

# **FLORIDA FOOTBALL**

**Princely Umanmielen**





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By: Demetrius Harvey

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## **Umanmielen Named East-West Shrine Bowl Defensive Breakout Player of the Week**

By: UAA Staff  
FloridaGators.com  
October 10, 2023

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Florida EDGE Princely Umanmielen was announced as the East-West Shrine Bowl Defensive Breakout Player of the Week following the Gators contest against Vanderbilt in Week 6.

Over the course of the 2023 season Umanmielen has, according to Pro Football Focus, totaled ten tackles, two sacks, and a team-leading eight quarterback hits and fifteen quarterback hurries. Four of said quarterback hurries came in the Week 6 contest versus Vanderbilt.

The Manor, Texas native's pass rush prowess has earned him a Pro Football Focus grade of 90.3 in that specific category. Of Division I EDGE Defenders, Umanmielen ranks fifth in the nation in pass rush grade.

Additionally, Umanmielen holds the highest overall Pro Football Focus grade of any Florida defender that has totaled more than 25 snaps this season: 81.5.

The junior looks to continue his impressive season as the Florida Gators travel to Columbia, South Carolina for a matchup with the South Carolina Gamecocks on October 14.



## **Florida's Princely Umanmielen an NFL Draft prospect generating buzz**

By: Keith Niebuhr  
On3 – Gators Online  
September 27, 2023

Each week during the season, On3's Matt Zenitz catches up with Senior Bowl executive director Jim Nagy to identify 2024 NFL draft prospects whose draft stock is on the rise. This week, eight players generating buzz among Nagy and the Senior Bowl staff coming out of Week 4 were showcased — and Florida Gators junior edge Princely Umanmielen was one of them.

Here's what Zenitz wrote about Umanmielen: "Umanmielen has eight tackles, three tackles for loss and two sacks through Florida's first four games. Umanmielen, who has verified measurements of 6-foot-3 6/8, 249 pounds, recorded a sack and four additional quarterback hurries during the Gators' win over Charlotte on Saturday."

Princely Umanmielen has seen his stock rise of late

Now, here are Nagy's comments: "Has made a jump on tape so far this year compared to his junior stuff we looked at over the summer. Made a couple nice chase plays in pursuit on Saturday against Charlotte and that was not part of his game in past years. Flashes elements of both speed and power to his rush game and had a sack against Charlotte. Bit of a tweener but came away from this live exposure thinking he'll fit better as 3-4 outside linebacker than a 4-3 defensive end at the next level. Has improved his draft stock this first month of season and could see him working his way into Day 2 conversation if he continues on this trajectory."

Last week, Umanmielen made the On3 Top 25 edge rankings. He checked in at the No. 25 spot after having been unranked the previous week.

Umanmielen switched from defensive end to outside linebacker this year, changing positions before spring ball. He excelled with the move and dominated during fall camp, making a pick-six in the final scrimmage.

"I love it," Umanmielen said of his new position in August. "I always felt like my body type and how I play football, I was going to end up being an outside linebacker, even though these past years I was playing four eyes and hand in the dirt. (And) I always felt like I had the athletic ability to drop into coverage. But I think me changing my body physically was just to be a pro, just to make myself a better football player."

Many projected him to have a strong season

Expectations were high for Umanmielen heading into this fall. He was named to PFF's preseason All-SEC first team, along with watch lists for the Chuck Bednarik Award and Lombardi Award.

Umanmielen's new position coach, Mike Peterson, wouldn't let the hype go to his head. "He talks to me about it every day," Umanmielen said. "He just always pulls me to the side and lets me know; he says things like, 'It's a lot of people talking to you right now. Don't buy into it, you just got to keep working hard every day. You can't buy into the hype just yet.' Some people



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do that and it makes them big-headed, and then they feel like they don't have to work no more. So, he just tells me to make sure I keep working."



## **A new-look Princely Umanmielen poised for breakout season**

By: Zach Abolverdi

On3 – Gators Online

August 20, 2023

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida junior Princely Umanmielen has made some changes in 2023. He's wearing a new number, starting at a new position, playing at a new weight and, most importantly, practicing with a new mindset.

All of this has Umanmielen poised for a breakout season. According to Pro Football Focus, he is Florida's highest-graded returning player on defense with a grade of 82.1, which also ranks first among returning SEC EDGE rushers.

Umanmielen switched from defensive end to outside linebacker this year, changing positions before spring ball. He has excelled with the move and dominated during fall camp, making a pick-six in the final scrimmage on Friday.

"I love it," Umanmielen said of his new position. "I always felt like my body type and how I play football, I was going to end up being an outside linebacker, even though these past years I was playing four eyes and hand in the dirt.

"I always felt like I had the athletic ability to drop into coverage. But I think me changing my body physically was just to be a pro, just to make myself a better football player."

Umanmielen needed to transform his body in order to move to EDGE and made changes to his diet. The toughest thing he gave up? Candy.

Umanmielen stopped eating Rips Licorice and other fruit snacks.

"It's been a little tough, you know, trying to lay off the sweets," he said. "I got a real sweet tooth, but it's been good with the nutrition staff that we have here and just this new facility with the food and everything. I've just been trying to eat good and train hard whenever I have an opportunity to."

The results have been impressive from Umanmielen, who gained nine pounds during the offseason to reach 254. Florida coach Billy Napier praised him at the start of fall camp for his work in the nutrition and strength program.

"Princely had a fantastic summer," Napier said. "He maxed in all three lifts, all three core lifts, bench, squat, clean. He improved his max velocity, gained 10 pounds of lean muscle, and he lost seven pounds of fat mass. Really good summer there."

In addition to changing his body and position, Umanmielen has also developed better practice habits. He credits his former position coach, Sean Spencer, for challenging him about his work ethic and improving his approach.



“Coach Spencer talked to me about my practice habits, and after he had talked to me about my practice habits I really locked in and it made me realize how important practice was,” Umanmielen said. “I felt like I just had the ability, like, I could just go out there and play.

“So, sometimes in practice, I would be lackadaisical and things like that. And then when he talked to me about it, he said in the NFL, that’s how guys practice in college. In practice in the NFL, you’ve got to go hard. And then after that, I started going hard and practicing in practice like it was a game, and the results showed at the end.”

Expectations are high for Umanmielen heading into this fall. He was named to PFF’s preseason All-SEC first team, along with watch lists for the Chuck Bednarik Award and Lombardi Award.

Umanmielen’s new position coach, Mike Peterson, isn’t letting the hype go to his head.

“He talks to me about it every day,” Umanmielen said. “He just always pulls me to the side and lets me know. He says things like, ‘It’s a lot of people talking to you right now. Don’t buy into it, you just got to keep working hard every day. You can’t buy into the hype just yet.’ Some people do that and it makes them big-headed, and then they feel like they don’t have to work no more. So, he just tells me to make sure I keep working.”

Florida junior defensive linemnan Cam Jackson, who transferred from Memphis in January, has witnessed Umanmielen’s transformation over the past eight months. Jackson wasn’t suprised in the least when his new teammate earned the No. 1 jersey for this season.

“Princely can do it all, like I ain’t never seen no EDGE rusher like it,” Jackson said. “Princely is a freak of nature. He is a freaky athlete. I like Princely, he’s a leader for sure. And I’m just ready to see him have an amazing year this year.”



## **Umanmielen Named to Chuck Bednarik Award Watch List**

By: UAA Staff  
FloridaGators.com  
August 15, 2023

PHILADELPHIA – Florida defensive end Princely Umanmielen was named to the Chuck Bednarik Award Watch List, the Maxwell Football Club announced Monday.

He also collected All-SEC Preseason Third Team honors from Athlon, Phil Steele and the media at SEC Media Days. Umanmielen finished as the team-leader in sacks (4.5), TFLs (9.5) and second in quarterback hurries (5) last season. Playing in all 13 games and starting in 11, the Manor, Texas native also posted 39 total tackles, 16 solo and two forced fumbles. In his last five starts, Umanmielen had 17 total tackles, 5.5 TFL (loss of 29 yards), 2.5 sacks, four quarterback hurries and one forced fumble.

Umanmielen is one of 12 defensive ends nationwide to make the 85-player list and one of two SEC defensive ends, joining Ole Miss' Cedric Johnson. Additionally, Umanmielen is one of 12 SEC players tabbed to the watch list.

The Chuck Bednarik Award has been presented to the College Defensive Player of the Year since 1994 and is named in honor of Chuck "Concrete Charlie" Bednarik who was an All-American player at the University of Pennsylvania and later a multiple year All Pro linebacker and center for the Philadelphia Eagles. He is a member of both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame and was the last NFL player to be a full-time player on both offense and defense.

Semifinalists for the Chuck Bednarik Award will be announced Nov. 13, 2023, while the three finalists for the Bednarik Award will be unveiled November 28, 2023. The winners of the 29th Chuck Bednarik Award will be announced as part of the ESPN Home Depot College Football Awards Show held on Dec. 7, 2023. The formal presentations of the Chuck Bednarik Award will be made at the Maxwell Football Club Awards in March 2024.

The Chuck Bednarik Award has once again partnered with Pro Football Focus (PFF) and Phil Steele Publications as selection committee partners. PFF provides detailed metrics and performance-based assessments to selection committee staff, with several senior PFF analysts are members of our selection committee. Phil Steele's College Football Preview is generally recognized as the most complete preseason magazine.

The full watch list for the 2023 Chuck Bednarik Award can be found [here](#).

### 2023 Florida Football Watch List

Award	Player
Maxwell Award	Ricky Pearsall
Ray Guy Award	Jeremy Crawshaw
Wuerffel Trophy	Derek Wingo
Paul Hornung Award	Trevor Etienne
Chuck Bednarik Award	Princely Umanmielen



## **Florida's 23 Most Important Players for 2023: No. 9**

By: Graham Hall

Swamp247

July 22, 2023

With fall camp quickly approaching at Florida, anticipation is high for head coach Billy Napier's second season at the helm in Gainesville. Following a 6-7 finish in Year 1 of the Napier era, the Gators significantly overhauled the roster during the offseason, bringing in 20 freshman signees to join double-digit additions via the NCAA's transfer portal.

The Gators are tentatively scheduled to open fall camp on July 31st, with the final scrimmage of camp scheduled for less than three weeks later, on August 18th. From there, the Gators will prepare for game week, which will see UF travel to Salt Lake City to take on Utah on Aug. 31.

With SEC Media Days approaching, followed by the start of fall camp in Gainesville, Swamp247 this month will be ranking Florida's most important players for the upcoming season.

The rankings continue with Princely Umanmielen at No. 9.

- No. 23: Ja'Keem Jackson
- No. 22: Jack Miller III
- No. 21: Miguel Mitchell
- No. 20: Jalen Kimber
- No. 19: Chris McClellan
- No. 18: Arlis Boardingham
- No. 17: Devin Moore
- No. 16: Andy Jean
- No. 15: Mannie Nunnery
- No. 14: Kingsley Eguakun
- No. 13: Teradja Mitchell
- No. 12: Micah Mazzccua
- No. 11: Caleb Douglas
- No. 10: Kamari Wilson

### Player Profile

Height: 6-foot-5

Weight: 254 pounds

Hometown: Manor, Texas

247Sports Composite recruiting ranking (2020): No. 9 strong-side defensive end, No. 243-ranked overall prospect

### Career Statistics

2022: Umanmielen played in all 13 games while making 11 starts at defensive end, totaling 39 tackles (16 solo), 9.5 TFL, 4.5 sacks, two forced fumbles and five quarterback hurries.

2021: He saw action in all thirteen games at defensive end, collecting 17 tackles (nine solo), 1.5 sacks and a forced fumble.



2020: As a freshman, Umanmielen saw action in six games. He was credited with three defensive stops, 2.0 tackles for loss and 2.0 sacks.

### 2023 Outlook

Umanmielen's fourth season with the Gators could be his most impactful thus far as a result of his progression and the overhauled defensive scheme under first-year UF defensive coordinator Austin Armstrong.

The 6-foot-5 Umanmielen was listed at edge instead of defensive end on the updated roster ahead of spring camp, and he should have plenty of opportunities to rush the quarterback this season after the Gators addressed the interior of the defensive line during the offseason, adding Caleb Banks and CamRon Jackson at tackle while returning Chris McClellan and Desmond Watson.

With increased depth, Umanmielen should be able to shine this season, and he enters the year with all eyes on him after he received the No. 1 jersey for the Gators ahead of fall camp. Unlike last season, he shouldn't be at risk of seeing his role limited or decreased midway through the way, which was the case in 2022 when Umanmielen was briefly utilized as a reserve due to a desire from UF's coaching staff, in particular Sean Spencer, for Umanmielen to improve his practice habits.

With renewed focus and another year more experienced in the system, Umanmielen is in a position to register impressive statistics throughout the 2023 season.

### Why No. 9?

Florida's alterations to the defense are expected to result in improvement across the board for the unit, though it remains to be seen if that will come to fruition this season.

Still, the Gators have improved their depth at multiple positions within the defense, though Umanmielen clearly returns as the starter at edge for the Gators this season.

His move to the room was likely a factor in Antwaun Powell-Ryland Jr. opting to enter the transfer portal after spring camp, as Umanmielen's move to the position and his success after the fact would have, in theory, limited the playing time of the rest of the group. The Gators haven't questioned Umanmielen's ability to be effective this season – he simply has to put it all together and reach the level of success many believe he's capable of while continuing to ascend as a leader.

If he can do that, Florida's entire defense should benefit.

Umanmielen's ability to raise the level of play within the defense is a massive reason as to why he's No. 9 on the list of Florida's most important players ahead of the 2023 season.



## **Princely Umanmielen garnering attention from NFL personnel**

By: Nick de la Torre

On3 – Gators Online

July 19, 2023

He led the Florida Gators in sacks and tackles for a loss, but Princely Umanmielen isn't garnering a ton of draft buzz. While Umanmielen might be flying under the radar to most, two publications have noticed the junior edge rusher.

On Tuesday On3's Matt Zenitz listed Umanmielen as one of his 10 defensive players that are viewed higher by NFL personnel than the media is projecting.

Umanmielen set single-season career highs with 39 tackles, 4.5 sacks, 9.5 tackles for loss, and two forced fumbles. He also registered 27 quarterback pressures in 2022, good for the most on the team and 23rd-most in the SEC from any defensive position.

“Princely, he's changed his body. I've been really, really, really impressed with him,” EDGE coach Mike Peterson said. “We all know he can do everything on the field. We've been talking about the things away from football — taking care of your body. How to watch tape. What are you watching? Your eyes. Man, it's been great. Every day, I can pull a clip where he's playing with effort.”

Matt Zenitz on Umanmielen

On3 Senior national college football reporter Matt Zenitz had this to say of Umanmielen.

Umanmielen is probably Florida's top 2024 draft prospect aside from cornerback Jason Marshall. The 6-foot-5, 254-pound Umanmielen broke out last year for the Gators with 39 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks, and two forced fumbles. Current NFL grades on him are in the third-round range. “He's a guy that can do a lot of things for you on defense,” Florida EDGE coach Mike Peterson said during the spring. “For a guy with that size, he's able to drop into coverage. He can definitely rush the passer. We've been talking about showing everybody that he can also play the run. So he has all the tools.”

Pro Football focus takes notice

Last month, Pro Football Focus named Princely Umanmielen one of its ten best EDGE rushers available in the 2024 NFL Draft. PFF had this to say of Umanmielen.

Umanmielen's 88.1 pass-rushing grade over the past two seasons ranks fourth among returning Power Five edge defenders. The junior can do more than just get after the quarterback, as his 21 run-defense stops this year also stood top 10 among Power Five edge defenders.

Umanmielen was joined by the following prospects on PFF's list of 10 draft-eligible edge rushers to know ahead of the 2023 season:

- Jared Verse, Florida State



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- Chop Robinson, Penn State
- J.T. Tuimoloau, Ohio State
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- Laiatu Latu, UCLA
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- Zion Tupuola-Fetui, Washington
- Gabriel Murphy, UCLA



## **Umanmielen hoping off-field changes allow him to 'take off' in 2023**

By: Jacob Rudner

Swamp247

April 5, 2023

During an early-November press conference last season, Florida defensive end Princely Umanmielen was forced to take a moment to gather his thoughts, considering how best to address the forced departure of Brenton Cox, a teammate of nearly three years.

Umanmielen at first echoed a sentiment several others had already shared: Above all else, Cox was a friend and still had the support of his teammates. Umanmielen also complimented the former Gators' talent and potential.

Then, after a deep breath, the Gator defensive end proceeded to talk about the opportunity created by Cox's dismissal.

"I just feel like there was a lot of talent under him that's going to be put on display," he said in November. "The guys behind him aren't that far behind him."

Umanmielen was quickly proved correct.

Without Cox in the fold, the Gators were forced to rely on players who spelled the former starter for the first two-thirds of their season: Antwaun Powell-Ryland, Lloyd Summerall and Umanmielen.

And in their first taste of an increased role, the trio shined, picking up as many sacks collectively (two) in a 41-24 win at Texas A&M on Nov. 5 as Cox had in eight games. They also forced two fumbles, recovering one, and recorded nine tackles, including four for a loss.

For Umanmielen, in particular, the showing against the Aggies acted as a jumping-off point.

Over his next four games, he recorded 14 total tackles, including 2.5 for loss, 1.5 sacks and two quarterback hits, contributions that allowed him to finish the season as the team's highest-rated defender on Pro Football Focus as well as its leader in tackles for loss (9.5) and sacks (4.5).

"He definitely showed a taste of what he's capable of," Florida outside linebackers coach Mike Peterson told Swamp247.

Helping Umanmielen achieve his potential is among the Gators' priorities this spring as the 6-foot-5, 245-pound defender is viewed as a near-lock to earn a spot in their first-team defensive unit.

To facilitate continued growth, Florida tweaked Umanmielen's responsibilities such that he's working with the team's outside linebackers as opposed to its defensive linemen. The change means he'll be tasked with pass coverage assignments as well as the run-stopping and pass-rushing duties he was responsible for a year ago.

Florida's coaches felt his athleticism would allow for a seamless transition.



“His lower-body strength is off the charts,” Peterson said. “This guy’s lower body is really, really strong so he’s never off balance. You look at him and he can bend and has all the pass-rush tools. But his lower body is so strong he’s always in control of his game. He can do everything.

“He’s a guy that can do a lot of things for you on defense. For a guy with that size, he’s able to drop into coverage. He can definitely rush the passer. We’ve been talking about showing everybody that he can also play the run. So he has all the tools. My job as a coach is to kind of finetune things.”

To do that, Peterson said he immediately started working with Umanmielen to establish better off-field habits.

“I talk to him about becoming a pro,” the 14-year NFL veteran said. “If you were a pro player, what would you do?”

First, with the help of Florida’s extensive nutrition and conditioning staff, Umanmielen reimagined his diet, cutting out sugars and increasing his protein intake, which quickly allowed him to become leaner and quicker.

Umanmielen said his improved nutritional habits have allowed him to stay on the field longer, too.

“It’s impacting me a lot in a positive way,” he said. “I haven’t felt as tired. It’s helped my stamina a lot.”

His coach has seen the adjustments pay dividends already.

“He’s watching tape, he’s eating the right way, he’s approaching things like he’s an older guy,” Peterson said. “I think he’s seen it. It’s the little things, too, like taking care of the cold tub and steam and he’s seeing the results of that. He’s bought into it.”

The fourth-year Gator is also hoping his new on-field changes will allow him to shine.

With Austin Armstrong now at the helm of Florida’s defense, Umanmielen said fans can expect a more-aggressive version of the team’s scheme last year, which struggled at times to defend the run as well as to put adequate pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

The team’s shortcomings were due at least in part to a severe lack of depth along the defensive front, a situation players and coaches said has improved. Increased aggressiveness should help, too.

“We play in the SEC and a lot of teams run the ball,” Umanmielen said. “It’s not like the Big 12 where we’re throwing the ball every down. That’s why [Armstrong] emphasized aggression, because stopping the run is a big part. You don’t get to third down unless you stop first or second down.”

Preventing gainful plays on third down is also an area of great focus this offseason after Florida ranked among the worst teams in the nation in the category last year.

Between Florida’s defensive returners, such as Umanmielen, as well as the players it brought into the fold via high school and transfer portal recruiting, Peterson is confident the unit will progress.

“You hear all the noise but you know what you got in the building,” Peterson said. “That makes me feel good.”



Umanmielen is eager to be a part of it. He said his own adjustments should allow him to contribute to larger scale change.

“I just try to focus on having pro habits, especially outside of practice,” Umanmielen said. “Just trying to get more sleep, eat better, just have better habits, go watch film more and just things like that so I can take off this next season.”



## **Umanmielen, Powell-Ryland pace strong defensive day for Gators**

By: Jacob Rudner  
Swamp 247  
November 6, 2022

COLLEGE STATION, Tex. — The shock of the news that starting outside linebacker Brenton Cox had been dismissed from Florida's roster with just four contests left on its schedule hadn't even stopped reverberating through the Gators' football facility when Princely Umanmielen was asked about its impact.

The sophomore defensive end took a moment to gather his thoughts, considering how best to address the forced departure of a teammate of nearly three years.

He took a deep breath and proceeded.

"Brenton was a really good player," Umanmielen said in Gainesville on Wednesday evening. "But I just feel like there was a lot of talent under him that's going to be put on display because the guys behind him aren't that far behind him."

Without Cox no longer in the fold, the Gators were forced to rely on players who took part in a rep share while spelling the former starter for the first two-thirds of their season: sophomores Antwaun Powell-Ryland and Lloyd Summerall. Umanmielen was tabbed to help, too.

And in their first taste of an increased role, the trio shined, picking up as many sacks collectively in a 41-24 win at Texas A&M on Saturday as Cox had in eight games this season while forcing two fumbles, recovering one and recording nine tackles, including four for a loss.

It was the most potent day of the year off the edges of Florida's defensive line, an area that had been inconsistent through the previous eight games.

"Sometimes you don't know until that opportunity's presented to you," Florida head coach Billy Napier said after his team's win in College Station.

Despite their relative inexperience, Powell-Ryland and Umanmielen were extremely effective from opposite ends of Florida's defensive front against the Aggies.

Umanmielen offered explosive pass rush and was largely effective against the run, finishing the game with three total tackles, two tackles for loss, a sack and a forced fumble.

The turnover he managed to generate came at a crucial point in the game, too.

Texas A&M was driving and after nine plays, it reached Florida's 27-yard line, threatening to narrow a 10-point deficit to at least seven points, if not three. But as quick as the Aggies gained some offensive momentum, Umanmielen stripped it from them, flying into the backfield and laying a massive blindside hit on quarterback Haynes King, who couldn't maintain possession.

Summerall was there to recover and the Gator offense, which had already scored 34 points, took over.

It was a key play in an excellent Florida win by a player who made just the second start of his career despite being in his fourth year at the college level.



“I’ve been joking with him all week,” Napier said of Umanmielen, who is from Texas. “You know, I said, ‘Hey, going back to the home state, they slept on you coming out. You know, you’ve got a chance to prove yourself.’ Princely’s another one of those guys with minimal experience to some degree before this year that really is starting to develop nicely as a player. We’ve played him more in the third down packages here as of late, and he’s been productive.”

Powell-Ryland was similarly effective, though he was slightly more involved as a tackler, recording six in the contest, including two for a loss.

The sophomore who had just 14 appearances under his belt in his first two years at Florida also ended an Aggies drive with a strip-sack, stealing the ball from King just one drive after Umanmielen did. It was his second forced fumble of the season.

“Antwaun’s a good football player,” Napier said. “He’s been productive when given opportunities in the past. Sometimes you don’t know until that opportunity is presented to you. One thing I know about AP is it means something to him to do his job for the other players. Great to see him step up and do big things that impacted the game today.”

Playing with a sense of selflessness was seemingly a point of emphasis for the Gators in the wake of Cox dismissal. On Wednesday, midseason All-American right guard O’Cyrus Torrence said Florida’s players had to be “in this thing together” and eliminate behavior that does not contribute to the Gators’ collective efforts.

And on Saturday, Florida played with the cohesion Napier had been searching for.

“I think that this game of football we spend countless hours on scheme, countless hours training, lifting weights, running, working on fundamentals, working on situational football,” Napier said, “but there’s a human element to this game and that’s a battle that we’ve been living with this group of players and I really can’t complement the leadership on our staff and the leadership amongst our players enough relative to, the character right, the accountability, the brotherhood, playing the game with a special team dynamic, a certain morale, just out of respect for the game and the way it should be played, and I think we saw some of that today.”

It was especially apparent on the defensive side of the ball in the second half when the Gators managed to shut out the Aggies and limit them to just 106 total yards while forcing two turnovers.

Florida senior linebacker Ventrell Miller, who has been described by coaches and teammates as the heartbeat of the Gators’ defensive efforts, said keeping Texas A&M off the scoreboard in the second half was a priority after Florida allowed it to score 24 points on 307 total yards before the intermission.

“I think it just had to do with the halftime speech from some of the coaches and players,” Miller said of the Gators’ second half success. “We know we started off flat-footed, just taking ownership of that, and like I said, we just got the boys motivated second half and everybody came out and did their job, and we showed them how the Florida Gators defense can play.”

It was a sign of significant progress for a defense that entered play on Saturday ranked at or near the bottom in nearly every meaningful statistic, including third downs, an area that has drawn the ire of Florida faithful.



“I don’t think it’s about the play call,” Napier said. “I don’t think it’s about the fundamentals. I think it’s about what’s going on between the ears, I think it’s about the relationships in the room, I think it’s about being committed to the people around you and playing the game with those intentions.”

As Napier starts the process of molding Florida’s team chemistry in the mold he set out for it, the group has improved. Umanmielen and Powell-Ryland, among others, were proof.

“It’s good to see players lead and I think that’s part of a team that we are developing,” Napier said. “We took a step in the right direction in that regard today.”



## **Gators Q&A: Defensive Lineman Princely Umanmielenors**

By: Scott Carter  
Florida Gators  
November 4, 2022

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — He grew up in the Lone Star State, but his heart was elsewhere when it came to college football.

Gators defensive lineman Princely Umanmielen was a sought-after recruit in 2019 at Manor (Texas) High, located about 20 miles northeast of downtown Austin and 100 miles west of College Station. Naturally, one might expect Umanmielen to have a deep affinity for either the Longhorns or Aggies.

They would be wrong.

"I'm glad you asked that," Umanmielen told reporters after practice Wednesday. "Because even though I grew up in Texas, I was never a fan of either. I had three dream schools while I was young: Miami, Oregon and LSU. I never like leaned toward being a Texas and Texas A&M fan. I was committed to Texas at first in high school, but then I just really I felt like NFL scouts and things like that respect the SEC, and D-Lines in the SEC more, so it made me want to go to an SEC school.

"Really, there's no love for the Aggies or Longhorns."

Hence, that is how Umanmielen finds himself with the Gators as they head to Texas A&M for Saturday's Southeastern Conference clash at Kyle Field. A third-year sophomore defensive lineman, Umanmielen has started six games this season and his 22 tackles rank eighth on the team.

Umanmielen's homecoming Saturday is a highly anticipated event back in Manor.

"It's my first time in college playing in front of my friends and family, so it's been really giving me a lot of motivation to put on a show and help the team out," said Umanmielen, who scrambled to secure around 25 tickets. "I was able to come up with some."

Here is more from Umanmielen, who recorded 10 sacks and 27 tackles for loss in his final season at Manor. The Gators could use some of that Umanmielen on Saturday.

### **PRINCELY UMANMIELEN Q&A**

Q: What does the loss of Brenton Cox Jr. do to the defense?

A: Brenton was a really good player, but I just feel like there was a lot talent under him that's going to be put on display because the guys behind him aren't like, that far behind him. Antwaun Powell he's a great pass rusher, Lloyd Summerall, David Reese, those are big-time guys that can step up and help the team out.

Q: What about you feeling the need to step up to help with Cox gone?

A: Losing him, it just made me feel like I've got to go harder also because that's a big-time pass rusher we're losing on the other side, so you know I've got to go harder and make up for that a little bit.

Q: What's the team unity like coming off a couple of losses?



A: I think we get closer as the season goes on. I feel like camp is when everybody's tired. Tempers are flaring, things like that. As the season goes on you're going against other competition that's not just ourselves. We grow closer as a team.

Q: Any thoughts on new Texas A&M quarter Conner Weigman?

A: I don't think that their quarterbacks are too much different. They aren't really running quarterbacks. I feel like they want to throw the ball first. That will be a small advantage when it comes to pass rush.

Q: Could you line up at Cox's JACK position if needed?

A: That's a good question. That room, they do have a lot of depth. When it comes to things like third down and when we go different packages, I feel like in some of the situations I could do what he did.

Q: What's the message to keep the scoring down against A&M?

A: Stop the run so we can get to third down. Stop them on third down. It's really that simple. They've got a young quarterback, so it's going to be a test for him. We've just got to apply the pressure ... Coach showed four specific defensive plays [from Georgia] loss. If one person did something right, then they wouldn't have gotten a big gain or scored a touchdown. We just have to make sure that every single play, all 11 guys are executing their job.



## **Gators' David Turner Sees Princely Umanmielen as an 'Every Down' Player**

By: Demetrius Harvey

Fan Nation

August 14, 2021

One of the key tenets to Florida Gators football is that it relies on a strong front four.

Well, that's a key tenet to any defense in football, but the Gators have historically been reliant on its pass rush and defensive front four for years, especially over the past few seasons under head coach Dan Mullen and defensive line coach David Turner.

Entering this season, Florida will have a slew of new players entering the rotation early and often. After losing a few of its defensive linemen, and moving forward with a couple of transfers, there will be plenty of young players looking to step up, including sophomore DL Princely Umanmielen.

Umanmielen is one player that Turner believes has plenty of ability, and he's seen the strides he's taken while working with strength and conditioning coach Nick Savage over the year, getting bigger and stronger.

"Last year we were able to get him in on some third-down situations at times, and let him rush the quarterback, but he's got to be a more complete guy," Turner said last week. "That's what he's been concentrating on, that's what we've been talking about. Obviously, he brings a unique skill set in terms of being able to rush quarterback, but he's gotta be an every-down player for us in terms of first and second down."

Currently, Umanmielen is listed at 6-foot-4, 260 pounds. He was listed at 255 pounds last season. While it appears he's "only" gained five pounds over the course of a season, it's clear he's packed on more muscle and has gotten stronger, having an ability to play more of an every-down role with the Gators' defense.

This is something that Turner and defensive coordinator Todd Grantham will continue to work with Umanmielen on as the season moves forward, developing him into a similar role as defensive lineman Zachary Carter.

"We [are] still trying to get better on some things in terms of rushing the quarterback, but he's got to be better. He's got to be stronger, he's got to be more stout in the run game and those are things he's working on," Turner said. "But I'm glad that Princely, I'm glad we have him."

The Gators will continue to progress players throughout its starting lineup. While Umanmielen won't be a starter right away, his importance to the team cannot be understated. Last season, the young defensive lineman accounted for two sacks and two tackles for loss.

His most productive game would come against Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl, a good end to the then-freshman's season.



## **FLORIDA FOOTBALL DAILY NEWS SUMMARY**

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"He's going to be a really, really good player over a period of time before his careers out, and he's a guy that works at it and I think football is important to him."



## **Second-Year Surge: Princely Umanmielen could force his way into snaps**

By: Thomas Goldkamp

Swamp 247

July 8, 2021

Florida is in the middle of its summer strength and conditioning program, and the Gators are looking to make strides physically to become a faster and more powerful team.

Those gains are incredibly important for one group of players in particular: the second-year guys. Especially in 2021, without the benefit of a full offseason program last year due to COVID-19, the second-year players have a chance to make a serious jump.

Today we continue a series that takes a look at those second-year players and what Florida fans can expect from each one. We continue at defensive end with a player who showed a lot of promise in limited reps last year.

### **PRINCELY UMANMIELEN**

Position: Defensive End

Size: 6-foot-4, 245 pounds

Hometown/Previous School: Manor, Texas / Manor

Recruiting Ranking: No. 243 overall ranking as a prospect in the 247Composite. No. 9 strong-side defensive end in the nation in the 247Composite, No. 11 strong-side defensive end in the nation according to 247Sports. No. 38 overall player in Texas in the 247Composite, No. 42 overall player in Texas according to 247Sports.

2020 Stats: 4 tackles, 2 tackles for loss, 2 sacks

**STRENGTHS SHOWN:** Umanmielen probably didn't get as many snaps as we would have liked to see in 2020 given how productive his limited reps were. Umanmielen has a terrific motor and the power to beat opposing tackles off the edge. He couples that power with surprising bend for his size and strength, allowing him to get around the edge routinely on the pass rush. He's got excellent upside as he continues to improve his functional strength.

**STEP-UP NEEDED:** There's not much to find flaw with in Umanmielen's game from what we've seen so far; he was relatively disciplined for a true freshman a year ago. He'll need more reps, and that should happen this year as Florida feels out who it wants to shuffle inside and out depending on the package. Umanmielen just needs to keep working in the strength and conditioning program to maximize his upside, which is quite high.

**SYNOPSIS (TL;DR):** Umanmielen projects more as a strong-side end than a rush end long term at Florida, but either way reps may be tough to come by this fall. Florida is loaded at both positions, with Zachary Carter, Brenton Cox, Khris Bogle and Jeremiah Moon all ahead of



Umanmielen right now and Andrew Chatfield and Dante Lang also battling Umanmielen for the remaining reps. Still, Umanmielen is too talented to keep off the field. He'll find a role as a key pass-rusher in obvious passing downs for a few series per game.



## **Gators' Princely Umanmielen Is 'Gifted' Says Turner, Still Learning**

By: Demetrius Harvey

Fan Nation

March 16, 2021

The man with perhaps one of the most intriguing names on the football roster, defensive end Princely Umanmielen is getting high praise from Florida coaches this spring.

Now able to participate in spring training, Umanmielen is able to focus on his fundamentals, realizing that the game is not the same as it was when he was in high school, but a whole lot faster, and much more dependent on technique, rather than brute force.

Florida defensive line coach David Turner recently met with the media and spoke highly of the young defensive lineman, stating that he is a "gifted young man," but still needs work as most players coming from the prep level to the collegiate level oftentimes do.

"Princely has a lot of tools. He is a gifted young man. He's still got to understand the college game. It's not high school, you can't just run around and kind of freelance at your leisure," Turner said frankly. "You've got things and responsibilities within the defense. Princely's learning."

He's still learning. Last season Umanmielen was a fan-favorite whenever he entered the contest. While he was not one of the team's starters or even significant role players in big-time matchups, he would make the most of his snaps, absolutely.

Seeing action in six games, Umanmielen totaled three defensive stops, two tackles-for-loss and two sacks. While those numbers aren't exactly eye-popping, it is still impressive for a player who didn't see much action and was not able to go through spring practice, typically afforded to young freshmen first entering the program.

"I mean, those guys overcame a lot, and it wasn't typical—obviously—a typical year. So, the development of the freshmen, really didn't happen," Turner explained.

"You know, you're talking about practicing in the fall when you getting ready to play, play a game on Saturday, and you really don't have as much time with those guys like you do in spring practice now, where you're really concentrating on the fundamentals."

Fundamentals are key. There are times when a defensive end is tasked with simply holding the point, not allowing an offensive player to get outside of his shoulders. This is in order to bring the play back to the front side, or backside depending on the route they take, allowing the linebackers and interior to swarm. As a pass rusher, this can be a tough task, which is why it is key to hone in on ones fundamentals.

The team's young defenders are currently working on just that, Turner says. That includes second-year players like Gervon Dexter and Jalen Lee. Both are big-time defenders that were brought in with last year's springless class.



"You know it's hard to play fast when you don't know, not real sure what you're doing. And so those guys feel good in the defense now, they've been exposed to it, they've been in it. They've played, and now it's really starting to settle down and play a whole lot faster which allows them and their natural ability to take over."

They have played, and that means something. They have real-world experience at the collegiate level. With more practice and teaching, the expectation is that they could rise to an even greater level. Some feel that Umanmielen is "up next," but it appears one of his teammates, Dexter, feels the defender is "up now."

Only valuable time will determine whether or not he's correct.



## **Gators Back on Campus, Freshman DE Princely Umanmielen Shows off New Gear**

By: Demetrius Harvey  
Fan Nation  
June 16, 2020

The Florida Gators football team is back.

Last week, the Gators football team returned to campus as part of a multi-phased plan to ease the players back to normalcy amid the coronavirus which has disrupted the schedule of the entire world, especially the sporting world.

In their return, the Gators are under strict sanitary guidelines in an effort to limit or prevent any sort of outbreak of the coronavirus, which ultimately can cause the disease known as COVID-19. Players who have decided to return to campus on a voluntary basis will undergo strict health screenings, including a coronavirus test.

Last week, Florida Associate Athletic Director of Sports Health Dave Werner shared the news that 87 players had been tested with 80 results coming back, all negative. The remaining seven test results, which were pending when Werner and UF spoke with the media, have not been shared as of today.

On social media, the Gators football team shared a short video illustrating certain precautions the team will be taking, including a hand-washing station prior to entering the team's "new" weight room, which has been re-located to the team's indoor practice facility. Workouts are scheduled and the team limits how many student-athletes are able to participate at a time.

In the video, Gators linebackers Ventrell Miller and James Houston IV are seen entering the facility, making sure to wash their hands before they enter.

"I mean it's a little precautionary washing my hands like this, but when we hit inside of there we're still getting it in," Miller said. "Ain't nothing changed, we're still getting that work."

Houston added, "Make sure you get them fingertips, get the wrist, all that, going to get that good work in today."

While the veterans are accustomed to a typical day in the life as a Florida student-athlete, others players, such as the team's freshmen, have yet to actually experience what it really means to be a Florida Gator. Their initial time at Florida will be a dramatic departure from what they'd typically go through on a year-to-year basis due to the ongoing pandemic.

One aspect of the change has been seen through the eyes of Gators freshman defensive end Princely Umanmielen, who hosts his own YouTube channel, "D1Princely", which he is currently using to document his freshman season at Florida. Last Friday, Umanmielen posted a video that shows his travel from his hometown of Manor (Tx.) to Gainesville Florida.



The freshman defensive end can be seen sporting an ever-popular facemask as he makes his way through the Dallas/Ft. Worth airport to his ultimate destination. Along the way, he spotted freshman defensive tackle, Jalen Lee, who indicated he would be in Gainesville for only a short time before returning briefly to Louisiana.

Because the freshmen dorms are not yet ready for students to live in yet - the school still needs to thoroughly clean each room -, the incoming freshmen are currently staying in a hotel, making a short trip to campus each day they are slated to workout.

In a more recent video, Umanmielen showed off his new gear provided by the school, including a bag, sweats, shirt, cut-off/combined shirt-hoodie, long sleeve shirt, fitted Florida gear, shorts, shoes, and a new sweater all Gators/Jordan brand, something student-athletes are excited about.

"We're gonna get a lot more stuff, but this is just what they issued us for workouts," he said.

On the sweater, Umanmielen said simply, "I won't be using this anytime soon because it's hot as hell in Florida right now." There is currently a high of 84 degrees in Gainesville, Florida right now.

Although it is very different from a typical Florida summer for these student-athletes, at least they're finally on campus. The Florida Gators are back.