20,000, he said.

Pew researchers found a college degree typically yields more inflation-adjusted earnings than before. The analysis also found that young adults with only high school diplomas are more likely to live in poverty and be dissatisfied with their career.

David Muir, a 24-year-old UF electrical engineering graduate and co-founder of Kinwa, a mobile design and application company, said getting a college degree helped him start his own business after graduation. Without it, his chances of success would've been "a lot lower."

College degrees come with a more formal approach to developing and creating things that those without a degree often lack, he said.

"I would definitely consider (hiring someone without a college degree), but that decision would be based on an assessment of that person and their portfolio," he said.

"We're talking about people who have wounds that are years old," said John Caroline, the center's medical director, "not months or weeks."

Wounds like these can become life-threatening because they can increase the likeliness of death in someone who has a severe medical condition such as pancreatic cancer, he said.

In addition to improving the quality of life to those afflicted with chronic wounds, Caroline said the center was established to provide outstanding outpatient care within the UF Health network.

Bell said before the center opened, UF Health sent its patients to hospitals outside of its network once they were well enough to leave the hospital.

"For continuity of care for the patient, it makes more sense to keep them in the (UF Health) network," he said, "and fiscally, in the end, it would too."

Company donates \$5k to UF

► IT'LL FUND SERVICE PROJECTS.

MEGAN KELLY

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF's Center for Leadership and Service received a donation of \$5,000 from Campus Crest Communities Inc. last week.

The funds will add service-learning opportunities for students, said Kara Clayton, area sales manager for Campus Crest.

"While UF has a wide variety of influential organizations, we decided on the CLS because it shares our commitment to providing students with meaningful service opportunities that enhance their academic experiences," Clayton said.

Campus Crest, which is a developer, a builder, an owner and manager of student housing properties, is building The Grove, a student-housing community expected to open in time for the 2014-2015 academic year.

CLS is a department under UF Student Affairs that provides students with experiences to prepare them to create positive sustainable change.

"We're really looking to create social, responsible leaders on UF's campus," said Angela Garcia, director of community engagement and service-learning for CLS. "This donation is one way that will help us with the resources to do so."

CLS Executive Director Josh Funderburke wrote in an email that the department is very excited about the donation.

"We hope to see a great deal of additional partnerships like this in support of that mission and to further emphasize the importance of student community engagement," he said.

LOCAL

Volunteers rally to give school a makeover

OLIVIA MUENTER

Alligator Contributing Writer

More than 1,300 volunteers came together during the weekend to help renovate Sidney Lanier Center as part of the seventh annual Project Makeover, a student-run nonprofit organization that renovates one Alachua County school each year.

This year, the center was chosen to receive a makeover of everything from its hallways to the playground.

Project Executive Director Courtney Miller, a 22-year-old UF psychology senior, said the organization traditionally updates elementary schools but shifted the focus this year to the center, a school for students with special needs from ages 3 to 22. Miller said the difference in schools changed the way the organization approached projects.

"We are trying to incorporate murals and things that are appropriate to all the different age groups within that span," Miller said. "We've done some (murals) that are geared toward preschool-age students all the way to murals that are very much interactive murals for learning."

Although the actual school renovation only took place over the span of a weekend, the organization fundraised year-round for the makeover.

This year, Miller said the project was able to raise about

\$12,000 for the Sidney Lanier Center makeover between fund-raising events and partnerships with local businesses.

External fundraising director Katie Burns, a 21-year-old UF public relations junior, said the makeover itself is generally divided into three areas: murals and art, landscaping and a "dream project" specifically requested by the school.

"To see it transformed ... now, seeing the murals everywhere, seeing the trees and plants and little side touches — that's the coolest thing."

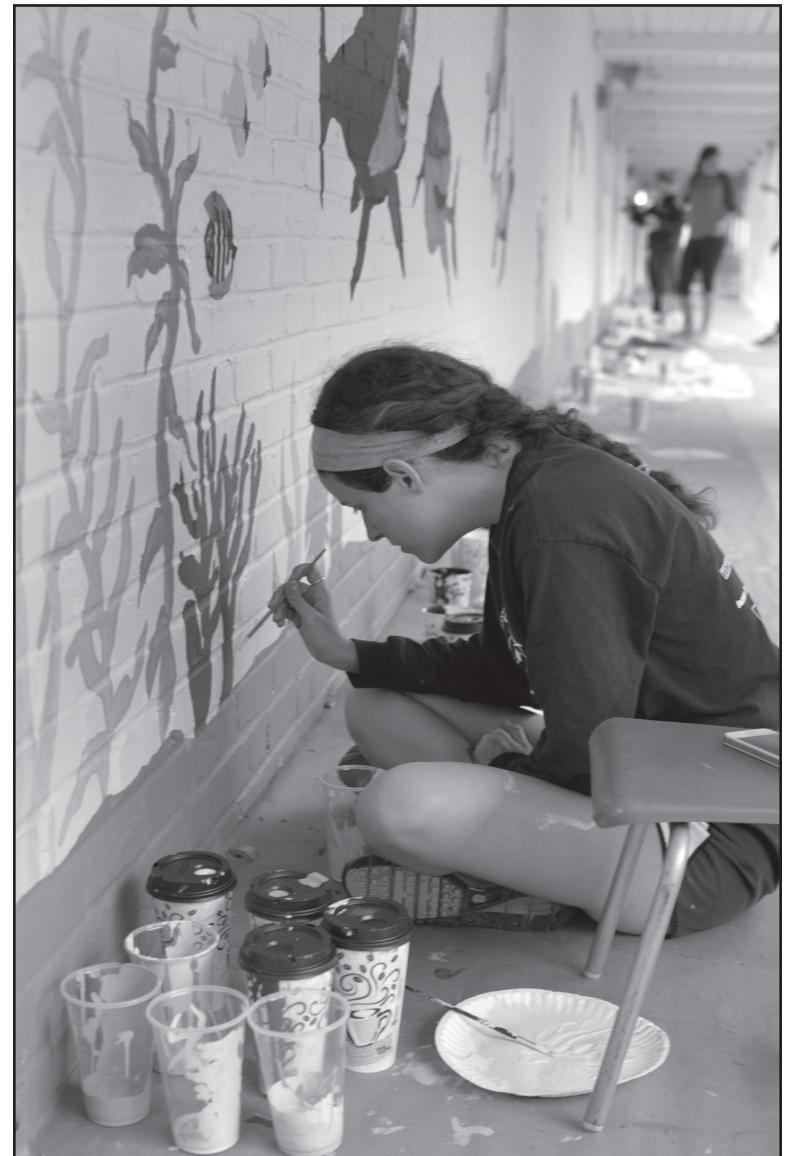
Mitch Zyberman
UF political science senior

"Every school presents us with a project that they want to see done," Burns said. "This year, we are redoing the library entirely."

Project Makeover held a reveal ceremony Sunday to debut the newly renovated school to students and teachers.

Mitch Zyberman, a 22-year-old UF political science senior, volunteered with Project Makeover for the first time this year and said his favorite part of the weekend was seeing the school change.

"To see it transformed ... now, seeing the murals everywhere, seeing the trees and plants and little side touches — that's the coolest thing," he said.



Olivia Muenter / Alligator

Katie Weiser, a 19-year-old UF mechanical engineering sophomore, puts the finishing touches on a mural at the Sidney Lanier Center on Sunday.

Volta owner to judge annual barista competition

► THE COMPETITION IS IN ITALY.

BROOKE BAITINGER

Alligator Contributing Writer

A local coffee shop owner is rising above the daily grind.

Anthony Rue, owner of Volta Coffee, Tea & Chocolate, became certified earlier this month to judge the annual World Barista Competition in Rimini, Italy.

To become certified, Rue said he took two days worth of exams, including a coffee

history test and a 100-question competition rules test.

"I was the only everyday, behind-the-bar barista taking that exam. Most are coffee buyers or roasters," said 51-year-old Rue, who has participated in the competition before.

Competitors will serve the judges one espresso, one cappuccino and one signature drink within a 15-minute period. Judges have to be able to measure the coffee's acidity and determine the coffee's origin.

Six years ago, Rue opened the store after traveling the country. Opening Volta was

like graduate school for him, he said.

Shop employees and regulars notice his passion for the craft.

Yarrow Geggus, a 24-year-old Volta barista and baker, said she enjoys working with Rue because of his expertise.

"He just has encyclopedic knowledge about coffee, and he is totally self-taught," she said.

Though Rue said he is well-traveled, he has never been to Italy, the location for this year's World Barista Competition.

"I was excited when I found out," he said. "It's an incredible honor."

Experimental film festival highlights international curators It included live performances

JESSLYN WADE

Alligator Contributing Writer

This year's Florida Experimental Film/Video Festival brought six different international curators for its 10th anniversary this weekend.

The festival ran Friday through Sunday at the Wooly event space in downtown Gainesville to screen experimental films from all over the world.

The curators presented programs from

their respective cities — Montreal, Paris, London, Tokyo, Mexico City and Berlin, said FLEX artistic director Roger Beebe.

"It was great to be able to get six different curators this year because we generally only have three locals or one international," he said.

Curator Daichi Sanjō kicked off FLEXfest Friday night with a presentation of film, video and installation artists from Montreal's Double Negative collective, which seeks to locate cinema in human ex-

perience.

Afterward, Sally Golding, of London, demonstrated a live cinema performance.

Saturday included a roundtable discussion with the curators, films by Tokyo curator Rei Hayama and a performance by Mexico City's Trinchera Ensemble.

The festival ended Sunday with another discussion and films and videos selected by Berlin curator Guillaume Cailleau and Sébastien Ronceray, of Paris.

UF students and Gainesville residents attended the festival.

Alexandria Dasilva, a 20-year-old UF art sophomore, said this was her first year

attending the event.

"The experimental film really opened up my eyes to something different," she said. "I'm really excited to start making my own films."

Dasilva's reaction is reminiscent of what Beebe said is the organization's goal.

He said FLEX exists to inspire the audience members to make their own experimental films after they've attended the festival.

"The best thing is to inspire and develop an audience," Beebe said. "We want to help them develop a taste. It's like planting a seed that we hope will grow into trees."

Opinions

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014
WWW.ALLIGATOR.ORG/OPINIONS

Editorial

Crowdfunding: How to succeed in business without really trying

If the creation of the much-anticipated "Veronica Mars" movie has proven anything, it's that people are willing to crowdfund a good idea. However, a new phenomenon arose with the advent of crowdfunding: struggling business owners taking to online fundraising websites to plead customers to help them through rough times.

Some of these fundraising campaigns make sense. For example, the Hippodrome State Theatre introduced its "The Hipp Goes Digital" campaign in July to raise money for the theater's purchase of a digital projector. Since more and more films are being produced only in digital cinema packages, theaters with analog projectors have struggled to adjust to the digital revolution — kind of like when Game Boy Color cartridges became harder to find once Game Boy Advance came out.

The Hippodrome is a Florida landmark, so Gainesville residents were happy to donate to the cause. As a result, the community receives high-quality screenings of current art films. Everybody wins, and the event was less of a charity campaign and more of a business transaction. Hippodrome customers purchased the equipment so they could then benefit from the new equipment.

When Gainesville's beloved independent video store, Video Rodeo, hit a rough patch in 2005, crowdfunding wasn't yet the option it is today. According to the ad archives on its website, Video Rodeo workers took to the Internet to let customers know it wasn't turning a profit. In turn, community support kept the business afloat. Now, it's expanded to a used bookstore as well as a resource for film buffs whose tastes go beyond the same 20 or so movies available inside a Redbox at any given time.

This is why we're dubious of the Midnight's fundraiser through Fundly. The Midnight, a small bar in downtown Gainesville, is pleading its customers to donate money to help the owners pay off debt.

The Midnight's owners have no formal business training, according to the Fundly page. They're not asking for much, and their goal of raising \$1,800 is close to being met.

However, crowdsourcing debt is, quite simply, a bad business practice. If a business is failing, then clearly there's something wrong with its product or its management. And anyway, how do customers benefit by propping up a business that has to ask for donations? That's what sales revenue is for.

Although the Hippodrome and Video Rodeo relied on community support through tough times, we're skeptical about the idea of business crowdfunding. Businesses aren't charities. They rely on transactions, and the creation and sale of a product. When Video Rodeo struggled, it let its customers know. It didn't ask for money with no strings attached. It simply asked for business. Additionally, the Hippodrome and Video Rodeo both provide a product of cultural value: art.

The Midnight's product, however, can be found just about every five paces in Gainesville.

Reader response

Today's question: Do you feel safe at Midtown?

Friday's question: Would you drive a peanut truck?

51% YES
49% NO
72 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

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EDITOR

Kelcee Griffis
Katherine Kallergis
MANAGING EDITORS

Chloe Finch
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The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld if the writer shows just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to opinions@alligator.org, bring them to 1105 W. University Ave., or send them to P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257. Columns of about 450 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 352-376-4458.



Column

Toy story: In the defense of sex toys

Wednesday night I found myself licking lube off my fingers in a classroom full of people.

Let me explain. Last week was Pride Student Union's Sexxx Week, which included sex-related events each day. On Wednesday night, there was a safe-sex workshop, and the employees of X-Mart, a local adult supercenter, came to speak about sex toys.

So on the night in question, I felt my first dildo, my first vibrator and my first strap-on harness. And yes, I tasted my first flavored lubricant.

Sex toys have been on my radar for a long time, but I've never actually considered buying or using one myself.

I asked myself why this was, and this is the best explanation I could come up with: It's embarrassing to admit that I want the help of an inanimate object or a battery-powered machine rather than, say, a living human being.

So, now I have a confession to make: I went to X-Mart this weekend. OK, I'll be honest — I went to X-Mart twice this weekend.

Why is it important for me to admit that? Because there is still a big social stigma attached to going to a sex shop, as well as buying a sex toy and using it.

I was talking to a friend about X-Mart, and he said he had gone before. But he had the mentality that he needed to hide and wear a big hat and sunglasses, like it was shameful to be looking at sex toys.

People! It's not something to be ashamed of.

People spend more than \$15 billion a year on sex toys, according to sex toy website Adam & Eve. Clearly toys are popular, so why aren't we talking about them?

Just like with anything sex-related, it is important to start a dialogue. Talking about sex toys in an open manner can help make them a normal part of life, not something to hide in your nightstand drawer.

I'll start. Although I haven't bought a sex toy yet — I'm a poor college student, and I can't justify spending my



Robyn Smith
opinions@alligator.org

grandfather's Christmas money on a G-spot vibrator — I definitely intend to.

And you know what? I plan on using that toy by myself, with my partners and in any situation possible.

If you do plan on using a sex toy with your partner, you need to discuss that first. College

Magazine says "sex toys also have the potential to spice up your long-term relationship."

If you and your partner have been stuck in a rut, it might help to try something new, whether through bondage, anal beads or using a glass dildo on each other.

When he spoke at the event, the manager of X-Mart, Sam, mentioned that communication is important when you use sex toys in a relationship. Make sure you and your partner are comfortable and that you have a safe-word if whatever you are doing requires it.

If you don't have a partner to use your sex toy with, that's OK, too. You guys already know how I feel about masturbation. It's great, everybody should do it, and it's nothing to be ashamed of. I feel the same way about masturbating with sex toys.

If you do plan on buying a sex toy, I recommend talking to a sex shop employee or reading reviews online — my favorite website is Oh Joy, Sex Toy — to make sure that the specific toy is what you are looking for.

College is the perfect time to explore the realm of sex toys. The cliche that college students experiment with sex more than any other demographic is a cliche for a reason, so embrace that and hold your head high when you walk into a sex shop.

Happy sex-toy shopping, folks!

Robyn Smith is a UF journalism sophomore. Her columns appear on Mondays.

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

Column

State legislatures are more important than Congress, so pay attention

In the age of cable news, political blogs and social media, it's easy to focus on the political news in Washington, D.C. The noise clogs the pores of all three major cable news networks and permeates throughout the front pages of newspapers until it makes its way onto the web.

Ignore the noise coming from Washington, and start looking at what's happening in state legislatures across the country. That's where the action is, and in recent weeks, some of the bills pushed by legislators are downright scary.

Several states — including Arizona, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Tennessee — are pushing bills that would strengthen religious freedoms and essentially allow discrimination on the basis of that religious freedom. It sounds simple enough: An individual cannot have his or her freedoms stripped based on religion. On the surface, the bill sounds downright American.

Sadly, the religious freedom bills are not attempts to protect people's rights to practice a religion. Instead, it allows for discrimination.

Need an example?

Say a restaurant owner doesn't want to serve a gay or lesbian couple in his or her restaurant. Guess what? The religious freedom bills would legally allow that restaurant owner to kick them out based on his or her religious views.

Yes, states throughout the country are debating measures that would legalize discrimination.

Need further examples of just how far state governments are going? Take a look at our neighbor to the north.

Just this year, Republican-led Georgia has filed or passed a religious freedom bill; a bill to completely prevent the Affordable Care Act from taking effect in the state; several bills and resolutions calling on the country to have a Constitutional convention — something that hasn't happened since the original convention; a bill that would allow guns in churches, bars and many government buildings. And just last week, a bill was filed that would allow sex offenders into Georgia schools.

In Kansas, after years of cutting pub-

lic education funding, some parents had enough and sued the state, claiming the state's constitution mandated public schools receive adequate funding. The case made its way to the state Supreme Court, which is expected to decide on the case soon.

What happens if the court sides with the parents and forces the state to fund public schools?

Republican Gov. Sam Brownback and the conservative-dominated Legislature plan to ignore the ruling and subsequently pass legislation preventing the state's court system from making decisions on education.

Even here in Florida — another state run by the Republicans — controversy almost always emanates from the Capitol walls in Tallahassee. Just last month, legislators started pushing a self-defense bill that would allow those who feel threatened to fire a warning shot in the air. As if the stand your ground law wasn't enough, now we might have the chance to fire off a round, Wild-West style.

Single-party rule dominates state legisla-

tures across the country. As of 2012, 36 states had single-party rule. And in many states led by Republicans, we are seeing increasingly conservative legislation that seems downright brazen.

It's easy to ignore our state Legislature. Heck, most of us are lucky if we can name our state representative or our state senator, let alone identify them both. Regardless of whether we realize it, state legislatures have far more control over us than federal Congress. The news might convince you otherwise, but Congress didn't pass the stand your ground law. The Florida Legislature did. And it's not the U.S. Congress trying to pass a bill, so business owners can legally discriminate and use their religion as a shield. State legislatures are doing that.

So next time you start railing on how awful D.C. can be, and why we need to fire everyone in Congress, maybe you should take a look at your state legislature first. What they're trying to do is far more frightening than anything happening in Washington.

Joel Mendelson is a UF graduate student in political campaigning. His columns appear on Mondays.



Joel Mendelson
opinions@alligator.org

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

**the independent florida
alligator**

@**alligator.org**

announces the openings for the positions

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

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AND**

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Summer Semester: May 12, 2014 to August 18, 2014

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 10:00 and 4:00 p.m. from now until March 14. 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 4:00 pm, March 17. 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, April 4. 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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Friday 1/17	Swimming, Gymnastics
Friday 1/24	Link to Pink vs Auburn
Friday 1/31	Tennis, Swimming & Diving, Men's Basketball vs Texas A&M
Friday 2/7	Lacrosse, Men's Basketball vs Alabama
Friday 2/21	Swimming, Tennis, Men's Basketball vs Ole Miss
Friday 2/28	Swimming & Diving
Friday 3/14	Baseball Opener vs Arkansas
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Gators pelted with colored cornstarch at Gator Run



William A. England / Alligator Staff

Runners head through the first blue "zone" of The Gator Run on Saturday. Participants came across a zone with buckets of powder at every kilometer during the run.

MONIQUE HERNANDEZ

Alligator Contributing Writer

Hundreds of Gators joined Saturday on Flavet Field to race through campus and be pelted with orange and blue dust at The Gator Run.

During the 5-kilometer race, runners passed through a blue or orange zone every kilometer. The race used about 215 gallons of the cornstarch-based powder paint in total.

Ashley Dean, a 22-year-old UF accounting senior and a Gator Run programming director, said the most beneficial factor of the race is the outcome.

Proceeds from the run benefit the Alumni Association, as well as the university in its efforts to become a top 10 public university, Dean said. The

event also helped raise funds for art and music supplies for the UF Health Child Life Program.

"Unlike any run on campus, it's to better both our university and our students," Dean said. "As the ranking of the university increases in the nation, the value of our diploma goes up."

Renee Gomez, a 20-year-old UF microbiology and cell science junior, said despite the color powder being hard to wash off, the event was a fun, and he will be back next year.

"In regular races ... you just follow the signs. With this run it was really motivational because you have people all along the court being excited," Gomez said. "(It) makes you run faster."

This was the group's second Gator Run. The first was hosted in January of last year.



William A. England / Alligator Staff

Saneh Ste. Claire, an 18-year-old UF telecommunication freshman, prepares to take part in The Gator Run, which covered a distance of 5 kilometers.



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

A participant is covered in powder as she leaves the starting line of The Gator Run 5K at Flavet Field on Saturday afternoon. Runners ran a route around Lake Alice and were dusted with cornstarch.



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

A participant is covered in powder as he crosses the finish line of The Gator Run 5K on Flavet Field.

Classifieds

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- 2 For Rent: Unfurnished
- 3 Sublease
- 4 Roommates
- 5 Real Estate

- 6 Furnishings
- 7 Computers
- 8 Electronics
- 9 Bicycles
- 10 For Sale

- 11 Motorcycles, Mopeds
- 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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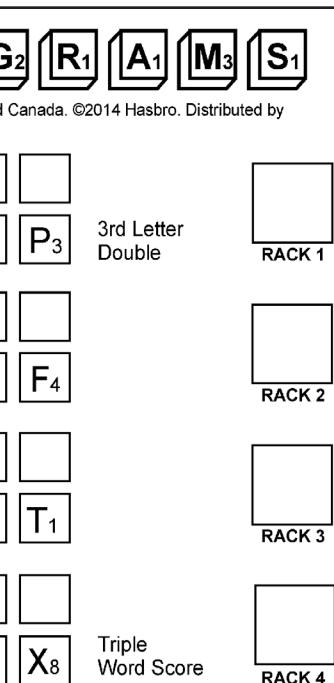
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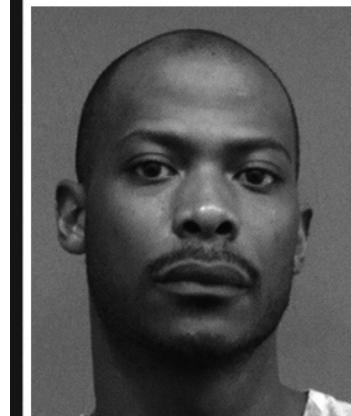


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by Chris Richcreek

1. In 2013, Baltimore's Chris Davis became the second player in major-league history to have at least 26 home runs and 23 doubles in the first 72 games of the season. Who was the first?

2. How many times did Roger Clemens lead the American League in wins for a season despite pitching for a team with a losing record?

3. Which college football team has won the most Fiesta Bowls?

4. Five players have won the NBA's regular-season MVP Award at least four times. Name four of them.

5. Which four NHL teams have combined to win the past five Stanley Cups?

6. In 2013, Tim Cahill set a record for fastest goal in Major League Soccer history (eight seconds). Who held the previous mark?

7. Name five of the previous eight WBA world heavyweight boxing champions before Mike Tyson won the title in 1987.

Answers

1. Lou Gehrig, in 1927.
2. Twice — 1987 (Boston) and 1997 (Toronto).

3. Penn State, with six victories.
4. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain, LeBron James, Michael Jordan and Bill Russell.

5. Chicago (twice), Boston, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh.

6. Dwayne De Rosario scored a goal in 11 seconds in 2003.

7. John Tate, Mike Weaver, Michael Dokes, Gerrie Coetzee, Greg Page, Tony Tubbs, Tim Witherspoon and James (Bonecrusher) Smith.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

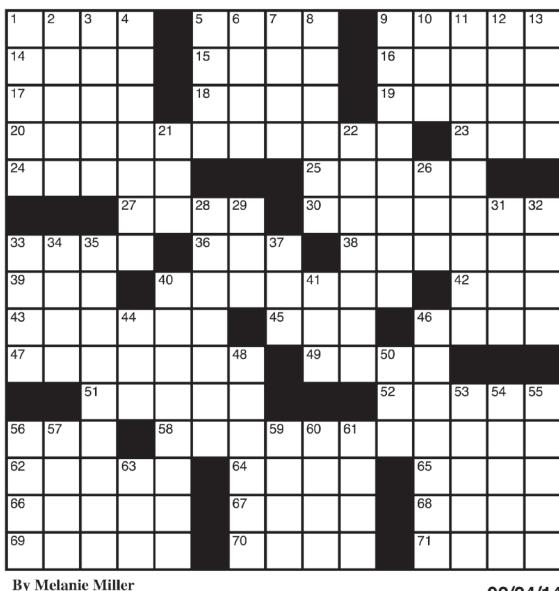
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
 1 To-do list item
 5 Short-lived crazes
 9 Destroy beyond repair
 14 Yodeler's feedback
 15 Landed
 16 "Laughing" critter
 17 Teensy bit
 18 A hop, skip and jump away
 19 Savanna antelope
 20 "Powerful stratum of society
 23 In high spirits
 24 Spread out, as one's fingers
 25 New Guinea
 27 Large seaweed
 30 Mixed in a glass
 33 Travel book inserts
 36 Bard's nightfall
 38 Take care of
 39 Game with Wild Draw Four cards
 40 Continue with the fun, and a hint to each part of the answers to starred clues
 42 Keebler cookie character
 43 Stone-faced
 45 Side with green eggs
 46 Part of MIT: Abbr.
 47 Unit of explosive force
 49 Anjou, e.g.
 51 Memorable labor leader Jimmy
 52 Rinsed the soap from, as a car
 56 GI R&R provider
 58 When brandy may be served
 62 _____ and crossbones
 64 Innovator's spark
 65 Additional
 66 Studio stand
 67 Line in blue cheese
 68 Diva's solo
 69 Rose parts
 70 Comes to a close
 71 Require

DOWN
 1 Glum drops
 2 Behave poorly
 3 "I ____ return". MacArthur
 4 Large Alaskan bears
 5 Vampire tooth
 6 Baldwin in Capital One ads
 7 Call on a retro phone
 8 Bra parts
 9 Many an Actors Studio member
 10 Popeye's Olive
 11 *Picturesque spot for a warm drink
 12 Actress Paquin of "True Blood"
 13 British noblewoman
 21 TV educator Bill in a lab coat
 22 Didn't go out
 26 Vessel on a mantel
 28 Bat first
 29 Each
 31 Angled pipes
 32 Adept
 33 Cologne scent
 34 Not pro
 35 *Place for changing out of a wet suit

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/24/14



By Melanie Miller
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Sports

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Gators get revenge on Rebels in tightly contested road game

LANDON WATNICK

Alligator Staff Writer @LandonWatnick

The Gators traveled to Oxford, Miss., with the memory of Marshall Henderson's Gator chomping spectacle on their minds.

"We played a much better second half. Henderson made some really, really difficult, tough shots, to his credit. But there were a couple times we did not guard him correctly and didn't do the right things, and we let him get going."

Billy Donovan
UF coach

But after days of watching the candid guard's celebration from Ole Miss' victory against Florida in last year's Southeastern Conference Tournament final on repeat in their locker room, the Gators finally exacted their revenge on the Rebels on Saturday afternoon.

Despite allowing Henderson to score 22 points on

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 14

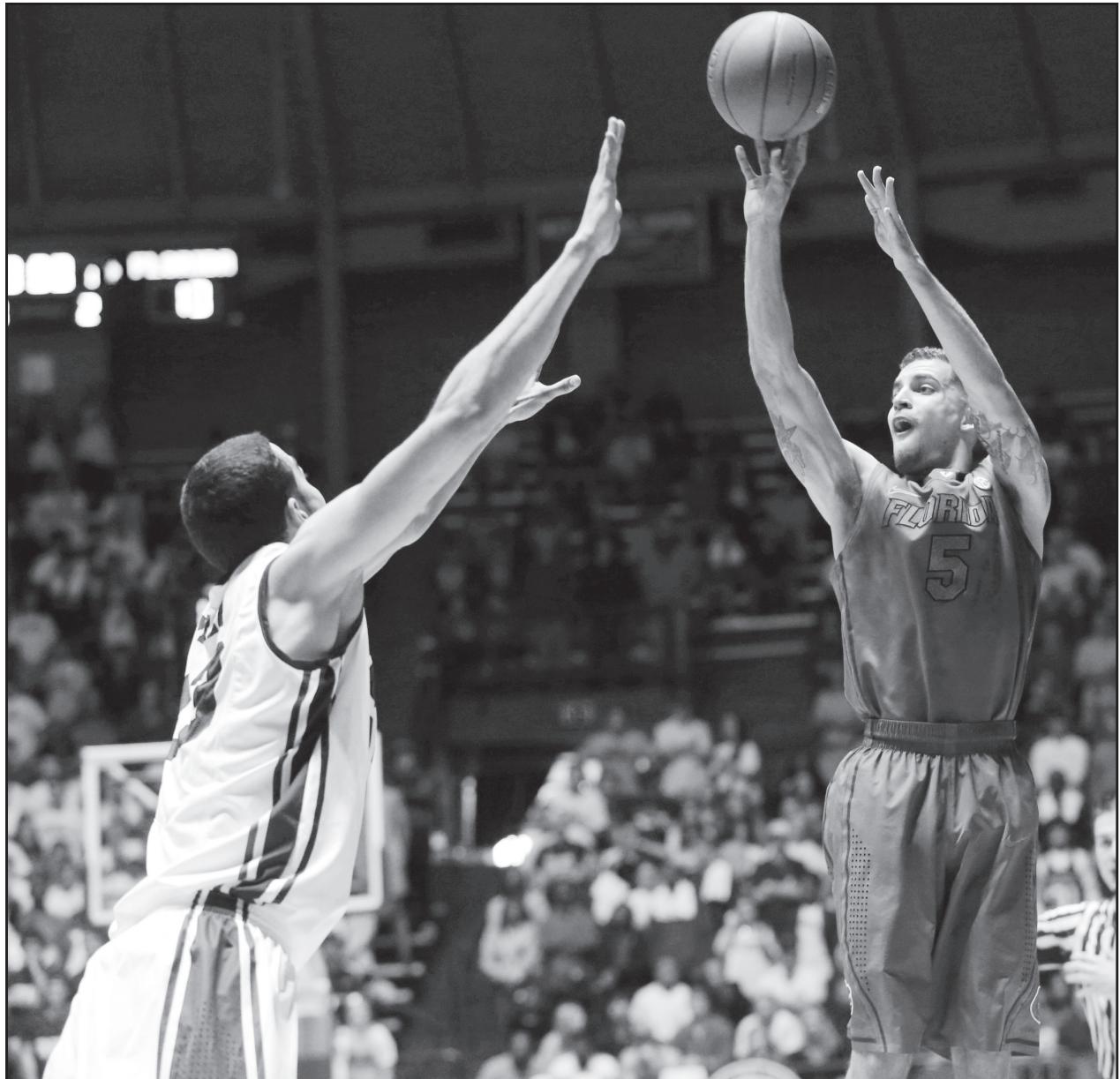
7-of-14 shooting by halftime, No. 2 Florida (25-2, 14-0 SEC) held him scoreless on 0-of-6 second-half shooting to win 75-71 in the Tad Smith Coliseum.

"We played a much better second half," coach Billy Donovan said. "Henderson made some really, really difficult, tough shots, to his credit. But there were a couple times we did not guard him correctly and didn't do the right things, and we let him get going."

Henderson put on a show in the first half and carried the Rebels (16-11, 7-7 SEC) offensively by making 5 of his 11 three-point attempts in the contest's first 20 minutes.

The senior scored six straight points — notching a four-point play and then an open layup after a steal from Derrick Millinghaus in the backcourt — to make it even at 24-24 with 9:06 in the first half.

Ole Miss, which shot 6 of 13 from downtown in the first half, then finished the half on



AP Photo

Scottie Wilbekin (5) attempts a shot as Ole Miss forward Anthony Perez (13) tries to block during Florida's 75-71 win in Oxford, Miss., on Saturday. Wilbekin scored a team-high 18 points against the Rebels.

Pitcher's struggles continue against UM

ADAM PINCUS

Alligator Staff Writer

@adamDpincus

CORAL GABLES — Karsten Whitson is the perfect pitcher for this young Florida team — both are works in progress.

No. 23 Florida (5-3) took a step forward on Sunday, salvaging its road series against No. 16 Miami (4-3) with a 6-4 victory Sunday afternoon at Mark Light Field.

Whitson went three innings, and six other pitchers followed, including three

UF Baseball

freshman getting action on the road.

"We're young. We're not nearly a finished product yet," coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "We got a lot of work to do. I do like the fight we showed today. This is one game. Hopefully, we look back down the road and say that kind of got us going."

O'Sullivan knew it wouldn't be easy while watching former ninth-round pick

SEE BASE, PAGE 14

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Florida falls to South Carolina

GORDON STREISAND

Alligator Writer

@GordonStreisand

Beating a top-five team in its house is a tall order. Against No. 4 South Carolina, it was for Florida.

Literally.

On Sunday afternoon, the Gamecocks imposed their statures on the Gators, handing them a 69-55 loss.

Florida showed great effort throughout the game, but the height discrepancy was too much to overcome.

"The reality matched what we thought," coach Amanda Butler said.

"We knew they were big and they played big."

In the first half, Florida fell victim to South Carolina's block party in Colonial Life Arena.

South Carolina was ahead 32-22 at halftime and had registered eight blocks. Four of them

came from 6-foot-4 freshman Alaina Coates, who was also the Gamecocks' leading scorer at halftime with nine points.



"It was very, very, very physical in the paint," Butler said. "We just got to be able to handle that better, regardless of whether the whistle's blown or not."

"I thought we had a lot of fight, a lot of toughness from some individuals; ultimately, not enough toughness all the way across the board and not enough possessions."

Florida was 8 for 32 from the field at the end of the half and found itself at a disadvantage in every major statistical category, except turnovers.

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 14



The Florida women's tennis team suffered its worst loss in a year on Sunday. Read the story on page 15.

Golf round canceled

The first round of the Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate Championship, which the UF women's team will compete in, was canceled on Sunday. The Gators will play 36 holes, starting at 9 a.m. today.

Gators in the NBA

Former UF center Joakim Noah scored 20 points and recorded 15 rebounds in his Chicago Bulls' 93-79 loss to the Miami Heat on Sunday.

Gators turn to three-pointers to defeat hot-shooting Rebels

JONATHAN CZUPRYN

Alligator Staff Writer

@jczupryn

Although the Gators are no longer the same team of years past, one that lived and died by the three-point shot, they were forced to turn back the clocks Saturday and rely on perimeter shooting to pull out a four-point Southeastern Conference win on the road.

With Ole Miss' Marshall Henderson sinking five first-half three pointers, Florida answered with a season-high eight threes before the break.

Despite Henderson's hot start to the contest, the rest of the Rebels only combined for one made three during the first half. On the other hand, the Gators distributed the points more evenly — four players hit at least one from behind the arc.

"I thought that was huge," coach Billy Donovan said. "I thought that was maybe the biggest stat in the first half."

Scottie Wilbekin and Michael Frazier II, who combine for just more than 70 percent of Florida's three-point field goals, recorded two and three three-pointers, respectively, during the game's first 20 minutes.

But their five combined baskets from three-point range only matched what Henderson did alone.

If it wasn't for DeVon Walker and Dorian Finney-Smith adding three more, the Gators could have been facing a much more daunting task heading into the locker room.

"If you in the first half, instead of making eight (three pointers), you end up making three, you're probably talking about being down double-digits," Donovan said.

"So even with Henderson going crazy in the first half, it was kind of a wash, him versus our team."

However, in four of the six games prior to visiting Ole Miss, Florida players not named Wilbekin and Frazier were 0 of 22 from beyond the perimeter.

In fact, Finney-Smith was 0 for his last 21 three-

point shots coming into Saturday's matchup. The redshirt sophomore hadn't made a three-point shot since the Gators' 62-51 victory over Mississippi State on Jan. 30.

During the six-game stretch before Ole Miss, when it wasn't Wilbekin or Frazier knocking down threes, it was Walker.

"If you in the first half, instead of making eight (three pointers), you end up making three, you're probably talking about being down double-digits. So even with Henderson going crazy in the first half, it was kind of a wash, him versus our team."

Billy Donovan
UF coach

The 6-foot-6 guard has taken advantage of his more frequent time on the court with Kasey Hill out with a groin injury.

In his previous two games, Walker was 4 of 9 from three. And even with a full roster against Tennessee on Feb. 11, Donovan played Walker for eight minutes and was rewarded with 2-of-2 shooting from beyond the arc.

Before this four-game stretch where Walker combined for six three-pointers, the sophomore recorded only eight in the 20 games prior to Feb. 11.

Frazier said his team answered Henderson's first-half performance by fighting fire with fire. If the Rebels were going to come out firing against the Gators' press, then Donovan's squad was going to do the same against Ole Miss' zone defense.

"When they have a guy like that, you got to have three-point threats on the other team to kind of balance it out," Frazier said.

Donovan added that it's not the individual talent that separates this team from others in the past, but it's the chemistry with one another and realization that each player is only a piece of the puzzle.

"I think that they understand that for us the whole is greater than our parts," Donovan said. "And I like that about us."



AP Photo

Michael Frazier II (20) reaches up to block a shot by Ole Miss guard Jarvis Summers (32) during the Gators' win over the Rebels on Saturday.

GYMNASICS

Hunter's perfect score leads Florida to win over LSU

EDEN OTERO

Alligator Writer

@edenotero_1

There are two names on the Florida gymnastics roster that will send a crowd into a frenzy —

Kytra Hunter and Bridget Sloan.

Hunter, who scored a perfect 10 on vault, and Sloan led No. 2 UF (7-0, 5-0 Southeastern Conference) on Friday as it defeated

No. 3 LSU (7-3, 3-2 SEC) 198.125-197.625.

Coming into Friday's meet, the Gators faced the challenge of beating one of the top teams in the nation, which has also recorded its own perfect scores of the season.

LSU's Reagan Courville came into the matchup earning a 10 on the vault at Arkansas on Feb. 7. Courville was also the reigning SEC Gymnast of the Week after she tied the nation's best all-around score, and UF gymnast Bridget Sloan's, with a 39.750.

Friday, the O'Connell Center was packed with 9,197 roaring fans who were rewarded with an eventful night.

Hunter was one of the athletes to make the night one to remember when she started out the matchup by scoring her second consecutive 10 on vault.

It was the junior's fourth perfect score of the year.

With her 10, UF has posted a perfect score in each of its last five meets. Hunter's vault and a solid performance from five other Florida gymnasts in the event helped



Emily Cochran / Alligator Staff

Kytra Hunter performs a floor routine during Florida's 198.125-197.625 win against LSU on Friday in the O'Connell Center.

Florida top their season-best vault with a score of 49.525. It was the eighth highest in Florida history.

Hunter said that her practices have become more focused on sticking her vault landings.

"Honestly, since last week I've been getting these stuck landings in practice," Hunter said.

"I mean, I won't move on from vault unless I get two perfect stuck landings."

However, Hunter wasn't alone in her success.

Sloan also had a momentous night, winning the all-around title for the week and putting up a near-perfect 9.95 on floor.

"It doesn't matter (about) the scoring. It's all about how you feel, and after floor, I felt amazing," Sloan said. "My first pass was great, my second pass was the best second pass I've ever done in my life, and those are the little moments you need to cherish."

Even with a strong vault performance, Florida fell behind after the uneven bars rotation. But it was UF's near-perfect floor rou-

tines and a series of sloppy beam routines by LSU that propelled the Gators above the Tigers.

"It definitely pushes us, and we honestly need that pressure especially experiencing it now before post-season," Hunter said.

"Honestly, since last week, I've been getting these stuck landings in practice. I mean, I won't move on from vault unless I get two perfect stuck landings."

Kytra Hunter
UF gymnast

"They did a wonderful job, and we gave each other competition. That what makes it so fun and makes the score so tight and makes the audience even more excited to watch us."

Coach Rhonda Faehn was impressed with Florida's night on the floor.

"It was everything that we were looking for," Faehn said. "Our athletes just really feed off of that [crowd]."

Bonds scores 20 points in losing effort

W-HOOPS, from page 12

Senior Jaterra Bonds led the way at the half with 10 points, but the Gators' bench of January Miller, Antoinette Bannister and Lily Svetec were held scoreless.

More of the same continued into the second half.

The Gamecocks jumped out to their biggest lead of the game, 46-30, with 12:54 remaining in the half.

Thanks to the efforts of redshirt



Emily Cochrane / Alligator Staff

Jaterra Bonds attempts a shot during Florida's 81-76 loss against Missouri on Thursday in the O'Connell Center.

junior Kayla Lewis and Bonds, the Gators rallied back into striking distance, closing the gap to seven points with 1:43 left on the clock.

Lewis was one rebound shy of recording a double-double, scoring 15 points and grabbing nine boards.

Bonds led the team with 20 points and a 9-for-14 effort from the field.

"She did as she typically does: exactly what we ask her to do," Butler said of Bonds. "That was just to be aggressive and to attack the rim fearlessly with no hesitation. They've got great shot blockers on their team."

"I think the way that Jaterra played was her following game plan really well."

Coates was perhaps the most impressive player of the game. For the contest, she was a perfect 5 for 5 from the field, scoring 16 points. She also registered 12 boards and five blocks.

Although the Gators struggled on offense, the defense was a bright spot on Sunday.

"I thought we defended them in the paint very well," Butler said. "Where they outsized us, we were able to limit those guys' touches pretty well. We played great team defense in the paint. There were just some other spots where we really let down."

Florida also forced 18 turnovers. The Gators scored 16 points off turnovers compared to South Carolina's three.

"It wasn't necessarily something we thought we could really exploit," Butler said. "It was just something that developed throughout the game, and we tried to pursue that game trend."

Florida, now at .500 in the SEC, needs to win at least one of its final two games against tough conference opponents Vanderbilt and No. 16 Texas A&M.

In order to make the NCAA Tournament, Florida would most likely have to finish in the top half of the SEC and maintain at least a .500 record in conference play.

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.

Shortstop records two hits in win

BASE, from page 12

Andrew Suarez warm up in the right-field bullpen. He and his assistant coaches thought one thing seeing his knee-high locations and four quality pitches: This guy is a big leaguer.

The Toronto Blue Jays selected Suarez in 2011 — a year after Whitson went ninth overall to the San Diego Padres. With a who's who of scouts on hand, the Gators' redshirt junior tossed 30 of his 54 pitches for strikes.

His fastball touched 92 mph, but he never looked comfortable with his slider, which carried him to a freshman All-American season in 2011.

This marked his second start since returning from his Spring 2013 season-ending shoulder surgery. He went two innings against Maryland a week ago.

Whitson feels like his arm strength is back. The next step is improving command, which troubled him on Sunday.

"Missing some time you're going to be a little rusty," Whitson said. "You've got to go. You got to keep going and get better everyday."

Florida gradually improved from Game 1 to Game 3.

Suarez, who missed all of 2012 with shoulder surgery, allowed six runs, four earned, over seven innings. The Gators tagged Suarez right from the early afternoon start, plating four runs on six hits — three singles, two doubles and a triple in the first inning.

Led by Richie Martin's two base hits, including a leadoff double down the right-field line, the Gators attacked Suarez in the first. Florida added two unearned runs in the fourth inning off two Miami throwing errors by third baseman David Thompson and catcher Garrett Kennedy.

The Hurricanes' defense did it in on Sunday and could have given them issues in the rest of the series had they not hit six home runs during the weekend.

Florida showed more discipline in the field, committing only one error in the three games.

O'Sullivan and Co. found a way in the finale — even if it meant throwing the kitchen sink at the Hurricanes. O'Sullivan needed seven pitchers, four first-inning runs, two Miami errors and three different arms in the ninth inning.

"We were going to empty everybody. That's one of our strengths," O'Sullivan said.

"We told the players before the game, the mark of a gritty team is to get out with a win no matter how we got to do it."

Gators' 19-game streak best in program history

HOOPS, from page 12

an 18-8 run to tie it up at 42 at halftime. It was the sixth straight game Florida had either trailed or stood tied with an opponent at halftime.

But in the second half, Florida tightened up defensively and contained Henderson and the Rebels' hot shooting.

After about 14 minutes of action that did not see a team lead by more than three points, Florida began to pull away.

Fueled by a dunk from Patric Young, a jumper by Casey Prather and three made free throws — two coming from Young — Florida went on a 7-0 run to take a 66-59 lead with 4:08 left. Following the 8:04 mark, UF held Ole Miss scoreless for about four minutes.

But with 3:12 remaining in regulation, Michael Frazier II gave UF its largest lead (71-63) since the first half by burying a three-pointer from the right wing. Scottie Wilbekin then sunk a runner down the right lane on the next possession to give UF a comfortable 73-65 advantage with 2:25 left.

"We did a good job of executing offensively," Donovan said.

"Scottie had a nice runner in the lane, which was good. We did some good interior passing. Patric knocked down his free throws. It was good to see him do that."

Billy Donovan

UF coach

UF plays its next game on the road in Nashville, Tenn., against Vanderbilt on Tuesday night at 7.

"This is a hard stretch for us," Donovan said.

"When you talk about having to play Wednesday, Saturday, Tuesday, you go a long period of time without a break and it's one game after another. And it's games against teams we haven't seen before, so there's a lot to get these guys familiar with."

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.



William A. England / Alligator Staff

Richie Martin hits during Florida's 9-7 loss against Maryland on Feb. 15 at McKethan Stadium. Martin had two hits against Miami on Sunday.

Gators' speed proves too much for overmatched Bearcats

EDEN OTERO

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No. 7 Florida's (4-1) offense prevailed against a sleepy Cincinnati (0-2) defense after a three-and-a-half-hour rain delay at Donald R. Dizney Stadium to win 19-6 on Sunday.

In their last three games, the Gators have exploited bad defensive matchups, giving them opportunities to secure wins early in matches.

Florida's victory against Cincinnati was no different.

Freshman Sammi Burgess and sophomore Devon Schneider combined for the first goal to open the scoring.

Florida's movement on offense left its defense nearly jobless, as it has been in most of its games this season.

The defense has had only two real opportunities to compete on the field — the first time in a 20-8 loss to No. 1 North Carolina and the second in a 21-8 blowout win against James Madison.

Florida's speed — exemplified by Burgess, junior Shannon Gilroy and sophomore Carly Ross — has been the key reason why the defense has had little to do on the field.

Cincinnati's mismatched defense proved to be just one of the Bearcats' many problems. Cincinnati came out playing man-to-man coverage against Florida but was unable to keep up with the offense

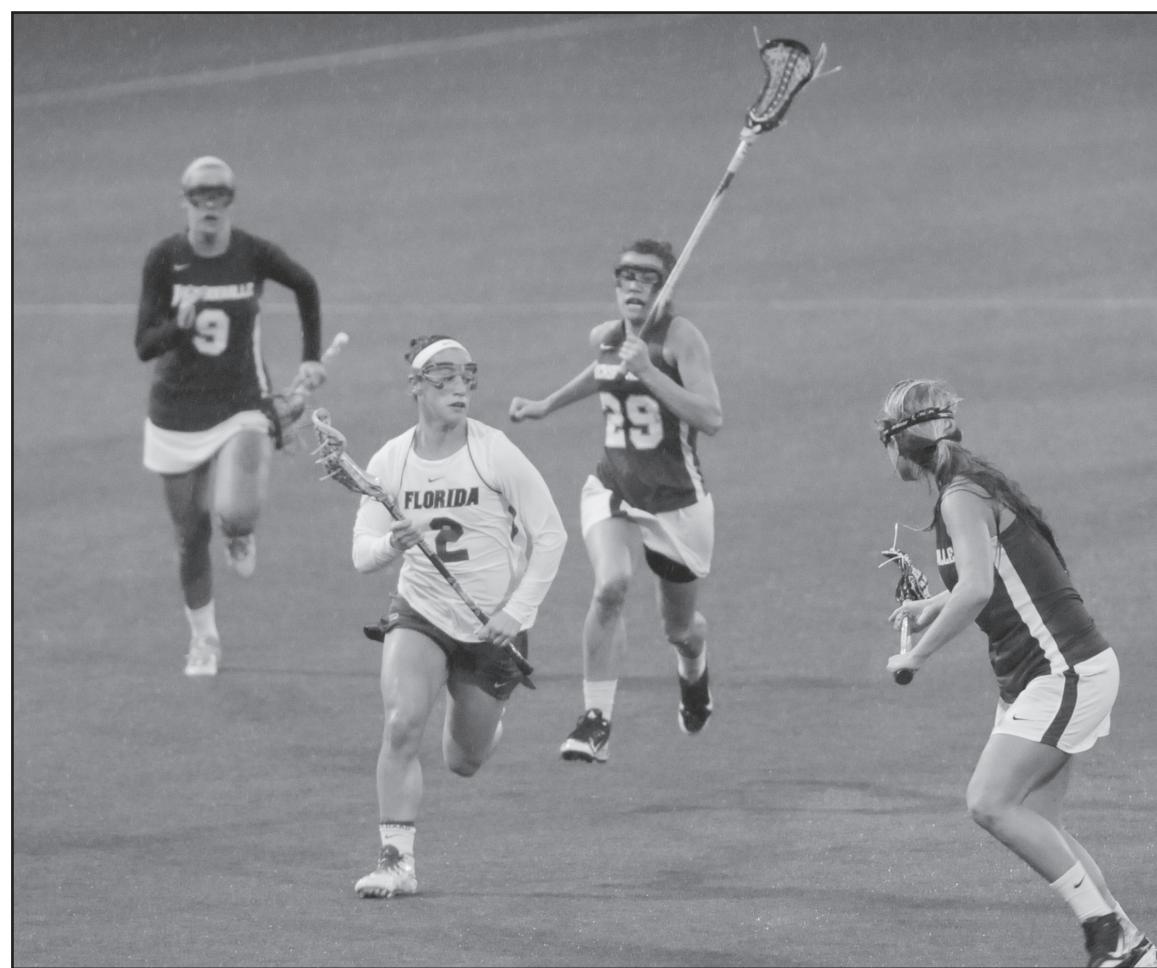
that the Gators have worked to create this season.

Coach Amanda O'Leary said that the team's quickness has been

key in the offense's smoothness, especially when players can outrun their defenders.

Overall, the offense beat Cin-

cinnati everywhere it mattered, specifically on draw controls (22-5), shots (32-13) and ground balls (16-12).



William A. England / Alligator Staff

Sammi Burgess (2) drives toward the net during Florida's 21-5 win against Jacksonville on Feb. 12 at Donald R. Dizney Stadium. Burgess scored three goals in UF's win against Cincinnati on Sunday.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

UF men clinch SEC Championship, women finish third

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For the second consecutive year, the Southeastern Conference crown belongs to the top-ranked Gators men's swimming and diving team.

Florida led off the meet strong, winning the first five swimming events at the conference championships on Day 1 and 2, but still trailed No. 13 Auburn after the second day of competition.

The Gators relied on their strengths over the final three days to defend the title.

Redshirt senior Sebastien Rousseau earned his first individual SEC championship in the 200-yard individual medley

(1:42.22) on Day 2 and seemed to like wearing gold, as he went on to win the 200-yard freestyle (1:33.23) and the 200-yard butterfly (1:41.07) over the next two days.

"It means a lot to me to finally get an individual win," Rousseau said. "It was really special to be on the podium with Marcin (Cieslak). He is always going to be there and be pushing me. We do that in practice, and I knew that it was going to be like that in the race. It just comes down to the day. I got my hand on the wall this time."

Cieslak was less than a quarter of a second behind Rousseau in the 200-yard IM, good enough for a silver medal. Fewer than 0.7 seconds separated them in the 200-yard

fly, but Cieslak — the 2013 SEC Champion in the event — finished with a bronze.

Rousseau's 200-yard fly time was an SEC Championships record, and he was awarded the SEC Commissioner's Trophy for the highest point total.

Florida broke two school records on Day 1: in the 200-yard medley relay (1:24.53), which Cieslak swam the fly leg for, and in the 800-yard free relay (6:13.03) that Rousseau swam in.

"It is such a tremendous swim meet," coach Gregg Troy said. "Winning the first time was really great. Coming back to have the opportunity to repeat, I think, talks a little bit about the character of the team and

the guys."

The No. 5 Florida's women's team did not make the push they needed to overtake four-time defending champion No. 1 Georgia, which clinched its fifth SEC championship in as many years. The Gators fell to third on Day 4 and would end up with the bronze medal.

But senior Elizabeth Beisel picked up two gold medals and a silver medal along with her third straight SEC Commissioner's Trophy. Her nine individual titles rank her fifth all-time in SEC titles for the Gators and ties her with Olympian Dara Torres.

Continue reading this story online at alligatorSports.org.

Stanford blanks Florida in first shutout since '13

UF LOST 7-0 ON SUNDAY.

IAN COHEN

Alligator Writer

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The San Francisco Bay separates St. Mary's College and Stanford University from each other.

The level of talent between the two teams covers a much greater distance.

The gap between Florida's two Californian opponents was evident this past weekend, when UF swept St. Mary's on Saturday and then found themselves on the wrong side of a Stanford sweep the fol-

lowing day.

The No. 5 Gators (8-2) were held scoreless in Sunday's rivalry matchup against the No. 3 Cardinal (7-0), losing 7-0 in their first match against a top-five opponent.

"Stanford really took it to us and all credit goes to them," coach Roland Thornqvist said. "It was over after 20 minutes of singles. I'm at a loss."

The day began with more inconsistent play on the doubles courts as Florida lost both doubles matches for the third time in its last five dual matches. After falling behind early, a comeback was unlikely.

The Gators are 1-2 this season when losing the doubles point.

Sofie Oyen and Belinda Woolcock fell 8-5, and Olivia Janowicz and Stefani Stojic lost 8-1 to cede the match's first point to the highly touted Stanford group.

The defending NCAA champions remained aggressive as they grabbed each of the three necessary singles points in straight sets to crush Florida's comeback hopes.

The Cardinal's Carol Zhao put her team ahead 2-0 with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Brianna Morgan. The Gators' Oyen and Alexandra Cercone were the next to fall, losing

6-2, 6-2 and 6-1, 6-4 respectively to give Stanford a 4-0 lead and the match.

Stanford's next point came when No. 5 ranked Kristie Ahn outlasted

UF Women's Tennis

a comeback bid from Janowicz with a 6-2, 7-5 victory.

The deficit grew to six when Kourtney Keegan lost 6-3, 7-6. Woolcock was the only Florida player to reach a third set, but she eventually folded under a 6-7, 6-4,

1-0 (10-9) loss to end the match.

UF's weekend matches were polar opposites of each other. The loss to Stanford came a day after Florida's 4-0 win over St. Mary's on the same courts, in which each Gator won in straight sets during the blowout. On Sunday, all but one player was defeated in straight sets, as Florida was held scoreless for the first time all season.

"Stanford is a great team and they certainly played well enough to earn the win," Thornqvist said.

"We have a lot to work on after today's match and it will make us stronger as a result."

SOFTBALL

Pitchers dominate as Florida finishes only home tourney

JORDAN MCPHERSON

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Florida's lone home tournament of the season was cut short.

All the games slated for Day 3 of the Lipton Invitational were canceled due to rain.

Through the first two days at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium, No. 1 Florida (16-0) played two games against Troy and Indiana, winning all four by a combined score of 26-3.

The Gators found the majority of their success in the pitcher's circle, giving up only 10 hits through the four games while striking out a combined 27 batters.

"The main thing you have to do is make sure you're giving everybody enough innings to keep them sharp," coach Tim Walton said. "The rotation has been good. We're not over-pitching anybody. We're giving everybody an opportunity to throw complete games, but what (Lauren) Haeger and Hannah (Rogers) and Delanie (Gourley) have been doing is fantastic. They're really using their defense and getting strikeouts when they need to."

Tim Walton
UF coach

"Delanie made pitches when she had to," Walton said. "Other than a couple of the infield hits, I thought she really pitched well and was ahead a lot. She was ahead in her pitch counts a lot. She showed some good composure and she probably didn't realize that the winning run was sitting at home plates three times in a row."

In her lone game in the circle, Haeger was perfect through 6.2 innings. In Florida's 12-2 win against Troy on Saturday, the junior right-handed pitcher had four strikeouts and did not allow a single batter to reach base with one out to go. Haeger ended the game by giving up two hits — including a two-run homer by

Troy's Michelle Phelps — before ending the game.

Haeger holds team-best marks among starting pitchers in ERA (1.03) and opponent's batting average (.100).

While the Gators were successful in the circle throughout the Lipton Invitational, the team had mixed results at the plate. On Friday, Florida was limited to a .217 clip after logging only 10 hits and striking out eight times.

"I wasn't too pleased with how we swung the bat," Walton said.

"But then again, I think I'm going to have to give a little credit to the way Troy pitched and the way Indiana pitched."

"Both pitchers were hitting their spots and weren't giving in to our hitters."

But after the poor performance on Friday, Florida made a fast turnaround in its rematches against Troy and Indiana on Saturday, registering 23 hits and 20 runs during the two games.

Sophomore Kelsey Stewart was the lone Florida batter to log

a hit in all four contests. The second baseman managed eight hits, seven runs and four RBIs during the tournament.

The Wichita, Kan., native leads the team with 21 runs scored — one run fewer than all of Florida's opponents this season — and is tied with Haeger with a team-leading 18 RBIs.

Stewart is also third on the team with a .393 batting average, behind only sophomore Aubree Munro (.395) and freshman Justine McLean (.412).



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Hannah Rogers pitches during Florida's 8-0 win against Indiana on Saturday at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium. Rogers pitched her third career no-hitter during the Gators' win against the Hoosiers.

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