

ALL-AMERICANS

JAMES SHAFFER - 1961

One All-America Honor



Shaffer advanced to the quarterfinals of the 1961 NCAA Championships before losing a hard-fought battle to California's William Hoogs, 9-7, 6-3. Shaffer's two points did give the Gators a tie for 10th place in the team standings. The southpaw from St. Petersburg, Fla. was a member of the Junior Davis Cup team. Shaffer

won the SEC freshman individual title and posted a 46-12 varsity record. He was SEC individual titlist at No. 1 singles in 1961 and 1962, the first Gator to accomplish that feat. Currently, Shaffer is an attorney with his own law firm, James A. Shaffer, P.A., Inc., in St. Petersburg.

BILL TYM - 1963

One All-America Honor



Tym advanced to the quarterfinals of the 1963 NCAA Championships before losing to eventual champion Dennis Ralston of USC, 6-2, 6-3. Tym's two points gave the Gators an 18th-place finish in the team standings. The native of Lake Valhalla, N.J. captured the SEC individual title as a sophomore and junior at No. 2

and No. 1 singles, respectively. His career record was 41-9. Tym served as head men's coach at Vanderbilt from 1987-1996. He is a past president and former executive director of the United States Professional Tennis Association.

ARMISTEAD NEELY - 1968, 69

Two All-America Honors



Neely advanced to the fifth round of the 1963 NCAA Championships before defaulting to Rice's George Seewagen. He also teamed with former Gator head coach Steve Beeland to advance to the quarterfinals of the doubles competition, where they fell to tennis great Stan Smith and Bob Lutz of USC, the eventual champions,

6-3, 6-2. Neely led the Gators to a fifth-place finish. Neely advanced to the fifth round of the 1969 NAAs before dropping a 3-6, 9-7, 8-6 decision to Arizona's Brian Cheney. He again joined forces with Beeland to defeat Stanford's duo of Paul Gerken and Mac Claffin in the fourth round, 9-7, 6-4 before losing a 5-7, 7-5, 7-5 decision to Haroon Rahim and Jeff Borowiak of UCLA in the quarterfinals. The Gators finished in sixth place. Neely came to Florida from Tampa as the 1965 National Junior Champion. His career record as a Gator was 58-4 while playing No. 1 singles. Neely won SEC individual and doubles titles in 1968 and 1969.

Neely is the former tournament director for the Atlanta WCT Peachtree Grand Prix event. He has also been the circuit coordinator for the USTA and head tennis coach at the University of Alabama. Neely now owns and operates a tennis academy in Atlanta.

JAMIE PRESSLY - 1969

One All-America Honor



Pressly advanced to the fifth round of the 1969 NCAA Championships before falling to Rice's Mike Estep, the eventual runner-up, 6-0, 2-6, 6-4. Pressly helped the Gators to a sixth-place team finish. The West Palm Beach native compiled a career record of 60-3 while playing No. 2, 3 and 4 singles. Pressly won SEC individual

titles at No. 2 (1967 and 1968) and No. 3 (1969). He also teamed with Paul Lunetta to win the SEC No. 3 doubles title in 1969. Pressly, whose brother David was a Gator standout in the mid-1970's, was the top graduate from the University of Florida Law School in 1971 and is currently practicing in his own law firm of Pressly & Pressly with David in West Palm Beach.

DAVID BLAIR - 1993

One All-America Honor



Blair won the 1993 NCAA doubles title with Mark Merklein, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 over Stanford's Chris Cocotos and Michael Flanagan. Blair and Merklein became the first Gators to win an NCAA tennis title of any sort. Arguably the best doubles player in Florida history, the Gainesville, Fla. native finished his career with 76 doubles

wins, the second-most in UF history. He also compiled a 29-12 doubles slate as a senior, the fourth-highest win total in Division I tennis in 1993. Blair and Merklein, with 25 wins in 1993 and 21 in 1992, became the only UF combination to win over 20 matches in more than one season. Blair was also a member of the 1993 SEC Academic Honor Roll.

MARK MERKLEIN - 1993, 94

Four All-America Honors



Merklein became the first two-time national champion in Florida history after polishing off top-seeded Wayne Block of USC 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 in the 1994 NCAA singles final. Merklein had teamed with David Blair to claim the NCAA doubles title in 1993. Merklein's performance in the 1994 NAAs was dominance personified.

He lost just one set in the entire tournament, at one point winning 11 in a row. He had three wins on tiebreakers in the NAAs and compiled a 13-1 record in tiebreakers for the 1993-94 season. Merklein was the first Florida player to gain All-American status in both singles and doubles, and his four All-America honors are the most of any Gator player. He finished his brilliant career atop the school career charts in singles (112) and overall (190) wins, while ranking second in doubles victories (78). Merklein also established a then school season standard with his 38 singles wins in 1993-94. He helped Florida win its first outright SEC title since 1969. Merklein is currently playing professional tennis and represented the Bahamas at the 2000 Olympics.

DYLLAN FITZGERALD - 1994

One All-America Honor



A native of Benoni, South Africa, Fitzgerald staked his claim as one of the best doubles players in UF history after combining with Mark Merklein for a 12-8 record and a No. 7 ranking in the final 1993-94 Rolex-ITA poll. Fitzgerald and Merklein defeated Texas Christian's Paul Robinson and David Roditi 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 in the

NCAA first round before losing to Stanford's Chris Cocotos and Michael Flanagan 6-3, 1-6, 6-2. Fitzgerald and Merklein had defeated the nation's No. 1 and No. 2-ranked doubles teams earlier in the season.



Damon Henke was the first player in Gator history to earn three All-America honors in singles, as well as the lone player to win 20 or more singles matches in all four seasons.

DAMON HENKEL - 1994, 95, 96

Three All-America Honors

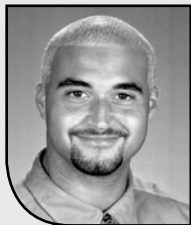


Henkel became the first player in Gator history to earn three All-America honors in singles in his career. His final ranking of No. 9 after a 31-12 campaign in 1996 earned him that distinction. The 31 singles victories tied for the then second-best seasonal mark in Gator history and included 19 victories over ranked foes. In 1995,

Henkel posted a 26-18 mark and ended the year ranked No. 19 in the country. His first All-America honor in 1994 followed a 24-4 year which included an upset of 12th-ranked Brandon Coupe of San Jose State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The first Gator to garner All-America recognition in three straight seasons, Henkel was chosen the 1996 Region III ITA/Senior Player of the Year and was one of eight finalists for the National ITA/Senior Player of the Year. His 102 career singles wins ranks fourth in the UF record books and his 169 career overall wins (102 singles, 67 doubles) also rank seventh on UF's all-time list. Henkel became the first player in Florida history to win 20 or more matches in all four seasons as a Gator when he beat Vanderbilt's Chris Groer on March 23, 1996. He left Florida as just the second player in school history to win 100 career singles matches and also was just the second player in UF history to win 30 singles matches in a single season.

JUSTIN O'NEAL - 1997, 99, 01

Three All-America Honors



O'Neal became UF's first freshman All-American after an impressive rookie season in 1997 and followed that up with All-America honors in both 1999 and 2000. He set the then-school record for most singles wins by a Gator freshman with 28 in 1997 and ranked 16th in singles in the final rankings. O'Neal was named

the Region III Rookie of the Year and was one of eight finalists for National Rookie of the Year. He was also chosen second-team All-SEC, the first UF freshman to earn all-League honors since 1984. In 1999, O'Neal became just the second player in UF men's tennis history to receive All-America, All-SEC and SEC Academic Honor Roll recognition in the same season. He was ranked 17th in singles in the final ITA rankings and reached the round of 16 at the NCAA Championships. He was named the 2000 SEC Player of the Year as a senior, and the Region III Senior Player of the Year by the ITA after finishing the year ranked 13th in singles. O'Neal graduated as the winningest player in UF history in career singles, doubles and total wins.

JEFF MORRISON - 1999, 00

Four All-America Honors



Morrison captured the 1999 NCAA singles title and received All-America recognition in both singles and doubles (with Nathan Overholser) in both 1999 and 2000. Morrison, who was also named the ITA National Player to Watch and the 1999 SEC Player of the Year, was a first-team All-SEC selection in singles and doubles.

He set the Gator single-season record with 47 singles victories. Morrison ranked second in singles and ninth in doubles (with Overholser) in the final ITA rankings. He became the first player in UF history to win 30 or more singles matches in back-to-back seasons. Morrison was the 2000 SEC Tournament MVP helping the Gators to the league title. He finished the 2000 season ranked No. 1 in the ITA singles rankings and is in the second winningest player in UF history, behind only O'Neal.

NATHAN OVERHOLSER - 1999, 00

Three All-America Honors



Overholser was named All-American in singles in 1999 and All-American in doubles (with Jeff Morrison) in both 1999 and 2000. Overholser, who was named All-SEC in both singles and doubles for three straight years from 1999-2001, graduated at UF's career doubles win leader. Overholser, David Blair and Justin O'Neal are the

only Gator men's tennis players to ever receive All-America, All-SEC and SEC Academic Honor Roll recognition in the same season (2000). Overholser finished both the 1999 and 2001 seasons ranked in the ITA Top 50 for singles and each of his four seasons ranked in doubles, including Top 10 finishes in 1999 and 2000.

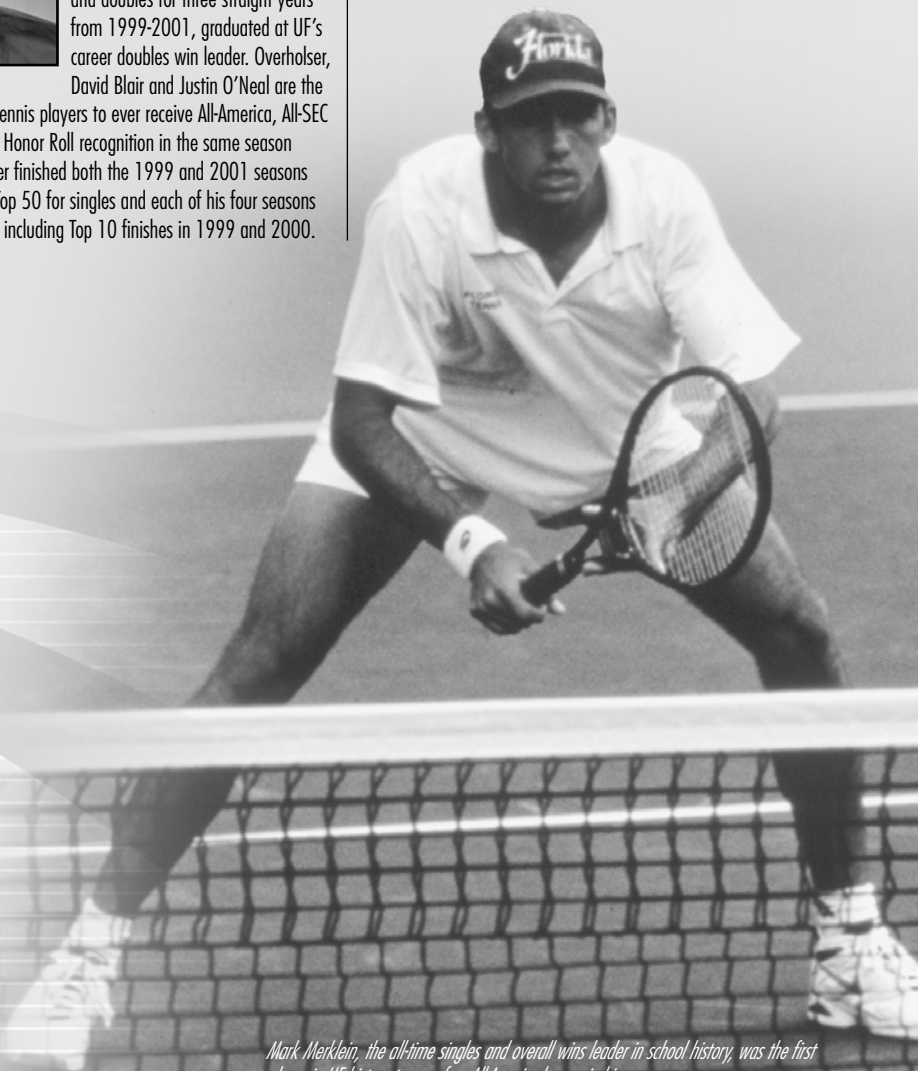
JANNE HOLMIA - 2003

One All-America Honor



Holmia was an All-American singles player, as well as being voted SEC Freshman of the Year and ITA National Rookie of the Year, during his first year on the collegiate level. He ended the season ranked No. 6 in the nation. He posted 34 singles victories, tied for the fifth-best single season win total in school history,

and highest ever for a freshman. He also faired well in doubles play posting at least a .500 record with three different partners. He made it to the second round of the NCAA Tennis Championships, before a back injury forced him to retire from the match.



Mark Merkley, the all-time singles and overall wins leader in school history, was the first player in UF history to earn four All-America honors in his career.

ALL-AMERICANS

HAMID MIRZADEH - 2003, 04, 05

Five All-America Honors



In 2005, Mirzadeh became the only five-time All-American in school history by garnering the distinction in singles and doubles for the second straight season to go along with his 2003 singles honor. He finished his senior season ranked No. 16 in singles and No. 9 in doubles with Greg Ouellette. He and Ouellette

were seeded fifth in the NCAA doubles draw, while he also earned an at-large spot in singles. As a junior, he finished the year ranked No. 11 in the nation after advancing to the quarterfinal round of the NCAA men's tennis championship singles draw for the second straight season. That year, he became the only player in the nation to earn a spot in the quarterfinals of both the singles and doubles NCAA competition as he and teammate Chris Brandi made it to the round. Mirzadeh was a four-time first-team All-SEC selection. Throughout his collegiate career, Mirzadeh was also a success in the classroom having earned SEC Academic Honor Roll honors as a sophomore, junior, and senior. In 2004, he was named the Co-SEC Scholar Athlete of the Year.

CHRIS BRANDI - 2004

One All-America Honor



Chris Brandi teamed with Hamid Mirzadeh in 2004 at the top of the doubles line up as he earned All-America honors for the first time in his collegiate career. Brandi and Mirzadeh reached the quarterfinal round of the NCAA championship doubles draw in May. Brandi became the 14th student-athlete at Florida to

earn the recognition.

GREG OUELLETTE - 2005

Two All-America Honors



Greg Ouellette became the 15th student-athlete at Florida to earn the All-American recognition as he did so in singles and doubles as a freshman in 2005. He advanced farther than any freshman in the country in the NCAA singles draw by making his way into the quarterfinal round. He finished his first season with an over-

all record of 39-10, which was the third-highest win total on UF's all-time singles season chart and the best by a Gator freshman. He and senior Hamid Mirzadeh were seeded fifth in the NCAA doubles bracket, which earned them All-America status. Ouellette ended the season at No. 35, while the pair finished the season ranked ninth nationally in doubles. Ouellette was selected as a first-team All-SEC representative and was named the SEC Freshman of the Year. He was also honored by the ITA as the Southeast Region ITA Rookie of the Year.



Nathan Overholser (L) and Jeff Morrison (R) were named All-American as a doubles team in both 1999 and 2000.