

Lady Gator Head Coach Carol Ross

The star recruit's family wanted so badly to impress coach Carol Ross that they fixed her a dinner of Southern delicacies - chitlins. Carol Ross wanted so badly to impress the family of the star recruit - she ate them.

That just goes to show, nothing can come between Ross and what she wants.

Witty, warm, feisty and focused; colorful, caring, driven and distinctly southern - even chitlins are okay if there's ketchup on the table - Ross has turned the Florida women's basketball program from one without spark into one with spunk by instilling in it personality -- her own.

And, yes, she landed that recruit.

Ross inherited a Lady Gator program in 1990 that, in the five years prior to her arrival, managed an overall record of 61-79, including a 5-35 ledger in Southeastern Conference action, and finished no higher than ninth in the final league standings. In her seven years at Florida, Ross has already become the school's all-time winningest coach at 165-77. In 1994, she was selected by her peers as the SEC Coach of the Year, the same season she guided the Lady Gators to third place in the conference standings. Last season she was named the WBCA District 9 Coach of the Year for guiding UF to it first top 10 national ranking and a trip to the NCAA Championship Elite Eight.

The Lady Gators had never been to the NCAA Tournament before Ross took charge. Last year, Florida was one of only 12 teams to appear in each of the last six. The Lady Gators are now poised to make a run for the national championship. It seems a natural progression of success for a coach who's computer screen saver continuously scrolls, "Bite off more than you can chew." Even if it's chitlins.

These days, Florida makes itself at home among the nation's Top-25. In 1998, the SEC sent six schools to the NCAA Tournament -- tops in the nation.

And Ross wants more.

"The SEC is the toughest league in the country," Ross states. "Everyone in the league has the privilege to compete but only one team has the honor of being champion; we want the honor of cutting down the nets."

Since the day she signed scholarship papers to play basketball at Ole Miss, her home-state university, Ross has spent 19 years both creating and soaking up the traditions of arguably the finest women's basketball conference in the country.

As a player at Ole Miss in the early 1980s, she was a member of the inaugural SEC All-Tournament Team, a pesky, tenacious guard who still ranks sixth on the league's all-time steals list.

As a seven-year assistant coach at Auburn, Ross reached the NCAA championship game in each of her last three seasons, 1988, '89 and '90. Gainesville resident and 1996 Olympian Ruthie Bolton along with SEC and USA standout Mae Ola Bolton were among the players Ross recruited to Auburn.

Ross' resume of Olympians, scholar-athletes, professional players and basketball coaches is lengthy. Nineteen of Ross' former players and recruits have continued their basketball careers on the professional level, including current UF professionals Merlakia Jones (WNBA), DeLisha Milton (ABL), LaTonya McGhee (Germany), Murriel Page (WNBA), Bridget Pettis (WNBA) and Sophia Witherspoon (WNBA).

Ross has coached members of the 1992 and 1996 U.S. Olympic teams.

Ross earned her Bachelor's degree in Education from Ole Miss in 1982. After which she served as a volunteer assistant at Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss., for one year before returning to the SEC as an assistant at Auburn. During that time she advanced from graduate assistant to top assistant and chief recruiter. She played a key role in the school's development and maturation into a perennial NCAA Tourney team.

The Oakland, Miss., native enjoys the Florida sunshine and all Gator sporting events. When the University hosted the 1996 SEC Women's Tennis Championship, Ross volunteered her services to operate the scoreboard, field

Ross vs. All Opponents

Alabama.....	7-6
Alabama State	2-0
Appalachian State	1-0
Arizona	1-0
Arizona State	1-0
Arkansas	7-1
Arkansas State	1-0
Auburn	4-7
Barry	1-0
Bethune Cookman	4-0
Boise State	1-0
Bowling Green	1-0
Central Florida	5-0
Clemson	0-1
Colorado State	0-1
Connecticut	0-1
Duke	1-1
East Carolina	1-0
E. Michigan	1-0
Fairfield	1-0
Florida Atlantic	3-1
Florida A&M	1-0
Fla. International	1-0
Florida State	10-2
Furman	2-0
Georgetown	1-1
George Washington	1-0
Georgia	3-9
Georgia Southern	2-0
Hampton	1-0
Huntsville	1-0
Illinois	1-1
Indiana State	1-0
Iowa	1-0
Kansas	1-0
Kansas State	1-0
Kentucky	7-2
Louisiana State	7-2
Louisiana Tech	1-0
Loyola Maymount	1-0
Lynn	1-0
Manhattan	1-0
Marquette	1-0
Massachusetts	1-0
Memphis	0-1
Mercer	1-0
Miami	5-1
Mississippi	6-2
Mississippi State	6-2
Montana	1-0
Montana State	1-0
New Hampshire	1-0
New Mexico State	1-0
New Orleans	1-1
North Carolina	1-1
N.C.-Charlotte	2-0
North Carolina State	1-0
North Texas	1-0
Ohio	1-0
Old Dominion	0-1
Pennsylvania	1-0
Pepperdine	0-1
Purdue	0-1
Radford	1-0
Rhode Island	1-0
Richmond	0-1
Rutgers	1-0
St. Bonaventure	1-0
San Francisco	1-1
South Alabama	1-1
South Carolina	7-1
South Florida	5-0
Southern Cal	1-0
Southern Mississippi	1-2

Ross' Record

Year	Overall	SEC	Finish	Home	Postseason
1990-91	17-11	3-7	t8th	10-4	—
1991-92	15-13	4-7	t7th	8-5	—
1992-93	19-10	6-5	t4th	9-3	NCAA
1993-94	22-7	8-3	3rd	14-0	NCAA
1994-95	24-9	7-4	t4th	10-2	NCAA
1995-96	21-9	6-5	t5th	9-1	NCAA
1996-97	24-9	9-3	t3rd	9-3	NCAA
1997-98	23-9	10-4	t2nd	16-0	NCAA
Total	165-77	53-38		86-18	6 NCAA

Charting the 16 Upsets

Ross' teams have defeated.....	When her team was...
No. 18 Vanderbilt, 74-68 (home)	Not Ranked (1-9-91)
No. 19 Bowling Green, 69-67 (away)	Not Ranked (3-17-93)
No. 10 Alabama, 80-75 (away)	Not Ranked (1-16-94)
No. 10 Georgia, 59-46 (away)	UF No. 18 (2-8-95)
No. 11 Alabama, 97-88 (home)	UF No. 18 (1-15-95)
No. 17 Ole Miss, 69-48 (home)	UF No. 20 (2-11-96)
No. 10 Vanderbilt, 83-73 (neutral)	UF No. 18 (3-2-96)
No. 12 Iowa, 68-58 (neutral)	Not Ranked (12-13-96)
No. 12 Auburn, 71-58 (home)	Not Ranked (1-4-97)
No. 17 LSU, 74-57 (home)	UF No. 24 (1-18-97)
No. 8 Tennessee, 71-62 (home)	UF No. t-19 (1-21-97)
No. 11 Vanderbilt, 70-56 (home)	UF No. t-19 (1-25-97)
No. 6 Alabama, 83-72 (neutral)	UF No. 10 (3-2-97)
No. 5 La. Tech, 71-57 (neutral)	UF No. 7 (3-22-97)
No. 5 North Carolina, 68-48 (neutral) ...	UF No. 9 (11-23-97)
No. 6 Vanderbilt, 62-46 (away)	UF No. 14 (2-1-98)

Carol Ross has invested 19 years in the SEC

Four years as a player (Ole Miss)
Seven years as an assistant coach (Auburn)
Eight years as a head coach (Florida)

Carol Ross at a Glance

Seventh year at Florida

Hometown: Oakland, Miss.

Education: Ole Miss (B.S. in Education, 1982)

Highlights:

- *Named head coach of the 1998 USA Select Team
- *Named 1997 WBCA District 9 Coach of the Year
- *Named 1994 SEC Coach of the Year
- *Six consecutive NCAA Tournament berths
- *Five consecutive 20 win seasons
- *All-time winningest coach at Florida
- *Coached players on both 1992 & 1996 U.S. Olympic teams
- *Coached the 1997 Wade Trophy winner
- *Coached 1997 SEC Player of the Year
- *Coached Florida's first-ever first team All-American (Kodak & Associated Press)
- *Helped 15 students-athletes to All-SEC accolades
- *Tutored 26 student-athletes to SEC Academic Honor Roll status

Southwest Texas	1-0	Texas A&M	0-1
Southwestern Louisiana	1-0	UC-Santa Barbara	0-1
Stephen F. Austin	0-2	Utah	1-0
Stanford	0-1	Vanderbilt	5-6
Stetson	4-0	Virginia	0-2
Tennessee	1-8	Virginia Tech	2-0
Tennessee State	2-0	West Virginia	2-1
Tennessee Tech	1-1	William and Mary	1-0
Texas	3-1	TOTAL	165-77

press box questions on the phone and soak in another Gator league title. She is a great tennis fan, having attended Grand Slam events. In fact, one of the towels Ross initially clutched on the sidelines during the season was used by Steffi Graf during one of her Wimbledon championship matches.

Ross has embraced the Lady Gator program and it has responded. She's very determined and works hard in every avenue of her life. She has taught the Lady Gators how to win in the ferocious SEC and have fun in the process. Nothing has been able to come between Ross and what she wants and now she and the Lady Gators are ready for more.

Florida Coaching Staff

Assistant coach **Joi Williams**

Eighth year at Florida

Birthdate: Nov. 5, 1966

Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Education: Univ. of South Florida (B.S. in Marketing, 1988)

Of Interest: *Four year basketball starter at USF

*Listed as one of the "Top Young Recruiters" in the nation in the 1994-95 preseason guide of Lindy's Basketball Annuals

*Responsible for the recruitment of UF All-Americans Merlakia "Lake" Jones & DeLisha Milton

*1994-95 recruiting class (this year's senior class) was listed among the top-five in the nation according to the Women's Basketball News Service

*Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Assistant coach **Beth Dunkenberger**

First year at Florida

Birthdate: Sept. 4, 1966

Hometown: Shawsville, Va.

Education:

Randolph-Macon College (B.S. in Mathematics, 1988)

Virginia Tech (Master's in Sports Management, 1990)

Of Interest: *This will be her 10th season coaching on the collegiate level

* Spent nine years on the sidelines at Virginia Tech

* Graduated Cum Laude from Randolph-Macon

* Self-proclaimed air hockey champion

Assistant coach **Michael Peck**

First year at Florida

Birthdate: Aug. 1, 1972

Hometown: Jefferson City, Tenn.

Education: Marshall (B.S. in Journalism, 1996)

Of Interest: *First year as college coach

*Played college ball under current Gator men's coach Billy Donovan

*Sister, Carolyn, is head women's coach at Purdue

1997 Professional Draft Selections

***DeLisha Milton** (1993-97), 1st round/2nd pick/2nd overall selection, Portland Power (ABL)

***Bridget Pettis** (1991-93), Elite Selection, Phoenix Mercury (WNBA)

***Sophia Witherspoon** (1988-91), 2nd round/3rd pick/11th overall selection, New York Liberty (WNBA)

***Merlakia Jones** (1991-95), 2nd round/5th pick/13th overall selection, Cleveland Rockers (WNBA)

***Tammy Jackson** (1981-85), 2nd round/8th pick/16th overall selection, Houston Comets (WNBA)

Gator Athletics By the Numbers

1 The number ranking *Sports Illustrated* rated the Gator women's athletics program in April of 1997.

16 times the current UF coaching staff has been honored as the National Coach of the Year.

32 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year honors bestowed upon UF coaches over the last six seasons.

40 SEC team titles, a total that is more than double any other school in the league.

43 SEC Championships won under the current UF coaching staff, which has also captured nine national titles.

83 Gator student-athletes have represented 16 countries in eight Olympiads and laid claim to 51 medals, including 25 golds.

123 individual national titles won by Gator student-athletes since 1980.

128 total SEC team titles, the most in the history of the conference.

1,928 Gator student-athletes that have earned All-America honors since 1980.

\$13.2 million contributed by the University of Florida Athletic Association to the University to help fund academic endeavors since 1988, during an era when the NCAA estimates 70 percent of Division I schools are losing money on intercollegiate athletics.

1997-98 University of Florida Athletics Season Recap
(As of March 16, 1998)

Conference and National Finish and Rankings

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>SEC</u>	<u>National Rankings</u>
Baseball	16-6	3-2	No. 6 CB/No. 13 BA
Men ' s Basketball	14-15	6-10	No. 70 RPI
Women ' s Basketball	22-8	10-4	No. 13 AP/ No. 12 <i>USA Today</i> /ESPN
Men ' s CC	—	—	No. 22
Women ' s CC	—	—	No. 16
Football	10-2	6-2	No. 4 AP / No. 6 <i>USA Today</i> /ESPN
Mgolf	—	—	No. 12
Wgolf	—	—	No. 29
Gymnastics	6-3	2-3	No. 5
Soccer	20-3-1	7-1	No. 8 <i>Soccer America</i>
Softball	14-8	0-1	—
Men ' s Swim &D	6-3	2-3	No. 12 CSCAA
Women ' s Swim &D	7-5	2-2	No. 12 CSCAA
Men ' s Ten	6-8	0-4	No. 19
Women ' s Ten	11-0	5-0	No. 1
Men ' s T&F	—	—	No. 5
Women ' s T&F	—	—	No. 19
Volleyball	34-4	14-0	t3rd at NCAA Final Four

1998 SEC Tournament

Columbus Civic Center (8,000) * Columbus, Georgia

Thursday Feb. 26	Friday Feb. 27	Saturday Feb. 28	Sunday March 1
	#1 Tennessee		
#8 Kentucky	Game 5 - 1 p.m. [Fox SS]	Tennessee 88-60	
Game 1 - 1 pm	Miss State 67-48	Game 9 - 6:30 pm [Fox Sports South]	Tennessee
#9 Mississippi St.			106-45
	#4 Vanderbilt	Vanderbilt 76-64	
#5 Georgia	Game 7 -6:30 pm Ole Miss 77-73		
Game 3 - 6:30 pm			
#12 Ole Miss			Game 11 - 5 pm [ESPN2]
	#3 Alabama		Tennessee 67-63
#6 LSU	Game 8 - 9 pm South Carolina 76-61	Alabama 92-72	
Game 4 - 9 pm		Game 10 - 9 pm [Fox Sports South]	Alabama
#11 South Carolina			
	#2 Florida	Florida 63-49	74-61
#7 Arkansas	Game 6-3:30 pm [Fox SS]		
Game 2 - 3:30 pm	Arkansas 59-43		
#10 Auburn			

#4 Tamara Stocks

6-3 * Freshman * Forward/Center

Pickerington, Ohio * Pickerington High School

Tamara (ta-MAR-ah) **Stocks** is perhaps the most decorated prep player in Lady Gator history... fundamentally sound... has been counted on to play alongside senior All-American Murriel Page and pick up the void created by the graduation of DeLisha Milton... product of the always-successful Pickerington High School program which consistently produces well-rounded collegiate talent... shares the same birthdate, Jan. 29, with teammate and roommate Kelly Freeman... her mom, Debby, is the Director of Marketing for the ABL's Columbus Quest... ventured to Gainesville during the summer to take a few classes.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

started all three games... 24.3 minutes, 14.7 points, 5.3 rebounds, 59.1 FG%, 78.3 FT% (18-23)

As a Freshman (1997-98)

Tamara Stocks complemented senior All-American Murriel Page in the paint... closed the season successfully converting her last 15 free throws... set a UF record for starts by a freshman (32), breaking DeLisha Milton's 1994 record of 29... started every game this season... in the 24-year history of the program only three other players have started every game of their freshman season (DeLisha Milton, 1994-97, started all 29 games; Lisa Born, 1987-88, 28; & Angie Scott, 1988-89, 27)... shared team scoring honors with 19 points and eight rebounds in her NCAA Championship debut against Montana (March 14)... followed that performance with 17 points in 24 minutes in the second round versus Virginia Tech (March 16)... plagued by foul trouble late in the regular season, reaching the limit in just 12 minutes during the SEC Quarterfinal win over Arkansas (Feb. 27)... one of three Lady Gators to score in every game (with Page & Bingham)... among the SEC leaders in the field goal percentage (but has not made the minimum 5.5 per game to qualify for the official standings)... had 17 double-figure scoring games... UF's fourth-leading scorer and fourth-leading rebounder... led the team in blocked shots (18) and free throw percentage (78.3%)... scored a team-high 17 points and grabbed six rebounds leading UF to a 70-62 victory over No. 25 Alabama in

her SEC debut... collected first career double-double versus Purdue (Dec. 12) with 18 points and 11 rebounds... named to the State Farm Classic (Florida) All-Tournament team (Dec. 29), after scoring a total of 29 points in two games, including 20 in the championship versus Duke... led the team in scoring four times and once in rebounding...

Prior to Florida

First Lady Gator to play in the NIKE/WBCA Girls' High School All-America game (scored eight points with eight rebounds)... a four-year starter for Pickerington HS, Stocks graduated with 1,284 points, while shooting 66.0-percent from the field... the 1997 fourth team *Parade* All-American averaged 15.8 points and 5.6 rebounds during her senior season, leading the Lady Tigers to 26-1 record and a No. 7 final national ranking... named the State of Ohio Player of the Year, Division I... 1997 Pickerington Holiday Classic Tournament MVP and Kodak All-American... selected for the Ohio North-South State All-Star game... holds school record for most points in a game by a junior (40 pts)... a 1994 *USA Today* Top Ten Freshman honoree... during her four-years, PHS reached the state finals her freshman year (No. 4 in *USA Today* final poll) and the semifinals her sophomore and senior seasons, where the squad finished the year ranked No. 2 and No. 7, respectively... Pickerington ranked No. 1 in a *USA Today* poll in 1994 after downing then-top-ranked Oregon City in the Lady Tiger Holiday Classic, as Stocks garnered All-Tournament honors... rated No. 27 in the Blue Star Index... AAU All-American with Cincinnati Niners... coached by Dave Butcher... signed her letter of intent to play at Florida on Nov. 13, 1996 at 12:12 p.m.

Personal

Full name is Tamara Celeste Stocks... daughter of James and Debby Stocks... born on Jan. 29, 1979, in Akron, Ohio... has one older brother, James, III, and one older sister, Amber, both of whom played basketball at Cincinnati... also considered Alabama, Clemson, Duke, Kentucky and Virginia... majoring is animal medicine, one of the most challenging programs offered at UF.

#5 Tombi Bell

5-5 * Freshman * Point Guard

Miami, Florida * Miami Norland High School

Tombi (TOOM-bee) Bell provided much-needed depth to point guard, essential with the knee injury to senior Mahogany Hudson.. very quick, feisty player... spunky guard who's a quick defender and fearlessly drives to the basket... a pesky defender who loves the transition game that Florida plays ... got a jump on academic life at Florida by taking a couple of summer classes during the 1997 Summer B session... "Simba & Nala," the feline characters from *The Lion King*, are tattooed on her left shoulder blade... showed increased confidence throughout the season as she learned the UF system.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

Played in all three games... 21.3 minutes, 7.7 points, 2.3 rebounds, 2.0 assists, hit 9-of-10 free throws, including her last seven

As a Freshman (1997-98)

Tombi Bell has scored in seven of the last nine games... saw action in 25 games, playing a season-high 27 minutes at Alabama (Feb. 14)... scored seven points in 20 minutes of action during her NCAA Championship debut against Montana (March 14)... recorded three double-figure scoring games this season (10 points vs. Duke in NCAA Championship, 10 points vs. UCSB & sharing a team-high of 12 points vs. Alabama Feb. 14)... played 12 quality minutes in the SEC Quarterfinal win over Arkansas (Feb. 27), when she contributed four points, two rebounds and three assists... hit 6-of-11 three-point field goals, including three versus Alabama (Feb. 14) ... suffered a sprained ligament in her left (non-shooting hand) thumb during practice on January 2nd after colliding with teammate Dana Smith and was hampered in for a number of weeks in practice and games... was counted on heavily as the backup point guard while starter Mo Hudson was recovering from ACL surgery... got her first career start versus Miami (Nov. 21) when she checked into the game as a starter (by mistake) for Dana Smith...

Prior to Florida

Named a first team Class 6A All-State performer by the Florida Sports Writers Association her senior season at Miami Norland High School and a second team selection as a junior... *USA Today* honorable mention All-USA Girls Team from Florida... 1997 first team All-State Tournament team... coached by Jim Wilson... posted three-year career numbers of 1,281 points (14.6 ppg), 660 rebounds (7.5 rpg), 501 assists (5.7 apg) and 121 steals (1.4 spg)... her No. 5 jersey was retired... the 1997 Gatorade Girls Player of the Year in the state of Florida... two-time *Miami Herald* first team All-Dade County honoree... a continually successful program, MNHS has won at least 20 games each of the last 10 years, including the 74-14 record logged during Bell's three years... played at Gulliver Prep in ninth grade, where she was the team's MVP... 1997 BCI All-American with Team Florida (AAU)... signed her letter of intent to play at Florida on Nov. 18, 1996 at 4:39 p.m... also competed as a middle blocker on the volleyball team and competed in the high jump, the long jump and 100-yard dash and the 400-relay for the track team.

Personal

Full name is Tombi Atiya Bell... daughter of Roger and Denise Bell... born on April 19, 1979, in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands... has one older brother, Raja, who currently plays basketball at Florida International and led the team in scoring during the 1998 season (ranked third in the TAAC for scoring)... father is assistant athletics director at the University of Miami and Mother works at Arcola Lake Elementary School... also considered Florida State, Miami, Houston and Pittsburgh... majoring in sports management.

#10 Murriel Page

6-2 * Forward/Center * Tri-Captain

Univ. of Florida (1994-98) * Louin, Miss. * Bay Springs HS

Murriel (MUR-ee-el) Page was named first team All-American by Kodak, Women's Basketball Journal, Women's Basketball News Service, The Sporting News and U.S. Basketball Writers Association & second team by Associated Press... earned first team All-Southeastern Conference for the second consecutive year, and was one of three players who was a unanimous selection on the 1998 squad (with Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw & Alabama's Dominique Canty)... was a finalist for the 1998 Naismith Player of the Year... finalist for the 1998 Wade Trophy... among vote getters for the 1998 AP National Player of the Year... one of six finalists for the Honda Award for Basketball, the first-ever Lady Gator to reach this stage of the award... her 12.6 rebound average per game during her senior year ranked No. 2 nationally (behind Howard's Alicia Hill, 12.8 rpg)... participated in the inaugural WBCA Honda Senior All-Star Challenge game... frequently called "LA" by teammates (her full name is La Murriel)... unselfish player with the ability to find the open teammate... first down the floor on fast breaks... one of the quicker post players in the country... relished the role of the rebounder, passer, high-post shooter or whatever was needed... aside from scoring and rebounding, Page contributed the intangibles, firing the team up emotionally after a made basket or solid defense play... was the third overall pick in the WNBA draft, selected by the Washington Mystics on April 29, 1998.

Also worth noting...

Page concluded her career with numbers of 1,915 points and 1,251 rebounds... she ranked No. 1 at UF for career double-doubles (65), No. 1 for games played (128), No. 2 all-time at UF for rebounding, No. 2 at UF for scoring and No. 2 at UF for career field goal percentage (55.0%)... No. 6 all-time in SEC history for rebounding, just 21 behind the 1,272 by Vanderbilt's Wendy Scholtens... had 103 double-figure scoring games & 67 double-figure rebounding games... UF was 92-36 during her four-year career, won at least 21 games each of those seasons, reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA twice, the NCAA Elite Eight once and earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament every year... signed a contract to play pro basketball with the WNBA on April 22.

As a Senior (1997-98)

UF's All-American continued the Lady Gator tradition of outstanding post players... led UF with 23 points in the NCAA second round win over Virginia Tech... named first team All-American by Kodak, The Sporting News, Women's Basketball Journal, Women's Basketball News Service and by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association... one of three players selected unanimously by the league coaches as a first team All-SEC performer... recorded 27 double-doubles this season, the top total in the nation, according to an unofficial poll conducted by Shawn Robinson of the Mid-American Conference... broke Quientella Bonner's 17-year-old record of 58 career double-doubles when she tallied 19 points with 11 rebounds versus Ole Miss (Feb. 8)... set UF's record for double-doubles in a season (old record was 21) and consecutive double-doubles (was 10)... ranked among the top three in scoring (3rd), rebounding (1st) and field goal percentage (2nd) in the SEC standings... averaged four more rebounds per game than the next best individual rebounder in the SEC!... led the SEC in rebounding for the second straight year and became only the third player in league history to claim a pair of rebounding titles (Vanderbilt's Wendy Scholtens led the conference from 1989-91 and Kentucky's

Valerie Still from 1980-82)... had the finest statistical season of any senior in the history of Lady Gator Basketball (previous scoring average for a senior was 18.9 ppg by Merlalkia Jones & rebound avg. was 10.3 by Quientella Bonner)... sixth leading vote-getter for the Naismith Player of the Year... two-time SEC Player of the Week (Jan. 19 & Feb. 2)... snagged a career-high 22 rebounds against South Carolina (Jan. 17), when she also tallied 19 points... the 19 rebounds she had against Arkansas (Feb. 5) was the same number of rebounds collected by the entire Lady Razorback team... collected her 1,000th career rebound with 7:35 remaining in the game versus Hampton (Dec. 30), becoming only the third Lady Gator to top the 1,000 plateau for both points and rebounds... started her 100th career game at Vanderbilt (Feb. 1)... snared a career-high 22 rebounds in the win over South Carolina (Jan. 17)... scored UF's first 16 points of the game in the win over Texas (Nov. 25), when she also grabbed a then-career high 20 rebounds... voted MVP of the State Farm Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic, leading UF to the 68-48 win over No. 5 North Carolina... named MVP of the State Farm Classic (Dec. 29) and MVP of the Dial Classic/Florida Four (Nov. 21)...

Summer 1997

Led the U.S. Jones Cup team to a silver medal in Taiwan, averaging a team-high 14.7 points & 6.6 rebound per game, while connecting on 90.6% (29-32) from the free throw line... invited to tryout in September for the U.S. World Championship team... remained in Gainesville before traveling to international competition.

As a Junior (1996-97)

Earned honorable mention all-America honors by the Associated Press & by *Basketball Times*... named first team All-Southeastern Conference by coaches & second team All-SEC by media... only SEC player to *average* a double-double... sizzled in the NCAA Championship, averaging 18.8 points and 11.8 rebounds while shooting 62.3-percent from the floor during the four-game span... led the league in rebounding (10.3 pg), while ranking fourth in field goal percentage (54.3%) and 11th in scoring (15.8 pg)... led UF with 17 double-doubles... tied her career-high of 35 points on 14-of-18 shooting in the NCAA second round game versus Southern Cal, while grabbing 16 rebounds... named to Cathy Andruzzi's All-Blue Collar team... scored a then-career-high 35 points with 13 rebounds against Alabama (Feb. 16)... carried the load inside in the victory at Ole Miss, with 13 points and 11 rebounds... one-half of Florida's touted "Twin Towers" with senior DeLisha Milton... scored eight of UF's 15 overtime points in the win at Arkansas (Feb. 2)... also in the overtime, she topped the 303 point mark for the season — her scoring then surpassed the total population of her hometown of Louin, Miss. (how many players have done that in a season?) ... one of three Gators to score in every game... became the 11th Lady Gator to reach the 1,000-career point mark with her sixth of 14 points vs. Auburn... named to the all-tournament team in four of the five events UF played, including MVP honors of the SWT Classic.

Murriel Page (continued)

As a Sophomore (1995-96)

Earned second team All-SEC honors... among vote-getters for the *Associated Press* National Player of the Year... averaged 16.9 points and 11.3 rebounds over the final 10 games... led Lady Gators in rebounding and field goal percentage... SEC all-games rankings included rebounding (tied-third) and field goal percentage (11th)... one of three players to start every game... had a phenomenal SEC Tournament, averaging a team-leading 16.7 points and 11.3 rebounds during the three games which included a pair of double-doubles: 23 points & 13 rebounds vs. South Carolina and 17 points & 17 rebounds vs. No. 4 Tennessee... played all 40 minutes against Rutgers and Alabama... earned SEC Player of the Week honors (Feb. 12) after scoring 19 points with a career-high 18 rebounds in the upset win over No. 17 Ole Miss... developed almost "Rodman-like" rebounding skills during the second-half of the season when she compiled seven consecutive double-figure rebounding games... contributed a career-high 28 points with 17 rebounds vs. Central Florida (Jan. 9)... wrapped up the regular season with a 27-point performance at Florida State (Feb. 26) on 12-of-18 shooting... recognized as the MVP of the Rutgers' Brother International Holiday Tournament (Dec. 10)... named to the All-Tournament team of the Lady Gator Classic (Dec. 30)... led team with 14 double-doubles.

As a Freshman (1994-95)

1995 SEC All-Freshman selection... saw action in all 33 games with 16 starts... averaged 10.6 ppg. and 7.2 rpg... second on the team in rebounding and fourth in scoring... scored in double-figures 18 times, including three games of 20 or more... six double-doubles... led the team in rebounding in 11 games and scoring in three games... improved career-high rebound mark seven times during initial season... finished 10th in the conference in rebounding while posting two of the top-10 individual game rebounding performances in the SEC... shot 61.4% from the field,

the second-best mark in school history, a percentage that would rank among the top-15 in the nation but failed to qualify for the minimum NCAA standard (5 FGM per game) by 14 total field goals... mark of 59.8% from the field in SEC play ranked second in the conference... celebrated SEC All-Freshman selection with a double-double in the first round of the SEC Tournament, recording 14 points and a career-high 17 rebounds, the third-best rebounding performance of the year in SEC play... career-high 24-point effort in starting role at Arkansas in full 40 minutes of action... earned the Most Improved Award at the team awards banquet.

High School

Averaged 21.8 ppg and 14.7 rpg during senior year at Bay Springs High School before suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament and cartilage damage in left knee, which ended her season... led team to a 14-2 record before her injury, while the team dropped 12 of the final 14 games without her presence... *Street & Smith's* Sixth Team All-America selection... *Orlando Sentinel* All-Southern Team member... member of *Clarion Ledger* Dandy Dozen in both 1993 and 1994... established three career school records: defensive rebounds (825), offensive rebounds (664) and total rebounds (1,489)... led team to back-to-back state championships in 1991-92... coached by R.E. Lopez... won the state high jump championship twice (1992-93) and the state long jump title in 1993.

Personal

Full name is La Murriel Page... daughter of Darlene Holder... born September 18, 1975, in Laurel, Miss... two younger siblings, LaWanda and Bobby... one of three Lady Gators from the state of Mississippi, in addition to head coach Carol Ross... voted most popular and most athletic in high school... future ambitions include professional basketball... majoring in sports management and plans to graduate in December of 1998.

Murriel Page (continued)

Page in the UF Record Book...

Career

1st	Double-doubles (65)
1st	Free Throws attempted (543)
1st	Games played (128)
2nd	Scoring (1,915)
2nd	Rebounds (1,251)
2nd	Field Goal percentage (55.0%)
2nd	Free Throws made (334)
2nd	Games started (111)
4th	Rebound average (9.8)
4th	Field Goals made (790)
4th	Field Goals attempted (1,437)
6th	Blocks (55)
7th	Scoring average (15.0)

Season Records

1st	Rebounds (402 in 1998)
1st	Defensive rebounds (271 in 1998)
1st	Double-Doubles (27 in 1998)
2nd	Minutes played (1,120 in 1998)
2nd	Field Goals made (253 in 1998)
2nd	Field Goal percentage (.614 in 1995)
3rd	Scoring (612 in 1998)
3rd	Free Throws made (105 in 1998)
3rd	Minutes played (1035 in 1997)
4th	Free Throws attempted (156 in 1998)
4th	Scoring average (19.1 in 1998)
4th	Field Goal Percentage (.571 in 1998)
5th	Rebound average (12.6 in 1998)
5th	Field Goals attempted (443 in 1998)
5th	Scoring (522 in 1997)
6th	Rebounds (339 in 1997)
7th	Free Throws made (94 in 1997)
7th	Field goals made (214 in 1997)
8th	Free Throws attempted (140 in 1996)
9th	Rebound average (10.3 in 1997)

Game Records

7th	Points (35, twice in 1997)
t-8th	Free Throws (11 vs. Alabama, 2-16-97)
8th	Free Throws attempted (14 vs. Alabama, 2-16-97)

Miscellaneous

1st	Consecutive double-doubles (13 in 1998)
4th	Consecutive double-doubles (8 in 1998)

"Page is one of the best, if not the best, player that we will face this year."
— Texas head coach Jody Conradt, Nov. 25, 1997

"Page is awesome." — Texas center Angela Jackson, Nov. 25, 1997

"She played like she always does, like an All-American. She is very strong. We knew that we would have to double and triple team her to do well. She is an outstanding player." — Hampton coach Patricia Bibbs, 12/30/97

"Murriel Page is one of the finest players to have ever played in the Southeastern Conference." — WNBA Houston Comets coach Van Chancellor, 1/4/98

"Everyone has just come to expect Murriel to record a double-double every time she takes the floor. She's spoiled us. She makes something very extraordinary seem ordinary. She's one of the best I've ever seen." — Florida head coach Carol Ross, Feb. 1998

"I don't know of a better post player in the country. You're not going to stop her." — Mississippi coach Ron Aldy, Feb. 8, 1998

"She is without a doubt the best rebounder in the country." — National television analyst Beth Mowins, March 1998

1997-98 Honors & Milestones:

- *First team All-American, Kodak
- *First team All-American, The Sporting News
- *First team All-American, U.S. Basketball Writers Association
- *First team All-American, Women's Basketball News Service
- *First team All-American, Basketball News
- *Second team All-American, Associated Press
- *Finalist for the 1998 Honda Award for Basketball
- *Finalist for the 1998 Naismith Player of the Year
- *SEC All-Tournament team
- *First team All-SEC (by coaches - unanimous selection)
- *Fourth Lady Gator to top 1,000 mark for both points & rebounds
- *SEC Player of the Week (2/2/98)
- *SEC Player of the Week (1/19/98)
- *United Cash Advance Player of the Game (vs. Vanderbilt, 2/1/98)
- *MVP of State Farm Classic (Florida), 12/29/97
- *State Farm Tip-Off Classic Player of the Game (vs. N. Carolina, 11/23/97)
- *MVP of Dial Classic/Florida Four (Florida), 11/21/97
- *(TIED) Second most rebounds ever grabbed by a Texas opponent (20 rebounds on Nov. 25)

#12 Tiffany Travis

5-10 * Sophomore * Guard/Forward

Gulfport, Mississippi * Harrison High School

Tiffany Travis brought a complete offensive package to the Lady Gator lineup... impacts a game with instant offense... loves to create her own shot and penetrate from the corner... displays great body control... one of two left-handed players on the team, the other being Bea Jacobs... sports a team-best 30-inch vertical leap... spent the summer in Gainesville taking classes and working out... one of three current Lady Gators from the state of Mississippi.

As a Sophomore (1997-98)

UF's second leading scorer (14.3 ppg) and rebounder (5.9 rpg) through the first 16 games this season before tearing the ACL in her right knee during the game at Auburn (Jan. 14), which forced her to miss the remainder of the season... she suffered the injury after converting a slashing layup with 9:34 remaining in the first half, playing just four minutes and scoring four points... the 5-10 sophomore from Gulfport, Miss., one of the quickest players on the team, contributed 14.3 points and 5.9 rebounds per outing while playing just 22.1 minutes per game... instant offense!... tallied a combined 82 points (20.5 ppg) in 84 minutes (21.0 minutes per game) over the last four games prior to her injury... underwent reconstructive surgery on Jan. 26th... led the team in scoring in five games and was the leading rebounder in two games... 12 double-figure scoring games, including four 20-plus point games... started the first nine games of the season but returned from the Christmas break with bronchitis and saw limited action in the next three games, coming off the bench until her season-ending injury... tallied her first career double-double (14 pts & 11 reb) versus North Carolina (Nov. 23)... named to the Dial Classic/ Florida Four All-Tournament team (Nov. 21) after totaling 33 points with 13 rebounds and six assists in a pair wins... doubled her scoring average from her freshman year and almost tripled her rebound production.

As a Freshman (1996-97)

Played in all 33 games, earning three starts... first guard off the bench.. scored in all but two games this season, including the two points she contributed in the two minutes played at Memphis... contributed 18 points on 8-of-9 shooting in the NCAA first round win over Florida International... sparked UF with 12 points in 13 minutes of action against Vanderbilt in the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament... contributed a combined 18 points in just 23 minutes of work in the pair of upset wins over Tennessee & Vanderbilt... was fouled while connecting on a shot 12 times this season (three vs. Boise State), completing the three-point play in nine of those... the top free throw shooter on the team and takes great pride in her performance at the line... would rank among SEC free throw leaders if she had more attempts... continued UF's tradition of freshmen cracking the starting lineup, getting the call in three games this season... scored a career-high 22 points with eight rebounds in 21 minutes of work at Boise State... named to the all-tournament team of the Boise State Coca-Cola Holiday Classic... began the season wearing jersey #2, however, NCAA basketball players cannot wear Nos. 1 or 2, so she wore #20 for four games until #12 arrived.

Prior to Florida

Received national recognition by *USA Today*, which named Travis the Mississippi Player of the Year... guided Harrison Central High School to a 28-3 record, which included its second straight Class 5A state title and claimed the top ranking in the final state poll... the state's second all-time leading scorer with 3,106 points, a mark just 33 points shy of the all-time mark set by Philis Hayes... contributed 33 points and 10 rebounds for the Red Rebels in the state title game against Warren Central in the 73-47 victory... averaged 28.6 points, 12.3 rebounds and 3.9 steals her senior year... enjoyed all-state honors for three seasons, including first-team notice as a senior and second-team recognition as a junior when she averaged 19.3 points per game... the *Street & Smith* Honorable Mention All-American was the *Sun Herald's* 1995 & '96 Player of the Year, as well as the *Clarion Ledger's* top performer... honored as Ms. Mississippi Basketball for her outstanding senior season and named to the Mississippi Dandy Dozen... scored 45 in a district playoff game... played against some of the nation's finest young talent in the 1994 Pickerington (Ohio) High School Tournament, which included Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw and Connecticut's Tammy Arnold... also played softball and ran track at HCHS... Carried a 3.7 grade point average... also considered Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana Tech in the recruiting process... coached by Dean Shaw, George Rosetti and Darlene Burney.

Personal

Full name is Tiffany Latrice Travis... daughter of Burnetta and Gordon Travis... born on March 20, 1978, in Picayune, Miss... has one older sister, Kasondra, and one younger sister, Syrenthia, as well as a niece, Rashonda... sister Kasondra played junior college ball... most exciting moment she remembers was bringing home her niece from the hospital... admires her mother "because she's a loving person who not only cares for herself, but for others as well"... dreams of representing the U.S. basketball team at the 2000 Olympic Games and playing professionally... Preparing for a career in pharmaceutical science... majoring in pharmacy.

#13 Erin O'Neil

6-3 * Sophomore * Center

Winnipeg, Manitoba * Glenlawn Collegiate Institute

Erin O'Neil provided strength and agility to the Lady Gators inside game... battled All-Americans DeLisha Milton and Murriel Page every day in practice as a rookie... a very determined player with a strong work ethic... perfectionist on and off the court ... returned home for the summer and competed for Manitoba's Junior Women's Provincial Team in the Canada Games ... first-ever Canadian on the Lady Gator roster.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

Played in two games... 9.5 minutes, 0.5 points, 1.0 rebounds

As a Sophomore (1997-98)

Erin O'Neil was a valuable contributor in the paint for UF, especially during the last few games of the season... saw action in 28 games... scored in six of the last nine games, including a career-high 12 points at Alabama (Feb. 14), which shared for team-high honors... played a key 12 minutes during the SEC Quarterfinal win against Arkansas (Feb. 27)... tallied a her first career double-figure scoring effort, contributing 10 points on 5-of-6 shooting during a career-high 25 minutes against Ole Miss (Feb. 8)... hit a key basket in the 65-61 win at Auburn, when she connected on an 11-footer during the second half during an 8-0 run... grabbed a career-high five rebounds versus Hampton (Dec. 30)... named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

As a Freshman (1996-97)

Saw action in 14 games... scored the first points of her career against North Texas (Dec. 6), connecting on all four trips to the free throw line... hit her first field goal vs. St. Bonaventure, going 2-for-2 from the floor... contributed nine solid minutes in the win at Kentucky (Feb. 13), where she scored two points and snared four rebounds with two steals... troubled during the preseason with a stress reaction in her right fibula and saw limited playing time as a result.

Prior to Florida

O'Neil excelled in several sports, especially basketball, volleyball and rowing... on the hardcourt, she recorded 1,277 career points during three years at Glenlawn Collegiate Institute, while averaging

9.1 rebounds and 7.8 assists per game... there are 10 provinces that comprise Canada and O'Neil guided the Lions to the 4A Manitoba Provincial Championship as a senior, when she contributed 24 points, 13 rebounds and three blocks in the title game... named Most Valuable Player of the prestigious five-member All-Manitoba Province team, equivalent to an all-state team in the U.S.... led the Lions with 12.7 points and 8.4 rebounds per game as a senior, also tallying 57 blocks, 78 assists with 337 deflections... guided Glenlawn to the 3A Provincial title as a junior when she was ranked sixth in the *Winnipeg Sun's* Top 10 girls listings... voted top grade 10 player in Province by Manitoba Coaches Association, when she was also a 3A Provincial All-Star and a Juvenile Team Member... on the volleyball court, the Provincial All-Star captained the Lions to the 4A Provincial Finals... winner of the 1995-96 Time Out Hustle Award... starter on the 3A Provincial championship team her junior year... as a rower, O'Neil captured the gold medal in the women's quad at the 1995 Western Canada Summer Games... a member of the Provincial rowing team since 1991, O'Neil was the 1995 Manitoba indoor rowing champion in the Under 16 division... at the 1994 Canada Cup Rowing National Championships, O'Neil captured the silver medal in the junior women's quad and the bronze in the junior women's double... approached by several schools for her volleyball abilities, but chose to focus on basketball... also played rugby... basketball coach was her father Jim O'Neil.

Personal

Full name is Erin Kathleen O'Neil... daughter of James and Deborah O'Neil... born on July 31, 1978, in Winnipeg, Manitoba... has one younger brother, Michael... views Canadian Olympic rower Silken Laumann as a role model... on the court she admires the Chicago Bulls' Dennis Rodman, "because he works extremely hard and is his own person"... O'Neil wears a nose ring off the court... contemplating a career as a marine biologist... majoring in biology.

#15 Mahogany Hudson

5-6 * Point Guard * Team Tri-Captain

Univ. of Florida (1994-98) * Gainesville, Ga. * Gainesville HS

Mahogany Hudson signed with the WNBA on April 14... is one of the nation's top, yet unknown, point guards... starting point guard in the inaugural WBCA Honda Senior All-Star Challenge game... had the quickest first step on the team... Nicknamed "Mo"... defends from baseline to baseline... mentor to freshman Tombi Bell... remained in Gainesville during the summer along with several of her teammates... tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee Aug. 27 during preseason conditioning activities and underwent surgery on Sept. 8.

Also worth noting:

Served as team co- or tri-captain for three seasons... 24 double-figure scoring games in career... in the UF record books, Hudson ranks No. 2 for assists (497), No. 4 steals (212) & No. 5 games played (119)... led the SEC in assists her junior year... UF was 92-36 during her four-year career, won at least 21 games each of those seasons, reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA twice ('97 & '98), the NCAA Elite Eight once ('97) and earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament every year.

As a Senior (1997-98)

"Mo" saw her first game action of the season on Dec. 28 versus Rhode Island, 111 days after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery... tore the ACL in her left knee on Aug. 27 and had surgery on Sept. 8... had her finest game since returning to the court at Vanderbilt (Feb. 1), collecting her first career double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds in 38 minutes of action... instrumental in Florida's SEC Quarterfinal win over Arkansas (Feb. 28), when she played 35 minutes, scored 11 points, snared four rebounds and dished three assists, while limiting her counterpart Christy Smith to just one field goal on the night which came with 1:19 remaining in the game... was credited by Arkansas coach Gary Blair as the key to UF's 80-69 victory over the Lady Razorbacks (Feb. 5): "You can't let Hudson go off," Blair said. "It isn't Hudson's 10 points; she also got six assists. That's 16 points. She was also probably responsible for about 25 points. That's a kid stepping up..." collided with the basket standard just 54 seconds into the game at Kentucky (Jan. 28) and missed the remainder of the game with a mild concussion... came off the bench for the first three games after her return and has started every game since... collected a game-high four steals in just 12 minutes in her season debut against Rhode Island and followed that up with a game-high six assists the following evening against Duke in the championship game of the State Farm Classic... moved into second place all-time in the UF record books for assists... is fourth all-time at UF for steals... led the SEC in assists last season... four double-figure scoring games.

As a Junior (1996-97)

Co-captain with DeLisha Milton... first Lady Gator to lead the SEC in assists (5.2 per game - 170 total) since Camille Ratledge in 1990... tied for sixth in steals (2.1 per game) in SEC chart... collected 28 assists with 14 turnovers during the four-game span in NCAA Championship... also contributed 8.8 points, 7.0 assists and 5.0 rebounds during the postseason... had a season-high 18 points with five steals in the regular season finale at Mississippi State... back-to-back-to-back games with eight assists vs. Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Georgia... played big down the stretch in the eight point win at Ole Miss (Feb. 8), converting all six free throw attempts and stole one pass in the final minute, en route to eight points with nine rebounds and three assists... her driving layup against Tennessee (Jan. 21) sparked UF's 9-0 run to open the game and set the tone for the upset victory... her streak of 15 consecutive free throws came to end with her third attempt against Alabama (Feb. 16)... third on the team in scoring in league action, averaging 8.8 points, with 4.0 rebounds and 5.5 assists... one of three players to score in every game this season... her 15 points led a balanced

scoring attack in the victory over North Texas (Dec. 6)...career-high 11 assists vs. Kansas State (Dec. 30)... named to the Dial Classic/Florida Four Challenge All-Tournament team (Nov. 23)... hit the first 3-pointer of her career at Boise State, when she launched an "NBA" trey at the halftime buzzer... 10 double-figure scoring games.

As a Sophomore (1995-96)

Gained more confidence running the offense with each game and closed the season averaging 12.3 points, 5.3 assists, 4.1 rebounds and three steals over the last seven games... produced three outstanding performances at the SEC Tournament, where she played 117 of a possible 120 minutes, sitting down only due to foul trouble in the semis versus Tennessee... her running jumper with one minute remaining in the first half of the SEC quarterfinal game versus 10th-ranked Vanderbilt gave UF a 42-41 lead, a lead it never relinquished... one of three players to start every game (with Dana Smith and Murriel Page)... led the team playing five complete games ... fifth in the SEC all-games standings for assists (4.6 apg) and tied for seventh in steals (2.1 spg)...had a 13-point, eight-assist performance at second-ranked Georgia, located 15 minutes from her hometown ... assumed co-captain duties with DeLisha Milton... netted a career-high 22 points in the season-opening thriller against Appalachian State and went on to garner MVP honors at the State Farm Classic in Bozeman, Mont., the next evening... recognized as the team's Most Improved Player... contributed 10 double-figure scoring efforts, including four straight to end the year.

As a Freshman (1994-95)

Saw action in all 33 games with 20 consecutive starts during the season... averaged 2.4 ppg., 2.2 rpg. and 3.2 apg... tied for team-high assists with Takilya Davis with 106... assist-to-turnover ratio of 1.7-1... averaged 4.2 assists per game in final 22 games after dishing out only 13 assists in first 11 games... topped the 100 assist mark, becoming the first freshman since Amanda Butler dished 154 in 1991 to do so... led the team with game-high assist honors in 12 games... ranked fifth in the SEC in league games with 4.2 assists per game... recorded a career-high nine assists twice during the season... clutch performer with 13-of-18 mark from the free throw line in the final three minutes of games... dished out career-high nine assists and grabbed career-high five steals versus South Florida... recorded a season-high 10 points while dishing out five assists without a turnover and hit six consecutive free throws in the last 45 seconds to seal the victory versus then-No. 11 Alabama.

High School & AAU

Averaged 20.3 points, 5.2 rebounds, 6.2 steals and 6.2 assists per game during her senior campaign at Gainesville High School... led Red Elephants to the Georgia Class 2A state championship with a 30-0 record, as well as Sub-Region and Region Championship titles... set both the season and career school records for steals and assists... played in the Georgia/Tennessee All-Star game... 1994 Miss Georgia selection... *Street & Smith's* Honorable Mention All-America selection... member of the *Orlando Sentinel's* Dixie Dozen and named *The Times* Player of the Year... also played on the Georgia Peaches, an AAU team coached by Donnie Hampton, with Florida teammate DeLisha Milton... coached by Manson Hill... also considered Auburn, Georgia, Mississippi State, Tennessee Tech and Middle Tennessee during recruiting process.

Personal

Full name is Mahogany Hudson... daughter of Ellis Hudson and Evelyn Rucker... born on January 8, 1976, in Gainesville, Ga... a 1994 graduate of Gainesville (Ga.) High School... participated in Interact and DARE while in high school... four younger siblings: Nathan, Terry, Allyson and Spencer... majoring in sports administration.

#21 Misty Knight

6-1 * Freshman * Forward

Savannah, Georgia * Beach High School

Misty Knight brings versatility to the Lady Gator lineup... has 3-point range... won't shy away from contact in the paint... got a jump on academic life at Florida by taking a couple of summer classes during the 1997 Summer B session.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

Played in two games... averaged 3.5 minutes, 0 points

As a Freshman (1997-98)

Misty Knight was hampered by a stress fracture in her right foot, which limited her practice time early in the season... worked back into full practice in mid-January... saw action in six games this year... played just two minutes this season prior to February... scored her first collegiate points against Ole Miss (Feb. 8), when she hit a field goal and grabbed a pair of rebounds in five minutes of action... connected on her first 3-point field goal in the win over Central Florida (Feb. 10), playing nine minutes...

Prior to Florida

Graduated from Beach High School in 1997... coached by Ronald Booker... sat out 17 games her senior year due to a stress fracture in her right foot, but played 10 games, returning for the postseason and averaging 16 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks while helping the Lady Bulldogs capture the Region championship... team won four Sub-Region titles and three Region 3-AAAA crowns during her tenure... as a junior, contributed 20 ppg, 13 rpg and three blocks per game en route to earning All-State honors... during sophomore

season, tallied 16 ppg, 12 rpg and two blocks per game as BHS garnered the Sub-Region title... earned a starting spot as a freshman, averaging eight points per outing... signed her letter of intent to play at Florida on Nov. 13, 1996 at 10:20 a.m... spent three seasons as a middle blocker on the volleyball team, where she was coached by Deborah Clarke, Terrel Cummings and Ilene Torrence; and was named the team's best defensive player.

Personal

Full name is Misty Vanessa Knight... daughter of Harvey Knight, Jr., and Jerrie Huewitt... born on December 22, 1978, in Savannah, Ga... has one older brother, Harvey Knight, III... also considered Houston and UNC-Charlotte... contemplating a career as a sports agent... majoring in sports management.

#23 Dana Smith

5-8 * Guard * Tri-Captain

Univ. of Florida (1994-98) * St. Cloud, Florida * St. Cloud HS

Dana Smith is a very intelligent player who is fundamentally sound (her father, Danny, was her high school coach)... split time during the summer between Gainesville and her home in Bartow, Fla., located two and a half hours from campus... a gutsy defender who led the team in charges taken... was second all-time in 3-point field goals at UF, trailing teammate Talatha Bingham... graduated from St. Cloud High School as Florida's all-time prep scorer (male or female), and held the record until current Lady Gator sophomore Tonya Washington surpassed the mark.

Also worth noting... records upon graduation...:

In UF's all-time record book, Smith ranked No. 1 three-point FG pct. (32.6%), No. 2 three-pointers (142), No. 2 three pointers attempted (435), tied-No. 2 games played (125), No. 5 assists (368) & No. 7 steals (183)... UF was 92-36 during her four-year career, won at least 21 games each of those seasons, reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA twice, the NCAA Elite Eight once and earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament every year.

As a Senior (1997-98)

Dana Smith shifted over from her starting 2-guard position to the point guard spot to open the season for Mo Hudson, who was sidelined during the preseason after tearing her ACL... has nearly a 2-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio this season... started her 100th career game at Alabama (Feb. 14), when she also topped the 800-point mark for her career... hit for a season-high 16 points in 28 minutes of work versus Ole Miss (Feb. 8), as she connected on a season-high four 3-pointers... moved into sixth place all-time in the UF record books for assists... dished a career-high 11 assists versus Texas (Nov. 25)... second all-time at UF for 3-point field goals (behind current teammate Talatha Bingham)... tallied second career double-double with 12 points and 12 assists versus South Carolina (Jan. 17)... started 66 consecutive games until the Nov. 21 meeting against Miami, when, by mistake, Tombi Bell was checked in as a starter... Smith entered the game at the first dead ball, but the streak had ended... had six double-figure scoring games... got engaged to long-time boyfriend and former Lady Gator manager Eric Hawkes during the Christmas Break.

As a Junior (1996-97)

Starter in all 33 games, averaging 36.2 minutes... sizzled during the NCAA Championships, tallying 12.5 points and 3.8 assists, while shooting 3-pointers at a 47.8-percent clip (11-of-23) during the four games... turned in a remarkable performance in the SEC Tournament semifinal upset over No. 6 Alabama, with 13 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and four steals in 40 minutes of work... led UF in its NCAA first round win, tying a career-high with 21 points, adding four assists and four steals... hit a career-best five 3-pointers in the NCAA win over Southern Cal... established a season record for minutes played (1,193), surpassing the 1,020 minutes logged by Merlakia Jones in 1995... recorded the first double-double of her career with a 13 point-12 rebound effort versus Tennessee (Jan. 21)... hit a then-career-high 21 points in the championship game of the SWT Classic, leading UF to the title... played at least 40 minutes in 13 games during her career, including nine this year... connected on her second trey of the night at Arkansas when UF led by four in overtime which took the air out of UA's sail and essentially put the game out of reach... her father, Danny, coached her brother Darek and his Bartow HS football team to a 14-13 upset of the No. 1 team in the country in the state title game Dec. 21.

As a Sophomore (1995-96)

Florida's fourth-leading scorer, recording 7.6 points per outing... logged a team-high 1008 minutes, 12 shy of the Lady Gator all-time mark... played every minute in five different games, averaging a team-best 33.6 minutes... recorded at least one three-point bucket in 24 of the 30 outings... showed great courage in the game at

second-ranked Georgia (Feb. 20), when she played 30 minutes and scored 10 points with five rebounds after suffering from an abscessed tooth early that morning... one of three players to start all 30 games... scored in all but one game (Jan. 1 at Tennessee)... netted a career-high 16 points against Rutgers (Dec. 10) in the championship game of Rutgers' Brothers International Holiday Tournament and contributed 12 points in the first tourney game versus Arkansas State... 10 double-figure scoring games... honored with the team's Mary Myers Elliot Unsung Gator Award.

As a Freshman (1994-95)

Saw action in 30 games with 13 starts... averaged 19.1 minutes as the sixth-leading scorer on the team at 4.9 ppg... third on the team in assists with 58 (1.9 pg.)... starter in first 11 games and both NCAA Tournament games at point guard... missed three consecutive games, beginning with Kentucky as a result of injury (back strain) suffered in a car accident the morning of the Kentucky game... top three-point threat for Florida with a 44.3% mark from beyond the three-point arc, the second-best season mark in school history... hit higher percentage from three-point area than overall field goal percentage (38.9)... named to the Dial Soap Florida Challenge all-tournament team... only the second UF freshman to earn an all-tournament selection during her freshman season (Merlakia Jones, 1991 Lady Gator Classic)... scored 10 or more points three times... posted a season-high 16 points against Lynn... dished out a season-high seven assists versus Southern Miss.

High School and AAU

Graduated from St. Cloud High School as Florida's all-time prep scorer (male or female) with 3,469 points and ranked eighth all-time on the national high school list... first female to score over 3,000 points in Florida prep history... averaged 24.8 points, 5.2 rebounds, 7.5 assists and 6.5 steals over four-year varsity career... led SCHS to the Class 4A State Championship... earned MVP honors in the Class 4A State Tournament and Florida State AAU Tournament four times... received national recognition in the form of All-America selection from five organizations including *Street & Smith's*, Dick Vitale's Top 20 Recruits in the Nation and *USA Today*... finished career ranked among the top-10 nationally in nine categories: points (8th), career free throw attempts (1,018, 2nd), career free throws made (751, 2nd), career assists (1,056, 4th), free-throw attempts in a season (330, 4th), free-throw attempts per game in a season (8.91, 9th), free throws made in a season (260, 3rd), free-throws made per game in a season (7.02, 6th) and assists (351, 6th)... scored 10 or more points in 138 of 140 games, 20 or more in 103 games, 30 or more in 42 games, 40 or more in nine games and 50 or more once... Miss Florida Basketball runner-up to Tracy Reid... four-time all-state, all-county and all-conference selection... named to the *Orlando Sentinel* All-Southern Team... *Osceola News-Gazette* Player of the Year... guided SCHS to four Final Four appearances... squad also won four sectional, regional, district, conference and county championships over career for a 127-13 overall record... coached by her father, Danny Rea Smith.

Personal

Full name is Dana Jacquelin Smith... daughter of Danny and Bonnie Smith... born on August 9, 1975, in Peoria, Ill... one younger brother, Darek... earned numerous academic honors including Orlando Downtown Athletic Club Scholar/Athlete of the Year and Orlando Magic/Texaco Scholar Athlete... Vice President of the National Honor Society and President of Mu Alpha Theta (math club)... named St. Cloud High Outstanding Senior... earned all-county honors in volleyball three times (did not compete in 1994) and softball four times... appeared in *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in the Crowd in 1987 for softball pitching accolades... says her autobiography would be titled "Smith and Wesson"... majoring in sports management.

#24 Kelly Freeman

6-1 * Sophomore * Guard/Forward

Brentwood, Tenn. * Brentwood High School

Kelly Freeman's versatility, knowledge of the game and ability to run the floor make her a key member of the Lady Gator squad... can play on the perimeter or in the paint... extremely fundamentally sound player... remained in Gainesville during the summer to take some classes, one of which was an English class that required her to develop her own Internet site and post her assignments on the site... shares the same birthdate, Jan. 29, with teammate and roommate Tamara Stocks.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

Played in two games... averaged 9.0 minutes, 4.0 points, 0 rebounds, 0.5 assists, 4-for-4 free throws

As a Sophomore (1997-98)

Kelly Freeman played the '3' and '4' positions during the season... had the top free throw percentage on the team (88.0%, 22-of-25)... ended the season by successfully converting her last 14 free throws... broke the tip of her left thumb during practice in mid-January... tallied her first career double-figure scoring game at Georgetown (Dec. 7), when she contributed 13 points in 24 minutes during the 74-63 win... saw action in 29 games - all but three this season: the season opener versus Florida State (Nov. 20) and against Mississippi (Feb. 8), when she was suffering with an upper respiratory infection and the season finale versus Duke (March 21)... averaged 10.4 minutes off the bench.

As a Freshman (1996-97)

The second post off the bench, behind senior Jackie Wright... had a solid nine-minute performance in the SEC Tournament semifinal upset over Alabama, when she guarded Dominique Canty for three straight possessions and held her scoreless, while collecting a pair of steals and completed a transition layup at the 8:46 mark of the second half to give UF a 66-62 lead... her Mom, Dad and brothers attend several road games... saw action in all but three games (Alabama, Auburn, Vanderbilt - was very ill versus Vandy and did not suit up)... canned the first 3-pointer of her career (collegiate or high school) against North Texas (Dec. 6) where she tallied a career-high nine points... hit a second trey versus Florida International (Mar. 15) in the first round of the NCAA Championship.

Prior to Florida

Freeman was a two-sport standout for Brentwood High School, where she was recognized as a three-time All-District 9 Class 3A performer in both basketball and volleyball... on the hardwood, she recorded 1,284 career points for a 14.2 average during her four-year career with the Bruins... also posted a career average of 6.9 rebounds, while shooting 52.4-percent from the floor... shot a school record 57% from the floor as a junior (1995), when she also contributed 18.6 points per game... led the team in scoring each of her four years... played AAU ball under Rick Insell and former Tennessee Lady Vol Tiffany Woosley... tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee on June 10, 1995, which forced her to miss her entire senior volleyball season... as a middle blocker, she dominated the net, where she established the state record for blocks in a season (244) and set the high school mark of 90 solo blocks in one season... earned first team All-State volleyball honors as a junior... guided the Bruins to the volleyball state finals in 1992, '94 and '95, while reaching the semifinals in 1993... in 1992, the volleyball team logged a state-record 61 wins versus just eight losses... basketball coach was Ronnie Seigenthaler and volleyball coach was Barbara Campbell.

Personal

Full name is Kelly Christine Freeman... daughter of Rod and Dinah Freeman... born on January 29, 1978, in Nashville, Tenn... has two younger brothers, Bobby and Richard... Mom and Dad are Vanderbilt alums... Father played basketball for the Commodores from 1969-73 and then for the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers from 1973-74, while her uncle, Greg Freeman, hooped at Alabama from 1972-75... hobbies include church, water skiing, rollerblading, drawing, camping, traveling and sleeping... sees her AAU Coach, Rick Insell, as a role model, crediting him for "helping her become the basketball player she is today"... developed her passion for the game from her father... signed her National Letter of Intent within minutes after Coach Ross extended the scholarship offer... majoring in physical therapy.

#33 Talatha Bingham

5-8 * Junior * Guard/Forward

Pearl, Mississippi * Pearl High School

Talatha (ta-LAY-tha) Bingham is one of the Lady Gators' primary three-point shooters and top defenders... returning starter at the '3-guard' position for the second straight year... is already the school's all-time 3-point field goal leader (193)... second-leading returning scorer from last year... usually defends opponent's top offensive player... remained in Gainesville during the summer along with several of her teammates to work on strength and conditioning ... squats a team-best 320 pounds.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

Started all three games... 24.7 minutes, 8.3 points, 2.7 rebounds, 7-for-11 three point FG (66.7%)... hit six 3-pointer versus Virginia Tech (March 16)...

As a Junior (1997-98)

Talatha Bingham was one of three Lady Gators who started every game this season (Page & Stocks were the others)... the team's top 3-point shooter, breaking her own school record by hitting 73 three-point field goals this season... one of three Lady Gators to score in every game (with Page & Stocks)... led the SEC for 3-point field goals per game (2.3 pg) and ranked No. 10 in the league averaging 32.3% from long range... averaged 10.5 points & 4.0 rebounds during the SEC Tournament... exploded for a career-high 24 points versus Central Florida (Feb. 10), behind a career-high seven 3-pointers... hit a 3-pointer in 11 consecutive games during the season, the fourth longest streak in school history... against UCF she attempted a school record 16 3-point field goals... tallied a then-career-high 22 points at Kentucky (Jan. 28), hitting 6-of-12 from the 3-point line, in addition to grabbing four rebounds and dishing five assists in 40 minutes of work... the team's best defender continues to draw the opponent's top offensive threat assignment... became the school's all-time 3-point leader during her sophomore season... tallied 10 double-figure scoring games.

As a Sophomore (1996-97)

Started 29 of 33 games... sizzled from beyond the arc during the NCAA Championships, connecting on 14-of-35 3-point shots during the four-game span... recorded a career-high 18 points behind a career-best six 3-pointers in the NCAA first round win over Florida International... averaged 11 points per NCAA Championship game... ranked third in the Southeastern Conference for 3-point field goals per game (2.2) and ninth for 3-pt fg percentage (32.0%)... scored in every game except the SEC Tournament quarterfinal win vs. Vanderbilt, and in the process had her streak of 43 consecutive scoring games snapped (has scored in all but two games in her career)... the following evening in the SEC semifinal upset win over Alabama, she responded with a career-high 16 points and her fourth 3-pointer of the game established a new UF single season record from behind the arc... contributed five 3-pointers against Alabama in the regular season (Feb. 16)... averaged 9.6 points, while shooting 13-of-33 (39.4%) from the 3-point arc in the last five games of the regular season... hit at least one 3-pointer in all but seven games, and canned at least one in all but 13 games during her career... streak of 26 consecutive starting assignments ended against Georgetown (Dec. 4) but rejoined the lineup three games later and started the next 13 games until coming

off the bench again at Ole Miss (Feb. 8), when she contributed a team-high 14 points... tallied 14 double-figure scoring games... named to the State Farm/Lady Gator Classic all-tournament team, the first such honor of her career.

As a Freshman (1995-96)

Her 48 3-pointers already placed her sixth on UF's chart... her 3-point goal percentage (28.9%) was 10th-highest among all Southeastern Conference shooters and best among the league's freshmen... upheld the Lady Gators tradition of freshmen starters, beginning 21 of Florida's 30 games, including the season opener against Appalachian State, until senior Crystal Parker assumed the job the following night... reemerged in the starting rotation at the Woodlands Plaza Classic in Arizona versus Virginia Tech (Dec. 20) and did not miss a start after... played all 40 minutes in the 72-61 loss to No. 2 Georgia (Jan. 25)... tallied 14 three-point buckets over a four-game span in January... had perhaps her finest outing against South Carolina (Jan. 14), where she collected the first double-double of her career with 15 points (on five three-point shots) and 12 rebounds, but more importantly was responsible for defending Shannon Johnson, the league's leading scorer, who sizzled in the first eight minutes of the game, tallying USC's first 16 points. Bingham settled, shut down Johnson for the remainder of the half and held her under her average... notched nine double-figure scoring games.

High School

USA Today Honorable Mention All-America and first team All-State honoree by *Clarion Ledger*... also named the Jackson Metro Player of the Year by *Clarion Ledger*... scored 1,604 career points at Pearl High School... averaged 19.5 ppg., 7.9 rpg, 3.4 spg. and 2.4 apg... selected to both the Mississippi-Alabama and Mississippi North-South all-star games... claimed 1995 District Championship before losing in the first round of 5A State Tournament, posting a final record of 22-13... scored 15.6 ppg. during her junior season as her team won state 5A Championship... scored a career-high 39 points versus Greenwood HS during senior season... rehabilitated from ACL knee surgery between junior and senior seasons... also played softball, soccer and volleyball... coached by the legendary Sylvia Williams.

Personal

Full name is Talatha Rochelle Bingham... daughter of Charles and Barbara Bingham... born on September 1, 1977, in Pearl, Miss... one of three Lady Gators from the state of Mississippi, in addition to head coach Carol Ross... Father played basketball at Jackson State University... student Council President and Homecoming Queen... voted into high school Hall of Fame... served as volunteer tutor for Pearl Lower Elementary... earned Certificate in Advance Biology and English II... enjoys shopping and listening to music... future ambitions include becoming a physical therapist... majoring in nursing.

#42 Candace Cunningham

6-1 * Freshman * Forward

Valparaiso, Florida * Niceville High School

Candace Cunningham brings depth to the forward position... an intelligent player... brings great work ethic and a determined attitude... got a jump on academic life at Florida by taking a couple of summer classes during the 1997 Summer B session.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

Saw action in two games... played 4 minutes, averaging 0.5 rebounds, 0 points

As a Freshman (1997-98)

Candace Cunningham has shown great court sense... blocked a shot in four consecutive games... saw action in nine games this season... hit a career-high four points in the win over Central Florida (Feb. 10)... played a total of 40 minutes and scored nine points... an invaluable member of the scout squad this year...

Prior to Florida

Cunningham starred on a Niceville High School squad that captured two consecutive District titles... coached at NHS by Edward Coleman... named the Eagles' Player of the Year twice and earned Most Improved honors... Cunningham recalls how her 10th grade team showed tremendous competitiveness and determination after enduring a mediocre regular season only to regroup and claim

the first of two District titles... holds all-time school records for most rebounds and blocked shots... played for The Panhandlers AAU team... signed her letter of intent to play at Florida on Nov. 13, 1996 at 8:00 a.m... also competed at the middle position for the volleyball team.

Personal

Full name is Candace Rochelle Cunningham... daughter of Jimmie and Janice Cunningham... born on August 21, 1979, in Lakenhath, England... has five siblings: two older brothers, Calvin and Cortney; two older sisters, Carolyn and Cynthia; and one younger sister, Chandra... her most exciting moment to date is purchasing her first car... also considered Mississippi State and Troy... contemplating a career as a sports agent or family attorney... majoring in law.

#44 Tonya Washington

5-11 * Sophomore * Forward

Paxton, Florida * Paxton High School

Tonya Washington is as smooth a player as any one in the country... a remarkable scoring talent... already sports a terrific one-on-one game and drives aggressively to the hole... fastest player on the team, sprinting the 40-yard dash in 5.13 seconds... can score at will from anywhere on the court... one of 18 children.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

Played in all three games... averaged 27.3 minutes, 17.0 points, 5.7 rebounds, 63.9 FG% (23-36), 5-for-5 in free throws.

As a Sophomore (1997-98)

Tonya Washington was the first player off the bench... played both the '3' and the '4' position... scored in every game but one (at Alabama, Feb. 14), playing just seven minutes in the loss... had 20 double-figure scoring games and three double-figure rebounding games... earned three starts in place of Tiffany Travis after the Christmas break... totaled 51 points over three games in the NCAA Tournament games, one behind senior All-American Murrell Page's total of 52... UF's second leading scorer & rebounder during the NCAA Tournament, leading the team in field goal percentage (63.9%)... averaged 14.0 points & 7.0 rebounds during the SEC Tournament... hit her first career 3-pointer at LSU (Jan. 24)... was dazzling during the final 10 minutes of the win at Florida State (Jan. 21), scoring nine points during the decisive 12-2 run, and recording UF's last 11 points to finish the game with 16 points and 11 rebounds, her first career double-double... recorded her first double-figure rebounding game on Jan. 10th, grabbing 10 at Tennessee... trailing 63-60 with 5:01 remaining versus Duke (Dec. 29), UF used stifling defense to shut down the Blue Devil offense for the remainder of the contest, while Washington scored five of her 11 points during UF's final scoring run en route to the 70-63 win... had a team & career-high five assists at Georgetown (Dec. 7).

As a Freshman (1996-97)

Washington spent her inaugural collegiate season concentrating on academics... she practiced during the fall with the team and did not travel or suit-up.

Prior to Florida

One of the most talented prep players in Florida high school history, Washington established the all-time national scoring record, netting 4,489 points during her final four years at Paxton High School, surpassing the previous mark of 4,385 set from 1974-77 by Jeri Grigsby of McDowell, Kentucky... played six years on the varsity team, as she was permitted to run with the high school team while attending middle school... her six-year numbers top the 5,000-point plateau... averaged 25.9 points and 12 rebounds per game her senior year, when she guided the Bobcats to a second consecutive 1A state title... became the state of Florida's all-time girls or boys prep scorer during her junior year, dethroning current Lady Gator teammate Dana Smith, who tallied 3,469 points at St. Cloud HS... the only girl in Florida history to net over 1,000 points in single year, a feat accomplished as a sophomore during the 1993-94 season when she averaged 29.2 points per game... contributed 34.3 ppg as a freshman... holds school record for most three-point field goals in a game... received national recognition by *USA Today*, which tabbed her a second team All-USA performer and named her the Florida Girls Player of the Year... Miss Florida Basketball her senior... also a *Street & Smith* third team All-American... ranked 11th in *College Sports* magazine's listing of the Top 100 Seniors in 1996... played softball and ran track at PHS... received perfect attendance awards and was a member of the 'A' and 'B' honor rolls...

Personal

Full name is Latonya Felicia Washington... daughter of Joyce Washington... born on December 30, 1977, in Opp, Ala... is one of 18 children: nine brothers and eight sisters... Tonya is child "number 17" of the "Washington 18"... all of her 17 brothers and sisters played basketball at some level... her sister, Cassandra, was a Lady Gator from 1988-91... the person she most admires away from the court is her mom, "because we can always talk about anything and she's always there for me, on and off the court"... favorite basketball player is Michael Jordan "because he is so smooth with all of his moves and puts so much fun in his game"... majoring in communications.

#54 Bea Jacobs

6-2 * Sophomore * Center

Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. * Palm Beach Gardens HS

Bea Jacobs complemented the Lady Gators inside game... a strong, physical player with a good presence in the paint... in the weight room, she cleans a team-best 180 pounds... discovered by the Florida assistant coaches playing intramural basketball on campus prior to the start of the 1995-96 season and made the Lady Gator team as a walk-on... broke her foot during the first week of practice and sat out that entire year... a junior academically... one of two left-handed players on the team, the other being Tiffany Travis... decided on April 10, 1998 to concentrate on academics and not return to the Lady Gators for the 1998-99 season.

1998 NCAA Tournament:

Played in two games... 2 total minutes played, 0.5 rebounds, 0 points...

As a Sophomore (1997-98)

Bea "B" Jacobs saw action in eight games this season... grabbed a career-high four rebounds in eight minutes of work in the win over Hampton (Dec. 30)... scored her first points of the season with a pair of free throws in the victory over Central Florida (Feb. 10)... was a walk-on for the second consecutive year and awarded a one-year scholarship this season... named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll for the second consecutive year...

As a Freshman (1996-97)

The only walk-on on the squad... saw action in 12 games, including in three NCAA Championship contests... scored the first three points of her collegiate career in the win over North Texas (Dec. 6)... grabbed five rebounds during the year, two against Kansas State (Dec. 30)... named to the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll.

Prior to Florida

A 1995 graduate of Palm Beach Gardens High School, Jacobs lettered in three sports: basketball, volleyball and golf... as the four-year starting center, Jacobs guided the Gators to the conference and district championships... named the team's Most Valuable Players and Unsung Hero... earned several all-area academic honors... earned three letters as a middle blocker on the volleyball team, while collecting all-area honors, as well... Jacobs started both seasons she played on the PBGHS golf team, which was the district runner-up... basketball coach was Jim Traugh.

Personal

Full name is Beatrice Sara Jacobs... daughter of George and Evie Jacobs... born on January 4, 1977, in Boston, Mass... has three older brothers, Greg, Matt and Doug... traveled to Japan for a week while participating in a student exchange program in high school... most memorable moment in her athletic career was playing in the district golf tournament during her senior season at PBGHS, "I forgot my shoes so I played barefoot and my feet turned green for days because of the fertilizer. I also played my best 18 holes ever!" ... contemplating a career as a lawyer... majoring in accounting.