

# Buddy Alexander

HEAD COACH • 17TH SEASON  
GEORGIA SOUTHERN, 1975



## THE ALEXANDER FILE

**Full Name:** Stewart Murray Alexander

**Date of Birth:** February 20, 1953

**Hometown:** St. Petersburg, Fla.

**Began at Florida:** January of 1988 (17th season)

**College:** Georgia Southern University (1975, B.S., Recreation), Georgia Southern University (1980, M.A., Educational Administration)

**Playing Experience:** 1974 and 1975 All-American, 1977 Eastern Amateur Champion, 1986 U.S. Amateur Champion, 1986 World Cup Team, 1987 United States Walker Cup Team

**Coaching Experience:** Head Coach, Georgia Southern 1977-80; Head Coach, LSU 1983-87; Head Coach, Florida January 1988-Present

In 25 years, University of Florida men's golf head coach Buddy Alexander has done several things to not only enhance the Gator program, but college golf as a whole. It's the main reason why top recruits throughout the nation come to Gainesville every year to play for Alexander, whose accomplishments have already earned him a spot in the Golf Coaches Association of America's Hall of Fame.

Alexander, an inductee into the hall of fame in 2002, enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in Gator golf history in 2002-03. The St. Petersburg, Fla. native guided one of the youngest teams in the nation to a Southeastern Conference title (the program's 14th) and a tie for fourth place at the NCAA

Championships. For his efforts, Alexander was named the 2003 SEC Coach of the Year and the 2003 GCAA Southeast Regional Coach of the Year.

"I'm very honored to have been given those two awards, because they are voted on by your peers," said Alexander, who earned his 60th tournament win as a coach in the fall of 2002. "It's a great feeling to know that your peers think that highly of you, because there are a lot of tremendous coaches out there throughout the country. These awards were really given to me because of how my team played this season. They deserve a tremendous amount of thanks for it."

Those two awards were the 15th and 16th coach of the year awards for Alexander in his career. Thirteen of those honors have been awarded to

Alexander throughout his 16 seasons at the helm of the Gator program.

Overall, Alexander has earned three NCAA District 3 Coach of the Year Awards, four NCAA District 3 South Coach of the Year awards, five SEC Coach of the Year awards and has received the Golf Coaches Association of America Coach of the Year awards twice. Alexander's coaching career is filled with a variety of titles and awards, as he has also attained success on the amateur circuit. In his time at Florida, Alexander has coached an NCAA individual champion, U.S. Amateur Champion, 18 All-Americans, seven Southeastern Conference team titles, three SEC individual champions (including a two-time winner), as well as having the first Gator named as a Ben Hogan Award finalist.

A two-time All-American, Alexander graduated from Georgia Southern in 1975 and has been decorated with several amateur titles since. Two years after graduating, he won the 1977 Eastern Amateur Championship. In 1986, he won the U.S. Amateur Championship and was a member of the World Cup Team. The following year, he represented the U.S. by playing on the Walker Cup Team. There wasn't much of a difference in the 1990s, as Alexander captured medalist hon-

ors at the Florida State Amateur.

Alexander has taken his success on the golf course and implemented it in his coaching career. Since arriving at Florida in January 1988, he has guided the Gators to six top-five finishes in NCAA tournament play. He has won two of Florida's four national titles, claiming the first in 1993 and the second in 2001.

He has coached golf programs at Georgia Southern, Louisiana State and Florida, producing 12 top-10 NCAA finishes in 25 years. He has earned 62 tournament victories at LSU and Florida, with his players earning 45 All-American honors and 56 All-SEC selections.

Alexander's coaching story began when he returned to his alma mater, Georgia Southern, in 1977, to accept





the position of men's golf head coach. In his four years with the Eagles, he produced four NCAA Championship appearances, highlighted by a seventh place finish in 1980. In 1979, he was named NCAA District 3 Co-Coach of the Year. Alexander coached three future PGA Tour members, including winners Mike Donald and Jodie Mudd. Alexander also earned his master's degree in educational administration in 1980.

Alexander left coaching for the professional tour that year, but returned in 1983 after he accepted the position as head coach of the men's golf program at LSU. In only his second year, Alexander led the Tigers to a second-place finish at the SEC Championships and sixth place at the NCAA Championships. For his efforts, Alexander was named the 1984 NCAA District 3 Coach of the Year.

In 1986 he was named SEC Co-Coach of the Year after the Tigers' first place finish at the SEC Championships, a title the team successfully defended in 1987. Alexander coached four All-Americans in addition to 11 future members of the professional tour, including PGA Champion David Toms.

Alexander regained his amateur status in 1986, and won the U.S. Amateur Championship that year, the third oldest golf title in the world. With his title, he became the only active coach to win the most esteemed title in amateur golf. Following his 1987 season at LSU, Alexander left coaching to work for a Cleveland-based sports management firm briefly before arriving at Florida.

Alexander, who is a native of St. Petersburg, Fla., returned to his home state in January 1988 to accept the position of men's golf head coach at Florida. Since then he has established the men's golf program as a top-contender in both the SEC and the nation. Florida captured the SEC Championship in just his second season with the Gators, leading to his attaining the 1989 NCAA District 3 South Coach of the Year award. The following year, he led the Gators to runner-up finishes at both the SEC Championships and the NCAA Championships.

From 1991-1994, Alexander's Gators dominated the SEC, winning four consecutive conference championships. In 1991 he was named SEC Coach of the Year, and then guided the Gators to the 1993 NCAA Championship title. Once again, he was named SEC Coach of the Year in addition to GCAA Coach of the Year. In 2001, Alexander claimed his second NCAA title as well as coaching senior Nick Gilliam to becoming Florida's second individual national champion.

Alexander received SEC Coach of the Year honors two additional times, in 1994 and 1999, after coaching the Gators to another SEC title. At Florida, Alexander has coached 11 members of the professional tour, including tournament winners Dudley Hart and Chris DiMarco. Overall, he has been the mentor to 26 professional tour members, and five have been winners on the tour.

Alexander's wife, Joan, is no stranger to the pro circuit; she is the Media Official for the PGA Tour. Alexander also has a daughter, Cortnee, 19, and a son, Tyson, 15.

**ALEXANDER'S COACHING HISTORY**

YEAR	SCHOOL	NCAA FINISH
1977	Georgia Southern	14th
1978	Georgia Southern	T22nd *
1979	Georgia Southern	11th
1980	Georgia Southern	7th
1983	Louisiana State	DNQ
1984	Louisiana State	6th
1985	Louisiana State	9th
1986	Louisiana State	10th
1987	Louisiana State	12th
1988	Florida	5th
1989	Florida	11th
1990	Florida	2nd
1991	Florida	20th
1992	Florida	7th
1993	Florida	1st
1994	Florida	3rd
1995	Florida	13th
1996	Florida	6th
1997	Florida	15th
1998	Florida	14th
1999	Florida	12th
2000	Florida	DNQ
2001	Florida	1st
2002	Florida	T11th
2003	Florida	T4th

*\* Team qualified for the NCAA Championships but did not make the 21-team cut*

# Buddy Alexander, con't

## BUDDY ALEXANDER'S ASSISTANT COACHES

YEAR	ASSITANT	WHERE THEY WENT
1988-92	Jim Kelson	Head Coach Tennessee (1998-present) Head Coach Augusta (1992-98)
1992-93	Rob McNamara	Head Professional at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, Va.
1993-96	Todd McCorkle	Head Women's Coach at Georgia (2000-present) Head Women's Coach at Arizona (1999-2000) Associate Head Coach at Arizona (1997-1998)
1996-97	Nicky Goetze	Head Coach Florida State (2000-present) Head Coach Mississippi State (1998-present) Head Coach Texas El Paso (1997-1998) Coastal Carolina (1996-97)
1997-99	Brian Craig	Head Coach Kentucky (2000-present) Head Coach Central Florida (1999-2000)
1999-2002	Chris Tuten	College representative for Callaway Golf

## TOP GOLF PROGRAMS

(Average Finish At NCAA Tournament 2001-03)

1. Clemson	2.0
<b>2. Florida</b>	<b>5.3</b>
3. Georgia Tech	5.6
4. Arizona	9.6
T5. Georgia	14.0
T5. Oklahoma State	14.0

## TOP GOLF PROGRAMS

(Average Finish at NCAA Tournament 1988-2003)

1. Oklahoma State	5.8
2. Arizona State	7.7
3. Clemson	8.1
<b>4. Florida</b>	<b>9.7</b>
5. Arizona	11.6

## INSIDE ALEXANDER'S NUMBERS:

25 All-Americans  
28 Professional players  
41 Tournament medalists  
45 All-America honors  
48 Academic All-conference honors  
56 All-Conference honors

## ACADEMIC HONORS UNDER ALEXANDER

GTE Academic All-American  
Kevin Mihailoff - 1998, All-District III Second Team

## GOLF COACHES' ASSOCIATION ALL-ACADEMIC

Brian Craig - 1992  
Kevin Mihailoff - 1998  
Jordan Code - 2003  
Camilo Villegas - 2003

## VERIZON SPRING AT-LARGE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

Nick Gilliam - 2001, Second Team  
Camilo Villegas - 2003, Second Team

## ALEXANDER'S COACHING HONORS

2003 SEC Coach of the Year  
2003 GCAA Southeast Regional Coach of the Year  
2001 GCAA Coaches' Hall of Fame inductee  
2001 GCAA National Coach of the Year  
2001 GCAA District 3 South Coach of the Year  
1999 SEC Coach of the Year  
1999 District 3 South Coach of the Year  
1994 SEC Coach of the Year  
1993 SEC Coach of the Year  
1993 GCAA Coach of the Year  
1993 Golfweek National Coach of the Year  
1992 NCAA District 3 South Coach of the Year  
1991 SEC Coach of the Year  
1989 NCAA District 3 South Coach of the Year  
1986 SEC Co-Coach of the Year  
1984 NCAA District 3 Coach of the Year  
1979 NCAA District 3 Co-Coach of the Year





## Josh McCumber

**ASSISTANT COACH  
FIRST SEASON**

**A** 1998 Florida graduate and former player under coach Buddy Alexander, Josh McCumber begins his first season as an assistant coach with the Gator program.

McCumber will work with the squad by helping improve golfers' swing techniques and developing practice routines that will aid in athletes peaking at the right time. His duties will also include assisting in recruiting, helping to plan course management, running camps and working in the gym with student athletes.

McCumber was a two-time All-American for the Gators and concluded his career just outside the top 10 in career stroke average. He graduated from Florida with a degree in business management with an emphasis on landscape architecture and has spent the past five years working with McCumber Golf, while also competing on a professional level.

He played on the 2002 Golden Bear Tour and the 2000 Montgomery Sports Tour and he advanced to the second stage in both the 2002 and 1999 PGA Tour qualifying schools. This past winter, Josh was the leading money winner on the *Florida Times-Union* Tour.

As a senior in 1998, McCumber placed seventh at the SEC Championships. The previous year, he helped lead the Gators to a 15th-place showing at the NCAA Championships by finishing 42nd with a nine-over par 293. He was also an Academic All-SEC pick in 1997.

McCumber earned third-team All-America honors and was a first team All-SEC selection in 1995-96 after leading Florida with 10 top-20 finishes on the season. He tied for the team lead by placing inside the top 10 six times. He earned the first collegiate victory of his career as a sophomore at the Windon Memorial Classic by edging Tiger Woods. He was an honorable mention All-America pick as a freshman and was named the SEC Freshman of the Year.

"It is exciting to be back in Gainesville," McCumber said. "I love the University of Florida and I am looking forward to helping the golf program continue to be one of the best in the country."

A native of Middleburg, Fla., McCumber was named the *Florida Times-Union* Jacksonville High School Player of the Year in both 1993 and 1994 and was a two-time All-State selection.



## Gio Valiante

**VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT  
COACH  
SECOND SEASON**

**P**rofessor Gio Valiante will be entering his second season working with the Gator golf team and will help in the area of psychological performance. Professor Valiante

received his Ph.D. from Emory University, and is currently a professor of education and psychology at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL.

The focus of his research has been on the relationship between confidence and performance in achievement in settings. His special areas of interest have been schooling and golf, where he has come to understand not only the types of experiences that develop confidence, but also strategies to nurture academic and athletic confidence into competitive resilience and achievement.

In the area of golf, Professor Valiante has worked with golfers at every level including the American Junior Golf Association, NCAA, ranked Amateurs and PGA professionals. He spends much of his time traveling with the PGA Tour, and his resume includes tour players such as Billy Andrade, Heath Slocum, Davis Love III, Ernie Els, Matt Kuchar and Gary Nicklaus. In the summer of 2003 he was featured on ESPN's Sportcenter.

Professor Valiante received his bachelor and masters degrees from the University of Florida, where the University Golf Course served as his initial laboratory for exploring the psychological aspects of the game of golf.

"I don't know anyone who doesn't love being a Florida Gator," Valiante said. "The chance to come back and help Coach (Buddy) Alexander work with the golf team is something about which I am very, very excited."

SUPPORT STAFF COACHING

### GATOR SUPPORT STAFF



**Scott Hampton**  
*Director of Golf*



**Scott Smith**  
*Golf Course Manager*



**Reece Snyder**  
*Golf Administrative Assistant*



**Ann Hughes**  
*Academic Advisor*



**Dana McPherson**  
*Assistant Marketing & Promotions Director*



**Scott Webster**  
*Strength & Conditioning Coordinator*