

2024 GASPARILLA BOWL

medias guide



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024



FLORIDA VS TULANE
2024 GASPARILLA BOWL

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
TAMPA, FLORIDA



3 *national championships*

8 *SEC championships*

765 *all-time wins*

3 *heisman trophy winners*

58 *first round draft picks*

72 *first team all-americans*

258 *first team all-SEC*



FLORIDA
FOOTBALL

GATORS[®]

FOOTBALL

3 National Championships // 8 SEC Championships // 765 All-Time Wins // 3 Heisman Trophy Winners
58 First-Round NFL Draft Picks // 72 First-Team All-Americans // 258 First-Team All-SEC Selections

2024 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	NO. 19 MIAMI	L, 41-17
SEPT. 7	SAMFORD	W, 45-7
SEPT. 14	TEXAS A&M	L, 33-20
Sept. 21	at Mississippi State	W, 45-28
Sept. 28	Bye	
OCT. 5	UCF	W, 24-13
Oct. 12	at No. 8 Tennessee	L, 23-17 (OT)
OCT. 19	KENTUCKY (Homecoming)	W, 48-20
Oct. 26	Bye	
Nov. 2	vs. No. 2 Georgia (Jacksonville)	L, 34-20
Nov. 9	at No. 5 Texas	L, 49-17
NOV. 16	NO. 21 LSU	W, 27-16
NOV. 23	NO. 9 OLE MISS	W, 24-17
Nov. 30	at Florida State	W, 31-11

Overall: 7-5 // Home: 5-2 // Away: 2-2 // Neutral: 0-1

TEAM INFORMATION

FLORIDA

Head Coach:	Billy Napier
Career Record:	58-31 (27-5 Sun Belt) [7th season]
Record at UF:	18-19 (10-14 SEC) [3rd season]
Record vs. TU:	0-1
Rankings:	RV (AP) / NR (Coaches)
2023 Record:	5-7, 3-5 SEC (T-4th in East)

TULANE

Head Coach:	Jon Sumrall
Career Record:	32-8 (14-2 Sun Belt) [3rd season]
Record at TU:	9-4 (7-1 AAC) [1st season]
Record vs. UF:	0-0
Rankings:	RV (AP) / RV (Coaches)
2023 Record:	11-3, 8-0 AAC (1st)

SERIES HISTORY

Overall:	Florida leads, 13-6-2
Last Meeting:	Florida 63, Tulane 21 (Sept. 15, 1984 - Gainesville)
Recent History:	Florida, W11 Florida 11-0-1 since 1947
In Gainesville:	Florida leads, 7-2
In New Orleans:	Florida leads, 5-3-2
In Tampa:	Tied, 1-1

NUMBERS OF NOTE

5-1 / 32.5 / 6.7

Florida is 5-1 in games started by true freshman **QB DJ Lagway**, with the lone loss being to No. 2 Georgia, a game which the Gators led prior to Lagway departing due to injury. That means Florida is 5-0 in games Lagway starts and finishes. The Gators are outscoring opponents, 32.5 PPG to 17.5 PPG (195-105), and averaging 6.7 yards per play to opponents' 4.6 yards per play, in the six games Lagway has started.



@GatorsFB // #GoGators



Florida Gators (7-5, 4-4 SEC)

VS.

Tulane Green Wave (9-4, 7-1 AAC)

December 20 // 3:30 p.m. ET // Tampa, Fla.
Raymond James Stadium (75,000)

ESPN2

Play-by-Play: Anish Shroff
Analyst: Andrew Ware
Reporter: Paul Carcaterra
Channel (Cox): 27 [HD]
Channel (DirecTV): 200 [HD]

Gator Sports Network from LEARFIELD

Play-by-Play: Sean Kelley
Analyst: Shane Matthews
Reporter: Tate Casey
Station Freq.: Local Affiliates
Sirius Channel: N/A

Bowl Season Radio

National Broadcast
Play-by-Play: Bill Roth
Analyst: John Denton
Reporter: Bridget Howard
Sirius Channel: 139 or 204

THE OPENING DRIVE

- Florida and Tulane match up for the 22nd time and first since 1984 in the 2024 Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl.
- This is Florida's second appearance in the Gasparilla Bowl, previously playing in the event in 2021 (UCF 29, UF 17).
- Florida and Tulane first faced off on Nov. 18, 1915 in Gainesville, with the Gators prevailing, 14-7.
- After a 2-6-2 start in the series from 1915-1947, Florida has won 11-straight against Tulane for a 13-6-2 series lead.
- The Gators' last loss to the Green Wave was over 78 years ago - a 27-13 defeat in New Orleans on Oct. 5, 1946.
- This is the third matchup between Florida and Tulane in Tampa (tied at 1-1). Florida is 28-15-3 all-time in Tampa.
- Florida has an all-time record of 24-24 across 48 bowl appearances dating back through 1953.
- The Gators are 8-5 in bowls since 2009 and 10-6 since 2006 - going for their first win since the 2019 Orange Bowl.
- This is Florida's sixth bowl appearance in the last seven seasons, and ninth in the last 11 campaigns.
- **Gators HC Billy Napier** is 2-2 all-time in bowl games: 2022 Las Vegas Bowl (L), 2018 Cure Bowl (L), 2019-20 LendingTree Bowl (W), 2020 First Responder Bowl (W).
- Florida closed out the regular season with three-straight victories (def. No. 21 LSU, No. 9 Ole Miss, FSU) for the first time since the 2019 campaign (def. Vanderbilt, Missouri and FSU).
- Florida has outscored its opponents by 38 points (82-44) across its three-game winning streak (12.7 PPG).
- Florida posted back-to-back upset wins over AP Top 25 opponents (No. 21 LSU, No. 9 Ole Miss) as an unranked team for the first time since Oct. 11-18, 2003 (No. 6 LSU, No. 11 Arkansas) - first time accomplished in two home games.
- Of the 37 upsets by unranked teams in the regular season, Florida was one of six with multiple top-25 wins.
- This is the first meeting between **Napier** and Tulane HC Jon Sumrall as head coaches (more on Page 21).
- The Gators have recorded a takeaway in nine-straight games and have forced a turnover in 11 of 12 overall.
- **QB DJ Lagway** is set to join Wayne Peace (W, 1980 Tangerine Bowl), Chris Leak (L, 2004 Outback Bowl) and Treon Harris (W, 2015 Birmingham Bowl) as the fourth UF true freshman quarterback to start a bowl game (2-1 record).
- **Lagway** leads all FBS passers with at least 100 attempts with a 97.3 passing grade on deep throws (20-plus yards).
- Florida started a true freshman QB and RB in **Lagway** and **RB Jadan Baugh** for the second time in program history in Week 12 vs. LSU, and is now 2-0 with the only two FBS wins this season while starting a true freshman backfield.
- Florida is one of two teams in the country with two qualified receivers averaging 19.0 yards per catch in **WR Elijah Badger** (fifth - 21.3) and **WR Chimere Dike** (17th - 19.1), with the other being East Carolina.
- Led by first-year senior analyst **Joe Houston**, Florida ranks eighth in the FBS in net punting (43.05), 17th in punt return average (13.36) and 41st in punt return defense (5.47), and has been inside the top-13 all season in ESPN's SP+ metric.
- Florida has allowed just 19 sacks, grading as the 18th-best pass blocking team in the nation with a 79.9 PFF grade.
- **C Jake Slaughter** grades as the No. 5 center in the FBS (81.2) and has the sixth-best run block grade (79.1).
- Since 2018, **Napier** is tied for 12th in the FBS with 58 total wins (10th among active head coaches).
- The Gators have won 18 of their last 24 games in The Swamp (including 13 of 18), but are 4-19 in their last 23 contests outside of The Swamp and 4-14 in their last 18 true road games.
- Florida has scored in an NCAA-record 460-consecutive games dating back to 1988.

BOWL WEEK MEDIA SCHEDULE

15 Sunday No Media Availability	16 Monday Media Availability TBD	17 Tuesday Media Availability TBD	18 Wednesday Media Availability TBD	19 Thursday No Media Availability	20 Friday Post-Game Billy Napier Press Conference, Student-Athlete Interviews	21 Saturday No Media Availability
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COACH NAPIER INTERVIEWS

Please coordinate all requests for telephone and personal interviews with Coach Napier through Scott Burns in the Communications Office. Coach Napier is available Monday (weekly press conference) and Wednesday on the SEC Teleconference at 11:20 a.m. ET. For Bowl Week, Napier's press conference will take place on Monday, Dec. 16 via Zoom. Contact Scott Burns for Zoom access and more information.

STUDENT-ATHLETE / ASSISTANT COACH INTERVIEWS

Please coordinate all student-athlete interviews through Matthew Hutchison in the Communications Office. Select student-athletes will be available Monday at the weekly press conference and again each Wednesday. Freshmen are not available for interviews. All student-athlete interviews will conclude Wednesday during game weeks. Assistant coaches are not available for interviews.

Telephone interviews should be booked at least one day in advance and are typically limited to the times reserved for general interview sessions. The Communications Office will not give out phone numbers for any student-athletes, and student-athletes may not be contacted directly by phone, text, e-mail, or social media. Members of the media are not permitted in team areas. Team locker room, training room and strength complex are considered private areas. These areas, as well as student-athletes' housing (campus and off-campus) are off limits to media representatives.

WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE

Florida's weekly press conference will be each Monday during the season. Coach Napier is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. with select student-athletes to follow at approximately 12 p.m. Video of the press conference will be posted on FloridaGators.com, and it will be available to download via XOS. See above for an adjusted media schedule for Bowl Week.

2024 FLORIDA GATORS FB MEDIA PORTAL

The Florida Athletics Department utilizes **FloridaGators.com/Football-Media** to post press conferences and interviews from coaches, selected student-athletes, and assistant coaches on game weeks. Florida's game notes for the entire season, along with additional resources such as the media guide, roster cards, feature clips, pronunciation guide and more, will be available on the team's media site. For more information, contact Scott Burns (ScottB@gators.ufl.edu).

Please note that all video is intended solely for regular-scheduled news programs or news organizations' websites. Organizations are limited to posting three minutes per interview, with a total limit of 10 minutes per day of content. For more information regarding the video policy, visit **FloridaGators.com/Football-Media**. If any person or syndicator would like to use additional portions of these feeds, please contact the UAA Communications Office, for rights, permission, and associated fees. In addition, use of organization-filmed video from weekly press conferences and post-practice media availabilities is also limited to three minutes per interview with a total of 10 minutes daily.

MEDIA-ONLY INFORMATION SOURCES

For credential requests, please utilize: <http://www.SportsSystems.com/Florida>.

To be added to the Gators Football e-mail list, please e-mail Scott Burns (ScottB@gators.ufl.edu). To be added to the SEC Football e-mail list, please e-mail Chuck Dunlap (cdunlap@sec.org) of the SEC Media Relations Office.

For the most up to date media schedules and game week information, please utilize CollegePressBox.com -- which has rosters, depth charts, season stats, game notes, media guides, credential information, flip cards, box scores, and more. You can also visit www.FloridaGators.com/football-media to access more Florida media resources.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Phone: (352) 375-4683, ext. 6100

Website: FloridaGators.com

Scott Burns | Director of Football Communications

COACH INTERVIEWS

Office: (352) 375-4683, ext. 6199

Mobile: (812) 322-5285

E-Mail: ScottB@gators.ufl.edu

Matthew Hutchison | Associate Director of Communications

STUDENT-ATHLETE INTERVIEWS

E-Mail: MatthewH@gators.ufl.edu

Sullivan Bortner | Associate Director of Communications

GAME RELEASE / STATISTICS

Office: (352) 375-4683, ext. 6175

Mobile: (352) 318-6680

E-Mail: SullivanB@gators.ufl.edu

Alesha Busch | Executive Assistant, Communications

CREDENTIALS

Office: (352) 375-4683, ext. 6123

E-Mail: AleshaB@gators.ufl.edu

2024 Gators Sports Network

Belle Glade	WAFC-FM	92.5
Clewiston	WAFC-FM	100.5
Crestview	WJSB-AM	1050
Crestview	WJSB-FM	101.1
Cocoa	WFLF-AM	540
Daytona	WFLF-AM	540
Ft. Myers	WBCN-AM	770 AM & 104.3 FM
Ft. Myers/Naples/Marco Island	WWCN-FM	99.3
Ft. Pierce/PSL/Stuart	WSTU-AM	1450
Ft. Walton Beach	WTKF-FM	100.3
Gainesville	WRUF-FM	103.7
Gainesville	WRUF-AM	850 AM & 98.1 FM
Jacksonville	WJXL-FM	92.5
Jacksonville	WJXL-AM	97.7
Key West	WAVK-FM	97.7
LaBelle	WAFC-FM	105.1
Lake City	WRUF-FM	103.7
Lake City	WRUF-AM	850 AM & 98.1 FM
Lakeland	WONN-AM	1230
Melbourne	WILZ-SM	1560
Melbourne	WILZ-FM	107.9
Melbourne/Sebastian	WFLF-AM	540
Miami	WINZ-AM	940
Miami	WIOD-AM	610
Okeechobee	WKOC-FM	100.9
Okeechobee	WKOC-AM	1570
Orlando	WFLF-FM	93.1
Orlando	WFLF-AM	540
Palatka	WYD-AM	1260
Panama City	WKWK-FM	103.5
Port Saint Joe	WKWK-FM	103.5
Pensacola	WBSR-FM	101.1
Pensacola	WBSR-AM	1450
Sarasota	WWMI-AM	1380
Sebring	WWTX	730 AM & 95.3 FM
St. Augustine	WFOY-FM	102.1
St. Augustine	WFOY-AM	1240
Tallahassee	WVFT-FM	93.3
Tampa	WGUL-AM	860
Vienna, Ga.	WKTF-AM	1550
Wauchula	WAUC-FM	95.3
Wauchula	WAUC-AM	1310
West Palm Beach	WRLX-FM	94.3

Always check FloridaGators.com for most up-to-date listings.



FLORIDA GATORS BOWL HISTORY

All-Time Bowl Results

Bowl	Site	Date	Opponent	Ranks	Result	Score
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Jan. 1, 1953	Tulsa	15 / 12	W	14-13
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dec. 27, 1958	Ole Miss	14 / 11	L	3-7
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dec. 31, 1960	Baylor	- / 12	W	13-12
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dec. 30, 1962	Penn State	- / 9	W	17-7
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Jan. 1, 1966	Missouri	- / 6	L	18-20
Orange Bowl	Miami, Fla.	Jan. 1, 1967	Georgia Tech	- / 8	W	27-12
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dec. 27, 1969	Tennessee	15 / 11	W	14-13
Tangerine Bowl	Gainesville	Dec. 22, 1973	Miami (Ohio)	- / 15	L	7-16
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Dec. 31, 1974	Nebraska	18 / 8	L	10-13
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dec. 29, 1975	Maryland	13 / 17	L	0-13
Sun Bowl	El Paso, Texas	Jan. 2, 1977	Texas A&M	- / 10	L	14-37
Tangerine Bowl	Orlando, Fla.	Dec. 20, 1980	Maryland		W	35-20
Peach Bowl	Atlanta, Ga.	Dec. 31, 1981	West Virginia		L	6-26
Bluebonnet Bowl	Houston, Texas	Dec. 31, 1982	Arkansas	- / 14	L	24-28
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dec. 30, 1983	Iowa	11 / 10	W	14-6
Aloha Bowl	Honolulu, Hawaii	Dec. 25, 1987	UCLA	- / 10	L	16-20
All-American Bowl	Birmingham, Ala.	Dec. 29, 1988	Illinois		W	14-10
Freedom Bowl	Anaheim, Calif.	Dec. 30, 1989	Washington		L	7-34
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Jan. 1, 1992	Notre Dame	3 / 18	L	28-39
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dec. 31, 1992	N.C. State	14 / 12	W	27-10
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Jan. 1, 1994	West Virginia	8 / 3	W	41-7
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Jan. 2, 1995	Florida State	5 / 7	L	17-23
Fiesta Bowl	Tempe, Ariz.	Jan. 2, 1996	Nebraska	2 / 1	L	24-62
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Jan. 2, 1997	Florida State	3 / 1	W	52-20
Citrus Bowl	Orlando, Fla.	Jan. 1, 1998	Penn State	6 / 11	W	21-6
Orange Bowl	Miami, Fla.	Jan. 2, 1999	Syracuse	7 / 18	W	31-10
Citrus Bowl	Orlando, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2000	Michigan State	10 / 9	L	34-37
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Jan. 2, 2001	Miami (Fla.)	7 / 2	L	20-37
Orange Bowl	Miami, Fla.	Jan. 2, 2002	Maryland	5 / 6	W	56-23
Outback Bowl	Tampa, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2003	Michigan	15 / 12	L	30-38
Outback Bowl	Tampa, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2004	Iowa	17 / 13	L	17-37
Peach Bowl	Atlanta, Ga.	Dec. 31, 2004	Miami (Fla.)	19 / 14	L	10-27
Outback Bowl	Tampa, Fla.	Jan. 2, 2006	Iowa	16 / 25	W	31-24
BCS National Championship	Glendale, Ariz.	Jan. 8, 2007	Ohio State	2 / 1	W	41-14
Capital One (Citrus) Bowl	Orlando, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2008	Michigan	12 / -	L	35-41
BCS National Championship	Miami, Fla.	Jan. 8, 2009	Oklahoma	1 / 2	W	24-14
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Jan. 1, 2010	Cincinnati	5 / 4	W	51-24
Outback Bowl	Tampa, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2011	Penn State		W	37-24
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Jan. 2, 2012	Ohio State		W	24-17
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans, La.	Jan. 2, 2013	Louisville	4 / 21	L	23-33
Birmingham Bowl	Birmingham, Ala.	Jan. 3, 2015	East Carolina		W	28-20
Citrus Bowl	Orlando, Fla.	Jan. 1, 2016	Michigan	19 / 14	L	7-41
Outback Bowl	Tampa, Fla.	Jan. 2, 2017	Iowa	20 / 21	W	30-3
Peach Bowl	Atlanta, Ga.	Dec. 29, 2018	Michigan	10 / 7	W	41-15
Orange Bowl	Miami, Fla.	Dec. 30, 2019	Virginia	6 / -	W	36-28
Cotton Bowl	Arlington, Tex.	Dec. 30, 2020	Oklahoma	7 / 6	L	20-55
Gasparilla Bowl	Tampa, Fla.	Dec. 23, 2021	UCF		L	17-29
Las Vegas Bowl	Las Vegas, Nev.	Dec. 17, 2022	Oregon State	- / 14	L	3-30

Top Florida Bowl Game Performances

Rushing Attempts

43 - Fred Taylor, 1998 Citrus Bowl
 39 - Errict Rhett, 1992 Gator Bowl
 28 - Emmitt Smith, 1988 All-American Bowl
 25 - Errict Rhett, 1995 Sugar Bowl
 Larry Dupree, 1962 Gator Bowl
 24 - Jordan Reed, 2011 Outback Bowl

Rushing Yards

234 - Fred Taylor, 1998 Citrus Bowl
 187 - Larry Smith, 1967 Orange Bowl
 182 - Errict Rhett, 1992 Gator Bowl
 165 - Percy Harvin, 2008 Capital One Bowl
 159 - Emmitt Smith, 1988 All-American Bowl

Receptions

11 - Travis Taylor, 2000 Citrus Bowl
 10 - Dallas Baker, 2006 Outback Bowl
 Taylor Jacobs, 2002 Orange Bowl
 9 - Five times

Receiving Yards

181 - Riley Cooper, 2010 Sugar Bowl
 170 - Taylor Jacobs, 2002 Orange Bowl
 166 - Cris Collinsworth, 1980 Tangerine Bowl
 159 - Travis Taylor, 1999 Orange Bowl
 156 - Travis Taylor, 2000 Citrus Bowl
 150 - Ike Hilliard, 1997 Sugar Bowl

Passing Yards

482 - Tim Tebow, 2010 Sugar Bowl
 394 - Danny Wuerffel, 1995 Sugar Bowl
 370 - Shane Matthews, 1992 Sugar Bowl
 352 - Steve Spurrier, 1966 Sugar Bowl
 323 - Rex Grossman, 2003 Outback Bowl
 306 - Danny Wuerffel, 1997 Sugar Bowl
 305 - Kyle Trask, 2019 Orange Bowl

Passing Touchdowns

4 - Rex Grossman, 2002 Orange Bowl
 3 - Tim Tebow, 2010 Sugar Bowl
 Tim Tebow, 2008 Capital One Bowl
 Doug Johnson, 2000 Citrus Bowl
 Danny Wuerffel, 1997 Sugar Bowl
 Bob Hewko, 1982 Bluebonnet Bowl

Team Records

Points: 56 - 2002 Orange Bowl (Maryland)
Rushing Yards: 284 - 1967 Orange Bowl (Ga. Tech)
Passing Yards: 482 - 2010 Sugar Bowl (Cincinnati)
Total Yards: 659 - 2010 Sugar Bowl (Cincinnati)
Longest FG: 51 - Jeff Chandler, 2001 Sugar Bowl



the top true freshman in the nation

fbs true freshman ranks (min. 100 attempts)

1st

passer rating (159.6)
15.8 pts higher
than next-closest player

1st

yards/attempt (10.25)

1st

touchdown rate (7%)

1st

longest pass (85 yds)

2nd

most wins (5)

2nd

**most single-game
pass yards** (456)

2nd

**NFL passer rating
on deep throws** (116.0)

Making his first-career start in the Week 2 win over Samford, Lagway passed for the most yards ever (456) by a Florida true freshman quarterback.



throwing darts.

fbs passing depth ranks
(min. 100 attempts)



Lagway had five completions of 40-plus yards in each of his first two career starts (vs. Samford, vs. UK). No other Florida quarterback has completed five passes of 40-plus yards in a game in the last 20 years.



chimere
dike

elijah
badger

the best receiving duo in the country

Badger & Dike are among **11** FBS players averaging over **56.0** receiving yards per game and **19.0** yards per reception.

ONLY SEC receiving duo averaging over **18.0** yards per catch apiece.

1 of **4** SEC receiving duos with over **680** receiving yards apiece.

1 of **5** SEC teams with multiple receivers with over **55.0** YPG.

Although 17 Gators have caught a pass this season, Badger and Dike's combined 1,476 receiving yards account for 56.1% of the team's total output through the air. The duo's 73 catches make up 39.2% of Florida's receptions on the year. 30 of their 73 grabs (41.1%) have gone for 20-plus yards.



19.1 yards per catch
17th fbs | 5th sec

21.3 yards per catch
5th fbs | 2nd sec

57.3 yards per game
14th in sec

71.7 yards per game
5th sec

687 rec. yards
15th in sec

789 rec. yards
9th sec



badger
dike

44 yard receiving long

3 100+ yard receiving games

21 explosive plays
15+ yards

37 straight games with a reception
10th-longest streak in fbs

17 big plays
20+ yards

22 explosive plays
15+ yards

RECORD WATCH

INDIVIDUAL - SCHOOL

Rushing Touchdowns (Game)		
T1. Jadan Baugh vs. Kentucky, 2024	5	
T1. Trey Burton vs. Kentucky, 2010	5	
T1. Tim Tebow vs. South Carolina, 2007	5	
T4. Four others tied	4	

100-Yard Rushing Games (Career)		
1. Emmitt Smith, 1987-89	23	
2. Errict Rhett, 1990-93	20	
T3. Fred Taylor, 1994-97	14	
T3. Neal Anderson, 1982-85	14	
5. Earnest Graham, 1999-2002	10	
T6. Montrell Johnson Jr., 2022-pres.	8	
T6. John L. Williams, 1982-85	8	
T8. Four others tied	7	

Passing Yards (Game)		
1. Tim Tebow, 11/10 vs. Cincinnati	482	
T2. Kyle Trask, 11/7/20 vs. Georgia	474	
T2. Kyle Trask, 12/12/20 vs. LSU	474	
T4. Emory Jones, 11/13/21 vs. Samford	464	
T4. Rex Grossman, 2001 vs. LSU	464	
6. Danny Wuerffel, 1995 vs. Arkansas	462	
7. Doug Johnson, 1998 vs. Vanderbilt	460	
8. Eric Kresser, 1995 vs. Northern Illinois	458	
9. DJ Lagway, 2024 vs. Samford	456	
T0. Anthony Richardson, 2022 vs. Tenn.	453	

Total Offense (Game)		
1. Emory Jones, 11/13/21 vs. Samford	550	
2. Tim Tebow, 11/10 vs. Cincinnati	533	
3. Anthony Richardson, 9/4/22 vs. Tenn.	515	
4. DJ Lagway, 9/7/24 vs. Samford	472	
5. Kyle Trask, 11/7/20 vs. Georgia	469	

Passing Yards by Freshman (Game)		
1. DJ Lagway, 2024 vs. Samford	456	
2. Danny Wuerffel, 1993 vs. Miss. St.	449	

Completion Percentage (Game, min. 15 att.)		
1. Danny Wuerffel, 1996 vs. Georgia Southern	93.8	
2. Feleipe Franks, 2019 vs. UT Martin	92.6	
3. Graham Mertz, 2024 vs. Miss. St.	90.5	
4. Kyle Trask, 2019 vs. Towson	90.0	
5. Will Grier, 2015 vs. New Mexico St.	88.9	

Passer Rating (Season)		
1. Kyle Trask, 2020	180.02	
2. Danny Wuerffel, 1995	178.4	
3. Tim Tebow, 2007	172.5	
4. Tim Tebow, 2008	172.4	
5. Rex Grossman, 2001	170.8	
6. Danny Wuerffel, 1996	170.6	
7. Tim Tebow, 2009	164.2	
8. Rex Grossman, 2000	161.8	
9. DJ Lagway, 2024	159.6	
T0. Kerwin Bell, 1985	159.4	
11. Graham Mertz, 2023	157.8	
12. Kyle Trask, 2019	156.1	

Passer Rating (Game)		
1. Wayne Peace, 1982 vs. West Texas St.	289.3	
2. Danny Wuerffel, 1995 vs. Georgia	287.2	
3. Tim Tebow, 2007 vs. Western Kentucky	282.9	
4. Danny Wuerffel, 1996 vs. Ga. Southern	275.2	
5. DJ Lagway, 2024 vs. Samford	264.8	
6. Emory Jones, 2021 vs. Samford	255.2	
7. Danny Wuerffel, 1995 vs. South Carolina	254.3	
8. Danny Wuerffel, 1993 vs. LSU	254.1	

Consecutive Passes Completed		
1. Kyle Trask, 2019 vs. Tenn. & Towson	18	
2. Chris Leak, 2005 vs. Wyoming	17	
3. Steve Spurrier, 1966 vs. FSU & NC State	16	
T4. DJ Lagway, 2024 vs. MSU, UCF & Tenn	14	
T4. Graham Mertz, 2023 vs. UK	14	
T4. Terry Dean, 1993 vs. Ark. St. & UK	14	

Yards Per Catch (Season, min. 25 receptions)		
1. Wes Chandler, 1976 (44 for 967)	22.0	
? Elijah Badger, 2024 (37 for 789)	21.3	
? Chimere Dike, 2024 (36 for 687)	19.1	

50-Yard Field Goals Made (Season)		
T1. Trey Smack (2024)	3	
T1. Adam Mihalek (2022)	3	
T1. Evan McPherson (2020)	3	
T1. Eddy Pineiro (2016)	3	
T1. Caleb Sturgis (2011)	3	

PAT Percent Accuracy (Career, min. 50 att.)		
T1. Trey Smack, 2023-pres. (70 of 70)	100.0%	
T1. Brian Clark, 1979-81 (62 of 62)	100.0%	
3. Evan McPherson, 2018-20 (149 of 150)	99.3%	

Consecutive PATs Made		
1. Bart Edmiston, 1992-96	114	
2. Matt Leach, 2001-04	104	
3. Evan McPherson, 2018-19	91	
4. Judd Davis, 1992-94	81	
5. Trey Smack, 2023-pres.	70	
6. Brian Clark, 1979-81	62	

Longest Field Goals (All-Time)		
1. Chris Perkins, 1984 vs. Tulane	60	
2. Caleb Sturgis, 2009 vs. Georgia	56	
T3. Trey Smack, 2024 vs. LSU	55	
T3. Four others tied	55	
T8. Trey Smack, 2023 vs. SC	54	
T8. Trey Smack, 2024 vs. Charlotte	54	
T8. Six others tied	54	

Punts Attempted (Career)		
1. Johnny Townsend, 2013-17	240	
2. Eric Wilbur, 2003-06	231	
3. Buster Morrison, 1972-74	209	
4. Jeremy Crawshaw, 2020-pres.	187	
5. Shayne Edge, 1991-94	182	

Punting Average (Career, min. 90 punts)		
1. Jeremy Crawshaw, 2020-pres. (131 punts)	46.5	
2. Johnny Townsend, 2013-17 (240 punts)	46.2	
3. Tommy Townsend, 2016-19 (93 punts)	44.8	

Punting Average (Season, min. 40 punts)		
1. Jeremy Crawshaw, 2023 (42 punts)	48.9	
2. Johnny Townsend, 2016 (64 punts)	47.9	
3. Johnny Townsend, 2017 (64 punts)	46.2	
4. Jeremy Crawshaw, 2024 (56 punts)	45.9	
5. Kyle Christy, 2012 (66 punts)	45.8	

Punting Yardage (Career)		
1. Johnny Townsend, 2013-17 (240 punts)	11,090	
2. Eric Wilbur, 2003-06 (231 punts)	9,900	
3. Jeremy Crawshaw, 2020-pres. (187 punts)	8,694	
4. Buster Morrison, 1972-74 (209 punts)	8,374	
5. Kyle Christy, 2011-14 (181 punts)	7,914	

TEAM - SCHOOL

Passing Yardage (Game)		
1. 1993 vs. SW Louisiana	512	
2. 2001 vs. Mississippi State	507	
3. 1995 vs. Northern Illinois	506	
4. 2001 vs. LSU	504	
5. 2000 vs. Mississippi State	494	
6. 2010 Sugar Bowl vs. Cincinnati	482	
T7. 2020 vs. Georgia	474	
T7. 2020 vs. LSU	474	
9. 1991 vs. Northern Illinois	471	
T0. 2024 vs. Samford	466	

Rushing Touchdowns (Season)		
1. 2008	42	
2. 2007	39	
3. 2010	31	
4. 2009	30	
5. 2022	29	
6. 2021	26	
T7. 1996	25	
T7. 1976	25	
T7. 1975	25	
T10. 2024	24	
T10. 2006 & 1995	24	

Fewest Turnovers (Season)		
1. 2023	12	
T2. 2008	13	
T2. 2005	13	
4. 2022	14	
T5. 2012	15	
T5. 2007	15	
7. 2009	16	
T8. 2024	17	
T8. 2015	17	
10. 2019	18	

MACGUFFIN
ON THE LINE

- The MacGuffin Trophy, college football's title belt, belongs to the Florida Gators for the first time since the 2010 season. The honor dates back to the first college football game in 1869, when Princeton defeated Rutgers, 6-4. The MacGuffin changes hands when a team defeats the title's current holder, and it passes from victor to victor, from 1869 to the present day.
- Florida laid claim after its win over Ole Miss on Nov. 23, 2024. This season, it has switched hands four times, from Michigan to Texas (Sept. 7), to Georgia (Oct. 19), to Ole Miss (Nov. 9), to Florida (Nov. 23).
- This is Florida's sixth stint with the MacGuffin, having held it from Oct. 1 to Oct. 29, 1983; Sept. 19 to Oct. 10, 1989; Sept. 9 to Sept. 29, 2006; Jan. 1 to Dec. 6, 2009 (taken from Oklahoma after the National Title game); and Oct. 30 to November 13, 2010.
- The previous five times that the Macguffin was played for in a non-national title bowl game, the holder of the MacGuffin has won and held it four times.
- Florida has never lost the Macguffin to a non-SEC opponent.
- Florida is the first unranked team to hold the trophy since BYU held it for one week in 2022 (9/10 taken from Baylor, 9/17 lost to Oregon).
- The College Football Macguffin was conceived of and coined by social media creator Tyler Budge in 2022, named after the Alfred Hitchcock-popularized term for a plot device which has no intrinsic value to anyone except a story's characters, and therefore drives the plot forward (ex: the Holy Grail in Arthurian legend, the ring in Lord of the Rings, etc.)



- THE DJ IS ROCKIN': THE LAGWAY FILE -

- The top true freshman quarterback and best deep-ball passer in the country resides in Gainesville.
- Making his sixth-career start (5-1) in Week 14, true freshman **QB DJ Lagway** was 14-of-22 (63.6%) for 133 yards, two touchdowns and one interception for a 135.3 rating, improving to 5-0 in games he starts and finishes.
- Although **Lagway** was Florida's fifth true freshman quarterback to start against Florida State, he became the first of that contingent to defeat the Seminoles.
- The rookie threw multiple touchdowns for the second-straight week (third time this season) and has passed for nine touchdowns to four interceptions in his six starts.
- **Lagway** leads all true freshman quarterbacks with at least 100 attempts with a 159.6 rating - 15.8 points higher than the next-closest true freshman passer (Marcel Reed, Texas A&M).
- **Lagway** has finished with a rating above 135.0 in five-straight games and over 150.0 in six different contests (264.8 vs. Samford, 191.2 vs. MSU, 205.0 vs. UCF, 191.1 vs. UK, 154.1 vs. UGA, 174.8 vs. Ole Miss).
- In Week 13 vs. No. 9 Ole Miss, **Lagway** completed 10-of-17 passes for 180 yards, two TDs and one pick (174.8 rating) to lead UF to its second-straight top-25 upset (vs. No. 21 LSU, vs. No. 9 Ole Miss).
- **Lagway** is the third Gators true freshman QB to start at home vs. a Top 25 opponent and the first QB to win, doing so in consecutive weeks with signature victories over No. 21 LSU and No. 9 Ole Miss.
- **Lagway** leads all qualified FBS passers with a 97.3 grade on deep throws (20-plus yards) this season.
- He has totaled 14 big-time throws to just one turnover-worthy play on deep balls.
- **Lagway** completed his 12th pass of 40-plus yards this year on a 41-yard strike to **WR Chimere Dike** in Week 13.
- **Lagway** had five completions of 40-plus yards in each of his first two career starts (vs. Samford, vs. UK).
- No other Florida quarterback has completed five passes of 40-plus yards in a game in the last 20 years.
- Week 13 was the fifth time (fourth QB) a UF true freshman QB beat a top-10 team (first since 2014 vs. UGA).
- **Lagway** is the second UF true freshman QB to start vs. three ranked teams in a season (other is Chris Leak).
- In his first SEC road game at MSU, **Lagway** led two scoring drives starting inside UF's 10-yard line, becoming the first freshman QB to lead a pair of 90-plus-yard drives in a road SEC tilt since Jalen Hurts in 2016.
- Making his first-career start in the Week 2 win over Samford, **Lagway** passed for the most yards ever (456) by a Florida true freshman quarterback, breaking Chris Leak's mark of 269 vs. Kentucky in 2003.
- **Lagway's** 456 passing yards are tied for the seventh-most in the FBS this season and rank ninth all-time at Florida (most since Emory Jones threw for 464 yards vs. Samford on Nov. 13, 2021).
- This season, **Lagway** became Florida's first true freshman starter at quarterback since Treon Harris in the 2014 Birmingham Bowl (UF's seventh true freshman starter at quarterback overall).
- Florida started three different quarterbacks this season for the first time since 2017 (Franks, Zaire, Del Rio).

- FLORIDA'S THREE-GAME FINISH -

- In the last three games, UF has outscored teams, 82-44, while forcing 12 fumbles (to just one on offense).
- Additional stat comparisons over the last three: 5.1 YPC (3.0 YPC), 18 sacks (six), five rushing TDs (one).
- UF won back-to-back games vs. the top 25 for the first time since Sept. 29-Oct. 6, 2018 (No. 23 MSU, No. 5 LSU).
- The win vs. No. 9 Ole Miss marked UF's first home victory as a double-digit underdog and UF's second-largest upset win overall in the last 45 seasons (behind topping No. 16 LSU as a 14-point road dog in 2016).
- Florida posted back-to-back upset wins vs. AP Top 25 opponents (No. 21 LSU, No. 9 Ole Miss) as an unranked team for the first time since Oct. 11-18, 2003 (No. 6 LSU, No. 11 Arkansas) - first time in two home games.
- Florida's victory over No. 9 Ole Miss marked the Gators' highest-ranked SEC win as an unranked team in over 10 years - since defeating No. 9 Georgia, 38-20, on Nov. 1, 2014 - en route to earning 2024 bowl eligibility.
- Florida delivered its third and fourth wins vs. the AP Top 25 of the Napier era as an unranked team and has won at least one ranked game in all three years of his tenure, including a pair of top-10 victories.

- BADGER & DIKE AMONG BEST IN BIZ -

- Florida's receiving duo of **Elijah Badger** and **Chimere Dike** is among the best in the FBS.
- The two Gators are among 11 FBS players averaging over 56.0 yards per game and 19.0 yards per reception.
- **Badger** and **Dike** represent one of two FBS receiver duos to eclipse each of those thresholds (East Carolina).
- **Badger** leads Florida with 789 receiving yards (ninth in SEC), 37 receptions and four receiving touchdowns.
- **Badger** is fifth in the FBS (second in SEC) with 21.3 YPC and fifth in the SEC with 71.7 YPG.
- **Badger's** 789 receiving yards already rank third behind Kadarius Toney (984) and Ricky Pearsall (964) across Florida's last 10 seasons.
- **Badger** has caught touchdowns in two of the last three games since returning from injury.
- Meanwhile, **Dike** ranks fifth in the SEC and 17th in the FBS in YPC (19.1), and 14th in the SEC in YPG (57.3).
- **Badger** owns three 100-yard games this season (team high) and seven total in his career.
- Florida is one of five SEC teams with multiple receivers with over 55.0 YPG (LSU, Ole Miss, Mizzou, Bama).
- **Badger** extended his streak to 37-straight games with a catch vs. FSU (10th-longest active streak).
- **Badger** finished with three catches for a career-high 148 yards (49.3 YPC) in the Week 8 win over Kentucky.

QUICK FACTS

General Information

Location: Gainesville, Fla.
Enrollment: 60,567
Interim President: Dr. Kent Fuchs
Athletic Director: Scott Stricklin
Conference: Southeastern (SEC)
Nickname: Gators
Colors: Orange (PMS 172) & Blue (PMS 287)
Stadium (Capacity): Steve Spurrier-Florida Field at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)
Surface: Grass
Press Box Number: (352) 378-9590

Football History

All-Time Record: 765-449-40 (116 years)
First Season of Football: 1906
National Championships: 3 ('96, '06, '08)
SEC Championships: 8 ('91, '93, '94, '95, '96, '00, '06, '08)
Bowl Games: 48 appearances (24-24)
2021 Record: 6-7 (2-6 SEC)
2022 Record: 6-7 (3-5 SEC)
2023 Record: 5-7 (3-5 SEC)

2024 Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Billy Napier
Co-Offensive Coordinator / Offensive Line: Rob Sale
Defensive Coordinator: Austin Armstrong
Co-Offensive Coordinator / Tight Ends: Russ Callaway
Executive Head Coach, Co-Defensive Coordinator / Inside Linebackers: Ron Roberts
Associate HC - Offense / Running Backs: Jabbar Juluke
Assistant Coach / Defensive Line: Gerald Chatman
Assistant Coach / Wide Receivers: Billy Gonzales
Assistant Coach / Secondary: Will Harris
Assistant Coach / Edge / Alumni: Mike Peterson
Assistant OL Coach: Jonathan Decoster
Director of Strength & Conditioning: Tyler Miles

2024 GATORS CAPSULE

STARTERS	Returned	Lost
Offense	8	3
Defense	6	5
Specialty	3	0
TOTAL	17	8

LETTERWINNERS	Returned	Lost
Offense	19	14
Defense	24	12
Specialty	3	3
TOTAL	46	29

WHEN DJ LAGWAY STARTS FOR THE GATORS...



2024-25 Florida Football
Team Game-by-Game Games
Started by DJ Lagway

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as of Dec 02, 2024

		Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot		
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp	att	int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off
09/07/2024	Samford	34	166	3	16	19	466	3	85	19	28	0	466	3	85	1	31	0	31	3	37	0	31	632
10/19/2024	Kentucky	43	197	5	27	8	279	0	58	8	15	1	279	0	58	3	62	0	22	0	0	0	0	476
11/02/2024	vs Georgia	38	115	1	18	9	113	1	43	9	30	1	113	1	43	2	34	0	18	1	-1	0	0	228
11/16/2024	LSU	17	113	2	55	13	226	1	36	13	26	0	226	1	36	0	0	0	0	1	-2	0	0	339
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	45	164	1	17	10	180	2	41	10	18	1	180	2	41	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	10	344
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	38	235	2	65	14	133	2	25	14	22	1	133	2	25	0	0	0	0	3	23	0	12	368
Florida		215	990	14	65	73	1397	9	85	73	139	4	1397	9	85	6	127	0	31	9	67	0	31	2387
Opponents		227	719	5	35	126	1343	6	45	126	223	8	1343	6	45	7	177	1	99	9	28	0	11	2062

Florida Averages

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
6	4.6	19.1	152.6	21.2	7.4	454.0	397.8

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
DJ Lagway	6	179.1	64-110-3	58.2	1301	9	85	216.8
Aidan Warner	4	60.3	9-25-1	36.0	96	0	26	24.0
Team	6	0.0	0-4-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	6	152.6	73-139-4	52.5	1397	9	85	232.8
Opponents	6	108.8	126-223-8	56.5	1343	6	45	223.8

	UF	OPP
4rd-down pct	43%	43%
Sacks by-Yards	25-148	10-56
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	24	12
Field goals - attempts	9-9	7-9
On-Side kicks	0-0	0-1
Red-zone scores	(20-22) 91%	(9-14) 64%
Red-zone touchdowns	(15-22) 68%	(6-14) 43%
PAT-attempts	(24-24) 100%	(10-11) 91%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-0) 0%	(1-1) 100%
Attendance	359210	55107
Games / Avg per game	4/89803	1/55107
Neutral site games	-	1/76307

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Florida	24	68	30	73	0	195
Opponents	3	40	37	25	0	105



WHEN DJ LAGWAY STARTS FOR THE GATORS...



2024-25 Florida Football
Overall Team Statistics
Games Started by DJ Lagway

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as of Dec 02, 2024

Team Statistics

	UF	OPP
Scoring	195	105
Points per game	32.5	17.5
Points Off Turnovers	37	21
First Downs	100	127
Rushing	47	47
Passing	48	69
Penalty	5	11
Rushing Yardage	990	719
Yards gained rushing	1123	937
Yards lost rushing	133	218
Rushing attempts	215	227
Average per rush	4.6	3.2
Average per game	165.0	119.8
TDs Rushing	14	5
Passing Yardage	1397	1343
Comp-Att-Int	73-139-4	126-223-8
Average per pass	10.1	6.0
Average per catch	19.1	10.7
Average per game	232.8	223.8
TDs Passing	9	6
Total offense	2387	2062
Total plays	354	450
Average per play	6.7	4.6
Average per game	397.8	343.7
Kick returns: #-Yards	6-127	7-177
Punt returns: #-Yards	9-67	9-28
Int returns: #-Yards	8-143	4-71
Kick return average	21.2	25.3
Punt return average	7.4	3.1
Int return average	17.9	17.8
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	17-8
Penalties-Yards	35-328	18-178
Average per game	54.7	29.7
Punts-Yards	31-1432	28-1224
Average per punt	46.2	43.7
Net punt average	44.0	40.4
Kickoffs-Yards	39-2459	24-1536
Average per kick	63.1	64.0
Net kick average	38.5	40.0
Time of possession / game	26:19	33:36
3rd-down conversion	29/76	36/90
3rd-down pct	38%	40%
4rd-down conversion	3/7	6/14

GATORS OFFENSE THROUGH THE YEARS

Total Offense (Season Total)

Year	Yards	Avg.
2023	4,905	408.8
2022	5,513	424.1
2021	6,017	462.8
2020	6,118	509.8
2019	5,597	430.5
2018	5,547	426.7
2017	3,695	335.9
2016	4,472	344.0
2015	4,676	334.0
2014	4,411	367.6
2013	3,800	316.7
2012	4,342	334.4
2011	4,273	328.7
2010	4,561	350.8
2009	6,410	457.9
2008	6,231	445.1
2007	5,943	457.2
2006	5,545	396.1
2005	4,481	373.4
2004	5,123	426.9
2003	5,088	391.4
2002	5,290	406.9
2001	6,502	541.8

Passing Offense (Season Total)

Year	Yards	Avg.
2023	3,111	259.3
2022	2,910	223.9
2021	3,304	254.1
2020	4,543	378.6
2019	3,910	300.8
2018	2,776	213.5
2017	1,975	179.5
2016	2,805	215.8
2015	2,899	207.1
2014	2,159	179.9
2013	2,051	170.9
2012	1,902	146.3
2011	2,414	185.7
2010	2,396	184.3
2009	3,305	236.1
2008	2,995	213.9
2007	3,341	257.0
2006	3,305	236.1
2005	2,720	226.7
2004	3,253	271.1
2003	3,190	245.4
2002	3,519	270.7
2001	4,913	409.4

- SLAUGHTER LEADS TOP-20 PASS PRO -

- Florida has not allowed a sack in four separate games this season including the Week 12 win vs. LSU.
- The Gators have given up just 19 sacks all season, which ranks third in the SEC and 48th nationally.
- UF grades as the No. 18 pass blocking team in the FBS (79.9) and is third in the SEC behind Texas and Georgia.
- Across the team's three-game winning streak, Florida has allowed just 12 tackles for loss and six sacks while tallying 34 TFLs and 18 sacks on defense.
- Entering Bowl Season, **C Jake Slaughter** ranks fifth among FBS centers with an 81.2 grade.
- Slaughter** ranks top-25 nationally in both run blocking (sixth, 79.1) and pass blocking (21st, 83.8).
- Slaughter** has allowed one sack, one QB hit, six hurries and just eight pressures in 363 pass block snaps.
- RT Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson** has allowed one sack, zero QB hits and 12 pressures in 337 pass block snaps.
- Crenshaw-Dickson's** 81.1 pass block grade ranks 39th among FBS offensive tackles.
- In Week 4, **OL Austin Barber** became UF's first OL with a TD in 300 games.
- Florida has allowed 75 sacks in 37 games under **HC Billy Napier**, ranking sixth-lowest in the SEC.
- Across the last four seasons (2021-24), Florida's 89 sacks allowed are the 37th-fewest in the FBS and fifth-least in the SEC. During that span, the Gators have out-sacked opponents by a plus-31 margin (120-89).

- NEW BELLCOWS BE BAUGHLIN' -

- True freshman **RB Jadan Baugh** ran 11 times for 81 yards (7.4 YPC) in Week 14 vs. FSU, accounting for four of Florida's 10 explosive plays with rushes of 21, 12, 27 and 14 yards.
- In Week 13 vs. Ole Miss, **Baugh** carried 13 times for 46 yards while catching his first receiving TD.
- Baugh's** eight total TDs in the last six games are highlighted by a record-setting, five TD game in Week 8.
- RB Ja'Kobi Jackson** put the Gators on the board with his sixth-rushing touchdown of the season vs. FSU.
- Five of **Jackson's** six rushing scores have come in SEC play.
- Jackson** rushed six times for 37 yards (6.2 YPC) and gave UF its first lead over LSU in Week 12 with a one-yard TD rush in the fourth quarter.
- With a season-high 235 ground yards vs. FSU, Florida has combined for 1,515 rushing yards in the last nine games for 168.3 YPG.
- Baugh** rushed 88 times for 450 yards in the last six games, with 261 of those yards after contact (58.0%).
- On the season, 371 of **Baugh's** team-leading 603 rushing yards have come after contact (61.5%).
- Making his first-career start in Week 8 vs. Kentucky, **Baugh** scored the first-five rushing TDs of his career and finished with 22 carries for 106 yards (first-career 100-yard game) to earn SEC Freshman of the Week honors.
- Baugh's** five rushing TDs are tied for the most in a game in program history (Trey Burton vs. UK in 2010, Tim Tebow vs. South Carolina in 2007) and are the most ever by a Gator in his first-career start.
- Baugh** became the first UF true freshman with at least three rushing TDs in a game since QB Trey Burton also had five vs. Kentucky on Sept. 25, 2010 (five ties true freshman record).
- Jackson** scored the first three rushing TDs of his career in three-straight games vs. Texas A&M, MSU and UCF.
- Florida has rushed for 100-plus yards in 11 of 12 games this season and 31 of 37 contests since 2022.
- Florida has scored a rushing TD in 11 of 12 games this season, and 31 of 37 games in the Napier era.

- MONTRELL JOHNSON JR.'S STELLAR CAREER -

- Owning six rushing TDs, 593 rushing yards, 65.9 yards per game and 5.9 yards per carry on the season, **RB Montrell Johnson Jr.** eclipsed 3,000 career rushing yards with a 65-yard TD scamper in the fourth quarter vs. FSU in Week 14, becoming one of 17 active FBS players to do so including one of four in the SEC.
- Johnson Jr.** made his second-straight start (eighth of season) back from injury and rushed 10 times for 99 yards (9.9 YPC) and one touchdown in Week 14, marking his 33rd career rushing score (35 total TDs).
- He made his seventh start of the season vs. Ole Miss, rushing 18 times for a season-high 107 yards (5.9 YPC) while scoring his 20th rushing touchdown as a Gator.
- Johnson Jr.** rushed for 100-plus yards for the 10th time in his career and eighth time as a Gator in Week 13.
- Johnson Jr.** exited in the second half of the Week 7 loss before missing Weeks 8, 10 & 11 to injury.
- Johnson Jr.** owns 33 career rushing TDs (21 at Florida), which is the most of any active SEC rusher.
- He has totaled 35 multi-purpose TDs (23 at Florida: 21 rushing, two receiving).
- In Week 4, UF rushed for a season-high 226 yards, eclipsing 200-plus yards for the first time this season.
- Johnson Jr.** is tied for eighth in the SEC (t-seventh among RBs) with 21 rushing touchdowns since 2022, including t-fourth among active SEC rushers.

- OFFENSIVE GRAB BAG -

- In Week 11 at Texas, Florida became the first team to eclipse 300 total yards vs. Texas this season (329).
- The Gators totaled 197 yards rushing – the most against Texas this season.
- In Week 8 vs. UK, the Gators eclipsed 400 yards for the 15th time since the start of 2022 (third of 2024).
- With a season-high 235 rushing yards at FSU, UF has rushed for 200 yards 13 times since 2022.
- Florida has scored 40 points seven times in the Napier era, including 30 points in 17 contests.



- YOUTH & NEW FACES MAKE UP FLORIDA D -

- A mixture of second-year players, highly-touted true freshmen and transfers headline the 2024 UF defense.
- Oregon transfer **DB Trikweze Bridges** leads the team in tackles with a career-high 69 (37 solo) to carry a stat line of six pass breakups, two forced fumbles, one interception and one tackles-for-loss. He ranks 23rd in the SEC in total tackles, fifth among defensive backs.
- **Bridges** started the last seven games with four-straight starts at corner after his first three were at safety.
 - » He had his third game of 10-plus tackles vs. Ole Miss, tying his career high (11) for the second time this season
 - » Bridges had two breakups at Florida State, totaling four in the last three outings (one in each game).
- Along with **Bridges**, **DB Jordan Castell** played every snap in back-to-back games vs. LSU (93) & Ole Miss (79).
- **Bridges** has played every single defensive snap but two in the last three games (246 of 248).
- For the second straight season, **Castell** leads the team in snaps with 788 after a team-best 751 last season.
- **DB Dijon Johnson** and **DB Bryce Thornton** nearly played every snap the last two SEC games (vs. LSU & Ole Miss), as Thornton missed just one while Johnson missed four.
- Against No. 9 Ole Miss, sophomore DBs highlighted the final three plays of the game: first down - pass breakup by **DB Sharif Denson**, second down- pass breakup by **Johnson**, third down - game-sealing INT by **Thornton**.
- Of the 132 starting opportunities on defense this year, a combined 55 (42 %) have come from underclassmen highlighted by five starts each in the last four games consecutively.
 - » Across the last two seasons, 122 out of 264 starts (46%) have been by underclassmen.
- 51% of Florida's defensive snaps this season have been by underclassmen, as last year 58% were logged by underclassmen, including 25% by freshmen alone.
 - » A combined 54% of defensive snaps have been recorded by underclassmen from 2023-24.
- A total of 15 players made their first UF starts while eight made their first collegiate starts in 2024.
- Out of the 10-most-snaps played on defense for the Gators this year, five are underclassmen and two are offseason transfers in **Bridges** (second) and **EDGE George Gumbs Jr.** (10th).
 - » Others: **Castell** (first), **Johnson** (third), **Denson** (fifth), **Thornton** (seventh) & **ILB Jaden Robinson** (ninth)
- **Gumbs Jr.** is second on UF in tackles-for-loss with 8.0 (-41 yards) and sacks with 5.0 (-29 yards) in just his second full season on defense after three seasons at Northern Illinois; one at WR, one at TE and one at DE.
- Four of the Gators top-eight tacklers are by second-year players: **Castell** (fourth), **Robinson** (fifth), **Thornton** (sixth) and **ILB Grayson Howard** (8th).
- Through just 148 defensive snaps, true freshman **EDGE LJ McCray** has is third on the team with five QB hurries in addition to 12.0 tackles, 1.0 tackle-for-loss, 0.5 sacks while leading a goal-line stand at MSU in the fourth quarter.
- True freshman / Gator legacy **ILB Myles Graham** has emerged at linebacker over the last five games. At Florida State, he had two tackles highlighted by one tackle-for-loss, one stop and one QB hurry on the same drive.
 - » He assisted on tackles to stop No. 9 Ole Miss on fourth down twice in the redzone: 10-yard line & 11-yard line.
 - » He made his first-career sack vs. No. 2 Georgia, which was a 10-yard loss on third and two in the fourth quarter.
 - » Graham then forced his first-career fumble at No. 5 Texas that led to a Gators touchdown drive.
 - » Against No. 21 LSU, he played a season-high 31 snaps and had season-best seven tackles with two stops while grading as the Gators best defensive player and tackler according to PFF.
- **Graham** has played the second-most snaps (157) among SEC freshman linebackers with fellow freshman **LB Aaron Chiles** ranking third (113).
- **Graham** leads all freshman linebackers with nine stops.

- BANKS CASHING IN -

- **DL Caleb Banks** led the defensive line efforts and stuffed the stat sheet in wins over No. 21 LSU and No. 9 Ole Miss.
- The Louisville transfer and second-year Gator made seven tackles, 4.5 tackles-for-loss (-26 yards), 3.5 sacks (-22 yards), two forced fumbles, four quarterback hurries, one fumble recovery and one pass breakup.
- Prior to those games, he had career stats of 5.0 tackles-for-loss, 3.0 sacks, two forced fumbles and five QB hurries.
- He joined the Gators in 2023 after only playing 47 career snaps in two seasons for the Cardinals.
- Against No. 9 Ole Miss, he finished with a career-high 2.5 sacks and 3.5 tackles for loss with a quarterback hurry and pass breakup.
- **Banks** sacked Jaxson Dart for a 7-yard loss on third down to force an Ole Miss punt on their opening drive.
- In the fourth quarter, **Banks** forced the Rebels to punt again with two third down stops: one was tackle-for-loss (-4 yards) on an option play and he also contributed to a sack (-6 yards).
- **Banks** had three tackles, 1.0 sack, two forced fumbles, three quarterback hurries and one fumble recovery vs. LSU.
- According to PFF, he has led all DTs in quarterback pressures the last two weeks with eight vs. LSU and even against Ole Miss.

2024 SEASON OFFENSE LOST/RETURNING

PASSING

2023: 3,111 total passing yards

Mertz: 2,903 yards (93.3%)

Brown: 192 yards (6.2%)

Leon: 16 yards (0.5%)

Florida **returns 93.3%** of passing offense

RUSHING

2023: 1,794 total rushing yards

Johnson Jr.: 817 yards (45.5%)

Etienne: 753 yards (42.0%)

Webb: 163 yards (9.1%)

Pearsall: 62 yards (3.5%)

Wilson III: 55 yards (3.1%)

Brown: 37 yards (2.1%)

Joseph: 15 yards (0.8%)

Battle: 14 yards (0.8%)

TEAM: -43 yards (-2.4%)

Mertz: -75 yards (-4.2%)

Florida **returns 53.5%** of rushing offense

RECEIVING

2023: 3,111 total receiving yards

Pearsall: 965 yards (31.0%)

Wilson III: 538 yards (17.3%)

Boardingham: 289 yards (9.3%)

Jackson: 251 yards (8.1%)

Johnson Jr.: 236 yards (7.6%)

Etienne: 172 yards (5.5%)

Hansen: 150 yards (4.8%)

Douglas: 133 yards (4.3%)

Burke: 98 yards (3.2%)

Jean: 97 yards (3.1%)

Odom: 75 yards (2.4%)

Fraziars: 44 yards (1.4%)

Mizell: 25 yards (0.8%)

Webb: 18 yards (0.6%)

Spierto: 17 yards (0.5%)

Livingston: 4 yards (0.1%)

Zanders: -1 yard (0.0%)

Florida **returns 56.8%** of receiving offense

While **93.3%** of last year's passing attack is back, the Gators have **two of its top three** rushers returning and **three of its top five** from a year ago.

Despite losing top receiver Ricky Pearsall, Florida returns **56.8%** of its receiving offense from last season, returning **12 of 16** players who caught at least one pass and four of its top-five pass catchers.

GATORS IN THE FBS / SEC RANKINGS (2024)

Sacks Allowed (SEC)		
Rk.	Team	TOTAL
3.	FLORIDA	19

Fumble Recoveries (FBS)		
Rk.	Team	TOTAL
7.	FLORIDA	11

Passing Yards Per Completion (FBS)		
Rk.	Team	AVG
7.	FLORIDA	14.13

Net Punting (FBS)		
Rk.	Team	AVG
8.	FLORIDA	43.05

Team Sacks (FBS)		
Rk.	Team	TOTAL
9.	FLORIDA	38

Red Zone Defense (FBS)		
Rk.	Team	PCT
12.	FLORIDA	73.7

Turnovers Gained (FBS)		
Rk.	Team	TOTAL
16.	FLORIDA	22

Punt Returns (FBS)		
Rk.	Team	AVG
18.	FLORIDA	13.36

Team Tackles-for-Loss (FBS)		
Rk.	Team	TOTAL
24.	FLORIDA	82

Single-Game Rushing TDs (FBS)		
Rk.	Player, School	TOTAL
1.	Ashton Jeanty, Boise State	6
12.	Jadan Baugh, Florida	5
12.	Bryson Daily, Army	5

Single-Game Passing Yards (FBS)		
Rk.	Player	YARDS
17.	DJ Lagway	456

Longest Pass Play (SEC)		
Rk.	Player, School	YARDS
1.	Jackson Arnold, Oklahoma	90
2.	Nico Iamaleava, Tennessee	86
3.	DJ Lagway, Florida	85

Receiving Yards (SEC)		
Rk.	Player	YARDS
9.	Elijah Badger	789
16.	Chimere Dike	687

Receiving Yards Per Game (SEC)		
Rk.	Player	AVG
5.	Elijah Badger	71.7
14.	Chimere Dike	57.3

Yards Per Reception (FBS)		
Rk.	Player	AVG
5.	Elijah Badger	21.32
17.	Chimere Dike	19.08

Yards Per Carry (SEC)		
Rk.	Player	AVG
3.	Montrell Johnson Jr.	5.93

Punting (FBS)		
Rk.	Player	AVG
6.	Jeremy Crawshaw	45.9

Total Tackles (SEC)		
Rk.	Player	TOTAL
25.	Trikweze Bridges	69
39.	Shemar James	59

Tackles-for-Loss (SEC)		
Rk.	Player	TOTAL
8.	Tyreek Sapp	13.0

- JUST HOW GOOD WERE THE LAST THREE WEEKS? -

- After allowing its most points (49) in a game this season at Texas, the Gators defense is back on track, grabbing momentum from when it started in Week 5 vs. UCF, putting together its best stretch statistically.
- In the past three games, Florida has combined for 34 tackles-for-loss, 18 sacks, 15 pass breakups, 13 quarterback hurries, eight forced fumbles, seven fumble recoveries and two interceptions while only allowing 14.7 points per game.
- Florida jumped from 47th to t-seventh in the FBS in sacks and 78th to t-24th in TFLs to finish the regular-season.
- The 18 sacks and 34 tackles-for-loss were both the most in the FBS across the last three weeks of the regular season (3 GP).
- In the last three games, opponents reached the redzone seven times and only scored 14 total points (2 FG, 1 TD).
 - » The four other red zone trips featured two fourth down stops, one fumble recovery and one missed field goal.
- UF has forced -150 rushing yards in the final three weeks (3 GP), the most by an FBS team (opponents = 3.0 YPC).
 - » Against FSU, the Seminoles averaged just 2.25 YPC and had 99 total rushing yards, marking the eighth time this season Florida has limited a team to under 150 rushing yards in a game.
 - » UF allowed its first rushing touchdown in two weeks at FSU in the fourth quarter - FSU's lone touchdown of the game.
 - » The Gators are one of eight teams to only allow one rushing score in the final three weeks of the regular season (3 GP).
 - » Over the last three games, when opponents rush the ball, there is a 28% chance it will go for negative yards and a 31% mark for zero or negative yards.
 - » Florid held opponents to 368 total net rushing yards with the longest rush at 35 yards.
- In seven of the last eight games, the Gators have not allowed an opponent to rush over 150 yards.
- The season-high in sacks (8) and tackles-for-loss (14) came at FSU, the Gators' most in the last five seasons.
- **EDGE Tyreek Sapp** led the effort with his third-consecutive game of 2.0 tackles-for-loss and 1.0 sack.
- **Sapp** leads the team in tackles-for-loss (13.0) and sacks (7.0), already tripling his career totals across two seasons of just 5.0 tackles-for-loss and 2.0 sacks.
 - » He ranks as the third-highest-graded SEC edge defender and is 12th in FBS per Pro Football Focus.
- Florida forced and recovered five fumbles vs. FSU, the team's most since at least 2000 and one back of the program record of six - last occurred vs. Vanderbilt in 1993.
 - » The five total takeaways were a season high and sixth-most since 1996 in single game for UF.
 - » Five turnovers gained is just one behind the most in the FBS (six) this season by six different schools.
- A total of three takeaways were obtained by Florida vs. No. 9 Ole Miss: two interceptions and one fumble recovery.
 - » **DB Bryce Thornton** picked off Jaxon Dart in the endzone with 1:32 remaining and then sealed the win with a second interception with 0:17 left. His 14 tackles (5 solo) were a career-high and most in a game by a Gator this season. **Thornton's** two interceptions made him one of five SEC players to have two in conference play this season.
- Florida had a six-sack performance against an LSU offensive line that entered the week fourth in the FBS (first in the SEC) in sacks allowed per game, and entered the game allowing six sacks all season.
- The defensive efforts vs. the No. 21 Tigers earned SEC Defensive Player of the Week honors for **LB Shemar James**, who had a team-high 11 tackles (five solo), a career-high two sacks and two pass breakups.
- LSU was held to an average of 2.9 yards per carry and 128 total rushing yards.
 - » Florida forced -62 rushing yards, a season-high and tied for eighth-most by an SEC team (29th in FBS this season).
 - » In the second half, LSU was held to 52 total rushing yards on 24 attempts (2.2 YPC).

- DEFENSIVE NOTEABLES -

- With 22 takeaways this season, Florida has more than tripled its takeaways (seven) from last season.
 - » It marks Florida's most turnovers gained (23) since 2019.
 - » The Gators have produced at least one turnover in 28 of 37 games in the Napier era.
- Twelve of the 22 total turnovers gained have been by underclassmen, led by **Aaron Gates** & **Bryce Thornton** with three each.
- Senior **DT Cam Jackson** announced he will play in the Gators' bowl game and not opt out. He accepted a Senior Bowl Invite.
 - » **Jackson** has posted back-to-back games of 1.5 tackles-for-loss and has 10 stops in the last three games. He has 20 total on the season, tied sixth-most among SEC defensive tackles.
- Florida has forced at least 15 fumbles in four-straight seasons behind a season-high of five at FSU.
- Florida posted a first-half shutout at FSU for the third time this season (Samford, Tennessee) and held its opponent without a first-half touchdown for the fourth time (Samford, UCF, Tennessee).
- UF has 11 interceptions this season, tripling its total (three) from last season. This is the most INTs for Florida since 2019 (16).
- The Gators have held its opponent to zero points on the opening drive in the last-seven-consecutive games.
 - » Florida has three takeaways on opening drives in that span: vs. Samford, Tennessee & LSU
 - » Outside of the season-opener with Miami scoring a TD, opponents have scored twice, both field goals: Texas A&M & UCF.
- Across Weeks 12-14, the UF defense did not allow over 20 points in each of the three games: FSU 11, LSU 16 & Ole Miss 17.
 - » The points are regular-season lows for LSU & Ole Miss.
- In back-to-back weeks, UF held UCF and Tennessee (top-five in total offense and rushing offense at the time) to season lows in both categories. UF finished ninth in both categories and UCF seventh in rushing and 16th in total offense.
- The Gators shut out the Vols in the first half (second time for UF this season), as Tennessee did not reach the red zone.
- Against Kentucky, the Florida defense posted three interceptions, its most in a game since Nov. 28, 2020 vs. the Wildcats.
 - » It also tied for the total amount of interceptions (three) the Gators had all of last season.
- The UF defense posted three interceptions in back-to-back games vs. Kentucky and Georgia for the first time since Sept. 14, 2019 vs. Kentucky (three) and Sept. 21, 2019 vs. Tennessee (three).
- Since 1996, the Gators are sixth nationally in interceptions with an SEC-leading 423.

LAST THREE GAMES ON DEFENSE



2024-25 Florida Football Overall Defense Statistics Last Three Games

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as of Dec 09, 2024

Team Defense

##	Player	gp	Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
18	Bryce Thornton	3	12	14	26	0.5-0	.	2-0	1	1	.	1	.	.
7	Trikweze Bridges	3	14	9	23	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.
6	Shemar James	3	11	11	22	2.5-21	2-20	.	2	.	1-0	1	.	.
44	Jack Pyburn	3	4	13	17	1.5-12	1-12	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
94	Tyreack Sapp	3	8	8	16	8-21	3.5-14	.	.	1	.	1	.	.
29	Jaden Robinson	3	7	8	15	2-10	2-10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5	Myles Graham	3	3	10	13	1-1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
14	Jordan Castell	3	5	7	12	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.
99	Cam Jackson	3	6	5	11	3-5	1.5-3	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
27	Dijon Johnson	3	9	2	11	1-3	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
0	Sharif Denson	3	7	4	11	1-6	1-6	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
19	T.J. Searcy	3	6	4	10	2-14	.	.	.	.	1-0	1	.	.
34	George Gumbs Jr.	3	7	1	8	3-13	2-8	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
88	Caleb Banks	3	5	2	7	4.5-26	3.5-22	.	1	4	1--2	2	.	.
21	Desmond Watson	3	1	6	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
35	D'Antre Robinson	3	.	6	6	1-3	0.5-2	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
13	Aaron Gates	2	2	3	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
24	Kamran James	3	5	.	5	3-14	1-7	.	.	2	.	1	.	.
8	Aaron Chiles	3	.	4	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
30	Gregory Smith III	1	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Derek Wingo	3	2	1	3	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
17	LJ McCray	3	.	3	3	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
12	DJ Douglas	3	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
93	Michai Boireau	3	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	R.J. Moten	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9	Ja'Markis Weston	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	Justus Boone	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
97	Joey Slackman	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
42	Rocco Underwood	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
Totals		3	118	128	246	34-149	18-104	2-0	15	13	7--2	8	0	0
Opponents		3	72	100	172	12-55	6-35	2-0	10	13	0-0	0	0	0

- HOUSTON'S GAMECHANGERS AMONG NATION'S BEST -

- This offseason, the Gators added senior special teams analyst **Joe Houston** to the fold. He comes from the New England Patriots after spending four seasons (2020-23) as a special teams assistant.
- The Gators climbed to No. 1 in the FBS in special teams for three-consecutive weeks (Weeks 2-4) by ESPN's SP+ metric and finished 3rd in the final regular-season ranking.
- Florida is third in the SEC and 17th in the FBS in punt return average (13.3), sitting eighth in the FBS in net punting (43.05).
- 2024 Ray Guy Semifinalist **P Jeremy Crawshaw** is the NCAA's active career leader in punt average at 46.4, leading by 1.1 yards. Crawshaw accepted an invite to the Reese's Senior Bowl.
- In 56 punts, **Crawshaw** is averaging 45.95 yards with 19 of 50-plus, 25 inside the 20-yard line and four 60-yard plus punts.
- Only 13 touchdowns have been scored this season following a **Crawshaw** punt, including just four in 28 punts in victories.
- Despite averaging 37.8 per punt vs. No. 21 LSU, all four punts landed inside the opponent's 20-yard line with one landing on the eight-yard line and the other 10-yard line. The other two punts both went to the 16-yard line.
- Against No. 2 Georgia, he tied his career-high with eight punts, owing an average of 49.1 yards per attempt with five over 50-yards, four inside the 20-yard line and a long of 59 yards.
- He set the single-season program record with 48.9 yards per punt last year and was named AP All-SEC Second Team.
- **Crawshaw's** current career average of 46.4 yards per attempt makes him the all-time program leader in career average punting yardage, ahead of Johnny Townsend (46.2) and Tommy Townsend (44.8).
- He has punted 187 times in his career for an average of 46.4 per attempt, 17 60-plus yards, 724 of 50-plus yards, 76 inside the 20-yard line and 68 fair catches.
- His 187 attempts are fourth all-time in program history and his 8,694 punting yards, ranks third all-time, passing **Buster Morrison's** (1972-74) 8,374 yards in 209 career punts. **Crawshaw** passed him in only 181 attempts.
- **K Trey Smack** took over kicking duties in Florida's 29-16 win vs. No. 11 Tennessee in Week 3 of last season and went on to be a Lou Groza Award Semifinalist, making 17-of-21 FGs (81.0%) with a pair of 54-yards.
- **Smack** is 41-for-41 on PATs and 14-for-17 on FGs this season with a long of 55, and is 7-9 from 40-yards plus. After back-to-back games with a miss (UCF & Tenn.), he is 8-of-9.
- He has drilled 50-plus yards in three of the last five games with a 55-yard vs. LSU, tied for third longest in program history. The others were from 53 yards vs. Georgia & Ole Miss.
- **Smack** earned his third-career SEC Special Teams Player of the Week honor for his outing against LSU.
- He made all five FG attempts vs. Charlotte [23, 23, 27, 36, 54] last year and drilled seven touchbacks on all seven attempts, becoming the first Gator to make five field goals in a single game since Eddy Pineiro in 2017.
- True Freshman **RB Jadan Baugh** has shined as the Gators' primary kick returner, averaging 21.55 yards in 11 attempts.
- **Baugh** is one of eight SEC players to own two 30-yard plus kick returns and one of 11 freshmen in the FBS to do so.
- He highlighted his collegiate debut with a 35-yard kickoff return vs. Miami, marking Florida's longest return since 2022.
- **Baugh** had another 30-plus yard kick return with a 31-yarder in Week 2 vs. Samford and then added two 27-yard returns vs. Texas A&M despite receiving both in the endzone.
- Veteran **WR Chimere Dike** has been productive in both phases of the punt game.
- He is averaging 13.36 yards per return, including an SEC-leading 16.50 yards per return in five returns.
- Out of his 14 returns, four of them have gone for 20-plus yards, making him one of 21 players in the FBS to do so.
- At No. 8 Tennessee, he had back-to-back punt returns of 27 and 30 yards, which helped set up a game-tying, 27-yard TD pass with 34 seconds left - that **Dike** caught.
- The 35-yard return at Mississippi State tied his career high and set up a two-play, 44-yard TD drive.
- **Dike** also downed a punt vs. Texas A&M on the one-yard line.
- **LS Rocco Underwood** owns three solo tackles and a fumble recovery on punts highlighted by holding an Miss. State return to zero yards. He is one of 11 FBS LS to have three tackles this season and one of two in the SEC.
- He was named a finalist for the Mannelly Award, given to the nation's top long snapper.

- REPLACING MARSHALL & MOORE IN THE SECONDARY -

- Entering the 2024 season, the Gators cornerback room was highlighted by senior **Jason Marshall Jr.**, a projected NFL first-round pick last season who returned for his season year and junior **Devin Moore**, a projected All-SEC player this season.
- Having 36-straight starts, **Marshall** suffered a season-ending injury against Kentucky and **Moore** the following week vs. Georgia.
 - » The defense was hit blow earlier this season when sophomore Ja'Keem Jackson experienced a season-ending set back in the second game of the season vs. Samford after starting the first two games.
- Entering the final four regular-season games, the Gators corner room featured sophomores **Dijon Johnson** and **Cormani McClain** with true freshmen **Teddy Foster** and **Jameer Grimsley**.
 - » Oregon transfer **Trikweze Bridges** moved from safety to corner and started the last four games there.
 - » **Foster** who is redshirting this season played his fourth game at Tennessee.
- **Johnson** has started the last three straight games and only allowed two catches in 10 total targets across the last two games.
- **McClain** made his UF debut vs. Kentucky and had pick-six of 29 yards and a pass breakup in the endzone. He started at Texas.
- In the last three games, **Bridges** (99%/246) and **Johnson** (90%/223) have combined for 469 snaps out of the 496 total possible snaps at corner.



	In 2024	2022-23	From 2018-21	From 2015-17	From 2011-14	From 2005-10
Florida's Record...						
Overall	7-5	11-14	35-16	23-15	29-21	65-15
at Home	5-2	9-4	20-4	14-4	18-8	36-5
on the Road	2-2	2-7	11-6	6-6	8-9	17-7
at Neutral Sites	0-1	0-3	4-7	3-5	3-4	12-3
in the State of Florida	6-3	9-7	25-8	17-7	21-13	46-8
Jacksonville	0-1	0-2	1-3	2-1	2-3	5-1
Miami	--	--	1-0	--	0-1	1-0
Orlando	--	--	1-0	0-1	--	0-1
Tallahassee	1-0	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-1	2-1
Tampa	--	--	1-1	1-0	--	2-0
in Overtime	0-1	0-1	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-0
Florida versus SEC Teams...						
Overall	4-4	6-10	21-14	16-10	17-15	38-13
at Home	3-1	4-3	11-4	8-2	9-5	16-5
on the Road	1-2	2-5	9-6	6-5	7-7	15-6
at Neutral Sites	0-1	0-2	1-4	2-3	1-3	7-2
Florida in Games...						
vs. Non-Conference Teams	3-1	5-4	14-2	7-5	12-6	27-2
vs. Unranked Teams	5-1	9-4	28-8	19-6	24-8	47-5
vs. Ranked Teams	2-4	2-10	6-8	4-9	5-13	18-10
Home	2-1	2-2	2-1	2-1	2-2	6-2
Away	0-2	0-5	1-2	1-3	2-8	4-6
Neutral	0-1	0-3	3-6	1-5	1-3	8-2
vs. Top-10 Teams	1-3	1-4	4-7	1-4	4-6	12-4
Decided by 7 points or less	1-1	4-5	4-8	9-2	7-9	10-7
Decided by 3 points or less	--	3-2	1-4	3-2	1-3	4-3
When Florida...						
Scores First	7-1	8-5	25-7	18-5	17-7	49-1
Opponents Score First	0-4	3-9	10-9	5-10	12-14	16-14
Scores 30-plus points	4-0	7-6	28-4	9-0	17-0	47-3
Scores 40-plus points	3-0	4-0	16-2	3-0	6-0	31-0
Scores less than 21 points	0-5	1-7	1-9	6-12	4-18	4-9
Allows 14 or fewer points	3-0	4-0	15-1	18-0	16-0	40-1
Allows 20 or fewer points	6-0	6-0	23-2	19-2	24-5	52-2
Allows 21-plus points	1-5	4-14	12-16	4-13	5-16	13-13
Leads at halftime	5-2	9-3	27-4	17-3	24-4	57-3
Trails -or- Tied at halftime	2-3	2-11	8-12	6-12	5-17	8-12
Leads after 3rd Quarter	5-0	10-2	31-3	20-1	24-3	60-2
Trails -or- Tied after 3rd Qtr.	2-5	1-12	4-13	3-14	5-18	5-13
Out-Rushes its Opponent	5-0	9-5	25-2	16-2	27-6	63-6
is Out-Rushed by Opponent	2-5	2-9	9-14	7-13	2-15	2-9
When Florida Finishes with...						
300-plus Total Yards	7-3	10-11	35-14	17-6	24-5	58-9
400-plus Total Yards	3-0	7-5	25-7	8-1	15-1	39-1
500-plus Total Yards	2-0	3-2	16-2	3-0	5-0	21-0
Less than 300 Total Yards	0-2	1-3	0-2	6-9	5-16	7-6
150-plus Rushing Yards	5-1	9-4	24-6	11-3	21-3	48-5
200-plus Rushing Yards	2-0	8-3	16-3	7-1	15-2	32-2
250-plus Rushing Yards	--	5-2	8-1	4-0	7-0	17-0
a 100-yard Rusher	2-2	7-3	8-0	9-1	17-3	19-1
Less than 100 Rushing Yards	0-1	1-4	6-5	3-9	1-8	7-5
250-plus Passing Yards	3-0	4-6	24-9	6-4	5-2	27-1
300-plus Passing Yards	1-0	2-4	17-5	2-0	3-1	11-1
Less than 200 Passing Yards	2-3	4-5	6-5	17-11	17-17	23-8
Blocked a Kick / Punt	--	1-2	3-2	0-4	9-3	22-1
When Florida Allows...						
Less than 200 Total Yards	--	1-0	2-0	6-0	5-3	12-0
Less than 300 Total Yards	3-0	3-4	16-2	15-2	17-7	40-3
300-plus Total Yards	4-5	8-10	19-14	8-13	12-14	25-12
400-plus Total Yards	2-4	5-8	7-11	3-8	4-6	5-4
Less than 100 Rushing Yards	2-0	4-2	16-1	12-2	18-5	44-1
100-plus Rushing Yards	5-5	7-12	19-15	11-13	11-16	21-14
150-plus Rushing Yards	1-2	5-11	9-12	5-12	2-13	3-8
200-plus Rushing Yards	1-2	2-6	3-8	3-11	1-6	1-4
a 100-yard Rusher	0-3	4-10	5-12	6-9	2-12	7-7
Less than 200 Passing Yards	4-2	4-5	16-6	16-7	16-13	38-7
200-plus Passing Yards	3-3	7-9	18-9	7-8	13-8	27-8
300-plus Passing Yards	1-3	1-6	4-3	1-1	3-2	7-1

TITLE CENTRAL

Florida is one of three schools to win three outright national titles since 1990. The 2006 and 2008 championships were won in the BCS National Championship Game, and the Gators were the unanimous pick in all four major polls in 1996.

NATIONAL TITLES (Since 1990)

Team	Years	Titles
Alabama	1992, 2009, '11, '12, '15, '17, '20	7
FLORIDA	1996, 2006, 2008	3
Florida State	1993, 1999, 2013	3
LSU	2003*, 2007, 2019	3
Nebraska	1994, 1995, 1997*	3
Clemson	2016, 2018	2
Georgia	2021, 2022	2
Miami	1991*, 2001	2
Ohio State	2002, 2014	2
Southern California	2003*, 2004	2

*Split Title

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WINS

Alabama	11
FLORIDA	7
LSU	5
Georgia	5
Auburn	3
Tennessee	2

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME APPEARANCES

Alabama	15
FLORIDA	13
Georgia	12
LSU	7
Auburn	6
Tennessee	5
Arkansas	3
Missouri	2
Texas	1
Mississippi State	1
South Carolina	1

RECORDS IN THE SWAMP (Since 1990)

Overall	183-38
vs. SEC	97-27
vs. SEC East	64-9
vs. SEC West	30-17
vs. Non-Conference	86-11
vs. Ranked Teams	33-20
vs. Top-10 Teams	19-11
vs. Top-5 Teams	12-9
vs. Unranked Teams	150-18

THE LAST TIME...

A Gators Player Had...

30+ Rushing Attempts:	34 - Mike Gillislee vs. No. 4 LSU (Oct. 6, 2012 / 159 games)
40+ Rushing Attempts:	41 (school record) - Errict Rhett vs. Georgia (Oct. 30, 1993 / 402 games)
100+ Yards Rushing:	107 - Montrell Johnson Jr. vs. No. 9 Ole Miss (Nov. 23, 2024 / 1 game)
200+ Yards Rushing:	210 - Ciatrick Fason vs. Kentucky (Sept. 25, 2004 / 266 games)
300+ Yards Rushing:	316 (school record) - Emmitt Smith vs. New Mexico (Oct. 21, 1989 / 450 games)
5+ Touchdowns Rushing: 5 (tied school record) - Jadan Baugh vs. Kentucky (Oct. 19, 2024 / 5 games)	

20+ Pass Completions:	26 - Graham Mertz at No. 19 LSU (Nov. 11, 2023 / 14 games)
30+ Pass Completions:	30 - Graham Mertz at South Carolina (Oct. 14, 2023 / 17 games)
40+ Pass Completions:	44 - Luke Del Rio vs. UMass (Sept. 3, 2016 / 111 games)
300+ Yards Passing:	456 - DJ Lagway vs. Samford (Sept. 7, 2024 / 10 games)
400+ Yards Passing:	456 - DJ Lagway vs. Samford (Sept. 7, 2024 / 10 games)
500+ Yards Passing:	Never
5+ Touchdowns Passing:	6 - Emory Jones vs. Samford (Nov. 13, 2021 / 40 games)
Consecutive 300-Yard Passing Games:	3 - Kyle Trask vs. Tennessee-LSU- No. 1 Alabama (Dec. 5-12-19, 2020 / 52 games)
3+ Consecutive Games with 300+ Yards Passing:	3 - Kyle Trask vs. Tennessee-LSU- No. 1 Alabama (Dec. 5-12-19, 2020 / 52 games)

10+ Receptions:	11 - Eugene Wilson vs. No. 1 Georgia (Oct. 28, 2023 / 16 games)
150+ Receiving Yards:	166 - Ricky Pearsall at South Carolina (Oct. 14, 2023 / 17 games)
3+ Receiving TDs:	3 - Kyle Pitts vs. Kentucky (Nov. 28, 2020 / 55 games)
Kickoff Return TD:	Antonio Callaway (44 yards) vs. Missouri (Oct. 15, 2016 / 106 games)
Punt Return TD:	Kadarius Toney (50 yards) vs. Kentucky (Nov. 28, 2020 / 55 games)
150+ Return Yards:	158 (kickoff) - Solomon Patton vs. No. 14 Missouri (Oct. 19, 2013 / 134 games)
Fake Field Goal TD:	Michael McNeely (21 yards) vs. No. 9 Georgia (Nov. 1, 2014 / 132 games)

Multiple Interceptions:	2 - Bryce Thornton vs. No. 9 Ole Miss (Nov. 23, 2024 / 1 game)
Consecutive Multi-Interception Games:	Ryan Smith, vs. Alabama (2), vs. No. 9 LSU (2) (Sept. 30-Oct. 7, 2006 / 238 games)

Interception Return TD:	Cormani McClain (29 yards) vs. Kentucky (Oct. 19, 2024 / 5 games)
Intercepted PAT Return for Defensive Extra Point:	Keiwan Ratliff vs. Kentucky (Sept. 28, 2002 / 290 games)

Fumble Return TD:	Zachary Carter vs. Arkansas (35 yards) (Nov. 14, 2020 / 57 games)
Fumble Recovery TD in End Zone:	Nick Washington vs. Georgia (Oct. 31, 2015 / 119 games)
Blocked a Punt:	Derek Wingo vs. Charlotte (Sep. 23, 2023 / 20 games)
Blocked a Field Goal:	Jordan Young vs. No. 14 Oregon State (Dec. 18, 2022 / 24 games)
Blocked a PAT:	Caleb Banks at Kentucky (Sep. 30, 2023 / 19 games)
Blocked Multiple Kicks (any combo):	Chris Rainey (2 punts) at Vanderbilt (Nov. 6, 2010 / 181 games)
Blocked Punt Return TD:	vs. Colorado State (Sept. 15, 2018 / 86 games) James Houston IV block, Tyrie Cleveland 0-yard return
Blocked Field Goal Return TD:	vs. No. 23 Florida State (Nov. 26, 2005 / 246 games) Marcus Thomas block, Reggie Lewis 52-yard return
Blocked PAT Return for Extra Point:	vs. Charleston Southern (Sept. 1, 2018 / 89 games) Jeremiah Moon block, Austin Perry return

Made a 50-Yard Field Goal:	Trey Smack (53) vs. No. 9 Ole Miss (Nov. 23, 2024 / 1 game)
Made Multiple 50-Yard Field Goals:	Evan McPherson (51, 53) vs. No. 5 Georgia (Nov. 7, 2020 / 57 games)
Made 5+ Field Goals:	Trey Smack (5) vs. Charlotte (Sep. 23, 2023 / 20 games)
Missed a PAT:	Adam Mihalek vs. No. 11 Tennessee (Sep. 16, 2023 / 21 games)
Missed a Field Goal:	Trey Smack (30) at No. 5 Texas (Nov. 9, 2024 / 3 games)
Played Both Ways:	Jack Pyburn (EDGE/FB) vs. Kentucky (Oct. 19, 2024 / 5 games)
Started Both Ways:	Loucheiz Purifoy (CB/RB) vs. No. 10 Florida State (Nov. 24, 2012 / 152 games)
WR or RB Throw a TD Pass:	Trent Whittemore at Missouri (Nov. 20, 2021 / 39 games)
TD by an Offensive Lineman:	Austin Barber (fumble recovery in endzone) at Mississippi State (Sep. 21, 2024 / 8 games)

Rushing & Receiving TDs:	Trevor Etienne (1 Rush/1 Rec) at Missouri (Nov. 18, 2023 / 13 games)
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Forced & Recovered Fumble:	Shemar James at Florida State (Nov. 30, 2024 / 0 games)
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The Gators Had...

2 Gators with 100+ Yards Rushing:	vs. South Carolina (Nov. 12, 2022 / 26 games) Montrell Johnson Jr. (161 yards), Trevor Etienne (101 yards)
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2 Gators with 100+ Receiving Yards:	vs. Samford (Sept. 7, 2024 / 9 games) Eugene Wilson III (141 yards), Elijah Badger (124 yards)
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10+ Plays of 20+ Yards in a Game:	10 - at South Carolina (Oct. 14, 2023 / 17 games)
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Converted Five Fourth Downs in a Game:	5 for 6 - at No. 11 Tennessee (Sept. 24, 2022 / 33 games)
Shut Out an Opponent:	42-0 vs. Vanderbilt (Oct. 9, 2021 / 44 games)
Held Opponent Under 100 Yards Total Offense:	53 - vs. North Texas (Sept. 17, 2016 / 111 games)
Held Opponent Under 50 Yards Passing:	3 - vs. Charleston Southern (Sept. 1, 2018 / 88 games)
Held Opponent Under 50 Yards Rushing:	46 - vs. McNeese (Sept. 9, 2023 / 22 games)
Forced an Opponent to Have Five Drives of Negative Yards:	5 - vs. No. 5 Florida State (Nov. 25, 2023 / 12 games)

3+ Gators with an Interception:	3 - vs. No. 2 Georgia (Nov. 2, 2024 / 4 games) Devin Moore, Aaron Gates, Jack Pyburn
Multiple Defensive TDs:	2 interception return TDs vs. Idaho (Nov. 17, 2018 / 78 games)
Multiple Interception Return TDs:	2 - vs. Idaho (Nov. 17, 2018 / 78 games) Ventrell Miller (82 yards), Chauncey Gardner-Johnson (26 yards)
Converted a 2-Point Conversion:	at South Carolina (Oct. 14, 2023 / 17 games) (Trevor Etienne Pass/Hayden Hansen reception)
Recorded a Safety:	vs. No. 5 FSU (Nov. 25, 2023 / 11 games) (Derek Wingo/Princely Umanmielen sack)
Blocked 2 Kicks (any combo):	2 - vs. Towson (Sept. 28, 2019 / 71 games) Zachary Carter (blocked punt), Adam Shuler (blocked FG)
Blocked 3 Kicks (any combo):	3 - vs. Kentucky (Oct. 25, 2008 / 212 games) William Green (blocked punt), Jeff Demps (blocked punt), Joe Haden (blocked FG)
Blocked 2 Punts:	at Vanderbilt (Nov. 6, 2010 / 181 games) (Chris Rainey, both)
Blocked 2 Field Goals:	vs. South Carolina (Nov. 11, 2006 / 235 games) (Ray McDonald; Jarvis Moss)
Touchdown on Opening Drive:	vs. UCF (Oct. 5, 2024 / 7 games)
Touchdowns on First Three Possessions:	vs. McNeese (Sept. 9, 2023 / 22 games)
Touchdowns on First Four Possessions:	vs. McNeese (Sept. 9, 2023 / 22 games)
Touchdowns on First Seven Possessions:	vs. McNeese (Sept. 9, 2023 / 22 games)

4 Freshmen Score TDs:	vs. Western Carolina (Nov. 18, 2006 / 235 games) Riley Cooper (3 rec.); Tim Tebow (2 rush); Jarrod Fayson (rush); Brandon James (punt return)
Time of Possession of Less Than 20 Minutes:	18:17 - vs. No. 21 LSU (Nov. 16, 2024 / 2 games)
Time of Possession of 40+ Minutes:	42:04 - vs. UAB (Nov. 18, 2017 / 90 games)
Florida Intentionally Took Safety:	Graham Mertz at South Carolina (Oct. 14, 2023 / 17 games)
Florida Player Allows Safety via Penalty:	John Brantley vs. Furman (Nov. 19, 2011 / 166 games) Batted ball out of end zone after botched snap

Florida's Opponent Had...

40+ Rushing Attempts:	44 - Derrick Henry, No. 2 Alabama (Dec. 5, 2015 / 112 games)
100+ Yards Rushing:	100 - Jerrick Gibson, No. 5 Texas (Nov. 9, 2024 / 3 games)
200+ Yards Rushing:	234 - Jayden Daniels, No. 19 LSU (Nov. 11, 2023 / 14 games)
2+ Players with 100+ Yards Rushing:	vs. USF (Sept. 17, 2022 / 34 games) 150 - Brian Battie & 102 - Gerry Bohanon
3+ Rushing Touchdowns:	3 - Dylan Sampson, No. 8 Tennessee (Oct. 12, 2024 / 6 games)
20+ Pass Completions:	24 - Jaxson Dart, No. 9 Ole Miss (Nov. 23, 2024 / 1 game)
30+ Pass Completions:	33 - Liam Welch, Samford (Nov. 13, 2021 / 40 games)
40+ Pass Completions:	40 - Kyle Shurmur, Vanderbilt (Sept. 30, 2017 / 96 games)
300+ Yards Passing:	323 - Jaxson Dart, No. 9 Ole Miss (Nov. 23, 2024 / 1 game)
400+ Yards Passing:	400 - Liam Welch, Samford (Nov. 13, 2021 / 40 games)
100+ Yards Receiving:	112 - Xavier Restrepo, No. 19 Miami (Aug. 31, 2024 / 11 games)
150+ Yards Receiving:	158 - Luther Burden, Missouri (Nov. 18, 2023 / 13 games)
200+ Yards Receiving:	227 - Elijah Moore, Ole Miss (Sept. 26, 2020 / 62 games) No. 19 LSU (Nov. 11, 2023 / 14 games)
2+ Players with 100+ Yards Receiving:	Brian Thomas Jr. (150), Malik Nabers (132) 3 - Jaray Jenkins, LSU (Oct. 16, 2021 / 43 games)

3+ Receiving Touchdowns:	3 - Jaray Jenkins, LSU (Oct. 16, 2021 / 43 games)
300+ Yards Total Offense:	No. 9 Ole Miss - 464 (141 rush/323 pass) (Nov. 23, 2024 / 1 game)
Kickoff Return Touchdown:	Barion Brown (99 yards), Kentucky (Oct. 19, 2024 / 5 games)
Punt Return Touchdown:	Marcus Murphy (82 yards), Missouri (Oct. 18, 2014 / 132 games)
Fumble Return Touchdown:	Wesley Schelling (0 yards), Vanderbilt (Nov. 19, 2022 / 26 games)
Interception Return Touchdown:	Keidron Smith (65 yards), Kentucky (Sept. 10, 2022 / 35 games)
3+ Interceptions (one player):	3 - Corey Webster, No. 18 LSU (Oct. 12, 2002 / 288 games)
50+ Yard Field Goal:	Damian Ramos (50 yards), No. 21 LSU (Nov. 16, 2024 / 2 games)
Blocked a Field Goal:	Tyreek Johnson, South Carolina (Oct. 14, 2023 / 17 games)
Blocked Field Goal Touchdown:	Kentucky, (Oct. 2, 2021 / 45 games) Joshua Paschal block, Trevin Wallace 76-yard return
Fake Field Goal Touchdown:	Trent Domingue (17-yard run), No. 6 LSU (Oct. 17, 2015 / 120 games)
Blocked Punt:	Joel Aguero, No. 1 Georgia (Oct. 28, 2023 / 16 games)
Blocked Punt Return Touchdown:	Josh Jacobs, No. 1 Alabama (Dec. 3, 2016 / 101 games)
Fake Punt Touchdown:	Dakereon Joyner (48 yards), South Carolina (Nov. 12, 2022 / 27 games)
Missed a PAT:	Alex Raynor, Kentucky (Oct. 19, 2024 / 5 games)
Blocked a PAT:	Omari Thomas, No. 11 Tennessee (Sep. 16, 2023 / 21 games)
Blocked PAT Return for Extra Point:	Victor Hampston, South Carolina (Oct. 20, 2012 / 157 games)
Tackled Florida for a Safety:	Chris Leak vs. South Carolina (Nov. 15, 2003 / 269 games)



STATISTICAL RANKINGS



FBS	SEC	Value	Category	FBS	AAC	Value
81	13	375.1	Total Offense	41	5	421.2
t-68	11	27.9	Scoring Offense	9	1	37.2
75	10	156.0	Rushing Offense	17	3	205.4
78	12	219.1	Passing Offense	82	11	215.8
36	8	142.98	Passing Efficiency	7	2	166.94
99	15	1.42 (17-12)	Touchdown-Interception Ratio	15	2	4.00 (24-6)
91	15	392.2	Total Defense	13	2	307.7
t-62	14	24.3	Scoring Defense	17	2	19.7
80	14	156.2	Rushing Defense	53	4	180.1
97	13	236.0	Passing Defense	6	1	167.9
61	9	129.15	Passing Efficiency Defense	16	1	111.64
t-37	t-6	0.42	Turnover Margin Per Game	25	3	0.62
t-16	t-3	22	Takeaways	t-32	5	20
t-48	t-5	11	Interceptions	t-34	4	12
t-47	t-3	19 (1.58)	Sacks Allowed (per game)	t-29	5	17 (1.31)
12	5	73.68%	Opponent Red Zone %	76	8	84.21%
12	5	45.95	Net Punt Average	50	4	43.16
17	3	13.36	Punt Return Average	130	14	2.40
t-65	t-10	20.33	Kickoff Return Average	23	4	24.04
t-7	3	38 (3.17)	Sacks (per game)	30	4	34 (2.62)
t-24	7	82 (6.83)	Tackles for Loss (per game)	t-48	t-6	78 (6.00)

• Entering Week 12, the Gators' pass rush had 20 total sacks (2.22 per game), good for t-47th in the nation. In their three-game winning streak since, Florida has notched 18 sacks (six per game) to boost their season average to 3.17 per game, improving 39 spots to t-seventh in the nation.

» 18 sacks in a three-game span marks the program's highest since recording 20 across the 2018 Peach Bowl and first two games of 2019.

» UF's last time with more than 18 sacks in a three-game span within one season occurred in the final three games of 2016, when the defense registered 19 sacks.

CROSSING PATHS: FLORIDA & TULANE

- This is the second time that UF **HC Billy Napier** and Tulane HC Jon Sumrall cross paths. The first occurrence was in 2006, when Napier was at Clemson as the Assistant Coach/TE/Recruiting and Sumrall was at Kentucky as a GA. The Tigers and Wildcats matched up in the Music City Bowl, where Sumrall's Wildcats claimed the biggest upset win in bowl history, defeating Clemson, 28-20, as a 10-point underdog.
- Tulane's Run Game Coordinator/OLB Coach Bam Hardmon was a four-year letterwinner as a LB at Florida from 1999-2002. Hardmon was the Gators' team captain in 2002 and named second team All-SEC that season after recording 168 tackles, fourth all-time in a single season at Florida. Hardmon was also awarded the Fergie Ferguson Award in 2002, given annually to the Florida senior who displays outstanding leadership, character and courage.
- **DB DJ Douglas** and **RB Cam Carroll** are both Tulane transfers. **Douglas** spent 2021-23 there where he played in 37 games while **Carroll** spent 2018-22 with the Green Wave where he accumulated 1,885 all-purpose yards and 24 touchdowns.
- Green Wave WR Dontae Fleming played three seasons (2020-22) at Louisiana with the first two under **Napier**. In those two seasons, he recorded 39 receptions for 512 yards and two TDs. Fleming was also teammates with **RB Montrell Johnson Jr.** and **OL Kamryn Waites** in 2021 on the Ragin' Cajuns.
- **EDGE Tyreek Sapp** and **ILB Derek Wingo** prepped at St. Thomas Aquinas with Green Wave OL Vincent Murphy in 2017-18. Across those two seasons, the Raiders went 25-5 with a loss in the Class 7A Championship in 2018 and a loss in the semifinals in 2017.
- **OL Damieon George Jr.** and Tulane WR Shazz Preston were both on the roster at Alabama in 2022.
- **DB Trikweze Bridges** and Tulane's QB Ty Thompson were teammates at Oregon (2021-23).

Gators in the Weekly FBS Rankings

After Week	Opp.	Offense			Defense		
		Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
1	Miami	t-113	t-86	119	123	84	130
2	Samford	45	75	32	87	46	112
3	Texas A&M	72	102	t-39	106	102	92
4	at Miss. State	46	t-82	31	112	108	92
5	Bye	50	83	30	t-113	110	97
6	UCF	60	83	35	t-96	101	81
7	at Tennessee	59	81	39	87	96	64
8	Kentucky	51	79	34	76	79	47
9	Bye	49	77	35	73	94	48
10	vs. Georgia	69	83	56	81	88	68
11	at Texas	t-73	72	62	100	94	90
12	LSU	t-79	t-80	64	98	t-92	92
13	Ole Miss	80	79	67	103	t-87	107
14	at Florida State	81	75	78	91	80	97
Gators in 2023		46	77	40	68	77	70
Gators in 2022		37	24	77	97	100	84
Gators in 2021		15	23	46	51	85	25
Gators in 2020		9	96	1	83	71	100
Gators in 2019		45	107	16	9	8	32
Gators in 2018		42	27	83	28	65	13
Gators in 2017		110	75	102	31	50	28
Gators in 2016		116	113	79	5	37	2
Gators in 2015		112	113	t-86	8	25	13
Gators in 2014		96	43	106	15	13	42
Gators in 2013		115	88	109	8	33	7
Gators in 2012		104	39	118	5	4	16
Gators in 2011		105	73	89	8	40	t-6
Gators in 2010		83	44	t-88	9	31	12
Gators in 2009		6	10	41	4	12	2
Gators in 2008		15	10	61	9	15	20
Gators in 2007		14	24	38	42	10	t-98
Gators in 2006		19	38	28	6	5	3

2024 TEAM LEADERS



Passing Yards (TDs / INTs)

DJ Lagway..... 1,610 (11-7) | Darian Mensah 2,723 (22-2)

Attempts-Rushing Yards (TDs)

Jadan Baugh ... 119-603 (7) | Makhi Hughes.....257-1,372 (15)
 Montrell Johnson Jr.... 100-593 (6) | Arnold Barnes III 84-400 (6)
 Ja'Kobi Jackson.83-452 (7) | Ty Thompson..... 40-243 (6)

Receptions-Receiving Yards (TDs)

Elijah Badger..... 37-789 (4) | Mario Williams54-940 (5)
 Chimere Dike 36-687 (2) | Dontae Fleming30-585 (1)
 Eugene Wilson III..... 19-266 (1) | Yulkeith Brown..... 34-470 (4)

Interceptions (Return Yards / TDs)

Bryce Thornton..... 3 (0/0) | Tyler Grubbs 2 (22/0)
 Devin Moore 2 (84/0) | Rayshawn Pleasant 1 (100/1)

Total Tackles (Solo-Assisted)

Trikweze Bridges..... 69 (37-32) | Tyler Grubbs 59 (36-23)
 Shemar James 59 (29-30) | Sam Howard.....57 (30-27)
 Jordan Castell 52 (26-26) | Bailey Despanie49 (39-10)

Tackles for Loss-Yards (Sacks-Yards)

Tyreek Sapp 13-48 (7-38) | Matthew Fobbs-White.....7.5-35 (4-29)
 George Gumbs Jr..... 8-41 (5-29) | Patrick Jenkins 6.5-34 (4.5-27)

RANKINGS / STANDINGS

Associated Press Top 25 Poll

Rank	Team	Record	Last
1.	Oregon	13-0	1
2.	Georgia	11-2	5
3.	Notre Dame	11-1	4
4.	Texas	11-2	2
5.	Penn State	11-2	7
6.	Ohio State	10-2	7
7.	Tennessee	10-2	6
8.	Boise State	12-1	10
9.	Indiana	11-1	9
10.	Arizona State	11-2	12
11.	Alabama	9-3	11
12.	SMU	11-2	8
13.	Clemson	10-3	18
14.	South Carolina	9-3	13
15.	Miami	10-2	14
16.	Ole Miss	9-3	15
17.	BYU	10-2	17
18.	Iowa State	10-3	16
19.	Army	11-1	24
20.	Colorado	9-3	20
21.	Illinois	9-3	21
22.	Syracuse	9-3	24
23.	Missouri	9-3	22
24.	UNLV	10-3	19
25.	Memphis	10-2	25

updated Dec. 8, 2024

USA Today / AFCA Coaches Poll

Rank	Team	Record	Last
1.	Oregon	13-0	1
2.	Georgia	11-2	5
3.	Notre Dame	11-1	4
4.	Texas	11-2	2
5.	Penn State	11-2	3
6.	Tennessee	10-2	6
7.	Ohio State	10-1	8
8.	Boise State	12-1	10
9.	Indiana	11-1	9
10.	Arizona State	11-1	13
11.	Alabama	9-3	11
12.	SMU	11-2	7
13.	Clemson	10-3	17
14.	South Carolina	9-3	12
15.	Ole Miss	9-3	15
16.	Miami	10-2	14
17.	BYU	10-2	18
18.	Army	11-1	23
19.	Iowa State	10-3	16
20.	Missouri	9-3	20
21.	Illinois	9-3	21
22.	Colorado	9-3	22
23.	Memphis	10-2	24
24.	UNLV	10-3	19
25.	Syracuse	9-3	25

updated Dec. 8, 2024

2024 College Football Playoff

Rank	Team	Record	Last
1.	Oregon	13-0	1
2.	Georgia	11-2	5
3.	Texas	11-2	2
4.	Penn State	11-2	3
5.	Notre Dame	11-1	4
6.	Ohio State	10-2	6
7.	Tennessee	10-2	7
8.	Indiana	11-1	9
9.	Boise State	12-1	10
10.	SMU	11-2	8
11.	Alabama	9-3	11
12.	Arizona State	11-2	15
13.	Miami	10-2	12
14.	Ole Miss	9-3	13
15.	South Carolina	10-2	14
16.	Clemson	10-3	17
17.	BYU	10-2	18
18.	Iowa State	10-3	16
19.	Missouri	9-3	19
20.	Illinois	9-3	21
21.	Syracuse	9-3	22
22.	Army	11-1	24
23.	Colorado	9-3	23
24.	UNLV	10-3	20
25.	Memphis	10-2	25

updated Dec. 8, 2024

2024 SEC Standings

	Conf. Games		Overall			Conf. Games		Overall	
Texas	7-1	.875	11-2	.846	Texas A&M	5-3	.625	8-4	.667
Georgia	6-2	.750	11-2	.846	FLORIDA	4-4	.500	7-5	.583
Tennessee	6-2	.750	10-2	.833	Arkansas	3-4	.429	6-5	.545
Alabama	5-3	.625	9-3	.750	Vanderbilt	3-4	.429	6-5	.545
LSU	5-3	.625	8-4	.667	Auburn	2-5	.287	5-6	.455
Ole Miss	5-3	.625	9-3	.750	Oklahoma	2-5	.287	6-5	.545
Missouri	5-3	.625	9-3	.750	Kentucky	1-7	.125	4-7	.364
South Carolina	5-3	.625	9-3	.750	Miss State	0-7	0.000	2-9	.182

2023 SEC Championship Game

Alabama 27, Georgia 24

December 2nd - Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Atlanta, Georgia



TRACKING 2024 OPPONENTS

Miami (Fla.) (10-2)

8/31	at Florida	W, 41-17
9/7	Florida A&M	W, 56-9
9/14	Ball State	W, 62-0
9/21	at South Florida	W, 50-15
9/27	Virginia Tech	W, 38-34
10/5	at California	W, 39-38
10/12	BYE	
10/19	at Louisville	W, 52-45
10/26	Florida State	W, 36-14
11/2	Duke	W, 53-31
11/9	at Georgia Tech	L, 23-28
11/16	BYE	
11/23	Wake Forest	W, 42-10
11/30	at Syracuse	L, 38-42

Samford (4-7)

8/31	at West Georgia	L, 29-38
9/7	at Florida	L, 45-7
9/14	Alabama State	W, 12-7
9/21	BYE	
9/28	at Furman	PPD
10/5	VMI	W, 27-3
10/12	at ETSU	L, 28-31
10/19	Mercer	W, 55-35
10/26	at The Citadel	L, 28-11
11/2	Wofford	L, 17-13
11/9	Tennessee Tech	L, 7-27
11/16	at Chattanooga	W, 36-13
11/23	Western Carolina	L, 42-47

Texas A&M (8-4)

8/31	Notre Dame	L, 13-23
9/7	McNeese	W, 52-10
9/14	at Florida	W, 33-20
9/21	Bowling Green	W, 26-20
9/28	Arkansas (N)	W, 21-17
10/5	Missouri	W, 41-10
10/12	BYE	
10/19	at Mississippi State	W, 34-24
10/26	LSU	W, 38-23
11/2	at South Carolina	L, 20-44
11/9	BYE	
11/16	New Mexico State	W, 38-3
11/23	at Auburn	L, 43-41
11/30	Texas	L, 7-17

Mississippi State (2-10)

8/31	Eastern Kentucky	W, 56-7
9/7	at Arizona State	L, 30-23
9/14	Toledo	L, 17-41
9/21	Florida	L, 45-28
9/28	at Texas	L, 13-35
10/5	BYE	
10/12	at Georgia	L, 41-31
10/19	Texas A&M	L, 24-34
10/26	Arkansas	L, 58-25
11/2	UMass	W, 45-20
11/9	at Tennessee	L, 14-33
11/16	BYE	
11/23	Missouri	L, 20-39
11/29	at Ole Miss	L, 14-26

UCF (4-8)

8/29	New Hampshire	W, 57-3
9/7	Sam Houston	W, 45-14
9/14	at TCU	W, 35-34
9/21	BYE	
9/28	Colorado	L, 21-48
10/5	at Florida	L, 24-13
10/12	Cincinnati	L, 19-13
10/19	at Iowa State	L, 35-38
10/26	BYU	L, 37-24
11/2	Arizona	W, 56-12
11/9	at Arizona State	L, 31-35
11/16	BYE	
11/23	at West Virginia	L, 21-31
12/29	Utah	L, 14-28

Tennessee (10-2)

8/31	Chattanooga	W, 69-3
9/7	NC State (N)	W, 51-10
9/14	Kent State	W, 71-0
9/21	at Oklahoma	W, 25-15
9/28	BYE	
10/5	at Arkansas	L, 14-19
10/12	Florida	W, 23-17
10/19	Alabama	W, 24-17
10/26	BYE	
11/2	Kentucky	W, 28-18
11/9	Mississippi State	W, 33-14
11/16	at Georgia	L, 17-31
11/23	UTEP	W, 56-0
11/30	at Vanderbilt	W, 36-23

Kentucky (4-8)

8/31	Southern Miss	W, 31-0
9/7	South Carolina	L, 31-6
9/14	Georgia	L, 12-13
9/21	Miami (Ohio)	W, 41-6
9/28	at Ole Miss	W, 20-17
10/5	BYE	
10/12	Vanderbilt	L, 20-13
10/19	at Florida	L, 20-48
10/26	Auburn	L, 24-10
11/2	at Tennessee	L, 18-28
11/9	BYE	
11/16	Murray State	L, 48-6
11/23	at Texas	L, 14-31
11/30	Louisville	L, 14-41

Georgia (10-2)

8/31	Clemson (N)	W, 34-3
9/7	Tennessee Tech	W, 48-3
9/14	at Kentucky	W, 13-12
9/21	BYE	
9/28	at Alabama	L, 34-41
10/5	Auburn	W, 31-13
10/12	Mississippi State	W, 41-31
10/19	at Texas	W, 50-15
10/26	BYE	
11/2	Florida (N)	W, 34-20
11/9	at Ole Miss	L, 10-28
11/16	Tennessee	W, 31-17
11/23	UMass	W, 59-21
11/29	Georgia Tech	W, 44-42

Texas (11-1)

8/31	Colorado State	W, 52-0
9/7	at Michigan	W, 31-12
9/14	UTSA	W, 56-7
9/21	ULM	W, 51-3
9/28	Mississippi State	W, 35-13
10/5	BYE	
10/12	Oklahoma (N)	W, 34-3
10/19	Georgia	L, 15-30
10/26	at Vanderbilt	W, 27-24
11/2	BYE	
11/9	Florida	W, 49-17
11/16	at Arkansas	W, 20-10
11/23	Kentucky	W, 31-14
11/30	at Texas A&M	W, 17-7

LSU (8-4)

9/7	Southern Cal (N)	L, 27-20
9/14	Nicholls	W, 44-21
9/21	at South Carolina	W, 36-33
9/28	UCLA	W, 34-17
10/5	South Alabama	W, 42-10
10/12	BYE	
10/19	Ole Miss	W, 29-26
10/26	at Arkansas	W, 34-10
11/2	at Texas A&M	L, 23-38
11/9	BYE	
11/16	Alabama	L, 13-42
11/23	at Florida	L, 16-27
11/30	Vanderbilt	W, 24-17
	Oklahoma	W, 37-17

Ole Miss (9-3)

8/31	Furman	W, 76-0
9/7	Middle Tennessee	W, 52-3
9/14	at Wake Forest	W, 40-6
9/21	Georgia Southern	W, 52-13
9/28	Kentucky	L, 17-20
10/5	at South Carolina	W, 27-3
10/12	at LSU	L, 26-29
10/19	BYE	
10/26	Oklahoma	W, 26-14
11/2	at Arkansas	W, 63-31
11/9	Georgia	W, 28-10
11/16	BYE	
11/23	at Florida	L, 24-17
11/29	Mississippi State	W, 26-14

Florida State (2-10)

8/24	Georgia Tech (N)	L, 24-21
9/2	Boston College	L, 28-13
9/7	BYE	
9/14	Memphis	L, 20-12
9/21	California	W, 14-9
9/28	at SMU	L, 16-42
10/5	Clemson	L, 29-13
10/12	BYE	
10/18	at Duke	L, 16-23
10/26	at Miami	L, 14-36
11/2	North Carolina	L, 35-11
11/9	at Notre Dame	L, 3-52
11/16	BYE	
11/23	Charleston Southern	W, 41-1
11/30	Florida	L, 31-11



NFL GATORS

Kyle Pitts	Atlanta Falcons
Kaiir Elam	Buffalo Bills
O'Cyrus Torrence	Buffalo Bills
Richard Gougeon*	Buffalo Bills
Eddy Pineiro Jr.	Carolina Panthers
Gervon Dexter Sr.	Chicago Bears
Evan McPherson	Cincinnati Bengals
Marco Wilson	Cincinnati Bengals
Trent Brown	Cincinnati Bengals
Kadarius Toney	Cleveland Browns
Trey Dean*	Cleveland Browns
Malik Davis*	Dallas Cowboys
Alex Anzalone	Detroit Lions
Kingsley Eguakun*	Detroit Lions
Brenton Cox Jr.	Green Bay Packers
T.J. Slaton	Green Bay Packers
Dameon Pierce	Houston Texans
David Sharpe*	Houston Texans
Tommy Townsend	Houston Texans
Anthony Richardson	Indianapolis Colts
Taven Bryan	Indianapolis Colts
Ventrell Miller	Jacksonville Jaguars
DJ Humphries	Kansas City Chiefs
Jawaan Taylor	Kansas City Chiefs
Demarcus Robinson	Los Angeles Rams
Marcus Maye	Los Angeles Chargers
Amari Burney	Las Vegas Raiders
Justin Shorter	Las Vegas Raiders
Zachary Carter	Las Vegas Raiders
Brandon Powell	Minnesota Vikings
Jonathan Bullard	Minnesota Vikings
Jonathan Greenard	Minnesota Vikings
Fred Johnson	Philadelphia Eagles
C.J. Gardner-Johnson	Philadelphia Eagles
Van Jefferson	Pittsburgh Steelers
Jeremiah Moon	Pittsburgh Steelers
C.J. Henderson	Pittsburgh Steelers
Ricky Pearsall	San Francisco 49ers
Stone Forsythe	Seattle Seahawks
Kyle Trask	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Dante Fowler Jr.	Washington Commanders

*practice squad
-updated 12/8/24

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2024 SEASON AWARDS

- **DJ Lagway** - 2024 On3 True Freshman All-American Team
- **Jake Slaughter** - USA Today First Team All-SEC
- **Rocco Underwood** - Mannelly Award Finalist
- **Jeremy Crawshaw** - Ray Guy Award Semifinalist
- **Jeremy Crawshaw** - Week 13 SEC Special Teams Player of the Week
- **Bryce Thornton** - Week 13 SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Week
- **Caleb Banks** - Week 13 SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Week
- **DJ Lagway** - Week 12 SEC Freshman of the Week
- **Shemar James** - Week 12 SEC Defensive Player of the Week
- **Trey Smack** - Week 12 SEC Special Teams Player of the Week
- **Taylor Spierto** - 2024 Burlsworth Trophy Nominee
- **Jadan Baugh** - Week 8 Shaun Alexander Freshman of the Week
- **Jadan Baugh** - Week 8 SEC Freshman of the Week
- **Jeremy Crawshaw** - Week 6 Ray Guy Punter of the Week
- **Jeremy Crawshaw** - Weeks 1, 6, 8 and 10 Ray Guy Award "Ray's 8" Member
- **Jake Slaughter** - Week 4 SEC Offensive Lineman of the Week
- **Graham Mertz** - Week 4 Manning Award Star of the Week

2024 Combined Record: 82-61

2024 PRESEASON AWARDS TRACKER

- 10 Gators appeared on various preseason watch lists heading into the campaign:
 - » **Jeremy Crawshaw** - Ray Guy Award
 - » **Alris Boardingham/Hayden Hansen** - Mackey Award
 - » **Eugene Wilson III** - Paul Horning Award and Biletnikoff Award
 - » **Graham Mertz** - Maxwell Award, Walter Camp Award and Davie O'Brien Award
 - » **Jake Slaughter** - Outland Award and Rimington Trophy
 - » **Jordan Castell** - Jim Thorpe Award
 - » **Montrell Johnson Jr.** - Doak Walker Award
 - » **Shemar James** - Bronko Nagruski Award,

Bednarik Award and Butkus Award

» **Trey Smack** - Lou Groza Award

- Additionally, **EDGE LJ McCray** was named to the On3 Preseason True Freshman All-America team.
- **RB Montrell Johnson Jr.** represented Florida on the media's Preseason All-SEC Second Team while **CB Jason Marshall Jr., K Trey Smack** and **P Jeremy Crawshaw** were named to the third team.
- **RB Montrell Johnson Jr., OL Jake Slaughter, CB Jason Marshall Jr.** and **P Jeremy Crawshaw** were named to the CFN All-SEC Second team while **WR Eugene Wilson II** and **K Trey Smack** were named to the third team. **DL Caleb Banks** and **CB Devin Moore** were named honorable mentions.

OFFENSE CAREER HIGHS

#0 JA'QUAVION FRAZIARS

Receptions: 4 (at Texas A&M, 2022)
 Receiving Yards: 50 (at Texas A&M, 2022)
 Receiving TD's: 1 (3x last at Texas A&M, 2022)
 Long Catch: 19 (at Texas A&M, 2022)

#1 MONTRELL JOHNSON JR.

Rushes: 24 (South Carolina, 2022)
 Rush Yards: 161 (South Carolina, 2022)
 Rushing TD's: 4 (Ohio, 2021)
 Long Rush: 99 (at Arkansas St. 2021)
 Receptions: 6 (2x, last vs. UCF, Oct. 5)
 Receiving Yards: 65 (at LSU, 2023)
 Receiving TD's: 1 (2x, last vs. Tennessee, 2023)
 Long Catch: 19 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)
 Pass Attempts: 1 (LSU, 2022)

#2 DJ LAGWAY

Pass Attempts: 26 (vs. LSU, 2024)
 Pass Completions: 18 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Pass Yards: 456 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Pass TD's: 3 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Long Pass: 85 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Rushes: 10 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)
 Rush Yards: 46 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)
 Long Rush: 22 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)

#3 EUGENE WILSON III

Receptions: 11 (vs. Georgia, 2023)
 Receiving Yards: 141 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Long Catch: 85 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Receiving TD's: 2 (vs. Arkansas, 2023)
 Rushes: 2 (at South Carolina, 2023)
 Rush Yards: 21 (at South Carolina, 2023)
 Longest Rush: 18 (McNeese, 2023)

#5 TREYAUN WEBB

Rushes: 14 (vs. McNeese 2023)
 Rush Yards: 71 (vs. McNeese, 2023)
 Rushing TD's: 2 (vs. McNeese, 2023)
 Long Rush: 43 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)
 Receptions: 3 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)
 Receiving Yards: 12 (vs. McNeese, 2023)
 Long Catch: 12 (vs. McNeese, 2023)

#6 ELIJAH BADGER

Receptions: 12 (2x, last at UCLA, 2023)
 Receiving Yards: 148 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)
 Long Catch: 77 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Receiving TD's: 2 (vs. Washington, 2022)
 Rushes: 4 (vs. Washington State, 2023)
 Rush Yards: 22 (vs. Stanford, 2021)
 Rushing TD's: 1 (3x, last vs. Washington State, 2023)
 Longest Rush: 22 (vs. Stanford, 2021)

#8 ARLIS BOARDINGHAM

Receptions: 7 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)
 Receiving Yards: 99 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)
 Long Catch: 25 (vs. Charlotte, 2023)
 Receiving TD's: 2 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)

#9 JA'MARKIS WESTON

Receptions: 3 (Florida Atlantic, 2021)
 Receiving Yards: 44 (Florida Atlantic, 2021)
 Receiving TD's: 1 (Samford, 2021)
 Long Catch: 36 (Florida Atlantic, 2021)
 Kick Returns: 2 (2x last vs. Utah, 2022)
 Kick Return Yards: 32 (Utah, 2022)
 Kick Return Long: 22 (Kentucky, 2022)

#9 KEON ZIPPERER

Receptions: 4 (2x last vs. Alabama, 2021)
 Receiving Yards: 62 (at Tennessee, 2022)
 Receiving TD's: 2 (Arkansas, 2020)
 Long Catch: 44 (at Tennessee, 2022)
 Kick Returns: 2 (South Carolina, 2020)
 Kick Return Yards: 21 (South Carolina, 2020)
 Kick Return Long: 13 (South Carolina, 2020)

#11 AIDAN MIZELL

Receptions: 5 (2x, last vs. Mississippi State, 2024)
 Receiving Yards: 66 (vs. Georgia, 2024)
 Long Catch: 43 (vs. Georgia, 2024)

#13 JADAN BAUGH

Rushes: 22 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)
 Rush Yards: 106 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)
 Long Rush: 55 (vs. LSU, 2024)
 Rushing TD's: 5 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)

#14 ANDY JEAN

Receptions: 4 (at Kentucky, 2023)
 Receiving Yards: 62 (vs. Charlotte, 2023)
 Long Catch: 32 (vs. Charlotte, 2023)
 Kick Returns: 2 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)
 Kick Return Yards: 44 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)
 Kick Return Long: 22 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)

#15 GRAHAM MERTZ

Pass Attempts: 48 (at South Carolina, 2023)
 Pass Completions: 31 (at Utah, 2023)
 Pass Yards: 423 (at South Carolina, 2023)
 Pass TD's: 5 (2x, last at Northwestern, 2022)
 Long Pass: 74 (Illinois State, 2022)
 Rushes: 9 (Penn State, 2021)
 Rush Yards: 24 (at Mississippi State, 2024)
 Rushing TD's: 2 (3x, last vs. Iowa, 2021)
 Long Rush: 24 (at Northwestern, 2020)

#16 AIDAN WARNER

Pass Attempts: 25 (vs. Texas, 2024)
 Pass Completions: 12 (vs. Texas, 2024)
 Pass Yards: 132 (vs. Texas, 2024)
 Long Pass: 39 (vs. Texas, 2024)
 Rushes: 4 (vs. Georgia, 2024)
 Rush Yards: 9 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Rushing TD's: 1 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Long Rush: 9 (vs. Samford, 2024)

#17 CHIMERE DIKE

Receptions: 10 (at Northwestern, 2022)
 Receiving Yards: 185 (at Northwestern, 2022)
 Long Catch: 74 (vs. Illinois State, 2022)
 Receiving TD's: 3 (at Northwestern, 2022)
 Rushes: 3 (at Iowa, 2020)
 Rush Yards: 30 (at Michigan, 2020)
 Longest Rush: 30 (at Michigan, 2020)

#18 CLAY MILLEN

Pass Attempts: 35 (at Washington State, 2022)
 Pass Completions: 25 (at Washington State, 2022)
 Pass Yards: 261 (at San Jose State, 2022)
 Pass TD's: 3 (vs. Middle Tennessee State, 2022)
 Long Pass: 76 (at Boise State, 2022)
 Rushes: 17 (at San Jose State, 2022)
 Rush Yards: 53 (vs. Hawaii, 2022)
 Long Rush: 20 (2x, last vs. Wyoming, 2022)

#21 KD DANIELS

Rushes: 3 (2x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)
 Rush Yards: 10 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Rush Long: 5 (2x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)

#22 KAHLEIL JACKSON

Receptions: 4 (Vanderbilt, 2023)
 Receiving Yards: 52 (at South Carolina, 2023)
 Receiving Long: 45 (at South Carolina, 2023)

#24 JA'KOBI JACKSON

Rushes: 24 (2x, last at East Mississippi Delta Co, 2022)
 Rush Yards: 130 (at Itawamba CC, 2020)
 Rush TD's: 3 (at Itawamba CC, 2020)
 Rush Long: 40 (vs. Mississippi Delta, 2021)
 Receptions: 4 (vs. Northeast, 2021)
 Receiving Yards: 44 (vs. Northeast, 2021)
 Receiving TD's: 1 (2x, last vs. Northeast, 2021)
 Long Catch: 23 (vs. Northeast, 2021)

#27 CAM CARROLL

Rushes: 18 (at Houston, 2020)
 Rush Yards: 163 (at Southern Miss, 2020)
 Rush TD's: 3 (at Southern Miss, 2020)
 Rush Long: 65 (Nevada, 2020)
 Receptions: 4 (2x, last vs. Houston, 2021)
 Receiving Yards: 67 (at East Carolina, 2021)
 Long Catch: 59 (at East Carolina, 2021)
 Tackles: 1 (Tulsa, 2019)

#30 TAYLOR SPIERTO

Receptions: 1 (3x, last vs. Kentucky, 2024)
 Receiving Yards: 20 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)
 Long Catch: 20 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)

#48 QUINCY IVORY

Rushes: 1 (2x, last vs. Southern, 2021)
 Pass Attempts: 1 (3x, last vs. Southern, 2021)
 Pass Completions: 2x, (last at Alabama State, 2021)
 Pass Yards: 11 (at Alabama State, 2021)
 Long Pass: 11 (at Alabama State, 2021)

#82 CALEB RILLOS

Receptions: 2 (vs. Wyoming, 2023)
 Receiving Yards: 35 (vs. UNLV, 2023)
 Long Catch: 35 (vs. UNLV, 2023)

#86 TONY LIVINGSTON

Receptions: 4 (vs. Mississippi State, 2024)
 Receiving Yards: 18 (vs. Mississippi State, 2024)
 Receiving TD's: 1 (vs. Florida State, 2024)

#88 MARCUS BURKE

Receptions: 3 (2x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)
 Receiving Yards: 73 (at South Carolina, 2021)
 Long Catch: 61 (at South Carolina, 2021)
 Receiving TD's: 1 (2x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)

#89 HAYDEN HANSEN

Receptions: 3 (7x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)
 Reception Yards: 46 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Longest Catch: 40 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Receiving TD's: 1 (3x, last vs. Mississippi State, 2024)
 Kick Returns: 2 (McNeese, 2023)
 Kick Return Yards: 17 (McNeese, 2023)
 Kick Return Long: 12 (McNeese, 2023)

#94 TYREAK SAPP

Kick Returns: 1 (at South Carolina, 2023)
 Kick Return Yards: 16 (at South Carolina, 2023)
 Kick Return Long: 16 (at South Carolina, 2023)



DEFENSE CAREER HIGHS

#0 SHARIF DENSON

Tackles: 7 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)
TFL: 2.5 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)
Sack: 1 (2x, last vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)
Interception: 1 (vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)

#1 JUSTUS BOONE

Tackles: 4, (2x last vs. LSU, 2022)
Sacks: 1 (Kentucky, 2022)

#3 JASON MARSHALL JR.

Tackles: 6 (2x, last vs. Samford, 2024)
Sacks: 1 (vs. Florida State, 2023)
Interceptions: 1 (2x last at Vanderbilt, 2022)
Interception Return Yards: 0 (at Vanderbilt, 2022)
Interception Return Long: 0 (at Vanderbilt, 2022)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (vs. Samford, 2024)

#5 TREYAUN WEBB

Tackles: 1 (2x, last vs. Miami, 2024)

#5 MYLES GRAHAM

Tackles: 7 (vs. LSU, 2024)
Sacks: 1 (vs. Georgia, 2024)
Forced Fumble: 1 (vs. Texas, 2024)

#6 SHEMAR JAMES

Tackles: 13 (at Utah, 2023)
Sacks: 2 (vs. LSU, 2024)
Fumble Recoveries: 1 (2x last at FSU, 2022)
Interceptions: 1 (Miami, 2024)
PBU: 2 (vs. LSU, 2024)

#7 TRIKWEZE BRIDGES

Tackles: 11 (2x, last vs. Ole Miss)
Interceptions: 1 (4x, last at California, 2022)
Breakups: 2 (vs. Florida State, 2024)
Interception Return Yards: 21 (vs. E. Washington, 2022)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (2x, last vs. Mississippi State, 2024)

#8 AARON CHILES

Tackles: 3 (4x, last vs. LSU, 2024)

#9 JA'MARKIS WESTON

Tackles: 2 (4x, last vs. Georgia, 2024)

#10 GRAYSON HOWARD

Tackles: 7 (vs. Mississippi State, 2024)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (2x, last vs. Tennessee, 2024)
Sacks: 1 (vs. UCF, 2024)

#11 KELBY COLLINS

Tackles: 6 (2x, last vs. Mississippi State, 2024)
Sacks: 1.5 (vs. Arkansas, 2023)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (vs. Arkansas, 2023)

#12 DJ DOUGLAS

Tackles: 7 (vs. SMU, 2023)
Sacks: 1.5 (vs. Arkansas, 2023)
Interceptions: 1 (4x, last at FAU, 2023)
Interception Return Yards: 11 (at Rice, 2023)

#14 JORDAN CASTELL

Tackles: 10 (vs. Tennessee, 2023)
Interceptions: 1 (vs. Arkansas, 2023)
Interception Return Yards: -1 (vs. Arkansas, 2023)

#15 DEREK WINGO

Tackles: 8 (Oregon State, 2022)
Sacks: 1 (4x, last vs. Georgia, 2024)
Blocked Kicks: 1 (vs. Charlotte, 2023)

#16 R.J. MOTEN

Tackles: 6 (2x, last at Maryland, 2021)
Sacks: 1 (Penn State, 2022)
Interceptions: 1 (2x, last vs. Maryland, 2022)

#18 BRYCE THORNTON

Tackles: 14 (vs. Ole Miss, 2024)
Sacks: 0.5 (vs. Charlotte, 2023)
Interceptions: 2 (vs. Ole Miss, 2024)

#19 T.J. SEARCY

Tackles: 7 (at Mississippi State, 2024)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (2x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)
Sacks: 1 (2x, last at Texas, 2024)

#20 ASA TURNER

Tackles: 12 (at Oregon, 2022)
Interceptions: 2 (vs. Kent State, 2022)
Interception Return Yards: 18 (at Oregon State, 2021)
Fumble Recoveries: 1 (vs. Texas, 2023)

#21 DESMOND WATSON

Tackles: 5 (at FSU, 2022)
Sacks: 1 (Florida State, 2023)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (South Carolina, 2022)
Fumble Recoveries: 1 (South Carolina, 2022)

#22 DEUCE SPURLOCK II

Tackles: 3 (Hawaii, 2022)
Sacks: N/A

#22 KAHLEIL JACKSON

Tackles: 1 (at Kentucky, 2023)

#24 KAMRAN JAMES

Tackles: 5 (vs Texas A&M, 2024)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (vs. Florida State, 2024)
Sacks: 1 (vs. LSU, 2024)

#25 CORMANI MCCLAIN

Tackles: 5 (at Washington State, 2023)
Interceptions: 1 (vs. Kentucky, 2024)

#27 DIJON JOHNSON

Tackles: 6 (vs. LSU, 2024)
Fumble Recoveries: 1 (at LSU, 2023)

#27 CAM CARROLL

Tackles: 1 (Tulsa, 2019)

#28 DEVIN MOORE

Tackles: 3 (2x, last vs. Texas A&M, 2024)
Interceptions: 1 (2x, last vs Georgia, 2024)
Interception Return Yards: 39 (vs. Tennessee, 2023)

#29 JADEN ROBINSON

Tackles: 8 (vs. Texas A&M, 2024)
Sacks: 2 (vs. Florida State, 2024)

#30 GREGORY SMITH III

Tackles: 3 (vs. Florida State, 2024)

#33 BRIEN TAYLOR JR.

Tackles: 6 (vs. Trinity Valley CC, 2023)
Sacks: 1.5 (at New Mexico Military, 2022)

#34 GEORGE GUMBS JR.

Tackles: 6 (2x, last vs. Ohio, 2023)
Sacks: 1.5 (2x, last vs. UCF, 2024)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (3x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)

#37 JAVION TOOMBS

Tackles: 1 (2x, last vs. Arkansas, 2023)

#42 ROCCO UNDERWOOD

Tackles: 1 (5x, last vs. Tennessee, 2024)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (vs. Florida State, 2024)

#43 ALFONZO ALLEN JR.

Tackles: 3 (vs. Texas State, 2023)
Sacks: 1 (vs. UAlbany, 2022)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (vs. Texas State, 2023)

#47 JUSTIN PELIC

Tackles: 2 (McNeese, 2023)

#48 QUINCY IVORY

Tackles: 1 (vs. Arkansas, 2023)

#88 CALEB BANKS

Total Tackles: 5 (2x, last vs. Tennessee, 2024)
Total Sacks: 2.5 (vs. Ole Miss, 2024)
Blocked Kicks: 1 (at Kentucky, 2023)
Forced Fumbles: 2 (vs. LSU, 2024)
Fumble Recoveries: 1 (vs. LSU, 2024)
Tackles for Loss: 3.5 (vs. Ole Miss 2024)

#93 MICHAÏ BOIREAU

Tackles: 3 (2x, last vs. Samford 2024)

#94 TYREAK SAPP

Tackles: 8 (vs. LSU, 2024)
Sacks: 1 (7x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)
Forced Fumbles: 2 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)

#95 JAMARI LYONS

Tackles: 3 (3x, last at LSU, 2023)
Safety: 1 (McNeese, 2023)

#97 JOEY SLACKMAN

Tackles: 11 (vs. Brown, 2023)
Sacks: 1.5 (vs. Yale, 2022)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (2x, last at Princeton, 2022)

#99 CAM JACKSON

Tackles: 8 (2x, last vs. Mississippi State, 2024)
Sacks: 1 (3x, last vs. Florida State, 2024)

SPECIAL TEAMS CAREER HIGHS

#26 JEREMY CRAWSHAW

Punts: 8 (2x, last vs. Georgia 2024)
Punt Yards: 393 (vs. Georgia, 2024)
Punt Average: 58.3 (vs. Vanderbilt, 2023)
Punt Long: 69 (Vanderbilt, 2021)
Rushes: 1 (2x last vs. South Carolina, 2022)
Rush Yards: 28 (Vanderbilt, 2021)
Long Rush: 28 (Vanderbilt, 2021)
Kickoffs: 1 (2x, last vs. Georgia, 2023)
Kickoff Yards: 69 yards (Georgia, 2023)

#29 TREY SMACK

Kickoffs: 9 (3x, last vs. Kentucky, 2024)
Kickoff Yards: 578 (Eastern Washington, 2022)
Kickoff Average: 67.5 (Oregon State, 2022)
Field Goals Made: 5 (vs. Charlotte, 2023)
Long FG: 55 yards (vs. LSU, 2024)
PAT Made: 6 (2x, last vs. Kentucky 2024)
Tackles: 1 (2x, last at Missouri, 2023)

#31 RICKY ABOOD II

Kickoffs: 3 (2x, last vs. Colgate, 2021)
Kickoff Yards: 143 (at Columbia, 2021)
Kickoff Average: 55 (at Holy Cross, 2021)
Field Goals Made: 2 (vs. Sacred Hart, 2023)
Field Goal Long: 28 (at Fordham, 2022)
PAT Made: 7 (vs. Marist, 2023)

OFFENSE 2024 SEASON HIGHS

#1 MONTRELL JOHNSON JR.

Rushes: 18 (vs. Ole Miss, Nov. 23)
 Rush Yards: 107 (vs. Ole Miss, Nov. 23)
 Long Rush: 71 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)
 Rushing TD's: 2 (Samford, Sept. 7)
 Receptions: 6 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)
 Receiving Yards: 24 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)
 Long Catch: 9 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)

#2 DJ LAGWAY

Pass Attempts: 26 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)
 Pass Completions: 18 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
 Pass Yards: 456 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
 Pass TD's: 3 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
 Long Pass: 85 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
 Rushes: 10 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
 Rush Yards: 46 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
 Long Rush: 22 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)

#3 EUGENE WILSON III

Receptions: 7 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)
 Receiving Yards: 141 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
 Long Catch: 85 (Samford, Sept. 7)
 Receiving TD's: 1 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)

#5 TREYAUN WEBB

Rushes: 8 (vs. Miss. State, Sept. 21)
 Rush Yards: 42 (vs. Miss. State, Sept. 21)
 Rushing TD's: 1 (vs. Miami, Aug. 30)
 Long Rush: 14 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)

#6 ELIJAH BADGER

Receptions: 6 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)
 Receiving Yards: 148 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
 Long Catch: 77 (vs. Samford)

#8 ARLIS BOARDINGHAM

Receptions: 5 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)
 Receiving Yards: 42 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)
 Long Catch: 20 (vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)

#10 TANK HAWKINS

Receptions: 7 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)
 Receiving Yards: 60 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)
 Long Catch: 36 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)

#11 AIDAN MIZELL

Receptions: 5 (vs. Miss. State, Sept. 21)
 Receiving Yards: 66 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)
 Long Catch: 43 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)

#13 JADAN BAUGH

Rushes: 22 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
 Rush Yards: 106 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
 Long Rush: 55 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

#15 GRAHAM MERTZ

Pass Attempts: 23 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)
 Pass Completions: 19 (2x, last vs. UCF, Oct. 5)
 Pass Yards: 201 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)
 Long Pass: 39 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)
 Rushes: 6 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)
 Rush Yards: 24 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)
 Long Rush: 16 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)

#16 AIDAN WARNER

Pass Attempts: 25 (vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
 Pass Completions: 12 (vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
 Pass Yards: 132 (vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
 Long Pass: 39 (vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
 Rushes: 4 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)
 Rush Yards: 9 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Rushing TD's: 1 (vs. Samford, 2024)
 Long Rush: 9 (vs. Samford, 2024)

#17 CHIMERE DIKE

Receptions: 6 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)
 Receiving Yards: 95 (vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
 Receiving Long: 44 (2x, last vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)

#21 KD DANIELS

Rushes: 3 (2x, last vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)
 Rush Yards: 12 (vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)
 Long Rush: 5 (2x, last vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)

#22 KAHLEIL JACKSON

Receptions: 1 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)
 Receiving Yards: 13 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)
 Receiving Long: 13 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)

#24 JA'KOBI JACKSON

Rushes: 19 (vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
 Rush Yards: 116 (vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
 Long Rush: 20 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

#30 TAYLOR SPIERTO

Receptions: 1 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
 Rush Yards: 44 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
 Long Rush: 19 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)

#83 JACKSON WADE

Receptions: 1 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
 Receiving Yards: 10 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)

#89 HAYDEN HANSEN

Receptions: 3 (2x, last vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)
 Reception Yards: 46 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
 Longest Catch: 40 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)



DEFENSE 2024 SEASON HIGHS

#0 SHARIF DENSON

Tackles: 7 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)
TFL: 2.5 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)
Sack: 1 (2x, last vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)
Interceptions: 1 (vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)

#1 JUSTUS BOONE

Tackles: 3 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)

#2 JA'KEEM JACKSON

Tackles: 3 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)

#3 JASON MARSHALL JR.

Tackles: 6 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
Forced Fumble: 1 (vs. Samford Sept. 7)

#5 TREYAUN WEBB

Tackles: 1 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)

#5 MYLES GRAHAM

Tackles: 7 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)
Sacks: 1 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)

#6 SHEMAR JAMES

Tackles: 11 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)
Interceptions: 1 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)
Sacks: 2 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)
PBU: 2 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

#7 TRIKWEZE BRIDGES

Tackles: 11 (2x, last vs. Ole Miss, Nov. 23)
Forced Fumble: 1 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)

#8 AARON CHILES

Tackles: 3 (3x, last vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

#9 JA'MARKIS WESTON

Tackles: 2 (3x, last vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)

#10 GRAYSON HOWARD

Tackles: 7 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)
Fumble Recovery: 1 (vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)
Sack: 1 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)

#12 DJ DOUGLAS

Tackles: 5 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)

#13 AARON GATES

Tackles: 8 (vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
PBU: 1 (2x, last vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)
Fumble Recovery: 1 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
Interceptions: 1 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)
Interception Return: 30 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)

#14 JORDAN CASTELL

Tackles: 6 (3x, last vs. LSU, Nov. 16)
Brup: 1 (4x, last vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

#15 DEREK WINGO

Tackles: 2 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)
QBH: 1 (vs. Miami, August 7)
Sacks: 1 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)

#16 R.J. MOTEN

Tackles: 5 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)
TFL: 1 (vs. Samford Sept. 7)
PBU: 1 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)

#17 LJ MCCRAY

Tackles: 3 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
TFL: 0.5 (vs. Samford Sept. 7)
QBH: 2 (vs. Samford Sept. 7)

#19 T.J. SEARCY

Tackles: 7 (vs. Mississippi State, Sept. 21)
Sacks: 1 (2x, last vs. Texas, Nov. 9)
Fumble Recoveries: 1 (vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)

#20 ASA TURNER

Tackles: 1 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)

#21 DESMOND WATSON

Tackles: 4 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

#24 KAMRAN JAMES

Tackles: 5 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)

#25 CORMANI MCCLAIN

Tackles: 4 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)
Interception: 1 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
Int. return: 29 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
PBU: 1 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)

#27 DIJON JOHNSON

PBU: 1 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
Tackles: 6 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

#28 DEVIN MOORE

Tackles: 7 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
Interception: 1 (2x, last vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)
Int. return: 52 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)

#29 JADEN ROBINSON

Tackles: 8 (vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 14)
Sacks: 2 (vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)

#30 GREGORY SMITH III

Tackles: 3 (vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)

#33 BRIEN TAYLOR JR.

Tackles: 2 (3x, last vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)

#34 GEORGE GUMBS JR.

Tackles: 4 (2x last vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)
TFL: 3.0 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
Sacks: 1.5 (vs. UCF, Oct. 5)

#42 ROCCO UNDERWOOD

Tackles: 1 (3x, last vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)
Fumble Recoveries: 1 (vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)

#88 CALEB BANKS

Total Tackles: 5 (vs. Tennessee, Oct. 12)
Total Sacks: 2.5 (vs. Ole Miss, Nov. 23)
TFL: 3.4 (vs. Ole Miss, Nov. 23)
QBH: 1 (2x, last vs. Ole Miss, Nov. 23)

#93 MICHAÏ BOIREAU

Total Tackles: 3 (2x, last vs. Samford, Sept. 7)

#94 TYREAK SAPP

Tackles: 8 (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)
Sacks: 1.5 (vs. Ole Miss, Nov. 23)
Forced Fumbles: 1 (vs. Samford, Sept. 7)
QBH: 2 (vs. Miami, Aug. 31)

#97 JOEY SLACKMAN

Tackles: 1 (4x, last vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

#99 CAM JACKSON

Tackles: 5 (2x, last vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)
Sacks: 1 (vs. Florida State, Nov. 30)

SPECIAL TEAMS 2024 SEASON HIGHS

#26 JEREMY CRAWSHAW

Punts: 8 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)
Punt Yards: 393 (vs. Georgia, Nov. 2)
Punt Long: 62 (vs. Ole Miss, Nov. 23)
Punt Avg. 50.08 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)

#29 TREY SMACK

Kickoffs: 9 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
Kickoff Yards: 557 (vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
Field Goals Made: 2 (3x, last vs. LSU, Nov. 16)
PAT Made: 6, (3x, last vs. Kentucky, Oct. 19)
Long FG: 55 yards (vs. LSU, Nov. 16)

2024 GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

Offense

Game	RT	LT	LG	C	RG	QB	RB	WR/TE	TE	WR	WR
Miami	Waites	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Mertz	Johnson	Boardingham	Hansen	Wilson	Jackson
Samford	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Lagway	Johnson	Burke	Hansen	Wilson	Dike
Texas A&M	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Mertz	Johnson	Burke	Hansen	Badger	Dike
at Miss State.	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Mertz	Johnson	Livingston	Hansen	Badger	Dike
UCF	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Mertz	Johnson	Burke	Hansen	Badger	Dike
at Tennessee	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Mertz	Johnson	Boardingham	Hansen	Badger	Wilson
Kentucky	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Lagway	Baugh	Dike	Hansen	Badger	Wilson
vs. Georgia	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Lagway	Jackson	Dike	Hansen	Burke	Mizell
at Texas	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	Lovett	Warner	Baugh	Dike	Hansen	Fraziars	Mizell
LSU	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Lagway	Baugh	Dike	Hansen	Badger	Mizell
Ole Miss	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	George Jr.	Lagway	Johnson	Dike	Hansen	Badger	Burke
at FSU	Crenshaw-Dickson	Barber	Harris	Slaughter	Lovett	Lagway	Johnson	Dike	Hansen	Badger	Burke

Defense

Game	NT	DT	LB	LB	DE	DE	CB	SS	FS	CB	UTIL
Miami	C. Jackson	Slackman	S. James	Howard	Searcy	K. James	J. Jackson	Turner	Castell	Marshall	Denson (STAR)
Samford	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Howard	Searcy	K. James	J. Jackson	Douglas	Castell	Marshall	Gates (STAR)
Texas A&M	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Howard	Searcy	K. James	Moore	Douglas	Castell	Marshall	Gumbs Jr. (DE)
at Miss State.	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Howard	Searcy	K. James	Moore	Thornton	Castell	Marshall	Denson (STAR)
UCF	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Howard	Pyburn	Sapp	Moore	Thornton	Castell	Marshall	Denson (STAR)
at Tennessee	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Howard	Pyburn	Sapp	Moore	Bridges	Castell	Marshall	Denson (STAR)
Kentucky	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Howard	Pyburn	Sapp	Moore	Bridges	Castell	Marshall	Gumbs Jr. (DE)
vs. Georgia	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Howard	Pyburn	Sapp	Moore	Bridges	Castell	Johnson	Gates (STAR)
at Texas	Watson	Taylor Jr.	S. James	Howard	Pyburn	Sapp	Bridges	Thornton	Castell	McClain	Gates (STAR)
LSU	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Robinson	Pyburn	Sapp	Bridges	Thornton	Castell	Johnson	Gates (STAR)
Ole Miss	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Robinson	Pyburn	Sapp	Bridges	Thornton	Castell	Johnson	Gates (STAR)
at FSU	C. Jackson	Banks	S. James	Robinson	Pyburn	Sapp	Bridges	Thornton	Castell	Johnson	Denson (STAR)

CAREER STARTS

Offense	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Total	Streak	Defense	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Total	Streak
Graham Mertz, QB	5	11	12	13	7	48	-	Jason Marshall Jr., DB	7	12	13	7	-	39	-
Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson, OL	11	9	12	14	-	46	11	Cam Jackson, DL	11	11	13	-	-	35	3
Chimere Dike, WR	10	11	13	1	6	41	6	Asa Turner, S	1	6	9	4	4	24	-
Elijah Badger, WR	8	9	12	1	-	30	3	Shemar James, LB	12	8	4	-	-	24	12
Montrell Johnson Jr., RB	8	11	9	-	-	28	2	Trikweze Bridges, DB	7	1	13	3	-	24	7
Austin Barber, OL	12	8	5	-	-	25	12	Jordan Castell, S	12	11	-	-	-	23	23
Damieon George Jr., OL	10	11	-	3	-	24	-	Caleb Banks, DL	10	11	-	-	-	21	3
Hayden Hansen, TE	12	9	-	-	-	21	21	Joey Slackman, DT	1	8	10	-	-	19	-
Jake Slaughter, OL	12	8	-	-	-	20	15	Tyreek Sapp, DL	8	11	-	-	-	19	8
Knijeah Harris, OL	12	1	-	-	-	13	13	DJ Douglas, DB	2	12	-	-	-	14	-
Eugene Wilson III, WR	4	7	-	-	-	11	-	Desmond Watson, DL	1	-	10	-	-	11	-
Kahleil Jackson, WR	1	9	-	-	-	10	-	Bryce Thornton, S	6	4	-	-	-	10	4
Marcus Burke, WR	6	-	1	-	-	7	2	Jack Pyburn, EDGE	8	1	-	-	-	9	8
DJ Lagway, QB	6	-	-	-	-	6	3	George Gumbs Jr., EDGE	2	7	-	-	-	9	-
Keon Zipperer, TE	-	-	6	-	-	6	-	Pup Howard, LB	9	-	-	-	-	9	-
Kamryn Waites, OL	1	2	1	-	-	4	-	Devin Moore, DB	6	1	-	-	-	7	-
Arlis Boardingham, TE	2	2	-	-	-	4	-	Sharif Denson, CB	5	-	-	-	-	5	1
Jadan Baugh, RB	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	T.J. Searcy, LB	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
Aidan Mizell, WR	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	Kamran James, LB	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
Bryce Lovett, OL	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	Aaron Gates, DB	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
Ja'Kobi Jackson, RB	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	Dijon Johnson, DB	4	-	-	-	-	4	3
Aidan Warner, QB	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	Jaden Robinson, LB	3	1	-	-	-	4	3
JaQuavion Fraziars, WR	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	Derek Wingo, LB	-	-	2	1	-	3	-
Tony Livingston, TE	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	Ja'Keem Jackson, CB	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
								Jamari Lyons, DL	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
								Brien Taylor Jr., DL	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
								Cormani McClain, DB	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
								Brien Taylor Jr., DL	1	-	-	-	-	1	-



2024 TAKEAWAYS

Opponent	Takeaway	Quarter	Time	Yard-Line	Result	Result of Drive
Miami	Shemar James INTERCEPTION	1	2:31	MIA 33	0-yard return	41-yard field goal
Samford	Aaron Gates FUMBLE RECOVERY	1	14:14	SAM 36	0-yard return	Turnover on downs
Texas A&M	None					
at Mississippi St.	Grayson Howard FUMBLE RECOVERY	4	14:54	UFL 7	0-yard return	Touchdown
UCF	Bryce Thornton INTERCEPTION	4	1:56	UFL 21	0-yard return	End of game
at Tennessee	Grayson Howard FUMBLE RECOVERY	1	12:44	UFL 26	0-yard return	Punt
	Sharif Denson INTERCEPTION	2	1:22	TENN 42	20-yard return	End of half
Kentucky	Trikweze Bridges INTERCEPTION	2	7:30	FLA 46	0-yard return	Interception
	Devin Moore INTERCEPTION	2	2:04	FLA 47	52-yard return	Touchdown
	Cormani McClain INTERCEPTION	4	3:31	UKY 29	29-yard return	Touchdown
vs. Georgia	Devin Moore INTERCEPTION	2	13:54	FLA 44	32-yard return	Touchdown
	Aaron Gates INTERCEPTION	2	12:21	FLA 31	30-yard return	32-yard field goal
	Jack Pyburn INTERCEPTION	3	13:41	UGA 41	0-yard return	Punt
at Texas	Aaron Gates FUMBLE RECOVERY	4	11:40	FLA 33	0-yard return	Touchdown
LSU	Caleb Banks FUMBLE RECOVERY	3	2:18	LSU 34	0-yard return	Punt
Ole Miss	DJ Douglas FUMBLE RECOVERY	3	12:37	OLE37	0-yard return	53-yard field goal
	Bryce Thornton INTERCEPTION	4	1:47	UFL 0	0-yard return	Punt
	Bryce Thornton INTERCEPTION	4	0:17	UFL 22	0-yard return	End of game
at Florida State	D'Antre Robinson FUMBLE RECOVERY	1	2:59	FSU 14	0-yard return	Touchdown
	Shemar James FUMBLE RECOVERY	2	11:04	UF 29	0-yard return	Interception
	Rocco Underwood FUMBLE RECOVERY	3	7:56	FSU12	0-yard return	30-yard field goal
	George Gumbs Jr. FUMBLE RECOVERY	3	00:24	UF 7	0-yard return	Touchdown
	T.J. Searcy FUMBLE RECOVERY	4	1:47	FSU 43	0-yard return	End of game
TOTAL	22 takeaways (11 Interceptions, 11 Fumble Recoveries)				7 Touchdowns, 4 Field Goals	61 Points

2024 TURNOVERS

Opponent	Takeaway	Quarter	Time	Yard-Line	Result	Result of Drive
Miami	Graham Mertz INTERCEPTION	3	0:35	MIA 5	67-yard return	Missed FG
	DJ Lagway INTERCEPTION	4	2:55	MIA 42	0-yard return	End of Game
Samford	Jadan Baugh FUMBLE	2	13:58	SAM 7	Touchback	Punt
Texas A&M	DJ Lagway INTERCEPTION	2	00:01	A&M 48	Touchback	End of Half
	Graham Mertz INTERCEPTION	3	5:37	UFL 36	45-yard TD return	Touchdown
	DJ Lagway INTERCEPTION	4	2:54	UFL 39	15-yard return	End of Game
at Mississippi St.	Montrell Johnson Jr. FUMBLE	2	15:00	UFL 50	0-yard return	Punt
UCF	None					
at Tennessee	Graham Mertz FUMBLE	2	3:19	TENN 1	0-yard return	Interception
	DJ Lagway INTERCEPTION	3	2:55	UFL 25	15-yard return	Made FG
Kentucky	DJ Lagway INTERCEPTION	2	6:47	UKY 47	63-yard return	Turnover on downs
vs. Georgia	Aidan Warner INTERCEPTION	4	3:56	FLA 22	8-yard return	Touchdown
	Florida FUMBLE (muffed snap)	3	2:58	UGA33	31-yard loss	Touchdown
at Texas	Ja'Kobi Jackson FUMBLE	1	3:31	FLA25	3-yard return	Touchdown
	Aidan Warner INTERCEPTION	2	1:14	FLA 37	5-yard return	Touchdown
	Aidan Warner INTERCEPTION	3	14:51	FLA 34	9-yard return	Touchdown
LSU	None					
Ole Miss	DJ Lagway INTERCEPTION	2	11:26	OLE 45	0-yard return	Touchdown
at Florida State	DJ Lagway INTERCEPTION	2	11:26	FSU 21	0-yard return	Punt
TOTAL	17 Turnovers (12 Interceptions, 5 Fumbles)				7 Touchdowns, 1 Field Goal	52 Points

First Half Takeaways	10	First Half Turnovers	9
First Quarter	4	First Quarter	1
Second Quarter	6	Second Quarter	8
Second Half Takeaways	12	Second Half Turnovers	8
Third Quarter	5	Third Quarter	5
Fourth Quarter	7	Fourth Quarter	3
TOTAL TAKEAWAYS	22	TOTAL TURNOVERS	17

TURNOVER
MARGIN (PER GAME)
+5 (+0.42)

2024 EXPLOSIVE PLAYS

Runs 10+ Yards (57 runs for 1032 yards / 18.10 avg)

Yards	Player	Opponent
13	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Miami
71	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Miami
10	Graham Mertz	Miami
11	Jakobi Jackson	Miami
16	DJ Lagway	Miami
16	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Samford
14	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Samford
11	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Samford
14	Jadan Baugh	Samford
10	Jakobi Jackson	Samford
14	Treyaun Webb	Texas A&M
11	Treyaun Webb	Texas A&M
10	Jakobi Jackson	Texas A&M
16	Graham Mertz	Mississippi State
12	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Mississippi State
11	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Mississippi State
10	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Mississippi State
13	DJ Lagway	Mississippi State
11	Treyaun Webb	Mississippi State
10	Jakobi Jackson	Mississippi State
32	Jadan Baugh	Mississippi State
10	Jadan Baugh	Mississippi State
34	Montrell Johnson Jr.	UCF
19	Jakobi Jackson	UCF
23	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Tennessee
13	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Tennessee
20	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Tennessee
15	Graham Mertz	Tennessee
12	Jadan Baugh	Tennessee
13	Jakobi Jackson	Tennessee
13	DJ Lagway	Kentucky
22	DJ Lagway	Kentucky
11	Jakobi Jackson	Kentucky
27	Jadan Baugh	Kentucky
10	Jadan Baugh	Kentucky
16	Jadan Baugh	Kentucky
11	Jadan Baugh	Georgia
15	Jakobi Jackson	Georgia
18	Jakobi Jackson	Georgia
11	Jadan Baugh	Texas
12	Jadan Baugh	Texas
16	Jadan Baugh	Texas
11	Jakobi Jackson	Texas
20	Jakobi Jackson	LSU
55	Jadan Baugh	LSU
11	Jadan Baugh	LSU
10	Montrell Johnson Jr.	LSU
16	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Ole Miss
16	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Ole Miss
12	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Ole Miss
10	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Ole Miss
12	Montrell Johnson Jr.	Ole Miss
17	Jadan Baugh	Ole Miss
21	Jadan Baugh	FSU
12	Jadan Baugh	FSU
27	Jadan Baugh	FSU
14	Jadan Baugh	FSU
13	Jakobi Jackson	FSU
13	Montrell Johnson Jr.	FSU
65	Montrell Johnson Jr.	FSU

Receptions 15+ Yards (66 catches for 1835 yards / 27.80 avg)

Yards	Player	Opponent
19	Elijah Badger	Miami
16	Eugene Wilson III	Miami
77	Elijah Badger	Samford
44	Chimere Dike	Samford
40	Hayden Hansen	Samford
24	Elijah Badger	Samford
22	Elijah Badger	Samford
85	Eugene Wilson III	Samford
22	Eugene Wilson III	Samford
16	Eugene Wilson III	Samford
36	Tank Hawkins	Samford
41	Aidan Mizell	Samford
39	Chimere Dike	Texas A&M
19	Chimere Dike	Texas A&M
22	Chimere Dike	Texas A&M
38	Elijah Badger	Texas A&M
16	Elijah Badger	Texas A&M
17	Arlis Boardingham	Texas A&M
15	Jakobi Jackson	Mississippi State
20	Marcus Burke	Mississippi State
15	Marcus Burke	Mississippi State
35	Hayden Hansen	Mississippi State
27	Elijah Badger	Mississippi State
15	Aidan Mizell	Mississippi State
28	Chimere Dike	Mississippi State
37	Chimere Dike	UCF
24	Chimere Dike	UCF
20	Chimere Dike	UCF
31	Tank Hawkins	UCF
18	Elijah Badger	UCF
27	Chimere Dike	Tennessee
25	Chimere Dike	Tennessee
17	Chimere Dike	Tennessee
20	Arlis Boardingham	Tennessee
17	Hayden Hansen	Tennessee
18	Elijah Badger	Tennessee
18	Eugene Wilson III	Tennessee
40	Eugene Wilson III	Kentucky
50	Elijah Badger	Kentucky
58	Elijah Badger	Kentucky
40	Elijah Badger	Kentucky
23	Chimere Dike	Kentucky
44	Chimere Dike	Kentucky
20	Taylor Spierto	Kentucky
43	Aidan Mizell	Georgia
16	Aidan Mizell	Georgia
26	Elijah Badger	Georgia
39	Chimere Dike	Texas
20	Chimere Dike	Texas
16	Chimere Dike	Texas
34	Chimere Dike	LSU
23	Elijah Badger	LSU
19	Elijah Badger	LSU
17	Elijah Badger	LSU
24	Elijah Badger	LSU
36	Elijah Badger	LSU
19	Hayden Hansen	LSU
19	Elijah Badger	Ole Miss
17	Elijah Badger	Ole Miss
27	Elijah Badger	Ole Miss
16	Elijah Badger	Ole Miss
41	Chimere Dike	Ole Miss
25	Jadan Baugh	Ole Miss
17	Chimere Dike	FSU
21	Chimere Dike	FSU
25	Chimere Dike	FSU

Kickoff Returns 30+ Yards (2 returns for 66 yards / 33 avg)

Yards	Player	Opponent
35	Jadan Baugh	Miami
31	Jadan Baugh	Samford

Punt Returns 20+ Yards (4 returns for 123 yards / 30.75 avg)

Yards	Player	Opponent
31	Chimere Dike	Samford
35	Chimere Dike	Mississippi State
30	Chimere Dike	Tennessee
27	Chimere Dike	Tennessee

Defensive Returns 20+ Yards (2 returns for 81 yards / 40.5 avg)

Yards	Player	Opponent
52	Devin Moore	Kentucky
29	Cormani McClain	Kentucky

Opponent Big Plays

Runs (10+)	56 for 931 yards
Receiving (15+)	74 for 1860 yards
Kick Returns (30+)	1 for 99 yards
Punt Returns (20+)	0 for 0 yards
Defensive Returns (20+)	1 for 63 yards
TOTAL	132 for 2953 yards / 22.37 avg



100-YARD GAMES

100-Yard Rushing Games					
Player	2024	2023	2022	2021	Career
Baugh	1	-	-	-	1
Johnson Jr.	2	3	3	-	8
Jackson	1	-	-	-	1
Etienne	-	1	2	-	3
TOTALS	4	4	5	-	13

100-Yard Receiving Games					
Player	2024	2023	2022	2021	Career
Badger	3	-	-	-	3
Wilson III	1	-	-	-	1
Pearsall	-	4	2	-	6
TOTALS	4	4	2	-	10

200-YARD GAMES

200-Yard Passing Games					
Player	2024	2023	2022	2021	Career
Mertz	1	8	-	-	9
Lagway	3	-	-	-	3
TOTALS	4	8	-	-	12

300-YARD GAMES

300-Yard Passing Games					
Player	2024	2023	2022	2021	Career
Mertz	-	3	-	-	3
Lagway	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	1	3	-	-	4

NON-OFFENSIVE TDs

FLORIDA - 1
OPPONENTS - 2

2024 RED ZONE

FLORIDA

Opponent	No.	TDs	FG	Score Pct.	TD Pct.	TO	Failed			
							Downs	EOH	MFG	
Miami	1	1	0	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	
Samford	6	3	1	66.6%	50%	1	1	0	0	
Texas A&M	3	3	0	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	
at Mississippi St.	5	5	0	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	
UCF	4	3	1	100%	75%	0	0	0	0	
at Tennessee	6	2	1	50%	33.3%	1	1	1	0	
Kentucky	7	5	2	100%	71.4%	0	0	0	0	
vs. Georgia	2	1	1	100%	50%	0	0	0	0	
at Texas	4	2	1	75%	50%	0	0	0	0	1
LSU	1	1	0	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	0
Ole Miss	2	2	0	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida State	4	3	1	100%	75%	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	45	31	8	86.7%	68.9%	2	2	1	1	

OPPONENTS

Opponent	No.	TDs	FG	Score Pct.	TD Pct.	TO	Failed			
							Downs	EOH	MFG	
Miami	6	3	2	83.3%	50%	0	0	1	0	
Samford	1	1	0	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	
Texas A&M	2	1	1	100%	50%	0	0	0	0	
at Mississippi St.	6	4	0	66.7%	66.7%	1	0	1	0	
UCF	3	1	2	100%	33.3%	0	0	0	0	
at Tennessee	3	2	1	100%	66.7%	0	0	0	0	
Kentucky	2	1	0	50%	50%	0	1	0	0	
vs. Georgia	4	3	1	100%	75%	0	0	0	0	
at Texas	4	2	0	50%	50%	0	0	1	1	
LSU	1	0	1	100%	0%	0	0	0	0	
Ole Miss	3	0	0	0%	0%	0	2	0	1	
at Florida State	3	1	1	66.7%	33%	1	0	0	0	
TOTAL	38	19	9	73.7%	50.0%	2	3	3	2	

TO: Turnover; Downs: Turnover on Downs; EOH: End of Half/Game; MFG: Missed/Blocked Field Goal

2024 EFFICIENCY TOTALS

Team	1st Downs	Rush	Pass	Pen. Yds.	3rd Down Conv.	3rd Att.	3rd Down Pct.	4th Down Conv.	4th Att.	4th Down Pct.
FLORIDA	224	1,903	2,629	607	55	145	37.9%	6	14	42.9%
Opponents	271	1,876	2,832	540	70	171	40.9%	14	25	56.0%

In 2023 (twelve regular season games)...

FLORIDA	260	1,819	3,086	575	55	150	36.7%	9	22	40.9%
Opponents	213	1,866	2,716	518	53	146	36.3%	4	13	30.8%

2024 EFFICIENCY VS. SEC OPPONENTS

Team	1st Downs	Rush	Pass	Pen. Yds.	3rd Down Conv.	3rd Att.	3rd Down Pct.	4th Down Conv.	4th Att.	4th Down Pct.
FLORIDA	149	1,233	1,679	371	38	99	38.4%	3	8	37.5%
Opponents	190	1,464	1,998	445	49	121	40.5%	13	22	59.1%

In 2023 vs. SEC (eight SEC games)...

FLORIDA	189	1,343	2,261	494	48	122	39.3%	7	16	43.8%
Opponents	184	1,638	2,352	433	45	110	40.9%	3	11	27.3%

SPECIAL TEAMS TACKLES

Player	UA	A	TT
Ja'Markis Weston	4	2	6
Rocco Underwood	3	0	3
Aaron Chiles	1	1	2
Jaden Robinson	0	2	2
Aaron Gates	1	1	2
Myles Graham	0	2	2
Ja'Quavion Frazier	2	0	2
Trikweze Bridges	2	0	2
DJ Douglas	2	0	2
Teddy Foster	0	1	1
Jack Pyburn	0	1	1
Dijon Johnson	1	0	1
Javion Toombs	1	0	1

2024 FLORIDA DRIVES SUPERLATIVES

Total TD Drive Time:	106:34
Total Offensive TD:	41
Shortest TD Drive (Yards):	1 plays, 1 yards, Kentucky
Longest TD Drive (Yards):	98 yards, Kentucky
Shortest TD Drive (Time):	0:02, Kentucky
Longest TD Drive (Time):	7:58, UCF
Shortest TD Drive (Plays):	1, 4x, Miami, Samford, Kentucky, Georgia
Longest TD Drive (Plays):	15, UCF

FIELD POSITION

	FLORIDA	Opponents
Drives Started	148	144
Average Starting Field Position (incl. OT)	Own 30	Own 29
Times Started Inside Own 20	24	30
Drives Started in Opponent Territory	18	15

2024 WEEKLY LEADERS

FLORIDA	Opponent	Rushes	Rush Yards	Receptions	Receiving Yards	Tackles	Tackles for Loss	Sacks
	Miami	11 - M. Johnson Jr.	106 - M. Johnson Jr.	7 - E. Wilson III	50 - E. Wilson III	6 - G. Howard	1 - S. James/T. Sapp	1 - T. Sapp
	Samford	15 - M. Johnson Jr.	67 - M. Johnson Jr.	6 - E. Wilson III	141 - E. Wilson III	6 - J. Marshall Jr.	3 - G. Gumbs Jr.	1 - four tied
	Texas A&M	7 - M. Johnson Jr.	37 - T. Webb	6 - C. Dike	94 - E. Badger	8 - J. Robinson	1 - A. Gates	None
	at Mississippi St.	15 - M. Johnson Jr.	68 - M. Johnson Jr.	5 - A. Mizell	45 - E. Badger/M. Burke	10 - T. Bridges	2.5 - S. Denson	1 - three tied
	UCF	10 - M. Johnson Jr.	54 - M. Johnson Jr.	7 - T. Hawkins	88 - C. Dike	6 - S. James/J. Castell	1.5 - G. Gumbs Jr.	1.5 - G. Gumbs Jr.
	at Tennessee	12 - M. Johnson Jr./J. Baugh	85 - M. Johnson Jr.	5 - E. Wilson III	76 - C. Dike	7 - J. Pyburn/J. Robinson	1.5 - J. Robinson	1.5 - J. Robinson
	Kentucky	22 - J. Baugh	106 - J. Baugh	3 - E. Badger	148 - E. Badger	11 - T. Bridges	1 - A. Gates/T. Searcy	1 - T. Searcy
	vs. Georgia	17 - J. Baugh	74 - J. Jackson	4 - A. Mizell	66 - Mizell	8 - T. Bridges	1 - three tied	1 - D. Wingo/M. Graham
	at Texas	19 - J. Baugh/J. Jackson	116 - J. Jackson	5 - C. Dike	95 - C. Dike	8 - A. Gates	1 - three tied	1 - T. Searcy
	LSU	6 - J. Baugh/J. Jackson	65 - J. Baugh	6 - E. Badger	131 - E. Badger	11 - S. James	4 - T. Sapp	2 - S. James
	Ole Miss	18 - M. Johnson Jr.	107 - M. Johnson Jr.	5 - E. Badger	87 - E. Badger	14 - B. Thornton	3.5 - C. Banks	2.5 - C. Banks
	at Florida State	11 - J. Baugh	99 - M. Johnson Jr.	3 - three tied	63 - C. Dike	7 - S. James/B. Thornton	2 - four tied	2 - C. Jackson/J. Robinson

OPPONENTS	Team	Rushes	Rush Yards	Receptions	Receiving Yards	Tackles	Tackles for Loss	Sacks
	Miami	15 - D. Martinez	65 - D. Martinez	7 - X. Restrepo	112 - X. Restrepo	7 - J. Harris	2 - T. Baron	1 - T. Baron/F. Mauigoo
	Samford	9 - D. Witherspoon	26 - D. Witherspoon	4 - B. Jenkins/D. Rias	51 - B. Jenkins	11 - N. Martin	0.5 - D. Pollard/N. Martin	None
	Texas A&M	18 - L. Moss	110 - L. Moss	3 - C. Allen	81 - C. Allen	5 - three tied	1 - three tied	1 - C. Howell
	at Mississippi St.	16 - D. Booth	77 - J. Daniels	6 - K. Coleman Jr.	62 - M. Craver	8 - I. Smith/S. Blanton	1 - C. Clark	None
	UCF	16 - R. Harvey	75 - R. Harvey	5 - J. Richardson	44 - R. Pittman Jr.	7 - E. Barr	1 - four tied	None
	at Tennessee	27 - D. Sampson	112 - D. Sampson	5 - S. White	71 - S. White	7 - four tied	2 - B. Eason	1.5 - O. Norman-Lott
	Kentucky	10 - D. Sumo-Karngbaye	39 - D. Sumo-Karngbaye	4 - D. Key	56 - B. Brown	9 - J. Lovett	2.5 - A. Afari Jr.	1.5 - A. Afari Jr.
	vs. Georgia	19 - N. Frazier	82 - N. Frazier	7 - D. Lovett	59 - A. Smith	8 - C. Allen	2.5 - C. Chambliss	2 - C. Chambliss
	at Texas	16 - J. Gibson	100 - J. Gibson	3 - five tied	67 - J. Blue	8 - A. Hill Jr.	2 - T. Moore	1 - J. Guilbeau
	LSU	21 - C. Durham	95 - C. Durham	7 - A. Anderson	72 - A. Anderson	5 - J. Gilbert	1 - B. Swinson	None
	Ole Miss	14 - J. Dart	71 - J. Dart	8 - J. Watkins	94 - C. Lee	10 - S. Perkins/L. Moore	3 - W. Nolen	1 - P. Umanmielen/W. Nolen
	at Florida State	21 - L. Kromenhoek	43 - L. Toafili	4 - J. Douglas	39 - L. Toafili	7 - O. Graham Jr.	1.5 - three tied	1.5 - J. Farmer



2024 FLORIDA SCORING DRIVES

Opponent	Score	Plays	Yards	TOP	Qtr.	Obtained (Spot)	Scoring Play
Miami	FG	6	10	2:06	1	INT (Opp 33)	Trey Smack 41 yd Field Goal
	TD	1	71	0:11	2	Punt (Own 29)	Montrell Johnson Jr. 71 yd run
	TD	9	58	4:03	4	Punt (Own 42)	Treyaun Webb 1 yd run
Samford	TD	4	86	1:55	1	Punt (Own 14)	Montrell Johnson Jr. 1 yd run
	TD	5	70	2:18	2	Punt (Own 30)	Montrell Johnson Jr. 7 yd run
	TD	4	69	1:07	3	KO (Own 31)	Tank Hawkins 36 yd pass from DJ Lagway
	TD	4	75	1:48	3	KO (Own 25)	Aidan Mizell 41 yd pass from DJ Lagway
	FG	15	56	6:37	4	Punt (Own 37)	Trey Smack 25 yd Field Goal
	TD	1	85	0:13	4	Punt (Own 15)	Eugene Wilson III 85 yd pass from DJ Lagway
	TD	6	29	2:09	4	Punt (Opp 29)	Aidan Warner 9 yd run
Texas A&M	TD	7	75	3:11	3	KO (Own 25)	Elijah Badger 14 yd pass from Graham Mertz
	TD	10	72	4:18	3	KO (Own 28)	Chimere Dike 7 yd pass from DJ Lagway
	TD	9	78	3:15	4	Missed FG (Own 22)	Ja'Kobi Jackson 2 yd run
Mississippi St.	TD	13	84	6:17	1	Punt (Own 16)	Arlis Boardingham 3 yd pass from Graham Mertz
	TD	7	65	2:46	2	Punt (Own 35)	Marcus Burke 20 yd pass from Graham Mertz
	TD	2	44	0:34	2	Punt (Opp 34)	Hayden Hansen 35 yd pass from Graham Mertz
	TD	10	91	2:59	2	Punt (Own 9)	Ja'Kobi Jackson 10 yd run
	TD	8	75	3:01	3	KO (Own 25)	Graham Mertz 1 yd run
	TD	10	93	5:49	4	Fumble (Own 7)	Austin Barber 0 yd run
	FG	6	21	1:52	4	KO (50)	Trey Smack 47 yd Field Goal
UCF	TD	15	75	7:58	1	KO (25)	Elijah Badger 13 yd pass from Graham Mertz
	TD	3	43	1:11	2	Downs (Opp 43)	Ja'Kobi Jackson 1 yd run
	TD	9	58	3:50	2	Punt (Own 42)	Montrell Johnson Jr. 3 yd run
	FG	7	46	0:44	2	Downs (Own 44)	Trey Smack 28 yd Field Goal
Tennessee	FG	10	27	4:51	1	Punt (Own 49)	Trey Smack 42 yd Field Goal
	TD	9	92	4:14	3	Punt (Own 8)	Arlis Boardingham 13 yd pass from Graham Mertz
	TD	4	31	2:02	4	Punt (Opp 31)	Chimere Dike 27 yd pass from DJ Lagway
Kentucky	FG	10	63	4:26	1	KO (Own 27)	Trey Smack 29 yd Field Goal
	FG	9	65	4:04	1	Punt (Own 20)	Trey Smack 33 yd Field Goal
	TD	3	65	1:10	2	Punt (Own 35)	Jadan Baugh 7 yd run
	TD	4	98	2:14	2	Downs (Own 2)	Jadan Baugh 10 yd run
Georgia	TD	1	1	0:02	2	INT (Opp 1)	Jadan Baugh 1 yd run
	TD	8	77	5:01	3	KO (Own 23)	Jadan Baugh 1 yd run
	TD	5	59	2:19	4	Downs (Own 41)	Jadan Baugh 1 yd run
	TD	-	-	-	4	INT (Opp 29)	Cormani McClain 29 yd interception return
	TD	1	43	0:06	2	INT (Opp 43)	Aidan Mizell 43 yd pass from DJ Lagway
	FG	10	37	4:25	2	INT (Own 49)	Trey Smack 32 yd Field Goal
	FG	8	40	0:40	2	KO (Own 25)	Trey Smack 53 yd Field Goal
Texas	TD	5	55	2:29	4	Punt (Own 45)	Ja'Kobi Jackson 15 yd run
	FG	15	70	5:49	3	KO (Own 25)	Trey Smack 23 yd Field Goal
	TD	9	56	4:44	3	Punt (Own 44)	Jadan Baugh 2 yd run
LSU	TD	7	67	3:13	4	Fumble (Own 33)	Ja'Kobi Jackson 7 yd run
	TD	5	80	2:00	1	Punt (Own 20)	Elijah Badger 23 yd pass from DJ Lagway
	FG	9	44	4:12	2	KO (Own 25)	Trey Smack 49 yd Field Goal
	FG	8	38	2:47	3	KO (Own 25)	Trey Smack 55 yd Field Goal
Ole Miss	TD	3	45	0:54	4	Punt (Opp 45)	Ja'Kobi Jackson 1 yd run
	TD	3	75	1:30	4	KO (Own 25)	Jadan Baugh 55 yd run
	TD	11	89	5:40	2	Downs (Own 11)	Elijah Badger 8 yd pass from DJ Lagway
	TD	4	75	2:13	2	KO (Own 25)	Jadan Baugh 25 yd pass from DJ Lagway
Florida State	FG	4	2	1:34	3	Muffed Punt (Opp 37)	Trey Smack 53 yd Field Goal
	TD	4	67	1:54	4	Punt (Own 33)	Montrell Johnson Jr. 9 yd run
	TD	2	14	0:26	1	Fumble (Opp 14)	Ja'Kobi Jackson 1 yd run
	TD	9	80	2:31	2	Punt (Own 20)	Marcus Burke 4 yd pass from DJ Lagway
	FG	4	0	1:22	3	Muffed Punt (Opp 12)	Trey Smack 30 yd Field Goal
	TD	6	93	2:46	4	Fumble (Own 7)	Montrell Johnson Jr. 65 yd run
	TD	5	51	1:14	4	KO (Own 49)	Tony Livingston 8 yd pass from DJ Lagway

Plays Per Drive

FLORIDA			
Opponent	Plays	Drives	Avg.
Miami	55	12	4.58
Samford	63	12	5.25
Texas A&M	54	10	5.40
at Miss. St.	65	11	5.91
UCF	62	10	6.20
at Tennessee	74	14	5.29
Kentucky	59	13	4.54
vs. Georgia	68	15	4.53
at Texas	66	13	5.08
LSU	43	11	3.91
Ole Miss	63	14	4.50
at FSU	60	13	4.62
TOTAL	724	148	4.89

OPPONENTS

Opponent	Plays	Drives	Avg.
Miami	72	12	6.0
Samford	68	13	5.23
Texas A&M	76	9	8.44
at Miss. St.	90	11	8.18
UCF	64	9	7.11
at Tennessee	70	14	5.0
Kentucky	68	13	5.23
vs. Georgia	73	16	4.56
at Texas	64	13	4.92
LSU	92	10	9.2
Ole Miss	77	12	6.42
at FSU	72	12	6.0
TOTAL	876	144	6.08

Offensive Touchdown Breakdown

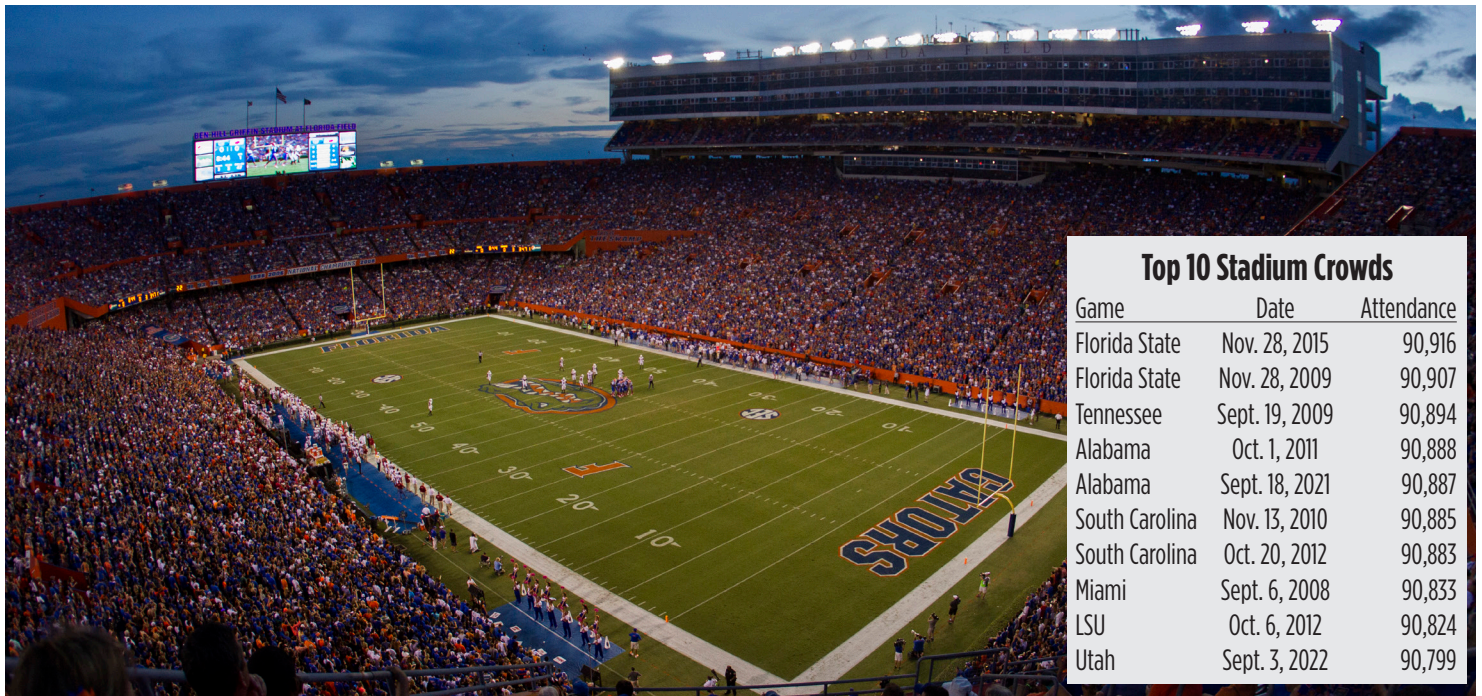
Yards	# of TD	# of TD Drives
0-10	25	1
11-20	5	1
21-30	3	1
31-40	2	1
41-50	2	4
51-60	1	6
61-70	1	5
71-80	1	13
81-90	1	4
91-99	-	5

TOP	TD Drives	Plays on TD Drives
0:01-0:30	5	6
0:31-1:00	2	5
1:01-1:30	5	18
1:31-2:00	4	17
2:01-3:00	11	65
3:01-4:00	5	38
4:01-5:00	4	37
5:01-6:00	3	29
6:01-7:00	1	13
7:01+	1	15
OT	-	-

2024 OPPONENT SCORING DRIVES

Opponent	Score	Plays	Net Yards	TOP	Quarter	Obtained (Spot Acquired)	Scoring Play
Miami	TD	11	84	5:39	1	Punt (Miami 16)	Cam McCormick 9 yd catch from Cam Ward
	FG	9	70	5:26	2	KO (Miami 25)	Andres Borregales 23 yd Field Goal
	TD	4	58	1:23	2	Downs (Miami 42)	Mark Fletcher Jr. 10 yd run
	TD	8	75	2:36	2	KO (Miami 25)	Xavier Restrepo 24 yd catch from Cam Ward
	TD	6	75	2:35	3	KO (Miami 25)	Mark Fletcher Jr. 1 yd run
	TD	9	86	3:49	3	Punt (Miami 14)	Jacolby George 23 yd catch from Cam Ward
	FG	6	37	3:14	4	KO (Florida 45)	Andres Borregales 26 yd Field Goal
	TD	12	75	5:58	3	KO (Samford 25)	Damonta Witherspoon 1 yd run
Samford	FG	14	62	6:46	1	KO (A&M 25)	Randy Bond 31 yd Field Goal
Texas A&M	TD	9	92	5:10	1	Punt (A&M 8)	Theo Melin Ohrstrom 29 yd catch from Marcel Reed
	FG	9	24	3:34	2	Punt (A&M 45)	Randy Bond 48 yd Field Goal
	TD	15	99	7:15	2	Punt (A&M 1)	Marcel Reed 1 yd run
	TD	2	75	0:49	3	KO (Own 25)	Cyrus Allen 73 yd catch from Marcel Reed
	TD	-	-	-	3	INT (Florida 45)	Bryce Anderson 45 yd interception return
Mississippi St.	TD	9	62	3:18	1	KO (Miss St. 38)	Davon Booth 1 yd run
	TD	6	75	0:54	2	KO (Miss St. 25)	Blake Shapen 3 yd run
	TD	13	76	6:43	3	Punt (Miss St. 24)	Jordan Mosley 13 yd pass from Blake Shapen
	TD	12	75	3:58	4	KO (Miss St. 25)	Johnnie Daniels 10 yd run
UCF	FG	12	65	4:30	1	KO (UCF 25)	Grant Reddick 27 yd Field Goal
	FG	14	56	8:28	3	KO (UCF 25)	Grant Reddick 37 yd Field Goal
Tennessee	TD	8	82	3:35	4	Punt (UCF 18)	RJ Harvey 13 yd run
	TD	11	75	4:14	3	KO (Tenn 25)	Dylan Sampson 6 yd run
	FG	4	3	1:10	3	INT (Florida 20)	Max Gilbert 35 yd Field Goal
	TD	2	29	0:29	4	Punt (Florida 29)	Dylan Sampson 23 yd run
Kentucky	TD	5	25	-	OT	Possession (Florida 25)	Dylan Sampson 1 yd run
	TD	4	84	2:03	2	KO (UK 16)	Barion Brown 45 yd catch from Brock Vandagriff
	TD	-	-	-	2	KO (UK 1)	Barion Brown 99 yd KO return
Georgia	TD	12	75	6:26	3	KO (UK 25)	Gavin Wimsatt 1 yd run
	FG	13	83	6:15	1	Punt (UGA 12)	Peyton Woodring 23 yd Field Goal
	FG	5	13	0:30	2	Punt (Florida 48)	Peyton Woodring 53 yd Field Goal
	TD	8	83	4:09	3	Punt (UGA 17)	Nate Frazier 2 yd run
	TD	3	36	1:30	3	Fumble (Florida 36)	Cash Jones 22 yd pass from Carson Beck
	TD	7	75	3:28	4	KO (UGA 25)	Dominic Lovett 10 yd pass from Carson Beck
Texas	TD	2	7	0:44	4	INT (Florida 7)	Dwight Phillips Jr. 4 yd run
	TD	7	85	2:55	1	Punt (Texas 7)	Matthew Golden 29 yd pass from Quinn Ewers
	TD	2	22	0:09	1	Fumble (Florida 22)	Gunnar Helm 22 yd pass from Quinn Ewers
	TD	1	50	0:11	2	Punt (50)	Quintrevion Wisner 50 yd pass from Quinn Ewers
	TD	4	80	0:27	2	Punt (Texas 20)	Matthew Golden 32 yd pass from Quinn Ewers
	TD	4	45	0:35	2	INT (Florida 45)	Jaydon Blue 5 yd run
	TD	3	31	1:27	3	INT (Florida 31)	Isaiah Bond 34 yd pass from Quinn Ewers
	TD	4	75	1:35	4	KO (Texas 25)	Jerrick Gibson 14 yd run
LSU	TD	14	84	5:51	2	Punt (LSU 16)	Aaron Anderson 28 yd pass from Garrett Nussmeier
	FG	12	47	3:10	2	KO (LSU 20)	Damian Ramos 50 yd Field Goal
	FG	15	62	7:44	3	Punt (LSU 10)	Damian Ramos 45 yd Field Goal
	FG	15	54	8:40	4	KO (LSU 25)	Damian Ramos 38 yd Field Goal
Ole Miss	TD	7	75	2:55	2	KO (Ole Miss 25)	Tre Harris 43 yd pass from Jaxson Dart
	TD	5	55	2:16	2	INT (Ole Miss 45)	Cayden Lee 22 yd pass from Jaxson Dart
	FG	7	27	3:34	3	Punt (Ole Miss 48)	Caden Davis 42 yd Field Goal
Florida State	FG	9	42	3:01	3	Punt (FSU 37)	Ryan Fitzgerald 39 yd Field Goal
	TD	11	59	4:01	4	Punt (FSU 41)	Lawrance Toafili 2 yd run

STEVE SPURRIER - FLORIDA FIELD



Top 10 Stadium Crowds

Game	Date	Attendance
Florida State	Nov. 28, 2015	90,916
Florida State	Nov. 28, 2009	90,907
Tennessee	Sept. 19, 2009	90,894
Alabama	Oct. 1, 2011	90,888
Alabama	Sept. 18, 2021	90,887
South Carolina	Nov. 13, 2010	90,885
South Carolina	Oct. 20, 2012	90,883
Miami	Sept. 6, 2008	90,833
LSU	Oct. 6, 2012	90,824
Utah	Sept. 3, 2022	90,799

at BEN HILL GRIFFIN STADIUM

June 9, 1992. Once The Gainesville Sun hit newstands that Tuesday, Ben Hill Griffin Stadium's fitting nickname came to life.

Steve Spurrier, entering season three as Gators head coach, called writer Mike Bianchi the day prior and pitched him the storyline. It was seven months after the Gators ended the 1991 regular season with consecutive wins over Kentucky (which clinched an undefeated SEC record and the first league title in school history) and a thrilling 14-9 defeat of No. 3 Florida State, snapping a four-game losing streak to the Seminoles. It also gave UF a perfect 12-0 home record under Spurrier.

"The 'Swamp' is where Gators live," Spurrier told Bianchi. "We feel comfortable there, but we hope our opponents feel tentative. A swamp is hot and sticky and can be dangerous."

Initially, the UF athletic department didn't embrace the nickname. No posters, bumper stickers or marketing campaigns were put together right away. But Spurrier continued to use it. Then he and then-UF communications director Norm Carlson did some research. Turns out, in 1930, UF President John J. Tigert selected the location for the school's football stadium and described the area as a "swampy depression." The school hired engineers to drain the area and install pipes that funneled water down the hill along North-South Drive and dumped it into what is now known as Graham Pond.

Needless to say, the nickname caught on, and Spurrier delivered the perfect quote for the athletic department to utilize once it eventually did embrace the moniker: "The 'Swamp' is a place where only Gators get out alive."

Top Home Winning Percentages Since 1990 (FBS Programs)

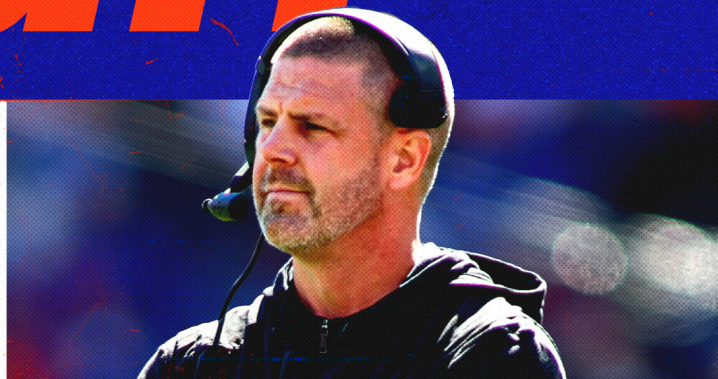
	Team	Record	Win %
1.	Ohio State	209-27-1	.884
2.	Oklahoma	181-34	.842
3.	FLORIDA	183-38	.828
4.	Michigan	188-46-1	.802
5.	Florida State	174-44-1	.797
6.	Miami	171-50	.774
7.	Kansas State	182-53-1	.773
8.	Nebraska	181-56	.764

- Since 1990, Florida has outscored opponents, 8,221 to 3,623 in 221 games inside The Swamp, putting the average outcome at 37.2 to 16.4 (20.8 points).
- The Gators had two significant win streaks in The Swamp in the 1990s: a 23-game run from 1990-93, and a school-record 30-game streak from 1994-99.
- In 221 home games from 1990 through today, the Gators have...
 - Scored 50+ points.....53 times
 - Scored 40+ points.....90 times
 - Scored 30+ points.....144 times
 - Shut Out Opponents.....17 times
 - Allowed 3 points or less.....32 times
 - Allowed 14 points or less.....115 times
- Florida's school-record crowd of 90,916 on Nov. 28, 2015 marked the largest crowd ever to watch a football game in the state of Florida. The state has hosted 16 Super Bowls, four BCS National Championship Games and the 2017 and 2021 College Football Playoff National Championship Game.
- The largest crowd for a home opener was 90,799 (Sept. 3, 2022 - Utah). The 2005 opener vs. Wyoming remains the second-largest.



coaching 2024 Staff

BILLY NAPIER
HEAD COACH



offense

defense



ROB SALE
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR,
OFFENSIVE LINE



RUSS CALLAWAY
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR,
TIGHT ENDS



JABBAR JULUKE
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH - OFFENSE,
RUNNING BACKS



BILLY GONZALES
ASSISTANT COACH,
WIDE RECEIVERS



JONATHAN DECOSTER
ASSISTANT COACH,
OFFENSIVE LINE



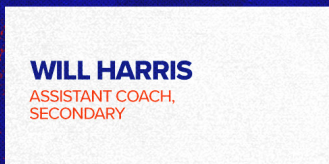
RON ROBERTS
EXECUTIVE HEAD COACH,
CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR,
INSIDE LINEBACKERS



AUSTIN ARMSTRONG
CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR



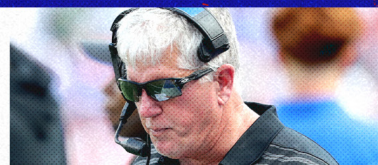
GERALD CHATMAN
ASSISTANT COACH,
DEFENSIVE LINE



WILL HARRIS
ASSISTANT COACH,
SECONDARY



MIKE PETERSON
ASSISTANT COACH, EDGE,
ALUMNI LIASON





BILLY NAPIER

HEAD COACH

Third Season

X @Coach_BNapier

Billy Napier enters his third season with the Gators after being named the 29th head coach in program history on Nov. 28, 2021.

In his second season at the helm, Napier helped transform transfer quarterback Graham Mertz's career and led a youthful Gators roster highlighted by Jordan Castell and Eugene Wilson III while becoming the 12th FBS head coach to win 51 games since 2018.

During his first season with the Gators, Mertz went on to set career-highs in completions (261), passing yards (2,903), touchdown passes (20), completion percentage (72.9), passing yards per game (263.9) and efficiency (157.8) while only throwing three interceptions, marking a career-low and tied his career-best with four rushing scores. He set program records for consecutive passes without an interception (239), consecutive passes completed (19) and a season-best completion percentage of 72.9% (261 of 358). Mertz tied for second all-time in UF history with completion percentage in a game (83.3%) on two occasions and notched six multi-touchdown performances.

Mertz led the SEC and ranked third nationally in completion percentage while placing nationally among FBS quarterbacks sixth in TD-INT ratio (6.7) 14th in completions per game (23.7) and 17th in passing efficiency and 25th in passing yards per game. According to ESPN, he was one of four SEC quarterbacks to complete 70% of their throws, have 20 passing touchdowns and no more than six turnovers in a season over the past 20 years, joining LSU's Jayden Daniels and Alabama's Mac Jones and Tua Tagovailoa.

Florida's youth immediately contributed and carved out roles throughout the season while earning postseason honors. Four Gators in Jordan Castell, Kelby Collins, T.J. Searcy and Eugene Wilson III were named the SEC All-Freshman team selected among conference coaches. The four selections were the most by a school and most by Florida since 2012. Among the group, Castell (CFN & ESPN), Collins (The Athletic) and Wilson (CFN, On3 and 247Sports) all collected freshman all-american honors.

Wilson made a name for himself nationally after each week as he led FBS true freshmen in receptions per game (6.1) while ranking second in receptions (61), tied for second in receiving TDs (six), fourth in receiving yards per game (53.8) and seventh in receiving yards (538).

Castell played all 12 games and started the last 11 consecutively while finishing as the team-leader in tackles (60) and most defensive snaps played with 660, one of two UF players (Jason Marshall Jr. / 651) to play over 600-plus snaps. There were only 51 defensive snaps Castell didn't play in. He accumulated 751 snaps (adding special teams), marking the only defensive player and sixth Gator to play in 700-plus snaps joining the likes of Graham Mertz and Ricky Pearsall.

During his first year at Florida, Napier established a new culture that emphasizes teamwork, toughness and discipline, setting a sturdy foundation for the future of Florida Football.

It didn't take long for Florida's culture shift to become evident. The Gators finished the 2022 regular season ranked fourth in the SEC in total penalty yards (584) and penalty yards per game (48.7), and eighth in total penalties (78). Napier's emphasis in playing disciplined football translated into a distinctive improvement from the 2021 season when the Gators ranked 13th in the conference with 104 penalties.

The turnover battle was another area where the Gators saw improvement in 2022. Florida finished ranked tied for eighth in the nation in turnover margin (8), giving up the football only 14 times while producing 22 takeaways during the regular season. The Gators outscored their opponents 70-42 points off turnovers during the 2022 campaign.

Florida's rushing attack took the nation by storm during Napier's first year at the helm. The Gators finished the 2022 regular season as the third-most productive rushing offense in the nation and best in the conference in yards per carry (5.84). Florida ran the ball for an average of 213.7 yards per game in 2022, which ranked 16th in the FBS and third in the SEC.

At the forefront of the Florida's mighty ground offense was the running back duo formed by freshman Trevor Etienne and Louisiana transfer Montrell Johnson Jr, who averaged 5.7 yards per carry and 120.0 rushing yards per game, while combining for a touchdown in all 12 regular season games and scoring 17 total touchdowns. They were one of only 15 running backs duos in the FBS to rush for over 700 yards apiece in 2022.

Johnson Jr. finished the 2022 campaign ranked tied-for-fourth in the SEC in rushing touchdowns (10) and became the first UF running back to rush for over 800 yards since La'Mical Perine in 2018. Meanwhile, Etienne ranked fourth in yards per carry (6.1), tied for 10th in touchdowns (six) and eighth in rushing yards (719) in the FBS among true freshmen.

The efficiency by Florida's running offense reflected an offensive line that allowed only 13 sacks in the regular season, ranking tied for second-fewest in the SEC and 16th in the FBS.

The offensive line was anchored by Louisiana transfer O'Cyrus Torrence, who finished as the top-rated guard in the nation at 88.0, according to Pro Football Focus.

Torrence became first Gators offensive guard to be named a Consensus All-American, and the fifth lineman in Florida history. He was named a First Team All-American by Sporting News, Associated Press, American Football Coaches Association and Walter Camp, and to the second team by the Football Writers Association of America. He was also named to the AP All-SEC First Team.





Torrence, who Napier recruited out of high school to play at UL, never allowed a QB hit or sack in 3,065 career snaps, including zero QB hurries or penalties in 698 snaps and 11 games started with the Gators in 2022.

Napier played a key role in the development of Anthony Richardson into the one of the hottest quarterbacks in college football. Richardson, who was ultimately drafted fourth overall in the 2023 NFL Draft, finished the 2022 season ranked fifth in the FBS among qualified quarterbacks in yards per carry (6.3) and was the only quarterback with two 400-yard games and two 100-yard rushing games in the season. Additionally, he was one of only five FBS players with over 2,500 passing yards and 650 rushing yards in 2022.

On the opposite side of the ball, the Gators continued their long-term defensive trends under Napier.

The Gators rank fifth nationally in interceptions with 409 and lead the SEC since 1996, while holding opponents to a 54.0 passing completion percentage, which is the seventh-lowest in the FBS and third in the SEC in that that span.

The Gators recorded an interception in six games during Napier's first season, the first of which secured a victory against No. 7 Utah—Napier's first game as Florida's head coach, to make him the only Florida head coach to defeat a ranked opponent in his first game.

Napier's emphasis on a new culture also became evident in the classroom. The Gators set a new Southeastern Conference record with 62 UF football players placing in the 2022 SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll. The team also set a squad record with a 3.30 team GPA for the 2023 Spring semester.

In spite of a 6-7 record during Napier's first season at the helm, UF outscored its opponents 29.5-to-28.8 points per game and a total of 384 to 375. Florida lost their six regular-season games by a total of only 61 combined points. Five of those games were lost by 10 points or less and three by only one score.

During his first season as Florida's head coach, Napier delivered a total 10 Gators to the NFL via the NFL Draft and free agency. Drafted were QB Anthony Richardson (Rnd. 1, Pick 4, Indianapolis), DT Gervon Dexter (Rnd. 2, Pick 22, Chicago), OL O'Cyrus Torrence (Rnd. 2, Pick 28, Buffalo), LB Ventrell Miller (Rnd. 4, Pick 19, Jacksonville), WR Justin Shorter (Rnd. 5, Pick 15, Buffalo) and LB Amari Burney (Rnd. 6, Pick 26, Las Vegas). The six picks were tied for fourth highest by a school that year and tied third in the SEC. Additionally, four other Gators were tabbed as undrafted free agents.

Louisiana (2018-21)

Napier spent four seasons at Louisiana and finished with a record of 40-12, a perfect 16-0 mark against members of the Sun Belt West Division, four consecutive West Division titles, four straight bowl appearances, a share of the Sun Belt title in 2020 and 2021 Sun Belt Conference Champions.

A two-time Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year (2019 & 2021), Napier took the Ragin' Cajuns to unprecedented heights when the team broke into the national rankings in 2020 for the first time in the modern era. The team finished the campaign ranked No. 15 in the AP Top-25, No. 16 in the USA Today/Amway Coaches Poll and No. 19 in the College Football Playoff, Louisiana's highest rankings in all three polls.

In 2021, he led the program to their first conference championship title since 2005 and only the second time in program history. Napier concluded his final season with a 12-1 record, the most single-season wins in school history after setting it with 11 in his second year. The 12 straight wins also set the program record for consecutive victories, as the previous record was eight in 1976.

Napier led Louisiana to its fourth straight Sun Belt Conference Championship game with a 24-16 victory over Appalachian State to finish with a career record of 28-7 against conference opponents. Louisiana became the first team in conference history to make all four conferences championship games.

BILLY NAPIER COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position (Record as HC)
2022-Pres.	Florida, Head Coach (11-14)
2018-21	Louisiana, Head Coach (40-12)
2017	Arizona State, Offensive Coordinator/QB
2013-17	Alabama, Assistant Coach WR
2012	Colorado State, Assistant Coach/QB
2011	Alabama, Offensive Analyst
2009-10	Clemson, Offensive Coordinator/QB
2006-08	Clemson, Assistant Coach/TE, Recruiting
2005	South Carolina State, Assistant Coach/QB
2003-04	Clemson, Graduate Assistant

Napier's Louisiana team produced two 2022 NFL Draft picks in safety Percy Butler and tackle Max Mitchell, who were both drafted in the fourth round by the Washington Commanders and the New York Jets, respectively.

The 2020 Louisiana Sports Writer Association Coach of the Year, Napier navigated Louisiana through a season heavily impacted by COVID-19 and claimed a share of the Sun Belt Conference Championship, its third-straight West Division title and its second-straight bowl victory, a 31-24 win over UTSA in the SERVPRO First Responder Bowl. The Ragin' Cajuns also advanced to its third consecutive Sun Belt Championship game, but was canceled due to COVID-19.

Napier's team broke into the national rankings for the first time in the modern era following its week one upset at No. 23 Iowa State, marking the first win over a ranked opponent on the road and only the second time in program history. He concluded non-conference matchups at Louisiana with a record of 13-5, as three of the losses came against ranked opponents - No. 1 Alabama, No. 16 Mississippi State and No. 19 Texas.

Both the offense and defense continued to flourish in 2020 under Napier's watch. Offensively, the team ranked 29th nationally in scoring offense (33.6) and 43rd nationally in total offense (421.5), while the defense ranked 31st in scoring defense (22.0) and 33rd in total defense (355.4).

Napier coached Louisiana to 14 Sun Belt All-Conference selections, led by First Team selections Elijah Mitchell and Chris Smith. Mitchell wrapped up his stellar career ranking fifth in career scoring (276), fifth in career rushing touchdowns (41) and sixth in career rushing yards (3,267) before being drafted in the sixth round by the San Francisco 49ers.

Smith additionally earned First Team All-America honors from CBSSports/247Sports, Pro Football Focus and Second Team All-America honors from the FWAA, marking the second consecutive season that a Ragin' Cajun earned All-America honors under Napier.

In just the second season (2019) under Napier, the program set the all-time single season victories (11) at the time and second-straight trip to the Sun Belt Championship Game after clinching the league's West Division title with a 53-3 victory over Troy. The 11 victories also marked the first double-digit win season in program history and the first of three consecutive 10-plus win years by Napier. He was voted the program's first Sun Belt Coach of the Year, becoming the third Louisiana coach to earn the distinction of top coach and the first since 1993 in their respective conference.

Napier coached three 2020 NFL Draft picks in Raymond Calais (RB), Kevin Dotson (G) and Robert Hunt (G), tying the program record for draft selections in a year. Hunt became the third-highest pick in team history as he was selected 39th overall by the Miami Dolphins. A First Team All-American selection by the Associated Press, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, Pro Football Focus and a Second Team All-American by Sporting News, Dotson was drafted in the fourth round by the Pittsburgh Steelers. Calais was tabbed by the reigning Super Bowl Champions, Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the seventh round.

In Napier's first season at the helm, the Ragin' Cajuns (7-7, 5-3) won the 2018 Sun Belt Conference West Division Championship, advancing to the inaugural conference championship game. Louisiana accepted an invitation to the AutoNation Cure Bowl, its first bowl trip since 2016.



Arizona State (2017)

Prior to his stint at Louisiana, Napier was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Arizona State in 2017.

Napier guided the Sun Devils' offense to the 14th highest-graded offense in the FBS according to Pro Football Focus - including the 10th highest-graded passing attack in the nation. ASU was ranked 54th in the nation in total offense last season and 86th in the passing game the season prior. The offensive turnaround (+40 positions) was the eighth-largest in the FBS and ASU was one of just three programs to move from outside the Top-50 to inside of it in just one season. The 76-spot swing in the passing game rankings was the third highest in all of the FBS..

ASU developed one of the elite red zone scoring teams in the nation under Napier, tied for first nationally in converting on 95.83 percent of its red zone appearances (46-of-48) with the only two "blemishes" against the Sun Devils coming when the team took a knee late in the fourth quarter. ASU was 11th nationally in red zone touchdown scoring rate with 36 touchdowns on those 48 attempts (75.00).

Ball security was another notable facet of Napier's offense. The Sun Devils turned the ball over just 11 times in 2017, which ranked 12th nationally after finishing 82nd in the country a year ago with 21 turnovers.

Alabama (2011, 2013-16)

Napier's first experience in the SEC came at Alabama in 2011 and he later returned to Crimson Tide from 2013-17 as the wide receivers coach.

He was instrumental in helping Nick Saban and Alabama achieve a 63-7 record in five seasons (2011, 2013-2016), two National Championships (2011 & 2015) and was part of the great run of 26 consecutive wins from 2015-2016. In 70 games at Alabama, the Crimson Tide offense averaged 6.27 yards per play and 36.4 points per game. Napier coached three first round draft picks in Amari Cooper, Jerry Jeudy, Amari Cooper and Calvin Ridley while in Tuscaloosa.

In 2016, Napier's wide receiver corps were led by junior ArDarius Stewart, a third-round pick by the New York Jets in 2017 and Ridley. Stewart snagged in a team-leading eight touchdowns and 864 yards while Ridley totaled a team-high 72 receptions. Napier also helped develop wide outs Gehrig Dieter (Kansas City) and Cam Sims (Washington), both who were NFL free agent signees.

After recruiting Ridley to sign with the Crimson Tide, Napier coached him to a freshman-record and team-leading 89 catches for 1,045 yards and seven touchdowns in 2015 along with being named a USA Today Freshman All-American.

Napier played a vital role in Cooper's historical campaign in the 2014 season. He became Alabama's first Biletnikoff Award winner and caught a school- and SEC-record 124 passes for a UA-record 1,727 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns. Cooper led the country in receptions (124), was second nationally in receiving yards (1,727), receiving touchdowns (16) and catches per game (8.9) while ranking third in yards per game (123.4). A Heisman Trophy finalist and unanimous first team All-American, Cooper smashed all of the Tide's career receiving marks with 228 receptions, 3,463 yards and tied the SEC record with 31 receiving touchdowns.

In his first season as the Crimson Tide's receivers coach in 2013, Napier built a deep and talented group of wide outs. Alabama had four players with at least 32 receptions, led by Cooper's 45 catches for 736 yards.

The 2011 season marked the first year for Napier on the Alabama staff as he served as an offensive analyst, helping the Crimson Tide win the 2011 BCS national championship. The Tide ranked 16th in scoring offense, 30th in total offense and 17th in rushing offense in 2011.

Colorado State (2012)

After a year at Alabama, Napier served as the assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach at Colorado State in 2012 for former Florida head coach Jim McElwain.

Injuries forced Napier to go deep down the bench looking for quarterbacks during his one season in Fort Collins. The Rams saw three quarterbacks play significant snaps as the starter with Garrett Grayson going down early in the season and M.J. McPeck followed two weeks later, forcing redshirt freshman Conner Smith into action. The trio combined to throw for 2,520 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2012 as Colorado State won three of its final five games.

Clemson (2003-04, 2006-10)

Before his first stretch at Alabama, Napier spent seven years in two different stints at Clemson. During Napier's final two seasons at Clemson he was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

At the age of 29, he became the youngest coordinator in the nation and in Clemson history. In his first season as Clemson's coordinator, the 2009 Tigers scored a school-record 436 points and collected 54 touchdowns (third-most in school history), averaged 5.73 yards per play (fourth best) and finished as the ACC Atlantic Division champions.

He also served as Clemson's recruiting coordinator from 2006-08. In those three seasons, he compiled two top-25 recruiting classes, according to Rivals.com, and in 2008, his class was tabbed as the second-best in the nation by ESPN.com.

Napier was the 2007-08 tight ends coach at Clemson, helping lead the Tigers to two bowl games and a prolific offense.

The 2007 season featured a 9-4 record and the ACC's highest-scoring offense. In his first year back with Clemson (2006), Napier worked primarily with the Tigers' tight ends but also was responsible for the punt team and assisted in several special-teams capacities. The 2006 Tigers led the ACC in total offense, rushing and scoring offense, advancing to the Music City Bowl.

Clemson averaged 410.9 yards per game and 32.7 points, more than doubling its opponent's totals. Michael Palmer, who Napier coached for three seasons, went on to the NFL. He also worked with the special teams units, helping develop the 2009 ACC Player of the Year and a unanimous All-American, C.J. Spiller.

He began his coaching career as an offensive graduate assistant at Clemson in 2003-04. The Tigers won nine games, including the Peach Bowl against Tennessee. The following season, Napier was a graduate assistant on defense, and gained his first experience with recruiting off the field.



Background

As a player, Napier was a four-year letterwinner and two-time All-Southern Conference selection as the starting quarterback at Furman. The Paladins won two conference championships and in 2001, Napier's junior year, advanced to the Division I-AA national championship game, losing to Montana.

He completed 64.8-percent of his career passes, setting a school record. As the team captain during a record-setting senior season, Napier amassed 2,475 passing yards, also a Furman record, and was a finalist for the Walter Payton Award, given annually to the nation's most outstanding FCS offensive player.

Napier grew up in Chatsworth, Georgia, and graduated from Murray County High School in 1998. He is married to the former Ali Gunn and the couple has a daughter, Annie, and sons, Sammy and Charlie. He earned his Bachelor's degree in health & exercise science from Furman in 2002.

BILLY NAPIER POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE

Year	Bowl Game
2022	SRS Distribution Las Vegas Bowl
2021	Sun Belt Conference Champions
2020	Sun Belt Conference Co-Champions
2020	SERVPRO First Responder Bowl Champions
2020	Sun Belt Conference Championship Game
2020	LendingTree Bowl Champions
2019	Sun Belt Conference Championship Game
2018	AutoNation Cure Bowl
2018	Sun Belt Conference Championship Game
2017	Hyundai Sun Bowl
2016	National Championship Game
2016	College Football Playoff Semifinal Game
2016	SEC Championship Game
2015	National Championship Game
2015	College Football Playoff Semifinal Game
2015	SEC Championship Game
2014	Sugar Bowl
2013	Sugar Bowl
2011	BCS National Championship Game
2010	Meineke Car Care Bowl
2009	Music City Bowl
2008	Gator Bowl
2007	Chick-Fil-A Bowl
2006	Music City Bowl
2003	Peach Bowl

THE NAPIER FILE

Full Name	William Hall Napier
Birthdate	July 21, 1979
Birthplace	Cookeville, Tennessee
Hometown	Chatsworth, Georgia
Family	Wife: Ali Daughter: Annie Sons: Sammy & Charlie
High School	Murray County High School, 1998
College	Furman, 2002

NFL PLAYERS DRAFTED COACHED BY NAPIER

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2024	1	Ricky Pearsall	WR	San Francisco 49ers	Florida
2023	1	Anthony Richardson	QB	Indianapolis Colts	Florida
2023	2	Gervon Dexter Sr.	DT	Chicago Bears	Florida
2023	2	O'Cyrus Torrence	G	Buffalo Bills	Florida
2023	4	Ventrell Miller	LB	Jacksonville Jaguars	Florida
2023	5	Justin Shorter	WR	Buffalo Bills	Florida
2023	6	Amari Burney	LB	Las Vegas Raiders	Florida
2023	7	Andre Jones Jr.	Edge	Washington Commanders	Louisiana
2022	4	Percy Butler	S	Washington Commanders	Louisiana
2022	4	Max Mitchell	T	New York Jets	Louisiana
2021	6	Eli Mitchell	RB	San Francisco 49ers	Louisiana
2020	2	Robert Hunt	T	Miami Dolphins	Louisiana
2020	4	Kevin Dotson	G	Pittsburgh Steelers	Louisiana
2020	7	Raymond Calais	RB	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Louisiana
2021	6	Frank Darby	WR	Atlanta Falcons	Arizona State
2020	7	Eno Benjamin	RB	Arizona Cardinals	Arizona State
2019	1	N'Keal Harry	WR	New England Patriots	Arizona State
2018	4	Kalen Ballage	RB	Miami Dolphins	Arizona State
2018	6	Sam Jones	C	Denver Broncos	Arizona State
2018	1	Calvin Ridley	WR	Atlanta Falcons	Alabama
2017	3	ArDarius Stewart	WR	New York Jets	Alabama
2015	1	Amari Cooper	WR	Oakland Raiders	Alabama
2014	4	Kevin Norwood	WR	Seattle Seahawks	Alabama
2015	3	Garrett Grayson	QB	New Orleans Saints	Colorado State
2014	3	Brandon Thomas	G	San Francisco 49ers	Clemson
2014	6	Tajh Boyd	QB	New York Jets	Clemson
2013	1	DeAndre Hopkins	WR	Houston Texans	Clemson
2013	6	Andre Ellington	RB	Arizona Cardinals	Clemson
2012	3	Dwayne Allen	TE	Indianapolis Colts	Clemson
2011	4	Chris Hairston	T	Buffalo Bills	Clemson
2011	4	Jamie Harper	RB	Tennessee Titans	Clemson
2010	1	C.J. Spiller	RB	Buffalo Bills	Clemson
2010	4	Jacoby Ford	WR	Oakland Raiders	Clemson
2012	3	Dwayne Allen	TE	Indianapolis Colts	Clemson



ROB SALE

CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR | OFFENSIVE LINE

Third Season

X @CoachRobSale

Rob Sale enters his third season with the Gators as Florida's co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach. He joined the Gators prior to the 2022 season after serving as the New York Giants' offensive line coach in 2021.

In his second season, Sale worked with a new offensive line that featured five new players starting for the first-time at UF along with five different starting line combinations. Despite the shuffling, the Gators OL earned a spot on the Joe Moore Award Midseason Honor Roll, given to the nation's top offensive line.

Starting eight games last season and making his first career in the season opener at Utah, Jake Slaughter finished as the No. 9 center per PFF.

During his first year as Florida's offensive coordinator and offensive line coach, Sale directed a powerful run offense. The Gators finished the 2022 regular season as the third-most productive offense in the nation and best in the conference in yards per carry (5.84). Florida ran the ball for an average of 213.7 yards per game in 2022, which ranked 16th in the FBS and third in the SEC.

The efficiency by Florida's running offense reflected an offensive line mentored directly by Sale, co-offensive line coach Darnell Stapleton that allowed only 13 sacks in the regular season, ranking tied for second-fewest in the SEC and 16th in the FBS.

The offensive line was anchored by Louisiana transfer O'Cyrus Torrence, who finished as the top-rated guard in the nation at 88.0, according to Pro Football Focus.

Torrence became first Gators offensive guard to be named a Consensus All-American, and the fifth lineman in Florida history. He was named a First Team All-American by Sporting News, Associated Press, American Football Coaches Association and Walter Camp. He was also named to the AP All-SEC First Team.

Torrence, who Sale and Head Coach Billy Napier recruited out of high school to play at UL, never allowed a QB hit or sack in 3,065 career snaps, including zero QB hurries or penalties in 698 snaps and 11 games started with the Gators in 2022.

In addition to Torrence finishing as PFF's No. 1-rated guard in college football during the 2022 season, Austin Barber ranked as the No. 22 tackle in the FBS and was placed on the College Football News Freshman All-America First Team.

Sale's offensive line unit delivered two NFL products via the 2023 NFL Draft and free agency during his first year at Florida. Torrence was drafted by Buffalo in the second round, while tackle Richard Guraige was signed by the Bills as an undrafted free agent.

In total, Florida's offense produced four NFL players during Sale's first season as UF's coordinator.

A 15-year collegiate coaching veteran, Sale spent three seasons at Louisiana (2018-20) as the Ragin' Cajuns offensive coordinator and offensive line coach under Napier.

Sale's unit produced three NFL Draft picks out of Louisiana, including Robert Hunt and Kevin Dotson in 2020, and Max Mitchell in 2022.

In 2020, the Ragin' Cajuns offense ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference in points per game (33.6), fifth in yards per game (421.5), third in yards per play (6.3) and fourth in rushing yards per game (213.0).

In 2019, Sale's offense set numerous school records, including total yards (6,918), touchdowns (69), rushing yards (3,604), rushing touchdowns (42) and passing touchdowns (27).

In his first season coaching the Louisiana offense, three players rushed for more than 700 yards each. Trey Ragas logged 1,149 yards and nine touchdowns, Elijah Mitchell led the Sun Belt with 16 touchdowns and ran for 985 yards of his own, while Raymond Calais tallied 754 yards and seven scores.

Prior to Louisiana, Sale was the offensive line coach/running game coordinator at Arizona State in 2017, when the Sun Devils averaged 31.9 points, 427.6 total yards and 179.9 rushing yards a game.

In 2016, Sale served as the offensive line coach at the

University of Louisiana Monroe. That season, the Warhawks ranked third in the Sun Belt with 181.3 rushing yards per game and allowed just 19 sacks.

Prior to ULM, Sale was the offensive line coach at Georgia in 2015, when the Bulldogs averaged 375 yards a game. The offensive line — led by All-SEC first-team offensive tackle John Theus — helped the team rush for more than 190 rushing yards per game.

Sale spent three seasons at McNeese State serving as the offensive line coach for the Cowboys from 2012-13 before being elevated to co-offensive coordinator in 2014. In his final season, the Cowboys offense averaged 32.4 points, 396.5 total yards and 221.9 rushing yards a game.

From 2007-11, Sale gained his first college coaching experience as a strength and conditioning assistant and offensive analyst at Alabama. He began his coaching career as the offensive line coach at Catholic High of Pointe Coupee in New Roads, La. in 2006.

Sale played in 35 games with 25 starts, including 13 at right guard as a senior in 2002, at LSU. As a junior, he started at both center and guard when the Tigers won the SEC title.

Sale is a native of Monroe, La. He and his wife Amanda have two sons, Tripp and Briggs.

ROB SALE COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position
2022- Pres.	Florida, OC / OL
2021	New York Giants, OL
2018-20	Louisiana, OC / OL
2017	Arizona State, OL / Running Game Coordinator
2016	Louisiana Monroe, OL
2015	Georgia, OL
2014	McNeese State, Co-OC
2012-13	McNeese State, OL
2007-11	Alabama, Strength & Conditioning Asst/Off. Analyst
2006	Catholic High of Pointe Coupee, OL

DRAFTED NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY SALE

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2024	1	Ricky Pearsall	WR	San Francisco 49ers	Florida
2023	2	O'Cyrus Torrence	G	Buffalo Bills	Florida
2022	4	Max Mitchell	T	New York Jets	Louisiana
2020	2	Robert Hunt	T	Miami Dolphins	Louisiana
2020	4	Kevin Dotson	G	Pittsburgh Steelers	Louisiana
2019	6	Lamont Gaillard	C	Arizona Cardinals	Georgia
2018	1	Isaiah Wynn	T	New England Patriots	Georgia
2018	6	Sam Jones	C	Denver Broncos	Arizona State
2016	5	John Theus	T	San Francisco 49ers	Georgia



AUSTIN ARMSTRONG

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Second Season

X @CoachAArmstrong

Austin Armstrong enters his second season with the Gators after being hired as Florida's defensive coordinator prior to the 2023 season.

Armstrong lead a youthful Gators defensive in his first season in Gainesville, which featured 17 starts made by freshmen (true + redshirt) and three defensive first-years in Jordan Castell, Kelby Collins and T.J. Searcy earned SEC All-Freshman honors.

Castell played all 12 games and started the last 11 consecutively while finishing as the team-leader in tackles (60) and most defensive snaps played with 660, one of two UF players (Jason Marshall Jr. / 651) to play over 600-plus snaps. There were only 51 defensive snaps Castell didn't play in. He accumulated 751 snaps (adding special teams), marking the only defensive player and sixth Gator to play in 700-plus snaps joining the likes of Graham Mertz and Ricky Pearsall.

According to Pro Football Focus (PFF), Castell had a grade of 75.7, which ranked fifth among FBS true freshmen and second in the SEC behind Alabama's Caleb Downs, the SEC Freshman of the Year. Castell's week three performance (10 tackles + pass breakup) in the 29-16 victory over No. 11 Tennessee earned him a pair of weekly honors in SEC Freshman of the Week and Shaun Alexander National Freshman of the Week.

Prior to Florida, Armstrong spent two seasons as the defensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach at Southern Miss. During his first season in 2021, Armstrong was the youngest defensive coordinator in the FBS.

The Southern Miss defense, known as the Nasty Bunch during Armstrong's tenure, ranked sixth in the Sun Belt in scoring defense (23.5 ppg), a mark that ranked 45th nationally in 2022. The Golden Eagles were third nationally in tackles for loss per game (8.3), fifth in sacks (3.38) and seventh in interceptions (17). USM was also third in fourth down conversion defense (.231).

During his first year as the Southern Miss defensive coordinator, USM ranked No. 42 nationally in total defense (385.5), besting their mark by 18 spots from the season before. His defense also ranked in the top 10 in the country in first downs allowed (No. 2), fumbles recovered (No. 4), red zone defense (No. 6) and defensive touchdowns (No. 7) while finishing at No. 15 in turnovers gained and No. 24 in passing yards allowed.

The Golden Eagles held their opponents to under 100 yards rushing in seven games (out of 24 games) during Armstrong's tenure and registered the program's first shutout since 2017 in a 37-0 win over Grambling in 2021.

Seven USM defenders earned All-Sun Belt recognition in 2022 with linebacker Shantrell Latham and defensive back Malik Shorts named to the first-team and defensive back Jay Stanley garnering third-team recognition while defensive lineman Jalen Williams, linebacker Daylen Gill, linebacker Averie Habas and defensive back Natrone Brooks earned honorable mention honors. Four of his defensive players earned honorable mention All-Conference USA in 2021, including defensive lineman Josh Carr, linebackers Santrell Latham and Hayes Maples, and defensive back Malik Shorts.

Armstrong spent the 2020 campaign as the inside linebackers coach at Louisiana, where the Ragin' Cajuns were nationally ranked and the

defense held three top-five national rankings through the end of the regular season, including No. 2 in passes intercepted (15), No. 3 in defensive passing efficiency (96.27) and No. 4 in passing yards allowed per game (166.9), in addition to ranking No. 31 in total defense (347.8).

Armstrong returned to Lafayette after spending the 2019 season at Georgia where he worked as a defensive quality control coach, assisting coach Kirby Smart's squad as they climbed as high as No. 3 in the national rankings. The Bulldogs finished the 2019 season with a 12-2 record and a win in the Allstate Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.

Armstrong also served as a defensive graduate assistant coach with the Ragin' Cajuns for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. Louisiana claimed its first of back-to-back Sun Belt Conference West Division championships in 2018, played in the Sun Belt's inaugural football championship game and earned a berth in the AutoNation Cure Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

Prior to his first stint in Lafayette, Armstrong was an assistant defensive line coach at West Georgia (Div. II) for the 2016 season. He earned his bachelor's degree from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala., in 2014, after playing linebacker for the Hawks for four seasons.

Armstrong is married to the former Tiffany Taylor.

AUSTIN ARMSTRONG COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position
2023-Pres.	Florida, DC
2021-22	Southern Miss, DC
2020	Louisiana, LB
2019	Georgia, Quality Control
2017-18	Louisiana, Graduate Assistant
2016	West Georgia, Graduate Assistant

NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY ARMSTRONG

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2023	6	Eric Scott Jr.	CB	Dallas Cowboys	Southern Miss
2022	FA	Natrone Brooks	DB	Atlanta Falcons	Southern Miss
2022	FA	Malik Shorts	DB	Las Vegas Raiders	Southern Miss
2022	FA	Dominic Quewon	DL	Chicago Bears	Southern Miss



RUSS CALLAWAY

CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR / TIGHT ENDS

Third Season

 @RussCallaway

Russ Callaway enters his third season with the Gators, second as the tight ends coach after joining the staff in 2022 in an off-the-field role and first season as co-offensive coordinator.

He worked with a pair of redshirt-freshmen tight ends in Arlis Boardingham (4) and Hayden Hansen (2), who

An experienced coach at the collegiate and NFL levels, Callaway's resume includes stints with the New York Giants, LSU, Alabama and Samford.

Callaway joined the Gators after spending the 2021 season with the New York Giants, serving as an offensive assistant, and the 2020 season as a senior offensive assistant and analyst at LSU.

He spent five seasons at Samford where he served as the Bulldogs' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach from 2016-19, while also coaching the wide receivers from 2015-17.

As a unit in 2018, Samford's offense led the FCS in passing yards per game (392.7). The also offense ranked fourth in the FCS in total offense (515.9 ypg.), and eighth in both red zone offense (.898) and in first downs (298). Meanwhile in 2017, the Bulldogs' offense led the SoCon and ranked fifth in the FCS in passing yards per game (33.4 ypg.).

In 2016, Callaway's offense ranked third among all FCS schools in passing offense, averaging 349.4 passing yards per game. The offense also ranked sixth in the FCS in red zone offense (90.2%), 11th in team passing efficiency (155.24), 12th in scoring offense (35.1 ppg.) and 14th in total offense (446.2 ypg.).

During his time with Samford, Callaway mentored quarterback Devlin Hodges, who earned the Walter Payton Award for the top offensive player in all of FCS football in 2018. Hodges passed for an FCS-record 14,584, breaking the old record set by Steve McNair.

Prior to Samford, Callaway spent two seasons on staff at Murray State, where he worked with the wide receivers, while also serving as the recruiting coordinator.

Callaway joined the Racers after winning back-to-back BCS National Championships as a defensive analyst on Nick Saban's staff at Alabama. In his role at UA, Callaway assisted defensive coordinator Kirby Smart with the inside linebackers.

Callaway played collegiately as a quarterback at Valdosta State, where he was a two-time team captain. He joined the Blazers in 2007, helping the team to the school's second National Championship.

Callaway graduated from VSU in 2010 with a degree in business management.

Callaway and his wife, Taylor, and have one daughter, Maris Faye Callaway, and one son, Samuel Ingram Callaway.

Callaway is the son of veteran coach Neil Callaway.

RUSS CALLAWAY COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position
2024	Florida, Co-OC / TE
2023	Florida, TE
2022	Florida, Defensive Intern
2021	New York Giants, Offensive Assistant
2020	LSU, Senior Offensive Assistant and Analyst
2018-19	Samford, Offensive Coordinator / QB
2016-17	Samford, Offensive Coordinator / QB / WR
2015	Samford, Wide Receivers / Pass Game Coordinator
2014-13	Murray State, WR / Recruiting Coordinator
2011-12	Alabama, Defensive Analyst

DRAFTED NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY CALLAWAY

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2024	1	Ricky Pearsall	WR	San Francisco 49ers	Florida
2022	5	Montrell Washington	WR	Denver Broncos	Samford
2019	FA	Delvin Hodges	QB	Pittsburgh Steelers	Samford
2019	FA	Kelvin McKnight	WR	Denver Broncos	Samford
2014	6	Walt Powell	WR	Arizona Cardinals	Murray State



RON ROBERTS

EXECUTIVE HEAD COACH, DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR / INSIDE LINEBACKERS

First Season
X @CoachRonRoberts

Ron Roberts enters his first season with Florida after joining the team in January, 2024 as the Gators' executive head coach, co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach.

A coaching veteran of more than 30 years, Roberts arrived from Auburn where he was the defensive coordinator in 2023. In his lone season, the Tigers' defense saw improvements and were top in the country and SEC in multiple categories.

Roberts guided Auburn to top-50 in scoring defense, sacks, tackles-for-loss and total defense. The Tigers also ranked top-25 in third-down defense and first-downs allowed while ranking No. 1 in the SEC in red zone defense. In the conference, Auburn was second in third-down defense, third in pass defense and fourth in interceptions.

According to Pro Football Focus (PFF), Roberts' defense was graded the Tigers a top-25 team in pass coverage (17th), total defense (18th), rushing defense (19th) and tackling (24th).

Before his season at Auburn, Roberts spent three years (2020-22) at Baylor as the defensive coordinator and inside linebackers' coach. He helped the Bears capture the program's third-ever Big 12 Title and first BCS/New Year's Six bowl victory in the modern era.

In 2021, the defense was one of the nation's top units as they were one of three to limit every opponent to 30 points or fewer. Baylor led the conference in interceptions (19), turnovers gained (27), turnover margin (0.93) and defensive touchdowns (3). Additionally, the Bears were second in the Big 12 run defense (118.4 ypg), scoring defense (18.3 PPG), pass efficiency defense (121.54) and sacks per game (3.14).

Roberts' defense also helped capture the 2022 Sugar Bowl while limiting Ole Miss to seven points, an offense that averaged 28.9 points per game. The Bears had 10 sacks that game, setting a Sugar Bowl record as was Al Walcott's 96-yard interception return for a touchdown.

In his first season in Waco, the defensive unit finished second in the conference in pass defense (203.0 ypg), interceptions (12) and third in turnovers forced (17).

Prior his stint at Baylor, Roberts was the defensive coordinator under head coach Billy Napier at Louisiana from 2018-19. In his two seasons, Roberts had nine defenders earn all-Sun Belt honors and helped the program reach two consecutive conference championship appearances and a school-record 11 victories in 2019.

Under Roberts' leadership in 2019, the Ragin' Cajuns led the Sun Belt Conference and ranked 9th nationally in red zone defense (72.1%), 18th in scoring defense (19.7 ppg) and 21st in passing defense (151.9 ypg). UL also was second in the conference in total defense (371.8 ypg).

Before working with Napier for the first time, Roberts was the head coach at Southeastern Louisiana from 2012-17. He led the Lions to two conference championships, back-to-back FCS playoff berths and had an overall record of 42-29 and a 35-14 mark in the Southland Conference.

The Lions won back-to-back conference titles in 2013 and 2014. SLU's victory in 2013, marked the program's first league title of any kind since 1961. That season the program earned its first-ever FCS playoff berth and was the No. 4 national seed. Southeastern finished 11-3 and 7-0 in league play and concluded the season ranked No. 6. The 2013 team had a school record 24 all-Southland selections.

Prior to SLU, Roberts spent seven seasons (2005-11) at Delta State where he started as the defensive coordinator for the first two seasons before being hired as the head coach in 2007. He led the Statesmen to four playoff appearances, a 47-16 record, four 10-win seasons and two regional titles en route to an appearance in the 2010 NCAA Division II National Championship game and 2011 semifinals.

In his final season at Delta State, the Statesmen finished 11-3 and were ranked No. 1 nationally

the majority of the season. DSU led the Gulf South Conference in passing offense, scoring offense, total defense, total offense and rushing defense. The offense was 12th nationally in total offense (463.7 ypg) and passing offense (282.7 ypg).

A native of Visalia, California, Roberts served on season as the head coach at Mount Whitney (Calif.) High School 2004 after being the defensive coordinator at Texas State the year prior.

From 1998-2002, he was an assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Tusculum College. Roberts arrived from Greensboro College where he was an assistant in 1997 after being the head coach at Burroughs (Calif.) High School from 1994-96. He began in his coaching career in 1990 at Houston High School (Tenn.) where he spent four years as the school's defensive coordinator.

Roberts played linebacker in at UT Martin and graduated in 1990. He then received his master's degree from the University of Memphis in 1992. He is married to the former Didi Walker of Germantown, Tennessee. The couple are the parents of three children, Reed, Reilly, and Ryan.

RON ROBERTS COACHING HISTORY	
Year	Team, Position
2024-pres.	Florida, Co-DC/LB
2023	Auburn, DC
2020-22	Baylor, DC/ILB
2018-19	Louisiana, DC
2012-17	Southern Louisiana, HC
2007-11	Delta State, HC
2005-06	Delta State, DC
2004	Mount Whitney HS, HC
2003	Texas State, DC
1998-02	Tusculum, HC/DC
1997	Greensboro, AC
1994-96	Burroughs HS, HC
1990-03	Houston HS, DC

NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY ROBERTS					
Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2024	3	Siaki Ika	DT	Cleveland Browns	Baylor
2022	2	Jalen Pitre	S	Houston Texans	Baylor
2022	3	Terrel Bernard	ILB	Buffalo Bills	Baylor
2022	3	JT Woods	S	Los Angeles Chargers	Baylor
2022	4	Percy Butler	S	Washington Commanders	Louisiana
2022	7	Kalon Barnes	CB	Carolina Panthers	Baylor
2021	7	Will Bradley-King	DE	Washington Commanders	Baylor
2016	6	Harlan Miller	CB	Arizona Cardinals	S. Louisiana
2013	2	Robert Alford	CB	Atlanta Falcons	S. Louisiana



JABBAR JULUKE

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH - OFFENSE / RUNNING BACKS

Third Season

X @CoachJuluke

Jabbar Juluke enters his third season with the Gators as Florida's associate head coach – offense / running backs coach.

Juluke saw his duo of Trevor Etienne and Montrell Johnson Jr. lead the Gators backfield with a combined 67.2% of carries (283 of 421) and 87.5% of the team's net rushing yardage (1,570 of 1,794). They finished with nearly identical averages in rushing yards per game: Etienne - 68.5, Johnson Jr. - 68.1. Since 2022, Florida has posted 11 200-yard rushing performances and rushed for 100-plus yards in 20 of the last 25 games.

During his first year leading Florida's running backs room, the Gators finished the regular season as the third-most productive rushing offense in the nation and best in the conference in yards per carry (5.84). Florida ran the ball for an average of 213.7 yards per game in 2022, which ranked 16th in the FBS and third in the SEC.

At the forefront of the Florida's mighty ground offense was the running back duo formed by freshman Trevor Etienne and Louisiana transfer Montrell Johnson Jr, who averaged 5.7 yards per carry and 120.0 rushing yards per game, while combining for a touchdown in all 12 regular season games and scoring 17 total touchdowns. They were one of only 15 running back duos in the FBS to rush for over 700 yards apiece in 2022.

Johnson Jr., who Juluke recruited out of high school to play at UL, finished the 2022 campaign ranked tied-for-fourth in the SEC in rushing touchdowns (10) and became the first UF running back to rush for over 800 yards since La'Mical Perine in 2018. Meanwhile, Etienne ranked fourth in yards per carry (6.1), tied for 10th in touchdowns (six) and eighth in rushing yards (719) in the FBS among true freshmen.

Prior to Florida, Juluke spent the four previous years (2018-21) on Head Coach Billy Napier's staff at Louisiana, which included four straight Sun Belt West Division titles, a share of the Sun Belt title in 2020 and 2021 Sun Belt Conference Championship.

Juluke coached two running backs that were drafted in back-to-back years (2020-21). Eli Mitchel by the San Francisco 49ers and Raymond Calais by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Mitchel was named First Team All-Sun Belt in 2020 and led Louisiana in rushing, with 141 carries for 878 yards and eight touchdowns.

The 2019 FootballScoop Running Backs Coach of the Year, Juluke led the Ragin' Cajuns to its best rushing season in program history in 2019, setting school records in total rushing yards (3,604) and rushing touchdowns (42). Louisiana finished the season ranked third nationally in yards per rush (6.28), rushing touchdowns (42) and sixth in total rushing yards.

Prior to a season at Texas Tech (2017), he was the running backs coach at LSU in 2016. Juluke tutored one of the nations top running backs in Leonard Fournette who was the No. 5 overall selection in the 2017 NFL Draft. He also worked with Derrius Guice that season, pushing the sophomore to 1,428 yards and 11 touchdowns while being named to the All-SEC First Team.

He began his collegiate coaching career at Louisiana Tech, where he spent two seasons (2014-15) as the running backs coach. Juluke helped the Bulldogs win the Conference USA West Division title in 2014. He also heavily involved in recurring efforts and helped land three 2017 NFL Draft picks in wide receivers Carlos Henderson (Denver Broncos), Trent Tylor (San Francisco 49ers) and safety Xavier Woods (Dallas Cowboys).

Juluke arrived at Louisiana Tech following nine years as the head coach at Edna Karr High School in New Orleans. Juluke was regarded as one of Louisiana's top high school coaches during that time as he compiled an 80-39 record that was capped by a perfect 14-0 mark and a Class 4A state title in 2012.

Juluke guided Edna Karr to seven district titles and two state runner-up finishes during his tenure. He boasted a 49-8 record over his final four

seasons alone which featured three appearances in the state championship game. Most impressively, Juluke helped over 70 of his players earn college football scholarships during his head coaching career.

Prior to his stint at Edna Karr, Juluke served as the defensive back coach and special teams coordinator at O.P. Walker High school for one season (2002). Juluke coached linebackers at St. Augustine High School in 2000 and 2001 after serving as the wide receivers coach for Brother Martin High School in 1999.

Juluke began his coaching career as the defensive coordinator for Frederick Douglas High School from 1996-98.

As a player, Juluke helped guide Southern University to an 11-1 record and a Black National Championship in 1993. In addition to his time as a standout safety for the Jaguars, Juluke also lettered one season with the men's basketball program during the 1994-95 campaign. He earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Southern in 1999.

Juluke is a native of New Orleans. He and his wife, Denise, are parents to three children – Jahmad, Jamari and Dyrius Smith.

JABBAR JULUKE COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position (Record as HC)
2022-Pres.	Florida, Associate Head Coach/ RB
2018-21	Louisiana, Assistant Head Coach/ RB
2017	Texas Tech, Associate Head Coach/ RB
2016	LSU, RB
2013-15	Louisiana Tech, RB
2006-12	Edna Karr High School, HC (80-39)
2005	McKinley High School, Assistant
2003-04	Edna Karr High School, HC (80-39)
2002	O.P. Walker High School, DB/ST Coordinator
2000-01	St. Augustine High School, LB
1999	Brother Martin High School, WR
1996-98	Frederick Douglas High School, DC

DRAFTED NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY JULUKE

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2024	1	Ricky Pearsall	WR	San Francisco 49ers	Florida
2021	6	Elijah Mitchell	RB	San Francisco 49ers	Louisiana
2020	7	Raymond Calais	RB	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Louisiana
2020	FA	Trey Ragas	RB	Las Vegas Raiders	Louisiana
2017	1	Leonard Fournette	RB	Jacksonville Jaguars	LSU
2018	6	Boston Scott	RB	New Orleans Saints	Louisiana Tech
2018	2	Derrius Guice	RB	Washington Redskins	LSU
2016	4	Kenneth Dixon	RB	Baltimore Ravens	Louisiana Tech
2014	FA	Cornelius Lucas*	T	Detroit Lions	Kansas State
2009	3	Michael Wallace*	WR	Pittsburgh Steelers	Ole Miss
2009	3	Keenan Lewis*	CB	Pittsburgh Steelers	Oregon State

* coached in high school



GERALD CHATMAN

ASSISTANT COACH / DEFENSIVE LINE

First Season

X @CoachGChatman

Gerald Chatman enters his first season with the Gators as Florida's defensive line coach after being hired in December, 2023.

He joined the Gators after serving as Tulane's defensive line coach during the 2023 season. The Green Wave defense ranked eighth in the county in rush defense (93.5 yards per game), fourth in turnovers gained (25), T-22nd in sacks (34), T-25th in tackles for loss (82.0).

Tulane's defensive line group totaled 52.5 tackles for loss, 27 sacks, 15 quarterback hurries, five forced fumbles and four pass breakups in 2023 prior to Chatman's departure. Chatman guided Patrick Jenkins, who was named the American Athletic Conference (AAC) Defensive Lineman and Interior Defensive Lineman of the Year. Jenkins and fellow defensive lineman Darius Hodges were both named to the ACC First Team.

Before his return to Tulane, Chatman spent the spring portion as LSU's interim defensive line coach in 2023 before being hired by the Green Wave in May. He served in the same capacity (defensive line coach) at Colorado this season prior and was elevated to defensive coordinator midway through the fall.

Chatman made his way back to the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in 2021 as a defensive line analyst at LSU. He worked with NFL Draft picks Neil Farrell (4th round) and Andre Anthony (7th round).

He spent the 2019 and 2020 seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals as a defensive assistant, where he worked primarily with the team's defensive ends and outside linebackers. He helped the defensive line improve significantly in quarterback sacks and rushing yards allowed in those two seasons that set up Cincinnati's run to the Super Bowl. While with the Bengals, he coached former Gator Carlos Dunlap among a talented group that included Mike Daniels, Geno Atkins, Sam Hubbard, Josh Tupou and Carl Lawson.

Chatman also gained experience in the National Football League (NFL) as a defensive line coaching intern through the Bill Walsh NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship program, which takes place during summer camps. In 2015, he worked with the Green Bay Packers, assisting with the defensive line and linebacker units and was a participant in the NFL-NCAA Coaches Academy.

Before his time with the Bengals, Chatman spent two seasons (2017-18) at Tennessee State, as the defensive ends and linebackers' coach. In his second season, he added special team's coordinator duties. That year, he coached three special teams players to All-Ohio Valley Conference honors, including Chris Rowland, the OVC special teams' player of the year (he averaged 13.0 yards per punt return). Additionally, he mentored kicker Antonio Zita to Phil Steele Freshman All-American honors.

In his first season at Tennessee State, he helped guide the Tigers' defense to average yields of just 19.6 points and 278.5 yards per game, ranking seventh in total defense in the FCS.

Prior to TSU he worked at Elon University, where he was the defensive line coach for the 2016 campaign.

In 2015, Chatman made his first stop in the SEC. He was a graduate assistant at Texas A&M where he worked directly with legendary SEC defensive line coach Terry Price, who he credits as someone who made a big impact on his career.

During his time with the Aggies, Chatman worked directly with defensive end Myles Garrett, the No. 1 overall NFL draft pick in 2017 and an All-SEC and All-America selection.

Chatman spent the 2014 campaign as the defensive line coach and assistant recruiting coordinator at Butler University. The defensive line played a key role in the Bulldogs leading the Pioneer Football League in rushing defense and being second in sacks.

He began his coaching career in the role of a defensive graduate assistant at Ball State for the 2012 and 2013 seasons, with the Cardinals going 19-7 over those two years (13-3 in Mid-American Conference games) and earned bowl invitations both seasons. Chatman also oversaw the development of Cardinals DE Jonathan Newsome, who earned first-team All-MAC honors and later was selected in the fifth round of the 2014 NFL draft.

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., Chatman graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Educational Leadership and Human Service. He earned four letters playing both defensive end and tackle for the Titans from 2006-10. He also holds a master of arts degree in adult and community education from Ball State University.

Chatman and his wife, Lauren, have four children; Kinley, 7, Amelia, 4, Maya, 2 and Tyson, 1.

DRAFTED NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY CHATMAN

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2023	2	BJ Ojulari	DE	Arizona Cardinals	LSU
2023	5	Jaquelin Roy	DT	Minnesota Vikings	LSU
2023	UDFA	Ali Gaye	DE	Houston Texans	LSU
2022	4	Neil Farrell	DT	Las Vegas Raiders	LSU
2022	7	Andre Anthony	DE	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	LSU
2019	5	Kingsley Keke	DT	Green Bay Packers	Texas A&M
2019	5	Daylon Mack	NT	Baltimore Ravens	Texas A&M
2017	1	Myles Garrett	DE	Cleveland Browns	Texas A&M
2017	3	Daeshon Hall	DE	Carolina Panthers	Texas A&M
2014	5	Jonathan Newsome	DE	Indianapolis Colts	Ball State

GERALD CHATMAN COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position
2024-pres.	Florida, DL
2023	Tulane, DL
2023 (Spring)	LSU, Interim DL
2022	Colorado, DC/DL
2022 (Spring)	Tulane, DL
2021	LSU, LB/DL Analyst
2019-20	Cincinnati Bengals, Assistant DL, DE/OLB
2017-18	Tennessee State, ST Coordinator/LB
2016	Elon, DL
2016 (Summer)	Denver Broncos, Defensive Intern
2015	Texas A&M, GA - Defense



BILLY GONZALES

WIDE RECEIVERS

11th Season (second with Napier)

X @CoachBillyG

Florida amassed 425-plus total yards six times in 2018, tying the 2009 Gators for the most games of over 425 yards in a season since 2008 (eight times). The Gators finished with 350-plus total yards 10 times in 2018, which tied the 2007 and 2009 Gators for the second-most times UF did that in a season since the start of 2005. Billy Gonzales is the only person to coach on all four of those staffs.

Over his five seasons at Mississippi State, the Bulldogs recorded 18 100-yard receiving games, including a school-record seven in 2015. Five times in his tenure, MSU posted multiple 100-yard receiving games in the same game, something that had only been done five times in MSU history prior to his arrival.

Gonzales arrived in Starkville following a one-year stint as co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach at Illinois. Prior to coaching the Fighting Illini, Gonzales served as the passing game coordinator and wide receivers coach at LSU. During his time in Baton Rouge, Gonzales helped the Tigers to the 2012 BCS National Championship game and the 2011 SEC Championship.

Prior to his stint at LSU, Gonzales coached under Urban Meyer at Florida. During his time as wide receivers coach, the Gators' high-octane offense translated to two BCS national championships in 2006 and 2008.

During his two seasons (2003-04) at Utah as wide receivers coach and co-special teams coordinator, Gonzales saw the Utes to a 22-2 record and two bowl wins, including a 35-7 thrashing of Pittsburgh in the 2005 Fiesta Bowl. The Utes' offense averaged 499.8 yards and 45.3 points per game, each ranking third in the country in their respective categories. Under Gonzales' watch, three Utah receivers were first-team All-Mountain West.

Gonzales was at Bowling Green for the 2001-02 seasons, serving as wide receivers coach and co-recruiting coordinator.

Gonzales got his first full-time coaching position in Division I in 1997 when he accepted a job at Kent State.

Prior to a full-time coaching job with the Golden Flashes, Gonzales spent two years as a graduate assistant at the school from 1995-96. He earned his master's degree from Kent State in sports administration.

Gonzales broke into the coaching profession in 1994 at MacMurray (Ill.) as wide receivers coach. A four-year letterwinner at Colorado State including two years as starting wide receiver, Gonzales helped the Rams to a 9-4 record during the 1990 season and a win over Oregon in the Freedom Bowl. Gonzales and his wife, Julie, have two children, Cole and Caylynn.

BILLY GONZALES COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position
2023-Pres	Florida, WR
2022	Florida Atlantic, WR
2018-2021	Florida, Co-Offensive Coordinator / WR
2014-17	Mississippi State, Co-Offensive Coordinator / WR
2013	Mississippi State, WR
2012	Illinois, Co-Offensive Coordinator / WR
2010-11	LSU, Passing Game Coordinator / WR
2008-09	Florida, WR/ Recruiting Coordinator
2005-07	Florida, WR
2003-04	Utah, WR/ Special Teams Coordinator
2001-02	Bowling Green, WR
1995-2001	Kent State, WR
1994	MacMurray, WR

Billy Gonzales, who coaches the wide receivers, enters his 11th season with the Gators after returning to Florida in 2023 for a third stint.

Returning back to Gainesville, Gonzales played a key role in Eugene Wilson III's strong freshman campaign and first round pick, Ricky Pearsall's final season. Pearsall (fourth - 65) and Wilson III (sixth - 61) represented the only SEC receiving duo to each rank top-six in receptions during the regular season.

Wilson made a name for himself nationally after each week as he led FBS true freshmen in receptions per game (6.1) while ranking second in receptions (61), tied for second in receiving TDs (six), fourth in receiving yards per game (53.8) and seventh in receiving yards (538). He went on to earn SEC All-Freshman honors.

Pearsall closed out his second season at Florida with career-high 965 receiving yards with 42 of his 65 catches for first-downs. He ranked fourth in the SEC in catches (65) and sixth in receiving yards per game (80.4). Pearsall also placed 38th in the FBS in receiving yards (965) and receptions per game (5.4) en route to surpassing 90 yards receiving six times.

He spent the 2022 season at Florida Atlantic as their wide receivers coach after spending four seasons in the same role for the Gators from 2018-21. In 2020, despite UF losing three receivers to the NFL Draft, the position group continued to shine under Gonzales. Florida receivers combined to catch 189 passes for 2,716 yards and 28 touchdowns.

In the passing attack, Florida's 46 touchdown passes led the nation by four. Florida was the only FBS team featuring six players with at least three receiving touchdowns and was one of four FBS teams featuring six players with more than 20 receptions and 225 receiving yards.

In 2019, Gonzales' mentorship played a crucial role in allowing Florida to reach its second consecutive New Year's Six bowl. The Gators made a name for themselves as one of the best-receiving teams in UF history, recording 33 passing TD's over the course of the season - the most since 2008. Florida's pass offense averaged 300.8 yards per game, ranking 16th nationally.

Florida was the only FBS team featuring eight pass catchers with 20-plus receptions, 250-plus yards, and a touchdown. Nine different players also finished with 150-plus receiving yards, something no Gators team has achieved since at least 1990.

DRAFTED NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY GONZALES

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2024	1	Ricky Pearsall	WR	San Francisco 49ers	Florida
2023	4	Justin Shorter	WR	Buffalo Bills	Florida
2021	1	Kadarius Toney	WR	New York Giants	Florida
2020	2	Van Jefferson	WR	Los Angeles Rams	Florida
2020	4	LaMical Perine	RB	New York Jets	Florida
2020	6	Freddie Swain	WR	Seattle Seahawks	Florida
2020	7	Tyrie Cleveland	WR	Denver Broncos	Florida
2019	2	Jawaan Taylor	OT	Jacksonville Jaguars	Florida
2019	2	Elgton Jenkins	C	Green Bay Packers	Mississippi State
2019	5	Jordan Scarlett	RB	Carolina Panthers	Florida
2018	3	Martinas Rankin	OT	Houston Texans	Mississippi State
2018	6	Jordan Thomas	TE	Houston Texans	Mississippi State
2017	6	Justin Senior	OT	Seattle Seahawks	Mississippi State
2016	4	Dak Prescott	QB	Dallas Cowboys	Mississippi State
2015	6	Malcolm Johnson	TE	Cleveland Browns	Mississippi State
2015	6	Josh Robinson	RB	Indianapolis Colts	Mississippi State
2014	1	Odele Beckham Jr.	WR	New York Giants	LSU
2014	2	Jarvis Landry	WR	Miami Dolphins	LSU
2014	7	James Wright	WR	Cincinnati Bengals	LSU
2013	3	Hugh Thornton	OG	Indianapolis Colts	Illinois
2012	2	Reuben Randle	WR	New York Giants	LSU
2010	5	Riley Cooper	WR	Philadelphia Eagles	Florida
2009	1	Percy Harvin	WR	Minnesota Vikings	Florida
2009	4	Louis Murphy	WR	Oakland Raiders	Florida
2008	3	Andre Caldwell	WR	Cincinnati Bengals	Florida
2007	7	Dallas Baker	WR	Pittsburgh Steelers	Florida
2006	2	Chad Jackson	WR	New England Patriots	Florida
2005	7	Paris Warren	WR	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Utah
1999	5	Eugene Baker	WR	Atlanta Falcons	Kent State



WILL HARRIS

ASSISTANT COACH / SECONDARY

First Season

X @CoachWillHarris

Will Harris enters his first season with the Gators as Florida's secondary coach.

Harris, 36, joined the program in December, 2023 after spending that year with the Los Angeles Chargers as an assistant secondary coach.

A coaching veteran with more than a decade of experience, Harris's resume includes stints as defensive coordinator at Georgia Southern and as Washington's defensive backs coach, where he led one of the best secondary groups in the country.

In 2022, his first year as a defensive coordinator with the Eagles, Harris led a young Georgia Southern defense that posted 15 red zone stops, which was second in the FBS, and was in the top 20 nationally in red zone defense. Georgia Southern posted 11 interceptions and 65 pass break ups under Harris's system.

Prior to Georgia Southern, Harris spent four successful seasons, from 2018 to 2021, coaching Washington's defensive backs.

In 2021, Washington led the nation in pass defense, allowing 143.3 yards per game and giving up only six touchdowns. That year, Harris helped develop two first-team Pac-12 All-Conference selections in Kyler Gordon and Trent McDuffie. McDuffie also earned third-team All-America honors from the Associated Press and was a first-round draft pick of the Kansas City Chiefs. Meanwhile, Gordon was selected in the second round of the 2022 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears.

Additionally, Washington was the only Power 5 school in 2021 with two cornerbacks to earn an 85+ grade from Pro Football Focus in Gordon and McDuffie. According to PFF, McDuffie's rating over a three-season span was the best in the Pac-12 Conference.

Harris was named to the 2021 "50 Rising-Star Position Coaches You Need To Know" list by On3.com.

In 2020, Harris helped the Huskies improve from No. 56 nationally in pass defense in 2019 (222.2 yards per game) to No. 13 nationally and No. 1 in the Pac-12 (184.9 yards per game). That year, he helped coach the top defense in the Pac-12 in terms of total defense and passing yards allowed. Among his defensive backs were first-team All-Pac-12 and second-team All-America honoree Elijah Molden (Pro Football Fo-

cus' Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year) and McDuffie, an all-conference second-team selection that year. Molden went on to become a third-round selection in the 2021 NFL Draft when he was picked by the Tennessee Titans.

In 2019, Harris served as an assistant defensive backs coach for UW and helped coach one of the strongest secondaries in the nation. Despite a young defensive group, the Huskies posted the No. 15 scoring defense in the country, giving up less than 20 points per game. That year, Molden earned first-team All-Pac-12 and second team All-American honors, while senior Myles Bryant was an all-conference second-team selection.

In his first season in Seattle, Harris helped coach a defense that finished first in the Pac-12 in scoring and total defense. The Huskies allowed just 16.4 points (fifth-best in the FBS) and 306.2 yards (12th best in the FBS) per game and were also in the top two in pass defense (both in terms of yards and efficiency) and rush defense.

Harris helped coach a secondary that featured two All-America players in 2018: safety Taylor Rapp and Byron Murphy, who earned first-team honors. Murphy was rated the top cornerback in the country by PFF College. Both earned first-team All-Pac-12, while Bryant and Molden (as a special teamer) both made the second team. Rapp and Murphy both became second-round picks in the 2019 NFL Draft.

In all, Washington produced an All-American defensive back every year from 2018 to 2021. McDuffie in 2021; Molden in 2020 and 2019; and Murphy and Rapp in 2018.

Prior to UW, Harris spent the 2016 and 2017 seasons at San Jose State coaching the defensive backs, where he mentored two All-Mountain West selections in cornerback Andrew Chachere and safety Maurice McKnight. Chachere was a first-team all-conference choice and finished fourth nationally in passes defended.

Harris spent the 2015 season as defensive backs coach at Dixie State College in St. George, Utah. He coached defensive back Colton Olson to First-Team All-Great Northwest Athletic Conference honors.

Harris began his coaching career in 2013 as the defensive backs coach at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and was in a similar capacity at Humboldt

State University in 2014. While at Humboldt State, he also served as the special teams coordinator. The Lumberjacks ranked in the top 10 nationally in total defense and No. 19 in pass defense.

In 2012-13, Harris assisted the staff at Fullerton College and Diamond Bar High School in southern California.

A highly-recruited athlete (league MVP in football and basketball) from Charter Oak High in Covina, California, Harris was a defensive back on five University of Southern California (USC) bowl teams. He was an honorable mention All-Pac-10 selection as a strong safety in 2009. Harris started his USC career in 2005, seeing time at cornerback as a true freshman. That season, USC went 12-1, losing only to Texas in a memorable Rose Bowl showdown.

After redshirting the 2006 season due to injury, Harris returned to the field in 2007, playing safety in 10 games, helping the Trojans to an 11-2 record, capped by a win over Illinois in the Rose Bowl. In 2008, he played in all 13 games on a Trojans squad that finished 12-1 and beat Penn State in the Rose Bowl, finishing No. 3 in the final AP top 25. As a senior in 2009, Harris started at safety, finishing the season with 69 tackles and four interceptions in Coach Pete Carroll's final season with the Trojans.

After completing his collegiate playing career at USC, Harris spent some time in the Seattle Seahawks camp and played for the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League.

A 2010 USC graduate, he majored in American studies and ethnicity. Harris is a native of Pasadena, Calif.

WILL HARRIS COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position
2024-pres.	Florida, Secondary
2023	Los Angeles CHargers, Assistant Secondary
2022	Georgia Southern, DC/DB
2018-21	Washington, DB
2016-17	San Jose State, DB
2015	Dixie College, DB/Co-DC/Recruiting Coordinator
2014	Humboldt State, DB
2013	Northwest Oklahoma State, DB

NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY HARRIS

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2024	5	Dominique Hampton	S	Washington Commanders	Washington
2022	1	Trent McDuffie	CB	Kansas City Chiefs	Washington
2022	2	Kyler Gordon	CB	Chicago Bears	Washington
2021	3	Elijah Molden	CB	Tennessee Titans	Washington
2021	5	Keith Taylor	CB	Carolina Panthers	Washington
2019	2	Byron Murphy Jr.	CB	Arizona Cardinals	Washington
2019	2	Taylor Rapp	CB	Los Angeles Rams	Washington
2018	7	Jermaine Kelly	CB	Houston Texans	Washington
2018	UDFA	Andre Chachere	CB	Houston Texans	Washington



MIKE PETERSON

ASSISTANT COACH / EDGE / ALUMNI LIAISON

Third Season
X @CoachMPeterson

Mike Peterson enters his third season with the Gators as an assistant coach, coaching the edge position.

Last season, Peterson worked with Princely Umanmielen, who earned All-SEC Second Team by the conference coaches and the AP along with All-SEC honors by USA Today. He started all 12 games in 2023 and led the team with career-highs in tackles-for-loss (11.5), sacks (7.0), quarterback hurries (17) and tied his career-high in tackles (39).

Peterson also led the freshmen duo of Kelby Collins and T.J. Searcy to SEC All-Freshman honors. They both played in all 12 games and combined for 49 tackles, 5.0 tackles-for-loss, 2.0 sacks, six quarterback hurries and two forced fumbles.

During his first year at Florida, Peterson mentored sophomore Antwaun Powell-Ryland Jr., who started the last five games of the season and recorded 23 total tackles with 5.5 TFL, 3.0 sacks, two forced fumbles, one quarterback hurry and one pass breakup.

Powell-Ryland Jr. was one of only seven SEC defenders to have forced three fumbles in the season, which ranked tied for first in the league. He became the first Gator to force three fumbles in a season since Jonathan Greenard in 2019. He was also one of three SEC linebackers to force three-plus fumbles and finish with 6.0 or more tackles for loss.

In 2022, Peterson also coached Brenton Cox Jr., who led the team in tackles through the first seven games of the season and ranked third in the SEC and fifth in the nation in tackles for loss. Cox Jr. was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Green Bay Packers in 2023.

Prior to Florida, Peterson spent the six seasons (2016-21) at South Carolina as an outside linebackers / defensive ends coach.

During his time with the Gamecocks, Peterson developed two NFL Draft picks in Kingsley Enagbare (fifth round, 2022) and D.J. Wonnum (fourth round, 2020).

In 2020, he coached Enagbare to a first-team All-SEC selection and the conference leader in sacks and forced fumbles.

While under Peterson's tutelage, Wonnum wrapped up his Gamecock career ranked ninth with 29.5 tackles for loss. He was a second-team All-SEC selection in 2019.

Peterson is credited with the development of Bryson Allen-Williams, who logged 10 tackles for loss in 2018 despite playing in just nine games, and finished his career 10th on the school's all-time list with 27.5 tackles for loss.

In 2017, Peterson was instrumental in the development of Wonnum, who ranked tied for seventh in the SEC in tackles for loss with 13.0, while leading the team with 6.0 sacks.

With Peterson's mentoring, Darius English turned in his finest season in South Carolina in 2016, garnering 9.0 sacks to move him into both the single-season and career (15.0) sacks top-10 lists in school history while earning second-team All-SEC accolades.

A member of the Florida 1996 National Championship team, he played linebacker for Steve Spurrier from 1995-98. His senior year, he served as a team captain and earned First-Team All-SEC and All-America honors. Peterson was inducted into the University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011.

He was selected in the second-round (36th pick overall) in the 1999 NFL Draft by the Indianapolis Colts. Peterson earned second-team All-Pro honors in 2005 and finished his career with 883

tackles, 21.5 sacks and 19 interceptions in 196 career games. A graduate of Santa Fe High School, he played 14 years in the NFL with the Colts (1999-02), Jacksonville Jaguars (2003-08) and Atlanta Falcons (2009-12).

After retiring from the NFL, he returned to Florida in 2013 where he finished his degree while working as undergraduate assistant coach on the strength and conditioning staff. Upon graduation, he was named to a full-time position as a strength and condition coordinator.

Peterson and his wife established the Mike Peterson Foundation in 2004. The foundation was constituted in an attempt to support and benefit under-served youth and socio-economically challenged families in Peterson's hometown of Alachua and his NFL cities of Jacksonville and Atlanta.

Since its inception, the Mike Peterson Foundation has already served over 50,000 youth and families through several community events and programs, most notably the Top Dog Readers Club literacy program at the Grove Park Elementary School in Atlanta.

A Gainesville native, Peterson attended Santa Fe High School in Alachua.

Peterson and his wife, Chantal, have two sons; Mike Jr. and Gavin.

Peterson is the older brother of former Chicago Bears running back Adrian Peterson.

MIKE PETERSON COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position
2022-Pres.	Florida, OLB/Alumni Liaison
2016-21	South Carolina, OLB/DE
2014-15	Florida, Strength and Conditioning Coord.
2013	Florida, Undergraduate Assistant

NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY PETERSON

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2023	FA	Brenton Cox Jr.	OLB	Green Bay Packers	Florida
2022	5	Kingsley Enagbare	DE	Green Bay Packers	South Carolina
2020	4	D.J. Wonnum	LB	Minnesota Vikings	South Carolina



JONATHAN DECOSTER

ASSISTANT OFFENSIVE LINE COACH

First Season

Jonathan Decoster enters his first season with Florida as the Gators' assistant offensive line coach.

With a resume featuring over ten years of coaching experience at both the collegiate and professional levels, Decoster arrived from the Cleveland Browns organization where he was an offensive assistant. Decoster joined the Browns in 2021 after spending the previous eight years coaching at the college level. He spent his first season with the club as an offensive quality control coach before being named an offensive assistant in 2022.

In Cleveland, Decoster helped the Browns lead the NFL in rushing average in 2021 with a 5.09 mark, the highest average by a Browns team since 1966. The team's 6,090 scrimmage yards were the fourth-most by the club in a single-season.

Before his time with the Browns, Decoster made his first trip to the Southeastern Conference, where he spent three seasons (2017-19) coaching the tight ends at LSU. There, he developed future NFL tight ends Foster Moreau (fourth round, 2019), Stephen Sullivan (seventh round, 2020) and Thaddeus Moss (undrafted free agent). Moss set the LSU single-season record for receptions and receiving yards by a tight end. Decoster helped the Tigers capture the FBS National Championship after a 13-0 season in 2019. LSU led the nation in total offense, scoring offense and red zone offense in 2019 and finished second in passing offense.

Prior to his stint in Baton Rouge, Decoster joined West Virginia State where he served as offensive line coach, recruiting coordinator, strength coach and travel coordinator from 2015-16. His offensive line helped the team set numerous school records, including the most touchdowns and points scored.

Decoster began his coaching career as a graduate assistant offensive line coach at Nevada, where he helped develop future Browns All-Pro guard Joel Bitonio. Bitonio became the second-highest draft pick in school history (second round, 2014).

A native of Miramar, Fla., Decoster was a four-year starter at right tackle at the University of Louisiana and anchored an offensive line that finished seventh in the country rushing in both 2007 and 2008.

Decoster earned a bachelor's degree in management information systems from UL and worked in Baton Rouge as an IT project manager until pursuing a coaching career in 2013. He earned master's degrees in education leadership from the University of Nevada and liberal arts from LSU.

Decoster and his wife, Amber, have two daughters, Aria and Mia, and a son, Zeke.

NFL PLAYERS COACHED BY DECOSTER

Year	Rnd	Player	Pos	Team	College
2020	UDFA	Thaddeus Moss	TE	Washington Commanders	LSU
2020	7	Stephen Sullivan	TE	Seattle Seahawks	LSU
2019	4	Foster Moreau	TE	Las Vegas Raiders	LSU
2014	2	Joel Bitonio	G	Cleveland Browns	Nevada

JONATHAN DECOSTER COACHING HISTORY

Year	Team, Position (Record as HC)
2024-pres.	Florida, Assistant OL
2022-23	Cleveland Browns, Offensive QC
2020	Old Dominion, TE
2017-19	LSU, TE GA
2015-16	West Virginia State, OL/Recruiting Coord./Strength
2013-14	Nevada, OL GA



game recaps

FLORIDA VS TULANE
2024 GASPARILLA BOWL

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
TAMPA, FLORIDA

GAME 1 SUMMARY

No. 19 Miami 41, Florida 17

Aug. 31 | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium | Gainesville, Florida

Attendance: 90,554

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Miami (1-0)	7	17	14	3	41
Florida (0-1)	3	7	0	7	17

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: Miami quarterback Cameron Ward passed for 385 yards, three scores and keyed a unit that cranked out 529 yards of total offense Saturday, as the 19th-ranked Hurricanes silenced then emptied Spurrier/Florida Field with a lopsided 41-17 victory before 90,544 mostly stunned-and-bummed Gator fans. The loss was UF's first in a home opener since 1989, snapping a NCAA-best 34-game winning streak in kicking off the third season under Coach Billy Napier. It also was the Gators' sixth straight defeat, dating back to an Oct. 28, 2023 loss to No. 1 Georgia at Jacksonville. Ward, the heralded transfer from Washington State, was spectacular in his UM debut. He completed 26 of 35 passes, with touchdown throws of 9, 24 and 23 yards, while also rushing three times for 33 yards and instantly thrusting his name into early Heisman Trophy consideration. His UF counterpart, fifth-year senior Graham Mertz, could manage only 261 yards for his offense and faced a far more menacing and engaged defense in the Canes, with the lone positive play of note a 71-yard touchdown dash by Montrell Johnson Jr. that gave the Gators some second-quarter hope. It was short-lived. Mertz completed 11 of 20 passes for just 91 yards and was sacked three times before giving way to freshman DJ Lagway, the 2023 Gatorade National Player of the Year, who went three of six for 31 yards with an interception in three series of mop-up duty, but did lead a TD drive. On the game's second possession, Miami marched mostly effortlessly to an 11-play, 84-yard touchdown drive, aided by a roughing-the-passer penalty on Justus Boone on a third-and-10 incompleteness that would have brought on the field-goal unit. Three plays later, Ward shoveled an 8-yard scoring toss to tight end Cam McCormick for a 7-0 lead barely halfway through the opening period. Before the quarter ended, a Ward interception (his lone miscue of the day) set up a 41-yard Trey Smack field goal that made it 7-3. Those three points were canceled out on UM's next drive, a 9-play, 70-yarder, that ended at the UF 5 and finished with a 23-yard field goal by Andres Borregales. The Canes' padded the margin after a failed fourth-and-5 gamble by Napier at the UM 42. Another roughing-the-passer penalty, this one on DJ Douglas, and 30-yard Ward-to-Isiah Horton completion set up a Mark Fletcher Jr.'s 10-yard scoring run and 17-3 visitors' lead. After an exchange of punts, the Gators finally gave the Swamp something to cheer about, as Johnson dashed around left end for a 71-yard touchdown gallop to cut the lead in half at 17-10 with 3:32 left in the half. If only the home team could've taken it to the locker room then. Instead, Ward worked the clock for a couple first downs, then hit Elijah Arroyo for a 28-yard gain to the UF 24, then two plays later fired a dime between the UF safeties for a 24-yard touchdown strike to Xavier Restrepo with 45 seconds left. It was 24-10, with UM cranking out 283 yards of first-half offense (to UF's 145, half on one running play). Miami got the ball to start the second half, hit a 40-yard completion on the third snap, a 22-yarder on the fourth and was in the end zone again on the sixth, a 1-yard plunge by Fletcher for a 31-10 lead less than three minutes in.

WHAT IT MEANS: This one is going to have residual ramifications. The Gators will have to deal with a negative narrative ("Noise in the system," as Ron Zook used to call it) right out of the 2024 box. As far as righting the ship, the Southeastern Conference opener against Texas A&M in two weeks can't get here soon enough. The win was Miami's eighth over the previous 10 meetings, dating to 1986. The Canes now lead the all-time series 30-28.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: For Ward, the Jayden Daniels comparisons are coming. Probably a stretch, at least for now, but he certainly had a track record as an exciting, joy-stick QB in the defunct Pac-12 Conference and the Gators made him look like a Heisman candidate.

STAGGERING STATISTIC: The 24-point margin of defeat was the largest for Florida in a home game since Florida State won 27-2 at the "Swamp" on Nov. 28, 2015. Miami's 41 points were the most ever surrendered by UF in a home opener.

UP NEXT: The Gators (0-1) remain in non-league play, but step down in classification with a home date against FCS Samford the night of Sept. 7. The Bulldogs, out of the Southern Conference, opened their season Saturday at West Georgia.

Scoring Summary		UF-Miami	
1st	6:48	Miami	McCormick,Cam 9 yd pass from Ward,Cameron (Borregales,Andres kick) 11 plays, 84 yards, TOP 05:39
			0-7
	00:19	UF	Smack,Trey 41 yd field goal
			3-7
			6 plays, 10 yards, TOP 02:06
2nd	09:53	Miami	Borregales,Andres 23 yd field goal
			3-10
			9 plays, 70 yards, TOP 05:26
	03:21	UF	Johnson Jr.,Montrell 71 yd run (Smack,Trey kick)
			10-17
			1 plays, 71 yards, TOP 00:11

	00:45	Miami	Restrepo,Xavier 24 yd pass from Ward,Cameron (Borregales,Andres kick) 8 plays, 75 yards, TOP 02:36	10-24
3rd	12:25	Miami	Fletcher Jr.,Mark 1 yd run (Borregales,Andres kick), 6 plays, 75 yards, TOP 02:35	10-31
	6:08	Miami	George,Jacoby 23 yd pass from Ward,Cameron (Borregales,Andres kick) 9 plays, 86 yards, TOP 03:49	10-38
4th	07:14	UF	Webb,Treyaun 1 yd run (Smack,Trey kick), 9 plays, 58 yards, TOP 04:03	17-38
	04:00	Miami	Borregales,Andres 26 yd field goal 6 plays, 37 yards, TOP 03:14	17-41

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - Graham Mertz (11-20-1, 91, 0)

UF - DJ Lagway (3-6-1, 31, 0)

Miami - Cam Ward (26-35-1, 385, 1)

Miami - Xavier Restrepo (0-1-0, 0, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Eugene Wilson (1-9-0), Montrell Johnson Jr. (11-110-1), Treyaun Webb (3-3-1), DJ Lagway (4-24-0), Jakobi Jackson (2-11-0), Jadan Baugh (1-6-0), Graham Mertz (6-21-0)

Miami - Damien Martinez (15-65-0), Cam Ward (3-36-0), Mark Fletcher Jr. (7-23-2), Jordan Lyle (6-19-0), Ajay Allen (2-5-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Eugene Wilson (7-50-0), Elijah Badger (3-43-0), Khaleil Jackson (1-13-0), Chimere Dike (1-11-0), Aris Boardingham (1-4-0), Montrell Johnson Jr. (1-1-0), Aidan Mizell (0-0-0), Jadan Baugh (0-0-0)

Miami - Restrepo,Xavier(7-112-1), Arroyo,Elijah (4-89-0), Isaiah Horton (4-70-0), Elijah Lofton (2-38-0), Jacoby George (2-25-1), Mark Fletcher Jr (1-22-0), Samuel Brown (3-19-0), Cam McCormick (1-9-1), Jordan Lyle(1-1-0), Ray Ray Joseph (0-0-0), Damien Martinez (1-0-0)

Leading Tacklers UF - Grayson Howard (13 Total, 1.5 TFL), Shemar James (5 Total, 1 TFL)

Miami -Jaden Harris (7 Total , 1 TFL), Francisco Mauigoa (6 Total, 1.5 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) UF - Tyreek Sapp (1)

Miami - Francisco Mauigoa (1), Tyler Baron (1), Jaden Harris (0.5) Elijah Alston(0.5)

Interceptions (Yds) UF - (1-0)
Miami - (2-67)

Team Statistics	UF	Miami
FIRST DOWNS	17	25
NET YARDS RUSHING	139	144
Rushing Attempts	28	33
NET YARDS PASSING	122	385
Completions-Attempts-Int	14-26-2	26-36-1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	261	529
Total Offense Plays	54	69
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	2-25	2-26
PUNTS-YARDS	5-238	2-97
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-205	8-520
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-28-0	1-7-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-35-0	1-0-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	25:30	34:30
3rd Down Conversions	1 of 9	5 of 10
4th Down Conversions	1 of 2	0 of 0
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	1-1	5-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-3	3-18
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	2-2	5-5
Field Goals: Total-Made	1-1	2-3
Points Off Turnovers	3	0



GAME 2 SUMMARY

Florida 45, Samford 7

Sept. 7 | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium | Gainesville, Florida

Attendance: 89,295

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Florida (1-1)	7	7	14	17	45
Samford (0-2)	0	0	7	0	7

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: Florida freshman quarterback DJ Lagway passed for 456 yards and three touchdowns in his collegiate starting debut Saturday night to lead the Gators to a 45-7 victory over FCS-classified Samford at Spurrier/Florida Field. Senior tailback Montrell Johnson Jr. rushed for a pair of first-half touchdowns, while wideouts Eugene Wilson III and Elijah Badger each had 100-yard receiving games, but it was Lagway's big arm — and the energy he ignited in "The Swamp" — that picked the Gators off the mat following last week's lopsided season-opening home loss to cross-state rival Miami. Lagway, the 2023 Gatorade National Player of the Year summoned to starting duty after sixth-year senior Graham Mertz suffered a concussion against the Hurricanes, hit 18 of 25 attempts, with touchdowns of 36, 41 and 85. When he was done, the 6-foot-3, 239-pounder from Willis, Texas, had shattered the record for single-game yards by a UF true freshman, leaving the 268 by Chris Leak (Sept. 27, 2003 at Kentucky) in the dust. The 456 yards was the ninth-highest single-game total in Florida football history. After UF's first possession ended with Samford stuffing tailback Treyaun Webb on a fourth-and-1 at the 17, the Gators (and Lagway) made up for it on their second turn. On second down from his own 20, Lagway dropped and launched a bomb for Badger up the right sideline that went for 77 yards to the Bulldogs' 4, where Johnson finished things off with a couple runs for a 7-0 lead with three minutes to go in the opening period. On the third drive, Lagway started with a 40-yard completion to tight end Hayden Hansen deep into Samford territory. A 22-yard pass-and-run to Badger set up Johnson's second TD run, a 7-yarder, for a 14-0 lead. At that point in the game, Lagway was 6-for-6 for 193 yards. After a rocky end to the first half, Lagway was back at it to the start the second half, this time hooking up for the first scoring strike of his career, a 36-yarder to Tank Hawkins for a 21-0 lead. The Bulldogs cut the margin with a 12-play, 75-yard drive (with only one third down along the way) capped by a 1-yard plunge by Damonta Witherspoon midway through the period. Not a problem. Lagway's 44-yard rocket to Aidan Mizell made it 28-7 just four snaps later, with the play giving Lagway the freshman record. A 25-yard field goal by Trey Smack early in the fourth quarter pushed the Gators in front 31-7. Five minutes later, after the UF defense forced a punt and the Gators' offense took possession at its 15, Wilson came in motion, took a forward two-handed toss from Lagway (a pass, technically), turned up the center of the field and out-raced the Samford defense 85 yards for the score. By night's end, the Gators had 632 yards of total offense to just 205 for Bulldogs. Wilson caught six passes for 141 yards, with Badger pulling in three for 123. Yale transfer Aidan Warner replaced Lagway late in the fourth quarter and had a 9-yard touchdown run to cap the scoring. The win was Florida's first since last Oct. 14 at South Carolina, snapping a six-game skid.

WHAT IT MEANS: A win, obviously, but also the first step toward putting away that ugly season-opening loss to Miami. Maybe even the start of a new era under center (read on).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:Duh. If Mertz is cleared from concussion protocol next week, Florida coach Billy Napier has an interesting decision to make heading into the Southeastern Conference season.

STAGGERING STATISTIC:During the 2023 season, the Gators totaled 39 pass completions of at least 20 yards (so-called "explosive plays") over 12 games. Lagway had four in the first half of his debut and nine for the game (with completions of 77, 44, 40, 22, 22, 36, 41, 24 and 85 yards).

UP NEXT: The Gators (1-1, 0-0) will open their SEC slate with a third straight home game, this one against Texas A&M (1-1, 0-0), which bounced back from a tough Week 1 home loss against No. 7 Notre Dame by waxing McNeese State 52-10 Saturday. The Aggies, under new Coach Mike Elko (by way of Duke), will make just their second trip to Gainesville since joining the conference in 2012 (compared to UF's three trips to College Station during A&M's first 11 seasons in the league).

Scoring Summary				SAM-UF
1st	2:53	UF	Johnson Jr., Montrell 1 yd run (Smack,Trey kick), 4 plays, 86 yards, TOP 1:55	0-7
2nd	7:02	UF	Johnson Jr., Montrell 7 yd run (Smack,Trey kick) 5 plays, 70 yards, TOP 02:18	0-14
3rd	13:38	UF	Hawkins, Tank 36 yd pass from Lagway, DJ (Smack,Trey kick) 4 plays, 69 yards, TOP 1:07	0-21
	7:40	SAM	Witherspoon, Damonta 1 yd run (Taylor, Forrest kick) 12 plays, 75 yards, TOP 05:58	7-21
	5:52	UF	Mizell, Aidan 41 yd pass from Lagway, DJ (Smack,Trey kick) 4 plays, 75 yards, TOP 01:48	7-28

4th	13:18	UF	Smack, Trey 25 yd field goal 15 plays, 56 yards, TOP 06:37	7-31
	9:55	UF	Lagway, DJ 85 yd pass from Lagway, DJ (Smack,Trey kick) 1 play, 85 yards, TOP 00:13	7-38
	00:48	UF	Warner, Aidan 9 yd run (Smack,Trey kick) 6 plays, 29 yards, TOP 02:09	7-45

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - DJ Lagway (18-25-0-456, 3)

UF - Aidan Warner (1-2-0, 10, 1)

Samford - Quincy Crittendon (22-31-0, 144, 0)

Samford - Nik Scalzo (0-1-0, 0, 0)

Samford - DJ Rias (0-1-0, 0, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Montrell Johnson Jr. (15-67-2), Jadan Baugh
(4-34-0), Jakobi Jackson (2-18-0), DJ Lagway (5-16-0)
Treyaun Webb (4-12-0), KD Daniels (3-10-0), Aidan Warner (1-9-1)

Samford - Damonta Witherspoon (9-26-1), Micah Kelly (6-17-0),

Iaen Cousin (2-14-0), DJ Rias (1-9-0), Ken Cherry (4-7-0)

Cooper Frazier (0-0-0), Quincy Crittendon (11-4-0), Nik Scalzo (1-7-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Eugene Wilson (6-141-1), Elijah Badger (3-123-0),
Hayden Hansen (2-46-0), Chimere Dike (1-44-0), Aidan Mizell (1-41-1), Tank
Hawkins (1-36-1), Arlis Boardingham (2-16-0), Jackson Wade (1-10-0)
Montrell Johnson Jr. (2-9-0)

Samford - Brendan Jenkins (4-51-0), DJ Rias (4-44-0), Iaen Cousin (3-21-0)

Damonta Witherspoon (3-13-0), Preston Bird (3-9-0), Jai E. Mason (4-6-0),

Quincy Crittendon (0-0-0), Teddy Davenport (1-0-0), Jaylon Barden (0-0-0)

Leading Tacklers UF - Jason Marshall Jr. (6 Total, 0 TFL), Tyreek Sapp (5 Total, 2.5 TFL)

Samford - Noah Martin (11 Total, 0.5 TFL), C.J. Douglas (6 Total, 0 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) UF - Tyreek Sapp (6 yds), George Gumbs Jr. (8 yds), Ja'Markis Weston (7 yds)
Caleb Banks (6 yds)

Interceptions (Yds) UF - (0-0)
Samford - (0-0)

Team Statistics	Samford	UF
FIRST DOWNS	15	22
NET YARDS RUSHING	61	166
Rushing Attempts	35	34
NET YARDS PASSING	144	466
Completions-Attempts-Int	22-33-0	19-28-0
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	205	632
Total Offense Plays	68	62
Fumbles: Number-Lost	4-1	1-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	3-30	7-77
PUNTS-YARDS	9-363	2-99
KICKOFFS-YARDS	2-115	8-497
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-5-0	3-37-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-18-0	1-31-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:30	26:30
3rd Down Conversions	6 of 15	5 of 11
4th Down Conversions	0 of 0	1 of 3
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	1-1	4-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	4-27
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	1-1	6-6
Field Goals: Total-Made	0-0	1-1
Points Off Turnovers	0	0

GAME 3 SUMMARY

Texas A&M 33, Florida 20

Sept. 14 | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium | Gainesville, Florida

Attendance: 89,993

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Texas A&M (2-1)	10	10	13	0	33
Florida (1-2)	0	0	14	6	20

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: Redshirt freshman quarterback Marcel Reed, making the first start of his career, accounted for 261 yards of total offense and three touchdowns in engineering a Texas A&M offense that met little resistance on the way to handing Florida a 33-20 defeat in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams Saturday at Spurrier/Florida Field. Reed, who replaced injured sophomore starter Connor Weigman, completed 11 of 17 passes for 178 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while also rushing 13 times for 83 yards and a score, and easily stole the game's QB storyline from UF counterparts Graham Mertz and DJ Lagway. When the final numbers were in, A&M had snapped a 10-game road losing streak by scoring on its first five possessions, cranked out 488 yards of total offense, did not turn the ball over and dominated time of possession by more than 15 minutes. The game, which was delayed for 47 minutes in the first half due to lightning in the area, was lopsided from the start, with the Aggies scoring on all four of their first-half possessions (and first of the second, as it turned out). Reed's 29-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter was sandwiched between a pair of Randy Bond field goals. Those three scores came while the UF offense took just 12 snaps on its first four series and totaled minus-17 yards. The killer sequence, though, came after Florida punter Jeremy Crawshaw pinned A&M at its 1 with 8:07 to play in the first half. The Aggies proceeded to drive 99 yards in 15 plays — without a pass — and scored on Reed's 1-yard sneak with 44 seconds to go before intermission to take a 20-0 lead into the locker room. At that point, the yards stood at 302-73 in favor of the visitors, with the Gators at minus-4 yards rushing, and offensive snaps favored the Aggies 53-18. Mertz started the second half and threw a 14-yard TD pass to Elijahah Badger to make it 20-7 barely three minutes into the third quarter. The Aggies needed just two plays and 49 seconds to answer, as Reed rolled to his left, threw back against his body and hit Cyrus Allen running all alone behind the UF secondary for a 73-yard touchdown bomb and 26-7 lead. The two-point conversion attempt was no good. After an exchange of punts, A&M safety Bryce Anderson picked off a deflected Mertz pass in stride and raced 45 yards untouched for a touchdown and 33-7 lead. UF managed two fourth-quarter touchdown drives, one with each quarterback, both on marches of 70-plus yards, to make the scoreboard and stat sheet appear closer. Lagway threw a 17-yard touchdown to Chimere Dike, while Mertz drove the unit to a 2-yard plunge from Ja'Kobi Jackson with 5:13 to go. Mertz finished 12 of 15 for 195 yards, one touchdown and one interception, while Lagway struggled to find the rhythm that allowed him to torch FCS-class Samford for 458 yards last weekend. He completed just six of 13 throws for 54 yards, one score, two interceptions and was sacked twice. The Aggies rushed for 310 yards, led by Le'Veon Moss's 110 on 18 carries.

WHAT IT MEANS: Make that three of the last four years that the Gators have dropped their SEC opener and now have lost six home games under Coach Billy Napier. That so-called "noise in the system" is about to return, following a week off optimism and and praise for the young quarterback. Lagway, though, got a dose of SEC reality Saturday.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Mertz definitely outperformed Lagway, for whatever that means for the rest of the season. Reed, though, way outperformed both of them.

STAGGERING STATISTIC: Coming into the game, A&M's last true road victory was a 35-14 win at Missouri on Oct. 16, 2021. Of the 10 in a row the Aggies had lost since, half were against ranked teams.

UP NEXT: Florida (1-2, 0-1) goes on the road for the first time this season with a date at Mississippi State (1-1, 0-0). For the Bulldogs, who lost at home 41-14 to Toledo Saturday night, the game will represent their SEC opener after starting the season with a 56-7 home win over Eastern Kentucky, followed by a 30-23 loss at Arizona State. The Gators own a 34-19-2 all-time advantage in the series, including a 13-6 win at Starkville in 2018. Next week's game will be just the second in the series over the previous 14 seasons.

Scoring Summary				A&M-UF
1st	8:14	A&M	Bond, Randy 31 yd field goal	3-0
	00:18	A&M	Melin Öhrström, Theo 29 yd pass from Reed, Marcel (Bond, Randy kick) 9 plays, 92 yards, TOP 05:12	10-0
2nd	9:47	A&M	Bond, Randy 48 yd field goal	13-0
	00:44	A&M	Reed, Marcel 1 yd run (Bond, Randy kick) 15 plays, 99 yards, TOP 07:23	20-0
3rd	11:49	UF	Badger, Elijahah 14 yd pass from Mertz, Graham (Smack, Trey kick) 7 plays, 75 yards, TOP 03:11	20-7

	11:00	A&M	Allen,Cyrus 73 yd pass from Reed,Marcel 2 plays, 75 yards, TOP 00:49	26-7
	5:29	A&M	Anderson,Bryce 45 yd interception (Bond,Randy kick)	33-7
	1:04	UF	Dike,Chimere 7 yd pass from Lagway,DJ (Smack,Trey kick) 10 plays, 72 yards, TOP 04:18	33-14
4th	5:13	UF	Jackson,Ja'Kobi 2 yd run 9 plays, 78 yards, TOP 03:15	33-20

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - Graham Mertz (12-15-1-195, 1)

UF - DJ Lagway (6-13-2, 54, 1)

A&M - Marcel Reed (11-17-0, 178, 2)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Treyaun Webb (6-37-0), Jakobi Jackson (4-23-1)

Tank Hawkins (2-7-0), Graham Mertz (1-7-0), Jadan Baugh (1-5-0)

Montrell Johnson Jr. (7-7-0), DJ Lagway (4-20-0)

A&M - Le'Veon Moss (18-110-0), Marcel Reed (13-84-1),

Amari Daniels (13-68-0), EJ Smith (6-24-0), Noah Thomas (2-14-0)

Terry Bussey (2-9-0), Jahdae Walker (1-4-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Elijahah Badger (5-94-1), Chimere Dike (6-91-1)

Arlis Boardingham (5-42-0), Tony Livingston (1-11-0),

Hayden Hansen (1-11-0)

A&M - Cyrus Allen (3-81-1), Theo Melin Öhrström (1-29-1), Amari Daniels (1-22-0)

Moose Muhammad III (1-20-0), Tre Watson (1-15-0), Jabre Barber (2-9-0),

Noah Thomas (1-2-0), Terry Bussey (1-0-0)

Leading Tacklers UF - Jaden Robinson (8 Total, 0 TFL), Grayson Howard (5 Total, 0 TFL)

A&M - Marcus Ratcliffe (5 Total, 1 TFL), Shemar Stewart (5 Total, 0.5 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) A&M - Shemar Stewart (7 yds), Cashius Howell (6 yds), Solomon DeShields (8 yds)

Interceptions (Yds) UF - (0-0)
A&M - (3-60)

Team Statistics	A&M	UF
FIRST DOWNS	27	19
NET YARDS RUSHING	310	52
Rushing Attempts	55	25
NET YARDS PASSING	178	249
Completions-Attempts-Int	11-17-0	18-29-3
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	488	301
Total Offense Plays	72	54
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	13-110	7-65
PUNTS-YARDS	1-42	4-173
KICKOFFS-YARDS	7-444	3-195
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-0-0	0-0-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	3-82-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	37:46	22:14
3rd Down Conversions	5 of 13	2 of 9
4th Down Conversions	2 of 2	1 of 2
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	2-2	3-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-21	0-0
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	3-3	2-2
Field Goals: Total-Made	2-4	0-0
Points Off Turnovers	6	0



GAME 4 SUMMARY

Florida 45, Mississippi State 28

Sept. 21 | Davis Wade Stadium | Starkville, Mississippi
Attendance: 49,655

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Florida (2-2)	7	21	7	10	45
Mississippi State (1-3)	7	7	7	7	28

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED:Florida quarterback Graham Mertz passed for three touchdowns, rushed for another and led the Gators to a 45-28 road victory and first Southeastern Conference win of the 2024 season. Mertz, the sixth-year veteran in his second UF season after transferring from Wisconsin, completed 19 of 21 passes (90.5 percent) for 201 yards, with all three of his TDs coming in the first half to set the tone for a team — as well as Coach Billy Napier — in desperate need of something positive following two lopsided home losses against both its high-major conference opponents earlier this month. UF finished with 503 yards of total offense (a balanced 226 rushing, 277 through the air), besting the host Bulldogs' 480 (to go with 31 first downs), with a whopping 240 coming on the ground. Mertz, who was 15-for-16 for 147 yards in the first half, fired touchdowns of three yards to tight end Arlis Boardingham, 20 to wide receiver Marcus Burke and 35 to tight end Hayden Hansen to stake the Gators to a 21-7 lead early in the second quarter. He shared quarterback duties with true freshman DJ Lagway, who completed all seven of his passes for 76 yards and and also had a fumble into the end zone that was recovered by offensive lineman Austin Barber. Lagway's second series was a 10-play, 91-yard drive that ended with a 10-yard touchdown run by Ja'Kobi Jackson and pushed the visitors in front 28-7 late in the first half. The Bulldogs cut the margin to 14 when quarterback Blake Shapen (13 of 21 for 140 yards, 1 TD) finished off a quick six-play, 75-yard, 54-second drive with a 3-yard run with 23 seconds to play in the period to make it 28-14 at the half. The game got even closer after Shapen engineered another long scoring drive, capped by a 13-yard pass to Jordan Mosley on MSU's first possession of the second half. Mertz countered with an 8-play, 75-yard drive (aided by a couple defensive penalties) and finished the march with a 1-yard sneak for a 35-21 lead with just under four minutes remaining in the third quarter. A goal-line stand by the Florida defense turned the ball back to the Gators less than a minute into the fourth period. Lagway then led his second drive of more than 90 yards (this one 10 plays, 93 yards) and almost finished it himself with a 6-yard scoring run, with Barber falling on the fumble for a 42-21 lead. The Bulldogs got a 10-yard scoring run from Johnnie Daniels with 4:26 to go, while the Gators added a 47-yard Trey Smack field goal with 2:34 remaining. UF got a game-high 68 yards rushing from senior tailback Montrell Johnson Jr. and had 10 different receivers haul in passes, led by Aidan Mizell's five for 36 yards. The win was just the third for Florida in its last 15 road games and snapped a seven-game streak against power conference opponents, dating to Oct. 28, 2023 against Georgia.

WHAT IT MEANS: The Gators, with everything going on, badly needed a victory to stop the bleeding. Mississippi State, obviously, is not a good team, but UF went on the road and amid all the adversity and distractions put one in the SEC win column.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: While Lagway may be the favored Florida quarterback (and the Gators' future at the position), Mertz is the better one right now and gives them the best chance to win.

STAGGERING STATISTIC:Mertz and Lagway combined to go 26-for-28. That's 92.9 percent, which is believed to be a single-game team record.

UP NEXT: Florida (2-2, 1-1) has the first of two open dates next weekend. The Gators will return to action Oct. 5 at home against cross-state foe UCF (3-0, 1-0), which was idle Saturday. While the Gators will be sitting out the week, the Knights will play host to Deion Sanders and Colorado in a Big 12 Conference game. Mississippi State (1-3, 0-1) plays at No. 1 Texas next week. Then at No. 2 Georgia. Good luck, Bulldogs.

Scoring Summary				MSU-UF
1st	3:39	UF	Boardingham,Arlis 3 yd pass from Mertz,Graham (Smack,Trey kick) 13 plays, 84 yards, TOP 06:17	0-7
	00:21	MSU	Booth,Davon 1 yd run (Ferrie,Kyle kick), 9 plays, 62 yards, TOP 03:09	7-7
2nd	10:56	UF	Burke,Marcus 20 yd pass from Mertz,Graham (Smack,Trey kick) 7 plays, 65 yards, TOP 02:46	7-14
	9:02	UF	Hansen,Hayden 35 yd pass from Mertz,Graham (Smack,Trey kick) 2 plays, 44 yards, TOP 00:34	7-21
	1:17	UF	Jackson,Ja'Kobi 10 yd run (Smack,Trey kick), 10 plays, 91 yards, TOP 02:59	7-28
	0:23	MSU	Shapen,Blake 3 yd run (Ferrie,Kyle kick), 6 plays, 75 yards, TOP 00:54	14-28
3rd	6:38	MSU	Mosley,Jordan 13 yd pass from Shapen,Blake (Ferrie,Kyle kick) 13 plays, 76 yards, TOP 06:43	21-28
	3:37	UF	Mertz,Graham 1 yd run (Smack,Trey kick), 8 plays, 75 yards, TOP 03:01	21-35
4th	8:24	UF	Barber,Austin 0 yd run (Smack,Trey kick	21-42

4:26	MSU	Daniels,Johnnie 10 yd run (Ferrie,Kyle kick) 12 plays, 75 yards, TOP 03:58	28-42
2:34	UF	Smack,Trey 47 yd field goal 6 plays, 21 yards, TOP 01:50	28-45

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD)	UF - Graham Mertz (19-21-0-201,3)
	UF -DJ Lagway (7-7-0, 76, 0)
	MSU -Blake Shapen (13-21-0, 140, 1) MSU -Michael Van Buren Jr. (7-13-0, 100, 0)
Rushing (Att-Yd, TD)	UF - Montrell Johnson Jr. (15- 71 -0), Jadan Baugh (4-53-0) Treyau Webb (8-42-0), Graham Mertz (3-24-1) DJ Lagway (3-22-0), Jakobi Jackson (3-18-1) Austin Barber (0-0-1)
	MSU - Johnnie Daniels (14-77-1),Davon Booth (16-81-1), Keyvone Lee (8-56-0), Blake Shapen (12-42-1), Kevin Coleman Jr. (1-9-0) Michael Van Buren (5-6-0)
	Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Elijah Badger (5-45-0), Chimere Dike (3-43-0) Arlis Boardingham (1-3-1),Tony Livingston (4-18-0), Hayden Hansenl (1-35-1), Marcus Burke (3-45-1), Aidan Mizell (5-36-0), JaKobi Jackson (2-27-0), Montrell Johnson Jr. (3-22-0), TJ Abrams (1-3-0) MSU- Mario Craver (3-62-0), Kelly Akharaiyi (3-56-0),Seydou Traore (4-48-0) Creed Whittemore (2-36-0), Kevin Coleman Jr. (6-19-0), Jordan Mosley (2-19-1),
Leading Tacklers	UF - Trikweze Bridges (10 Total, 0 TFL),Cam Jackson (8 Total, 0 TFL)
Sacks (Yds)	UF -Sharif Denson (4 yds), Jordan Castell (1 yd), Aaron Chiles (10 yds)
Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds))	UF - Trikweze Bridges (1-0), Sharif Denson (1-0) MSU -Isaac Smith (1-0), Corey Ellington (1-0)
Interceptions (Yds)	UF - (0-0) MSU- (0-0)

Team Statistics	MSU	UF
FIRST DOWNS	31	27
NET YARDS RUSHING	240	226
Rushing Attempts	56	36
NET YARDS PASSING	240	277
Completions-Attempts-Int	20-34-0	26-28-0
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	480	503
Total Offense Plays	90	64
Fumbles: Number-Lost	3-1	2-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	8-70	6-54
PUNTS-YARDS	5-201	2-84
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-260	8-520
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-0-0	1-35-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-57-0	1-0-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:24	27:36
3rd Down Conversions	11 of 20	6 of 9
4th Down Conversions	2 of 3	0 of 0
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	4-6	5-5
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	3-15
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	4-4	6-6
Field Goals: Total-Made	0-0	1-1
Points Off Turnovers	0	0

GAME 5 SUMMARY

Florida 24, UCF 13

Oct. 5 | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium | Gainesville, Florida
Attendance: 90,369

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
UCF (3-2)	3	0	3	7	13
Florida (3-2)	7	17	0	0	24

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: The Florida defense, maligned since the start of the season, picked a good night to play its best game to date, as the Gators' unit collectively bowed up and proved the catalyst of a 24-13 victory Saturday night over cross-state foe UCF at sold-out Spurrier/Florida Field. Quarterback Graham Mertz passed for 179 yards and a touchdown, tailbacks Ja'Kobi Jackson and Montrell Johnson Jr. each had short running scores, and kicker Trey Smack added a field goal. All those scores came in the first half, as UF, with its defense shutting down the Knights and their powerful running game, built a 24-3 advantage at the break and held on for a second consecutive victory. UCF came into the game with the nation's No. 4 overall offense, averaging a whopping 543.3 yards per game, including 326.0 on the ground, which ranked second nationally. Facing a UF defense that checked in 113th overall (425.5 per game), as well as 110th against the run (188.75), the Knights managed a season-low 273 yards, with just 108 on the ground on 40 carries. Five sacks of UCF's KJ Jefferson, the Arkansas transfer (and engineer of the Razorbacks' upset win here last season), greatly aided the cause, as he finished just 12 of 22 for 165 yards and an interception. UCF was just four of 12 on third was turned away on both of its fourth-down attempts. Mertz, the sixth-year senior, was an efficient 19-for-23, while freshman DJ Lagway went 4-for-4 for 50 yards in alternating every third series. Neither UF quarterback took a sack on the way to helping the Gators generate 359 total yards and out-rush the Knights with 130 on the ground. UF made a statement early by taking the opening kickoff and marching 75 yards in 15 plays, eating up half the first quarter, with Mertz lobbing a 13-yard TD to wide receiver Elijah Badger for a lead the home team never gave back. The Knights threatened on their first drive, but the UF defense stiffened and forced them to settle for a 27-yard Grant Reddick field goal. That was it for UCF the rest of the half, while UF scored 17 second-quarter points. Lagway, on his first series, fired a 37-yard bullet to Chimere Dike that set up a 1-yard scoring run by Jackson barely two minutes into the period. A 3-yard, extra-effort plunge from Johnson with 1:50 to go was followed by a fourth-down stop by the Florida defense that set up Lagway for a quick drive that led to a 29-yard Smack field goal for a 24-3 advantage with four seconds to play in the half. UCF took the second-half kickoff and went on a 14-play drive that ate up eight-plus minutes, but a false-start penalty, then sack of Jefferson forced the Knights to kick a second Reddick field goal to make the score 24-6. After a short UF possession and punt, the Knights started deep in their territory with a Jefferson 35-yard completion to tailback RJ Harvey, who finished the drive six plays later with a 13-yard scoring run to make it 24-13 with 7:50 to play. The scoreboard, however, held from there.

WHAT IT MEANS: A couple weeks ago, after a lopsided 33-20 home loss to Texas A&M, the Florida fan base was wondering where its next victory (much less two) could come from. The Gators, after winning at Mississippi State two weeks ago, have prevailed in two straight and at least won't have to deal with any trash talk from their younger brothers down the turnpike until they meet again in Orlando in 2030.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: The total yardage allowed by the Florida defense was half what UCF usually gained per game, with the Knights' rushing output nearly one-third less than its average. Seven different UF defenders had at least a half-sack, with edge George Gumbs Jr. tallying 1.5. Safety Bryce Thornton had a late interception to ice the game. The Knights' 273 yards marked the third-fewest gained by a Gus Malzahn offense in his 13 seasons as a head coach.

STAGGERING STATISTIC: Vanderbilt (two weeks after losing at home to Georgia State) beat No. 1 Alabama earlier in the day. The Commodores entered 0-60 all-time against AP top-five teams. Sorry, couldn't resist.

UP NEXT: Florida (3-2, 1-1) gets back into SEC play ... and in a big, difficult way. The Gators hit the road to face No. 4 Tennessee (4-1, 1-1) and more than 102,000 very ornery folks at Neyland Stadium, all of whom will be steamed still after being upset 19-14 late Saturday night at Arkansas. The Volunteers, who have lost 17 of the previous 19 in the Florida series dating to 2005, will be looking to exact nearly two decades of lopsided revenge (including last season's 29-16 upset loss at Gainesville), with arguably their biggest man-to-man advantage and talent discrepancy over that span.

Scoring Summary				UCF-UF
1st	7:02	UF	Badger, Elijah 13 yd pass from Mertz, Graham (Smack, Trey kick) 15 plays, 75 yards, TOP 07:58	0-7
	2:32	UCF	Reddick, Grant 27 yd field goal 12 plays, 65 yards, TOP 04:30	3-7
2nd	12:50	UF	Jackson, Ja'Kobi 1 yd run (Smack, Trey kick) 3 plays, 43 yards, TOP 01:11	3-14
	1:50	UF	Johnson Jr., Montrell 3 yd run (Smack, Trey kick) 7 plays, 58 yards, TOP 03:50	3-21

	0:04	UF	Smack, Trey 28 yd field goal 6 plays, 46 yards, TOP 00:44	3-24
3rd	6:32	UCF	Reddick, Grant 37 yd field goal 14 plays, 56 yards, TOP 08:28	6-24
4th	7:50	UCF	Harvey, RJ 13 yd run (Reddick, Grant kick) 7 plays, 82 yards, TOP 03:35	13-24

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - Graham Mertz (19-23-0-179,1)

UF - DJ Lagway (4-4-0, 50, 0)

UCF - KJ Jefferson (12-22-1, 165, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Montrell Johnson Jr. (10-54-1), Jadan Baugh (9-30-0)

Tank Hawkins (1-4-0), Graham Mertz (3-11-0)

DJ Lagway (3-11-0), Jakobi Jackson (3-25-1)

UCF - RJ Harvey (16-77-1), Penry Boone (8-42-0), Johnny Richardson (3-10-0), Ja'Varrius Johnson (1-0-0), KJ Jefferson (12-19-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Elijah Badger (3-41-1), Chimere Dike (4-88-0)

Arlis Boardingham (1-3-0), Tank Hawkins (7-60-0),

Hayden Hansen (2-13-0), Montrell Johnson Jr. (6-24-0)

Ja'Quavion Fraziers (0-0-0)

UCF - Randy Pittman Jr. (3-44-0), Johnny Richardson (5-38-0), RJ Harvey (1-35-0), Trent Whittemore (2-34-0), Kobe Hudson (1-14-0), Ja'Varrius Johnson (0-0-0), Evan Morris (0-0-0)

Leading Tacklers UF - Shemar James (6 Total, 0 TFL), Jordan Castell (6 Total, 0 TFL)

UCF - Ethan Barr (7 Total, 1 TFL), Lee Hunter (6 Total, 0 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) UF - RJ Moten (4 yds), Tyreek Sapp (4 yds), Grayson Howard (5 yds), Justus Boone (5 yds), George Gumbs Jr. (11 yds), D'Antre Robinson (4 yds), LJ McCray (4 yds)

Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds)) UF - Tank Hawkins (1-0)

Interceptions (Yds) UF - (1-0)
UCF - (0-0)

Team Statistics	UCF	UF
FIRST DOWNS	20	19
NET YARDS RUSHING	108	130
Rushing Attempts	40	32
NET YARDS PASSING	165	229
Completions-Attempts-Int	12-22-1	23-28-0
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	273	359
Total Offense Plays	62	60
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	6-39	8-64
PUNTS-YARDS	3-139	4-183
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-259	5-296
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-33-0	1-12-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:44	32:16
3rd Down Conversions	4 of 12	6 of 13
4th Down Conversions	0 of 2	1 of 1
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	3-3	4-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	5-37
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	1-1	3-3
Field Goals: Total-Made	2-2	1-2
Points Off Turnovers	0	0



GAME 6 SUMMARY

No. 8 Tennessee 23, Florida 17 (OT)

Oct. 12 | Neyland Stadium | Knoxville, Tennessee

Attendance: 101,915

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	OT	Final
Florida (3-3)	3	0	7	7	0	17
Tennessee (5-1)	0	0	10	7	6	23

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: Tailback Dylan Sampson slammed into the end zone from a yard out on Tennessee's first possession of overtime to give the eighth-ranked Volunteers a 23-17 victory over rival Florida in their Southeastern Conference game Saturday night at sold-out Neyland Stadium. Sampson's score was his third of the game for the league's rushing leader and came after his 23-yard touchdown run in the fourth period put the Vols ahead for the first time with just under 10 minutes to play. The Gators, 15 1/2-point underdogs, rallied to tie the score behind freshman quarterback DJ Lagway after starting sixth-year Graham Mertz left the game in the third quarter after suffering what appeared to be a knee injury. Lagway fired a 27-yard touchdown pass to Chimere Dike on a third-and-19 play with just 29 seconds remaining in regulation to make the score 17-16 and stun the crowd of more than 102,000. UF coach Billy Napier, at first, kept his offense on the field and threatened a two-point conversion attempt — and a go at the win — but after Tennessee called a desperation timeout and reset, Napier opted to send Trey Smack out to kick the point-after and play for overtime. UT won the coin toss and chose to play defense first. The Gators ran three plays, lost four yards and turned to Smack, who earlier kicked a 42-yard field goal. His OT attempt from 47, however, was pushed right, leaving Tennessee to play for the win. The Vols needed five plays to go the 25 yards, with Sampson crashing across on second-and-goal from the 1 and giving the Volunteers just their third win in the last 20 games of this series. Sampson, who came into the game with 589 rushing yards and 12 TDs, finished with 112 on 27 attempts and the three scores. Defensively, UF did a mostly outstanding job of containing a UT offense that began the day ranked No. 5 in the nation at 519.0 yards per game, as the Vols finishing with a season-low 312 yards and nearly dropped a second game in as many weeks as a top 10-ranked team. UT sophomore quarterback Nico Iamaleava completed 16 of 26 passes for 169 yards, no scores, an interception and was sacked three times. Lagway finished nine of 17 for 98 yards, the one score, one interception and three sacks, as the Gators actually out-gained the Vols with 361 yards of total offense. Mertz was 11-for-15 for 125 yards and a touchdown, with his 13-yard scoring toss to tight end Arlis Boardingham giving the Gators a 10-0 lead in the third quarter, but also ending with UF's starting quarterback suffering a non-contact injury at the end of the play. Mertz joined starting tailback Montrell Johnson Jr. (12 carries, 85 yards before going down with a lower body injury early in the third quarter) on the sidelines, as the two had to watch the Vols rally from their 10-0 deficit. The UF lead could have been much more, but the Gators self-destructed on a trio of drives that penetrated the UT 20 in the first half and netted no points. First, wideout Eugene Wilson III was tackled for a yard loss on a fourth-and-1 jet sweep. Next, Mertz fumbled on a first-down sneak attempt at the Vols' 1. And, lastly, after a Florida interception, Smack had a converted 43-yard field goal taken off the board on the final play of the first half when the Gators were flagged for 12 men on the field. Because they had no timeouts and could not accept a 10-second clock run-off, the half ended with the penalty and without a re-kick. UF finally found the end zone on its second possession of the second half, when Mertz moved the Gators 92 yards in nine plays, then lobbed his score to Boardingham. UT needed less than five minutes to find the end zone for the first time, with Iamaleava driving the Vols 75 yards in 11 plays and Sampson crashing in on a fourth-and-1 with a six-yard scoring run. On the very next play from scrimmage, Lagway threw an interception in minus-territory that led to a 35-yard Max Gilbert field goal that tied the game at 10 with 1:37 left in the third quarter. Sampson's second TD about five minutes later made it 17-10 and set up the frantic finish.

WHAT IT MEANS: Just the third loss to Tennessee since 2005, but it very well could have gone differently — and maybe given Napier the biggest win of his three UF seasons, as well as some promising possibilities for the program — had the Gators not blown those three outstanding first-half scoring chances.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: The Florida defense has made some impressive strides since those two debacle performances in home losses to Miami and Texas A&M early in the season. The guys on that side of the ball put the Gators in position to steal what would have been a victory virtually no one was counting on.

STAGGERING STATISTIC: Florida was 3-for-6 in the red zone, with those three come-up-empty killers all in the second quarter. Tennessee was 3-for-3 in the red zone. There's the game.

UP NEXT: Florida (3-3, 1-2) will be back at "The Swamp" for a homecoming date against Kentucky (3-3, 1-3), which has beaten the Gators three straight and four of the previous five after losing 31 straight in the series from 1987-2017. The Wildcats had a two-game winning streak snapped late Saturday night by losing at home against college football's 2024 giant-killer, Vanderbilt, which followed last week's stunning upset of No. 1 Alabama by going to Lexington and handing the favored Wildcats a 20-13 defeat.

Scoring Summary

				TEN-UF
1st	3:15	UF	Smack,Trey 42 yd field goal	0-3
			10 plays, 27 yards, TOP 04:51	
3rd	7:18	UF	Boardingham,Arlis 13 yd pass from Mertz,Graham (Smack,Trey kick) 9 plays, 92 yards, TOP 04:14	0-10
	2:57	TEN	Sampson,Dylan 6 yd run (Gilbert,Max kick), 11 plays, 75 yards, TOP 04:21	7-10
	1:37	TEN	Gilbert,Max 35 yd field goal	10-10
			4 plays, 3 yards, TOP 01:10	
4th	9:42	TEN	Sampson,Dylan 23 yd run (Gilbert,Max kick)	17-10
			2 plays, 29 yards, TOP 00:29	
	00:29	UF	Dike,Chimere 27 yd pass from Lagway,DJ (Smack,Trey kick) 4 plays, 31 yards, TOP 02:02	17-17
OT	00:00	TEN	Sampson,Dylan 1 yd run	23-17
			5 plays, 25 yards, TOP 00:00	

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - DJ Lagway (9-17-1-98,1)

UF - Graham Mertz (11-25-0, 125, 1)

TEN - Nico Iamaleava (16-26-1, 169, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD)

UF - Montrell Johnson Jr. (12-85-0), Jadan Baugh (12-25-0) Graham Mertz (5-11-0), DJ Lagway (5-1-0), Jakobi Jackson (5-16-13) Eugene Wilson III (1-0-0)

TEN - Dylan Sampson (27-112-3), Desean Bishop (7-24-0), Bru McCoy (1-6-0), Nico Iamaleava (8-1-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD)

UF - Eugene Wilson III (5-35-0), Elijah Badger (2-30-0), Chimere Dike (4-76-1) Arlis Boardingham (3-40-1), Jakobi Jackson (1,-1-0), Hayden Hansen (3-40-0), Montrell Johnson Jr. (1-8-0) Jadan Baugh (1,-5-0)

TEN - Squirrel White (5-71-0),Chris Brazzell II (3-49-0), Ethan Davis (2-10-0) Dylan Sampson (2-7-0), Holden Staes (2-5-0), Chas Nimrod (1-16-0),

Dont'e Thornton Jr. (1-11-0)

Leading Tacklers

UF - Jaden Robinson (7 Total, 1.5 TFL), Jack Pyburn (7 Total, 0.5 TFL)

TEN - Christian Charles (7 Total, 1 TFL), Joshua Josephs (7 Total, 1.5 TFL)

Sacks (Yds)

UF RJ Moten (4 yds), Tyreek Sapp (4 yds), Grayson Howard (5 yds), Justus Boone (5 yds), George Gumbs Jr. (11 yds), D'Antre Robinson (4 yds) LJ McCray (4 yds)

Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds))

UF - Grayson Howard (1-1)

TEN - James Pearce Jr. (1-1), Kalib Perry (1-0)

Interceptions (Yds)

UF - (1-20)

TEN - (1-15)

Team Statistics

	TEN	UF
FIRST DOWNS	18	22
NET YARDS RUSHING	143	138
Rushing Attempts	43	40
NET YARDS PASSING	169	223
Completions-Attempts-Int	16-26-1	20-32-1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	312	361
Total Offense Plays	69	72
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	6-47	6-36
PUNTS-YARDS	7-319	5-224
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-260	4-260
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-34-0	2-57-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	25:04	34:56
3rd Down Conversions	4 of 15	5 of 15
4th Down Conversions	2 of 2	0 of 2
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	3-3	3-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-25	3-19
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	2-2	2-2
Field Goals: Total-Made	1-1	1-2

GAME 7 SUMMARY

Florida 48, Kentucky 20

Oct. 19 | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium | Gainesville, Florida
Attendance: 89,906

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Florida (4-3)	3	24	7	14	48
Kentucky (3-4)	0	13	7	0	20

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: Florida freshman tailback Jadan Baugh tied a program record with five rushing touchdowns and the Florida offense, led by freshman DJ Lagway, rolled up 476 yards against the nation's No. 4-ranked defense, as the Gators routed Kentucky 48-20 in their Southeastern Conference homecoming game Saturday night at Spurrier/Florida Field.

Not bad for the first freshman QB-RB duo in school history to start in the same backfield.

Baugh, the 6-foot-1, 227-pounder from Atlanta, made his first career start in place of injured senior Montrell Johnson Jr. He carried 22 times for 106 yards and scored on runs of 7, 10, 1, 1 and 1 yard, with his five TDs equaling the program record he now holds jointly with Tim Tebow (2007 vs. South Carolina) and Trey Burton (2010 vs Kentucky). Lagway, making his first SEC start following the season-ending knee injury to sixth-year Graham Mertz, completed just seven of 14 attempts, but for 259 yards and one interception. Wide receiver Elijah Badger caught three passes for 148 yards.

By the time the Gators were done, their yardage (including 197 on the ground) was the most cranked out against the Wildcats this season, easily eclipsing the 353 gained by Ole Miss earlier this month. They were also a perfect 7-for-7 in red-zone scoring opportunities. The Florida defense, meanwhile, had a third straight outstanding effort in holding Kentucky to just 309 yards, just 1-for-5 on fourth down (including a second-quarter goal-line stand) and intercepting three passes, the last a 29-yard pick-six by sophomore Cormani McClain, the transfer from Colorado and former five-star recruit, with 3:23 to play that wrapped the night's scoring.

UF had two excellent scoring opportunities on their first drives of the game, but both times settled for short Trey Smack field goals. UK used some flea-flicker trickery to take advantage of the Gators' failure to capitalize when quarterback Brock Vandergriff (12 of 26 for 165 yards, 1 TD, 2 INT) took a pitchback from his tailback and threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to Barion Brown. The point-after was wide left, leaving the game tied at 6-all.

From there, the Gators scored the next three TDs on Baugh runs to go up 27-6 and seize the momentum; or so it seemed. That 21-point cushion was short-lived, as Brown's 99-yard kickoff return after Baugh's third score made it 27-13 with 1:30 to go in the half and backup quarterback Gavin Wimsatt's 1-yard touchdown run to cap the first possession after halftime made it a 27-20 game with 8:34 to play in the third.

Lagway, though, hit Chimere Dike for 44 yards to set up Baugh's fourth score with 3:27 left in the third for a two-touchdown cushion. The Florida defense stopped Kentucky on downs the next two possessions, adding Baugh's final score (after a 40-yard Lagway-to-Badger completion) with 3:31 remaining. McClain's interception return came on the first snap of UK's ensuing possession.

WHAT IT MEANS: With four victories, the Gators are one win from equaling their total of last season, but also are heading into the meat of the nation's toughest schedule (read on). UF ended UK's three-game winning streak in the series, avoiding what would have been the first four-game skid against the Cats since dropping four from 1948-51 — when Kentucky was coached by Paul "Bear" Bryant.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Who else had Baugh with his name in the UF record book by mid-October on their 2024 bingo card?

STAGGERING STATISTIC: Lagway completed just 50 percent of his passes, but his yards-per-attempt were a whopping 18.5 and his yards-per-completion number — get this — was 37.0 for the game.

UP NEXT: Florida (4-3, 2-2) has its second open date of the season next weekend, then will return to action Nov. 2 against fifth-ranked Georgia (6-1, 4-1), which has won three consecutive games in the series and six of the last seven. The Bulldogs, who are also idle next week, will head to Jacksonville coming off a 30-15 road thrashing of No. 1 and previous unbeaten Texas Saturday night.

Scoring Summary				UKY-UF
1st	10:27	UF	Smack, Trey 29 yd field goal	0-3
			10 plays, 63 yards, TOP 04:26	
2nd	14:13	UF	Smack, Trey 33 yd field goal	0-6
			9 plays, 65 yards, TOP 04:04	
	12:05	UKY	Brown, Barion 45 yd pass from Vandergriff, Brock ()	6-6
			4 plays, 84 yards, TOP 02:03	

8:15	UF	Baugh, Jadan 7 yd run (Smack, Trey kick), 3 plays, 65 yards, TOP 01:10	6-13
2:20	UF	Baugh, Jadan 10 yd run (Smack, Trey kick) 4 plays, 98 yards, TOP 02:14	6-20
1:44	UF	Baugh, Jadan 1 yd run (Smack, Trey kick) 1 plays, 1 yards, TOP 00:02	6-27
1:30	UKY	Brown, Barion 99 yd kickoff return (Raynor, Alex kick)	13-27
3rd	8:34	UKY Wimsatt, Gavin 1 yd run (Raynor, Alex kick), 12 plays, 75 yards, TOP 06:26	20-27
3:27	UF	Baugh, Jadan 1 yd run (Smack, Trey kick), 8 plays, 77 yards, TOP 05:01	20-34
4th	3:31	UF Baugh, Jadan 1 yd run (Smack, Trey kick), 5 plays, 59 yards, TOP 02:19	20-41
3:23	UF	McClain, Cormani 29 yd interception (Smack, Trey kick)	20-48

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - DJ Lagway (7-14-1-259, 0)

UF - Aidan Warner (1-1-0, 20, 0)

UKY - Brock Vandagriff (12-26-2, 165, 1)

UKY - Cutter Boley (0-6-1, 0, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD)

UF - Jadan Baugh (22-106-5), DJ Lagway (10-46-0),
Jakobi Jackson (9-44-0), Cam Carroll (3-1-0)

UKY - Demie Sumo-Karngbaye (10-39-0), Jamarion Wilcox (3-33-0),
Brock Vandagriff (8-33-0), DeaMonte Trayanum (7-26-0),
Gavin Wimsatt (4-8-1), Barion Brown (3-7-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD)

UF - Elijah Badger (3-148-0), Chimere Dike (2-67-0)
Eugene Wilson III (1-40-0), Taylor Spierto (1-20-0)
Arlis Boardingham (1-4-0), JaQuavion Frazier (0-0-0)

UKY - Barion Brown (2-56-1), Dane Key (4-48-0), Josh Kattus (1-21-0)
Fred Farrier II (1-19-0), Demie Sumo-Karngbaye (2-18-0),

Kharmari Anderson (1-2-0), Anthony Brown Stephens (1-1-0)

Leading Tacklers

UF - Trikweze Bridges (11 Total, 0 TFL), Jack Pyburn (8 Total, 0 TFL)

UKY - Jordan Lovett (9 Total, 1 TFL), Alex Afari Jr. (7 Total, 1.5 TFL)

Sacks (Yds)

UF - TJ Searcy (1 yd)

UKY - Alex Afari Jr. (9 yds), Khalil Saunders (2 yds)

Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds))

UF - Trikweze Bridges (1-0)

Interceptions (Yds)

UF - Devin Moore (52 yds.), Cormani McClain (29 yds.)

UKY - Kristian Story (63 yds.)

Team Statistics	UKY	UF
FIRST DOWNS	17	16
NET YARDS RUSHING	144	197
Rushing Attempts	36	44
NET YARDS PASSING	165	279
Completions-Attempts-Int	12-32-3	8-15-1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	309	476
Total Offense Plays	68	59
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	3-30	4-40
PUNTS-YARDS	3-127	4-203
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-252	9-557
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-7-0	0-0-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	3-121-1	3-62-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:56	30:04
3rd Down Conversions	4 of 13	6 of 12
4th Down Conversions	1 of 5	0 of 0
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	1-2	7-7
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-11	1-1
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	2-3	6-6
Field Goals: Total-Made	0-0	2-2



GAME 8 SUMMARY

No. 2 Georgia 34, Florida 20,

Nov. 2 | EverBank Stadium | Jacksonville, Florida

Attendance:76,307

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Florida (4-4)	0	13	0	7	20
Georgia (7-1)	3	3	14	14	34

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED:For Florida, there was so much to be encouraged about ... until DJ Lagway went down.

First, the Gators lost their freshman quarterback. Next, they lost their lead. In time, they lost their poise and ultimately the game Saturday, falling 34-20 to second-ranked Georgia in their annual Southeastern Conference showdown at EverBank Stadium, giving the Bulldogs a fourth consecutive win (and seventh in the previous eight meetings) in the storied rivalry.

UGA quarterback Carson Beck shook off a trio of interceptions in passing for 309 yards and two second-half scores in guiding his team to a huge come-from-behind victory. It all turned for the Bulldogs after Lagway, the centerpiece of the Gators' offense just a year removed from being named Gatorade Player of the Year, was carted from the field in the second-quarter with a severe hamstring injury. Lagway's injury came two games after the team lost sixth-year starting QB Graham Mertz for to a season-ending knee injury, and left UF quarterback duties to third-teamer Aidan Warner, a walk-on from Yale.

Warner went seven of 22 for 66 yards and an interception, along the way -- needless to say -- getting a crash course in the difference between the Ivy League and SEC. When the final numbers were in, Georgia had totaled 455 yards of offense to UF's 228. Beck completed 25 of his 40 attempts, while tailback Nate Frazier rushed 19 times for 82 yards and a touchdown. Lagway hit just two of his six attempts, but fired a 43-yard touchdown strike to Aidan Mizell early in the second quarter to stake the Gators to a 7-3 lead after Beck's first pick. A 53-yard field goal by Trey Smack had UF ahead 10-3, which was where things stood when Lagway suffered his injury on a designed first-down run with five minutes left in the half.

Over the next eight series with Warner under center, the Gators ran 25 plays for just 53 yards, yet still led 13-6 after two three-and-out possessions to start the third quarter.

Georgia then mounted consecutive touchdown drives. The first was an eight-play, 83-yard march with Dillon Bell's 33-yard dash off an end-around the big hitter. It set up Frazier's 2-yard scoring run to tie the game at 13 with seven minutes to go in the third period. On Florida's, ensuing series, the Gators actually moved the ball, driving to the UGA 33 and in position for a 50-yard field goal try by Smack for the lead.

But the snap from Rocco Underwood was low, hot and through the hands of holder Jeremy Crawshaw. The ball skipped past midfield and was recovered by Georgia at the UF 36 for a crushing loss of 33 yards. Three plays later, Beck hit Cash Jones on a crossing rout. Jones broke through the arms of Shemar James then ran over two Gator defenders at the goal line for a 20-13 lead with 1:30 to go in the third.

A Warner to Elijah Badger completion of 26 yards, plus a personal foul on the UGA defense helped move the Gators into scoring position. Tailback Ja'Kobi Jackson's 15-yard touchdown run tied the game at 20 and lit up the UF sideline midway through the fourth period. Back came Beck, however. Completions of 34 yards to Arian Smith and 21 to Lawson Luckie got the Bulldogs inside the UF 20, where Beck finished with 10-yard scoring toss to Dominic Lovett on a wideout screen. That gave Georgia a 27-20 advantage with four minutes to go.

On UF's next snap, Warner rolled to his right and tried to force a pass downfield that landed in the chest of Georgia linebacker CJ Allen, who returned the interception to the Florida 14-yard line. Two plays later, Dwight Phillips Jr. iced the game with a 4-yard scoring run with 3:03 remaining.

WHAT IT MEANS: For the Gators, their four-game losing streak in the series is the longest since dropping six straight from 1978-83. Go ahead and cue the noise in the system (again), but the fact the Gators have lost their second starting quarterback inside a month is a handicap that cannot be dismissed. Neither can the inspired way the team persevered, especially on the defensive side of the football. No quit in this team.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:Who had the phrase, "Florida starting quarterback Aidan Warner" on their bingo card?

STAGGERING STATISTIC: The Gators came to Jacksonville knowing they'd be without cornerback Jason Marshall Jr., tailback Montrell Johnson Jr. and wideout Eugene Wilson III, three of the best players on the team. By halftime, they'd lost Lagway and standout corner Devin Moore (after he intercepted a pass). Then safety Jordan Castell and cornerback Dijon Johnson went down in the third quarter. Throw all those names into an injury pile that already included defensive tackle Jamari Lyons, wideouts Kahleil Jackson and Andy Jean, plus tailback Treyaun Webb and, of course, Mertz. That's a bunch of manpower on the shelf.

UP NEXT: The Gators (4-4, 2-3) have next to no time to lick their wounds (much less feel sorry for themselves) before kicking off preparation for a road trip to No. 5 Texas (7-1, 3-1) in what will be the first meeting between the two programs since 1940. The Longhorns, who were idle Saturday, were beaten soundly at home by the Bulldogs, 30-15, last month, but bounced back last weekend with a 27-24 victory at No. 24 Vanderbilt.

Scoring Summary

UGA-UF

1st	2:10	UGA	Woodring,Peyton 23 yd field goal	3-0
			13 plays, 83 yards, TOP 06:15	
2nd	13:42	UF	Mizell,Aidan 43 yd pass from Lagway,DJ (Smack,Trey kick)	3-7
			1 plays, 43 yards, TOP 00:06	
	7:22	UF	Smack,Trey 32 yd field goal	3-10
			10 plays, 37 yards, TOP 04:25	
	0:43	UGA	Woodring,Peyton 53 yd field goal	6-10
			5 plays, 13 yards, TOP 00:30	
	0:03	UF	Smack,Trey 53 yd field goal	6-13
			8 plays, 40 yards, TOP 00:40	
3rd	7:01	UGA	Frazier,Nate 2 yd run (Woodring,Peyton kick)	13-13
			8 plays, 83 yards, TOP 04:09	
	1:20	UGA	Jones,Cash 22 yd pass from Beck,Carson (Woodring,Peyton kick)	20-13
			3 plays, 36 yards, TOP 01:30	
4th	7:29	UF	Jackson,Ja'Kobi 15 yd run (Smack,Trey kick)	20-20
			5 plays, 55 yards, TOP 02:29	
	4:01	UGA	Lovett,Dominic 10 yd pass from Beck,Carson (Woodring,Peyton kick)	27-20
			7 plays, 75 yards, TOP 03:28	
	3:03	UGA	Phillips Jr.,Dwight 4 yd run (Woodring,Peyton kick),	34-20
			2 plays, 7 yards, TOP 00:44	

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF -Aidan Warner (7-22-1, 66, 0)

UF -DJ Lagway (2-6-0,47, 1)

UGA -Carson Beck (25-40-3, 309, 2)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Jadan Baugh (22-106-5) , DJ Lagway (4-18-0), Jakobi Jackson (12-74-1) , Aidan Warner (4-13-0)

UGA- Nate Frazier (19-82-1), Dillon Bell (1-33-0), Trevor Etienne (7-31-0), Arian Smith (1-4-0), Dwight Phillips Jr. (1-4-1), Carson Beck (3,-6-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Aidan Mizell (4-66-1), Elijah Badger (2-36-0), Chimere Dike (2-8-0) Arlis Boardingham (1-3-0), Tank Hawkins (0-0-0), Jadan Baugh (0-0-0), Marcus Burke (0-0-0)

UGA- Arian Smith (2-59-0),Dominic Lovett (7-52-1), Dillon Bell (4-50-0) Ben Yurosek (2-39-0), Cash Jones (3-37-1), London Humphreys (2-23-0),

Oscar Delp (2-21-0), Lawson Luckie (1-21-0), Nate Frazier (2-7-0), Sacovie White (0-0-0)

Leading Tacklers UF - Trikweze Bridges (8 Total, 0.5 TFL), Sharif Denson (4 Total, 0 TFL)

UGA- CJ Allen (8 Total, 0 TFL), Raylen Wilson (7 Total, 0.5 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) UF - Myles Graham (10 yds), Derek Wingo (6 yds)

UGA - Chaz Chambliss (10 yds)

Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds)) UF - Trikweze Bridges (1-0)

Interceptions (Yds) UF -Aaron Gates (30 yds), Jack Pyburn (0 yds), Devin Moore (32 yds)

UGA - CJ Allen (8 yds.)

Team Statistics	UGA	UF
FIRST DOWNS	26	13
NET YARDS RUSHING	146	115
Rushing Attempts	33	38
NET YARDS PASSING	309	113
Completions-Attempts-Int	25-40-3	9-30-1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	455	228
Total Offense Plays	73	68
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	5-48	5-42
PUNTS-YARDS	5-210	8-393
KICKOFFS-YARDS	7-454	5-302
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	3-21-0	1-1-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-4-0	2-34-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:30	26:25
3rd Down Conversions	4 of 11	3 of 16
4th Down Conversions	0 of 0	2 of 4
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	4-4	2-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-16	2-10
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	2-2	4-4
Field Goals: Total-Made	2-2	2-2

GAME 9 SUMMARY

No. 5 Texas 49, Florida 17,

Nov. 9 | Darrel K Royal Texas Memorial Stadium | Austin, Texas
Attendance: 103,305

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Florida (4-5)	0	0	10	7	17
Texas (8-1)	14	21	7	7	49

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: The Florida football team could have waited another 84 years for its first game against Texas.

UT quarterback Quinn Ewers threw for 333 yards and five touchdowns over a little more than two quarters, as the fifth-ranked Longhorns overwhelmed the injury-ravaged Gators 49-17 in their Southeastern Conference game Saturday at Memorial Stadium. Ewers completed 19 of his 29 attempts, with scoring strikes of 29, 22, 50, 32 and 34 before checking out of the game after UT's first possession of the second half and Texas leading 42-0.

The Gators, with third-string walk-on quarterback Aidan Warner on for injured freshman DJ Lagway, didn't get on the board until midway through the third quarter. First, Coach Billy Napier sent Trey Smack in to kick a 23-yard field goal on fourth-and-goal from the UT 5 with 7:03 to play to make it 42-3, thus extending the NCAA record of 457 games (dating to 1988) without a shutout. After the UF defense greeted heralded backup quarterback Arch Manning with a three-and-out, Warner drove the offense 56 yards in nine plays, with freshman tailback Jadan Baugh putting Florida in the end for the first time with a 2-yard run to make it 42-10.

Warner, the redshirt freshman transfer from Yale who took over for Lagway in the second quarter of last week's loss against No. 2 Georgia, finished 12 of 25 for 132 and two interceptions. The Gators, who were without a slew of offensive skill position players due to injury, managed 329 yards of total offense and turned the ball over three times. They played their best after Texas emptied its bench, with Baugh and junior Ja'Kobi Jackson capping drives with TDs after the game was out of hand.

The Longhorns averaged 8.8 yards per play and cranked out 562 yards of total offense, the first 450 with Ewers under center. Tailback Jaydon Blue rushed 16 times for 106 yards, including a 60-yard touchdown dash. Ewers' five TDs went to four different players, with wideout Matthew Golden finishing with three catches for 64 yards and two scores.

Texas got the ball first and opened the game by driving to the Florida 32, but missed a 51-yard field goal attempt. Florida's first two possessions ended with a punt and fumble, respectively, with the Longhorns mounting marches of 85 yards and 22 yards to go up 14-0 and never looking back.

The Gators had a chance to get on the scoreboard after going down those two scores, but Smack missed a 30-yard field goal. After back-to-back punts, Texas scored touchdowns on four consecutive possessions (and five of the next six), taking a 35-0 lead at halftime and coasting home.

The game marked just the fourth meeting between Florida and Texas, and the first since 1940, a 26-0 victory in Gainesville. The Longhorns, who joined the SEC this season, now lead the all-time series 0-3-1.

WHAT IT MEANS: Even UF fans wearing orange-and-blue goggles knew an 0-2 start to UF's November paddle-wheel of ranked opponents was a very real possibility, especially with a walk-on, third-team quarterback on the road. Those same fans will keep their fingers crossed the Gators will be healthier for their upcoming back-to-back home games.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: It'll be beaming brightly on Lagway, specifically his availability, all next week.

STAGGERING STATISTIC: The 32-point margin of defeat was the largest for a Florida team since a 55-20 loss to Oklahoma in the 2020 Cotton Bowl, as well as the worst in SEC play since a 31-3 loss at Alabama in 2005. The 35-point margin at half-time was the largest since the Gators trailed 35-10 against Nebraska at intermission of the 1996 Fiesta Bowl national-championship game. That one, of course, ended with a 62-24 Cornhuskers victory.

UP NEXT: Florida (4-5, 2-4) will be back home Nov. 16 for a 3:30 p.m. date against 14th-ranked LSU (6-2, 3-1). The Tigers have a monster Saturday night showdown against No. 11 Alabama, a game that likely will eliminate the losing team from the College Football Playoff picture. LSU has defeated the Gators five straight and six of the previous seven, dating to the 2017 season.

Scoring Summary				TEX-UF
1st	3:43	TEX	TEX - Golden, Matthew 29 yd pass from Ewers, Quinn (Auburn, Bert kick) 7 plays, 85 yards, TOP 02:55	7-0
	3:11	TEX	Helm, Gunnar 22 yd pass from Ewers, Quinn (Auburn, Bert kick) 2 plays, 22 yards, TOP 00:09	14-0
2nd	5:54	TEX	Wisner, Quintrevion 50 yd pass from Ewers, Quinn (Auburn, Bert kick) 1 plays, 50 yards, TOP 00:11	21-0

1:19	TEX	Golden, Matthew 32 yd pass from Ewers, Quinn (Auburn, Bert kick) 4 plays, 80 yards, TOP 00:27	28-0
0:23	TEX	Blue, Jaydon 5 yd run (Auburn, Bert kick), 4 plays, 45 yards, TOP 00:35	35-0
3rd 12:52	TEX	Bond, Isaiah 34 yd pass from Ewers, Quinn (Auburn, Bert kick) 3 plays, 31 yards, TOP 01:27	42-0
7:03	UF	Smack, Trey 23 yd field goal 15 plays, 70 yards, TOP 05:49	3-42
1:30	UF	Baugh, Jadan 2 yd run (Smack, Trey kick), 9 plays, 56 yards, TOP 04:44	10-42
4th 14:55	TEX	Gibson, Jerrick 14 yd run (Auburn, Bert kick), 4 plays, 75 yards, TOP 01:35	10-49
8:27	UF	Jackson, Ja'Kobi 7 yd run (Smack, Trey kick), 7 plays, 67 yards, TOP 03:13	17-49

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - Aidan Warner (12-25-2, 132, 0)

TEX - Quinn Ewers (19-27-0, 333, 5)

TEX - Archie Manning (3-6-0, 19, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Jakobi Jackson (19-116-1), Jadan Baugh (19-88-1), Jakobi Jackson (12-74-1), Aidan Warner (3, -7-0)

TEX - Jerrick Gibson (16-100-1), Jaydon Blue (5-60-1), Isaiah Bond (1-44-0), Colin Page (2-7-0), Quinn Ewers (2-0-0), Quintrevion Wisner (4-0-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Chimere Dike (5-95-0), Ja'Kobi Jackson (1-13-0),

Arlis Boardingham (2-9-0), Jadan Baugh (1-7-0), Marcus Burke (1-6-0), Aidan Mizell (1-5-0), Ja' Quavion Faziars (0-0-0), Amira Jackson (0-0-0), Tank Hawkins (1, -3-0)

TEX - Jaydon Blue (3-67-0), Matthew Golden (3-64-2), Quintrevion Wisner (3-59-1), Isaiah Bond (3-55-1), Gunnar Helm (3-42-1), Silas Bolden (2-33-0), DeAndre Moore Jr. (2-22-0), Ryan Wingo (1-4-0), Juan Davis (1-4-0), Amari Niblack (1-2-0), Parker Livingstone (0-0-0)

Leading Tacklers UF - Aaron Gates (8 Total, 0 TFL), Myles Graham (5 Total, 0 TFL)

TEX - Anthony Hill Jr. (8 Total, 1 TFL), Andrew Mukuba (6 Total, 0 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) UF - TJ Searcy (9 yds)

TEX - Jaylon Guilbeau (7 yds)

Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds)) UF - N/A

TEX - Anthony Hill Jr. (1-0)

TEX - Trey Moore (0-1 (13))

Interceptions (Yds) TEX - Andrew Mukuba (9 yds.), Ty'Anthony Smith (5 yds.)

Team Statistics	TEX	UF
FIRST DOWNS	23	20
NET YARDS RUSHING	210	197
Rushing Attempts	31	41
NET YARDS PASSING	352	132
Completions-Attempts-Int	22-33-0	12-25-2
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	562	329
Total Offense Plays	64	66
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	7-70	4-35
PUNTS-YARDS	3-115	5-239
KICKOFFS-YARDS	8-514	4-260
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-13-0	0-0-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	3-49-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:54	32:06
3rd Down Conversions	5 of 11	6 of 14
4th Down Conversions	2 of 2	0 of 0
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	2-4	3-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-7	1-9
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	7-7	2-2
Field Goals: Total-Made	0-1	1-2



GAME 10 SUMMARY

Florida 27, No. 21 LSU 16

Nov. 16 | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium | Gainesville, Florida
Attendance:90,067

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Florida (5-5)	7	3	3	14	27
LSU (6-4)	0	10	3	3	16

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED:The return of Florida freshman quarterback DJ Lagway ignited both the underdog Gators and energized the homefield Saturday in a 27-16 upset of 21st-ranked LSU in their Southeastern Conference showdown at Spurrier/Florida Field. Lagway, out with a hamstring injury since the first half of the Georgia game two weeks ago, passed for 226 yards and a score and rookie classmate Jadan Baugh had a 55-yard game-sealing touchdown run with just under four minutes remaining. The Florida defense, meanwhile, was no bystander. Though Tigers quarterback Garrett Nussmeier was on the field for twice as long as Lagway and the UF offense, the Gators did a bend-don't-break number on the visitors in holding the nation's seventh-best passing offense (322.3 yards per game) mostly in check and sacking Nussmeier, one of the best-protected QBs in the country, seven times times for 49 yards. Nussmeier finished 27 of 47 for 260 yards, with a touchdown and a fumble. Lagway, who had a first-quarter touchdown strike of 23 yards to wideout Elijah Badger (6 catches, 131 yards), completed 13 of his 26 attempts without a turnover or a sack. LSU out-gained UF in total offense 382 yards to 339 and had the ball for 41:13 to Florida's 18:17, but the Gators made more out of their five single-digit scoring drives than the Tigers (13 of 24 on third down, 2-for-4 on fourth) did with their four scoring drives of double digits.

LSU ran 93 plays to just 42 for Florida.

The win snapped a five-game losing streak for the Gators in their series with the Tigers that dates to 1937. Florida's last win against LSU was a 27-19 victory here in 2018. UF took the first lead of the game when Lagway lobbed a beautiful back-shoulder touchdown pass to Badger to go up 7-0. LSU matched the score with a 14-play, 84-yard scoring drive, converting four third downs along the way, including three of them of at least nine yards, with the last a 28-yard strike from Nussmeier to Aaron Anderson midway through the period.Both teams added field goals in the second quarter, with Trey Smack's 49-yarder giving the Gators a 10-7 edge with 3:27 to play in the half and Damian Ramos tying the game with a 50-yard with 10 seconds to play before intermission.The Tigers took their first lead, 13-10, on Ramos's 45-yard field at 5:54 of the third. Nussmeier, after surviving a sack/fumble inside his 10, drove his offense 62 yards, converting two more third-and-longs and appeared to have converted a third, but his 13-yard TD pass to Anderson on third-and-9 was called back for offensive pass interference. LSU could not convert on third-and-23 and Ramos put his team momentarily in front.The Gators threatened on their next possession, moving to LSU 34 on a couple nice Lagway-to-Badger completions. But a holding penalty, followed by a delay penalty, put the offense behind schedule. Smack bailed the unit out with a 55-yard field goal that tied for the third-longest in program history, and tied the score at 13 with 3:07 left in the period. UF had a chance to take the lead by recovering a fumble at the LSU 34, but after a delay penalty on first down the Gators lost three yards over the next three snaps and had to punt the ball away. Field position, though, would be key. The UF defense, again, thwarted Nussmeier on a third-and-long, with George Gumbs Jr. coming up with a sack at the LSU 5, forcing the Tigers to punt from their end zone on the first play of the fourth quarter. On the third play of the quarter, Lagway hit Badger with a 36-yard rope to the LSU 1 and Ja'Kobi Jackson scored the go-ahead TD on the next play for a 20-13 lead with 13:58 remaining.Nussmeier again put together a long drive (15 plays, 54 yards), but the Tigers had to settle for a third Ramos field goal, this one from 34 yards, that made the score 20-16 with 5:18 remaining. On UF's ensuing possession Lagway threw a second-down completion of 19 yards to tight end Hayden Hansen. On the next play, Baugh (6 carries, 65 yards) took a handoff off Lagway's misdirection, hit the left side of the line, got the edge and out-raced the LSU defense up the sideline for his career-long run and decisive touchdown with 3:48 to go.

WHAT IT MEANS: The Gators, with their third win against a ranked opponent in Coach Billy Napier's three seasons, are one win from bowl eligibility. The victory also evened the all-time series between the two teams at 34-34-3.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Think the freshman quarterback makes a difference?

STAGGERING STATISTIC: Coming into the game, LSU ranked fourth in the nation (and first in the SEC) in sacks allowed, having surrendered just six. Florida matched that.

UP NEXT: The Gators (5-5, 3-4) will wrap up their home schedule and SEC slate with a Saturday noon date against No. 10 Ole Miss (8-2, 4-2), which remains in the thick of the College Football Playoff mix. The Rebels, who upset No. 2 Georgia last week, will be coming off a bye week when they come to town. LSU (6-4, 3-3), which dropped its third straight, plays Vanderbilt at home.

Scoring Summary				LSU-UF
1st	7:12	UF	Badger,Elijah 23 yd pass from Lagway,DJ (Smack,Trey kick) 5 plays, 80 yards, TOP 02:00	0-7

2nd	7:39	LSU	Anderson,Aaron 28 yd pass from Nussmeier,Garrett (Ramos,Damian kick) 14 plays, 84 yards, TOP 05:51	7-7
	3:27	UF	Smack,Trey 49 yd field goal 9 plays, 44 yards, TOP 04:12	7-10
	0:10	LSU	Ramos,Damian 50 yd field goal 12 plays, 47 yards, TOP 03:10	10-10
3rd	5:54	LSU	Ramos,Damian 45 yd field goal 15 plays, 62 yards, TOP 07:44	13-10
	3:07	UF	Smack,Trey 55 yd field goal 8 plays, 38 yards, TOP 02:47	13-13
4th	13:58	UF	Jackson,Ja'Kobi 1 yd run (Smack,Trey kick), 3 plays, 45 yards, TOP 00:54	13-20
	5:18	LSU	Ramos,Damian 38 yd field goal 15 plays, 54 yards, TOP 08:40	16-20
	3:48	UF	Baugh,Jadan 55 yd run (Smack,Trey kick), 3 plays, 75 yards, TOP 01:30	16-27

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF -DJ Lagway (13-26-0, 226, 1)

LSU -Garrett Nussmeier (27-47-0, 260, 1)

LSU - AJ Swann (1-1-0, 2, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Jakobi Jackson (6-37-1), Jadan Baugh (6-65-1), Montrell Johnson Jr. (2, -14-0)

LSU- Caden Durham (21-95-0), Josh Williams (13-60-0), Isaiah Bond (1-44-0), Emery Jones Jr. (0-15-0), Zavion Thomas 1-2-0), Garrett Nussmeier (9,-53-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Elijah Badger (6-131-1), Chimere Dike (2-47-0), Hayden Hansen (1-19-0) Tony Livingston (1-14-0) Ja'Kobi Jackson (1-8-0), Arlis Boardingham (1-4-0), Aidan Mizell (1-3-0)

LSU-Aaron Anderson (7-72-1),Mason Taylor (6-59-0), Kyren Lacy(3-43-0), CJ Daniels (3-32-0), Josh Williams (4-31-0), Caden Durham (3-17-0),Z(2-22-0), Zavion Thomas (2-8-0),

Leading Tacklers UF - Shemar James (11 Total, 2 TFL), Jack Pyburn (8 Total, 0 TFL) LSU- Jarden Gilbert (5 Total, 0 TFL), Bradyn Swinson (4 Total, 1 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) UF - Shemar James (20 yds), Tyreak Sapp (7 yds), George Gumbs Jr. (5 yds), Caleb Banks (5 yds), Kamran James (7 yds)

Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds)) UF -Caleb Banks (1-1 (-2)) UF -TJ Searcy (1-0 (0))

Interceptions (Yds) N/A

Team Statistics	LSU	UF
FIRST DOWNS	25	13
NET YARDS RUSHING	128	113
Rushing Attempts	44	17
NET YARDS PASSING	262	226
Completions-Attempts-Int	28-48-0	13-26-0
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	390	339
Total Offense Plays	92	43
Fumbles: Number-Lost	3-1	1-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	3-25	7-55
PUNTS-YARDS	2-92	4-151
KICKOFFS-YARDS	5-325	6-389
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	1-2-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-19-0	0-0-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	41:43	18:17
3rd Down Conversions	13 of 24	3 of 9
4th Down Conversions	2 of 4	0 of 0
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	1-1	1-1
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	7-56
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	1-1	3-3
Field Goals: Total-Made	3-4	2-2

GAME 11 SUMMARY

Florida 24, No. 21 No. 9 Ole Miss 17

Nov. 23 | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium | Gainesville, Florida

Attendance: 89,942

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Florida (6-5)	0	14	3	7	24
Ole Miss (8-3)	0	14	3	0	17

Chris Harry's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: Senior tailback Montrell Johnson Jr. scored on a 5-yard run out of the wildcat formation with 7:41 remaining and sophomore safety Bryce Thornton intercepted Heisman Trophy hopeful Jaxson Dart twice in the final minute and half, as the Florida Gators shocked No. 9 Ole Miss by bottling up the Rebels' high-scoring offense in a 24-17 upset before a Saturday sold-out, sonic-booming Spurrier/Florida Field. For the Gators, the win was their second in as many weeks against a ranked opponent, following last week's defeat of No. 21 LSU. It also clinched bowl eligibility, as well as positioning the team for a winning record for a 2024 season that began two months ago with ugly home losses to Miami and Texas A&M. Once again, it was freshman quarterback DJ Lagway injecting life into his team. Lagway completed 10 of 17 passes for 180 yards and two first-half touchdowns and one interception, but this day belonged to the Florida defense, a unit that started the day ranked No. 98 overall and tied for 80th in the country in scoring. On the other side was a Mississippi offense ranked No. 2 nationally at 539.5 yards per game and fourth in scoring at 40.7 points per. The Rebels approached the first number (464 yards), but never came close to the latter — the one that matters — thanks to the bend-don't-break UF execution that limited Ole Miss to just three second-half points and held the Rebs scoreless in all three of its red-zone opportunities. Johnson, on his senior day, carried 18 times for 107 yards, none bigger than the five when he switched places with Lagway, took a direct snap on second-and-goal and sliced in off the right side of the line to break a 17-all tie inside eight minutes left in the game. Dart, who completed 24 of 41 attempts for 323 yards, two TDs and two picks, drove the Rebels to the UF 40, but the drive stalled with a Tyreek Sapp/Caleb Banks sack on third-and-10 that forced a punt with 6:26 to go.

The Rebels got the ball back with 3:58 to go at their own 22. Dart dashed for a big first down on third-and-6, but from the Florida 39 tried to force a deep ball down the middle for Antwane Wells Jr., who was blanketed by the UF secondary. The pass sailed into triple coverage and was intercepted by a leaping Thornton in the end zone for a touchback with 1:32 to go. Ole Miss had all three timeouts remaining and called one after three consecutive UF running plays, forcing a Jeremy Crawshaw punt of only 39 yards that started the Rebels at their 34 with 1:03 left. Sapp sacked Dart on first down, but a 19-yard completion on the next play moved Ole Miss to the UF 48 with 34 seconds remaining. On the next play, Dart was pressured to his right and, appearing to try to throw the ball out of bounds, instead hit a sliding Thornton in the chest for the game-sealing turnover with 24 seconds to go. The loss was a devastating one for the Rebels, who came into the game in the middle of the College Football Playoff picture, but almost certainly were eliminated. The Gators finished with 344 yards of offense, including 180 on the ground and had just the one turnover to three for the Rebels. Both teams had a pair of long first-half scoring drives finished off by touchdown passes. The Gators got on the board first by going 89 yards in 11 plays and, on the first snap of the second quarter, Lagway fired an 8-yard score to Elijah Badger on third-and-goal. Dart needed just seven snaps to even the count with a 43-yard bomb to Tre Harris, who beat Thornton and Dijon Johnson on a deep post to tie the game at 7-all. The Rebels capitalized on a high, tipped Lagway pass that was intercepted by safety John Saunders Jr. at the Ole Miss 45. After a 25-yard completion to Jordan Watkins on fourth and 2, Dart finished the drive with a 22-yard touchdown strike to Cayden Lee for a 14-7 lead. Lagway needed only four plays to pull his team even on the next drive. He checked down a third-and-2 pass that Badger took 27 yards into Rebels' territory and, after a face mask penalty, hit tailback Jadan Baugh on a screen and (thanks to a great kick-out block from guard Damieon George Jr.) zipped in for a 25-yard score to knot the game at 14. The third quarter was an exchange of field goals, a 53-yarder by UF's Trey Smack and 42-yarder from Mississippi's Caden Davis, that sent the teams into the fourth quarter even at 17, setting the stage for the wild fourth quarter.

WHAT IT MEANS: A lot, obviously. Coach Billy Napier, fresh off his vote of confidence, and his Gators have a chance to end the season on a three-game winning streak (read on) — if not more, counting a bowl game — and are armed with the most dynamic young quarterback in college football to dangle as bait when they hit the transfer portal next month. That's a lot of late-season momentum.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: A couple weeks ago, the notion that Johnson, who came to UF with Napier from Louisiana, had played his final game as a Gator was something that was being discussed. Instead, he returned from injury for a few carries last week and saved one of his finest hours for an emotional, richly satisfying senior day. What a way to go out.

STAGGERING STATISTIC: Before Saturday, the last time Florida defeated ranked opponents in back-to-back games was in 2008 — the program's last national championship season — when the Gators beat No. 23 Florida State 45-15 on the road, then a week later upset No. 1 Alabama in the SEC Championship Game in Atlanta. The last time an unranked UF team (like this one) won consecutive games against ranked foes? That was way back in 2003, under Ron Zook, when the Gators beat No. 6 and eventual national champ LSU 19-7, followed by a 33-28 upset of No. 11 Arkansas. Both of those wins were on the road.

UP NEXT: Florida (6-5, 4-4) will wrap the regular season with its annual end-of-year

showdown against rival Florida State at Tallahassee. The Seminoles (2-9, 1-7), who routed FCS-classified Charleston Southern 41-7 Saturday, are in the midst of one of the worst seasons in program history, but can ruin all these good Gator vibes with a home win next weekend.

Scoring Summary				OLE-UF
2nd	14:56	UF	Badger, Elijah 8 yd pass from Lagway, DJ (Smack, Trey kick) 11 plays, 89 yards, TOP 05:40	0-7
	12:01	OLE	Harris, Tre 43 yd pass from Dart, Jaxson (Davis, Caden kick) 7 plays, 75 yards, TOP 02:55	7-7
	9:05	OLE	Lee, Cayden 22 yd pass from Dart, Jaxson (Davis, Caden kick) 5 plays, 55 yards, TOP 02:16	14-7
	6:52	UF	Baugh, Jadan 25 yd pass from Lagway, DJ (Smack, Trey kick) 4 plays, 75 yards, TOP 02:13	14-14
3rd	10:57	UF	Smack, Trey 53 yd field goal 4 plays, 2 yards, TOP 01:34	14-17
	00:45	OLE	Davis, Caden 42 yd field goal 7 plays, 27 yards, TOP 03:34	17-17
4th	7:40	UF	Johnson Jr., Montrell 9 yd run (Smack, Trey kick), 4 plays, 67 yards, TOP 01:54	17-24

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - DJ Lagway (10-17-1, 180, 2)

OLE - Jaxson Dart (24-41-2, 323, 2)

OLE - Austin Simmons (0-1-0, 0, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Montrell Johnson Jr. (18, 107-1) Jadan Baugh (13-46-0), Ja'Kobi Jackson (8-21-0), DJ Lagway (5,-9-0)

OLE - Jaxson Dart (14-71-0), Micah Davis (11-27-0), Dmonique Thomas (3-20-0), J.J. Pegues (16-19-0), Matt Jones (1-4-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Elijah Badger (5-87-1), Chimere Dike (3-54-0), Jadan Baugh (1-25-1), Ja'Quavion Frazier (1-14-0)

OLE - Cayden Lee (6-94-1), Jordan Watkins (8-70-0), Dae'Quan Wright (8-70-0), Tre Harris (1-43-1), Antwane Wells Jr. (1-23-0), Caden Prieskorn (2-22-0), Micah Davis (2-12-0)

Leading Tacklers UF - Bryce Thornton (14 Total, 0 TFL), Trikweze Bridges (11 Total, 0 TFL)
OLE - Santarine Perkins (10 Total, 0.5 TFL), Louis Moore (10 Total, 0 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) UF - Caleb Banks (17 yds), Tyreek Sapp (4 yds)
OLE - Santarine Perkins (3 yds), Walter Nolen (10 yds), Princely Umanmielen (5 yds), J.J. Pegues (3 yds)

Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds)) N/A

Interceptions (Yds) UF - Bryce Thornton (2-0)
OLE - John Saunders Jr. (1-0)

Team Statistics	OLE	UF
FIRST DOWNS	24	19
NET YARDS RUSHING	141	164
Rushing Attempts	35	45
NET YARDS PASSING	323	180
Completions-Attempts-Int	24-42-2	10-18-1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	464	344
Total Offense Plays	77	63
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	4-45	5-44
PUNTS-YARDS	4-175	7-327
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-260	5-325
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-1-0	1-10-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:03	29:28
3rd Down Conversions	3 of 14	7 of 15
4th Down Conversions	2 of 4	0 of 0
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	0-3	2-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-21	4-21
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	2-2	3-3
Field Goals: Total-Made	1-2	1-1



GAME 12 SUMMARY

Florida 31, Florida State 11

Nov. 30 | Doak Campbell Stadium | Tallahassee, Florida
Attendance: 55,107

Score By Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Florida (7-5)	7	7	3	14	31
Florida State (2-10)	0	0	3	8	11

Scott Carter's Quick Slant

WHAT HAPPENED: DJ Lagway passed for two scores, Montrell Johnson Jr. ran for one, and Florida's defense recovered five Florida State fumbles on Saturday night to beat the Seminoles, 31-11, at Doak Campbell Stadium. Florida (7-5) clinched a winning season by beating FSU (2-10) for the first time since 2021, and sent the Seminoles to their first 10-loss season in 50 years. The Gators put the game out of reach early in the fourth quarter when Johnson, the senior tailback who followed head coach Billy Napier from Louisiana to Florida, raced 65 yards for a touchdown and 24-3 lead. Johnson finished with 99 yards on 10 carries and eclipsed 3,000 career rushing yards. Meanwhile, Lagway finished 14 of 22 for 133 yards, two TDs and one interception to become the first true freshman Gators quarterback to ever win in Tallahassee. Lagway threw a 4-yard TD pass to Marcus Burke in the second quarter to put the Gators up, 14-0. His final scoring pass was an 8-yard toss to Tony Livingston late in the fourth quarter.

The Gators struck first when edge rusher Jack Pyburn sacked FSU freshman quarterback Luke Kromenhoeck, forcing a fumble that was recovered by teammate D'Antre Robinson at the Seminoles' 14. Running back Ja'Kobi Jackson took over from there, running for 13 yards to FSU's 1, and then strolling into the end zone for a 1-yard TD and 7-0 Florida lead with 2:28 left in the first quarter. Pyburn's sack and Robinson's fumble recovery not only led to Florida's first score, it set the stage for what was about to happen over and over. Florida recovered five FSU fumbles and registered eight sacks on a night the Seminoles managed only 239 yards of total offense. Florida gained 368 yards and outscored FSU 14-0 in points off turnovers. Florida's best offensive drive came in the second quarter when the Gators stretched their lead to 14-0 with 25 seconds left in the first half on Lagway's 4-yard pass to Burke. The Gators drove 80 yards on nine plays, consuming 2:31 off the clock. Lagway was 4-for-4 for 60 yards on the drive, including a pair of throws to receiver Chimere Dike that combined for 46 yards.

FSU scored its first points on a 39-yard field goal by Ryan Fitzgerald to cap a nine-play, 42-yard drive on the Seminoles' first possession of the second half. The Seminoles' only other score came on a 2-yard run by Lawrance Toafili with less than four minutes remaining. After Fitzgerald's field goal made it 14-3, Rocco Underwood recovered a muffed punt by Seminoles punt returner Lawayne McCoy at FSU's 12. Trey Smack added a 30-yard FG to put Florida up 17-3 with 6:27 remaining in the third quarter. The Gators' lead was never seriously threatened in the second half as the defense put constant pressure on Kromenhoeck, recording a season-high sack total.

WHAT IT MEANS: Florida clinches a winning season for the first time in Napier's three seasons and snaps a streak of three consecutive losing seasons dating back to 2021. Meanwhile, the Gators snapped a two-game skid against FSU and won for the first time in Tallahassee since 2018. More than anything, the Gators held onto the momentum they gained from victories over LSU and Ole Miss at home.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: In the first matchup between true freshman quarterbacks in the rivalry's history, Lagway outperformed Kromenhoeck. Lagway wasn't as sharp as he has been, but he finished the regular season with a 5-1 record as Florida's starter. Meanwhile, Kromenhoeck went 15 of 28 for 140 yards in his second career start.

STAGGERING STATISTIC: The Gators finished the regular season on the road, but they brought their pass rush with them. Florida, after totaling 10 sacks in the back-to-back wins over LSU and Ole Miss, sacked the Seminoles eight times on Saturday. For those counting at home, that is 18 sacks in the last three games. Florida totaled 20 sacks through its first nine games. You want more? The Gators accumulated 36 tackles-for-loss in the last three games.

UP NEXT: Could the Gators crack the AP Top 25 for the first time this season after a third consecutive victory? Meanwhile, the Gasparilla Bowl, Gator Bowl and Music City Bowl have been mentioned as postseason possibilities, but the bowl picture remains fluid in the first year of the 12-team College Football Playoff. The bowl schedule will be finalized by Sunday, Dec. 8.

Scoring Summary

				FSU-UF
1st	2:28	UF	Jackson,Ja'Kobi 1 yd run (Smack,Trey kick), 2 plays, 14 yards, TOP 00:26	0-7
2nd	00:25	UF	Burke,Marcus 4 yd pass from Lagway,DJ (Smack,Trey kick) 9 plays, 80 yards, TOP 02:31	0-14
3rd	9:47	FSU	Fitzgerald,Ryan 39 yd field goal 9 plays, 42 yards, TOP 03:01	3-14
	6:27	UF	Smack,Trey 30 yd field goal 4 plays, yards, TOP 01:22	3-17
4th	12:38	UF	Johnson Jr.,Montrell 65 yd run (Smack,Trey kick), 6 plays, 93 yards, TOP 02:46	3-24
	3:18	FSU	Toafili,Lawrance 2 yd run (Thomas,Landen pass), 11 plays, 59 yards, TOP 04:01	11-24
	2:03	UF	Livingston,Tony 8 yd pass from Lagway,DJ (Smack,Trey kick) 5 plays, 51 yards, TOP 01:14	11-31

Individual Statistics

Passing (C-A-I, Yd, TD) UF - DJ Lagway (14-22-1, 133, 2)

FSU - Luke Kromenhoeck (15-28-0, 140, 0)

Rushing (Att-Yd, TD) UF - Montrell Johnson Jr. (10- 99-1) Jadan Baugh (11-81-0), Ja'Kobi Jackson (10-51-1), KD Daniels (3-12-0) DJ Lagway (4,-8-0)

FSU- Lawrance Toafili (9-43-1), Luke Kromenhoeck (21-32-0), Samuel Singleton Jr. (2-16-0), Micahi Danzy (1-6-0), Kam Davis (5-3-0), Roydell Williams (6, -1,-0)

Receiving (Rec-Yd, TD) UF - Chimere Dike (3-63-0), Hayden Hansen (3-25-0), Marcus Burke (3-18-1), Elijah Badger (2-11-0), Tony Livingston (1-8-1), Tank Hawkins (1-7-0), Aidan Mizell (1-1-0)

FSU- Lawrance Toafili (3-39-0), Ja'khi Douglas (4-33-0), Amaree Williams (1-20-0), Landen Thomas (2-18-0), Kam Davis (1-14-0), Kyle Morlock (2-12-0), Malik Benson (1-5-0) Hykeem Williams (1,-1-0)

Leading Tacklers UF - Shemar James (7 Total, 0 TFL), Bryce Thornton (7 Total, 0.5 TFL)
FSU- Omar Graham Jr. (7 Total, 3 TFL), Azareye'h Thomas (6 Total, 0 TFL)

Sacks (Yds) UF - Jaden Robinson (10 yds), Tyreak Sapp (3 yds)
Cam Jackson (5 yds), Jack Pyburn (12 yds)
Sharif Denson (6 yds), George Gumbs Jr. (3 yds)
FSU- Joshua Farmer (10 yds), Marvin Jones Jr. (4 yds), Daniel Lyons (0 yds)

Fumbles (FF-FR (Yds)) UF- Shemar James (1-1), Bryce Thornton (1-0), Tyreak Sapp (1-0),
Jack Pyburn (1-0), Kamran James (1-0)

Interceptions (Yds) UF- N/A

FSU- Azareye'h Thomas (1-0)

Team Statistics

	UF	FSU
FIRST DOWNS	18	20
NET YARDS RUSHING	235	99
Rushing Attempts	38	44
NET YARDS PASSING	133	140
Completions-Attempts-Int	14-22-1	15-28-0
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	368	239
Total Offense Plays	60	72
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	8-5
Penalties: Number-Yards	7-70	0-0
PUNTS-YARDS	6-259	5-257
KICKOFFS-YARDS	6-389	2-130
Punt Returns: Number-Yards-TD	3-23-0	2-6-0
Kickoff Returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	1-15-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:08	32:52
3rd Down Conversions	5 of 13	6 of 13
4th Down Conversions	0 of 0	1 of 1
Red-Zone: Scores-Chances	4-4	2-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	8-39	3-14
PAT Kicks: Total-Made	4-4	0-0
Field Goals: Total-Made	1-1	1-1



season stats

FLORIDA VS TULANE
2024 GASPARILLA BOWL

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
TAMPA, FLORIDA



2024-25 Florida Football
Team Game-by-Game
Three-Game Winning Streak

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as of Dec 03, 2024

		Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot		
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp	att	int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off
11/16/2024	LSU	17	113	2	55	13	226	1	36	13	26	0	226	1	36	0	0	0	0	1	-2	0	0	339
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	45	164	1	17	10	180	2	41	10	18	1	180	2	41	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	10	344
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	38	235	2	65	14	133	2	25	14	22	1	133	2	25	0	0	0	0	3	23	0	12	368
Florida		100	512	5	65	37	539	5	41	37	66	2	539	5	41	0	0	0	0	5	31	0	12	1051
Opponents		123	368	1	35	67	725	3	43	67	118	2	725	3	43	2	34	0	19	4	5	0	7	1093

Florida Averages

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
3	5.1	14.6	143.6	0.0	6.2	360.7	350.3

Date	Opponent	Tackles				Sacks	Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd	PAT attempts			off		
		ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
11/16/2024	LSU	45	52	97	11.0-65	6-44	3	1--2	0-0	6	6	0	3-3	0	0	0	0	27
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	33	46	79	9.0-31	4-21	0	1-0	2-0	4	6	0	3-3	0	0	0	3	24
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	40	30	70	14.0-53	8-39	5	5-0	0-0	3	3	0	4-4	0	0	0	10	31
Florida		118	128	246	34.0-149	18-104	8	7--2	2-0	13	15	0	10-10	0	0	0	13	82
Opponents		72	100	172	12.0-55	6-35	0	0-0	2-0	13	10	0	3-3	0	1	0	7	44

Date	Opponent	Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs			
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
11/16/2024	LSU	4	151	37.8	45	0	0	3	0	4	2-2	55	0	6	389	64.8	5	0
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	7	327	46.7	62	0	2	1	1	1	1-1	53	0	5	325	65.0	5	0
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	6	259	43.2	53	0	0	1	2	2	1-1	30	0	6	389	64.8	5	0
Florida		17	737	43.4	62	0	2	5	3	7	4-4	55	0	17	1103	64.9	15	0
Opponents		11	524	47.6	62	0	2	1	4	2	5-7	50	0	11	715	65.0	11	0

Team Results

	Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	Conf	Time	Attend
*	11/16/2024	LSU	W	27-16	1-0	1-0	3:34	90067
*	11/23/2024	Ole Miss	W	24-17	2-0	2-0	3:45	89942
	11/30/2024	at Florida St.	W	31-11	3-0	2-0	3:22	55107



Team Statistics

	UF	OPP
Scoring	82	44
Points per game	27.3	14.7
Points Off Turnovers	13	7
First Downs	50	69
Rushing	25	26
Passing	23	37
Penalty	2	6
Rushing Yardage	512	368
Yards gained rushing	571	518
Yards lost rushing	59	150
Rushing attempts	100	123
Average per rush	5.1	3.0
Average per game	170.7	122.7
TDs Rushing	5	1
Passing Yardage	539	725
Comp-Att-Int	37-66-2	67-118-2
Average per pass	8.2	6.1
Average per catch	14.6	10.8
Average per game	179.7	241.7
TDs Passing	5	3
Total offense	1051	1093
Total plays	166	241
Average per play	6.3	4.5
Average per game	350.3	364.3
Kick returns: #-Yards	0-0	2-34
Punt returns: #-Yards	5-31	4-5
Int returns: #-Yards	2-0	2-0
Kick return average	0.0	17.0
Punt return average	6.2	1.3
Int return average	0.0	0.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	12-7
Penalties-Yards	19-169	7-70
Average per game	56.3	23.3
Punts-Yards	17-737	11-524
Average per punt	43.4	47.6
Net punt average	40.7	42.5
Kickoffs-Yards	17-1103	11-715
Average per kick	64.9	65.0
Net kick average	40.8	40.0
Time of possession / game	24:58	34:53
3rd-down conversion	15/37	22/51
3rd-down pct	41%	43%
4rd-down conversion	0/0	5/9



2024-25 Florida Football
Overall Team Statistics
Three-Game Winning Streak

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	UF	OPP
4rd-down pct	0%	56%
Sacks by-Yards	18-104	6-35
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	10	4
Field goals - attempts	4-4	5-7
On-Side kicks	0-0	0-1
Red-zone scores	(7-7) 100%	(3-7) 43%
Red-zone touchdowns	(6-7) 86%	(1-7) 14%
PAT-attempts	(10-10) 100%	(3-3) 100%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-0) 0%	(1-1) 100%
Attendance	180009	55107
Games / Avg per game	2/90005	1/55107
Neutral site games	-	0/0

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Florida	14	24	9	35	0	82
Opponents	0	24	9	11	0	44



2024-25 Florida Football
Individual Statistics
Three-Game Winning Streak

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Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Montrell Johnson Jr.	3	30	226	6	220	7.3	2	65	73.3
Jadan Baugh	3	30	206	14	192	6.4	1	55	64.0
Ja'Kobi Jackson	3	24	109	0	109	4.5	2	20	36.3
KD Daniels	1	3	12	0	12	4.0	0	5	12.0
DJ Lagway	3	9	18	35	-17	-1.9	0	6	-5.7
Team	3	4	0	4	-4	-1.0	0	0	-1.3
Total	3	100	571	59	512	5.1	5	65	170.7
Opponents	3	123	518	150	368	3.0	1	35	122.7

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
DJ Lagway	3	145.8	37-65-2	56.9	539	5	41	179.7
Team	3	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	3	143.6	37-66-2	56.1	539	5	41	179.7
Opponents	3	113.4	67-118-2	56.8	725	3	43	241.7

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Elijah Badger	3	13	229	17.6	2	36	76.3
Chimere Dike	3	8	164	20.5	0	41	54.7
Hayden Hansen	3	4	44	11.0	0	19	14.7
Marcus Burke	3	3	18	6.0	1	10	6.0
Aidan Mizell	3	2	4	2.0	0	3	1.3
Tony Livingston	3	2	22	11.0	1	14	7.3
Ja'Quavion Frazier	3	1	14	14.0	0	14	4.7
Arlis Boardingham	2	1	4	4.0	0	4	2.0
Ja'Kobi Jackson	3	1	8	8.0	0	8	2.7
Jadan Baugh	3	1	25	25.0	1	25	8.3
Tank Hawkins	1	1	7	7.0	0	7	7.0
Total	3	37	539	14.6	5	41	179.7
Opponents	3	67	725	10.8	3	43	241.7

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Chimere Dike	5	31	6.2	0	12
Total	5	31	6.2	0	12
Opponents	4	5	1.3	0	7

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Bryce Thornton	2	0	0.0	0	0
Total	2	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	2	0	0.0	0	0

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	2	34	17.0	0	19

Fumbles Recovered

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Rocco Underwood	1	0	0.0	0	0
DJ Douglas	1	0	0.0	0	0
George Gumbs Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Shemar James	1	0	0.0	0	0
T.J. Searcy	1	0	0.0	0	0
D'Antre Robinson	1	0	0.0	0	0
Caleb Banks	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Total	7	-2	-0.3	0	0
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	11



2024-25 Florida Football
Individual Statistics
Three-Game Winning Streak

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as of Dec 03, 2024

Scoring

Player			PAT						pts
	td	fg	kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	
Trey Smack	-	4-4	10-10	-	-	-	-	-	22
Elijah Badger	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Montrell Johnson Jr.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Ja'Kobi Jackson	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Jadan Baugh	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Marcus Burke	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Tony Livingston	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	10	4-4	10-10	0	0	0	0	0	82
Opponents	4	5-7	3-3	0	1	1	0	0	44

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Trey Smack	4-4	100.0	0-0	0-0	1-1	1-1	2-2	55	0
Opponents	5-7	71.4	0-0	0-0	2-3	2-2	1-2	50	0

FG Sequence

Team Name	Florida	Opponents
LSU	(49),(55)	51,(50),(45),(38)
Ole Miss	(53)	34,(42)
Florida St.	(30)	(39)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Elijah Badger	3	0	229	0	0	0	229	76.3
Montrell Johnson Jr.	3	220	0	0	0	0	220	73.3
Jadan Baugh	3	192	25	0	0	0	217	72.3
Chimere Dike	3	0	164	31	0	0	195	65.0
Ja'Kobi Jackson	3	109	8	0	0	0	117	39.0
Hayden Hansen	3	0	44	0	0	0	44	14.7
Tony Livingston	3	0	22	0	0	0	22	7.3
Marcus Burke	3	0	18	0	0	0	18	6.0
Ja'Quavion Frazier	3	0	14	0	0	0	14	4.7
KD Daniels	1	12	0	0	0	0	12	12.0
Tank Hawkins	1	0	7	0	0	0	7	7.0
Arlis Boardingham	2	0	4	0	0	0	4	2.0
Aidan Mizell	3	0	4	0	0	0	4	1.3
DJ Lagway	3	-17	0	0	0	0	-17	-5.7
Team	3	-4	0	0	0	0	-4	-1.3
Total	3	512	539	31	0	0	1082	360.7
Opponents	3	368	725	5	34	0	1132	377.3

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
DJ Lagway	3	74	-17	539	522	174.0
Montrell Johnson Jr.	3	30	220	0	220	73.3
Jadan Baugh	3	30	192	0	192	64.0
Ja'Kobi Jackson	3	24	109	0	109	36.3
KD Daniels	1	3	12	0	12	12.0
Team	3	0	-4	0	-4	-1.3
Total	3	166	512	539	1051	350.3
Opponents	3	241	368	725	1093	364.3

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Jeremy Crawshaw	17	737	43.4	62	2	5	7	3	0
Total	17	737	43.4	62	2	5	7	3	0
Opponents	11	524	47.6	62	2	1	2	4	0

Kickoffs

Player	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydl
Trey Smack	17	1103	64.9	15	0			
Total	17	1103	64.9	15	0	2	40.8	24
Opponents	11	715	65.0	11	0	0	40	25



**2024-25 Florida Football
Game Results
All games**

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Team Results

	Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	Conf	Time	Attend
	08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	L	17-41	0-1	0-0	3:21	90544
	09/07/2024	Samford	W	45-7	1-1	0-0	3:20	89295
*	09/14/2024	Texas A&M	L	20-33	1-2	0-1	4:21	89993
*	09/21/2024	at Mississippi St.	W	45-28	2-2	1-1	3:22	49655
	10/05/2024	UCF	W	24-13	3-2	1-1	3:21	90369
*	10/12/2024	at Tennessee	Lot1	17-23	3-3	1-2	3:43	101915
*	10/19/2024	Kentucky	W	48-20	4-3	2-2	3:37	89906
*	11/02/2024	vs Georgia	L	20-34	4-4	2-3	4:10	76307
*	11/09/2024	at Texas	L	17-49	4-5	2-4	3:28	103375
*	11/16/2024	LSU	W	27-16	5-5	3-4	3:34	90067
*	11/23/2024	Ole Miss	W	24-17	6-5	4-4	3:45	89942
	11/30/2024	at Florida St.	W	31-11	7-5	4-4	3:22	55107



2024-25 Florida Football
Team Game-by-Game
All games

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		Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off
08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	28	139	2	71	14	122	0	19	14-26-2	122	0	19	1	35	0	35	2	28	0	17	261
09/07/2024	Samford	34	166	3	16	19	466	3	85	19-28-0	466	3	85	1	31	0	31	3	37	0	31	632
09/14/2024	Texas A&M	25	52	1	14	18	249	2	39	18-29-3	249	2	39	3	82	0	28	0	0	0	0	301
09/21/2024	at Mississippi St.	36	226	3	32	26	277	3	35	26-28-0	277	3	35	1	0	0	0	1	35	0	35	503
10/05/2024	UCF	32	130	2	34	23	229	1	37	23-28-0	229	1	37	1	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	359
10/12/2024	at Tennessee	40	138	0	23	20	223	2	27	20-32-1	223	2	27	0	0	0	0	2	57	0	30	361
10/19/2024	Kentucky	43	197	5	27	8	279	0	58	8-15-1	279	0	58	3	62	0	22	0	0	0	0	476
11/02/2024	vs Georgia	38	115	1	18	9	113	1	43	9-30-1	113	1	43	2	34	0	18	1	-1	0	0	228
11/09/2024	at Texas	41	197	2	16	12	132	0	39	12-25-2	132	0	39	3	49	0	20	0	0	0	0	329
11/16/2024	LSU	17	113	2	55	13	226	1	36	13-26-0	226	1	36	0	0	0	0	1	-2	0	0	339
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	45	164	1	17	10	180	2	41	10-18-1	180	2	41	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	10	344
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	38	235	2	65	14	133	2	25	14-22-1	133	2	25	0	0	0	0	3	23	0	12	368
Florida		417	1872	24	71	186	2629	17	85	186-307-12	2629	17	85	15	305	0	35	14	187	0	35	4501
Opponents		485	1874	17	45	233	2832	17	73	233-391-11	2832	17	73	12	267	1	99	15	82	0	17	4706

Florida Averages

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
12	4.5	14.1	143.0	20.3	13.4	429.7	375.1

Date	Opponent	Tackles			Sacks no-yds	Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd kick	PAT attempts			off		
		ua	a	total		ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup		kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	36	34	70	2.0-4	1-3	0 0-0	1-0	4	3	0	2-2	0	0	0	3	17
09/07/2024	Samford	38	34	72	12.0-45	4-27	3 1-0	0-0	6	5	0	6-6	0	0	0	0	45
09/14/2024	Texas A&M	45	36	81	2.0-3	0-0	0 0-0	0-0	4	1	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	20
09/21/2024	at Mississippi St.	35	74	109	7.0-30	3-15	2 1-0	0-0	4	7	0	6-6	0	0	0	7	45
10/05/2024	UCF	30	44	74	7.0-40	5-37	0 0-0	1-0	0	3	0	3-3	0	0	0	0	24
10/12/2024	at Tennessee	35	32	67	8.0-28	3-19	1 1-0	1-20	1	2	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	17
10/19/2024	Kentucky	31	38	69	3.0-6	1-1	1 0-0	3-81	9	6	0	6-6	0	0	0	14	48
11/02/2024	vs Georgia	31	42	73	4.0-20	2-16	0 0-0	3-62	4	3	0	2-2	0	0	0	10	20
11/09/2024	at Texas	34	28	62	3.0-19	1-9	2 1-0	0-0	1	1	0	2-2	0	0	0	7	17
11/16/2024	LSU	45	52	97	11.0-65	6-44	3 1--2	0-0	6	6	0	3-3	0	0	0	0	27
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	33	46	79	9.0-31	4-21	0 1-0	2-0	4	6	0	3-3	0	0	0	3	24
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	40	30	70	14.0-53	8-39	5 5-0	0-0	3	3	0	4-4	0	0	0	10	31
Florida		433	490	923	82.0-344	38-231	17 11--2	11-163	46	46	0	41-41	0	0	0	54	335
Opponents		345	426	771	62.0-234	19-127	9 5-13	12-227	36	37	0	32-33	0	1	0	52	292

Date	Opponent	Punting									Field Goals			Kickoffs				
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	5	238	47.6	61	0	0	2	2	3	1-1	41	0	4	205	51.3	3	0
09/07/2024	Samford	2	99	49.5	61	0	0	1	1	2	1-1	25	0	8	497	62.1	4	0
09/14/2024	Texas A&M	4	173	43.3	50	0	0	0	1	2	0-0	0	0	4	201	50.3	3	0
09/21/2024	at Mississippi St.	2	84	42.0	43	0	0	1	0	0	1-1	47	0	8	520	65.0	6	0
10/05/2024	UCF	4	183	45.8	53	0	0	3	2	3	1-2	28	0	5	296	59.2	3	0
10/12/2024	at Tennessee	5	224	44.8	59	0	0	3	2	2	1-2	42	0	4	260	65.0	4	0
10/19/2024	Kentucky	4	203	50.8	60	0	0	2	2	1	2-2	33	0	9	557	61.9	6	0
11/02/2024	vs Georgia	8	393	49.1	59	0	0	4	5	4	2-2	53	0	5	302	60.4	4	0
11/09/2024	at Texas	5	239	47.8	62	0	2	0	1	1	1-2	23	0	4	260	65.0	4	0
11/16/2024	LSU	4	151	37.8	45	0	0	3	0	4	2-2	55	0	6	389	64.8	5	0
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	7	327	46.7	62	0	2	1	1	1	1-1	53	0	5	325	65.0	5	0
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	6	259	43.2	53	0	0	1	2	2	1-1	30	0	6	389	64.8	5	0
Florida		56	2573	45.9	62	0	4	21	19	25	14-17	55	0	68	4201	61.8	52	0



2024-25 Florida Football
Team Game-by-Game
All games

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Date	Opponent	Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs				
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	
Opponents		49	2137	43.6	62	0	2	24	8	14	14-20	53	0	60	3808	63.5	44	1	



2024-25 Florida Football
Overall Team Statistics
All games

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Team Statistics

	UF	OPP
Scoring	335	292
Points per game	27.9	24.3
Points Off Turnovers	54	52
First Downs	224	271
Rushing	100	117
Passing	107	132
Penalty	17	22
Rushing Yardage	1872	1874
Yards gained rushing	2136	2218
Yards lost rushing	264	344
Rushing attempts	417	485
Average per rush	4.5	3.9
Average per game	156.0	156.2
TDs Rushing	24	17
Passing Yardage	2629	2832
Comp-Att-Int	186-307-12	233-391-11
Average per pass	8.6	7.2
Average per catch	14.1	12.2
Average per game	219.1	236.0
TDs Passing	17	17
Total offense	4501	4706
Total plays	724	876
Average per play	6.2	5.4
Average per game	375.1	392.2
Kick returns: #-Yards	15-305	12-267
Punt returns: #-Yards	14-187	15-82
Int returns: #-Yards	11-163	12-227
Kick return average	20.3	22.3
Punt return average	13.4	5.5
Int return average	14.8	18.9
Fumbles-Lost	13-5	24-11
Penalties-Yards	68-607	60-540
Average per game	50.6	45.0
Punts-Yards	56-2573	49-2137
Average per punt	45.9	43.6
Net punt average	42.8	39.3
Kickoffs-Yards	68-4201	60-3808
Average per kick	61.8	63.5
Net kick average	37.8	39.4
Time of possession / game	27:43	32:15
3rd-down conversion	55/145	70/171
3rd-down pct	38%	41%
4rd-down conversion	6/14	14/25



2024-25 Florida Football
Overall Team Statistics
All games

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	UF	OPP
4rd-down pct	43%	56%
Sacks by-Yards	38-231	19-127
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	42	36
Field goals - attempts	14-17	14-20
On-Side kicks	0-1	0-2
Red-zone scores	(39-45) 87%	(28-38) 74%
Red-zone touchdowns	(31-45) 69%	(19-38) 50%
PAT-attempts	(41-41) 100%	(32-33) 97%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-1) 0%	(1-2) 50%
Attendance	630116	310052
Games / Avg per game	7/90017	4/77513
Neutral site games	-	1/76307

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Florida	44	113	68	110	0	335
Opponents	44	95	91	56	6	292



2024-25 Florida Football
Overall Defense Statistics
All games

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Team Defense

			Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
##	Player	gp	ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
7	Trikweze Bridges	12	37	32	69	1-2	.	1-0	6	.	.	2	.	.
44	Jack Pyburn	12	20	40	60	4-17	1-12	1-0	.	.	.	1	.	.
6	Shemar James	12	29	30	59	4-24	2-20	1-0	3	2	1-0	1	.	.
14	Jordan Castell	12	26	26	52	1-1	1-1	.	8	.	.	.	.	.
29	Jaden Robinson	12	27	24	51	3.5-16	3.5-16	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
94	Tyreack Sapp	12	17	27	44	13-48	7-38	.	.	4	.	2	.	.
18	Bryce Thornton	9	19	22	41	1.5-7	.	3-0	2	1	.	1	.	.
99	Cam Jackson	12	13	24	37	4-7	1.5-3	.	2	1	.	.	.	.
10	Grayson Howard	9	17	20	37	2-7	1-5	.	1	2	2-0	1	.	.
0	Sharif Denson	11	22	14	36	4.5-14	2-10	1-20	2	1	.	1	.	.
19	T.J. Searcy	12	20	14	34	4-24	2-10	.	.	1	1-0	2	.	.
34	George Gumbs Jr.	12	17	15	32	8-41	5-29	.	2	4	1-0	.	.	.
5	Myles Graham	12	8	20	28	2-11	1-10	.	.	1	.	1	.	.
13	Aaron Gates	10	14	13	27	4-9	.	1-30	3	1	2-0	.	.	.
27	Dijon Johnson	12	16	9	25	1-3	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.
24	Kamran James	12	17	8	25	3-14	1-7	.	.	6	.	1	.	.
16	R.J. Moten	11	10	13	23	2-5	0.5-4	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
88	Caleb Banks	12	10	11	21	7-39	4.5-28	.	1	6	1--2	2	.	.
12	DJ Douglas	12	10	11	21	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
8	Aaron Chiles	12	8	12	20	1-10	1-10	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
3	Jason Marshall Jr.	7	13	7	20	1.5-4	.	.	4	3	.	1	.	.
21	Desmond Watson	12	5	14	19	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
28	Devin Moore	7	8	9	17	.	.	2-84	2	.	.	.	.	.
35	D'Antre Robinson	10	4	10	14	3-13	1.5-9	.	.	1	1-0	.	.	.
33	Brien Taylor Jr.	9	4	9	13	2-3	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
15	Derek Wingo	12	4	9	13	0.5-3	0.5-3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
93	Michai Boireau	11	5	8	13	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17	LJ McCray	12	2	10	12	1-5	0.5-4	.	.	5	.	.	.	.
1	Justus Boone	11	2	8	10	2-9	0.5-5	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
9	Ja'Markis Weston	12	6	2	8	1-7	1-7	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
11	Kelby Collins	6	1	5	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
25	Cormani McClain	3	3	2	5	0.5-1	.	1-29	1	.	.	.	.	.
97	Joey Slackman	8	2	3	5	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
2	Ja'Keem Jackson	2	2	2	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
30	Gregory Smith III	4	2	2	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
42	Rocco Underwood	11	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
24	Ja'Kobi Jackson	12	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	Aidan Warner	5	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	Teddy Foster	4	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
20	Asa Turner	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
96	Tarvorise Brown	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.



2024-25 Florida Football
Overall Defense Statistics
All games

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			Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
##	Player	gp	ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
65	Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17	Chimere Dike	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0	Ja'Quavion Faziars	8	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
23	Josiah Davis	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
37	Javion Toombs	6	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5	Treyaun Webb	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
43	Alfonzo Allen Jr.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Totals		12	433	490	923	82-344	38-231	11-163	46	46	11--2	17	0	0
Opponents		12	345	426	771	62-234	19-127	12-227	37	36	5-13	9	0	0



2024-25 Florida Football
Team Game Highs
All games

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as of Dec 03, 2024

Florida - Game Highs

RUSHES	45	Ole Miss (11/23/2024)
YARDS RUSHING	235	at Florida St. (11/30/2024)
YARDS PER RUSH	6.6	LSU (11/16/2024)
TD RUSHES	5	Kentucky (10/19/2024)
PASS ATTEMPTS	32	at Tennessee (10/12/2024)
PASS COMPLETIONS	26	at Mississippi St. (09/21/2024)
YARDS PASSING	466	Samford (09/07/2024)
YARDS PER PASS	18.6	Kentucky (10/19/2024)
TD PASSES	3	at Mississippi St. (09/21/2024)
	3	Samford (09/07/2024)
TOTAL PLAYS	72	at Tennessee (10/12/2024)
TOTAL OFFENSE	632	Samford (09/07/2024)
YARDS PER PLAY	10.2	Samford (09/07/2024)
POINTS	48	Kentucky (10/19/2024)
SACKS BY	8	at Florida St. (11/30/2024)
FIRST DOWNS	27	at Mississippi St. (09/21/2024)
PENALTIES	8	UCF (10/05/2024)
PENALTY YARDS	77	Samford (09/07/2024)
TURNOVERS	3	at Texas (11/09/2024)
	3	Texas A&M (09/14/2024)
PUNTS	8	vs Georgia (N) (11/02/2024)
PUNTING AVG	50.8	Kentucky (10/19/2024)
LONG PUNT	62	Ole Miss (11/23/2024)
	62	at Texas (11/09/2024)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	4	LSU (11/16/2024)
	4	vs Georgia (N) (11/02/2024)
LONG PUNT RETURN	35	at Mississippi St. (09/21/2024)



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Florida - Game Lows

RUSHES	17	LSU (11/16/2024)
YARDS RUSHING	52	Texas A&M (09/14/2024)
YARDS PER RUSH	2.1	Texas A&M (09/14/2024)
TD RUSHES	0	at Tennessee (10/12/2024)
PASS ATTEMPTS	15	Kentucky (10/19/2024)
PASS COMPLETIONS	8	Kentucky (10/19/2024)
YARDS PASSING	113	vs Georgia (N) (11/02/2024)
YARDS PER PASS	3.8	vs Georgia (N) (11/02/2024)
TD PASSES	0 0 0	at Texas (11/09/2024) Kentucky (10/19/2024) Miami (FL) (08/31/2024)
TOTAL PLAYS	43	LSU (11/16/2024)
TOTAL OFFENSE	228	vs Georgia (N) (11/02/2024)
YARDS PER PLAY	3.4	vs Georgia (N) (11/02/2024)
POINTS	17 17 17	at Texas (11/09/2024) at Tennessee (10/12/2024) Miami (FL) (08/31/2024)
SACKS BY	0	Texas A&M (09/14/2024)
FIRST DOWNS	13 13	LSU (11/16/2024) vs Georgia (N) (11/02/2024)
PENALTIES	2	Miami (FL) (08/31/2024)
PENALTY YARDS	25	Miami (FL) (08/31/2024)
INTERCEPTIONS BY	0 0 0 0 0 0	at Florida St. (11/30/2024) LSU (11/16/2024) at Texas (11/09/2024) at Mississippi St. (09/21/2024) Texas A&M (09/14/2024) Samford (09/07/2024)
PUNTS	2 2	at Mississippi St. (09/21/2024) Samford (09/07/2024)
PUNTING AVG	37.8	LSU (11/16/2024)
LONG PUNT	43	at Mississippi St. (09/21/2024)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	0	at Mississippi St. (09/21/2024)
LONG PUNT RETURN	0 0 0 0 0 0	LSU (11/16/2024) at Texas (11/09/2024) vs Georgia (N) (11/02/2024) Kentucky (10/19/2024) UCF (10/05/2024) Texas A&M (09/14/2024)



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##	Player	GP-GS	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
0	Ja'Quavion Frazier	8/1	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX
0	Sharif Denson	11/5	START	...	XXX	START	START	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START
1	Justus Boone	11/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...
1	Montrell Johnson Jr.	9/8	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	XXX	START	START
2	Ja'Keem Jackson	2/2	START	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	DJ Lagway	11/6	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	...	START	START	START
3	Jason Marshall Jr.	7/7	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	...	...
3	Eugene Wilson III	4/4	START	START	...	...	...	START	START	...	...	...	...	...
4	TJ Abrams	4/0	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Teddy Foster	4/0	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Treyaun Webb	4/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Myles Graham	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
6	Elijah Badger	11/8	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	XXX	...	START	START	START
6	Shemar James	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
7	Trikweze Bridges	12/7	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
7	Amir Jackson	3/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	...	XXX
8	Arlis Boardingham	11/2	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...
8	Aaron Chiles	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
9	Keon Zipperer	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Ja'Markis Weston	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
10	Grayson Howard	9/9	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...
10	Tank Hawkins	7/0	...	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	...	...	XXX
11	Kelby Collins	6/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...
11	Aidan Mizell	11/3	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	XXX	XXX
12	DJ Douglas	12/2	XXX	START	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
12	Paul Kessler	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Aaron Gates	10/5	XXX	START	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	...
13	Jadan Baugh	12/3	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	START	START	XXX	XXX
14	Jordan Castell	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
14	Andy Jean	1/0	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Graham Mertz	5/5	START	...	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Derek Wingo	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
16	R.J. Moten	11/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
16	Aidan Warner	5/1	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	START	...	...	XXX
17	Chimere Dike	12/10	XXX	START	START	START	START	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START
17	LJ McCray	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
18	Clay Millen	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Bryce Thornton	9/6	...	...	XXX	START	START	XXX	...	XXX	START	START	START	START
19	Alex Gonzalez	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	T.J. Searcy	12/4	START	START	START	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
20	Asa Turner	1/1	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Desmond Watson	12/1	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX
21	KD Daniels	3/0	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX
22	Kahleil Jackson	1/1	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Deuce Spurlock II	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Josiah Davis	3/0	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Kamran James	12/4	START	START	START	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
24	Ja'Kobi Jackson	12/1	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
25	Anthony Rubio	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Cormani McClain	3/1	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	START	...	...	...
26	Jeremy Crawshaw	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
26	Jameer Grimsley	2/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	XXX
26	Lawrence Wright IV	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Cam Carroll	1/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...
27	Dijon Johnson	12/4	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	START	START	START
28	Devin Moore	7/6	XXX	...	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	...
28	Aaron Williams	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Trey Smack	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
29	Jaden Robinson	12/3	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START
30	Taylor Spierto	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX



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##	Player	GP-GS	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
30	Gregory Smith III	4/0	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	XXX
31	Richard Abood II	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	Cahron Rackley	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	David Schmidt	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	Brien Taylor Jr.	9/1	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	...	...	XXX
34	George Gumbs Jr.	12/2	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
34	Kelvin Jimenez	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	D'Antre Robinson	10/0	...	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
35	DeBraun Hampton	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	Bryce Capers	1/0	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	Javion Toombs	6/0	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
38	Nick Inglis	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39	Brayden Slade	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	Brandon Rabasco	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	Hunter Smith	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	Rocco Underwood	11/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
42	Matthew Kade	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	Alfonzo Allen Jr.	3/0	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...
43	Jaden Edgecombe	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
44	Jack Pyburn	12/8	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
45	Layne Swafford	1/0	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
46	Ethan Wilson	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
47	Justin Pelic	1/0	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
47	Mark Pitts	6/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
48	Quincy Ivory	10/0	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...
48	Gannon Burt	2/0	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	...
50	Jake Xeller	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50	Jason Zandamela	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
53	Bryce Lovett	12/2	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	START
55	Mike Williams	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	Charles Emanuel	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
56	Christian Williams	2/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	XXX
57	Devon Manuel	3/0	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
58	Austin Barber	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
59	Hayden Clem	2/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	XXX
59	Titus Bullard	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
60	Chase Stevens	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
61	Nicolas Flynn	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
63	Caden Jones	3/0	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	XXX
65	Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson	12/11	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
66	Jake Slaughter	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
68	Fletcher Westphal	2/0	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX
70	Damieon George Jr.	10/10	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	START	START	...
71	Roderick Kearney	6/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	...	...	XXX	...	...	...
72	Bryan Rosenberg	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
74	Noel Portnjagin	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75	Kamryn Waites	12/1	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
76	Mark Faircloth	1/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX
77	Knijeah Harris	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
78	Marcus Mascoll	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
79	Enoch Wangoy	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
80	Zak Sedaros	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
81	Dawson Johnson	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
82	Caleb Rillos	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
83	Jackson Wade	4/0	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	...	...	XXX
84	Brian Green Jr.	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
85	Scott Isacks	7/0	XXX	XXX	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	XXX	XXX
86	Tony Livingston	9/1	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
87	Gavin Hill	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
88	Marcus Burke	10/6	XXX	START	START	XXX	START	...	...	START	XXX	XXX	START	START



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##	Player	GP-GS	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
88	Caleb Banks	12/10	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	XXX	START	START	START
89	Hayden Hansen	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
90	Connor Homa	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
91	Tyreik Norwood	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
92	Sebastian Scott	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
93	Michai Boireau	11/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
94	Tyreek Sapp	12/8	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
95	Jamari Lyons	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
96	Tarvorise Brown	2/0	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...
97	Joey Slackman	8/1	START	...	XXX	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
99	Cam Jackson	12/11	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	XXX	START	START	START



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Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Jadan Baugh	12	119	639	36	603	5.1	7	55	50.3
Montrell Johnson Jr.	9	100	622	29	593	5.9	6	71	65.9
Ja'Kobi Jackson	12	83	459	7	452	5.4	7	20	37.7
DJ Lagway	11	46	184	87	97	2.1	0	25	8.8
Treyaun Webb	4	21	98	5	93	4.4	1	14	23.3
Graham Mertz	5	18	84	28	56	3.1	1	16	11.2
KD Daniels	3	6	22	0	22	3.7	0	5	7.3
Tank Hawkins	7	3	11	0	11	3.7	0	5	1.6
Cam Carroll	1	3	5	4	1	0.3	0	4	1.0
Eugene Wilson III	4	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Aidan Warner	5	8	12	20	-8	-1.0	1	9	-1.6
Team	12	9	0	48	-48	-5.3	0	0	-4.0
Total	12	417	2136	264	1872	4.5	24	71	156.0
Opponents	12	485	2218	344	1874	3.9	17	45	156.2

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
DJ Lagway	11	159.6	93-157-7	59.2	1610	11	85	146.4
Graham Mertz	5	164.1	72-94-2	76.6	791	6	39	158.2
Aidan Warner	5	68.3	21-50-3	42.0	228	0	39	45.6
Team	12	0.0	0-6-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	12	143.0	186-307-12	60.6	2629	17	85	219.1
Opponents	12	129.2	233-391-11	59.6	2832	17	73	236.0

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Elijah Badger	11	37	789	21.3	4	77	71.7
Chimere Dike	12	36	687	19.1	2	44	57.3
Eugene Wilson III	4	19	266	14.0	1	85	66.5
Arlis Boardingham	11	18	128	7.1	2	20	11.6
Montrell Johnson Jr.	9	13	64	4.9	0	12	7.1
Hayden Hansen	12	13	189	14.5	1	40	15.8
Aidan Mizell	11	13	152	11.7	2	43	13.8
Tank Hawkins	7	10	100	10.0	1	36	14.3
Marcus Burke	10	7	69	9.9	2	20	6.9
Tony Livingston	9	7	51	7.3	1	14	5.7
Ja'Kobi Jackson	12	5	47	9.4	0	15	3.9
Jadan Baugh	12	3	27	9.0	1	25	2.3
Ja'Quavion Frazier	8	1	14	14.0	0	14	1.8
Kahleil Jackson	1	1	13	13.0	0	13	13.0
Taylor Spierto	12	1	20	20.0	0	20	1.7
Jackson Wade	4	1	10	10.0	0	10	2.5
TJ Abrams	4	1	3	3.0	0	3	0.8
Total	12	186	2629	14.1	17	85	219.1
Opponents	12	233	2832	12.2	17	73	236.0

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Chimere Dike	14	187	13.4	0	35
Total	14	187	13.4	0	35
Opponents	15	82	5.5	0	17

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Bryce Thornton	3	0	0.0	0	0
Devin Moore	2	84	42.0	0	52
Trikweze Bridges	1	0	0.0	0	0
Shemar James	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jack Pyburn	1	0	0.0	0	0
Sharif Denson	1	20	20.0	0	20
Aaron Gates	1	30	30.0	0	30
Cormani McClain	1	29	29.0	1	29
Total	11	163	14.8	1	52
Opponents	12	227	18.9	1	67

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jadan Baugh	11	237	21.5	0	35
Elijah Badger	1	22	22.0	0	22
Montrell Johnson Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Ja'Kobi Jackson	1	18	18.0	0	18
Treyaun Webb	1	28	28.0	0	28
Total	15	305	20.3	0	35
Opponents	12	267	22.3	1	99

Fumbles Recovered

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Aaron Gates	2	0	0.0	0	0
Grayson Howard	2	0	0.0	0	0
Rocco Underwood	1	0	0.0	0	0
DJ Douglas	1	0	0.0	0	0
George Gumbs Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Shemar James	1	0	0.0	0	0
T.J. Searcy	1	0	0.0	0	0
D'Antre Robinson	1	0	0.0	0	0
Caleb Banks	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Total	11	-2	-0.2	0	0
Opponents	5	13	2.6	0	13



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Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT					dpx	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass				
Trey Smack	-	14-17	41-41	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
Jadan Baugh	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Ja'Kobi Jackson	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Montrell Johnson Jr.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Elijah Badger	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Chimere Dike	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Marcus Burke	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Arlis Boardingham	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Aidan Mizell	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Graham Mertz	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Austin Barber	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Hayden Hansen	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Eugene Wilson III	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Treyaun Webb	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Tony Livingston	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Cormani McClain	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Aidan Warner	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Tank Hawkins	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	42	14-17	41-41	0	0	0	0	0	0	335
Opponents	36	14-20	32-33	0	1	1	0	0	0	292

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Trey Smack	14-17	82.4	0-0	4-4	3-4	4-5	3-4	55	0
Opponents	14-20	70.0	0-0	4-4	5-6	3-6	2-4	53	0

FG Sequence

Team Name	Florida	Opponents
LSU	(49),(55)	51,(50),(45),(38)
Miami (FL)	(41)	(23),45,(26)
Samford	(25)	
Mississippi St.	(47)	
UCF	(28),53	(27),(37)
Tennessee	(42),(),47	(35)
Kentucky	(29),(33)	
Georgia	(32),(53)	(23),(53)
Texas	30,(23)	51
Ole Miss	(53)	34,(42)
Florida St.	(30)	(39)
Texas A&M		(31),(48),40,40

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
DJ Lagway	11	203	97	1610	1707	155.2
Graham Mertz	5	112	56	791	847	169.4
Jadan Baugh	12	119	603	0	603	50.3
Montrell Johnson Jr.	9	100	593	0	593	65.9
Ja'Kobi Jackson	12	83	452	0	452	37.7
Aidan Warner	5	58	-8	228	220	44.0
Treyaun Webb	4	21	93	0	93	23.3
KD Daniels	3	6	22	0	22	7.3
Tank Hawkins	7	3	11	0	11	1.6
Cam Carroll	1	3	1	0	1	1.0
Team	12	0	-48	0	-48	-4.0
Total	12	724	1872	2629	4501	375.1
Opponents	12	876	1874	2832	4706	392.2

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Jeremy Crawshaw	56	2573	45.9	62	4	21	25	19	0
Total	56	2573	45.9	62	4	21	25	19	0
Opponents	49	2137	43.6	62	2	24	14	8	0

Kickoffs

Player	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Trey Smack	68	4201	61.8	52	0			
Total	68	4201	61.8	52	0	13	37.8	27
Opponents	60	3808	63.5	44	1	15	39.4	25



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All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Chimere Dike	12	0	687	187	0	0	874	72.8
Jadan Baugh	12	603	27	0	237	0	867	72.3
Elijahah Badger	11	0	789	0	22	0	811	73.7
Montrell Johnson Jr.	9	593	64	0	0	0	657	73.0
Ja'Kobi Jackson	12	452	47	0	18	0	517	43.1
Eugene Wilson III	4	0	266	0	0	0	266	66.5
Hayden Hansen	12	0	189	0	0	0	189	15.8
Aidan Mizell	11	0	152	0	0	0	152	13.8
Arlis Boardingham	11	0	128	0	0	0	128	11.6
Treyaun Webb	4	93	0	0	28	0	121	30.3
Tank Hawkins	7	11	100	0	0	0	111	15.9
DJ Lagway	11	97	0	0	0	0	97	8.8
Devin Moore	7	0	0	0	0	84	84	12.0
Marcus Burke	10	0	69	0	0	0	69	6.9
Graham Mertz	5	56	0	0	0	0	56	11.2
Tony Livingston	9	0	51	0	0	0	51	5.7
Aaron Gates	10	0	0	0	0	30	30	3.0
Cormani McClain	3	0	0	0	0	29	29	9.7
KD Daniels	3	22	0	0	0	0	22	7.3
Taylor Spierto	12	0	20	0	0	0	20	1.7
Sharif Denson	11	0	0	0	0	20	20	1.8
Ja'Quavion Frazier	8	0	14	0	0	0	14	1.8
Kahleil Jackson	1	0	13	0	0	0	13	13.0
Jackson Wade	4	0	10	0	0	0	10	2.5
TJ Abrams	4	0	3	0	0	0	3	0.8
Cam Carroll	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.0
Aidan Warner	5	-8	0	0	0	0	-8	-1.6
Team	12	-48	0	0	0	0	-48	-4.0
Total	12	1872	2629	187	305	163	5156	429.7
Opponents	12	1874	2832	82	267	227	5282	440.2



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Red-Zone Results
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Florida Inside Opponent Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total			Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Scored	Pts			TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	L 17-41	1	1	7	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09/07/2024	Samford	W 45-7	6	4	24	3		3	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
09/14/2024	Texas A&M	L 20-33	3	3	20	3		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09/21/2024	at Mississippi St.	W 45-28	5	5	35	5		3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/05/2024	UCF	W 24-13	4	4	24	3		2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
10/12/2024	at Tennessee	L 17-23	6	3	17	2		0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
10/19/2024	Kentucky	W 48-20	7	7	41	5		5	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
11/02/2024	vs Georgia	L 20-34	2	2	10	1		1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
11/09/2024	at Texas	L 17-49	4	3	17	2		2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
11/16/2024	LSU	W 27-16	1	1	7	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	W 24-17	2	2	14	2		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	W 31-11	4	4	24	3		1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals 39 of 45 (86.7%)			45	39	240	31		21	10	8	9	2	0	2	0	1

Opponents Inside Florida Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total			Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Scored	Pts			TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	L 17-41	6	5	27	3		2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
09/07/2024	Samford	W 45-7	1	1	7	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09/14/2024	Texas A&M	L 20-33	2	2	10	1		1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
09/21/2024	Mississippi St.	W 45-28	6	4	28	4		3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
10/05/2024	UCF	W 24-13	3	3	13	1		1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
10/12/2024	Tennessee	L 17-23	3	3	16	2		2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
10/19/2024	Kentucky	W 48-20	2	1	7	1		1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
11/02/2024	Georgia	L 20-34	4	4	24	3		2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
11/09/2024	Texas	L 17-49	4	2	14	2		2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
11/16/2024	LSU	W 27-16	1	1	3	0		0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	W 24-17	3	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
11/30/2024	Florida St.	W 31-11	3	2	11	1		1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Totals 28 of 38 (73.7%)			38	28	160	19		16	3	9	11	3	0	2	0	3



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3rd-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	L	17-41	1-9 11.1	0-3 0.0	0-2 0.0	0-2 0.0	1-2 50.0	0-1 0.0
09/07/2024	Samford	W	45-7	5-11 45.5	0-1 0.0	2-4 50.0	0-1 0.0	3-5 60.0	0-0 0.0
09/14/2024	Texas A&M	L	20-33	2-9 22.2	0-1 0.0	1-4 25.0	1-4 25.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/21/2024	at Mississippi St.	W	45-28	6-9 66.7	3-4 75.0	1-1 100.0	1-2 50.0	1-2 50.0	0-0 0.0
10/05/2024	UCF	W	24-13	6-13 46.2	4-5 80.0	1-2 50.0	0-2 0.0	1-4 25.0	0-0 0.0
10/12/2024	at Tennessee	Lot1	17-23	5-15 33.3	2-4 50.0	1-3 33.3	1-2 50.0	1-5 20.0	0-0 0.0
10/19/2024	Kentucky	W	48-20	6-12 50.0	2-4 50.0	0-3 0.0	2-2 100.0	2-3 66.7	0-0 0.0
11/02/2024	vs Georgia	L	20-34	3-16 18.8	1-3 33.3	0-4 0.0	2-5 40.0	0-4 0.0	0-0 0.0
11/09/2024	at Texas	L	17-49	6-14 42.9	0-3 0.0	1-4 25.0	4-5 80.0	1-2 50.0	0-0 0.0
11/16/2024	LSU	W	27-16	3-9 33.3	1-2 50.0	1-3 33.3	1-4 25.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	W	24-17	7-15 46.7	2-3 66.7	4-5 80.0	0-3 0.0	1-4 25.0	0-0 0.0
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	W	31-11	5-13 38.5	1-3 33.3	1-3 33.3	0-3 0.0	3-4 75.0	0-0 0.0
Florida				55-145 37.9	16-36 44.4	13-38 34.2	12-35 34.3	14-35 40.0	0-1 0.0
Opponents				70-171 40.9	18-41 43.9	13-45 28.9	17-34 50.0	22-51 43.1	0-0 0.0

4th-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	L	17-41	1-2 50.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/07/2024	Samford	W	45-7	1-3 33.3	0-1 0.0	0-1 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/14/2024	Texas A&M	L	20-33	1-2 50.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
09/21/2024	at Mississippi St.	W	45-28	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
10/05/2024	UCF	W	24-13	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
10/12/2024	at Tennessee	Lot1	17-23	0-2 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	0-0 0.0
10/19/2024	Kentucky	W	48-20	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
11/02/2024	vs Georgia	L	20-34	2-4 50.0	0-0 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-1 0.0	1-2 50.0	0-0 0.0
11/09/2024	at Texas	L	17-49	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
11/16/2024	LSU	W	27-16	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	W	24-17	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	W	31-11	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
Florida				6-14 42.9	0-1 0.0	1-5 20.0	4-5 80.0	1-3 33.3	0-0 0.0
Opponents				14-25 56.0	1-3 33.3	4-7 57.1	4-5 80.0	5-10 50.0	0-0 0.0

Time of Possession

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
08/31/2024	Miami (FL)	L	17-41	25:30	07:03	03:39	08:12	06:36	00:00
09/07/2024	Samford	W	45-7	26:30	05:34	07:00	03:10	10:46	00:00
09/14/2024	Texas A&M	L	20-33	22:14	02:51	04:14	11:07	04:02	00:00
09/21/2024	at Mississippi St.	W	45-28	27:36	08:03	07:12	04:40	07:41	00:00
10/05/2024	UCF	W	24-13	32:16	10:26	08:42	05:49	07:19	00:00
10/12/2024	at Tennessee	Lot1	17-23	34:56	07:25	10:33	06:11	10:47	00:00
10/19/2024	Kentucky	W	48-20	30:04	07:05	10:14	05:07	07:38	00:00
11/02/2024	vs Georgia	L	20-34	26:25	05:12	06:52	06:55	07:26	00:00
11/09/2024	at Texas	L	17-49	32:06	03:58	12:39	11:14	04:15	00:00
11/16/2024	LSU	W	27-16	18:17	03:32	06:19	05:15	03:11	00:00



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Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
11/23/2024	Ole Miss	W	24-17	29:28	02:37	12:35	05:27	08:49	00:00
11/30/2024	at Florida St.	W	31-11	27:08	03:17	10:26	05:32	07:53	00:00
Florida			Total	332:30	67:03	100:25	78:39	86:23	00:00
			Avg.	27:43	05:35	08:22	06:33	07:12	00:00
Opponents			Total	386:56	93:41	98:46	80:31	113:58	00:00
			Avg.	32:15	07:48	08:14	06:43	09:30	00:00



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Total Tackles Game-by-Game
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Total Tackles

Player	S-A	Total	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Trikweze Bridges	37-32	69	1-1	1-2	1-2	5-5	1-1	0-3	6-5	4-4	4-0	4-3	8-3	2-3
Jack Pyburn	20-40	60	2-3	0-1	0-3	2-4	2-3	3-4	4-4	1-3	2-2	2-6	0-5	2-2
Shemar James	29-30	59	4-1	2-2	2-0	2-3	3-3	2-1	2-5	1-2	0-2	5-6	2-2	4-3
Jordan Castell	26-26	52	3-1	1-3	2-3	3-2	4-2	4-2	0-3	1-2	3-1	3-3	2-2	0-2
Jaden Robinson	27-24	51	0-2	2-1	6-2	1-2	2-3	4-3	3-1	1-2	1-0	3-4	1-2	3-2
Tyreack Sapp	17-27	44	1-2	2-3	2-1	0-5	2-3	2-0	0-2	0-1	0-2	4-4	1-2	3-2
Bryce Thornton	19-22	41	DNP	DNP	0-1	1-4	1-0	1-2	DNP	1-0	3-1	4-1	5-9	3-4
Grayson Howard	17-20	37	3-3	1-1	4-1	2-5	3-1	3-2	0-4	1-3	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
Cam Jackson	13-24	37	-	2-1	1-1	0-8	2-2	2-3	-	0-3	0-1	1-1	1-3	4-1
Sharif Denson	22-14	36	2-2	DNP	3-0	5-2	0-3	1-2	-	3-1	1-0	1-0	4-3	2-1
T.J. Searcy	20-14	34	2-3	1-0	3-1	2-5	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	3-0	2-0	0-3	4-1
George Gumbs Jr.	17-15	32	1-1	3-0	0-3	1-3	1-1	2-2	1-2	0-2	1-0	2-1	2-0	3-0
Myles Graham	8-20	28	-	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	-	1-1	1-2	3-2	2-5	0-4	1-1
Aaron Gates	14-13	27	-	1-1	2-0	DNP	1-0	1-0	1-3	3-1	3-5	2-2	0-1	DNP
Kamran James	17-8	25	3-1	1-0	4-1	1-2	1-0	1-1	-	0-1	1-2	1-0	1-0	3-0
Dijon Johnson	16-9	25	1-1	0-2	2-1	0-1	1-0	-	1-0	2-1	0-1	6-0	2-1	1-1
R.J. Moten	10-13	23	3-1	4-0	0-3	1-1	1-4	0-1	DNP	1-0	0-2	-	0-1	-
DJ Douglas	10-11	21	0-1	3-1	2-3	0-5	1-1	-	-	1-0	1-0	-	-	2-0
Caleb Banks	10-11	21	1-1	1-1	-	2-0	0-2	1-4	-	0-1	-	2-1	3-1	-
Jason Marshall Jr.	13-7	20	-	5-1	3-0	1-2	1-3	2-0	1-1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Aaron Chiles	8-12	20	2-1	1-1	1-0	1-0	1-2	0-1	-	1-2	1-1	0-3	0-1	-
Desmond Watson	5-14	19	2-1	0-2	0-2	0-1	-	-	2-1	0-1	-	0-4	1-1	0-1
Devin Moore	8-9	17	1-1	DNP	0-3	-	0-1	2-0	5-2	0-2	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
D'Antre Robinson	4-10	14	DNP	-	DNP	1-1	0-2	-	-	0-1	3-0	0-2	-	0-4
Michai Boireau	5-8	13	0-3	2-1	2-0	DNP	-	-	-	0-1	1-1	0-1	0-1	-
Derek Wingo	4-9	13	0-1	-	1-1	0-2	1-0	-	0-1	0-2	0-1	1-0	-	1-1
Brien Taylor Jr.	4-9	13	DNP	1-1	0-2	1-2	0-1	1-1	0-1	1-0	0-1	DNP	DNP	-
LJ McCray	2-10	12	0-1	0-3	1-0	0-1	0-1	-	-	0-1	1-0	0-2	0-1	-
Justus Boone	2-8	10	0-1	1-1	0-1	-	0-3	-	-	1-1	-	0-1	-	DNP
Ja'Markis Weston	6-2	8	-	2-0	2-0	-	1-0	-	-	1-1	-	0-1	-	-
Kelby Collins	1-5	6	-	-	-	1-5	-	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Corman McClain	3-2	5	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0-1	3-1	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
Joey Slackman	2-3	5	0-1	DNP	1-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0-1	1-0	-	0-1	-	-
Ja'Keem Jackson	2-2	4	1-0	1-2	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Gregory Smith III	2-2	4	DNP	0-1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	2-1
Rocco Underwood	3-0	3	1-0	-	-	1-0	-	1-0	DNP	-	-	-	-	-
Ja'Kobi Jackson	2-0	2	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	1-0	-	-	-	-	-
Teddy Foster	1-1	2	DNP	-	-	1-1	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Aidan Warner	1-1	2	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	1-0	0-1	DNP	DNP	-
Ja'Quavion Fraziers	1-0	1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-
Treyaun Webb	1-0	1	1-0	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Chimere Dike	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-
Asa Turner	1-0	1	1-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Javion Toombs	1-0	1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	1-0	DNP	-	-	-	-
Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-
Josiah Davis	0-1	1	DNP	-	-	0-1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Tarvorise Brown	0-1	1	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0-1	DNP	DNP	DNP



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Rushing/Receiving Game-by-Game
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Rushing

Player	No-Yds/TD	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Jadan Baugh	119-603/7	1-6/0	4-34/0	1-5/0	4-53/0	9-30/0	12-25/0	22-106/5	17-64/0	19-88/1	6-65/1	13-46/0	11-81/0
Montrell Johnson Jr.	100-593/6	11-106/1	15-67/2	7--7/0	15-68/0	10-54/1	12-85/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	2-14/0	18-107/1	10-99/1
Ja'Kobi Jackson	83-452/7	2-9/0	2-18/0	4-23/1	3-18/1	3-25/1	5-16/0	9-44/0	12-74/1	19-116/1	6-37/1	8-21/0	10-51/1
DJ Lagway	46-97/0	4-20/0	5-16/0	4--20/0	3-22/0	3-11/0	5-1/0	9-46/0	4-18/0	DNP	-	5--9/0	4--8/0
Treyaun Webb	21-93/1	3-3/1	4-12/0	6-37/0	8-41/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Graham Mertz	18-56/1	6-3/0	DNP	1-7/0	3-24/1	3-11/0	5-11/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Aidan Warner	8--8/1	DNP	1-9/1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	4--10/0	3--7/0	DNP	DNP	-
KD Daniels	6-22/0	-	3-10/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	3-12/0
Tank Hawkins	3-11/0	DNP	-	2-7/0	DNP	1-4/0	-	DNP	-	-	DNP	DNP	-
Cam Carroll	3-1/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	3-1/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Eugene Wilson III	1-0/0	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	1-0/0	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP

Receiving

Player	No-Yds/TD	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Elijahh Badger	37-789/4	3-43/0	3-123/0	5-94/1	3-45/0	3-41/1	2-30/0	3-148/0	2-36/0	DNP	6-131/1	5-87/1	2-11/0
Chimere Dike	36-687/2	1-11/0	1-44/0	6-91/1	3-43/0	4-88/0	4-76/1	2-67/0	2-8/0	5-95/0	2-47/0	3-54/0	3-63/0
Eugene Wilson III	19-266/1	7-50/0	6-141/1	DNP	DNP	DNP	5-35/0	1-40/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Arlis Boardingham	18-128/2	1-4/0	2-16/0	5-42/0	1-3/1	1-3/0	3-40/1	1-4/0	1-3/0	2-9/0	1-4/0	-	DNP
Hayden Hansen	13-189/1	-	2-46/0	1-11/0	1-35/1	2-13/0	3-40/0	-	-	-	1-19/0	-	3-25/0
Aidan Mizell	13-152/2	-	1-41/1	-	5-36/0	DNP	-	-	4-66/1	1-5/0	1-3/0	-	1-1/0
Montrell Johnson Jr.	13-64/0	1-1/0	2-9/0	-	3-22/0	6-24/0	1-8/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	-
Tank Hawkins	10-100/1	DNP	1-36/1	-	DNP	7-60/0	-	DNP	-	1--3/0	DNP	DNP	1-7/0
Marcus Burke	7-69/2	-	-	-	3-45/1	-	DNP	DNP	-	1-6/0	-	-	3-18/1
Tony Livingston	7-51/1	-	-	1-11/0	4-18/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	1-14/0	-	1-8/1
Ja'Kobi Jackson	5-47/0	-	-	-	2-27/0	-	1--1/0	-	-	1-13/0	1-8/0	-	-
Jadan Baugh	3-27/1	-	-	-	-	-	1--5/0	-	-	1-7/0	-	1-25/1	-
Taylor Spierto	1-20/0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-20/0	-	-	-	-	-
Ja'Quavion Frazier	1-14/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-14/0	-
Kahleil Jackson	1-13/0	1-13/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Jackson Wade	1-10/0	DNP	1-10/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	DNP	DNP	-
TJ Abrams	1-3/0	DNP	-	-	1-3/0	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP



2024-25 Florida Football
Returns Game-by-Game
All games

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Punt Returns

Player	No-Yds	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Chimere Dike	14-187	2-28	3-37	-	1-35	-	2-57	-	1--1	-	1--2	1-10	3-23

Kick Returns

Player	No-Yds	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Jadan Baugh	11-237	1-35	1-31	2-54	-	1-12	-	2-40	1-16	3-49	-	-	-
Treyaun Webb	1-28	-	-	1-28	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Elijah Badger	1-22	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-22	-	DNP	-	-	-
Ja'Kobi Jackson	1-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-18	-	-	-	-
Montrell Johnson Jr.	1-0	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	-

Interceptions Returns

Player	No-Yds	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Bryce Thornton	3-0	DNP	DNP	-	-	1-0	-	DNP	-	-	-	2-0	-
Devin Moore	2-84	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1-52	1-32	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Aaron Gates	1-30	-	-	-	DNP	-	-	-	1-30	-	-	-	DNP
Cormani McClain	1-29	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	1-29	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
Sharif Denson	1-20	-	DNP	-	-	-	1-20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shemar James	1-0	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trikweze Bridges	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-
Jack Pyburn	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-

Fumble Returns

Player	No-Yds	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Grayson Howard	2-0	-	-	-	1-0	-	1-0	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
Aaron Gates	2-0	-	1-0	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	DNP
Shemar James	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0
DJ Douglas	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-
T.J. Searcy	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0
George Gumbs Jr.	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0
D'Antre Robinson	1-0	DNP	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0
Rocco Underwood	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1-0
Caleb Banks	1--2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1--2	-	-



2024-25 Florida Football
Sacks Game-by-Game
All games

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Player	UA-A	Total	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Tyreek Sapp	6-2	7	1-3	1-6	-	-	0.5-4	1-11	-	-	-	1-7	1.5-4	1-3
George Gumbs Jr.	4-2	5	-	1-8	-	-	1.5-11	0.5-2	-	-	-	1-5	-	1-3
Caleb Banks	4-1	4.5	-	1-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-5	2.5-17	-
Jaden Robinson	3-1	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	1.5-6	-	-	-	-	-	2-10
Sharif Denson	2-0	2	-	DNP	-	1-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-6
Shemar James	2-0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2-20	-	-
T.J. Searcy	2-0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	-	1-9	-	-	-
Cam Jackson	1-1	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5-3
D'Antre Robinson	0-3	1.5	DNP	-	DNP	-	0.5-4	-	-	0.5-3	-	-	-	0.5-2
Myles Graham	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-10	-	-	-	-
Aaron Chiles	1-0	1	-	-	-	1-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ja'Markis Weston	1-0	1	-	1-7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grayson Howard	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	1-5	-	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
Jordan Castell	1-0	1	-	-	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kamran James	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-7	-	-
Jack Pyburn	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-12
Justus Boone	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	DNP
Derek Wingo	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-3	-	-	-	-
R.J. Moten	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5-4	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	-
LJ McCray	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



**2024-25 Florida Football
Tackles For Loss Game-by-Game
All games**

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Player	UA-A	Total	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Tyreek Sapp	11-4	13.0	1.0-3	2.5-9	-	-	0.5-4	1.0-11	-	-	-	4.0-13	2.0-4	2.0-4
George Gumbs Jr.	7-2	8.0	-	3.0-15	-	-	1.5-11	0.5-2	-	-	-	1.0-5	-	2.0-8
Caleb Banks	6-2	7.0	-	1.0-6	-	1.0-6	-	0.5-1	-	-	-	1.0-5	3.5-21	-
Sharif Denson	4-1	4.5	-	DNP	-	2.5-7	-	1.0-1	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-6
Aaron Gates	4-0	4.0	-	-	1.0-2	DNP	1.0-1	-	1.0-4	1.0-2	-	-	-	DNP
T.J. Searcy	4-0	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-1	-	1.0-9	1.0-12	-	1.0-2
Shemar James	3-2	4.0	1.0-1	-	-	0.5-2	-	-	-	-	-	2.0-20	0.5-1	-
Jack Pyburn	2-4	4.0	-	0.5-0	0.5-1	1.0-4	-	0.5-0	-	-	-	-	0.5-0	1.0-12
Cam Jackson	2-4	4.0	-	-	-	-	0.5-1	0.5-1	-	-	-	-	1.5-2	1.5-3
Jaden Robinson	3-1	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	1.5-6	-	-	-	-	-	2.0-10
Kamran James	3-0	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-7	1.0-3	1.0-4
D'Antre Robinson	1-4	3.0	DNP	-	DNP	-	0.5-4	-	-	0.5-3	1.0-3	-	-	1.0-3
Myles Graham	2-0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-10	-	-	-	1.0-1
Justus Boone	1-2	2.0	-	1.5-4	-	-	0.5-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	DNP
Grayson Howard	1-2	2.0	-	-	-	-	1.0-5	0.5-1	0.5-1	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
R.J. Moten	1-2	2.0	-	1.0-1	0.5-0	-	0.5-4	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	-
Brien Taylor Jr.	1-2	2.0	DNP	1.0-2	-	-	-	0.5-1	0.5-0	-	-	DNP	DNP	-
Jason Marshall Jr.	1-1	1.5	-	-	-	-	0.5-1	1.0-3	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Bryce Thornton	1-1	1.5	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	-	DNP	-	1.0-7	-	-	0.5-0
Aaron Chiles	1-0	1.0	-	-	-	1.0-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ja'Markis Weston	1-0	1.0	-	1.0-7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jordan Castell	1-0	1.0	-	-	-	1.0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dijon Johnson	1-0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-3	-	-
Trikweze Bridges	0-2	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-1	-	0.5-1	-	-	-	-
LJ McCray	0-2	1.0	-	0.5-1	-	-	0.5-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derek Wingo	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-3	-	-	-	-
Corman McClain	0-1	0.5	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	0.5-1	-	DNP	DNP	DNP



2024-25 Florida Football
Fumbles Game-by-Game
All games

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Fumbles

Player	No-Lost	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Graham Mertz	3-1	-	DNP	1-0	-	-	2-1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
DJ Lagway	2-0	-	-	-	1-0	1-0	-	-	-	DNP	-	-	-
Chimere Dike	2-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	1-0	-	-
Montrell Johnson Jr.	1-1	-	-	-	1-1	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	-
Jadan Baugh	1-1	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aidan Warner	1-0	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	1-0	DNP	DNP	-
Ja'Kobi Jackson	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	-	-	-

Fumbles Forced

Player	Number	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Trikweze Bridges	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
T.J. Searcy	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Caleb Banks	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Tyreak Sapp	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sharif Denson	1	-	DNP	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jason Marshall Jr.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Myles Graham	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Shemar James	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ja'Markis Weston	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grayson Howard	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
Bryce Thornton	1	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1
Kamran James	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Jack Pyburn	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Fumbles Recovered

Player	Number	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Grayson Howard	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
Aaron Gates	2	-	1	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	DNP
Shemar James	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
DJ Douglas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
T.J. Searcy	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
George Gumbs Jr.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
D'Antre Robinson	1	DNP	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rocco Underwood	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1
Caleb Banks	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-



2024-25 Florida Football
Passing Game-by-Game
All games

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#2 DJ Lagway	Comp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sacked	Effic.
Miami (FL)	3	6	1	50.0	31	0	16	0-0	60.1
Samford	18	25	0	72.0	456	3	85	0-0	264.8
Texas A&M	6	13	2	46.2	54	1	16	2-21	75.7
Mississippi St.	7	7	0	100.0	76	0	27	0-0	191.2
UCF	4	4	0	100.0	50	0	37	0-0	205.0
Tennessee	9	17	1	52.9	98	1	27	2-15	109.0
Kentucky	7	14	1	50.0	259	0	58	2-11	191.1
Georgia	2	6	0	33.3	47	1	43	0-0	154.1
LSU	13	26	0	50.0	226	1	36	0-0	135.7
Ole Miss	10	17	1	58.8	180	2	41	3-21	174.8
Florida St.	14	22	1	63.6	133	2	25	3-14	135.3
Totals	93	157	7	59.2	1610	11	85	12-82	159.6

#15 Graham Mertz	Comp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sacked	Effic.
Miami (FL)	11	20	1	55.0	91	0	19	3-18	83.2
Texas A&M	12	15	1	80.0	195	1	39	0-0	197.9
Mississippi St.	19	21	0	90.5	201	3	35	0-0	218.0
UCF	19	23	0	82.6	179	1	31	0-0	162.3
Tennessee	11	15	0	73.3	125	1	25	1-10	165.3
Totals	72	94	2	76.6	791	6	39	4-28	164.1

#16 Aidan Warner	Comp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sacked	Effic.
Samford	1	2	0	50.0	10	0	10	0-0	92.0
Kentucky	1	1	0	100.0	20	0	20	0-0	268.0
Georgia	7	22	1	31.8	66	0	26	2-10	47.9
Texas	12	25	2	48.0	132	0	39	1-7	76.4
Totals	21	50	3	42.0	228	0	39	3-17	68.3



2024-25 Florida Football
All-Purpose Yards Game-by-Game
All games

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Player	Total	UM	SU	AM	MS	UCF	UT	UK	UG	TX	LS	UM	FSU
Chimere Dike	874	39	81	91	78	88	133	67	7	95	45	64	86
Jadan Baugh	867	41	65	59	53	42	20	146	80	144	65	71	81
Elijah Badger	811	43	123	94	45	41	30	170	36	DNP	131	87	11
Montrell Johnson Jr.	657	107	76	-7	90	78	93	DNP	DNP	DNP	14	107	99
Ja'Kobi Jackson	517	9	18	23	45	25	15	44	92	129	45	21	51
Eugene Wilson III	266	50	141	DNP	DNP	DNP	35	40	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Hayden Hansen	189	-	46	11	35	13	40	-	-	-	19	-	25
Aidan Mizell	152	-	41	-	36	DNP	-	-	66	5	3	-	1
Arlis Boardingham	128	4	16	42	3	3	40	4	3	9	4	-	DNP
Treyaun Webb	121	3	12	65	41	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Tank Hawkins	111	DNP	36	7	DNP	64	-	DNP	-	-3	DNP	DNP	7
DJ Lagway	97	20	16	-20	22	11	1	46	18	DNP	-	-9	-8
Devin Moore	84	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	52	32	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Marcus Burke	69	-	-	-	45	-	DNP	DNP	-	6	-	-	18
Graham Mertz	56	3	DNP	7	24	11	11	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Tony Livingston	51	-	-	11	18	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	14	-	8
Aaron Gates	30	-	-	-	DNP	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	DNP
Cormani McClain	29	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	29	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
KD Daniels	22	-	10	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	12
Sharif Denson	20	-	DNP	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taylor Spierto	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
Ja'Quavion Fraziers	14	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Kahleil Jackson	13	13	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Jackson Wade	10	DNP	10	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	DNP	DNP	-
TJ Abrams	3	DNP	-	-	3	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Cam Carroll	1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Aidan Warner	-8	DNP	9	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-10	-7	DNP	DNP	-



bowl history

FLORIDA VS TULANE
2024 GASPARILLA BOWL

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
TAMPA, FLORIDA



INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

RUSHING YARDS

Florida

234 – Fred Taylor (43 carries), 1998 Citrus Bowl
187 – Larry Smith (23 carries), 1967 Orange Bowl
182 – Errict Rhett (39 carries), 1992 Gator Bowl
165 – Percy Harvin (13 carries), 2008 Capital One Bowl
159 – Emmitt Smith (28 carries), 1988 All-American Bowl
149 – Earnest Graham (16 carries), 2002 Orange Bowl
138 – Lamical Perine (13 carries), 2019 Orange Bowl
136 – Earnest Graham (15 carries), 2001 Sugar Bowl
128 – Emmitt Smith (17 carries), 1987 Aloha Bowl
122 – Percy Harvin (9 carries), 2009 BCS Championship

Opponent

199 – Tommie Frazier (Nebraska, 16 carries), 1996 Fiesta Bowl
186 – Rhamondre Stevenson (Oklahoma, 18 carries), 2020 Cotton Bowl
165 – Lawrence Phillips (Nebraska, 25 carries), 1996 Fiesta Bowl
161 – Gary Anderson (Arkansas, 26 carries), 1982 Bluebonnet Bowl
159 – Charlie Wysocki (Maryland, 39 carries), 1980 Tangerine Bowl
156 – Chuck Varner (Miami, Ohio, 28 carries), 1973 Tangerine Bowl
155 – Isaiah Bowser (UCF, 35 carries), 2021 Gasparilla Bowl
150 – Fred Russell (Iowa, 21 carries), 2003 Outback Bowl
150 – Jerome Bettis (Notre Dame, 16 carries), 1992 Sugar Bowl

PASSING YARDS

Florida

482 – Tim Tebow (31 of 35), 2010 Sugar Bowl
394 – Danny Wuerffel (28 of 39), 1995 Sugar Bowl
370 – Shane Matthews (28 of 58), 1992 Sugar Bowl
352 – Steve Spurrier (27 of 45), 1966 Sugar Bowl
323 – Rex Grossman (21 of 41), 2003 Outback Bowl
306 – Danny Wuerffel (18 of 34), 1997 Sugar Bowl
305 – Kyle Trask (24 of 39), 2019 Orange Bowl
288 – Doug Johnson (24 of 50), 2000 Citrus Bowl
278 – Chris Leak (25 for 40), 2006 Outback Bowl
271 – Wayne Peace (20 of 34), 1980 Tangerine Bowl

Opponent

373 – Chad Henne (Michigan, 25 of 39), 2008 Capital One Bowl
346 – Drew Tate (Iowa, 32 of 55), 2006 Outback Bowl
323 – Bryce Perkins (Virginia, 28 of 40), 2019 Orange Bowl
319 – John Navarre (Michigan, 21 of 36) 2003 Outback Bowl
278 – Jake Rudock (Michigan, 20 of 31) 2016 Citrus Bowl
271 – Thad Busby (Florida State, 17 of 41), 1997 Sugar Bowl
270 – Ken Dorsey (Miami, 22 of 40), 2001 Sugar Bowl
266 – Teddy Bridgewater (Louisville, 20 of 32), 2013 Sugar Bowl
257 – Shaun Hill (Maryland, 23 of 39), 2002 Orange Bowl
257 – Bill Burke (Michigan State, 21 of 35), 2000 Citrus Bowl

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Florida

4 – Rex Grossman, 2002 Orange Bowl
3 – Tim Tebow, 2010 Sugar Bowl
3 – Tim Tebow, 2008 Capital One Bowl
3 – Doug Johnson, 2000 Citrus Bowl
3 – Danny Wuerffel, 1997 Sugar Bowl
3 – Bob Hewko, 1982 Bluebonnet Bowl

MOST RECEPTIONS

11 – Travis Taylor (vs. Michigan State), 2000 Citrus Bowl
10 – Dallas Baker (vs. Iowa), 2006 Outback Bowl
10 – Taylor Jacobs (vs. Maryland), 2002 Orange Bowl
9 – Aaron Hernandez (vs. Cincinnati), 2010 Sugar Bowl
9 – Percy Harvin (vs. Michigan), 2008 Capital One Bowl
9 – Percy Harvin (vs. Ohio State), 2007 BCS Championship
9 – Willie Jackson (vs. West Virginia), 1994 Sugar Bowl
9 – Barry Brown (vs. Missouri), 1966 Sugar Bowl
8 – 6x, most recent: O.J. Small (vs. Miami), 2004 Peach Bowl

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING YARDS

181 – Riley Cooper (vs. Cincinnati), 2010 Sugar Bowl
170 – Taylor Jacobs (vs. Maryland), 2002 Orange Bowl
166 – Cris Collinsworth (vs. Maryland), 1980 Tangerine Bowl
159 – Travis Taylor (vs. Syracuse), 1999 Orange Bowl
156 – Travis Taylor (vs. Michigan State), 2000 Citrus Bowl
150 – Ike Hilliard (vs. Florida State), 1997 Sugar Bowl
148 – Willie Jackson (vs. Notre Dame), 1992 Sugar Bowl
147 – Dallas Baker (vs. Iowa), 2006 Outback Bowl
131 – Willie Jackson (vs. West Virginia), 1994 Sugar Bowl
129 – Van Jefferson (vs. Virginia), 2019 Orange Bowl

TOTAL OFFENSE

533 – Tim Tebow (482 pass, 51 run), vs. Cincinnati, 2010 Sugar Bowl
397 – Shane Matthews (370 pass, 27 run), vs. Notre Dame, 1992 Sugar Bowl
371 – Danny Wuerffel (394 pass, -23 run), vs. FSU, 1995 Sugar Bowl
346 – Rex Grossman (323 pass, 23 run), vs. Michigan, 2003 Outback Bowl
343 – Steve Spurrier (352 pass, -9 run), vs. Missouri, 1966 Sugar Bowl
342 – Kyle Trask (305 pass, 37 rush), vs. Virginia, 2019 Orange Bowl
340 – Tim Tebow (231 Pass, 109 run), vs. Okla., 2009 BCS Champ.
296 – Danny Wuerffel (306 pass, -10 run) vs. FSU, 1997 Sugar Bowl
283 – Wayne Peace (271 pass, 12 run), vs. Maryland, 1980 Tangerine Bowl

SCORING

18 – Lamical Perine (vs. Virginia), 2019 Orange Bowl (3 TDs)
18 – Travis Taylor (vs. Michigan State), 2000 Citrus Bowl (3 TDs)
18 – Ike Hilliard (vs. Florida State), 1997 Sugar Bowl (3 TDs)
18 – Errict Rhett (vs. West Virginia), 1994 Sugar Bowl (3 TDs)
18 – Dwayne Dixon (vs. Arkansas), 1982 Bluebonnet Bowl (3 TDs)
16 – Arden Czyzewski (vs. Notre Dame), 1992 Sugar Bowl (5 FGs-Sugar Bowl record; 1 PAT)

LONGEST PLAYS

Rushing

94 – Larry Smith (vs. Georgia Tech), 1967 Orange Bowl

Rushing (Touchdown)

94 – Larry Smith (vs. Georgia Tech), 1967 Orange Bowl

Pass (Touchdown)

85 – Austin Appleby to Mark Thompson (vs. Iowa), 2017 Outback

Field Goal

51 – Jeff Chandler (vs. Miami), 2001 Sugar Bowl

Punt

69 – Robby Stevenson (vs. Florida State), 1997 Sugar Bowl

Kickoff Return (Touchdown)

100 – Andre Debose (vs. Louisville), 2013 Sugar Bowl

TEAM RECORDS

SCORING

Most Points by Florida: 56 (vs. Maryland), 2002 Orange Bowl

Most Points by an Opponent: 62 (vs. Nebraska), 1996 Fiesta Bowl

Most Points (Both teams): 86 (Nebraska 62, Florida 24), 1996 Fiesta Bowl

Fewest Points by Florida: 0 (vs. Maryland), 1975 Gator Bowl

Fewest Points by an Opponent: 3 (Iowa), 2017 Outback Bowl

Fewest Points (Both teams): 10 (Ole Miss 7, UF 3), 1958 Gator Bowl

RUSHING

Most Yards by Florida: 284 (vs. Georgia Tech), 1967 Orange Bowl

Most Yards by an Opponent: 524 (Nebraska), 1996 Fiesta Bowl

Fewest Yards by Florida: -30 (vs. West Virginia), 1981 Peach Bowl

Fewest Yards by Opponent: 40 (Baylor), 1960 Gator Bowl

PASSING

Most Yards Passing by Florida: 482 (vs. Cincinnati), 2010 Sugar Bowl

Most Yards Passing by Opponent: 373 (Michigan), 2008 Capital One Bowl

Fewest Yards Passing by Florida: 28 (vs. Maryland), 1975 Gator Bowl

Fewest Yards Passing by Opponent: 6 (Miami, Ohio), 1973 Tangerine Bowl

Most Passes Attempted by Florida: 58 (vs. Notre Dame), 1992 Sugar Bowl

Most Passes Attempted by Opponent: 55 (Iowa), 2006 Outback Bowl

Fewest Passes Attempted by Florida: 8 (vs. Baylor), 1960 Gator Bowl

Fewest Passes Attempted by Opponent: 7 (Ole Miss), 1958 Gator Bowl

Most Passes Completed by Florida: 33 (vs. Maryland), 2002 Orange Bowl

Most Passes Completed by Opponent: 32 (Iowa), 2006 Outback Bowl

Fewest Passes Completed by Florida: 3 (vs. Maryland), 1975 Gator Bowl

Fewest Passes Completed by Opponent: 1 (Miami, Ohio), 1973 Tangerine Bowl

TOTAL OFFENSE

Most Yards by Florida: 659 (vs. Cincinnati; 177 run, 482 pass), 2010 Sugar Bowl; (vs. Maryland; 203 run, 456 pass), 2002 Orange Bowl

Most Yards by Opponent: 684 (vs. Oklahoma; 435 run, 249 pass), 2020 Cotton Bowl

Most Yards (Both teams): 1,205 (Florida 521, Oklahoma 684), 2020 Cotton Bowl

Fewest Yards by Florida: 105 (vs. West Virginia; 135 pass, -30 run), 1981 Peach Bowl

Fewest Yards by Opponent: 82 (Ohio State; 35 pass, 47 run), 2007 BCS Championship

Fewest Yards (Both teams): 387 (Florida 248, Penn State 139), 1962 Gator Bowl

ALL-TIME BOWL RESULTS

48 Bowl Appearances

24-24 All-Time Bowl Record

Year	Bowl	Site	W/L	UF	Score	Opponent	Score	MVP
1953	Gator	Jacksonville	W	Florida	14	Tulsa	13	J. "Papa" Hall
1958	Gator	Jacksonville	L	Florida	3	Ole Miss	7	Dave Hudson
1960	Gator	Jacksonville	W	Florida	13	Baylor	12	Larry Libertore
1962	Gator	Jacksonville	W	Florida	17	Penn State	7	Tommy Shannon
1966	Sugar	New Orleans	L	Florida	18	Missouri	20	Steve Spurrier
1967	Orange	Miami	W	Florida	27	Georgia Tech	12	Larry Smith
1969	Gator	Jacksonville	W	Florida	14	Tennessee	13	Mike Kelley
1973	Tangerine	Gainesville	L	Florida	7	Miami (OH)	16	
1974	Sugar	New Orleans	L	Florida	10	Nebraska	13	
1975	Gator	Jacksonville	L	Florida	0	Maryland	13	Sammy Green
1977	Sun	El Paso	L	Florida	14	Texas A&M	37	
1980	Tangerine	Orlando	W	Florida	35	Maryland	20	Cris Collinsworth
1981	Peach	Atlanta	L	Florida	6	West Virginia	26	
1982	Bluebonnet	Houston	L	Florida	24	Arkansas	28	Dwayne Dixon
1983	Gator	Jacksonville	W	Florida	14	Iowa	6	Tony Lilly
1987	Aloha	Honolulu	L	Florida	16	UCLA	20	Emmitt Smith
1988	All-American	Birmingham	W	Florida	14	Illinois	10	Emmitt Smith
1989	Freedom	Anaheim	L	Florida	7	Washington	34	Huey Richardson
1992	Sugar	New Orleans	L	Florida	28	Notre Dame	39	
1992	Gator	Jacksonville	W	Florida	27	N.C. State	10	Errict Rhett
1994	Sugar	New Orleans	W	Florida	41	West Virginia	7	Errict Rhett
1995	Sugar	New Orleans	L	Florida	17	Florida State	23	
1996	Fiesta	Tempe	L	Florida	24	Nebraska	62	
1997	Sugar	New Orleans	W	Florida	52	Florida State	20	Danny Wuerffel
1998	Citrus	Orlando	W	Florida	21	Penn State	6	Fred Taylor
1999	Orange	Miami	W	Florida	31	Syracuse	10	Travis Taylor
2000	Citrus	Orlando	L	Florida	34	Michigan State	37	
2001	Sugar	New Orleans	L	Florida	20	Miami (FL)	37	
2002	Orange	Miami	W	Florida	56	Maryland	23	Taylor Jacobs
2003	Outback	Tampa	L	Florida	30	Michigan	38	
2004	Outback	Tampa	L	Florida	17	Iowa	37	
2004	Chick-fil-A	Atlanta	L	Florida	10	Miami (FL)	27	
2006	Outback	Tampa	W	Florida	31	Iowa	24	Dallas Baker
2007	BCS Championship	Glendale	W	Florida	41	Ohio State	14	Chris Leak (offense); Derrick Harvey (defense)
2008	Capital One	Orlando	L	Florida	35	Michigan	41	
2009	BCS Championship	Miami	W	Florida	24	Oklahoma	14	Tim Tebow (offense); Carlos Dunlap (defense)
2010	Sugar	New Orleans	W	Florida	51	Cincinnati	24	Tim Tebow
2011	Outback	Tampa	W	Florida	37	Penn State	24	Ahmad Black
2012	Gator	Jacksonville	W	Florida	24	Ohio State	17	Andre Debose
2013	Sugar	New Orleans	L	Florida	23	Louisville	33	
2014	Birmingham	Birmingham	W	Florida	28	East Carolina	20	Adam Lane
2015	BWW Citrus	Orlando	L	Florida	7	Michigan	41	
2016	Outback	Tampa	W	Florida	30	Iowa	3	Chauncey Gardner
2018	Chick-fil-A	Atlanta	W	Florida	41	Michigan	15	Feleipe Franks (offense); Chauncey Gardner-Johnson (defense)
2019	Orange	Miami Gardens	W	Florida	36	Virginia	28	Lamical Perine
2020	Cotton	Arlington	L	Florida	20	Oklahoma	55	Rhamondre Stevenson (Offense); Tre Norwood (Defense)
2021	Gasparilla	Tampa	L	Florida	17	UCF	29	Ryan O'Keefe
2022	Las Vegas	Las Vegas	L	Florida	3	Oregon State	30	Ben Gulbranson



ALL-TIME BOWL RESULTS

1953 GATOR BOWL

Jan. 1, 1953 • Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 30,000 Est.)

FLORIDA	14
TULSA	13

Florida	7	7	0	0-14
Tulsa	0	0	7	6-13

UF - Casares 2 run (Casares kick)

UF - Robinson to Hall 37 pass (Casares kick)

TUL - Roberts 3 run (Minor kick)

TUL - Waugh 2 run (Minor kick missed)

	FLORIDA	TULSA
First Downs	20	17
Rushes-Yards	54-233	50-182
Passing Yards	101	132
Att.-Comp.-Int.	11-7-1	16-10-1
Total Offense	334	314
Punts-Yards	1-38	4-31
Fumbles-Lost	4-4	2-1
Penalty Yards	34	84

Rushing:

Florida - Hall 17-94, Casares 21-86, Long 9-32, Haddock 2-30.

Tulsa - Kercher 16-71, Waugh 15-65, Roberts 8-39, Kelly 4-17, Halladay 5-15.

Passing:

Florida - Dickey 4-5-0-68-0 TD, Robinson 3-6-1-33-0 TD.

Tulsa - Morris 10-16-1-132-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Hall 2-60, Casares 1-7, O'Brien 2-23.

Tulsa - Miney 6-77, Roberts 3-41, Halladay 1-14.

1958 GATOR BOWL

Dec. 27, 1958 • Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 41,000 Est.)

OLE MISS	7
FLORIDA	3

Ole Miss	7	0	0	0-7
Florida	3	0	0	0-3

MISS - Anderson 1 run (kick good)

UF - Booker 17-yard FG

	OLE MISS	FLORIDA
First Downs	9	12
Rushes-Yards	41-157	42-157
Passing Yards	27	58
Att.-Comp.-Int.	7-2-0	11-5-5
Total Offense	184	215
Punts-Yards	10-34.4	7-44.1
Fumbles-Lost	5-2	5-3
Penalties-Yards	2-10	3-35

Rushing:

Ole Miss - Anderson 9-62, Lovelace 7-28, Flowers 4-20.

Florida - Newbern 5-59, Milby 10-35, Giles 3-20, Deal 6-18.

Passing:

Ole Miss - Franklin 2-7-0-27-0 TD.

Florida - Dunn 5-11-1-58-0 TD.

Receiving:

Ole Miss - Grantham 1-15, Daniels 1-12.

Florida - Hudson 3-32, Dilts 1-3, Partin 1-13.

1960 GATOR BOWL

Dec. 31, 1960 • Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 50,122)

FLORIDA	13
BAYLOR	12

Florida	0	13	0	0-13
Baylor	0	0	0	12-12

UF - Goodman 3 run (Cash kick)

UF - Travis fumble recovery in endzone (Cash kick missed)

BAY - Ply to Goodwin 12 pass (Corley kick missed)

BAY - Bull 3 run (Ply pass incomplete)

	FLORIDA	BAYLOR
First Downs	11	15
Rushes-Yards	52-176	37-40
Passing Yards	57	211
Att.-Comp.-Int.	8-5-0	27-13-0
Total Offense	233	251
Punts-Yards	7-37.0	5-33.0
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	4-3
Penalties-Yards	6-70	1-5

Rushing:

Florida - Libertore 14-61, Goodman 10-28, Infante 6-24.

Baylor - Bull 14-53, Ply 14-5, Tate 1-5.

Passing:

Florida - Dodd 3-5-0-21-0 TD, Libertore 2-3-0-36-0 TD.

Baylor - Ply 12-24-0-161-1 TD, Stanley 1-3-0-49-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Infante 3-47.

Baylor - Goodwin 7-129-1 TD, David 3-33.

1962 GATOR BOWL

Dec. 30, 1962 • Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 50,286)

FLORIDA	17
PENN STATE	7

Florida	3	7	0	7-17
Penn State	0	7	0	0-7

UF - Lyle 43-yard FG

UF - Shannon to Dupree 1 pass (Hall kick)

PSU - Liske 1 run (Crates kick)

UF - Shannon to Clarke 19 pass (Hall kick)

	FLORIDA	PENN ST
First Downs	14	8
Rushing Yards	162	89
Passing Yards	86	50
Att.-Comp.-Int.	13-18-1	18-6-1
Total Offense	248	139
Punts-Yards	6-33.7	6-40.8
Fumbles	4	3
Penalty Yards	42	43

Rushing:

Florida - Dupree 25-66, Mack 10-33, Shannon 12-26.

Penn State - Hayes 10-25, Kochman 6-51.

Passing:

Florida - Shannon 7-9-1-79-2 TD, Batten 1-4-0-7-0 TD.

Penn State - Liske 6-18-1-54-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Clarke 2-27, Brown 3-25.

Penn State - Powell 4-40.

1966 SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 1, 1966 • New Orleans, La. (Att. 67,421)

MISSOURI	20
FLORIDA	18

Missouri	0	17	3	0-20
Florida	0	0	0	18-18

MIZZOU - Brown 16 run (Bates kick)

MIZZOU - Roland to Denny 1 pass (Bates kick)

MIZZOU - Bates 37-yard FG

MIZZOU - Bates 34-yard FG

UF - Spurrier to Harper 22 pass (pass failed)

UF - Spurrier 2 run (pass failed)

UF - Spurrier to Casey 21 pass (pass failed)

	MISSOURI	FLORIDA
First Downs	18	18
Rushes-Yards	62-257	16-(-2)
Passing Yards	50	352
Att.-Comp.-Int.	14-5-1	46-27-1
Total Offense	307	350
Punts-Yards	5-44.0	6-32.5
Fumbles	2-2	1-1
Penalty Yards	2-30	3-25

Rushing:

Missouri - Brown 23-121-1 TD, Lane 19-76.

Florida - Poe 2-11, Spurrier 7-(-9).

Passing:

Missouri - Lane 4-13-1-39-1 TD.

Florida - Spurrier 22-45-1-352-2 TD.

Receiving:

Missouri - Phelps 2-11, Walker 1-14.

Florida - Casey 5-108-1 TD, Brown 9-88, Harper 4-66-1 TD, Trapp 5-53.

1967 ORANGE BOWL

Jan. 1, 1967 • Miami, Fla. (Att. 73,426)

FLORIDA	27
GEORGIA TECH	12

Florida	0	7	7	13-27
Georgia Tech	6	0	0	6-12

GT - King to Bangham 10 pass (run failed)

UF - McKeel run (Barfield kick)

UF - Smith 94 run (Barfield kick)

UF - McKeel 1 run (Barfield kick)

GT - Good 25 run (pass failed)

UF - Wages to Coone 25 pass (pass failed)

	FLORIDA	GA TECH
First Downs	22	17
Rushing Yards	284	197
Passing Yards	165	122
Att.-Comp.-Int.	32-15-1	22-8-1
Total Offense	449	319
Punts-Yards	7-36	8-42
Fumbles	1	1
Penalty Yards	32	42

Rushing:

Florida - Smith 23-187, McKeel 13-30, Barfield 3-28, Spurrier 4-14.

Georgia Tech - Snow 24-110, Good 3-34.

Passing:

Florida - Spurrier 30-14-1-160-0 TD, Wages 2-1-0-5-1 TD.

Georgia Tech - King 16-8-3-42-1 TD.

ALL-TIME BOWL RESULTS

Receiving:

Florida - Trapp 5-43, Coone 3-33, Edwards 4-30.
Georgia Tech - Smith 2-32.

1969 GATOR BOWL

Dec. 27, 1969 - Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 72,248)

FLORIDA 14
TENNESSEE 13

Florida 7 0 7 0-14
Tennessee 0 10 0 3-13

UF - Kelley 8 fumble return (Franco kick)

UT - Scott to McClain 63 pass (Hunt kick)

UT - Hunt FG

UF - Reaves to Alvarez 9 pass (Franco kick)

UT - Hunt 26-yard FG

	FLORIDA	TENNESSEE
First Downs	15	23
Rushing Yards	90	213
Passing Yards	161	174
Att.-Comp.-Int.	26-15-0	34-12-2
Total Offense	251	387
Punts-Yards	7-31.0	2-15.0
Fumbles	1	1
Penalty Yards	58	23

Rushing:

Florida - Durrance 22-62, Walker 10-33, Rich 1-2.
Tennessee - Watson 25-121, McLeary 8-23, Scott 10-19,
Patterson 8-40.

Passing:

Florida - Reaves 15-26-0-161-1 TD.
Tennessee - Scott 12-34-2-174-1 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Maliska 6-54, Alvarez 4-51 Rich 2-3.
Tennessee - Kreis 4-82, McClain 2-58.

1973 TANGERINE BOWL

Dec. 22, 1973 - Gainesville, Fla. (Att. 37,234)

MIAMI (Ohio) 16
FLORIDA 7

Miami (Ohio) 3 0 10 3-16
Florida 0 0 0 7-7

MU - Draught 27-yard FG

MU - Draught 26-yard FG

MU - Varner 3 run (Draught kick)

MU - Draught 45-yard FG

UF - Moore 1 run (Posey kick)

	MIAMI (Ohio)	FLORIDA
First Downs	14	12
Rushes-Yards	70-239	37-90
Passing Yards	6	99
Att.-Comp.-Int.	8-1-0	21-9-4
Total Offense	245	189
Punts-Yards	10-33.0	6-14.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	4-3
Penalties-Yards	3-39	3-27

Rushing:

Miami (Ohio) - Varner 28-156, Hitchins 20-62, Smith 12-47.
Florida - Moore 16-101, Richards 7-49, Kendrick 6-7.

Passing:

Miami (Ohio) - Sanna 1-8-0-6-0 TD.

Florida - Gaffney 3-9-2-25-0 TD, Davis 1-3-2-8-0 TD, Bowden
4-9-0-35-0 TD.

Receiving:

Miami (Ohio) - Williams 1-6.
Florida - Moore 3-30, Foldberg 2-25, McGriff 2-13.

1974 SUGAR BOWL

Dec. 31, 1974 - New Orleans, La. (Att. 67,890)

NEBRASKA 13
FLORIDA 10

Nebraska 0 0 0 13-13
Florida 7 3 0 0-10

UF - Green 21 run (Posey kick)

UF - Posey 40-yard FG

NU - Anthony 2 run (Coyle kick)

NU - Coyle 37-yard FG

NU - Coyle 39-yard FG

	NEBRASKA	FLORIDA
First Downs	18	13
Rushes-Yards	60-304	55-178
Passing Yards	16	97
Att.-Comp.-Int.	14-2-4	10-5-1
Total Offense	320	275
Fumbles	3-1	3-1
Penalties-Yards	2-17	5-41

Rushing:

Nebraska - Davis 17-126, Anthony 15-64, O'Leary 18-50.
Florida - Dubose 17-84, Green 14-73, Richards 6-22.

Passing:

Nebraska - Humm 2-12-4-16-0 TD.
Florida - Gaffney 5-10-1-97-0 TD.

Receiving:

Nebraska - Westbrook 2-16.
Florida - McGriff 2-52, Darby 1-32.

1975 GATOR BOWL

Dec. 29, 1975 - Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 64,012)

MARYLAND 13
FLORIDA 0

Maryland 7 3 0 3-13
Florida 0 0 0 0-0

MD - Dick to Hoover 19 pass (Sochko kick)

MD - Sochko 20-yard FG

MD - Sochko 27-yard FG

	MARYLAND	FLORIDA
First Downs	15	14
Rushes-Yards	52-209	54-182
Passing Yards	82	28
Att.-Comp.-Int.	16-7-0	19-3-3
Total Offense	291	210
Fumbles	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-47	6-48

Rushing:

Maryland - Atkins 20-127, Jennings 9-53, Wilson 10-33.
Florida - Dubose 18-95, Green 13-31, Fisher 6-21, Gaffney 9-13.

Passing:

Maryland - Dick 5-13-0-67-0 TD, Manges 2-3-0-15-0 TD.
Florida - Gaffney 1-7-2-(-5)-0 TD, Fisher 2-12-1-33-0 TD.

Receiving:

Maryland - Hoover 2-24, Wilson 2-12, Jennings 2-15.
Florida - LeCount 1-25, Enclave 1-8.

1977 SUN BOWL

Jan. 2, 1977 - El Paso, Texas (Att. 33,252)

TEXAS A&M 37
FLORIDA 14

Texas A&M 3 13 8 13-37
Florida 0 0 7 7-14

TAMU - Franklin 39-yard FG

TAMU - Walker 9 run (Franklin kick)

TAMU - Franklin 62-yard FG

TAMU - Franklin 33-yard FG

TAMU - Woodard 1 run (Woodard run)

UF - Chandler 29 run (Posey kick)

TAMU - Woodard 4 run (Franklin kick)

UF - LeCount 1 run (Posey kick)

TAMU - Walker to Woodard 15 pass (Franklin kick missed)

	TEXAS A&M	FLORIDA
First Downs	20	14
Rushing Yards	241	172
Passing Yards	122	58
Att.-Comp.-Int.	19-11-0	24-7-1
Total Offense	363	230
Fumbles-Lost	3-3	6-4
Penalties-Yards	6-33	4-26

Rushing:

Texas A&M - Woodard 25-124, Dickey 15-50.
Florida - Bronson 10-64, Chandler 2-38, LeCount 11-35.

Passing:

Texas A&M - Woodard 11-18-0-122-1 TD.
Florida - Fisher 5-13-1-42-0 TD.

Receiving:

Texas A&M - Woodard 4-25, Haack 3-42.
Florida - Chandler 2-29.

1980 TANGERINE BOWL

Dec. 20, 1980 - Orlando, Fla. (Att. 52,541)

FLORIDA 35
MARYLAND 20

Florida 0 14 14 7-35
Maryland 3 6 11 0-20

MD - Castro 35-yard FG

UF - Peace to Collinsworth 24 pass (Clark kick)

MD - Castro 27-yard FG

UF - Jones 2 run (Clark kick)

MD - Wysocki 1 run (Tice run)

MD - Castro 43-yard FG

UF - Peace 1 run (Clark kick)

UF - Peace to Collinsworth 21 pass (Clark kick)

UF - Brown 2 run (Clark kick)

	FLORIDA	MARYLAND
First Downs	16	19
Rushes-Yards	35-108	54-181
Passing Yards	271	155
Att.-Comp.-Int.	34-20-1	26-15-3
Total Offense	379	336
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	4-2
Penalties-Yards	11-108	6-44

**Rushing:**

Florida - Brown 16-71, Peace 6-12.
Maryland - Wysocki 39-159, Fasano 3-14.

Passing:

Florida - Peace 20-34-1-271-2 TD.
Maryland - Tice 11-23-3-129-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Collinsworth 8-166, Young 8-66.
Maryland - Havener 4-83, Seivers 3-24.

1981 PEACH BOWL

Dec. 31, 1981 • Atlanta, Ga. (Att. 37,582)
WEST VIRGINIA 26
FLORIDA 6

West Virginia 7 9 3 7-26
Florida 0 0 0 6-6

WVU - Luck to Walczak 2 pass (Woodside kick)

WVU - Woodside 30-yard FG

WVU - Woodside 42-yard FG

WVU - Woodside 49-yard FG

WVU - Woodside 24-yard FG

WVU - Walczak 1 run (Woodside kick)

UF - Hewko to Faulkner 22 pass (pass failed)

	WVU	FLORIDA
First Downs	19	10
Rushes-Yards	51-94	34-(-30)
Passing Yards	107	135
Att.-Comp.-Int.	23-14-1	20-11-2
Total Offense	201	105
Punts-Yards	5-33	6-40
Penalties-Yards	4-17	4-39

Rushing:

West Virginia - Cornwell 26-97, Beck 8-37, Walczak 8-35.
Florida - Jones 9-25, Brown 3-8.

Passing:

West Virginia - Luck 14-23-1-107-1 TD.
Florida - Peace 6-13-2-47-0 TD, Hewko 5-7-0-88-1 TD.

Receiving:

West Virginia - Walczak 8-75, Hollins 2-18.
Florida - Mularkey 2-36, Land 2-28, Jackson 4-25.

1982 BLUEBONNET BOWL

Dec. 31, 1982 • Houston, Texas (Att. 31,557)
ARKANSAS 28
FLORIDA 24

Arkansas 7 0 7 14-28
Florida 7 10 7 0-24

ARK - Anderson 6 run (Smith kick)

UF - Hewko to Dixon 3 pass (Raymond kick)

UF - Raymond 34-yard FG

UF - Hewko to Dixon 13 pass (Raymond kick)

ARK - Anderson 1 run (Smith kick)

UF - Hewko to Dixon 17 pass (Raymond kick)

ARK - Jones to Clark 5 pass (Smith kick)

ARK - Jones 1 run (Smith kick)

	ARKANSAS	FLORIDA
First Downs	28	23
Rushes-Yards	69-356	42-171
Passing Yards	122	234
Att.-Comp.-Int.	12-7-1	29-19-1
Total Offense	478	405

Punts-Avg.	3-43.3	4-45.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	5-36	6-50

Rushing:

Arkansas - Anderson 26-161, Clark 17-77, Bowles 10-52.
Florida - Jones 12-89, Hampton 21-61, Williams 3-21.

Passing:

Arkansas - Taylor 5-7-1-123-0 TD, Jones 2-5-0-1 TD.
Florida - Hewko 19-28-0-234-3 TD, Jones 0-1-1-0-0 TD.

Receiving:

Arkansas - Anderson 3-37, White 1-40.
Florida - Dixon 8-106, Hampton 2-37, Faulkner 2-17.

1983 GATOR BOWL

Dec. 30, 1983 • Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 81,293)
FLORIDA 14
IOWA 6

Florida 7 7 0 0-14
Iowa 0 3 3 0-6

UF - Anderson 1 run (Raymond kick)

UI - Nichol 32-yard FG

UF - Raymond 34-yard FG

UF - Drew fumble recovery in endzone (Raymond kick)

UI - Nichol 31-yard FG

	FLORIDA	IOWA
First Downs	14	16
Rushes-Yards	44-168	40-114
Passing Yards	92	167
Att.-Comp.-Int.	22-9-2	30-13-4
Total Offense	260	281
Punts-Avg.	7-37.5	2-40.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	12-105	7-44

Rushing:

Florida - Anderson 17-84, Williams 10-68.
Iowa - Gill 10-83, Granger 9-37.

Passing:

Florida - Peace 9-22-2-92-0 TD.
Iowa - Long 13-29-4-167-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Dixon 5-55.
Iowa - Harmon 6-90, Phillips 2-21.

1987 ALOHA BOWL

Dec. 25, 1987 • Honolulu, Hawaii (Att. 24,839)
UCLA 20
FLORIDA 16

UCLA 3 7 7 3-20
Florida 7 3 0 6-16

UCLA - Velasco 34-yard FG

UF - Bell to Simmons 7 pass (McGinty kick)

UF - McGinty 32-yard FG

UCLA - Brown 1 run (Velasco kick)

UCLA - Aikman to Thompson 5 pass (Velasco kick)

UCLA - Velasco 32-yard FG

UF - Bell to Williams 14 pass (kick blocked)

	UCLA	FLORIDA
First Downs	15	24
Rushes-Yards	41-48	38-188
Passing Yards	173	188

Att.-Comp.-Int.	30-19-2	38-19-0
Total Offense	221	373
Punts-Avg.	6-35.0	4-18.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	3-3
Penalties-Yards	5-35	8-82

Rushing:

UCLA - Ball 23-49, Brown 10-29.
Florida - Smith 17-128, Williams 8-43.

Passing:

UCLA - Aikman 19-30-2-173-1 TD.
Florida - Bell 19-38-0-188-2 TD.

Receiving:

UCLA - Anderson 4-52, Pickert 3-37.
Florida - Snead 3-62, Odom 3-32, Simmons 3-20.

1988 ALL-AMERICAN BOWL

Dec. 29, 1988 • Birmingham, Ala. (48,218)
FLORIDA 14
ILLINOIS 10

Florida 7 0 0 7-14
Illinois 0 7 0 3-10

UF - Smith 55 run (Francis kick)

UI - Jones 30 run (Higgins kick)

UI - Higgins 44-yard FG

UF - Smith 2 run (Francis kick)

	FLORIDA	ILLINOIS
First Downs	12	17
Rushes-Yards	47-187	33-55
Passing Yards	69	194
Att.-Comp.-Int.	16-8-2	38-20-2
Total Offense	256	249
Punts-Avg.	4-29.8	7-35.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-36	8-59

Rushing:

Florida - Smith 18-159, McClendon 9-34.
Illinois - Jones 18-88.

Passing:

Florida - Morris 6-12-2-50-0 TD, Perry 2-3-0-19-0 TD.
Illinois - George 20-37-2-194-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Barber 4-29, Smith 2-19.
Illinois - Bellamy 5-49, Williams 5-44.

1989 FREEDOM BOWL

Dec. 30, 1989 • Anaheim, Calif. (Att. 33,858)
WASHINGTON 34
FLORIDA 7

Washington 17 10 0 7-34
Florida 7 0 0 0-7

UW - Conklin to Bailey 21 pass (McCallum kick)

UF - Douglas 67 run (Francis kick)

UW - McCallum 21-yard FG

UW - Conklin to Riley 10 pass (McCallum kick)

UF - Fields blocked punt recovery (McCallum kick)

UW - McCallum 32-yard FG

UW - Brunell 21 run (McCallum kick)

ALL-TIME BOWL RESULTS

	WASH	FLORIDA
First Downs	28	10
Rushes-Yards	45-191	25-83
Passing Yards	242	148
Att.-Comp.-Int.	44-24-0	28-11-1
Total Offense	433	231
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	7-3
Penalties-Yards	9-86	9-85
Possession Time	41:52	18:08

Rushing:

Washington - Lewis 27-97, Turner 7-38.

Florida - Douglas 9-65, Smith 7-17.

Passing:

Washington - Conklin 21-39-0-217-2 TD, Brunell 3-5-0-25-0 TD.

Florida - Douglas 8-18-1-91-0 TD, L. Smith 3-10-0-57-0 TD.

Receiving:

Washington - McKay 5-83, Lewis 6-44, Ames 5-29.

Florida - Barber 2-41, McClendon 1-36, Mills 3-31.

1992 SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 1, 1992 • New Orleans, La. (Att. 76,447)

NOTRE DAME	39
FLORIDA	28

Notre Dame 0 7 10 22 - 39

Florida 10 6 0 12 - 28

UF - Matthews to Jackson 15 pass (Czyzewski kick)

UF - Czyzewski 26-yard FG

UF - Czyzewski 24-yard FG

ND - Mirer to Dawson 40 pass (Hentrich kick)

UF - Czyzewski 36-yard FG

ND - Pendergast 32-yard FG

ND - Mirer to I. Smith 4 pass (Hentrich kick)

UF - Czyzewski 37-yard FG

UF - Czyzewski 24-yard FG

ND - Bettis 4 run (Mirer pass good)

ND - Bettis 49 run (Pendergast kick)

UF - Matthews to Houston 36 pass (Matthews pass failed)

ND - Bettis 39 run (Pendergast kick)

	NOTRE DAME	FLORIDA
First Downs	23	29
Rushes-Yards	49-279	33-141
Passing Yards	154	370
Att.-Comp.-Int.	19-14-1	58-28-2
Total Offense	433	511
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-15	4-40
Possession Time	29:00	31:00

Rushing:

Notre Dame - Bettis 16-150, Culver 13-93, Brooks 13-68.

Florida - Rhett 15-63, McClendon 7-34.

Passing:

Notre Dame - Mirer 14-19-1-154-2 TD.

Florida - Matthews 28-58-2-370-2 TD.

Receiving:

Notre Dame - T. Smith 7-75, Dawson 2-49.

Florida - Jackson 8-148, Houston 3-52, Sullivan 4-47.

1992 GATOR BOWL

Dec. 31, 1992 • Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 71,233)

FLORIDA	27
N.C. STATE	10

Florida 0 10 10 7 - 27

N.C. State 0 0 3 7 - 10

UF - Davis 34-yard FG

UF - Matthews 1 run (Davis kick)

UF - Matthews to Jackson 17 pass (Davis kick)

NCST - Videtich 23-yard FG

UF - Davis 42-yard FG

NCST - Jordan to Shaw 11 pass (Videtich kick)

UF - Matthews to Houston 34 pass (Davis kick)

	FLORIDA	NC STATE
First Downs	26	13
Rushes-Yards	50-198	25-54
Passing Yards	247	213
Att.-Comp.-Int.	39-19-2	42-22-1
Total Offense	445	267
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-1
Penalties-Yards	6-44	1-10
Possession Time	33:43	26:17

Rushing:

Florida - Rhett 39-192, Matthews 8-8.

N.C. State - Barbour 11-50, George 1-5.

Passing:

Florida - Matthews 19-38-0-247-2 TD.

N.C. State - Jordan 22-42-2-213-1 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Rhett 7-42, Jackson 3-42.

N.C. State - Lawrence 5-77, Auer 5-48, Shaw 5-33.

1994 SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 1, 1994 • New Orleans, La. (Att. 75,437)

FLORIDA	41
WEST VIRGINIA	7

Florida 7 14 11 6 - 41

West Virginia 7 0 0 0 - 7

WVU - Kelchner to Kearney 32 pass (Mazzone kick)

UF - Rhett 3 run (Davis kick)

UF - Wright 52 interception return (Davis kick)

UF - Dean to Jackson 39 pass (Davis kick)

UF - Rhett 2 run (Davis kick)

UF - Rhett 1 run (Davis kick)

UF - Davis 43-yard FG

UF - Davis 26-yard FG

	FLORIDA	WVU
First Downs	30	16
Rushes-Yards	48-201	31-122
Passing Yards	280	143
Att.-Comp.-Int.	39-24-1	40-16-1
Total Offense	482	265
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	5-43	8-71
Possession Time	33:22	26:38

Rushing:

Florida - Rhett 25-105, Foy 10-50, Bilkie 2-11.

West Virginia - Walker 13-59, Woodard 2-18, Kelchner 5-11.

Passing:

Florida - Dean 22-37-1-244-1 TD, Kresser 2-2-0-26-0 TD.

West Virginia - Kelchner 13-27-0-123-1 TD, Studstill 3-11-1-20-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - W. Jackson 9-131, Houston 2-38, J. Jackson 3-32.

West Virginia - Kearney 4-59, Baker 4-46.

1995 SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 2, 1995 • New Orleans, La. (Att. 76,224)

FLORIDA ST	23
FLORIDA	17

Florida St 3 17 3 0 - 23

Florida 3 7 0 7 - 17

FSU - Mowrey 21-yard FG

UF - Davis 26-yard FG

FSU - Dunn to Ellison 73 pass (Mowrey kick)

FSU - Kanell to McCorvey 16 pass (Mowrey kick)

UF - Wuerffel to Hilliard 82 pass (Davis kick)

FSU - Mowrey 24-yard FG

FSU - Mowrey 45-yard FG

UF - Wuerffel 1 run (Davis kick)

	FLORIDA ST	FLORIDA
First Downs	21	23
Rushes-Yards	30-76	29-5
Passing Yards	325	449
Att.-Comp.-Int.	41-24-0	43-30-1
Total Offense	401	454
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	7-62	8-57
Possession Time	27:56	32:04

(continued on next page)

1995 Sugar Bowl (cont.)

Rushing:

Florida St - Dunn 14-58, Crockett 5-19.

Florida - Williams 10-27, Taylor 8-18.

Passing:

Florida St - Kanell 23-40-0-252-1 TD, Dunn 1-1-0-73-1 TD.

Florida - Wuerffel 28-39-1-394-1 TD, Kresser 1-2-0-3-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida St - Ellison 4-102, McCorvey 4-84, Green 4-74.

Florida - Jackson 6-128, Hilliard 3-119, Anthony 8-57.

1996 FIESTA BOWL

Jan. 2, 1996 • Tempe, Ariz. (Att. 79,864)

NEBRASKA	62
FLORIDA	24

Nebraska 6 29 14 13 - 62

Florida 10 0 8 6 - 24

UF - Edmiston 23-yard FG

NU - Frazier to Phillips 16 pass (kick blocked)

UF - Wuerffel 1 run (Edmiston kick)

NU - Phillips 42 run (Brown kick)

NU - Wuerffel sacked by Williams for a safety

NU - Green 1 run (Brown kick)

NU - Brown 26-yard FG

NU - Booker 42-yard interception return (Brown kick)

NU - Brown 24-yard FG

NU - Frazier 35 run (Brown kick)

UF - Wuerffel to Hilliard 35 pass (Wuerffel pass good)

NU - Frazier 75 run (Brown kick)

NU - Phillips 15 run (kick blocked)

NU - Berringer 1 run (Retzlaff kick)

UF - Anthony 93 kickoff return (Wuerffel pass failed)



	NEBRASKA	FLORIDA
First Downs	27	15
Rushes-Yards	68-524	21-(-28)
Passing Yards	105	297
Att.-Comp.-Int.	15-6-2	38-20-3
Total Offense	629	269
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-30	9-78
Possession Time	35:17	24:43

Rushing:

Nebraska - Frazier 16-199, Phillips 25-165, Green 9-68.

Florida - Williams 6-6, T. Jackson 4-4.

Passing:

Nebraska - Frazier 6-14-2-105-1 TD, Phillips 0-1-0-0-0 TD.

Florida - Wuerffel 17-31-3-255-1 TD, Kresser 3-7-0-42-0 TD.

Receiving:

Nebraska - Johnson 2-43, Holbein 1-33.

Florida - Doering 8-123, Hilliard 6-100, Anthony 2-40.

1997 SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 2, 1997 • New Orleans, La. (Att. 78,344)

FLORIDA 52

Florida St 20

Florida	10	14	14	14	52
Florida St	3	14	3	0	20
UF - Wuerffel to Hilliard 9 pass (Edmiston kick)					
FSU - Bentley 43-yard FG					
UF - Edmiston 32-yard FG					
UF - Taylor 2 run (Edmiston kick)					
FSU - Busby to Green 29 pass (Bentley kick)					
UF - Wuerffel to Hilliard 31 pass (Edmiston kick)					
FSU - Dunn 12 run (Bentley kick)					
FSU - Bentley 45-yard FG					
UF - Wuerffel to Hilliard 8 pass (Edmiston kick)					
UF - Wuerffel 16 run (Edmiston kick)					
UF - Jackson 42 run (Edmiston kick)					
UF - Jackson 1 run (Edmiston kick)					

	FLORIDA	FLORIDA ST
First Downs	26	13
Rushes-Yards	43-168	21-42
Passing Yards	306	271
Att.-Comp.-Int.	34-18-1	42-17-2
Total Offense	474	313
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	15-102	14-115
Possession Time	36:27	23:33

Rushing:

Florida - Jackson 12-118, Taylor 18-60.

Florida St - Dunn 9-28, Warrick 1-12.

Passing:

Florida - Wuerffel 18-34-1-306-3 TD.

Florida St - Busby 17-41-1-271-1 TD, Kendra 0-1-1-0-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Hilliard 7-150, Green 5-79, Anthony 4-50.

Florida St - Green 3-86, Cooper 4-82, Messam 5-48.

1998 FLORIDA CITRUS BOWL

Jan. 1, 1998 • Orlando, Fla. (Att. 67,919)

FLORIDA 21

PENN STATE 6

Florida	14	0	0	7	21
Penn State	0	3	3	0	6
UF - Brindise 1 run (Cooper kick)					
UF - Johnson to Green 35 pass (Cooper kick)					
PSU - Forney 42-yard FG					
PSU - Forney 30-yard FG					
UF - Palmer to Green 37 pass (Cooper kick)					

	FLORIDA	PENN ST
First Downs	23	9
Rushes-Yards	59-254	29-47
Passing Yards	143	92
Att.-Comp.-Int.	19-9-2	32-10-3
Total Offense	397	139
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-46	1-5
Possession Time	35:07	24:53

Rushing:

Florida - Taylor 43-234, Carroll 9-28.

Penn State - Eberly 14-53, Watson 4-5.

Passing:

Florida - Johnson 5-12-1-77-1 TD, Brindise 3-6-1-29-0 TD, Palmer 1-1-0-37-1 TD.

Penn State - McQueary 10-32-3-92-0 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Green 2-72, McGriff 1-19, Tayor 1-19.

Penn State - Natasi 2-26, Brown 3-25, Watson 2-15.

1999 ORANGE BOWL

Jan. 2, 1999 • Miami, Fla. (Att. 67,919)

FLORIDA 31

SYRACUSE 10

Florida	14	14	14	3	31
Syracuse	0	3	0	7	10
UF - Johnson to Taylor 51 pass (Chandler kick)					
UF - Johnson to Taylor 26 pass (Chandler kick)					
SYR - Trout 36-yard FG					
UF - Palmer to Kinney 4 pass (Chandler kick)					
UF - Palmer 2 run (Chandler kick)					
UF - Chandler 32-yard FG					
SYR - McNabb to Jackson 62 pass (Trout kick)					

	FLORIDA	SYRACUSE
First Downs	18	18
Rushes-Yards	36-133	36-129
Passing Yards	308	192
Att.-Comp.-Int.	31-22-0	30-14-1
Total Offense	441	321
Fumbles Lost	0	3
Penalties-Yards	11-76	2-20
Possession Time	31:48	28:12

Rushing:

Florida - Jackson 21-108, Taylor 2-16.

Syracuse - McNabb 20-72, Brown 5-31.

Passing:

Florida - Johnson 12-17-0-195-2 TD, Palmer 10-14-0-113-1 TD.

Syracuse - McNabb 14-30-1-192-1 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Taylor 7-159, Karim 4-79, Jackson 4-27.

Syracuse - Jackson 1-62, Johnson 4-49, Daniel 4-34.

2000 FLORIDA CITRUS BOWL

Jan. 1, 2000 • Orlando, Fla. (Att. 62,011)

MICHIGAN STATE 37

FLORIDA 34

Michigan St 3 17 6 11 - 37

Florida 7 14 6 7 - 34

MSU - Edinger 46-yard FG

UF - Johnson to Taylor 12 pass (Chandler kick)

MSU - Burke to Burress 37 pass (Edinger kick)

MSU - Turner 24-yard fumble return (Edinger kick)

UF - Johnson to Taylor 8 pass (Chandler kick)

MSU - Edinger 20-yard FG

UF - Johnson 1 run (Chandler kick)

MSU - Burke to Burress 21 pass (Burke pass failed)

UF - Johnson to Taylor 39 pass (Johnson pass failed)

UF - Gillespie 2 run (Chandler kick)

MSU - Burke to Burress 30 pass (Burke pass good)

MSU - Edinger 39-yard FG

	MICHIGAN ST	FLORIDA
First Downs	25	27
Rushes-Yards	40-187	30-113
Passing Yards	257	300
Att.-Comp.-Int.	35-21-2	51-25-0
Total Offense	400	367
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Penalties-Yards	7-80	10-100
Possession Time	32:49	27:11

Rushing:

Michigan State - Clemons 20-105, Duckett 14-77.

Florida - Gillespie 14-74, Carroll 5-14.

Passing:

Michigan State - Burke 21-35-2-257-3 TD.

Florida - Johnson 24-50-0-288-3 TD.

Receiving:

Michigan State - Burress 13-185, Baker 2-21.

Florida - Taylor 11-156, Jackson 5-61, Willis 4-53.

2001 SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 2, 2001 • New Orleans, La. (Att. 64,407)

MIAMI (FLA.) 37

FLORIDA 20

Miami (Fla.) 10 3 14 10 - 37

Florida 7 3 7 3 - 20

UF - Grossman to Wells 23 pass (Chandler kick)

UM - Sievers 44-yard FG

UM - Dorsey to Shockey 8 pass (Sievers kick)

UM - Sievers 29-yard FG

UF - Chandler 51-yard FG

UF - Graham 36 run (Chandler kick)

UM - Dorsey to Williams 19 pass (Sievers kick)

UM - Dorsey to Davenport 2 pass (Sievers kick)

UF - Chandler 26-yard FG

UM - Sievers 29-yard FG

UM - Davenport 3 run (Sievers kick)

	MIAMI	FLORIDA
First Downs	28	25
Rushes-Yards	43-198	20-155

ALL-TIME BOWL RESULTS

Passing Yards	270	312
Att.-Comp.-Int.	40-22-2	51-24-3
Total Offense	454	452
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Penalties-Yards	11-109	9-79
Possession Time	35:19	24:41

Rushing:

Miami - Portis 18-97, Jackson 12-62, Davenport 6-17.
Florida - Graham 15-136.

Passing:

Miami - Dorsey 22-40-2-270-3 TD.
Florida - Grossman 18-41-2-252-1 TD, Palmer 6-10-1-60-0 TD.

Receiving:

Miami - Moss 6-89, Wayne 3-49, Shockey 4-47.
Florida - Caldwell 6-110, Gaffney 7-75, Graham 4-43.

2002 ORANGE BOWL

Jan. 2, 2002 • Miami, Fla. (Att. 73,640)

FLORIDA	56
MARYLAND	23

Florida	14	14	21	7-56
Maryland	7	3	0	13-23

UF - Graham 1 run (Chandler kick)

UF - Berlin to Jacobs 46 pass (Chandler kick)

MD - Hill to Williams 64 pass (Novak kick)

MD - Novak 20-yard FG

UF - Grossman to Jacobs 15 pass (Chandler kick)

UF - Grossman to Gaffney 4 pass (Chandler kick)

UF - Gillespie 11 run (Chandler kick)

MD - Riley 1 run (Novak kick)

UF - Grossman to Perez 10 pass (Chandler kick)

MD - Riley 10 run (Hill pass failed)

	FLORIDA	MARYLAND
First Downs	30	19
Rushes-Yards	25-203	40-103
Passing Yards	456	257
Att.-Comp.-Int.	49-33-2	39-23-1
Total Offense	659	360
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-43	4-20
Possession Time	28:26	31:34

Rushing:

Florida - Graham 16-149, Gillespie 4-63.

Maryland - Hill 11-31, Riley 9-23.

Passing:

Florida - Grossman 20-28-0-248-3 TD, Berlin 11-19-2-196-1 TD,
Creveling 2-2-0-12-0 TD.

Maryland - Hill 23-39-1-257-1 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Jacobs 10-170, Gaffney 7-118, Caldwell 4-47.

Maryland - Williams 4-91, Parson 4-46, Murphy 5-42.

2003 OUTBACK BOWL

Jan. 1, 2003 • Tampa, Fla. (Att. 65,101)

MICHIGAN	38
FLORIDA	30

Michigan	7	14	14	3-38
Florida	0	16	7	7-30

UM - Perry 4 run (Finley kick)

UF - Graham 2 run (Leach kick)

UF - Graham 1 run (Carthon rush failed)

UM - Perry 1 run (Finley kick)

UF - Leach 29-yard FG

UM - Navarre to Bellamy 8 pass (Finley kick)

UF - Grossman to Ratliff 33 pass (Leach kick)

UM - Perry 7 run (Finley kick)

UM - Perry 12 run (Finley kick)

UF - Grossman to Walker 3 pass (Leach kick)

UM - Finley 33-yard FG

	MICHIGAN	FLORIDA
First Downs	17	28
Rushes-Yards	37-104	43-183
Passing Yards	319	323
Att.-Comp.-Int.	37-21-0	42-21-1
Total Offense	423	506
Fumbles Lost-Int.	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	3-23	6-38
Possession Time	32:39	27:21

Rushing:

Michigan - Perry 28-85, Bellamy 2-20.

Florida - Graham 22-120, Carthon 6-56.

Passing:

Michigan - Navarre 21-36-0-319-1 TD.

Florida - Grossman 21-41-0-323-2 TD, Brown 0-1-1-0-0 TD.

Receiving:

Michigan - Edwards 4-110, Perry 6-108, Joppru 6-80.

Florida - Jacobs 7-88, Carthon 3-65, Kight 3-52.

2004 OUTBACK BOWL

Jan. 1, 2004 • Tampa, Fla. (Att. 65,372)

IOWA	37
FLORIDA	17

Iowa	7	13	14	3-37
Florida	7	0	3	7-17

UF - Leak to Kight 70 pass (Leach kick)

UI - Chandler to Brown 3 pass (Kaeding kick)

UI - Kaeding 47-yard FG

UI - Chandler 5 run (Kaeding kick)

UI - Kaeding 32-yard FG

UI - Melloy 0-yard blocked punt return (Kaeding kick)

UF - Leach 48-yard FG

UI - Russell 34 run (Kaeding kick)

UI - Kaeding 38-yard FG

UF - Leak to Baker 25 pass (Leach kick)

	IOWA	FLORIDA
First Downs	22	16
Rushes-Yards	49-238	28-57
Passing Yards	170	268
Att.-Comp.-Int.	26-13-0	41-22-1
Total Offense	408	325
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	3-15	4-43
Possession Time	34:10	25:50

Rushing:

Iowa - Russell 21-150, Lewis 12-45.

Florida - Carthon 10-44, Fason 4-23.

Passing:

Iowa - Chandler 13-25-0-170-1 TD.

Florida - Leak 22-41-1-268-2 TD.

Receiving:

Iowa - Brown 6-96, Hinkel 3-44.

Florida - Perez 7-70, Small 3-37, Baker 3-36.

2004 CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL

Dec. 31, 2004 • Atlanta, Ga. (Att. 69,322)

MIAMI	27
FLORIDA	10

Miami	7	10	7	3-27
Florida	0	3	7	0-10

UM - Hester 78-yard blocked field goal return (Peattie kick)

UF - Leach 34-yard FG

UM - Peattie 47-yard FG

UM - Parrish 72-yard punt return (Peattie kick)

UM - Berlin to Moore 20 pass (Peattie kick)

UF - Leak to Cornelius 45 pass (Leach kick)

UM - Peattie 32-yard FG

	MIAMI	FLORIDA
First Downs	16	22
Rushes-Yards	36-106	40-144
Passing Yards	171	262
Att.-Comp.-Int.	13-24-1	39-19-2
Total Offense	277	406
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	4-30	8-74
Possession Time	28:51	31:09

Rushing:

Miami - Gore 25-80, Moss 4-18.

Florida - Fason 17-94, Leak 14-79, Thornton 8-20.

Passing:

Miami - Berlin 13-24-1-171-1 TD.

Florida - Leak 19-39-2-262-1 TD.

Receiving:

Miami - Parrish 4-63, Leggett 2-41, Moore 2-32.

Florida - Small 8-92, Fason 4-40, Jackson 2-33.

2006 OUTBACK BOWL

Jan. 2, 2006 • Tampa, Fla. (Att. 65,881)

FLORIDA	31
IOWA	24

Florida	7	17	7	0-31
Iowa	0	7	0	17-24

UF - T. McCollum 6-yard blocked punt return (Hetland kick)

UF - Hetland 21-yard FG

UF - Brown 60-yard interception return (Hetland kick)

UI - Tate to Solomon 20 pass (Schlicher kick)

UF - Leak to Baker 24 pass (Hetland kick)

UF - Leak to Baker 38 pass (Hetland kick)

UI - Tate to Hinkel 4 pass (Schlicher kick)

UI - Tate to Hinkel 14 pass (Schlicher kick)

UI - Schlicher 45-yard FG

	FLORIDA	IOWA
First Downs	26	23
Rushes-Yards	42-169	20-64
Passing Yards	278	346
Att.-Comp.-Int.	40-25-0	55-32-1
Total Offense	447	410
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-30	8-60
Possession Time	35:25	24:35

Rushing:

Florida - Moore 13-88, Wynn 8-34, Leak 13-31.

Iowa - Young 13-34, Tate 3-24.



Passing:

Florida - Leak 25-40-0-278-2 TD.

Iowa - Tate 32-55-1-346-3 TD.

Receiving:

Florida - Baker 10-147, Jackson 7-76, Casey 2-27.

Iowa - Solomon 7-96, Hinkel 9-87, Chandler 7-89.

2007 TOSTITOS BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan. 8, 2007 • Glendale, Ariz. (Att. 74,628)

FLORIDA 41

OHIO STATE 14

Florida 14 20 0 7 - 41

Ohio State 7 7 0 0 - 24

OSU - Ginn, Jr., 93-yard kickoff return (Pettrey kick)

UF - Leak to Baker 14 pass (Hetland kick)

UF - Harvin 4 run (Hetland kick)

UF - Wynn 2 run (Hetland kick)

OSU - Pittman 18 run (Pettrey kick)

UF - Hetland 42-yard FG

UF - Hetland 40-yard FG

UF - Tebow to Caldwell 1 pass (Hetland kick)

UF - Tebow 1 run (Hetland kick)

	FLORIDA	OHIO ST
First Downs	21	8
Rushes-Yards	43-156	23-47
Passing Yards	214	35
Att.-Comp.-Int.	26-37-0	4-14-1
Total Offense	370	82
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	6-50	5-50
Possession Time	40:48	19:12

Rushing:

Florida - Wynn 19-69, Tebow 10-39, Harvin 5-22

Ohio State - Pittman 10-60, Wells 2-9, Hartline 1-5

Passing:

Florida - Leak 25-36-0-213-1 TD, Tebow 1-1-0-1-1 TD

Ohio State - Smith 4-14-1-35-0 TD

Receiving:

Florida - Harvin 9-60, Cornelius 5-50, Ingram 4-58

Ohio State - Gonzales 2-11, Hartline 1-13, Pittman 1-11

2008 CAPITAL ONE BOWL

Jan. 1, 2008 • Orlando, Fla. (Att. 69,748)

MICHIGAN 41

FLORIDA 35

Michigan 7 14 7 13 - 41

Florida 7 7 14 7 - 35

UM - Henne to Manningham 21 pass (Lopata kick)

UF - Tebow to Harvin 10 pass (Iijas kick)

UF - Tebow to Caldwell 18 pass (Iijas kick)

UM - Hart 3 run (Lopata kick)

UM - Henne to Arrington 1 pass (Lopata kick)

UM - Hart 1 run (Lopata kick)

UF - Tebow 1 run (Iijas kick)

UF - Tebow to Caldwell 14 pass (Iijas kick)

UM - Lopata 37-yard FG

UF - Harvin 10 run (Iijas kick)

UM - Henne to Arrington 18 pass (Lopata kick)

UM - Lopata 41-yard FG

	MICHIGAN	FLORIDA
First Downs	28	18
Rushes-Yards	47-151	32-230
Passing Yards	373	169
Att.-Comp.-Int.	39-25-2	34-18-0
Total Offense	524	399
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-65	9-49
Possession Time	32:18	27:42

Rushing:

Michigan - Hart 32-129, Manningham 7-53

Florida - Harvin 13-165, Tebow 16-19

Passing:

Michigan - Henne 25-39-2-373-3 TD

Florida - Tebow 14-33-0-154-3 TD, Henry 1-1-0-15-0 TD

Receiving:

Michigan - Arrington 9-153, Matthews 7-62, Manningham 5-78

Florida - Harvin 9-77, Caldwell 4-40, Hernandez 3-31

2009 FEDEX BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan. 8, 2009 • Miami, Fla. (Att. 78,468)

FLORIDA 24

OKLAHOMA 14

Florida 0 7 7 10 - 24

Oklahoma 0 7 0 7 - 14

UF - Tebow to Murphy 20 pass (Phillips kick)

OU - Bradford to Gresham 6 pass (Stevens kick)

UF - Harvin 2 run (Phillips kick)

OU - Bradford to Gresham 11 pass (Stevens kick)

UF - Phillips 27-yard FG

UF - Tebow to Nelson 4 pass (Phillips kick)

	FLORIDA	OKLAHOMA
First Downs	24	25
Rushes-Yards	44-249	29-107
Passing Yards	231	256
Att.-Comp.-Int.	30-18-2	41-26-2
Total Offense	480	363
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	8-81	4-31
Possession Time	34:57	25:03

Rushing:

Florida - Harvin 9-122, Tebow 22-109.

Oklahoma - Brown 22-110, Madu 4-12

Passing:

Florida - Tebow 18-30-2-231-2 TD,

Oklahoma - Bradford 26-41-2-256-2 TD

Receiving:

Florida - Hernandez 5-57, Harvin 5-49, Murphy 2-44

Oklahoma - Gresham 8-62, Iglesias 5-58, Johnson 4-29

2010 ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 1, 2010 • New Orleans, La. (Att. 65,207)

CINCINNATI 24

FLORIDA 51

Cincinnati 0 3 7 14 - 24

Florida 9 21 14 7 - 51

UF - Tebow to Hernandez 7-yd pass (Sturgis kick failed)

UF - Sturgis 40-yd FG

UF - Tebow to Thompson 7-yd pass (Sturgis kick)

UF - Moody 6-yd run (Sturgis kick)

UC - Rogers 47-yd FG

UF - Tebow to Cooper 80-yd pass (Sturgis kick)

UF - Moody 2-yd run (Sturgis kick)

UC - Pike to Waugh 2-yd pass (Rogers kick)

UF - Tebow 4-yd run (Sturgis kick)

UC - Pike to Binns 3-yd pass (Rogers kick)

UF - Rainey 6-yd run (Sturgis kick)

UC - Pike to Alli 6-yd pass (Rogers kick)

	CINCINNATI	FLORIDA
First Downs	19	28
Rushes-Yards	23-76	34-177
Passing Yards	170	482
Att.-Comp.-Int.	45-27-0	36-31-0
Total Offense	246	659
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-40	12-90
Possession Time	27:40	32:20

Rushing:

Cincinnati - Pead 7-48, Kelce 1-19

Florida - Gillislee 5-78, Tebow 14-51

Passing:

Cincinnati - Pike 27-45-0-170-3 TD

Florida - Tebow 31-35-0-482-3 TD

Receiving:

Cincinnati - Gilyard 7-41, Binns 5-29, Guidugli 5-22

Florida - Hernandez 9-111, Cooper 7-181, Rainey 4-71

2011 OUTBACK BOWL

Jan. 1, 2011 • Tampa, Fla. (Att. 60,574)

FLORIDA 37

PENN STATE 24

Florida 0 14 6 17 - 37

Penn State 7 10 7 0 - 24

PSU - McGloin to Moye 5-yd pass (Wagner kick)

UF - Hines 16-yd run (Henry kick)

UF - McCray 27-yd blocked pun return (Henry kick)

PSU - Zordich 1-yd run (Wagner kick)

PSU - Wagner 20-yd FG

UF - Henry 30-yd FG

PSU - McGloin 2-yd run (Wagner kick)

UF - Henry 47-yd FG

UF - Gillislee 1-yd run (Henry kick)

UF - Henry 20-yd FG

UF - Black 80-yd interception return (Henry kick)

	FLORIDA	PENN ST
First Downs	17	17
Rushes-Yards	45-178	36-139
Passing Yards	101	211
Att.-Comp.-Int.	27-14-1	41-17-5
Total Offense	279	350
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-35	5-29
Possession Time	27:11	32:49

Rushing:

Florida - Reed 24-68, Rainey 6-66

Penn State - Royster 20-98

Passing:

Florida - Reed 8-13-0-0, Brantley 6-13-1-0 TD

Penn State - McGloin 17-41-5-1 TD

Receiving:

Penn State - Moye 5-79, Royster 4-51, Brackett 2-28

Florida - Hines 2-27, Burton 2-22, Thompson 2-22

2012 TAXSLAYER.COM GATOR BOWL

Jan. 2, 2012 • Jacksonville, Fla. (Att. 61,312)

OHIO STATE 17
FLORIDA 24

Ohio State 0 10 0 7-17
Florida 7 7 7 3-24

UF - Brantley to Thompson 17-yd pass (Sturgis kick)

OSU - Miller to Posey 5-yd pass (Basil kick)

UF - Debose 99-yd kickoff return (Sturgis kick)

OSU - Basil 47-yd field goal

UF - Stewart 14-yd blocked punt return (Sturgis kick)

UF - Sturgis 17-yd field goal

OSU - Miller to Hall 11-yd pass (Basil kick)

	OHIO ST	FLORIDA
First Downs	20	14
Rushes-Yards	37-137	38-131
Passing Yards	162	132
Att.-Comp.-Int.	23-18-0	16-12-1
Total Offense	236	263
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	2-2
Penalties-Yards	4-25	7-74
Possession Time	32:21	27:39

Rushing:

Ohio St - Herron 12-82, Hall 4-24, Miller 15-20, Hyde 5-17

Florida - Rainey 16-71, Demps 7-30, Burton 4-23, Gillislee 5-15

Passing:

Ohio St - Miller 18-23-0-162-2 TD

Florida - Brantley 12-16-1-132-1 TD

Receiving:

Ohio St - Posey 5-38, Herron 4-11, Hall 3-12, Smith 2-47

Florida - Rainey 3-31, Hines 2-40, Thompson 2-27

2013 ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 2, 2013 • New Orleans, La. (Att. 54,178)

LOUISVILLE 33
FLORIDA 23

Louisville 14 10 6 3-33
Florida 0 10 0 13-23

UL - Floyd 38-yd interception return (Wallace kick)

UL - Wright 1-yd run (Wallace kick)

UF - Sturgis 33-yd field goal

UL - Wallace 27-yd field goal

UL - Bridgewater to Parker 15-yd pass (Wallace kick)

UF - Jones 1-yd run (Sturgis kick)

UL - Bridgewater to Copeland 19-yd pass (Wallace kick)

UL - Wallace 30-yd field goal

UF - Debose 100-yd kickoff return (Sturgis kick)

UF - Driskel to Taylor 5-yd pass (Sturgis kick)

	LOUISVILLE	FLORIDA
First Downs	23	17
Rushes-Yards	36-70	30-111
Passing Yards	266	175
Att.-Comp.-Int.	32-20-1	29-16-2
Total Offense	336	286
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	2-25	9-98
Possession Time	35:37	24:23

Rushing:

Louisville - Wright 25-84-1 TD, Lamb 2-5, Bridgewater 7-(-17)

Florida - Gillislee 9-48, T.Burton 5-24, Jones 3-16-1 TD, Hines 2-11, Debose 1-8, Driskel 10-4

Passing:

Louisville - Bridgewater 20-32-1-266-2 TD

Florida - Driskel 16-29-2-175-1 TD

Receiving:

Louisville - Rogers 4-62, Smith 4-55, Wright 3-19, Butler 2-43, Parker 2-32-1 TD, Copeland 2-31-1 TD

Florida - Dunbar 5-77, Hines 3-34, Hammond 2-22

2015 BIRMINGHAM BOWL

Jan. 3, 2015 • Birmingham, Ala. (Att. 30,083)

EAST CAROLINA 20
FLORIDA 28

East Carolina 7 0 10 3-20
Florida 7 14 7 0-28

ECU - Carden to Hardy 3-yd pass (Harvey kick)

UF - Poole 29-yd interception return (Hardin kick)

UF - Lane 2-yd run (Hardin kick)

UF - Harris to Powell 13-yd pass (Hardin kick)

ECU - Carden to Worthy 4-yd pass (Harvey kick)

UF - Harris to Fulwood 86-yd pass (Hardin kick)

ECU - Harvey 24-yd field goal

ECU - Harvey 24-yd field goal

	ECU	FLORIDA
First Downs	32	15
Rushes-Yards	33-109	43-168
Passing Yards	427	171
Att.-Comp.-Int.	68-34-2	28-13-1
Total Offense	536	339
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-2
Penalties-Yards	5-35	6-40
Possession Time	32:23	27:37

Rushing:

ECU - Hairston 17-73, Scott 5-44, Benkert 2-6, Carden 9-(-14)

Florida - Lane 16-109-1 TD, Harris 10-41, Brown 8-21, Driskel 3-7, Taylor 4-0, Team 2-(-10)

Passing:

ECU - Carden 34-66-2-427-2 TD, Jones 0-1-0-0, Hardy 0-1-0-0

Florida - Driskel 8-17-0-48, Harris 5-11-1-123-1 TD

Receiving:

ECU - Hardy 11-160-1 TD, Worthy 8-130-1 TD, Jones 6-64,

Williams 3-24, Grayson 2-36, Johnson 1-5, Williams 1-5,

Baggett 1-2, Scott 1-1

Florida - Robinson 6-36, Powell 3-20-1 TD, Fulwood 1-86-1 TD,

Burton 1-18, Dunbar 1-6, Thompson 1-5

2016 BUFFALO WILD WINGS CITRUS BOWL

Jan. 1, 2016 • Orlando, Fla. (Att. 63,113)

MICHIGAN 41
FLORIDA 7

Michigan 7 10 14 10-41
Florida 7 0 0 0-7

MICH - Johnson 4-yd run (Allen kick)

UF - Callaway to Harris 2-yd pass (MacInnes kick)

MICH - Rudock to Chesson 31-yd pass (Allen kick)

MICH - Allen 21-yd field goal

MICH - Rudock to Perry 3-yd pass (Allen kick)

MICH - Houma 2-yd run (Allen kick)

MICH - Rudock to Johnson 8-yd pass (Allen kick)

MICH - Allen 25-yd field goal

	MICHIGAN	FLORIDA
First Downs	28	14
Rushes-Yards	46-225	27-118
Passing Yards	278	155
Att.-Comp.-Int.	31-20-0	25-10-2
Total Offense	503	273
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-30	7-66
Possession Time	38:38	21:22

Rushing:

Michigan - Smith 25-109, Johnson 6-58 TD, Houma 9-32 TD,

Rudock 4-29, Team 2-(-3)

Florida - Harris 11-55, Taylor 11-50, Cronkrite 3-17, Bryan

1-(-1), Grady 1-(-3)

Passing:

Michigan - Rudock 20-31-0-278 3 TD

Florida - Harris 8-21-1-146, Grady 1-2-0-7, Callaway 1-1-0-2

TD, Townsend 0-1-1-0

Receiving:

Michigan - Chesson 5-118 TD, Perry 5-51 TD, Butt 3-34, Darboh

2-24, Johnson 2-10 TD, Hill 1-24, Bunting 1-17, Smith 1-0

Florida - Callaway 5-75, Powell 1-26, Thompson 1-20, Robinson

1-17, Cronkrite 1-15, Harris 1-2 TD



2017 OUTBACK BOWL

Jan. 2, 2017 • Tampa, Fla. (Att. 51,119)

FLORIDA 30
IOWA 3

Florida 3 7 7 13-30
Iowa 3 0 0 0-3

IOWA - Duncan, 36-yd field goal
UF - Pineiro, 44-yd field goal
UF - Appleby to Thompson 85-yd pass (Pineiro kick)
UF - Appleby to Goolsby 6-yd pass (Pineiro kick)
UF - Gardner 58-yd interception return (Pineiro kick)
UF - Pineiro, 25-yd field goal
UF - Pineiro, 48-yd field goal

	FLORIDA	IOWA
First Downs	11	14
Rushes-Yards	32-109	41-171
Passing Yards	222	55
Att.-Comp.-Int.	25-14-2	24-7-3
Total Offense	331	226
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-60	1-10
Possession Time	28:45	31:15

Rushing:

Florida - Scarlett 14-94, Perine 7-19, Callaway 1-6, Thompson 2-4, Team 2-(-3), Appleby 6-(-11)

Iowa - Wadley 22-115, LeShun 15-45, Beathard 4-11

Passing:

Florida - Appleby 14-25-2-222 2 TD

Iowa - Beathard 7-23-3-55, Stanley 0-1-0-0

Receiving:

Florida - Callaway 7-55, Goolsby 2-27 TD, Powell 2-15, Thompson 1-85 TD, Swain 1-24, Cleveland 1-16

Iowa - Wadley 4-21, Kittle 1-18, McCarron 1-11, Pekar 1-5

2018 CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL

Dec. 29, 2018 • Atlanta, Ga. (Att. 74,006)

FLORIDA 41
MICHIGAN 15

Florida 3 10 14 14-41
Michigan 7 3 0 5-15

UF - McPherson 21-yard field goal
UM - Patterson to Peoples-Jones, 9-yard pass (Moody kick)
UF - McPherson 26-yard field goal
UM - Moody 48-yd field goal
UF - Franks 20-yard run (McPherson kick)
UF - Perine 5-yard pass (McPherson kick)
UF - Scarlett 1-yard pass (McPherson kick)
UM - Moody 26-yd field goal
UF - Perine 53-yard pass (McPherson kick)
UM - Blocked Punt for UF Safety
UF - Gardner-Johnson 30-yard INT return (McPherson kick)

	FLORIDA	MICHIGAN
First Downs	15	18
Rushes-Yards	40-257	30-77
Passing Yards	170	249
Att.-Comp.-Int.	14-24-0	23-37-2
Total Offense	427	326
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-40	4-22
Possession Time	31:19	28:41

Rushing:

Florida - Perine, L. 6-76, TD; Franks, F. 14-74, TD; Scarlett, J. 9-63, TD; Toney, K. 2-36

Michigan - Turner, C. 7-32; Evans, C. 7-20; Milton, J. 1-11

Passing:

Florida - Franks, F. 13-23-0, 173, TD

Michigan - Patterson, S. 22-36-2, 236, TD

Receiving:

Florida - Jefferson, V. 4-64; Hammond, J. 2-61; Lewis, C. 1-28; Perine, L. 4-22, TD

Michigan - Collins, N. 5-80; Peoples-Jones, D. 8-71, TD; Gentry, Z. 2-39

2019 CAPITAL ONE ORANGE BOWL

Dec. 30, 2019 • Miami Gardens, Fla. (Att. 65,157)

FLORIDA 36
VIRGINIA 28

Florida 14 10 3 9-36
Michigan 7 7 0 14-28

UF - Perine 61-yard run (McPherson kick)
VA - Jana 34-yard pass (Delaney kick)
UF - Perine 16-yard pass (McPherson kick)
VA - Dubois 9-yard pass (Delaney kick)
UF - McPherson 23-yard field goal
UF - Perine 10-yard run (McPherson kick)
UF - McPherson 49-yard field goal
VA - Reed 7-yard pass (Delaney kick)
UF - Trask 1-yard run
UF - McPherson 42-yard field goal
UF - Dubois 2-yard pass (Delaney kick)

	FLORIDA	VIRGINIA
First Downs	25	20
Rushes-Yards	34-244	21-52
Passing Yards	305	323
Att.-Comp.-Int.	24-39-1	28-41-1
Total Offense	549	375
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	4-40	3-14
Possession Time	31:51	28:09

Rushing:

Florida - Perine, L. 13-138, 2 TD; Trask, K. 8-37, TD; Pierce, D. 6-34; Jones, E. 4-32; Davis, M. 1-3; Toney, K. 1-1; Team 1-(-1)

Virginia - Perkins, B. 14-24; Taulapapa, W. 5-14; Reed, J. 2-14

Passing:

Florida - Trask, K. 24-39-1, 305, TD

Virginia - Perkins, B. 28-40-1, 323, 4 TD; Team 0-1

Receiving:

Florida - Jefferson, V. 4-129; Perine, L. 5-43, TD; Cleveland, T. 3-51; Pitts, K. 3-39; Swain, F. 3-21; Davis, M. 1-9; Grimes, T. 1-7; Copeland, J. 1-7; Toney, K. 1-(-1)

Virginia - Dubois, H. 10-83, 2 TD; Jana, T. 7-126, TD; Reed, J. 7-52, TD; Cowley, T. 3-60; Kemp, B. 1-2

2020 GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL

Dec. 30, 2020 • Arlington, Texas (Att. 17,323)

FLORIDA 20
OKLAHOMA 55

Florida 3 10 0 7-20
Oklahoma 17 14 10 14-55

OU - Rattler 27-yard pass (Brkic kick)
OU - Norwood 45-yard interception (Brkic kick)
OU - Brkic 43-yard field goal
UF - McPherson 21-yard field goal
UF - Jones 1-yard run (McPherson kick)
UF - McPherson 35-yard field goal
OU - Rattler 36-yard pass (Brkic kick)
OU - Rattler 1-yard run (Brkic kick)
OU - Brkic 20-yard field goal
OU - Stevenson 15-yard run (Brkic kick)
OU - Rattler 20-yard pass (Brkic kick)
OU - Major 46-yard run (Brkic kick)
UF - Richardson 27-yard pass (Howard kick)

	FLORIDA	OKLAHOMA
First Downs	28	25
Rushes-Yards	39-250	40-435
Passing Yards	271	249
Att.-Comp.-Int.	25-45-3	15-25-0
Total Offense	521	684
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards	8-61	4-40
Possession Time	33:20	26:40

Rushing:

Florida - Jones, E. 10-63, 1 TD; Pierce, D. 11-61; Wright, N. 4-49; Richardson, A. 3-42; Davis, M. 7-31; Lingard, L. 1-13; Trask, K. 3-3
Oklahoma - Stevenson, R. 18-186, 1 TD; Major, M. 9-110, 1 TD; McGowan, S. 1-73; Rattler, S. 7-46, 1 TD; Henderson, M. 1-18; Hudson, T. 2-12; Team 2-(-4)

Passing:

Florida - Trask, K. 16-28-3, 158; Jones, E. 8-16-0, 86; Richardson, A. 1-1-0, 27, 1 TD
Oklahoma - Rattler, S. 14-23-0, 247, 3 TD; Morris, C. 1-2-0, 2

Receiving:

Florida - Whittemore, T. 2-47; Wells, R. 6-43; Zipperer, K. 4-38; Pouncey, J. 1-27, 1 TD; Shorter, J. 2-22; Pierce, D. 2-20; Davis, M. 2-19; Wright, N. 2-13; Weston, J. 1-13; Gamble, K. 1-13; Henderson, X. 1-12; Frazier, J. 1-4
Oklahoma - McGowan, S. 3-70; Rambo, C. 2-45, 1 TD; Wease, T. 1-36, 1 TD; Mims, M. 1-27, 1 TD; Stoops, D. 2-21; Bridges, T. 2-19; Stogner, A. 1-12; Hall, J. 1-12; Howard, T. 1-5; Henderson, M. 1-2

2021 GASPARILLA BOWL

Dec. 23, 2021 • Tampa, Fla. (Att. 63,669)

UCF 29
FLORIDA 17

UCF 0 9 17 3-29
Florida 7 3 7 0-17

UF - Pierce 2-yard run (Howard kick)
UCF - Bowser 3-yard run (2pt attempt failed)
UCF - Obarski 34-yard field goal
UF - Howard 26-yard field goal
UCF - Bowser 4-yard run (Obarski kick)
UF - Davis 19-yard run (Howard kick)
UCF - Obarski 21-yard field goal
UCF - Keene 54-yard pass (Obarski kick)
UCF - Obarski 33-yard field goal

	UCF	FLORIDA
First Downs	20	19
Rushes-Yards	50-288	30-205
Passing Yards	148	171
Att.-Comp.-Int.	15-25-0	14-37-0
Total Offense	436	376
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-42	8-85
Possession Time	34:30	25:30

Rushing:

UCF - Bowser, I. 35-155, 2 TD; O'Keefe, R. 4-110; Richardson, J. 3-40; Johnson, A. 1-4; Navarro, P. 1-3; Gatewood, J. 1-(-1); Team 2-(-4); Keene, M. 3-(-19)
Florida - Davis, M. 7-86, TD; Jones, E. 10-62; Pierce, D. 13-57, TD

Passing:

UCF - Keene, M. 14-22-0, 144, TD; Navarro, P. 1-2-0, 4; Gatewood, J. 0-1-0, 0
Florida - Jones, E. 14-36-0, 171; Whittemore, T. 0-1-0, 0

Receiving:

UCF - O'Keefe, R. 7-85, TD; Richardson, J. 3-29; Holler, A. 2-14; Mokia-Atimala, T. 2-11; Craig-Myers, N. 1-9
Florida - Shorter, J. 3-54; Wells, R. 3-41; Copeland, J. 2-35; Whittemore, T. 3-22; Gamble, K. 1-15; Henderson, X. 1-5; Pierce, D. 1-(-1)

2022 LAS VEGAS BOWL

Dec. 17, 2022 • Las Vegas, Nev. (Att. 29,750)

OREGON STATE 30
FLORIDA 3

Oregon State 7 10 14 10-41
Florida 7 0 0 0-7

OSU - Lindsey 8-yd run (Hayes kick)
OSU - Hayes 27-yd field goal
OSU - Bolden 15-yd pass from Gulbranson (Hayes kick)
OSU - Gulbranson 7-yd run (Hayes kick no good)
OSU - Griffin 2-yd run (Hayes kick)
UF - Mihalek 40-yd field goal

	OREGON STATE	FLORIDA
First Downs	24	13
Rushes-Yards	39-164	33-39
Passing Yards	189	180
Att.-Comp.-Int.	17-26-0	13-22-0
Total Offense	353	219
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	7-50	11-82
Possession Time	29:35	30:25

Rushing:

Oregon State - Fenwick 21-107, Colletto 2-17, Irish 2-15, Gulbranson 5-15, Martinez 3-12, Lindsey 1-8 TD, Griffin 2-2 TD, Shannon 1-2, Gebbia 1-(-12), Team 1-(-2)
Florida - Johnson Jr. 11-14, Etienne 8-14, Miller III 13-13, Pearsall 1-(-2)

Passing:

Oregon State - Gulbranson 12-19-0-165 1 TD, Gebbia 5-6-0-24, Lindsey 0-1-0-0
Florida - Miller III 13-22-0-180

Receiving:

Oregon State - Bolden 6-99 TD, Dunmore 5-42, Velling 2-21, Newell 1-11, Irish 1-9, Lindsey 2-7
Florida - Pearsall 4-65, Chiaokhiao-Bowman 2-53, Douglas 2-25, Odom 2-24, Frazier 1-10, Etienne 1-9, Johnson Jr. 1-(-6)



what they're saying

FLORIDA VS TULANE
2024 GASPARILLA BOWL

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
TAMPA, FLORIDA



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

ABOUT THE PROGRAM...

"I'm proud of the way Florida battled back. It was one of the most difficult schedules in the history of college football."

-Chris Doering, SEC Network, 12/3/24

On Florida's recent recruiting surge...

"Florida has pulled out the spatula these past few weeks. And it makes sense. Until the staff/collective could tell people who would be coaching in 2025, couldn't do a lot of firm numbers. Now they can. Also, people seem to want to play with DJ Lagway."

-Andy Staples, On3, 12/3/24

"I don't think it's that crazy to say that I think the Gators have the brightest future in the Sunshine state going into 2025."

-JD Pickell, On3, 11/27/24

"Does anybody have more/better vibes around their program... than the Florida Gators?"

-Peter Burns, SEC Network, 11/25/24

"You see those guys [the Gators defensive unit] they're playing fast. They're being very opportunistic around the ball."

-Peter Burns, SEC Network, 11/25/24

"The Gators are just fine. Massive win. Brought the physicality. Secondary hit! Jarred multiple balls free. Tackled well in space. Don't allow the back breaking plays on quick hitters. Played fast. Mixed coverage well. The DL was outstanding...88, 99, 94 whew! Dominant inside holding point. Games won. Got home in 1 on 1's. Penetrated, rushed, tracked ball. It was an onslaught. QB scramble got them, couple times in man. LBs ran through well. Disrupted timing & that was a problem. QB just impressive. So much poise. Doesn't get rattled. His pocket movement and arm angle changes are just wizardly. Run game solid. OL strained. They worked combos well. The RBs were GREAT with vision & patience. Had good feel for where things would go. Hot yards after contact. They fought. Very impressive win."

-Cole Cubelic, ESPN, 11/24/24

"Florida isn't where they want to be at 6-5, but man when you watch the tape they are playing like their hair is on fire for Billy Napier right now. DJ Lagway is the QB of the future and back to back upsets against ranked LSU and #9 Ole Miss shows there is no quit in these Gators."

-Robert Griffin III, 11/23/24

"I'm happy for Billy Napier.. he was awesome this morning on GameDay. What a coaching job.. I, like a lot of folks, thought he was gonna get run out of town.. instead beat LSU last week and now Ole Miss this week. WHAT A TURNAROUND FOR THE GATORS."

-Pat McAfee, ESPN, 11/23/24

"It really is a great story of sticking behind somebody instead of panicking."

-Danny Kanell, CBS Sports, 11/23/24

"Everybody talks about turning things around – nobody actually ever does – like this team has."

-Andy Staples, On3, 11/23/24

ABOUT HC BILLY NAPIER...

"Four months ago, who would have ever thought that — wait for it — Billy Napier would be the state's most celebrated college football coach and his Florida Gators would have the brightest future of any program in the Sunshine State?"

-Mike Bianchi, Orlando Sentinel, 12/5/24

"I've never seen anything like it... It's the most remarkable turnaround I've ever seen and I honestly believe that Billy Napier deserves to have some sort of consideration for SEC Coach of the year."

-Chris Doering, SEC Network, 11/27/24

"Can a guy with a team that will finish 7-5 win the coach of the year award? He should! Billy Napier and [the Gators] after being 4-5 and losing 2 straight, have beaten LSU and Ole Miss. So impressive to see this fight from the Gators and their fans after having a tough year. And, oh yeah, DJ Lagway is the REAL DEAL!"

- Kirk Herbstreit, ESPN, 11/23/24

ABOUT QB DJ LAGWAY...

"They have a true freshman quarterback in DJ Lagway who will be a star and go into next season as a Heisman Trophy favorite."

-Mike Bianchi, Orlando Sentinel, 12/5/24

"DJ Lagway has all the intangibles of a star quarterback in the making."

Carter Bahns, 247 Sports, 12/4/24

"My goodness. How many QBs could have avoided that sack and complete a 17-yard pass? Lagway gonna be a problem next two years."

-Eugene Frenette, Jacksonville Florida Times Union, 11/30/24

"DJ Lagway is a freak. Will be a Heisman finalist before his career is over."

-Louis Riddick, ESPN, 11/26/24

"He's definitely a player who has impressive arm talent, you know, can throw the ball all over the field, and has done a good job extending plays."

-Mike Norvell, FSU Head Coach, 11/26/24

"Florida with DJ Lagway is a Top 25 team."

-Josh Pate, CBS Sports, 11/25/24

"Lagway's just doing one or two things per game that put your jaw on the ground." (Possible continuation: He's just doing something, at a random point in the third quarter, that no other quarterback in the country is doing physically)."

-Josh Pate, CBS Sports, 11/25/24

"I don't think I've ever seen a team play so differently based on a quarterback. Usually it just affects the offense, but it looks like it's affected the whole team. Gives their team hope."

-Lane Kiffin, Ole Miss Head Coach, 11/18/24

BEST OF BILLY NAPIER...

On first winning season in the Napier era and the steps forward...

"I mean, I think midseason, that is when it all kind of came together. Think the players did a good job of kind of putting their blinders on in the first month, and didn't allow excuses, didn't allow blame, you know, and really just went back to work, you know. Go back to that first open date, and I think that Tennessee game was pivotal, you know, the way they responded to that. So, yeah, just in general, good to have some momentum. We took advantage. That was the mission, was to capture the momentum that we had tonight and I thought we did that."

-Billy Napier, 11/30/2024

On Montrell Johnson Jr.'s performance...

"He worked his tail off to get over the high ankle, the bone bruise. Missed a chunk of the season there in the middle. You could just see in this last week against Ole Miss, when he's on, he's a little different. His patience, his acceleration, his vision. And he showed some finishing speed tonight. So, Montrell, 3,000 yards. I mean, how many backs in the country right now have 3,000 yards rushing. He's taken full advantage, and he's a class act off the field. He's everything you would want in a player to be in terms of representing the program."

-Billy Napier, 11/30/2024

On overcoming injuries...

"Well, look, I think some of our issues were when we had a full roster. So, there's no excuse for his first month of the season, and we had everybody helped at that point. So, but I think, to your point is a good one in that the depth of the team proved to be valuable. Man, we got two rookie DBs out there playing tonight, Greg Smith and Jameer Grimsley are out there. So yeah, I think next man up, big time in special teams. I think we have a lot of players that have played different roles, but the running back group I think has stepped up when we had a few guys banged up and the secondary, and obviously the quarterback dynamic. For a true freshman to play the way DJs played down the stretch to keep getting better."

-Billy Napier, 11/30/2024

On blocking out the noise...

"Yeah, I mean, I think it's — ultimately for me it's about purpose. I view coaching in that regard relative to, yeah, just I think it's stewardship. It's an obligation to do the best for your people, staff included. I think you have to model what you would want from the players. I think consistency is important. Look, if we're all over the place and we're not motivated by external things and we are distracted and lack self-discipline and we're not everyday people, then I think ultimately, we have to rub off on the players and we have to model what we would want from the players. Now, we've done a good job of that at times. We've been very inconsistent. So yeah, we're getting closer is what I would say. I see the light at the end of the tunnel."

-Billy Napier, 11/11/2024

On what Graham Mertz means to UF...

"Graham's (Mertz) meant a lot to me, but I would also say he's meant a lot to this program, and certainly the University of Florida."

-Billy Napier, 10/14/2024

On DJ Lagway handling pressure on the road...

"One of the things about DJ that I respect is, as a competitor, he has this unique ability to raise his level of play and critical moments. I think he not only picked the right route progression but had to move and threw a strike at a critical moment. I thought he even did some of his more impressive stuff in the first half, you know when he was playing a whole lot. He did a lot of really good things. But for a rookie to go play on the road in that environment and to step up in a big time, big moment, I think he's got that in his DNA and there's a bright future ahead for him."

-Billy Napier, 10/13/2024

On the team culture...

"We got a group. We got a great combination of players relative to veteran leadership and then we have some young guys that have the right mindset and the right makeup who have an opportunity to contribute. There's a lot of guys. There're so many people that contribute to what you watched out there tonight. A bunch of them didn't get a chance to make the trip, but they worked their tail off all throughout the week to help the team prepare. So, it's one of the best

things about this group. Obviously, this will be a challenge here. We will have an opportunity to respond and we'll play football next week at this time."

-Billy Napier, 10/13/2024

On locker room atmosphere after losing...

"I just really believe there's something good on the other side of this. I do think it's a challenge, you know, and I think that ultimately, we're all going to be tested. We're all going to be challenged in this game. It's going to be that way. If you're a competitor, you play this game. You're always going to be challenged. You're always going to be tested. There's always going to be scenarios where you don't get the results you want, and do you have the discipline to reset? Do it again. Or will you get distracted when you compromise your character? I don't think we have that issue. I think we've got a bunch of guys that care about each other, that played their tails off, that prepared the right way and competed. I think we just came up a handful of plays short, you know, and, that's where as a coach, it's a punch in the gut, you know, relative to you just want to do everything you can do to help the players."

-Billy Napier, 10/13/2024

On Florida improving week-by-week...

"I would think the defensive performance and then just our ability to move the ball throughout, you know, we had opportunities in the red area. I think we're three of six in terms of scoring opportunities, and ultimately that was the tale of the tape. You know, a fumble on the one-yard line, third-and-one we get stopped and are forced to kick a field goal. We go for it on fourth-and-one. A great play by their corner running over the top for a great tackle, and then we missed the field goal in overtime. So, Yeah, just I think ultimately, technically speaking, just a ton of missed opportunities in terms of points in the first half."

-Billy Napier, 10/13/2024



On fixing mental errors and technique issues...
“Well one of the things we’ve put a premium on this week in particular has been the scout team environment, just in terms of make those reps as real as possible. Challenged the scout team to do a really good job, and then certainly the in-between process has been a point of emphasis, in terms of getting the line, communicating the right way, being in position and all being on the same page...I think we’ve got to recreate the game for the players and then we need to have an environment that’s conducive to having good habits that hold up on game day, and I think that’s what the focus has been this week.”
-Billy Napier, 09/18/2024

On what impresses him about DJ Lagway...
“I would tell you there’s two things. Before he got here, I was amazed with the humility and how he handled all the attention. Now, we knew him before he exploded. We found him early, and he was committed to us. Then his high school career just blew up that senior year. But to just see how he handled himself, the way he prioritized his team back at Willis and the way he carried that community and represented his family. So that was extremely impressive. Then to get here, I think it’s never too big for the guy. I almost think it’s like he raises his level a little bit. When you think about the spring game, last week when he went in, you would have never known any different this week. He was just moving right along. I think he’s had a chance to watch Graham prepare, knew what to expect, had a week under his belt. Then obviously he was excited, and I think he made the most of his opportunities.”
-Billy Napier, 09/08/2024

On his receiver room...
“We’ve got some good young receivers. I think you kind of saw that today. I think Tank is capable. Marcus Burke is capable. He’s had a great week and got the start. Badger happened to be in the game when the ball came his way. Trey came out of halftime, and we felt like we hadn’t involved Trey enough, and we got him the ball early. But, yeah, I think the depth of that group will be tested, and we’re going to need some of those young players to step up and be productive every week. Receiver is tough, right?

Because you’re out there playing and you might play 50 plays and catch three balls, but you played really well. You ran a lot of good routes. The coverage was maybe tilted your direction, and the ball went somewhere else. So I think that group needs to continue to improve and develop as the season goes. It’s going to be a big piece of the puzzle for us.”
-Billy Napier, 09/08/2024

On the transfer class...
“I think it’s been positive. I think what I’ve learned and I think our personnel department as a whole, the philosophy here is we’re looking for traits, we’re looking for production, but I think this cycle we put a premium on what’s the extra dimension that they’re bringing to our team. What leadership, what character, and their ability to get along, I think that’s a component that’s really important. You work hard to sign two really good high school groups and then I think you can disrupt that if you make a mistake. It’s a short period of time to make a decision. I think we’ve done a nice job of finding players that not only bring production and experience but also I think there’s a character piece that’s worked. This group’s fun to be around as a whole.”
-Billy Napier, 04/06/2024

On defensive changes giving you a chance to make a big jump...
“That and just experience. And we don’t have issues with his team. They do what they’re supposed to do. We’re able to focus on what’s important. They provide the effort, the energy, the work ethic, the accountability. Ultimately, we’ve got incredible leadership, and you pair that with some new faces, new voices, new leadership, a little bit different philosophy here and there, this group encourages each other. This group will confront things that are out of place. They hold each other accountable. And they get along with each other. They can be cutthroat competitive out there and then practice is over and we’re a team and let’s go let’s continue to work hard to improve and get better. I think ultimately it’s what the game’s about and I think we’re finally in that place.”
-Billy Napier, 04/06/2024

On tackling improvement...
“The best we’ve tackled since we’ve been here. And I think in particular in the secondary. Look, that goes back to the fundamentals are cleaner, the ball declares, the DB’s in a position to make the tackle. The fundamentals are better. Experience is better. The defense’s depth (is better). If we can tackle like we did today, if we can create takeaways like we did today, we can play with that type of energy, I think we’ve got a chance to have a good group over there.”
-Billy Napier, 04/06/2024

On 2024 schedule...
“Look, the great thing about our schedule, we don’t have to take this on as individuals. We get to do this as a team. I believe that the thing that I’ve learned and observed in this league, you have to have the ability to self-discipline to prepare the same way each week, regardless of the outcome. Ignore the noise, don’t believe the hype, erase the board, start over, and every person in that building has got to prepare the same way.”
-Billy Napier, 07/17/2024

BEST OF DC AUSTIN ARMSTRONG...

On Florida’s offseason transfer portal additions to each level of its defense...
“The thing that was unique is that we played seven freshmen on defense. We had the most all-conference players and stuff like them, but it wasn’t just that. A lot of our guys contributed to our team and were able to play every team that we played. You just sit there, and there’s just certain things, experience does matter. I think the experience that we added, especially in the third level with Asa [Turner], Trikweze [Bridges], DJ [Douglas], older players in the tactical positions: safety, linebacker, guys that have to articulate and speak to people, get people lined up, I can’t say enough about that group of guys and contribute to a young group who has played a bunch of football. Bryce Thornton and Jordan Castell, those guys have been in the fire, now. And they have been out in third-and-five in the Swamp against Tennessee. Everybody thinks they know how to do it and it’s time to do it. So, the balance of those players who played in

those games and adding guys that have done it somewhere else, I think you can't put a price tag on it. It's the confidence, it's the vulnerability that they've failed before, too. So, like they don't rattle as much, you know what I mean? They've done a great job. The same thing at inside linebacker. We added some players there, added [Grayson] 'Pup' Howard. Has experience but not an older player. On the defensive line and edge, we've added George Gumbs, Joey Slackman and some players in there that have played. Joey was obviously a revered player in the Ivy League. It's not just the football experience, it's the life experience we get and adding that to our team I think is going to be really good."

-Austin Armstrong, 03/19/2024

On if Armstrong can pinpoint what led to Florida's defensive regression in 2023 after a strong start to the season...

"Yeah, at the end of the day we had to coach them better - that's my responsibility - and put them in position to be successful. At the end of the day, we can make all the excuses about having a young team and such, and that's true. At the end of the day, it's a results-driven business and we had an opportunity in all those games to be successful. I'm sitting here thinking about, like, Arkansas. They're showing best games of the college football season the other day I saw on Instagram, and they score a touchdown with three minutes left in the fourth quarter and it's 23 to 20, we'd given up 13 points at that point. Missouri, 13-7 at halftime; even LSU, obviously one of the most dynamic offenses in the history of college football, it's 21-17; Florida State ... you can just name them off. It kind of makes you sick a little bit. The inability to finish those games. At the end of the day, that's my responsibility. And it's our responsibility collectively as a staff. I'm excited for the work that we've put in to help to get that right."

-Austin Armstrong, 03/19/2024

On LJ McCray's skill set...

"I mean, I think obviously, you know, he walks in, he's 6-foot-6, he weighs 270-something pounds. He can run, he can bend. He's really smart. He loves football, he's highly motivated. He wants to be really good, he's humble. He's

really everything you want. And I think coach Peterson has done a really good job coaching him. He plays our field defensive end, you know, he's a hybrid guy that can play 4i [technique], that can play 5 [technique], can drop, can rush. I mean, I think the sky's the limit for the guy."

-Austin Armstrong, 03/19/2024

On defensive back Aaron Gates at STAR...

"Excited about him. Aaron, when I got here last year Aaron was coming off a knee injury, was playing corner. The thing I respect about Aaron, anybody who's played sports who's been injured, this guy's a high achiever, he gets a chance to play at the University of Florida and he tears his ACL like one of his first high school games of his senior year. So that's a pretty challenging thing. To be able to come back from that, and then the thing that gets unspoken about him we moved the guy to safety last year. He plays safety in practice, getting long, we were going to redshirt him due to his circumstance and the guy's not asked one time, why are you doing this? Why are you doing that? I just want to play Coach. The guy has a lot of physical ability, he's really excited, he had a great mom and daddy, I'm really excited about him. We have a great battle at that position right now. We want as many guys in the can-do category as possible and playing winning football. Him and Sharif [Denson], Josiah [Davis], and we have some other guys that can move there, I'm excited. I have kind of been working with them. I think the guy can be a really special player. I'll tell you this, he's a special human being."

-Austin Armstrong, 03/19/2024

BEST OF CO-OC ROB SALE...

On Florida's 2024 offensive line...

"I agree they are a hungry group, they are a group that wants to come to work every day. There's no egos in there. They are a pleasure to coach. It really is, it's a new year, a new group, these young two groups that we recruited, two classes are now older and bigger and stronger. I think we hit on all those guys, they have the intangibles we're looking for they are big guys that can bend and move and I do like the two guys we got in the portal, Devon [Manuel] and

Brandon [Crenshaw-Dickson] they got really character they are really good people and they are really good players, too."

-Rob Sale, 03/19/2024

On Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson...

"Long and athletic, he can slide his feet. He's played both at San Diego State, played left and right, We have him at right right now, he had some length and athleticism at that position, so, we're able to move Damieon in at guard, that's what he's more suited for."

-Rob Sale, 03/19/2024

On George Jr.'s move from tackle to guard...

"Good, he's done a really good job taking care of his body, he's lost some weight. He's doing really good. Had two practices in, had spring break, came back today, but, moving around well in there, he has power. That's where he's suited. So we're really excited about him at that position."

-Rob Sale, 03/19/2024

On Jake Slaughter being back at center...

"He's just a great leader, does everything the right way. Communicates. He has presence in there, takes a lot of Graham's [Mertz] plate, calm up front, giving the MIKE ID. Obviously Graham has the trump card to check the play however we want but Jake just does a really good job, makes everyone around him better, and communication from inside and out, and Rod [Kearney] is doing a really good job pushing him."

-Rob Sale, 03/19/2024

On Florida's run game potential in 2024...

"You know when you've got more length, you've got more tackles, more depth I mean. When you got more bullets in the gun, you know, you've just got options. Who are the best five? We got a long time between now and the first game to figure that out but you've got more depth. I mean right now you've got five or six tackles that can play and you've got some inside guys that can play as well. I mean, there's options if we need to move a tackle, whatever it may be, to get the best five. Last year it was what it was, we had injuries, had to move guys around. We hung on the best we could but now it's depth. We signed two really good classes that have good intangibles, they're big, they're



long, they're powerful and now they just keep growing up. Now we have layers in that room of old guys, guys that are in the middle and then young guys. So, I really do like this group."

-Rob Sale, 03/19/2024

On Knijeah Harris' development...

"He did. Part of depth issue sometimes you get guys moving around and can't get them locked at one spot because of where you're currently at that time. Kingsley was out, right, and Rod was redshirting and wasn't ready for the show at that time. So Knijeah was the first guard in. You gotta practice guard reps, but hey, he's the next center in for game two when Kingsley's down, you know what I mean? So, where are you working at in practice? But he's a guy that came from IMG, he's very smart, he can handle any inside three. He can go to the left guard, go to right guard within a game, go in practice and get some center reps. But his development kind of hit a wall a little bit there because of what we had at that position at that time. We just didn't have enough centers but now we've gotten guys developed to where we're ready."

-Rob Sale, 03/19/2024

BEST OF GRAHAM MERTZ...

On the offensive line...

"I think we brought in some great pieces. These other guys we brought in in the portal, young bucks, are stepping into that role. I think you see it through our strength training throughout the winter and the summer. Guys truly changed their bodies. That's the biggest thing I see. I look up there and I'm like 'holy crap, these guys are huge and they can bend'. That's the biggest thing. When you look at an O-lineman and he's just big it's like, 'ok, he's big, what can you do. Can he bend, can he move, can he do everything he needs to do'. That's the biggest thing I see. The run game, pass game, guys are executing their assignment, being in the right place with the right hand/head placement. All those little details of playing the position. They've taken a huge jump this season."

-Graham Mertz, 08/13/2024

On Jake Slaughter...

"I love (Jake) Slaughter. I think the coolest thing about Slaughter is when you talk about a guy who is just the same guy every day - he knows his job. He executes his job and he helps everybody up there move as one. I think that, for us, just being an offense, you need to have elite communication across the board. From Jake and I to Jake and the entire O-line. To me helping the tackles and the running back. That's been a huge point of emphasis for us throughout camp."

-Graham Mertz, 08/13/2024

On the 2024 team...

"We (the Florida Gators) got depth, added a bunch of new guys on both sides of the ball experience guys. But across the board, I mean, just the amount of depth we have is different than last year. So, I mean, I'm always optimistic about every season, but I think we've got a special team."

-Graham Mertz, 06/29/2024

BEST OF DJ LAGWAY...

On his mindset and how he felt he performed...

"My mindset was just taking advantage of the opportunity. To go out there and compete with some heck of players around me. I feel like the preparation that coach (Ryan) O'Hara or coach (Billy) Napier, even Graham (Mertz), they helped me a lot with just making sure I was prepared so that was good."

-DJ Lagway, 09/07/2024

On what contributed to his big performance...

"First off, without God, none of that would have been possible. The performance I had, without my o-linemen blocking for me, without the leaders and the veteran guys being there for me, telling me that they got me, whatever goes good or bad, I feel like it was something big. Our receivers making plays, defense, they cleaned their butts off. The first half, even the whole game really, so I feel like this is the whole team aspect. The whole team. Everyone came to play."

-DJ Lagway, 09/07/2024

On Graham Mertz...

"Man, Graham (Mertz) is the best thing that could ever happen to me. Him being here, just learning from a veteran player as himself, it's just been amazing to learn and just see how to do things right. He's a true professional. And that's what I want to do when I get older."

-DJ Lagway, 09/07/2024

On why he chose to play for the Gators...

"It's two things. Coach Napier, of course, and the fan base. The fan base has shown me love since day one, so, you know, I'm a giver through and through."

-DJ Lagway, 09/07/2024

BEST OF CHIMERE DIKE...

On DJ Lagway injury...

"Yeah, it's obviously really tough. DJ is a very, very good player. We felt like we had momentum kind of early in the game. But at the same time, I'm proud of Aidan and the way he stepped up. My favorite thing about the way he played was he didn't flinch. He could see his eyes he was out there competing. He's going to continue to get better."

-Chimere Dike, 11/02/2024

On Jadan Baugh and Ja'Kobi Jackson...

"Yeah, those two guys play and practice extremely hard. Proud of way they competed today. They run downhill and they definitely kept us in the game in a lot of aspect on offense. I think that if we can clean up the passing game a little bit and block in the second level, those guys are definitely guys we can lean on."

-Chimere Dike, 11/02/2024

On special teams success...

"I think when you, when you get to somewhere new, you just want to work extremely hard. I think I wanted to prove to the guys, you know, how much I cared, and I came into winter workouts and I worked as hard as I can. In spring practice, just continue to improve. Listen to all the coaching points and they put me where they need me. I've been blessed to be able to represent this university."

-Chimere Dike, 10/30/2024

On DJ Lagway becoming QB1...

"Yeah, I think for me it's the poise. To be 19 and be able to play like (that), even the Tennessee game, (during a) big fourth quarter down the stretch and step up in those moments. I think it just shows the kind of competitor he is. Then just the way he approaches every single day in the building is also really impressive to me. When you can make some of the throws he makes, I'd be confident too. So, you know, he's definitely a really special player. I'm excited to continue to see him grow and take steps every single week."

-Chimere Dike, 10/30/2024

On Jadan Baugh...

"I remember like, well, the first time you really get a look at running backs is in scrimmages or spring games because they're running the ball, but it's kind of, it's not the same. And that spring game, I was like, oh. I've been around some good backs. My senior year (of high school), at Wisconsin, Jonathan Taylor, I went to every home game. I was an hour away from Wisconsin. So, I got to see him every single week. I saw Braelon Allen. Chez Melusi, like Isaac Grant, who just had 100 yards for the Niners. (Baugh) has that special ability with this ball at the ball in his hands too. And, like Coach Napier was saying, he's a great kid. He has high character. And, I think the sky's the limit for him."

-Chimere Dike, 10/30/2024

On mentoring young wide receivers...

"I try to be, someone who any of the young guys can lean on. Guys like Tank (Hawkins), TJ (Abrams), a lot of the younger guys. I try to be able to share different things with them. I try to be somebody who they can come to talk to you, but also just as a leader by example and how detailed I am in my preparation and the way I practice things like that."

-Chimere Dike, 10/30/2024

BEST OF JADAN BAUGH...

On his run game...

"Just been stuff I've been working on since I was little. My pops instilled it in me early. It's just secondhand nature really."

-Jadan Baugh, 10/20/2024

On DJ's performance against Kentucky...

"To me he played very good, but it's always improvement, and we as a team can improve. DJ been showing it the whole time he been here. Every since we got here he been telling me this is going to be something we can do and we can change Florida back to what it was."

-Jadan Baugh, 10/20/2024

On his spring game success...

"It helped me a lot. As like the time came, I still knew I had a lot to work on. I rewatched the film every day. To this day I still watch the film just to see what could I improve on. Just gave me confidence."

-Jadan Baugh, 10/20/2024

BEST OF AIDAN WARNER...

On becoming QB2...

"I mean, so it started basically the Samford week. Graham went down, the concussion. Clay (Millen) and I were able to, you know, compete every single day the whole week. So, I got a lot of reps there, and I really got on the offense there. And Coach Napier coached me hard, giving me a chance. So I think there's really when I proved myself. The day of the Samford game, Saturday morning, is when they told me that I was going to, you know, if we were winning by enough, I was going to get a chance there. So after that, I knew that I was the second string. They've been pushing me a little harder, you know, keeping me in the playbook, making sure I'm involved for just in case Graham did go down or DJ did go down. So, I mean, Tennessee week, when Graham went down, I knew it was my opportunity. So this week, had a hard week of practice, Napier, you know, coached me hard, got me in the playbook and got me ready."

-Aidan Warner, 10/20/2024

On transition from Yale to Florida...

"I mean, the football is not a lot different. I mean, it's football at the end of the day. So, I came here, got the opportunity, found out my ACL was torn when I got here, had surgery. I mean, it's been a wild ride. So, just a lot of hard work getting into practice, building that confidence and realizing that I can play here. Once I had that confidence, I was off and running."

-Aidan Warner, 10/20/2024

On Graham Mertz...

"I mean, he's always there for me. He's a fantastic guy on and off the field. He knows everything about our offense, everything about the quarterback position. If I ever have a question, he's always open to talk to me, whether it's about life or quarterback. So he's been extremely helpful, really. I mean, I'm where I'm at here in this offense football-wise because of how much help he's given me. Him and DJ."

-Aidan Warner, 10/20/2024

BEST OF AUSTIN BARBER...

On what helps to push through...

"The love of the Florida Gators. These fans and these players and these guys. Don't get me wrong, I love football but these guys and these fans and these brothers I have keep me going."

-Austin Barber, 11/23/2024

On Coach Napier...

"I have 100% confidence in Coach Napier and this whole entire staff. You know, I've said it before that I still have the confidence in him, and I think it's going forward we look at Mississippi State."

-Austin Barber, 09/16/2024

On playing through injuries...

"Yeah, it was hard, you know, but I know people play through it all the time, I don't want to make an excuse, like, I'm not trying to make an excuse but it was rough sometimes going out there, but I went out there and put my body on the line for the team like I've always said I've always tried to do for the Gator Nation and my teammates."

-Austin Barber, 08/09/2024



BEST OF TYREAK SAPP...

On coach Gerald Chatman...

"Crazy, crazy guy, but I like crazy. You got to be a little crazy to play this game, so you need that type of coach on the team. You need somebody who's kind of amped up, kind of gets the energy up because every day we come out here. You know, motivations are small pieces of life, so you got to be disciplined, but he comes with that fire every day. He fires everyone up. He's a great coach. He's very, very detailed, helps me out with my pass rush. Just gives me little keys and he's one of the great additions just to the interior D-line, helping those guys take that next step into being better for this year. So, he's just been a great addition."

-Tyreek Sapp, 03/27/2024

On his leadership...

"Of course, my leadership role is big and I take that leadership role very seriously because I understand I am an example for the young guys and they are going to look at me as an example. I have to stay disciplined every day, all day, just kind of what I'm doing because I know they watch me, they watch my routine, they watch my tendencies. So, I'm just trying to set a great example for the young guys so that when it's their time, when everyone knows them, when they have their moment, they will make the most of it."

-Tyreek Sapp, 03/27/2024

BEST OF SHEMAR JAMES...

On injuries, rotation, depth...

"It's frustrating a little bit, but that's the game of football. It's a tough game. Guys will get banged up. But it really just comes down to capitalizing. We got to come up with the right mentality. We got some really good two's and three's that came in the game and played pretty well. It just came down to being ready for the moment and executing."

-Shemar James, 11/9/2024

On Coach Napier returning...

"I've been here since the beginning with Coach Napier. He actually recruited me, so I was excited to see that letter. It was kind of a relief to know that he'll have another year, you know, so we can develop under him as well. I'm just excited for Coach Napier."

-Shemar James, 11/9/2024

On DJ Lagway vs. Samford...

"That was impressive. I would say, no matter the opponent, he came out and had a big game, him and Tank Hawkins, Aidan Mizell, they all had great games. I was proud of him. Just watching DJ first come in and just seeing him grow by day by day, just learning the playbook and making certain checks to get the offense in a better situation. I was just over there excited on the sidelines, watching him throw touchdowns."

-Shemar James, 09/9/2024

On Tyreek Sapp...

"Sapp, he brings the energy. Whether it's a walk through or a big game. Kind of feed off of Sapp sometimes. Sapp, he's one of the core players on our defense. Without Sapp, I feel like we'd be lacking a key player."

-Shemar James, 09/9/2024

On George Gumbs Jr...

"You know, when I first heard the news that Gumbs, this is his first couple years playing defense, I was kind of surprised as well. But Gumbs came in on Saturday and put on a show, like you seen. He put on a show, and I expect him to get better and better as the year goes on. We've got SEC play this week, and I expect him to have a great game as well."

-Shemar James, 09/9/2024

On being a mentor...

"Yeah, that's actually a great question. I would say we're kind of taking this season week by week, day by day. We kind of just focus on each and every opponent because every week is a battle. That's kind of what we asked for coming into SEC and especially being a Florida Gator. I would say just taking everything week by week, kind of mentoring the young guys just in case like a guy goes down, they're not a step behind. They're right there with us. I would say kind of

just mentoring and just making sure that they're getting in the same information that we are."

-Shemar James, 09/9/2024

On predicted last finish...

"It's disrespect. We're the University of Florida, a national brand. We see that as disrespect. But we can only prove ourselves right. It's not about the naysayers. It's about what we can put on that field and put on film and show."

-Shemar James, 08/13/2024

On the team's chemistry...

"I'd say our bond — our bond to not only play fast but not let the guy next to me down. We talk about that every time, every day. Just playing for the guy next to me. If I mess up, I'm messing up the guy next to me. Like I said, there's 11 of us out there. If I don't do my job, then the rest of the 10 are affected. I would say just our bond. Just coming back like you said, one of 14 starters, just coming back and having that chemistry with each other will allow us to be better."

-Shemar James, 07/17/2024

On the linebacker room and improvements...

"Most definitely. It improved a lot with skill set, I would say, bringing in Pup Howard and freshman like Myles Graham and Aaron Chiles. We bring in a lot of skill with a lot of vets in the room like myself, Derek Wingo and Ronald Moten. So, I would say its improved skill wise and in leadership."

-Shemar James, 07/17/2024

BEST OF JORDAN CASTELL ...

On the secondary and injuries...

"I say it's just opportunity. Guys know they have to step up. That's something I had to do last year. My spot was open. I had to step up, take that part. Doing that last year and just having young guys that look up to me, I just did that last year, making it easier for them, breaking it down. It just makes it so much easier."

-Jordan Castell, 11/25/2024

On DJ Lagway...

"DJ is here, like, all the time. You come here at 6:00, DJ in there. You see him. That's somebody you see he grows and he gets better every day. All the attention and stuff like that, he just doesn't let it get to him. Even like said, Good game, did you your thing. Nah, I didn't do nothing, all that. C'mon, let's finish out the season now. He's somebody has his foot on the gas, so..."

-Jordan Castell, 11/25/2024

On complimentary football...

"Yeah, the pieces are coming. You can just watch the tapes. I feel like we started playing our best ball after that bye week, and you can just watch it week by week, we're playing better. We're playing so much faster."

-Jordan Castell, 10/14/2024

On losing Graham Mertz...

"Losing Graham, it hurts a lot, but he's still going to be in the room, of course, and when D-Lag first got up here, he already took DJ under his wing, so he's still in the room. That's the same thing as Montrell. Those guys are still in the room to just take the younger guys under their wing. Playing early is something that I had to do myself. I can speak on it. Last year I had to step up and had to play. It kind of helped out, and just having older guys who I can talk to, like even Asa. Asa Turner is not playing right now, he's hurt, but he kind of helped me out and took me under his wing, and we were out here until like 10:00 just watching film."

-Jordan Castell, 10/14/2024

BEST OF JAKE SLAUGHTER ...

On Austin Barber...

"I said it before, and I'll say it again. Austin Barber is one of the toughest guys in our room, and one of the toughest guys I know. He'll play through about anything...It says a lot about him as a man, as a football player."

-Jake Slaughter, 10/30/2024

On playing with DJ Lagway...

"DJ's (Lagway) just fun to play with man. You know, every time he drops back, there's potential for him to just make some unreal throw. So, yeah, that plays a lot in the belief. And I don't want to leave Graham (Mertz) either. He's (Lagway) a lot of fun to play with here. He's got some swag to him. You know, we look up to him. He proved he can do it, so there's no doubt in DJ. And he knows he's got some, you know, some juice behind him."

-Jake Slaughter, 10/30/2024

On improvement of the Gators O-Line...

"I think we've taken a lot of great steps forward. I think there's certainly room to improve in all aspects of our game, but I think we've definitely made solid improvements. And, you know, like I said earlier, it's cohesiveness as a unit. It's gelling together. You know, then it also comes down to technique and fundamentals that we've continued to improve."

-Jake Slaughter, 10/30/2024

BEST OF MONTRELL JOHNSON JR....

On Florida's future...

"This team has done a lot, I want to say, like the guys I've been seeing after that bye week we just took off. I don't know what happened, but just like the competitiveness, it just rose to another level. I'm proud of those guys that we took that next step. We're becoming a program that everyone knew we could be."

-Montrell Johnson Jr., 11/23/2024

On senior night...

"It feels good to go out there with the guys," Johnson said. "It felt good to go out like that."

-Montrell Johnson Jr., 11/23/2024

On dealing with his injury...

"It was kind of tough for me, because that was my first time missing any games in college – just kind of just focusing on grinding and trying to work my way back," Johnson said. "And like you saw last week (against LSU), I got a couple carries, and this week I shot to the moon. So just continue to keep working."

-Montrell Johnson Jr., 11/23/2024

On his nine-yard run...

"That's great play, because, actually, I'll practice that play with (Baugh), So when they called it, it was like, Trell, 'it's your play'. So when I got there, I'm just thinking, 'touchdown. I gotta score' I got to get in the end zone for Senior Night – and that's what I did."

-Montrell Johnson Jr., 11/23/2024

On his touchdown run...

"So they've been sending the field pressure the entire game. We kind of found out about that. We made an adjustment. We made a run to the boundary. Once I got around the corner, I knew it was a touchdown. There was no one there. I just had to outrun the other guy. Yeah, I was looking to score, yeah."

-Montrell Johnson Jr., 09/2/2024

On the future of the younger guys...

"I think those guys, they're like sponges. They're ready to learn, ready to soak up knowledge. I commend them for that. Just coming to me whenever they got a problem. Me, I got to be the leader for them, be that influence for them."

-Montrell Johnson Jr., 09/2/2024

On why he came back...

"Last season left a very sour taste in my mouth and I just wanted to come back on a high note and finish it off right."

-Montrell Johnson Jr., 07/17/2024

On getting special teams experience...

"In the league it gets to a time where the roster is very short and the guys that play special teams make the roster and I may have to do that some days, you never know."

-Montrell Johnson Jr., 07/17/2024



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Florida's furious finish on the recruiting trail caps stellar month for Billy Napier

By: Manny Navarro

The Athletic

December 4, 2024

Nobody made a larger leap on the recruiting trail over the final month of the cycle than the Florida Gators. In recruiting lingo, you could say Billy Napier flipped things around.

The big addition on Wednesday to what is now a top-10 recruiting class was four-star safety Lagonza Hayward, a top-100 prospect from Georgia who had been committed to rival Tennessee up until the weekend.

A month ago, following a blowout loss at Texas, Florida had 11 commitments and its class ranked 50th in the 247Sports Composite. Things looked bleak.

Florida ended the regular season on the field by knocking off No. 21 LSU, No. 9 Ole Miss and gutting rival Florida State, and punctuated it on Wednesday by signing a class that includes four top-100 prospects and 14 blue-chippers among the 23 signees.

Florida's class seemed destined for trouble when four-star receiver Joshua Moore from West Broward (Fla.) High School flipped to rival Miami on Oct. 8, and four-star defensive lineman Joseph Mbatchou dropped his pledge to the Gators two weeks later.

But Napier and his staff rallied.

Mbatchou flipped back to Florida on Sunday. And although the Gators didn't convince Moore to rejoin their class, they swiped Miami's top-ranked recruit, in-state four-safety Hylton Stubbs, on Monday. The Gators also held off the Hurricanes to sign the best player in Miami, four-star cornerback Ben Hanks Jr., who had been committed to Florida since August.

That all capped a stellar run that included flipping five four-star prospects — linebacker Ty Jackson (USC), edge rusher Jayden Woods (Penn State), offensive tackle Tavaris Dice (Auburn), running back Byron Louis (Florida State) and quarterback Tramell Jones Jr. (Florida State).

Not every late recruiting push worked for Florida.

The Gators tried hard to convince five-star receiver Jaime Ffrench, a high school teammate of Jones and Stubbs, to back out of his pledge to Texas to come to Gainesville. But Ffrench kept his word and signed with the Longhorns. Same with five-star receiver Dallas Wilson, a longtime Oregon commitment from Tampa Bay (Fla.) Tech who signed with the Ducks.

Florida also made a push to flip five-star offensive lineman Solomon Thomas, a longtime Florida State commitment from Jacksonville (Fla.) Raines. But he dropped the Seminoles to sign with LSU.

Florida's strong finish on Wednesday has the Gators ranked No. 10 in the 247Sports Composite. Rankings could change a bit over the next few days, and some prospects will wait until February to sign, but Napier has put Florida in position to sign its first top-10 class since it finished No. 8 in 2020 under Dan Mullen. Florida's last top-five recruiting class (No. 3) came in 2013 under Will Muschamp.

4-star safety Lagonza Hayward commits to Florida: ‘I love everything about it’

By: Chad Simmons

On3

December 4, 2024

Numerous college football programs worked to add Lyons (Ga.) Toombs County four-star safety Lagonza Hayward to their 2025 recruiting classes. One of them was Florida.

Even though Hayward originally chose Tennessee on July 27, the Gators never stopped pursuing Hayward and “kept it consistent the whole time” with the 6-foot-1, 205-pound defensive back. That effort paid off, as Hayward has committed to the Gators after backing off his pledge to the Volunteers on Dec.

“Florida has always been in the back of my mind,” Hayward told On3. “When they played Tennessee and went to overtime against them at Neyland Stadium, I was like, ‘Hold on.’ I started paying attention to them... Their defense played great. Everybody was flying around. It wasn’t just one position group.”

Florida has been on Hayward’s mind

Hayward is the latest blue-chip addition to Florida’s 2025 class, a group that has added top recruits in November and December. The Gators have long been a program of interest to the No. 5 player in Georgia.

“I’ve always been cool with the people there,” said Hayward, the No. 53 overall prospect and No. 3 safety in the 2025 On300. “I’ve always loved the place and loved the atmosphere. I love everything about it and everything they have to bring to the table.

Hayward is excited about the future at Florida

Florida ended its regular season with three straight wins against then-No. 22 LSU, then-No. 9 Ole Miss and Florida State. It was also announced in November that head coach Billy Napier would remain in his position.

These developments “for sure” impacted Hayward’s decision. He is now ready to make an impact for the Gators.

“The legacy at Florida is great,” Hayward said. “They’ve had players such as Brandon Spikes, Major Wright and Tim Tebow. Being a part of the recruiting class that can possibly bring that legacy back is big for me. They have all the coaches who are able to bring it back and now, they just need the pieces.”

Billy Napier talks NIL as Florida spends more aggressively this offseason

By: Zach Abolverdi

Gators Online – On3

December 3, 2024

As the NIL market enters its final offseason before revenue sharing starts, Florida will be one of the biggest spenders in the 2025 cycle, according to multiple sources. The more aggressive approach has already helped UF with high school recruiting, and it's also expected to pay dividends in the transfer portal, which opens Dec. 9 and closes on Dec. 28.

And while the Gators are ramping up their NIL efforts, third-year coach Billy Napier is quick to point out that several major donors and boosters have already invested millions of dollars into Florida Victorious to build the 2024 team.

“We don’t have that issue here. We have incredible resources,” Napier told Gators Online when asked about NIL. “We’ve been able to construct a team, and we have plenty of help. I’m so thankful for the all the people that have contributed.”

Those investments last year allowed Napier to retain most of his roster and sign several impact recruits and portal players. True freshmen such as quarterback DJ Lagway, running back Jadan Baugh, defensive lineman D’Antre Robinson and linebacker Myles Graham, as well as key transfers in receivers Elijah Badger and Chimere Dike, defensive back Trikweze Bridges, linebacker Grayson Howard and offensive tackle Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson.

Many of those acquisitions required some significant NIL packages, and Florida Victorious was competitive with the likes of Alabama and Texas A&M. The Gators wouldn’t have been able to land some of their top signees in the last class — or keep them from getting poached via the portal this offseason — if they didn’t have their NIL in order.

And make no mistake, Florida doesn’t close out the season with a three-game winning streak, revitalize its football program and create recruiting momentum for 2025 without those aforementioned players (except the injured Howard) making an impact against LSU, Ole Miss and FSU.

“The first 18 months that we were here was complete chaos,” Napier said of NIL. “And then we built a system with Florida Victorious, and we did it with class and we did it with integrity. And that was critical to the acquisition of some of those players that we have out there.

“We wouldn’t have been able to do that if it wasn’t for several key people that stepped up in a major way the last couple of years.”

Those same key people not only continue to support Florida Victorious but have ramped up their NIL efforts for the 2025 cycle, according to sources. Additionally, the Gators’ success this year and the emergence of Lagway has encouraged more donors to get involved.

Although UF has more resources to work with in the offseason and plans to take advantage, Napier doesn’t want to pursue players who are only chasing dollars. They have to be a fit for his culture and expectations, which he’s not going to compromise.

Moreover, this time next year, NIL won’t be the driving force it is now.

Revenue sharing begins on July 1, 2025, and schools will operate under a projected cap of \$20.5 million. A portion of that money will fund the college football rosters of the future, while NIL deals will be reserved for high-profile athletes.

“Look, I think it’s important that, to build a consistent team, that’s part of the decision — not all of the decision,” Napier said of NIL. “We’re looking for guys that are seeing the big picture. They deserve revenue sharing; they deserve it to be fair.

“We’re going to build out a front office to manage this whole revenue sharing concept, and it’s just another element to the game where you have to hire really good people and have a good plan, and we’re going to do that.”

UF has landed 12 recruits since Nov. 11, and 11 of them have been flipped from other schools. Florida’s 2024 class is now up to No. 11 in the On3 Industry rankings with 23 commits and could still add a few more recruits — and flips — before signing day.

Napier said Wednesday will be business as usual, but the landscape of how players get compensated will change once revenue sharing goes into effect this summer.

“I do think this period already has seen some differences relative to NIL and rev share,” he said. “The makeup of the agreements in that space are hybrid agreements because you’ve got six months of NIL from the collective and you’ve got basically the first year of the players’ career from a rev share standpoint. So, little bit of a hybrid situation this year, obviously next year it will be all rev share.”

Carter's Corner: I'll Plant a Flag in Honor of 2024 Gators

By: Scott Carter – UAA Communications Senior Writer

FloridaGators.com

December 2, 2024

An hour after Bobby Bowden Field had cleared and Doak Campbell Stadium stood empty, the hole remained. The truth is, there was more than one cavity on the Florida State logo at midfield.

Almost as quickly as Florida edge rusher George Gumbs Jr. planted a Florida flag following the Gators' 31-11 takedown of the Seminoles on Saturday night, 6-foot-4, 315-pound FSU senior offensive lineman Jeremiah Byers protested. Other Seminoles followed. About the same time Gumbs lodged his flag, reserve offensive lineman Hayden Clem staked one nearby.

Soon, a full-blown fracas was underway, which took a couple of minutes to settle down. FSU coach Mike Norvell showed his dislike by unplanted one of the flags and tossing it away, drawing the ire of Gators general manager Jacob LaFrance. When Gators head coach Billy Napier came by to shake hands, Norvell voiced his displeasure.

Meanwhile, Napier voiced his displeasure to his team in the locker room.

"He was like, 'There is no place for this. We're not that type of program,' " running back Montrell Johnson Jr. said. "It's football, and we're trying to become a winning program, and winning programs don't do that."

A few minutes later, Napier shared his irritation with the media.

"Before we get going here, obviously what happened there at the end of the game is not who we would want to be as a program," Napier said. "And it's embarrassing to me, and it's a distraction from a really well-played football game."

"So, I want to apologize on behalf of the entire organization, just in terms of how we represented the university there. We shouldn't have done that. We won't do that going forward, and there'll be consequences for all involved."

Now that we've covered the postgame party — the Gators celebrated with cigars in the locker room and barbecue on the bus ride home — let's plant another flag.

This victory banner is in honor of the 2024 Gators. Although their 20-point win Saturday will not be remembered as a signature performance in the storied rivalry, it nonetheless deserves praise in the story of Florida's tumultuous regular season.

Florida's first win over the Seminoles since 2021 and first in Tallahassee in six years clinched a winning record. That is a first for Napier in his three seasons. It's the first winning record for the Gators since 2020, erasing the possibility of four consecutive losing seasons for the first time since before World War II.

They don't exactly have parades down University Avenue for such accomplishments, but considering where this team was after three games, the least we can do is give them a hearty pat on the shoulder pads.

Look, when the season started, I projected 5-7 or 6-6, considering the strength of schedule, the roster and unknowns of a revamped organization. After those lopsided losses to Miami and Texas A&M at The Swamp, I considered 2-10 possible. There ain't no sugarcoating that. If you need proof, ask those in the press box who cover Florida State like I did Saturday.

"It's been a miserable year," one said.

Two months ago, thinking the same might happen in Gainesville was not an automatic appointment at the insane asylum.

But here is where it's time to start slapping some backs. The Gators made some in-season changes despite constantly losing players to season-ending injuries.

Think about this for a second: Florida won its final three games of the regular season, beating ranked LSU and Ole Miss at home after a 32-point loss at Texas and then dispatching the downtrodden Seminoles on the road. And the Gators did it with their starting quarterback (Graham Mertz), starting cornerbacks (Jason Marshall Jr. and Devin Moore), a starting offensive lineman (Damieon George Jr.), their preseason offensive MVP (receiver Eugene Wilson III) and two of their top defensive transfers (safety Asa Turner and linebacker Grayson Howard) unavailable for most of that stretch.

But let's look past the injuries since every team takes its lumps by the end of a 12-game season.

By now, a book could be written about the bye-week changes the Gators made following a road win at Mississippi State in late September. It's not like they went out and signed a group of transfers to inject into the lineup or secretly brought Nick Saban into their weekly meetings. No, they made more subtle changes, and quite frankly, typical ones when a season is in danger of going down the drain.

They turned up the competition at practice, made some lineup changes, and awarded those who performed well in practice by playing them on Saturdays. They also moved co-defensive coordinator Ron Roberts up to a coaching box and brought Austin Armstrong onto the sideline.

In other words, they pushed whatever buttons were within reach.

Sometimes, that works; sometimes, it's just another footnote on the road to unemployment.

Napier deserves credit for re-evaluating in-season, and the players merit praise for staying the course and building positive momentum as dark clouds thundered above.

"I think midseason, that is when it all came together," Napier said. "The players did a good job of putting their blinders on in the first month and didn't allow excuses, didn't allow blame."

We can't continue this review without mentioning the most apparent reason Florida has gone from being an also-ran to being a team receiving votes in the AP Top 25 poll. His name is DJ Lagway, and he is No. 2 on your roster and No. 1 in the Faith and Hope department.

Did you see Lagway shed FSU's 330-pound defensive lineman Darrell Jackson Jr. on Saturday night and complete a first-down pass on the run to Chimere Dike?

"Just doing everything I can to get a dub," Lagway said. "I just kind of kept churning, and he kind of pushed off me, and I pushed off of him back. I got off him, and my helmet was all screwed up. I really couldn't see Chim. I just threw it to a spot, and he was there."

Lagway did his part as Florida's first true freshman quarterback to win a game in Tallahassee. Lagway was 14 of 22 for 133 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. It was far from his best performance, yet he represented a steadying presence.

"I thought he kept his composure," Napier said. "There will be things he can learn from tonight's experience."

As Lagway continues developing as the program's centerpiece, we have learned much about him in his six career starts. First, he's a winner. Lagway is 5-1 as Florida's starter (and 5-0 in games he starts and finishes). He exhibits humility, bravado and quiet confidence that you can't teach. Oh, and an arm that brings back memories of the Fun 'N Gun days.

The defense made tremendous strides as the season progressed (seven sacks and five fumble recoveries against the Seminoles). Transfer receivers Dike and Elijah Badger proved to be a dangerous combo. Running backs Jadan Baugh and Ja'Kobi Jackson didn't miss a beat when senior Johnson Jr. missed time with an injury. And don't forget the offensive line and special teams, the most-criticized units in Napier's first two seasons.

The special teams have been nothing short of excellent all season under first-year analyst Joe Houston, and once the Gators settled on the starting five of Austin Barber, Knijeah Harris, Jake Slaughter, George Jr. and Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson, the offensive line proved more than capable in the rough-and-tumble Southeastern Conference.

Does this mean the Gators are automatically a national championship contender heading into 2025? Not so fast, my friend. Before then, there remain many questions and unknown answers. This is about what this team did this year.

They are a 7-5 team headed to a bowl game. They made significant strides when they came under as much scrutiny as any Gators team in the post-Tim Tebow era.

Sure, they could have handled their big rivalry win Saturday night in a classier fashion. But they get a hall pass in this space. They deserved to dance to "Seminole Wind."

"We don't like them, and they don't like us," defensive line Tyreek Sapp said. "For the last two years, this has been sitting on us."

If I had a Gators flag emoji on my keyboard, I would plant it right here and make sure nobody touched it.

Montrell Johnson Jr. Reaches Milestone in Gators Rushing Onslaught

By: Kyle Lander

Gators Illustrated – Sports Illustrated

December 2, 2024

The Florida Gators rushing attack was tormenting Florida State all Saturday night and was one of the big reasons they walked away with the win over their rivals.

In total, the offense rushed for 235 total yards against the Seminoles, with the yards being dispersed throughout the stable of backs that head coach Billy Napier had at his disposal. Montrell Johnson Jr. led all Gators with 99 rushing yards and a touchdown, Jadan Baugh had 81 yards and Ja’Kobi Jackson added 51 yards and a touchdown as well.

Additionally, for these 235 rushing yards from the Gators' backs, they did it on just 38 rushes. When you do that math on that, it comes out to an astounding 6.2 yards per carry, which Napier was appreciative of after the game.

“You need to play with that type of physicality, and it was that type of day,” Napier said. “It makes everything else easier is what I would say.”

And to no surprise, Johnson Jr. also led the Gators in this category against the Seminoles with 9.9 yards per carry.

One big reason he set the pace in this statistic is because he had one of the best highlights for the Gators' offense. With the game still within reach for the Seminoles, Johnson Jr. took a handoff up the middle and instantly saw a pasture of green grass in front of him that he burst straight through for a 65-yard touchdown that pushed the Gators' lead to 21 points.

Johnson Jr. Hits Impressive Milestone

Another key detail from the night is that Johnson Jr. surpassed 3000 career rushing yards. And while that might be an impressive feat, his mind was more focused on the win.

“Obviously it means a lot to me but just getting the win with the team, just going out the right way,” Johnson Jr. said. “That means more to me.”

His coach, though, showed him the rightful praise.

“I mean, how many backs in the country right now have 3,000 yards rushing,” Napier said. “He's taken full advantage, and he's a class act off the field. He's everything you would want in a player to be in terms of representing the program.”

As for how many he has in a Gators uniform, that total is 2,251 rushing yards. He’s been one of the more consistent players for the Gators throughout his three years in the orange and blue and will be severely missed when his time is done.

Gators eight-sack performance at FSU caps off year of marked pass-rush improvement

By: Jacob Rudner
Swamp247 – 247Sports
December 2, 2024

The soft crunching of the artificial turf grew to a crescendo as the exhaustion steadily increased and the players' feet skimmed across the surface in a tired shuffle. Sweat-soaked blue jerseys and the gushing sound of spraying Gatorade water bottles also contributed to the chorus of depleting energy.

Florida's season was still roughly six months away on that spring day but, to Gerald Chatman, no calendar would stand in the way of a valuable workout. So the first-year Florida defensive line coach was unrelenting, belting out instructions with a voice that became unmistakable, even from a great distance.

Chatman doesn't know any other way to do it.

His loudness is one of many tools used to motivate and extract the maximum from his athletes. The wearing nature of his workouts a tool to test their resolve.

"The strong will rise to the top," Chatman preached as his linemen slammed into a stationary sled and fielded technical critiques. "The strong will rise."

It was that strength that Chatman felt was missing from a Florida defensive line that managed just 22 sacks throughout a disappointing 2023 season.

The unit's deficit in that regard was clear to him not only in its questionable and ineffective technique but also in what Chatman perceived to be its mindset.

Changing it, he said, required his passion.

"Coaching defensive line is a huge demand," Chatman said in April. "It's very demanding what they do. I coach them the way I want them to play: intense, with detail, discipline, relentless mentality, effort, urgency."

Seeing it translate during games became Chatman's purpose.

"I think every job I've had, like to me, I'm called to be there with those guys at that time," he said.

Eight months later, it couldn't be clearer just how much Chatman's coaching style impacted productivity.

A year after ranking among college football's worst pass-rushing teams, Florida surged to the top of the nation in the category, recording sacks more frequently against FBS opponents than all but 13 programs.

The Gators on Saturday closed out their third regular season under head coach Billy Napier's direction with 38 total sacks, the most by a Florida defense since 2019, and matched the program-high for individual players who recorded at least 0.5 sacks (19) in the last two decades.

Florida also set new Napier-era highs for single game quarterback takedowns on three separate occasions in 2024, including in their regular-season finale against Florida State when they posted 8.0 sacks, the most in a single contest by the Gators since 2019.

Florida defensive front players were credited with forcing three of the five fumbles the Gators recovered against the Seminoles and contributed 9.5 of their 14 tackles for a loss.

"I thought defensively really lights out," Napier said. "Season-high in TFLs and sacks, limited the explosive plays, and then obviously had created some takeaways and were able to take advantage of those on offense and get some points from those."

Added edge rusher Tyreek Sapp: "Felt great. Like, you know, like, that's what we preach every week. Like, you know, we got to be the big brothers of the team, because we're the defense. We got to lead the boys in the battle and we got to go out there and set the tone no matter what, however many ways you can get (freshman quarterback) DJ (Lagway) the ball. That's what we got to do."

Florida is hopeful that its end-of-season surge along its defensive front, which included 18 sacks across its final three games, will translate to sustained success in 2025, too.

Between Chatman's room of interior linemen and outside linebackers coach Mike Peterson's unit, which also includes some of the Gators' edge rushers, 14 players have at least one more year of remaining collegiate eligibility.

Among them are junior edge rushers Tyreek Sapp and George Gumbs and junior defensive tackle Caleb Banks, who rank first, second and third among Florida players in sacks this season, respectively, as well as sophomore edge rusher Kamran James and freshman edge rusher LJ McCray, who rank first and second, respectively, in quarterback hurries.

The Gators also hold four defensive line commitments in the 2025 class, including a pair of four-star edge rushers.

And Chatman will continue to motivate.

"Who I am, you know, is needed and how I teach, I think, is needed at that time, because it's called to be at that place," he said. "And I think all defensive linemen, like I said, it's a constant, just working the detail, working your craft. Like I said, even at the professional level, it's not gonna change, you know? Even if these guys do make it to the next level, they're gonna have to continue to work their technique so they can sustain playing at a high level and beat and become elite players."

For Gators quarterback DJ Lagway, it's recruiting season

By: Keith Niebuhr

Gators Online – On3

December 2, 2024

If you've been impressed with how DJ Lagway's play helped the Florida Gators turn their season around, just wait. The heralded true freshman quarterback is intent on making just as big an impact off the field in the coming weeks.

"I'm definitely going to be involved in the transfer portal and the recruiting class but the biggest thing is keeping the guys that we have here," Lagway said after Florida beat FSU 31-11 Saturday night in Tallahassee, Fla. "That's the biggest thing. Just making sure that everyone's locked in and we can add and build on this momentum we have at the end of the season."

Florida recruiting has been on fire in recent weeks. The Gators now have 21 commitments as they approach National Signing Day, which is Wednesday. Ten of them came in the month of November, culminating with Saturday's massive flip of 4-star offensive lineman Tavaris Dice from Auburn.

All told, eight of those 10 November commitments were straight-up flips, while the other two recently had de-committed from other programs. Four-star running back Byron Louis, a flip from FSU last week, said this: "I do think the Lagway effect is real."

Meanwhile, the Gators might not be done. They continue to press for other top targets (more [HERE](#)).

DJ Lagway plans to be active as the Gators recruit the transfer portal

As for the transfer portal, players can enter it Dec. 9-28. At the Gators' football headquarters, there is a strong belief that Lagway's presence will have a significant impact in attracting proven talent to Gainesville. At receiver for example, two key starters — Elijah Badger and Chimere Dike — are seniors. Additionally, Florida will look to improve the roster at other positions.

What will Lagway's message be to players in the portal?

"I'd say the big plays, you know? Especially at receiver," he said Saturday. "You're going to get the ball. We're going to push the ball down the field, make some big plays and you're going to have fun doing it."

As Lagway noted, keeping current players around also is crucial. There typically is some attrition after every season. Some players want more playing time or better NIL deals. Then there are underclassmen who leave early for the NFL. "I'm taking a couple out to dinner," Lagway said of his current teammates.

According to Lagway, there's excitement from many current Florida players, and he thinks there's a chance the core will stick together to give the program a boost in 2025.

"(There are) a lot of guys who could possibly get out and leave this year that are actually thinking about coming back and making a run," Lagway said. "And that means a lot. You've gotta have guys around you. You see this game. I didn't play my best game but we have guys like Montrell Johnson running the ball making plays. Defense making heck of plays and getting us off the field. You've gotta have the guys around you."

Overall, Lagway had a strong true freshman season

To his point, Lagway was 14 of 22 for 133 yards, 2 touchdowns and 1 interception in Saturday's win. He finished the regular season 93 of 157 for 1,610 yards with 11 touchdowns, 7 interceptions and a strong passer rating. Lagway was 5-1 as the starting quarterback. He was injured and left the game in the lone loss — to Georgia — with the Gators leading 10-3 late in the first half.

"Superman," Gators coach Billy Napier said of Lagway on Saturday. "I mean, there is a handful of plays that are off-schedule. I think that's what he does, right? So, he's going to be frustrated because he knows that there were six or eight plays where he could've been better. But look, we've got to play better around the quarterback. I didn't think we were sharp. Every position could have been better there around the quarterback tonight."

Snapping 2-game skid against FSU a 'relief' for Gators' Tyreek Sapp

By: Corey Bender

Gators Online – On3

December 2, 2024

Prior to this weekend, Gators EDGE Tyreek Sapp was a true freshman the last time he was part of a victory over Florida State. He then witnessed back-to-back losses, so a bad taste in his mouth was lingering.

On Saturday though, the Fort Lauderdale native finally got the revenge he was looking for. Not only that, but he was also the Gators' highest-ranked defender with Pro Football Focus, as he finished with five tackles, two tackles for loss, one sack and a forced fumble.

"Oh, man, it was just like relief off my back...two years, losing to these guys," Sapp said after the game. "It was a great group of guys they put together. It's always going to be a challenge. It's a rivalry game; we don't like them and they don't like us, so for the last two years, this has been sitting on us, especially since we were here to see it.

"You know, it was just great. It was great to go out there and just see, I see the work that we putting in, and everything that we did all season. It's just been, this is, like, one of the best ways."

Tyreek Sapp: The last three victories were 'earned'

Coming out on top against a rival, on the road, is sweet as it gets, but seeing the team finish with three consecutive wins made it that much more special for Sapp and his teammates.

"It's gratifying, but it's always great to know that we earned it. We earned the right for those games," said Sapp. "I don't tell my guys we don't deserve anything; we earned everything we have and everything we get. Nobody gives us anything because when people play the Florida Gators, they are going to put their best foot forward and they are going to try to destroy us just because of who we are.

"We accept the challenge, week in and week out, day in and day out, and we take that personally. We go ahead and we go to work, and no matter what happens out there on that field, we always come back together as brothers."

As you can expect, Saturday's 31-11 outcome led to plenty of celebration. That included victory cigars for everyone on the roster, but with a bowl game secured, the Florida Gators now have the opportunity to finish the season 8-5. They know the job isn't finished just yet, but at the same time, they are going to enjoy this latest win.

"It was a surprise, but we were lit. I was a redshirt freshman when Shemar (James) got here, so we were both in our freshman (seasons). We haven't had this much success to the point where we had victory cigars," said Sapp.

‘Superman’: UF QB DJ Lagway’s big-play ability elevates Gators, helps them get on track

By: Edgar Thompson

The Orlando Sentinel

December 2, 2024

When Florida quarterback DJ Lagway goes off script and makes a big play, the 19-year-old experiences football in its purest form.

While stakes had changed during Saturday night’s 31-11 win at Florida State, the sport’s essence remained the same.

“At the end of the day, it’s football,” Lagway said. “It’s what you used to play in the backyard with your family.”

A key difference: Lagway doesn’t have any 6-foot-5, 330-pound uncles attempting to plant him in the turf.

But like a pesky pint-sized cousin during a Thanksgiving Day pickup game, FSU’s mammoth defensive tackle Darrell Jackson Jr. didn’t stand a chance against Lagway.

At Doak Campbell Stadium, Jackson had Florida’s QB in his grasp and appeared positioned to pancake him when the 6-foot-3, 239-pound passer shook free, sprinted away and fired a 17-yard dart to Chimere Dike.

“My helmet was all screwed up and I really couldn’t see Chim,” Lagway said. “I just threw it to a spot and he was there. It was a great play by Chim.”

It was a better play by Lagway but also characteristic of the ones he continues to make.

“Superman,” Billy Napier said of his callow QB. “There is a handful of plays that are off schedule — that’s what he does.”

With Lagway leading the way, Napier’s Gators (7-5) are getting on schedule and riding a three-game winning streak to clinch their first winning season since 2020.

“We have some momentum,” Napier said. “But there is lots of work to do here to get to where we want to go.”

Lagway has plenty to improve upon, beginning with consistently completing the routine throws. At FSU, he missed some open receivers but also was victim to some dropped passes.

“It wasn’t just the prettiest game,” he said. “There’s a lot of mistakes we made offensively.”

Lagway finished 14 of 22 for just 133 yards, or 6.05 yards per attempt after entering with an average of 10.94. His 59.2% completion rate is the lowest among SEC starters other Brock Vandagriff (57.3) for 4-8 Kentucky, loser of six straight conference games.

But Lagway balances out missed opportunities by creating ones beyond the capacity of all but a few players in college football.

No FBS quarterback had a single game with at least 5 40-yard completions, a feat Lagway performed against both Kentucky and Samford. Pro Football Focus' 97.3 passing grade on his throws of at least 20 yards led the nation entering Saturday.

Against the Seminoles (2-10), Lagway was not as sharp as he's been, but he did enough.

After miscommunication with Marcus Burke led to an end-zone interception as UF's receiver helplessly looked on, Lagway found him in the back of the end zone for a 4-yard touchdown and a 14-0 lead with 25 seconds to go before halftime. He also had an 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Tony Livingston — who dropped a pass earlier — for the game's final points.

"It was huge for me to come back to Burke because he felt like he let everybody down," Lagway said. "We just all had to get on the same page. It's so great to go back to him on that route and get that touchdown."

Meanwhile, other Gators stepped up.

Florida's season-high 235 yards rushing highlighted the Gators' depth at tailback. Three players finished with more than 50 yards, led Montrell Johnson's 99 yards. The senior's 65-yard touchdown run gave UF a 24-3 lead with 12:38 to go and pushed him over 3,000 rushing yards for his college career.

"Obviously it means a lot to me," he said. "But just getting the win with the team, just going out the right way, that means more to me."

Florida's defense closed the regular season on a high note, with 5 takeaways and 8 sacks — season-highs and massive improvements from 2023. UF has generated 22 turnovers after managing just 7 last season. The Gators also have secured 38 sacks, up from 22.

"We got to go out there and set the tone no matter what," veteran linebacker Shemar James. "However many ways you get DJ the ball, that's what we got to do."

Lagway has shown he can take it from there. He now sits 5-1 as a starter but left the Georgia loss Nov. 2 with a hamstring injury and UF leading 10-3 after a 41-yard touchdown pass to Aidan Mizell.

In Lagway, the Gators trust.

"As a leader I've seen a lot of maturity at his age," Johnson said, "just becoming that natural leader that his teams needs right now. He speaks up. He speaks his mind."

"It's going to be great for the future."

Dominant Defense Energizes Gators to Win over FSU

By: Cam Parker

Gators Illustrated – Sports Illustrated

December 1, 2024

The Florida Gators have its first winning season since 2020.

Behind a five-takeaway performance from its defense and special teams along with a 99-yard rushing effort from Montrell Johnson Jr., the Gators on Saturday defeated Florida State, 31-11, to end the regular season at 7-5.

Florida's defense dominated with eight fumbles forced, five of which were recovered, to go with eight sacks and 14 tackles-for-loss on the night. The Gators held Florida State to 239 yards of total offense, and the sack total was a season-high and the most by Florida against the Seminoles since 2000.

"Yeah some of those were just takeaway behavior," said UF head coach Billy Napier. "You know, we talked about putting takeaway behavior on the film. Do it in practice, do it in the game. Second, third, fourth, fifth defender in, you know, being around the ball. Population around the ball contributes to turnovers. So the mission here was to come here and put a bunch of identity clips on the tape, and I think we did that."

The Gator offense struggled to take full advantage with only 368 yards of offense, but the rushing attack, led by Johnson Jr.'s 99 yards and Jadan Baugh's 81 yards, sparked Florida's offense when it needed it the most.

Johnson Jr., behind a game-sealing 65-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, moved over the 3,000-yard mark in his four-year career.

"He worked his tail off to get over the high ankle, the bone bruise. Missed a chunk of the season there in the middle," Napier said. "You could just see in this last week against Ole Miss, when he's on, he's a little different. His patience, his acceleration, his vision. And he showed some finishing speed tonight. So, Montrell, 3,000 yards. I mean, how many backs in the country right now have 3,000 yards rushing. He's taken full advantage, and he's a class act off the field. He's everything you would want in a player to be in terms of representing the program."

The first quarter saw both team's offenses struggles with two punts each on the first two drives. The Gators had accuracy issues from freshman quarterback Lagway, who finished with 133 yards, two touchdowns and one interception, with other drop struggles from receivers. Meanwhile, the FSU offensive line struggled to consistently keep Florida out of the backfield.

It wasn't until the fifth drive where a breakthrough happened with Jack Pyburn forcing a fumble off of FSU freshman quarterback Luke Kromenhoek, which was recovered by D'Antre Robinson at the Seminoles' 14-yard line.

Two plays later, Ja'Kobi Jackson punched it in from one-yard out to put the Gators on the board, 7-0, with 2:28 in the first quarter.

Florida's defense continued its ferocious first-half with a quick three-and-out on the next possession and another fumble recovery after, this time forced and recovered by Shemar James at the Gators' 29-yard line.

Lagway, after a multitude of drops by receivers, finally found success in the passing game with a strong evasion of a pass rush followed by a 17-yard catch by Chimere Dike. However, miscommunication plagued the Gators late as Lagway was intercepted in the end zone by Azareye'h Thomas.

Receivers Dike and Marcus Burke appeared to run the same deep route leading to the miscommunication. However, both receivers played the redeemer role on the next drive with Dike recording two catches for 46 yards and Burke hauling in a four-yard touchdown with 25 seconds left in the half.

"We were trying to play make it, take it," Napier said. "I thought we managed the clock pretty good there. You know, we didn't start the half very good, so I was disappointed with that. But yeah, I mean to make it two scores and really just kind of extend the lead and get control the game. Although we were in control, the score didn't reflect that. Making it two scores right before the half was big."

Florida State found points on its opening drive of the third quarter with a nine-play, 42-yard drive capped by a field goal from Ryan Fitzgerald. The Seminoles were aided by a 15-yard penalty on Jack Pyburn for unnecessary roughness, a 10-yard pass from Kromenhoek where he avoided a sack and a Florida miscue while attempting to recover a fumble.

Florida went three-and-out, but a muffed punt by FSU's Lawayne McCoy led to the Gators' answering with a 30-yard field goal from Trey Smack.

FSU, once again, went on a long drive, this time aided by a 20-yard catch-and-run from Amaree Williams on 4th-and-2 to put the Seminoles on the Gators' 5-yard line. However, a fumble on an exchange two plays later gave Florida the ball back.

Johnson Jr. capitalized with his 65-yard touchdown to give the Gators a three-touchdown lead early in the fourth quarter.

FSU found the end zone for the first time with a two-yard rush from Lawrance Toafili with 3:03 left in the game and converted the two-point attempt, and Florida answered with an eight-yard toss from Lagway to tight end Tony Livingston, the first of his career.

Next up, the Gators wait for its bowl game announcement, and with Early National Signing Day on Dec. 4 and transfer portal opening on Dec. 9, Florida will have its full attention on building its 2025 recruiting class while prepping for postseason play.

"We've done a good job evaluating players and recruiting players. That's not been our issue here. What we needed to do is prove ourselves on the grass, prove to recruits that we can teach and develop players and that our formula works and win," Napier said. "There's nothing that is better for recruiting than winning. Ultimately, I think that's kind of been the final piece of the puzzle is some stability and prove it between the lines that your formula works. And I think we've done that for the last couple of weeks."

Florida runs over Florida State, recovers five fumbles in 31-11 rivalry win

By: Bob Ferrante

The Associated Press

December 1, 2024

Montrell Johnson ran for 99 yards, including a 65-yard touchdown, and Florida recovered five fumbles in a 31-11 win over Florida State on Saturday.

Jadan Baugh added 81 yards as Florida racked up 235 rushing yards, while DJ Lagway had two touchdown passes to give coach Billy Napier his first victory over the Seminoles in three tries.

Florida recorded eight sacks, 14 tackles for loss and grabbed four fumbles — a fifth came on a muffed Florida State punt — in a defensive effort that was among the team's best this fall.

"Defensively we were really lights out," Florida coach Billy Napier said. "We had a season high in TFLs and sacks. We created some takeaways and were able to take advantage of those."

Florida benefitted from short field situations. The Gators scored a touchdown after recovering a fumble at the Florida State 14 and tacked on a field goal after recovering a fumble at the Seminoles' 12.

Lagway completed 14 of 22 passes for 133 yards, including a 4-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Burke and an 8-yard pass to Tony Livingston.

The Gators (7-5) wrapped up an impressive stretch to finish November, knocking off ranked opponents in LSU and Ole Miss and picking up a victory over Florida State after starting the season 3-3.

Outside the Florida locker room, players, coaches and support staff were seen smoking victory cigars to cap a celebration three years in the making over their rivals. When asked if Napier enjoyed a cigar, he smiled and said, "Absolutely."

Florida's defense held Florida State to 79 first-half yards, in which the Seminoles were held to just 2.5 yards per play. The Seminoles (2-10) finished with 239 offensive yards, falling below the 300-yard mark in all 11 games against FBS defenses in 2024.

Lawrance Toafili had a 1-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter for Florida State.

The Seminoles dropped all three rivalry games (including Miami and Clemson) by double digits.

"Extremely disappointed in today," Florida State coach Mike Norvell said. "Made too many mistakes throughout the course of the game. Turned the ball over five times. Too many negative plays. ... It's a disappointing ending to an awful season. That's the best way I can put it."

MONTRELL JOHNSON FOR 3,000

Johnson became the sixth Florida player to surpass 3,000 rushing yards on Saturday. He came into the game with 2,990 rushing yards in his career at Louisiana and Florida.

"It means a lot to me, but I just feel like going out the right way, that means more to me," Johnson said.

TAKEAWAY

Florida: The Gators averaged 6.5 yards per carry in the first half and picked up a dominating, first rivalry win over Florida State to finish off an impressive last three weeks in what was arguably the nation's toughest schedule.

Florida State: The Seminoles suffered their first season with double-digit losses since 1974, which is two years before Bobby Bowden arrived.

Gators end season with romp of FSU, rightful claim to state supremacy

By: Joey Knight
The Tampa Bay Times
December 1, 2024

On a 45-degree north Florida night, the 180-degree evolution of the 2024 Florida Gators was completed.

In an autumn of ebbs and flows, calm and chaos, fits and starts, the Gators transitioned from feeble to foundering to formidable. A team no one wanted to acknowledge in early September became a team no one wanted to play in late November.

And in the wake of Saturday night's 31-11 triumph against fumble-prone FSU, they can make a reasonable claim to being the state's best team. Granted, Miami can offer a sound rebuttal by virtue of its 10-2 record and season-opening romp of Florida in Gainesville, but ask yourself:

How would a rematch play out, now that Miami's defense has been exposed and its aura quashed (two losses in its last three games) even as the Gators (7-5) have been rejuvenated by a rookie quarterback?

"Yeah," coach Billy Napier said when asked if he feels the Gators can play with anyone in the country right now. "Put the ball down. I mean, we've played all the good teams. We know what they look like. I wouldn't bet against us is what I would say."

The mojo surrounding Napier's bowl-bound team is as prevalent as the cigar aroma wafting from the Gators' locker room late Saturday evening. Even on a night when its offense was far from optimal, Florida still dominated, seizing early momentum and never relinquishing it.

The Gators sacked FSU true freshman Luke Kromenhoek eight times and converted five 'Noles lost fumbles into 17 points, extending their streak of games with at least one takeaway to nine. Offensively, quarterback DJ Lagway was mostly pedestrian (14 of 22, 133 yards, two TDs, one INT) but still provided a few breathtaking snippets.

"I thought defensively we were really lights out," said Napier, whose team recorded season-highs in sacks and tackles for loss (14).

"I think we didn't have our fastball on offense. I think it was evident there we had some missed opportunities, and I do think it could've been worse is what I would say. ... Obviously, across the board there I think we'll look back at it and we'll see that we've got to play better around the quarterback. But in general, good ball."

To be sure, Lagway's surrealism was overshadowed by his team's opportunism before a modest Doak Campbell Stadium audience of 55,107.

The third sack Kromenhoek sustained came from his blind side. The hit by edge rusher Jack Pyburn jarred the ball loose, and D'Antre Robinson recovered at FSU's 14. Two plays later, Ja'Kobi Jackson trotted into the end zone for a 1-yard touchdown and 7-0 Florida lead.

While that turnover set the game's tone, a microcosm of the 'Noles' night came late in the third, when a 13-play, 68-yard drive ended when Kam Davis mishandled a simple backfield toss by Kromenhoek that George Gumbs recovered at the Gators 7.

Six plays later, Gators senior Montrell Johnson dashed up the middle for a 65-yard TD, eclipsing the 3,000-yard mark for his career in the process.

“It’s a disappointing end to an awful season,” FSU coach Mike Norvell said. “That’s the best way I can put it.”

Then there was Lagway. On his signature play of the night, he found himself in the grasp of 330-pound defensive tackle Darrell Jackson when his pocket collapsed but somehow broke free. He rolled right and found Chimere Dike for a 17-yard gain.

“I kept churning,” he said. “I felt kinda like pushed off of him, so I pushed off him back. My helmet was all screwed up, I really couldn’t see (Dike). I just threw it to a spot. He was there.”

The drive ended when Lagway’s deep ball — in the vicinity of two confused Gator receivers — was intercepted by Azareye’h Thomas in the corner of the end zone. But on his next possession, Lagway went 4 of 4 for 60 yards, hitting Dike across the middle for 25 yards to the FSU 2, setting up his 4-yard scoring toss to Marcus Burke that gave Florida a 14-0 lead.

Meantime, the ‘Noles (2-10) ended their worst season in a half-century with an eye toward 2025.

Hours prior to Saturday’s kickoff, UCF confirmed embattled coach Gus Malzahn had resigned amid reports he’d become Norvell’s offensive coordinator. Norvell didn’t confirm Malzahn by name but indicated an announcement was forthcoming.

Whether he also has settled on his quarterback for next fall remains uncertain.

In a de facto audition for the 2025 starting job, Kromenhoek (15 of 28, 140 yards; 32 rushing yards) showed flashes of his own athleticism and escapability while being steadily harassed.

Kromenhoek was complicit in at least three of FSU’s five lost fumbles, leading FSU’s lone scoring drive late in the fourth quarter.

“This is getting fixed,” Norvell said. “It’s going to be an immediate, fast fix. And we are going to make sure that every person that’s a part of this program is all in in that process for what is necessary to go be better.”

The Gators' process, once maligned, is making noticeable strides.

“We have some momentum, but there is lots of work to do here to get to where we want to go,” Napier said. “But it’s good to have some momentum here, and obviously we need to carry this over to prepare for the bowl game.”

Sweet victory: How Florida football made statement for future with win over rival FSU

By: Kevin Brockway

The Gainesville Sun

December 1, 2024

One by one, Florida football players lit victory cigars following UF's 31-11 win over rival Florida State on Saturday night at Doak Campbell Stadium.

Offensive linemen Austin Barber and Brendan Crenshaw-Dickson returned to the field postgame, puffing the sweet-smelling smoke into the night sky. Both raised their fists towards Florida Gators fans who remained in the stands on a chilly, late-November night.

Not only did UF snap a two-game losing streak to the rival Seminoles, but the Gators (7-5) also clinched their first winning season since 2020 and first winning campaign in three seasons under head coach Billy Napier.

It seemed improbable when Florida started the season 1-2 following a 33-20 home loss to Texas A&M on Sept. 14, when rumors swirled that Napier wouldn't last the full season as UF's coach.

"Midseason, that is when it all kind of came together," Napier said. "Think the players did a good job of kind of putting their blinders on in the first month, and didn't allow excuses, didn't allow blame, you know, and really just went back to work."

Now, Florida finds itself in position to close with a top-10 recruiting class on National Signing Day next week, with a promising quarterback, D.J. Lagway, who improved to 5-1 as a starter and has posted wins over rivals LSU and FSU as a true freshman.

"It means a lot to the future of this program," said Florida senior running back Montrell Johnson Jr., who surpassed 3,000 yards for his career with a 65-yard TD run in the fourth quarter. "Just going there with these guys, myself included have set the platform to stand up for the guys in the future to go out and make this program great again."

How can Florida football build off momentum of FSU win

After early National Signing Day, Florida will prepare for its first bowl trip since 2022 and have a busy offseason in the transfer portal. UF's current three-game win streak matches its longest under Napier, last achieved from Sept. 9-23 last year against McNeese, Tennessee and Charlotte.

Beating FSU represents another step in UF's attempt to revive a program that struggled in its first two seasons under Napier.

"It was just like relief off my back," Florida defensive end Tyreek Sapp said. "Two years, losing to these guys. It was a great group of guys they put together. They finally put the team. It's always going to be a challenge. It's a rivalry game. We don't like them, and they don't like us. So, for the last two years, this has been sitting on us."

Sapp did his part, recorded two of UF's eight sacks as the Gator defense held an opponent under 17 points for the third straight game.

Offensively, Lagway wasn't asked to do much, but did enough, completing 14 of 22 passes for 133 yards with two TDs and an interception. Florida led just 7-0 until Lagway connected with receiver Marcus Burke, putting UF up 14-0 with 25 seconds left in the first half.

"We didn't have our fastball on offense," Napier said. "You know, I think it was evident there. We had some missed opportunities."

Lagway went back to Burke after a miscommunication with Burke and receiver Chimere Dike led to his lone interception earlier in the second quarter.

"It was huge for me to come back to Burke because he felt like he let everybody down," Lagway said. "It was a team effort. We just all had to get on the same page. It's so great to go back to him on that route and get that touchdown."

The 6-foot-3, 239-pound Lagway will be used as a recruiting tool for transfers as much as anyone, as he's shown both poise and big-play ability in leading UF's offense through six starts and 12 games this season.

"I'm definitely going to be involved in the transfer portal and the recruiting class but the biggest thing is keeping the guys that we have here," Lagway said. "That's the biggest thing. Just making sure that everyone's locked in and we can add and build on this momentum we have at the end of the season."

Florida Gators Defense Continues to Correct Course

By: Kyle Lander

Gators Illustrated – Sports Illustrated

November 28, 2024

Much of the noise surrounding the Florida Gators last season was how poor the defense was and the effort on the field. As a result, head coach Billy Napier was forced to let go of two staffers on that side of the ball and find suitable replacements to help correct this problem.

Unfortunately for Napier and his team, this narrative continued to follow him through the first four games of this year. The Gators were just 2-2 to begin the season, and it looked like they were going down a similar path defensively having given up an average of 27.3 opponent points per game.

The only reason that number wasn't higher is because they played against Samford, who only scored seven points. When pitted against Power 4 opponents, it gave up 41 points to Miami, 33 to Texas A&M and 28 to a poor Mississippi State team.

Additionally, the defense only generated eight sacks through their first four games of the season – including a zero-sack outing against Texas A&M and one sack versus Miami – and forced only three turnovers (two fumbles and one interception).

Since then though, the Gators have been on a different level. The defense has racked up 22 sacks over their last seven games, which brings their season total to 30. These 30 sacks have them tied for 23rd nationally in total team sacks. This is also the most in a season for the Gators since the 2021 season where they had 37 and this team still has two games to go.

As for the turnovers, they now sit tied for 37th in the country for the most passes intercepted with 11 total on the season. The players on the back end of the Gators' defense have turned into high-flying ball hawks following their first bye week of the season. They've come down with 10 interceptions in these seven games, which includes three-interception games against Georgia and Kentucky each.

One area that has only marginally improved since the first four games are the points. They've gone from allowing 27.3 points to 24.6 points per game. However, of the 172 points allowed during this period, 83 of them were surrendered to Georgia and Texas.

The one common factor among these two games was that DJ Lagway was missing for most or all of both, which led to the offense quickly coming off the field on almost every possession and tiring out the defense.

Still, though, that doesn't mean the defense hasn't been dominant in keeping their opponents out of the endzone. In fact, the Gators currently hold the No. 12 red zone defense in the country. They are only allowing opponents to score 74.3 percent of the time once they hit the 20-yard line. This is also an important stat as it is how they beat Ole Miss last weekend. The Gators' defense held the Rebels' offense to zero scores in three trips to the red zone, including two fourth-down stops.

So, while the Gators' defense maybe didn't have the best of starts, it's not how you start, it's how you finish and they're finishing pretty strong.

'Continues to evolve': Billy Napier praises Ryan O'Hara for role in DJ Lagway's continued development

By: Graham Hall
Swamp247 – 247Sports
November 28, 2024

Ahead of Florida freshman quarterback DJ Lagway's final regular season game of his first season in Gainesville, UF head coach Billy Napier didn't mince words: despite the high regard from evaluators when it came to the five-star signal-caller's potential, the 6-foot-3, 239-pound Lagway has outplayed initial projections from Florida's coaching staff.

"I think DJ obviously surpassed my expectations for a rookie," Napier said Monday.

The third-year Florida head coach has frequently credited the presence of sixth-year signal-caller Graham Mertz, and the former Wisconsin transfer's willingness to aid the freshman passer, with Lagway's ongoing development – it's a statement Napier reiterated as he spoke glowingly of the Willis, Texas, native.

"Graham Mertz deserves a lot of credit for this," he said.

Though, there's another member of the Florida program who has played a vital role in Lagway's upward trajectory: offensive analyst Ryan O'Hara.

The off-field analyst, whose responsibilities focus on mid-week preparation of the team's quarterback unit, has played a critical role in fine-tuning Lagway's skill set, from his passing mechanics to his footwork.

Without O'Hara, it's safe to speculate whether or not Lagway would be nearly as capable of leading Florida's offense as he's been in recent weeks, which have seen the Gators secure back-to-back victories over ranked opponents in LSU and Ole Miss.

"Ryan O'Hara, who is an absolutely phenomenal coach and teacher, his contribution, the way he goes above and beyond," Napier continued. "DJ has been blessed. He's got a ton of physical ability, but he's also been in the grinder with Ryan and Graham, has made a bunch of progress as a result of a lot of hard work."

While O'Hara has been a constant presence during Napier's tenure in Gainesville, his role amplified in the offseason when the NCAA Division I Council decided to abolish coaching staff limitations, allowing "support staff," an umbrella term for any staff member who falls outside the 11 "countable" coaches, to provide players skill and tactical coaching instruction, both during practice sessions and in games.

As the first season with the altered legislation nears its conclusion, Napier remains convinced the expansion of the support staff's role has paid dividends.

Florida's special teams unit, for example, has significantly cut down on self-inflicted wounds, with Joe Houston and Chris Couch allowed to provide instruction during contests.

They're hardly the lone members of Florida's support staff who have seen their responsibilities increase in 2024, though, with Lagway leading a revitalized Florida offense ahead of Saturday's contest in Tallahassee against a two-win Florida State team, O'Hara's presence may be the most impactful of the group.

"I think it's big. Look, the guy's been working for me for a while. Just continues to evolve. I think that's the thing I respect. He never rests on his laurels. He's always looking for a little better way, another layer of detail. He's creative. He continues to push the envelope. We grind the quarterback, okay? Ryan deals with me, right? I respect the way he handles that," Napier said of O'Hara. "Obviously, every time I challenge something or try to add more detail to an area, he steps up and does it. I would say that's another -- in a perfect world, all elite football programs, the quarterback sets the tone, at all levels, in my opinion. The importance of that position, not only with how they perform but how they rub off on the other players on the team, how they set kind of a bar, this is how we work, this is how we prepare, this is how we communicate, this is how we practice. I think it's key the quarterback has got to set the tone."

Jordan Castell's big hits set the tone in Florida's win over Ole Miss

By: Zach Abolverdi

Gators Online – On3

November 27, 2024

Bryce Thornton made two interceptions in the final two minutes of Florida's 24-17 upset over Ole Miss. Thornton's two takeaways sealed the win late, and a pair big hits by fellow starting safety Jordan Castell set the tone early.

Maybe Castell channel his inner Major Wright after his Mr. Two Bits rendition. Or it could have been what nose tackle Cam Jackson told him prior to kickoff.

"I was telling Jordan on the sideline, we need a big play, turnover or something," Jackson said. Castell delivered during the Rebels' opening drive. Quarterback Jaxson Dart threw to tight end Dae'Quan Wright on second-and-4 and Castell broke up the pass with a punishing hit on Wright that dislodged the ball.

"At first I was just banging the buzz, trying to get him out the seam," Castell said of the play. "I was hinging looking at the quarterback, reading the quarterback. As soon as I seen him throw it, I wanted him."

Just like Major Wright wanted Oklahoma receiver Manny Johnson in the national championship game. Castell's hit was reviewed and ruled not targeting.

"I got scared. I thought I was going to get kicked out the game," Castell said with a smile. "I was just trying to get us going."

It did. The Gators sacked Dart on the ensuing play to force a punt.

"When he did that, I feel like it set the tone for the defense," Jackson said. "With him getting that big hit, it set the tone a lot."

Castell had another tone-setting tackle on the second series for Ole Miss. The Rebels went for it on fourth-and-1 from the Florida 11-yard line, and he made the stop on a direct snap to defensive tackle JJ Pegues to force a turnover on downs.

"I believe it was Myles Graham and Sharif [Denson] that kind of slowed it down. I had to do my job, help them boys," Castell said. "That was a big boy (smiling). That was a big boy."

The Rebels were 12-for-12 this season in short-yardage conversion attempts with Pegues prior to that play by Castell. It was one of three empty red-zone trips for Ole Miss, including another failed fourth-down try with Pegues in the fourth quarter.

How was it trying to tackle the 325-pound Pegues?

"You going to feel it. You going to feel it," said Castell, who's 210 pounds. "I had so much juice. I feel it after the game. I feel it now. During the game, I wasn't feeling nothing."

Dae'Quan Wright was.

Florida's Jabbar Juluke named a 2024 Broyles Award nominee

By: Zach Abolverdi

Gators Online – On3

November 27, 2024

Florida running backs coach Jabbar Juluke had himself quite a day on Tuesday. The morning started with a big commitment, and his evening ended with more good news.

Juluke was named a 2024 Broyles Award nominee, which is awarded annually to the best assistant coach in college football. He's also been one of the nation's top recruiters in the 2025 class.

Juluke and the Gators flipped four-star running back Bryon Louis from FSU on Tuesday. He's the third RB commit in this cycle for Juluke, along with four-star Walter Clark and three-star Chad Gasper.

"Coach Juluke is one of the best in the country at that position," Florida coach Billy Napier said.

"Obviously Jadan, Ja'Kobi; Montrell has been very productive for us this year.

"That position for us is at the centerpiece of our offense and I couldn't be more proud of the guys that we have there. And Coach Juluke in particular has done a nice job."

Juluke has fielded another productive running back room in 2024 despite the loss of Trevor Etienne after last season and the injury this year to starter Montrell Johnson Jr., who missed three games.

Etienne transferred to Georgia and Juluke hasn't blinked. He got Johnson back for his senior year and beat out Alabama — while Nick Saban was still the coach — for Jadan Baugh on signing day.

Following the injuries to Johnson and backup RB Treyaun Webb, Baugh made his first career start against Kentucky and tied the single-game school record with five rushing touchdowns.

Baugh finished that game with 22 carries for 106 yards (first-career 100-yard game) to earn SEC Freshman of the Week honors. He leads the team with 522 rushing yards and seven TDs.

Johnson rushed for 106 yards in the opener and had his second 100-yard game against Ole Miss, his first start since his Week 7 injury. He has 494 rushing yards and five touchdowns.

Juluke has also developed JUCO transfer Ja'Kobi Jackson into one of the team's surprise players this season. He's rushed for 401 yards and six touchdowns and started against Georgia.

"I have learned a lot from Coach Juluke, not even just football, just about life," Jackson said. "He coaches us on football, but he's more of a life guy. He teaches us life values and how to be a young man in this world and how to go about ourselves and go about our business when it's time to put in work."

Underwood Named a Finalist for Mannelly Award

By: UAA Communications

FloridaGators.com

November 26, 2024

Gators long snapper Rocco Underwood has been selected as one of three finalists for the 2024 Patrick Mannelly Award, distinguishing Underwood as one of the top long snappers in FBS.

The six-foot-three, 228-pound former high school tight end boasts more physicality than is typical of the position, and in 2024, his uncharacteristic athleticism has allowed him to become a weapon in the field position battle to compliment Florida's Ray Guy Award semifinalist, Jeremy Crawshaw.

His connections with Crawshaw have led to an elite punting unit, with Crawshaw ranking twelfth in the nation in average yards per punt, and eighth in net punt yards among players with double-digit punts. Underwood himself has logged three tackles on punt return attempts, establishing himself as one of the most versatile specialists in the country.

Prior to the 2024 campaign, Underwood was tabbed to the Mannelly Award preseason watch list. Florida had previously had one athlete be named to a Mannelly Award watch list, with Marco Ortiz selected prior to the 2022 campaign. Ortiz suffered an injury after the first game of the season, opening the door for Underwood, who has held the job since.

2024 will be the sixth year of the Mannelly Award. The award, created in 2019, benefits Bernie's Book Bank, a non-profit organization located in Lake Bluff, Illinois.

The winner of the 2024 Mannelly Award will be announced at the live award ceremony in Lake Bluff on December 14, 2024. The complete list of nominees can be seen below.

Name	School
Beau Gardner	Georgia
<i>Rocco Underwood</i>	<i>Florida</i>
William Wagner	Michigan

A look at what led to the Florida Gators' late-season improvement

By: Graham Hall

Swamp247 – 247Sports

November 26, 2024

A month into the regular season, Florida was in arguably the worst spot it had been thus far in the Billy Napier era.

The Gators were coming off of double-digit defeats to FBS opponents at home, losses to Miami and Texas A&M, and speculation was rampant the program would move on from Napier sooner rather than later.

Much has changed within the previous two months, though UF still has greater aspirations as the regular season finale, Saturday's 7 p.m. ET battle in Tallahassee with Florida State, looms.

With the season approaching its conclusion, it's worth going over the multitude of factors that precipitated Florida's improved on-field play, from the continued improvement of quarterback DJ Lagway to the defense's turnaround.

It started with the first bye week

By now, Florida fans have heard the continuous messaging from those within the program stating the improvements made during the bye week were instrumental to the team's progression.

After downing Mississippi State on Oct. 21, the Gators returned to Gainesville intent on correcting the negatives that had plagued the program from the jump.

During a three-day span of practice sessions described as both fun and competitive, Florida's coaching staff looked inwardly and made noticeable changes to its setup, particularly on defense. There was a belief the defensive system was resulting in unnecessary confusion, and alignment issues and communication were hindering the team's ability to play up to its talent level, according to sources who spoke to Swamp247.

As a result, Florida slightly simplified its defensive playbook and focused on improving its on-field play-calling, with the signals coming from the sideline providing a security blanket in a sense for the numerous underclassmen and first-year UF players who were tasked with implementing the decisions made by UF's coaching staff. To the coaching staff's credit, any arrogance or conviction in its methods was set aside, and the desire to listen to the personnel within the locker room was warmly received.

Success followed almost immediately, with UF cutting down on its double-digit missed tackles throughout the season and alignment issues on defense correcting themselves.

It was a necessary change in retrospect, one leaving many within the building to ponder "what if?" after the changes were made after a pair of losses to talented opponents.

Personnel changes paid dividends

It wasn't just the defensive system and fundamentals that deserve credit for the unit's uptick in efficacy – the increased usage of multiple defenders proved to be beneficial, too.

George Gumbs Jr. validated Florida's decision to bring in the former Northern Illinois tight end to play on the edge for the Gators, as his motor and pass rush skill set, while far from a finished product, led to success at a higher rate than many expected.

After returning from a torn ACL suffered nearly a year prior, Jack Pyburn led by example and, most importantly, understood his assignments on each play, and Florida's defensive front began to experience greater success at getting to the quarterback.

And, while injuries are never desirable, the issues in the secondary led Trikwaze Bridges to step into a starting role, and the former Oregon transfer has exceeded outside expectations. Over the previous month, Bridges' ability to play

both safety and cornerback has steadied a unit that continued to be hamstrung by undesirable ailments, and there's a belief he's gone from being on the outside looking in to someone poised for an opportunity at the professional level.

Along with the improvements made by multiple freshmen, including Myles Graham, Jaden Robinson, Dijon Johnson and Bryce Thornton, among others, the improved contributions from players who were considered to be secondary to the starting unit when the season began was a critical factor in facilitating Florida's on-field improvements.

Offensive line made strides

A year ago, Florida's offensive line allowed 39 sacks, and there wasn't much confidence from outsiders that the additions at tackle, Damieon George Jr.'s move from tackle to guard and the return of a pair of upperclassmen would lead to vast improvement.

Those beliefs have been proven incorrect, as UF has allowed just 16 sacks through 11 games this season while making strides as the year went on from a run blocking standpoint.

A year ago, Austin Barber was hindered by a variety of injuries, and he missed the majority of spring camp as he continued to recover from a shoulder injury. With Barber able to play up to his capabilities, his move from right tackle to left tackle has been validated after it was questioned repeatedly in 2023, while Jake Slaughter has proven to be arguably Florida's top offensive lineman in his first year as a full-time starter in the trenches.

As for George, he was repeatedly referred to in 2023 as a weak link along Florida's offensive line, yet he's validated his desire to move inside to right guard, proving his skill set is more well-suited for handling defensive tackles than athletic edge rushers. His technique looks to have made strides, too, which may be a credit to Florida's hiring of John Decoster in February.

Knijeah Harris, after a few shaky performances earlier this year, has come along as a first-year starter, and he was a violent blocker in the open field on more than one occasion in UF's 24-17 win over Ole Miss.

Without the improvements made by the offensive line, the quarterback tasked with overtaking Graham Mertz following the sixth-year senior's season-ending injury, DJ Lagway, wouldn't have been as effective as he's been on downfield throws this season.

DJ Lagway is as impressive as believed

As for Lagway, he may deserve the most credit for Florida's turnaround, considering how the Gators fared in Austin, Texas, against the Longhorns.

With Lagway missing six quarters due to a Grade 2 hamstring strain, Florida's offense struggled in the second half against Georgia and throughout the contest at Texas, despite the run game having success, with rushers Jadan Baugh and Ja'Kobi Jackson combining for 204 yards on the ground against Texas.

Lagway needed time to grow – that was clear throughout the spring and from those who've witnessed him practice.

The first-year quarterback out of Willis, Texas, hasn't been stellar in practice sessions throughout his first year in Gainesville, sources have told Swamp247, and there's still room for improvement as his career continues, yet he's continued to amplify his performances when inserted into contests, easing any concerns about utilizing the highly touted freshman.

His downfield passing ability has been the best of any quarterback in the nation regardless of class, and his decision-making has improved on a week-to-week basis.

His success the previous two weeks in wins over LSU and Ole Miss was only made more impressive by the fact Lagway is not fully healthy, and the Gators are limiting their play-calling with him under center, opting not to call designed quarterback runs or sneaks in short-yardage situations in order to prevent the first-year passer from aggravating his soft tissue injury.

With no disrespect whatsoever to Mertz, or to preferred walk-on Aidan Warner, Florida's offense has had a penchant for explosiveness at a higher rate when Lagway is in the contest, and there's the intangible that they have a better chance for scoring quickly when he's in the game.

Without him, it's fair to say the victories over LSU and Ole Miss do not happen, and the conversation of Florida's upward trajectory under Napier would be vastly different without the former five-star signal-caller's presence.

"I think, yeah, I'm kind of beyond DJ being a freshman anymore," Napier said Monday. "I think DJ obviously surpassed my expectations for a rookie. Graham Mertz deserves a lot of credit for this, and Ryan O'Hara, who is an absolutely phenomenal coach and teacher, his contribution, the way he goes above and beyond. DJ has been blessed. He's got a ton of physical ability, but he's also been in the grinder with Ryan and Graham, has made a bunch of progress as a result of a lot of hard work."

Self-inflicted wounds have been limited

There's still room to correct procedural issues, as the contest with LSU showcased, yet Florida's making costly errors at a lower rate this season.

Give Trey Smack credit. Thrust into a starting role a handful of games into the 2023 season, Smack handled kickoffs and place-kicking duties for the Gators. It may not sound like a heavy workload, yet it's more difficult than many may imagine, and he's proved critical in recent weeks with long field goals against the Tigers and Rebels that heavily factored into the positive outcomes for the Gators.

The Gators appear to be playing with greater discipline, too, with fewer untimely errors – we haven't seen too many illegal substitution or 12 men on the field penalties, and when we have, they haven't cost the Gators the game, as they did last year against Arkansas – and a cleaned-up between-play process.

Frankly, Florida has had a small margin for error throughout Napier's tenure.

Each holding call, false start or missed opportunity would more than likely come back to bite the Gators in the end.

That hasn't been the case through 11 games this season, even if there's room for further improvement.

The decline in self-inflicted wounds has been a tangible sign of progress for a program that too often was limiting its competitive chances against talented programs, and the decrease in unnecessary issues has provided the Gators with a larger window to capitalize on an opponent's shortcomings.

There have been breaks, too

I would be remiss to say Florida hasn't benefitted from another team's issues in recent weeks.

LSU and Ole Miss both suffered a handful of drops against the Gators, and the late-game woes from the Rebels – Jaxson Dart made some uncharacteristic decisions considering how impressive he's been this season – helped Florida hang on for its most significant victory in the Napier era. It's not to take anything away from the outcomes, it's just worth mentioning it was about time the breaks went in Florida's favor, considering too often they haven't gone their way.

"I mean, look, I've stood up here and said this many times. You have to have a very objective way to sum up the game, evaluate the game," Napier said Monday. "What contributed to winning? What did we overcome because we were strong in these areas? We overcame these things."

Both opponents, the Tigers and Rebels, had undesirable situations in the backfield, having lost critical components at running back that limited their team's ability to be potent offensively.

While LSU was effective on the ground against the Gators, with Caden Durham and Josh Williams combining for 158 yards from scrimmage, UF kept the pair out of the end zone, and the former walk-on and true freshman were two of just three scholarship running backs remaining on the roster – hardly a desirable set-up at a position that too often is a by-committee approach.

The situation with the Rebels is puzzling in particular. After losing Quinshon Judkins in the offseason, the Lane Kiffin-led offense lost Henry Parrish Jr. to injury and Logan Diggs was unable to play against the Gators.

But the Rebels do have one of the more talented backs in the conference on the roster Ulysses Bentley IV, who rushed for 540 yards a year ago despite sharing the workload with Judkins. This season, Bentley's usage has been limited despite Kiffin maintaining there are no off-field issues limiting his role, with just 213 yards and a pair of touchdowns on 50 carries. With the Rebels relying on Micah Davis, the fourth-string rusher to begin the season, Ole Miss opted to either have Dart scramble for chunk plays or use J.J. Pegues on short-yardage situations.

It made the Ole Miss Rebels offense one-dimensional too often against the Gators, and UF took advantage.

The locker room never splintered

Of all the previously mentioned factors, this one may be the most impressive.

In the current era of college football, it's never less more difficult for one to quit on their team. After four games – and UF's first four games certainly weren't ideal – a player can opt out of the season, announce intentions to transfer in the offseason and preserve their redshirt.

Considering the number of talented underclassmen on Florida's roster, this was a realistic possibility, and one Napier was questioned about repeatedly. Without orange-and-blue glasses on, not many would have blamed players for looking elsewhere if they feel they have a better situation on the horizon.

But that wasn't the case in Gainesville.

In a testament to the culture fostered in the locker room and Napier's desire to connect with players on a personal level, Florida's locker room rallied amid the significant adversity and focused on improving rather than quitting. It may seem as if that should be a given, but it's certainly not with the portal and the allure of NIL.

Multiple teams on Florida's schedule dealt with opt-outs this season, even under the notion their situations were healthier, their coaches more secure in their place in the year ahead. UCF was a notable example, with the Knights suffering a handful of opt-outs ahead of traveling to Gainesville on Oct. 5.

Give Florida credit where it's due; If the Gators had quit when the going got tough, they never would have reached the glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, even with UF determined to continue barreling forward amid what has been an impressive uptick in effectiveness in recent weeks.

"A big thing that we preach in the locker room is, no matter what's going on outside of the building, having that main focus on the guys that are in that room. And I think that was, you know, after a big time win, us all locking arms, singing the alma mater, and just giving thanks to everyone that came out and supported at the same time," senior linebacker Derek Wingo said. "It's so much of a relief just to know that all the hard work and preparation that we've put together, to be able to go out and compete very well."

Without the aforementioned factors, the Gators, having played the toughest schedule in 2024 ahead of the schedule commencing, wouldn't be where they are today – a double-digit favorite heading into Saturday's contest in Tallahassee, set to face a team coming off a 13-0 start a year ago while many questioned the set-up in Gainesville.

It's why the games aren't played on paper, why the season has to unfold and why even an early subpar stretch to begin the season may not mean a team is destined for failure in November.

Florida's Banks, Crawshaw and Thornton earn SEC weekly honors

By: Corey Bender

Gators Online – On3

November 26, 2024

A trio of Florida Gators have earned SEC Weekly Honors for their performances in UF's 24-17 victory over Ole Miss, the conference announced Monday.

It marks the second-straight week Florida has earned three SEC Weekly Honors, which is the first time in school history they've had three in back-to-back weeks.

Those Gators are Bryce Thornton (Co-Defensive Player of the Week), Caleb Banks (Co-Defensive Lineman of the Week) and Jeremy Crawshaw (Special Teams Player of the Week).

Thornton racked up 14 tackles, a career high, and led the Florida Gators in that category. Most importantly though, he recorded interceptions on Ole Miss' final two drives of the game to close out the game.

As for Banks, he logged four tackles for loss, including two and a half sacks. He also added a pass breakup and quarterback hurry. The Louisville transfer has been disruptive in recent weeks and is garnering the attention of NFL scouts down the stretch.

Then you have Crawshaw, who recorded seven punts, including a 62-yarder. Most importantly though, the Rebels didn't score a touchdown on any of the six drives that came off a Crawshaw punt.

Florida Gators' season was transformed by an open date. Here's how

By: Joey Knight
The Tampa Bay Times
November 26, 2024

Those who have observed from skyboxes and seatbacks might single out a particular Saturday as the inflection point of Florida's bleak-to-breathtaking autumn. Stands to reason.

Who could observe the Gators' dogged effort at Tennessee — even after the starting quarterback went down — and not detect a different vibe? Who could witness their annihilation of Kentucky and not believe a breakthrough loomed? Who could watch them stand toe-to-toe with Georgia for three quarters — even after the backup quarterback went down — and not sense a spike in confidence?

Any such moment could sensibly be ascertained as the singular occasion that ignited the Gators' resurgence. But Billy Napier points farther back, to a brief stretch of closed ranks and open dialogue, of soul-searching and stoked competitiveness.

Everything changed, he insists, during the team's initial bye week in late September.

"Just passion and energy and the way they worked that week and that Wednesday practice, I'll never forget that," Napier said in the immediate wake of his team's 24-17 upset Saturday of No. 9 Ole Miss, which assured the Gators of bowl eligibility.

"I walked off that field and said that's the best practice I've been associated with in 20 years of college football. So at that point, I'm like, we've got to figure this out."

The sentiment has been echoed by numerous players in the eight weeks since that open date. To a person, they say Napier created an uber-competitive atmosphere that week — with a clear winner and loser in each drill or scrimmage period — that bred confidence and chemistry. Seniors spoke up, then stepped up. Detail was prioritized.

And a team was galvanized.

Since that week, Florida is 4-3. It has won back-to-back games against ranked teams (LSU, Ole Miss), nearly upset another ranked foe on the road (Tennessee) and remained tied with what was then the nation's No. 2 team (Georgia) early in the fourth quarter.

During that span, freshman quarterback DJ Lagway has emerged as the clear offensive catalyst, the running game has averaged 150.6 yards per contest, the defense has recorded at least one takeaway in every game and the last five opponents have failed to score on their opening possession.

"There was a whole different approach to practice," cornerback Devin Moore said a few weeks later.

"We had a lot of competitive good-on-good stuff," receiver Chimere Dike added. "I think the first bye week was really good for our team. I think we were able to find kind of our identity a lot during that time."

They found it through periods pitting the first-team offense against the first-team defense. Drills normally deemed routine became ruthless. Starting jobs were contested.

“I think it was like, the competitiveness that had us going,” senior tailback Montrell Johnson said. “Coach did a lot of things where we had to compete like, if we lost this rep it was a gasser, stuff like that. So I think that put our competitiveness to another level and after that, we just took off.”

Napier credits the players — particularly the upperclassmen — for embracing the atmosphere he fostered that week. Had they not, a season that already appeared on the brink (UF was 2-2 with embarrassing home losses to Miami and Texas A&M) could’ve bottomed out.

Instead, the Gators (6-5) can win their third consecutive game and climb in the bowl pecking order with a win Saturday night against reeling rival FSU (2-9) in Tallahassee.

“Sometimes you get to an open date, and I’ve been on teams where an open date is a disaster,” Napier said. “And you’re trying to work, you’re trying to come up with plans for improvement. But just to see this group, man, they were like, ‘Coach, what do we do? What do we need to do?’”

The weekend after the bye, the previously maligned Gators defense held UCF — which boasted one of the nation’s top rushing offenses — to 108 yards on 40 carries in a 24-13 victory. Then came the trip to Knoxville, where starting quarterback Graham Mertz sustained a season-ending knee injury early in the third quarter, but Lagway nearly rallied the team in an excruciating 23-17 overtime loss.

The transformation was on.

“I feel like especially the leaders and the seniors came and brought the team together and we were like, ‘How do we want the season to be?’” said safety Bryce Thornton, who intercepted Ole Miss’ Jaxon Dart twice in the last 92 seconds of Saturday’s win.

“I feel that played a big part, and we all said we don’t want to go out like this, so I feel like everybody came together and we started working even harder, and I feel like it’s starting to show now.”

Florida shows it can finish with another second-half closeout and a makeshift dunk contest

By: Mark Long
The Associated Press
November 25, 2024

Florida players eager to celebrate their latest victory, the one that made them bowl eligible for the first time in two years, found a suitable prop on the sideline.

Ole Miss left behind its basketball hoop, which the Rebels use to salute big plays during games.

The Gators set it up, grabbed some footballs and held their own dunk contest near the end zone. It provided an apt stage — perfect for showcasing finishing moves — after they closed out another ranked opponent.

Florida (6-5, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) dominated the second half for the second consecutive week and got to parity in the Swamp following a 24-17 victory over then-ninth-ranked Mississippi on Saturday.

Not only did the Gators knock the Rebels (8-3, 4-3) out of the College Football Playoff picture, they won their fourth consecutive home game and raised expectations for coach Billy Napier's fourth season in Gainesville.

And the manner in which they accomplished it mattered. Napier has been preaching about "finishing," something that had mostly eluded the Gators in the past two years.

Florida lost four games in 2023 after leading in the second half, including three — against Arkansas, Missouri and Florida State — in the fourth quarter.

And no one following the program has forgotten how close the Gators were to upsetting Tennessee and Georgia earlier this season, losing 23-17 to the Volunteers in overtime and fading against the Bulldogs after being tied at 20 with five minutes to play.

Napier hoped all those gut punches would ultimately lead to something better, and they finally did — with late-game knockouts against LSU and Mississippi.

"Eventually you get sick of that," receiver Chimere Dike said. "To be able to get these last two wins is huge for our team and our program. I'm proud of the resilience the guys showed, the way that we performed."

Florida held Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin's high-scoring offense to three points in the second half. The Rebels turned the ball over twice — interceptions by Bryce Thornton on the final two drives — punted twice and got stuffed on another fourth-down run.

"I thought we were better on both sides up front, and short-yardage defense is a big component," Napier said. "Those are identity plays. I think we had guys step up and make plays."

Added defensive tackle Cam Jackson said: "Everybody just pinned their ears back. That was great."

It was reminiscent of the previous week against then-No. 21 LSU. Florida held the Tigers to six points in the second half and forced a fumble, a punt and a turnover on downs in a 27-16 victory.

"We just all came together and wanted to change how Florida was looked at," Thornton said. "That's the biggest thing with us, just trying to show everybody that we can do it."

The Gators ended the afternoon showing off their basketball moves.

Cornerback Trikweze Bridges, receiver Marcus Burke, defensive end Justus Boone, tight end Tony Livingston and linebacker Shemar James delivered monster dunks. Aidan Mizell passed a football between his leg in midair before his slam, and fellow receiver Elijah Badger bounced it off the backboard before rousing teammates and fans with his finish.

"Belief is the most powerful thing in the world," Napier said. "At some point there, midseason, we figured (that) out and we started to believe. Look, we can play with any team in the country."

Billy Napier, Montrell Johnson Jr. a dynamic duo for resurgent Gators

By: Edgar Thompson

The Orlando Sentinel

November 25, 2024

Montrell Johnson Jr. followed Billy Napier from Louisiana to help him build another winner at Florida.

When a growing number of people decided Napier wasn't the man for the job, Johnson's confidence in his coach never wavered. When Johnson's belief in himself hit rock-bottom during a trying September for both player and coach, Napier was there for his veteran tailback, too.

Together, the two men weathered uncertainty and naysayers to join forces during the biggest win of the Napier era, a 24-17 upset of No. 9 Ole Miss (8-3, 4-3) on Saturday in the Swamp.

Playing his final home game on Senior Day, Johnson ran for a season-high 107 yards, including a 9-yard scamper out of the wildcat formation for the go-ahead score that ended with a rare show of emotion.

"I was just proud of myself at that moment," Johnson said.

Napier was filled with pride himself.

"Montrell is a special kid to me for a lot of reasons," he said afterward.

Years ago, Johnson was a 3-star recruit from New Orleans De La Salle who immediately impressed Napier with his playing style and attitude.

"He's a class act — has been since I've first met him," Napier said. "Just a selfless guy who really sets the tone and the example in the running back room."

Johnson's mettle was tested after he underwent minor knee surgery during the first week of training camp and still didn't feel quite himself a month later. Even on a 71-yard touchdown run during Florida's season-opening flop against Miami, the 5-foot-11 ¼, 216-pound senior looked a half-step slow.

"A couple times I thought that, probably like Week 2 it wasn't getting any better," Johnson said Saturday. "I was kind of doubting myself. I just kind of stayed faithful and kept praying to God and kept working."

Johnson's faith was tested again a month later at Tennessee. Running better than he had all season, Johnson injured his leg during the third quarter of a 23-17 overtime loss.

During Johnson's three-game absence, true freshman Jadan Baugh and redshirt junior Ja'Kobi Jackson emerged as a formidable 1-2 punch. When Johnson returned, he managed 14 yards on 2 carries during a 27-16 upset of No. 22 LSU, making his start against Ole Miss a week later appear merely ceremonial until it was clear he was back to his old self.

"It was kind of tough for me because that was my first time missing any games in college," Johnson said. "Like you saw last week, I got a couple carries — and this week I shot to the moon."

Gator stars rose around Johnson to stun Ole Miss.

Safety Bryce Thornton recorded 14 tackles and iced the game with 2 interceptions in the final 1:31; Florida's defensive front recorded 9 tackles for loss, 4 of them sacks, and 4 quarterback hurries; and Baugh scored on a 25-yard catch-and-run for 46 yards to supplement Johnson's effort.

Meanwhile, true freshman quarterback DJ Lagway, still nursing a hamstring injury suffered Nov. 2 against Georgia, completed three first-down throws with defenders hanging all over him, passed for 2 touchdowns and had a 41-yard hook-up with senior Chimere Dike to reach Rebels' territory on the game's final scoring drive.

Runs of 12, 5 and 9 yards by Johnson followed at Napier's urging.

"I told [running backs coach] Jabbar [Juluke], 'Hey, let's get one in there,' " Napier recalled. "He's feeling it pretty good today, and he delivered."

Johnson aimed to deliver for the coach who believed in him and has kept the Gators believing in themselves despite double-digits home losses to Miami and Texas A&M during the season's first three weeks.

"I've been saying it the entire time, there was something special about this group," Napier said. "When the football wasn't right in the beginning of the year, man, it hurt me a little bit, to be honest with you.

"Give them some credit. We chipped away at it, and today obviously played good enough to win."

All along, Johnson has expressed confidence in Napier, despite consecutive losing seasons at UF. Johnson, after all, witnessed the winning program Napier had built at Louisiana as a freshman starter for a 13-1 team in 2021.

Yet even Johnson struggled Saturday to fully explain how the 45-year-old kept the Gators together and bought in when everyone figured Napier's ouster was just a matter of time.

"He's just a likable guy ... I don't know," Johnson said. "He just makes sure that we know it. Monday through Saturday he's always on us — in a good way."

Johnson, who with 2,883 rushing yards is closing in on 3,000 for his career, has been there every step of the way, including the most significant by Napier one to date. Along the way, Johnson's jersey number and supporting cast have changed, but much remains the same — including his coach.

"All he does is produce," Napier said. "He's been doing it. I remember the first scrimmage we had at Louisiana. He was wearing No. 25 back then. I wrote down out there behind the scrimmage, 'Hey, 25 is a real guy.'"

"He's been toting the rock ever since."

A Big Win for Gators & Napier, A Perfect Sendoff for Johnson

By: Scott Carter

Floridagators.com

November 24, 2024

Billy Napier woke up Saturday for the 1,084th consecutive day since his introductory press conference at Florida in December 2021.

In the two years, 11 months and 18 days since that Sunday afternoon when he spoke of building an "army" of staff to help in the battle of turning around Florida's football program, Napier and his three UF teams have taken a considerable amount of incoming fire.

They finally delivered a bomb of their own Saturday when they upset No. 9-ranked Ole Miss 24-17 at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, knocking the Rebels from the College Football Playoff race and delivering a statement that, maybe, after Florida's first back-to-back wins over ranked teams since 2018, they have their chomp back.

"We're just getting started," Napier said. "This is just part of the big-picture journey."

Coincidentally, the Gators pulled off their biggest win under Napier against Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin, who was front and center in constant speculation earlier this season about potentially being targeted to replace Napier should the Gators cut ties. In a season full of twists and turns, the Gators clinched a bowl berth Saturday and improved to 4-0 at home with true freshman quarterback DJ Lagway the starter.

Beyond the surface of Saturday's cheerful victory, a more personal story touched Napier than the media- and critic-driven drama of beating Kiffin and former Gators defensive lineman Princely Umanmielen.

He wore No. 1 and scored the go-ahead touchdown.

Afterward, Napier recalled when he and running back Montrell Johnson Jr. were at Louisiana. Johnson, then a freshman from New Orleans who originally committed to Arizona, reconsidered at the urging of his mother, Keyshawn Harris, and opted to play at Louisiana. Johnson was new to college football and had a different look in those days.

"He was wearing No. 25 back then," Napier said. "I wrote down out there behind the scrimmage, 'Hey, 25 is a real guy.' He's been toting the rock ever since. All he does is produce."

That's why, in the fourth quarter, with the game tied 17-17 and Florida taking possession at its 33 with 9:34 left, Napier turned to running backs coach Jabbar Juluke and told him to hand the ball to Johnson. Johnson returned to action a week ago in the win over LSU after missing three consecutive games due to a lower-body injury.

"Let's get one in there [end zone]," Napier said. "He's feeling it pretty good today."

Following a 41-yard pass from Lagway to Chimere Dike on first down, moving the Gators to Ole Miss' 26-yard line, it was Johnson for 12 yards, Johnson for five yards, and finally, with Johnson replacing Lagway behind center, he took a direct snap from the wildcat formation and raced nine yards for the score behind blocks from offensive lineman Knijeah Harris and tight end Hayden Hansen.

The Gators took a seven-point lead and let the defense do the rest, including a pair of interceptions by safety Bryce Thornton off Rebels quarterback Jaxson Dart in the final two minutes.

"That's a great play because, actually, I'll practice that play with JB 13 [Jadan Baugh]," Johnson said. "So, when they called it, it was like, 'Trell, it's your play.' I'm just thinking touchdown — I gotta score. I got to get in the end zone for Senior Night."

As Johnson high-stepped into the end zone, the sold-out crowd at The Swamp set off a roar reverberating across campus. After battling back from minor knee surgery in preseason camp and another injury against Georgia, Johnson had a moment that nearly choked up Napier when he was asked about his senior leader.

Johnson transferred to UF after one season at Louisiana to follow Napier to Florida. He deferred to his mom on Saturday when asked why he had so much faith in Napier to leave his home state.

"She has been guiding me all my life. She guided me this far," Johnson said. "She had faith in Coach, so I had faith in Coach. I trusted him with important decisions."

Johnson hasn't looked back. He rushed for 107 yards on 18 carries Sunday and is 64 yards shy of reaching 3,000 career yards.

Before he carried twice for 14 yards against LSU seven days ago, many figured Johnson would sit out the rest of the season to be healthy for Pro Day in March.

"A couple of times I thought that," Johnson said.

But he wanted to finish his career on the field, and in his final home game, he turned in a memorable Senior Day performance in front of his mom, sister, brother and cousin.

His mom has been his guiding light and biggest cheerleader.

"This is his journey and I'm here to support him through it all," Harris told a New Orleans TV station. "His father was murdered at the age of 2 years old, right before Hurricane Katrina, so I'm all he knows. I'm his biggest pusher and supporter."

In the postgame euphoria on the Florida side, Johnson answered questions in his customary low-key style. He is as steady off the field as he is on it.

He runs tough, straight ahead. He talks softly and humbly.

"It felt good to go out like that," he said.

That's part of why his comeback performance against the Rebels had his teammates and head coach smiling each time his name came up.

"Montrell is a huge part of our team," Dike said.

"He's been a great leader since day one since I stepped on campus," Lagway said.

Since Napier first stepped foot on the UF campus all those days ago, college football and the UF program have undergone constant change. The Gators have taken more lumps than they have delivered.

Still, Johnson has been the Gators' steady rock when needed. On Saturday, when they turned to him, he lifted them to the kind of win Napier envisioned when he left Louisiana for UF and convinced Johnson to come along.

"Montrell is a special kid to me for a lot of reasons," Napier said. "He's a class act, first of all. Has been since I first met him. But just a selfless guy who really sets the tone and the example in the running back room. We've got young players in there that have been able to transition and play well and be successful, and they're watching him, and I think that he set the example, he sets the standard."

On Saturday, he showed his teammates how to exit the building with grace and style in his final home game.

Florida dashes Ole Miss' playoff hopes with upset in Swamp

By: ESPN News Services

ESPN

November 24, 2024

Coach Billy Napier and his team did something no one at Florida had done in nearly two decades. It could be the turning point for a once-proud program that clearly slipped in recent years.

DJ Lagway threw two touchdown passes, Montrell Johnson ran for 127 yards and a score, and the Gators upset No. 9 Mississippi 24-17 on Saturday to knock the Rebels out of College Football Playoff contention.

Florida (6-5, 4-4 SEC), which topped LSU last Saturday in the Swamp, beat ranked teams in consecutive weeks for the first time since 2008.

"We're just getting started," said Napier, who is expected back for a fourth season in 2025. "This is part of the big-picture journey. Belief is the most powerful thing in the world."

It marked Florida's second-largest upset win in the past 45 seasons, behind a victory at No. 16 LSU in 2016 (14-point underdogs). It also was the Gators' first win as a double-digit home underdog in the past 45 seasons.

Ole Miss (8-3, 4-3), which closed as a 13.5-point favorite at ESPN BET, lost for the first time in four games and surely will drop out of the 12-team playoff picture. The Rebels ranked ninth in the latest CFP rankings and needed only to avoid stumbling down the stretch against Florida and lowly Mississippi State to clinch a spot in the playoff field.

"Obviously a lot was at stake, and we didn't come through," coach Lane Kiffin said. "A lot of missed opportunities."

Kiffin's team had a miscue-filled day: 0-for-3 on trips inside the red zone; a season-high three turnovers; 3-for-14 on third downs; and a season-high five dropped passes despite perfect weather.

"Very unusual," Kiffin said.

Still, Ole Miss had chances late. But Jaxson Dart threw interceptions to end the team's last two drives. Bryce Thornton, beaten for a touchdown in the first half, picked off both. The second one came with 17 seconds remaining and set up a raucous celebration by defenders in the end zone.

Dart completed 24 of 41 passes for 323 yards, with two TDs and the two picks. He was sacked four times and also scrambled 14 times for a team-high 71 yards.

"You look at the way we played, we had a chip on our shoulder for sure," Florida defensive tackle Cam Jackson said.

Dart, meanwhile, apologized for the performance.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry to my teammates. I'm sorry to my coaches. Sorry for the fans," he said. "Can't lose these games. This one's going to hurt for a really long time. That's all I can really say. I'm sorry."

The Rebels probably would have had a comfortable lead had it not been for repeated failures inside the 20-yard line. Defensive tackle J.J. Pegues, a 325-pound wrecking ball out of the backfield, was stopped on two fourth-down runs inside the 20-yard line, and Caden Davis missed a 34-yard field goal in the second quarter.

Ole Miss' drops were egregious, including at least three that probably would have been touchdowns.

Florida was much more efficient. Lagway completed 10 of 17 passes for 180 yards, with an interception. He made three throws with defenders draped all over him.

"Those were the plays of the game," Napier said.

Johnson had a few of those, too. His 9-yard scoring run from the Wildcat formation was huge and came after he missed most of the past four games.

"I focused on grinding and trying to work my way back," Johnson said. "Last week I got a couple carries, and this week I shot to the moon."

Patience Pays Off Big for Billy Napier, Florida Gators

By: Terrance Biggs

Sports Illustrated

November 24, 2024

"Patience is a key element of success"- Bill Gates

After Texas A&M ran the ball for 310 yards in Week 3 against the Florida Gators, people began to write the 2024 eulogy for the season. Furthermore, they presumptively started to fill out the pink slip for head coach Billy Napier.

Yet Napier, to his credit, ignored the external noise.

Fans, donors, and pundits all wanted him gone before the end of the year. Despite this, the University of Florida became bowl eligible with a 24-17 victory over Ole Miss on Saturday.

In front of 89,992, the Gators silenced doubters and served up crow with humble pie as a dessert. Believe it or not, patience led Florida, which ultimately paid off.

Building A Culture

To win in the days of the transfer portal, culture-building not only becomes important but exceedingly difficult. Billy Napier's tenure at the UF saw high-profile transfers and criticism. Yet, he didn't waver.

People wanted the team to revert to historic greatness without comprehension of the modern landscape. During media availability after the Ole Miss game, Napier detailed why he believes that culture means so much.

"Well, we've got a long way to go, and I think obviously we've improved," said Napier. "I think it goes back to what I've told you guys before. I think belief is the most powerful thing in the world, and I think that at some point their mid-season, I think we figured out and we started to believe.

"Look, we can play with any team in the country. We've tried to direct our players' attention to things that require no talent and convinced them, hey, you have the physical ability, but it's got to be about more than that.

"You've got to dream big, and then you've got to have little process. So, it's about daily, can you do it daily, can you be consistent. I think that was the big leadership challenge this week."

Footprint of Belief

After beatdowns at the hands of Miami and TAMU, Florida needed an infusion of confidence. Nothing says slumpbuster like a trip to Starkville. You could see the team picking up steam.

The turning point of the season occurred when Graham Mertz suffered an injury. Not so much that he fell to injury, but the unity in which he brought the team together.

With his final college football season over, Mertz owed nothing to Florida. He could've chosen to focus on his recovery and preparing for the NFL Draft. Leave campus and move on. However, Mertz repaid the school giving him a chance by mentoring DJ Lagway and keeping the team upbeat.

The Long Game

With the Ole Miss win, Florida gained bowl eligibility. If they defeat Florida State, as many expect, that would improve the prestige of the bowl game. Credit goes to the athletic director and the administration.

Instead of pulling the plug early on Napier's tenure, the school allowed him time to work out the wrinkles and cobble together a decent season. No, not by historic standards, but by the metric of a brutal schedule in the unrelenting SEC.

According to ESPN, this was Florida's first back-to-back wins over ranked opponents since 2018 when they took out LSU and Mississippi State in consecutive weeks. There was work to be done.

Billy Napier may not be the coach that fans want, but he became the coach the team needed in this moment.

Florida upsets Ole Miss, 24-17, secures most significant victory of Billy Napier era

By: Graham Hall
247Sports – Swamp247
November 24, 2024

Throughout the Billy Napier era in Gainesville, maintaining momentum has been elusive. Steps forward have been prevented by more capable foes, or Florida's shortcomings, depending on one's perspective.

With an opportunity to build on arguably the most significant victory in Napier's tenure, a 27-16 win over a ranked LSU team a week prior, the Gators took a long-awaited stride in their final home game of the 2024 season.

In a back-and-forth contest Saturday in Gainesville, UF downed No. 9 Ole Miss, 24-17, behind effective play from its defensive front and a rushing attack that gained 184 yards against a vaunted Ole Miss defense.

As the clock expired, it was evident the Napier era had reached newfound heights, the head coach all but guaranteed to return to Gainesville for a fourth season.

The embattled UF head coach ensured the team's final impression of his third season at the helm was a resounding success, one which saw the Gators answer each Rebels strike with one of their own.

Following a scoreless first quarter, Florida struck first when freshman signal-caller DJ Lagway found Elijah Badger from eight yards out on the opening play of the second quarter, only for the Rebels to orchestrate a seven-play, 75-yard drive to pull level when quarterback Jaxson Dart found Tre Harris for a 43-yard score. It was one of the few highlights for Harris, who returned from a back injury yet exited ahead of halftime due to injury.

Rather than answer right back, Lagway was intercepted when the first-year passer's throw to Chimere Dike was tipped into the arms of John Saunders Jr., and the Rebels took a 14-7 lead five plays later when Dart found Cayden Lee for a 22-yard touchdown.

A 25-yard touchdown by freshman rusher Jadan Baugh tied the score once again with 6:52 remaining before halftime, and UF entered halftime set to receive the second-half kickoff.

The Gators moved backward on its opening drive, forcing senior punter Jeremy Crawshaw to punt it away. Yet disaster would strike for the Rebels when Micah Davis muffed the punt return near midfield – a break for Florida that set up Trey Smack's 53-yard field goal despite the negative yardage. Florida gained just four yards in the third quarter yet came away with three points, setting up a decisive final 15 minutes with the score tied at 17.

Lagway, who finished 10-of-17 passing for 180 yards and two scores, was effective yet hardly dynamic for much of the afternoon, but the first-year passer with a penchant for explosive plays found Dike for a 41-yard gain after the Gators' defense forced a three-and-out, setting up Montrell Johnson Jr.'s nine-yard rushing touchdown out of the Wildcat formation. One of 27 UF players competing for the last time in The Swamp, Johnson left a lasting impression amid what has been an injury-riddled season for the former Louisiana transfer, finishing with 107 rushing yards.

It was the Florida defense's continued improvement that kept the Gators in the contest throughout the game. A week removed from sacking LSU quarterback Garrett Nussmeier seven times, UF's defensive front caused havoc in the backfield against a subpar Rebels offensive line that routinely allowed Dart to be pressured while struggling to develop a run game, though UF registered four sacks. Yet when Dart wasn't carving up UF's secondary, the Rebels' passer was consistently able to escape a collapsing pocket and make plays with his legs, tallying a team-high 72 rushing yards.

The Rebels got the ball back with 3:58 remaining in the contest and with one last chance to avoid an upset that would significantly hinder the team's objective of making the expanded College Football Playoff. Dart proceeded to pick up a first down on 3rd-and-6, and the Rebels would reach midfield as the two-minute timeout arrived.

Dart looked to throw deep, yet Florida's secondary was ready. Second-year safety Bryce Thornton eyed the ball and picked off the Rebels' passer. The Rebels would get one last shot at avoiding the upset, yet the Gators were ready. After a Dijon Johnson interception was overturned, Thornton recorded his second pick of the afternoon to seal UF's upset.

It was two weeks prior the decision to clear up Napier's future in Gainesville was questioned by many, the Gators having been embarrassed against Texas.

In the time since, that statement of faith from Florida's athletic department has aged well as UF has secured bowl eligibility for the second time in Napier's tenure after consecutive victories over ranked foes in Gainesville.

DJ Lagway made ‘the plays of the game’ in Florida's win over Ole Miss

By: Zach Abolverdi

On3 – Gators Online

November 24, 2024

The Florida Gators made several game-changing plays in their 24-17 win over No. 9 Ole Miss. The two turnovers on downs and the two fourth-quarter interceptions by Bryce Thornton certainly stand out, as did the play of freshman quarterback DJ Lagway.

Just ask Rebels coach Lane Kiffin.

“Tough place to play against a team that has played really good when that quarterback plays, credit to him,” Kiffin said of Lagway. “He’s a really good player and made a lot of plays in the first half when we had him back there.”

Lagway made two plays late in the first quarter that changed the game. On Florida’s first TD drive, he avoided two Rebels — one at his waist and another in his face — to make a 14-yard pass to Ja’Quavion Frazier.

Lagway did it again two plays later, this time on third-and-5. With Ole Miss defender draped all over him, he kept the play alive and completed a 17-yard pass to Elijah Badger to set up first-and-goal.

“Those are the plays of the game,” UF coach Billy Napier said. “I’ll say what I said last time. The good Lord blessed DJ Lagway. It pays off to be 6’3¼”, 240 pounds. Yeah, those were phenomenal plays. Guys are draped all over him, he finds a guy, keeps his eyes downfield.”

On the first play of the second quarter, Lagway finished off the series with a back-shoulder throw to Elijah Badger for an eighth-yard touchdown on third-and-goal. The score capped an 11-play, 89-yard TD drive for the Gators and gave them a 7-0 lead.

“We practice situations like this every day,” Lagway said of escaping the sacks. “We do ball security, we do pocket moments every single day and every off period that we have. I’d just say from the development of Coach [Ryan] O’Hara, Coach Nape and the plan that they have, we prepare. And those situations that I’ve seen out there on Saturday hasn’t been the first time I’ve practiced those situations. So, I’d just say the preparation from those guys has been amazing.”

The Rebels came into the game leading the nation with 46 sacks, including 22 during their three-game winning streak. Ole Miss linebacker Chris Paul Jr. said it was “very deflating” to miss Lagway potential two sacks on Florida’s first scoring series.

“DJ Lagway is a great quarterback,” Paul said. “You can tell he is the leader of the offense. He has a bigger body but also knows how to move and run. He has a big arm no matter what position he is in, so props to him and props to the Florida offense.”

Lagway finished with 180 yards on 10 of 17 passing with two touchdowns, one interception and a 174.8 rating. It marked the second multi-touchdown game of his career.

Lagway was sacked three times on Saturday, but he escaped out of a few more. He’s now 4-1 as a starter and undefeated in starts where he played the entire game.

“He has made progress. We didn’t move him around a lot. He did make some plays with his feet,” Napier said of Lagway, who is still not 100 percent healed from his hamstring injury. “But I asked him how he was feeling, and he said, ‘I’m good’, so we went with it.

“For the most part, we kept him clean today. We caught a game where their front wasn’t able to be a factor to some degree. I think we did what we needed to do to win, and he was a huge part of that for sure.”

For defensive hero Bryce Thornton, it was 'time to go make a play'

By: Keith Niebuhr

On3 – Gators Online

November 24, 2024

With Ole Miss quarterback Jaxson Dart attempting to rally the Rebels to a win Saturday at The Swamp, safety Bryce Thornton saved the day for the Florida Gators as they held a seven-point lead. Twice.

First, he intercepted Dart in the Florida end zone on a deep throw with 1:32 left. After Ole Miss got the ball back, Thornton picked off Dart again with 17 seconds on the clock, this time at the Gators 22. Those plays helped Florida pull off a 24-17 win over the No. 9 Rebels.

“I just seen the ball in the air, and I just told myself, ‘it’s time to go make a play,’” Thornton said.

Bryce Thornton had a career game

To say the least, Thornton, a sophomore from Milton (Ga.), had a busy day. He also recorded a team-high 14 tackles, with five solo stops. That easily topped his previous career-best of eight. It was the first two-interception game by a Gator since the Missouri game in 2022 (Jaydon Hil).

“Bryce has been a huge bright spot, stepping up in a major way,” Florida coach Billy Napier said.

“Obviously we’ve had some injuries there (At safety). Two picks and a career high in tackles, and coming off of an injury. Bryce has been in that training room every day for weeks ... Bryce got good experience last year, and I think ultimately he’s a very capable player. He showed out today.”

Thornton had played in seven games in 2024 prior to Saturday, having been slowed at times by injury. That made his big plays in crunch time against Ole Miss even more special.

“Oh, it means everything,” Thornton said. “Coming off injury, it was big for me because I never had an injury that put me out. So just trying to stay mentally locked in and all the coaches, all the players helping me, so it really meant a lot. I had a little ankle problem, but I’m out there, so I feel good. I only had a two-interception game one time, sophomore year (of high school). It’s good to bring back memories.”

Thornton made his fifth start of the season Saturday. He entered the game with 19 tackles (11 solo) and an interception. But those numbers were sure to rise given the way Ole Miss — and Dart — throw the ball all over the field. Dart finished the game 24 of 41 for 323 yards and two touchdowns as he attacked the Florida defense all Saturday afternoon.

But Thornton came up big when it counted. On the first pick, Dart threw deep to a well-covered receiver from the Florida 39.

“I think it was (linebacker) Shemar James that was in coverage,” Thornton said. “He played real good coverage underneath, and it gave me time to see the whole picture so I could go make a play.”

Thornton’s second pick sent the sold-out crowd at The Swamp into a victory celebration. The Gators, 6-5, now are bowl eligible. Meanwhile, Ole Miss, at 8-3, might be out of the College Football Playoff picture.

“It feels great,” Thornton said. “I feel like we should be ranked, so we’re going to keep performing, and I feel like everybody is going to see how Florida is supposed to be.”

Florida Gators complete surreal rebirth with upset of No. 9 Ole Miss

By: Joey Knight
Tampa Bay Times
November 24, 2024

On a chilly north Florida afternoon, the Florida Gators completed their surreal odyssey from beleaguered to bowl eligible.

The defense made stops, the run game made chunks and rookie quarterback DJ Lagway made memories.

Those complementary elements conspired to create a seismic shakeup of the playoff landscape. Florida's 24-17 upset of No. 9 Ole Miss clinched a bowl berth for the hosts (6-5, 4-4 SEC) and knocked the Rebels (8-3, 4-3) from playoff contention.

Sophomore Bryce Thornton's two interceptions of Jaxson Dart in the final 91 seconds sealed things. His last one, near the Ole Miss sideline with 17 seconds to play, sent the audience of 89,942 into a froth.

It also capped a team turnaround that seemed implausible two months ago. Embarrassing home losses to Miami and Texas A&M in the season's first three weeks had the fan base clamoring for coach Billy Napier's job.

Today, his gig's secure. And his program's future seems sublime.

"It's been great," said Lagway, the undisputed catalyst of Florida's transformation. "September was really rough, but we persevered, we continued to work and just continued to trust in what Coach Napier was preaching to us. And I feel like all of our hard work is starting to pay off now."

Still nursing a delicate hamstring, Lagway (10 of 17, 182 yards, two touchdowns, one interception) made an assortment of big throws out of a perpetually collapsing pocket, perhaps none bigger than a 41-yard strike over the middle to Chimere Dike with 8:59 remaining. That set up a 9-yard scoring run by tailback Montrell Johnson Jr. — operating as a wildcat quarterback — with 7:40 to play.

Playing his final home game, Johnson finished with 107 yards and the game-winning score on 18 carries.

"I'll be honest with you," Napier said. "There at that possession, when we threw the shot to (Dike) and we fed (Johnson) the ball three plays in a row, I told (running backs coach) Jabarr (Juluke), 'Hey, let's get (No.) 1 in there. I think he's feeling pretty good today.' He delivered."

So did the defense, especially at the most tense junctures.

While Dart — the Football Bowl Subdivision's total offense leader — often flourished between the 20s, the Gators sacked him four times and held Ole Miss to only three third-down conversions in 14 tries. Moreover, twice inside UF's 15, the Gators stuffed 325-pound Rebels defensive tackle JJ Pegues — a short-yardage bulldozer — for no gain on fourth and 1.

"We knew we could get it done," defensive lineman Caleb Banks said. "Like, after halftime, we came in and realized they couldn't keep up with us, they can't play with us. We've just got to keep playing strong and just finish."

Momentum was seized moments after the national anthem. On the game's fifth play, tight end Dae'Quan Wright snagged a Dart deep throw near the Gators' 35-yard line, only to be leveled in the upper chest by sophomore Jordan Castell, jarring the ball loose. Officials reviewed the play briefly, ruling there was no targeting.

But it was a tone setter.

"That was the one like, 'Oh yeah, we're fixing to get after them even more,' " Banks said. "And when he didn't get the targeting it was like, 'Yeah, it's go time.' "

Three possessions later, Lagway displayed the poise, precision and pocket awareness that has left a fan base giddy about the future.

Twice on the 11-play march, he appeared in the grasp of Ole Miss defenders, only to get off a 14-yard completion to Ja'Quavion Frazier and a 17-yarder — on third-and-5 — to Elijah Badger. He finished 4 of 4 for 58 yards on the 89-yard drive, capping it with an 8-yard touchdown to Badger near the right corner of the end zone.

"Those are the plays of the game," Napier said. "I'll say what I said last time, the good Lord blessed DJ Lagway. It just pays off to be 6-foot-3 and a quarter and 240 pounds. Yeah, those were phenomenal plays. I mean, the guys are draped all over him, and he finds the guy, keeps his eyes downfield."

Ole Miss answered with two quick TDs, but before you could say wunderkind, Lagway quelled the Rebels' momentum.

On third and 2 at his own 33, he stepped up in a collapsing pocket and found Badger in the right flat for a 27-yard completion. After a Rebels facemask penalty, freshman tailback Jadan Baugh took a Lagway swing pass and raced 25 yards for a tying TD.

Ole Miss, second nationally in scoring offense (40.7 points per game) entering the weekend, scored three second-half points. The Rebels' last four possessions ended with a pair of punts and Thornton's two picks. Dart was sacked twice in that stretch.

"Obviously a lot was at stake," said Rebels coach Lane Kiffin, once deemed the prime candidate to replace Napier in Gainesville, "and we didn't come through."

One team's meltdown is another's makeover.

"I think belief is the most powerful thing in the world," Napier said. "And I think at some point there in midseason, I think we figured out, we started to believe like, 'Look, we can play with any team in the country.'"

Gators stop Lane Train in its tracks, upset No. 9 Ole Miss

By: Edgar Thompson

Orlando Sentinel

November 24, 2024

Florida coach Billy Napier exchanged an uncomfortable handshake with Ole Miss counterpart Lane Kiffin, shared a few well-earned hugs and then headed to the northeast corner of the Swamp to join his players singing the school's alma mater.

On a crisp and sunny November day, Napier's Gators had just done the unexpected, if not the unthinkable, beating the No. 9 Rebels 24-17.

Ole Miss was a 10-point favorite Saturday fresh off a bye week after a dominant 28-10 win against Georgia positioned the Rebels for a spot in the expanded 12-team College Football Playoff.

Instead, the Gators (6-5, 4-4 SEC) stopped the Lane Train in its tracks and dispatched of the Rebels (8-3, 4-3).

"These guys have stepped up in a major way," Napier said.

The Gators' victory marked consecutive wins against ranked teams for the first time since triumphs against Florida State and Alabama during the 2008 national championship season. The last time the unranked Gators beat ranked teams on back-to-back weeks were 2003 wins at LSU and Arkansas.

This time, Florida capitalized on the friendly confines of the Swamp.

"Just an incredible atmosphere; it doesn't get much better than that," Napier said.

A pair of interceptions by sophomore safety Bryce Thornton in the final 1:31 iced the game and spurred roaring responses by a sold-out crowd of 89,942 and end-zone celebrations by players and fans.

"I just saw the ball in the air, and I told myself, 'It's time to go make a play,' " Thornton said.

On Senior Day in the Swamp, true freshman quarterback DJ Lagway threw 2 touchdowns, veteran tailback Montrell Johnson Jr. ran for 107 yards in his final home game and another inspired defensive effort led the way.

On the game-winning drive, Johnson followed a 41-yard completion from Lagway to a diving Chimere Dike with runs of 12, 5 and 9 yards to give the Gators a 24-17 lead with 7:40 to go — the final run coming out of the wildcat formation.

When Johnson reached the end zone, he celebrated as he never had on 20 previous touchdowns at UF. A senior season that began with a knee injury in training camp and a three-game absence in October is ending on a high note.

"I was just proud of myself at that moment, just bouncing back from adversity," he said.

Meanwhile, the SEC's leading passer and keenest offensive mind failed to capitalize on their chances.

The Rebels left Florida's red zone three times without points.

“There’s an understanding you have to play well in the trenches,” Napier said. “I thought we were better on both sides up front. Those are identity plays.”

“We had guys step up and make plays.”

Twice, the Gators stuffed the Ole Miss jumbo package on 4th-and-1, stopping 6-foot-2, 325-pound defensive tackle JJ Pegues shy of a first down following a direct snap — the second time when trailing 17-14.

The other time Ole Miss dropped three passes, the final one when star receiver Tre Harris, back after a three-game absence, re-injured his leg. Caden Davis then missed a 34-yard field goal with the game tied 14-14.

Davis tied the game at 17-17 with 45 seconds left in the third quarter.

But quarterback Jaxson Dart, who finished with 394 total yards, and the SEC’s top-scoring attack could not overcome the Gators’ defensive effort, three turnovers and more than a half-dozen dropped passes.

“We took full advantage,” Napier said.

DT Caleb Banks wreaking havoc on QBs and what else Florida football learned from Ole Miss win

By: Kevin Brockway

Gainesville Sun – Gator sports

November 24, 2024

An emotional Senior Day for Florida football in its home finale at The Swamp included hugs, tears — and a win.

The Florida Gators (6-5, 4-4 SEC) needed a sharp game in all three phases to pull off a 24-17 upset of No. 9 Ole Miss before a sellout crowd of 89,942.

"Our fans were incredible, played a major role in the game," Florida football coach Billy Napier said. "Just to see them rally behind our team and players, and certainly for me, our seniors. I think this group — I told them in there just now, leadership is really hard. It requires a lot from you. I think these guys have stepped up in a major way."

Ole Miss (8-3, 4-3 SEC) outgained Florida 464-344, but UF's defense held the Rebels scoreless in three red zone trips. Sophomore Florida safety Bryce Thornton came up with pair of fourth quarter interceptions. DJ Douglas also recovered a muffed punt in the third quarter, leading to Trey Smack's 53-yard field goal and a 17-14 lead.

"Special teams, offense and defense, everybody just came to play, and it was a great team win," Florida quarterback DJ Lagway said. "Everybody did their job, and it was just amazing."

Here are three things learned from UF's upset:

Florida football QB DJ Lagway is looking healthier

The 6-foot-3, 239-pound Lagway completed 10 of 17 passes for 180 yards with two TDs and one interceptions. He also used his legs more, scrambling five times for 12 yards in his second game back from a hamstring injury. Lagway didn't try to scramble last week against LSU.

"I'm feeling better each week," Lagway said. "I didn't have any set backs during the game, so I'm just continuing to get better and continuing the recovery process."

Lagway finished with minus-9 yards rushing because he was sacked three times. He also made big throws with defenders draped on him in the first half, including a 27-yard catch-and-run by Elijah Badger to set up UF's second touchdown.

"The good Lord blessed DJ Lagway," Napier said. "It pays off to be 6'3¼", 240 pounds. Yeah, those were phenomenal plays. Guys are draped all over him, he finds a guy, keeps his eyes downfield."

Florida DT Caleb Banks is emerging as a pass rush threat

The 6-foot-6, 325-pound Banks, a Louisville transfer, finished with 2.5 sacks and has 3.5 over this last two games. Florida has posted 11 sacks its last two games. Florida defensive lineman Cam Jackson, a fellow transfer from Memphis, said the two have been pushing each other since they arrived on campus in 2023.

"Me and Caleb, like I said, we're always competing with each other," Jackson said. "So, like, we'll be on the sideline, like, I tell him, I'm about to go get a sack. He'll tell me he's going to get a sack. Just competing with each other and just pushing each other to that limit. It's great playing beside Caleb."

Florida football is building more chemistry, camaraderie

With consecutive wins over No. 22 LSU and No. 9 Ole Miss, chemistry Florida has built off the field is starting to yield results on it. Napier said UF upperclassmen are starting to serve as positive mentors for underclassmen.

"You get it rolling is when the veteran players are establishing expectations and standards and young players show up, they get in line and they do what they see being done," Napier said. "Until you get to that place, you haven't established anything, and I think this year was the first time I could say with conviction that we've established that."

Bend but don't break Florida football defense closes out Ole Miss win

By: Kevin Brockway

Gainesville Sun – Gator sports

November 24, 2024

Florida football sophomore safety Bryce Thornton took up residency in the Heavener Center training room for the better part of a month preparing for the home stretch of the 2024 season.

Banged up and bruised, the Florida Gators defense was called upon again to close out another upset bid at The Swamp against No. 9 Ole Miss. And once again, UF's defense delivered.

Thornton, playing through an ankle issue, came up with two interceptions in the final 1:32, including the game-clinching interception with 17 seconds left, lifting UF to a 24-17 win over the Rebels before 89,942 at The Swamp.

"Everybody played a part," said Thornton, who also posted a team-high 14 tackles. "The D-line had a great game. I feel like they helped, especially the back end contain, made him throw — especially for my pick, difficult throws, and I feel like the linebackers played a big part in my picks, also, just getting him to overthrow the ball."

Florida's defense, a punchline in September, delivered a knockout blow to Ole Miss's College Football Playoff hopes. After giving up 28 points or more in three its first four games, UF has yielded an average of 17.0 points in back-to-back wins over No. 22 LSU and No. 9 Ole Miss, the two top passing offenses in the SEC.

"The beginning of the season, it wasn't showing up how it was supposed to show up." Florida defensive lineman Cam Jackson said. "Putting the game in the defense's hands, it was big for us."

Why Florida football's Billy Napier put game in his defense's hands

Florida football coach Billy Napier had confidence his defense would come up with two stops in the final two minutes against the SEC's leading passer, quarterback Jaxon Dart, who threw for 323 yards and two TDs. After Thornton's first interception with 1:32 left, Napier chose to run the ball three straight times to force Ole Miss burn all three of its timeouts.

The strategy worked. Ole Miss took over at its 34 after Jeremy Crawshaw shanked a punt out of bounds. But Ole Miss could only move the ball to UF's 48 before Thornton's interception sealed the win.

"We were able to stop the run with a light box," Napier said. "Really all the running game was quarterback scramble. For the most part, I'd say outside of those two explosives in the first half, we stayed on top of them."

"I thought we had good leverage in coverage. Again, we were able to affect the quarterback. I think we hit him a lot, and then you could see that it was affecting him."

Florida sacked Dart four times and pressured him four more times. Defensive tackle Caleb Banks led the way with 2.5 sacks, with Tyreek Sapp adding 1.5 sacks.

Red-zone stops key Florida football win

Florida's defense also delivered three red zone stops at different points in the game, which played an important role in the outcome.

In the first quarter, Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin decided to go for it on fourth-and-1 from UF's 11-yard line on a direct snap play to defensive tackle JJ Pegues. Safety Jordan Castell and freshman linebacker Myles Graham tackled him for no gain, forcing a turnover on downs.

In the second quarter, Ole Miss drove 58 yards in seven plays, but the drive stalled when Dijon Johnson broke up a Dart pass attempt to receiver Tre Harris on a third-and-7 play. Ole Miss kicker Caleb Davis then missed a 34-yard field goal attempt.

In the third quarter, on fourth-and-1 from UF's 11, Ole Miss tried to run Pegues again for a first down. This time, Graham and Jackson combined for a tackle to hold Pegues to no gain.

Florida's defense surrendered 464 yards but made plays when it had to. UF's secondary held together despite losing defensive back Aaron Gates early in the game to a leg injury.

"They had six turnovers if you include the fourth-down down stops and the missed field goal and a couple picks and the muffed punt," Napier said. "We took full advantage of those."

'He's just set the standard': Crawshaw final home game ushers in end of historic career

By: Jacob Rudner
247Sports – Swamp247
November 23, 2024

Ally Crawshaw still chuckles at the thought of what could have been had her skepticism prevailed.

Her defense is easily understood, though.

How would you have reacted, she quipped, had your teenage son shared his dream of one day playing college football thousands of miles away in America and that an organization, ProKick Australia, dedicated to making such aspirations a reality, responding that it wouldn't just be able to help, but rather guaranteeing a favorable outcome?

To this day, Florida punter Jeremy Crawshaw's mother maintains, it all sounded too good to be true.

"I tried to talk him out of it because I thought it was a scam," she told Swamp247. "I thought it was some program that you pay your money to and they say that they'll get you an American scholarship but I was like, 'Oh, how do you know this is not a scam that nobody ends up getting the scholarship?' I didn't think this was a real thing."

But Jeremy was unrelenting, she recalled.

Just 15 years old at the time, he implored his parents to drive him to Sydney, Australia, for a ProKick tryout and assured them that the path forward was as legitimate as it was clear.

He wanted to punt and knew he could do it.

It didn't take long for others to agree.

"I'll never forget when one of the coaches came up to us and said, 'I can place your son anywhere in America,'" Ally Crawshaw said. "'He's got a huge leg and so much potential.'"

Even then, Ally and her husband Gavin "really didn't have a concept of what was going to happen," but still took the leap.

Crawshaw moved away from home in Emu Plains, New South Wales, Australia at 17 to pursue his punting dreams with ProKick and quickly gained traction as a college football recruit. In September of 2019, he officially visited the University of Florida, a school that had gained significant popularity in Australia due to its ties to Gatorade, a connection that Ally said was highlighted on a TV commercial for the globally-popular sports drink. Four days after his visit, he committed. Four months later, he enrolled.

It was a "wild journey." And the Crawshaws couldn't be more thankful.

"Sometimes I still pinch myself," Ally said just days before her son's final collegiate home game. "A part of me may never believe this is our reality."

The routine might seem monotonous to some, but to the people who watch Jeremy Crawshaw closest, it's what makes him so great.

First he practices his drop, taking a step forward and releasing the ball as if he were going to swing his leg at it, but, instead, allowing it to hit the ground and bounce back into his waiting hands.

Then Crawshaw works on the footwork, running through the steps he takes before a punt and focusing specifically on the timing of each movement.

Only then can the fifth-year senior punter put it all together, incorporating the mechanics of the actual kick itself and launching the football with a rare blend of precision and power.

Florida special teams analyst Joe Houston said he's seen that exact practice regimen "thousands of times" over the years after spending four seasons as an assistant with the New England Patriots from 2020-23 and the eight years before that at various stops in the college ranks as a special teams coach.

But there's something different about Crawshaw, Houston said.

"If anything," he added with a laugh, "he's just a little mesmerizing."

Houston doesn't hesitate to laud his punter, whom he feels has unequivocally earned the praise, a sentiment he repeated on several occasions. The first-year Florida special teams coach said you need not look further than practice to understand Crawshaw's greatness.

"He attacks every day like he's already in the NFL, and that's how business oriented he is," Houston shared. "You know, when you sacrifice everything and you move here with a couple bags — he's dream chasing, and all he wants is to play football and play it at a high level."

That's exactly what he's done.

In 2021 Crawshaw was named to the All-SEC Freshman Team after maintaining a 44.1-yard average with 20 attempts traveling 50 yards or further and as many being downed inside the opposing 20-yard line. Two years later, in 2023, Crawshaw earned a nod on the Associated Press All-SEC second team thanks to a university-record 48.9 yards per punt, a career-best 21 kicks that went at least 50 and 15 of his 42 punts downed inside the 20.

Crawshaw's success through three full collegiate seasons led to preseason All-American honors from 247Sports, a spot on the preseason All-SEC team and inclusion on the preseason Ray Guy Award Watch List, which he controversially was left off a year earlier.

"He has this uncanny, innate touch with the football that, quite frankly, most Americans end up playing their whole lives hoping to have half of," Houston said. "He's going to be playing football for a long time."

Crawshaw's uniqueness stems from his versatility within his role, something that has played a significant role in his success in 2024, which has seen him punt 43 times with a 46.2-yard average, just two touchbacks and an astounding 22 kicks downed inside the 20, which leads all punters in the nation.

"I guess one way to describe it is most punters have a driver and a pitching wedge," Houston explained. "But Jeremy has a whole bag. He's got his driver, he's got his three-wood, he's got five-wood, he's got a three-iron, four-iron, five-iron. That's how precise he is with his yardage, with his hang time, his distance."

Napier used another analogy.

"He's a weapon," he said with an ear-to-ear grin. "He's a sniper. He's an assassin."

Jeremy Crawshaw will never forget the light-headedness he experienced when he first stepped foot into an empty Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in the fall of 2019 a day before the Gators hosted Tennessee.

The cavernous nature of the arena, the expectations of the fans who fill its seats and the history of elite punting at Florida were overwhelming for the Australian teenager.

"I just remember thinking, 'Oh, wow, this is really big,'" Crawshaw told Swamp247. "Coming from a small town, small-town boy, to playing in front of hundreds of thousands of people, it was a lot to take in at the time."

And for good reason. Success for Crawshaw in Gainesville meant proving to be an adequate replacement for former Gator punter Tommy Townsend, who etched his name into the program record books, went on to win multiple Super Bowls and earned first-team All-Pro honors.

"Those are some seriously big shoes to fill," Houston said.

To say Crawshaw has pulled it off, though, would be an understatement. If anything, he's well on pace to leave Florida as its greatest punter ever.

Barring something completely unforeseen, Crawshaw will end his Gator career ranked first in program history in yards per punt and third in total punt yardage despite ranking outside the top five in total attempts.

Crawshaw's career yards per punt average is also likely to rank among the top five punters in college football history and is one of very few NCAA punters to eclipse 8,000 total yards despite kicking the ball fewer than 200 times.

Yet, Crawshaw believes he could have done more.

"This year hasn't been what I wished it was," he said earnestly. "But still, looking back, I ended up being, statistically, career averages, fourth in the NCAA and on the top of the SEC and all the records for UF punting as well."

Lofty standards aside, Crawshaw has also allowed himself to reflect.

"Just think about how far we've come," he said, "from just the kid who had never played the game to now being one of the best in history."

Napier won't soon forget it.

"He's one of my favorites of all time," Napier said. "He's the best punter in the country and he'll be a top draft pick and be a great pro."

Saturday will mark an end and a beginning, according to Jeremy and Ally Crawshaw.

They don't think they'll get too emotional, but they wouldn't rule it out either.

Unlike past games, Crawshaw will take the field Saturday with his family to culminate his collegiate journey. He'll meet Napier on the grass and hug his parents. He'll emerge from the Florida tunnel the same way he did five years ago when the stadium overwhelmed him.

This time, though, he'll do so as an all-time great with a chance to cement his name in program lore. His coaches would say he already has.

"Jeremy is one of the gems of our football team," Houston said. "He really is. He's a light for our football team and any player would agree. Well done is better than well said and Jeremy has produced arguably as consistently as any player we have. Week-in-week-out, you can bet your bottom dollar that No. 26 is going to be ready to go."

Soon, Florida will work to replace that presence, knowing well that it may never fully do so. One thing is certain, though, Crawshaw's impact will endure.

"I'll be comparing every punter for the rest of my life to Jeremy Crawshaw," Houston said. "He's just set the standard for the position."

Injured QB Graham Mertz has 'given everything he has' to Gators

By: Keith Niebuhr

On3 – Gators Online

November 23, 2024

Saturday is Senior Day in The Swamp, and earlier this week Florida receiver Chimere Dike predicted what kind of ovation injured quarterback Graham Mertz would get from the sellout crowd.

“I think he deserves the biggest one,” Dike said. “He’s given everything he has to this program. The leadership he’s shown to DJ (Lagway) and the rest of our team this year has been really impactful.”

Mertz, who spent his first four seasons at Wisconsin, transferred to Florida in 2023 looking for a fresh beginning. He earned the starting job last year and kept it until sustaining a season-ending knee injury at Tennessee on Oct. 12. Although Florida’s won-loss record wasn’t stellar during Mertz’s stint as QB1, his statistics improved dramatically.

At Wisconsin, Mertz never completed better than 61.1% of his passes in a season, had two years with double-digit interceptions and produced a season-best total of 19 touchdown passes in 2022. For the Gators, he threw 20 touchdown passes in 2023, completed better than 70% of his throws both seasons and was intercepted a grand total of only five times in 452 attempts.

“I think he played really good football when he was given the opportunity at the University of Florida,” Dike, who played with Mertz at Wisconsin before coming to Florida this past offseason, said.

Graham Mertz revived his college career in Gainesville

In 2023, Mertz started the first 11 games before missing Week 12 vs. Florida State at home — a game the Gators conceivably would have won had he played. He finished with career-highs in completions (261), passing yards (2,903), completion percentage (72.9) and, as previously mentioned touchdowns.

This season started off a bit rocky. Mertz — and really the entire Florida team — struggled in an ugly Week-1 loss to Miami. Not only that, but Mertz sustained a concussion that day. The following week, Lagway, a touted true freshman, started against Samford and passed for 456 yards and three touchdowns in his first college start. Mertz was back in the lineup the following week, a loss to Texas A&M.

In subsequent wins over Mississippi State and UCF, Mertz was mostly sharp. Then, came the torn ACL with Florida leading Tennessee 10-0 on the road in the third quarter of a game the Gators ultimately lost in overtime. Since then, Mertz apparently has kept a positive approach — and he has made his presence felt in the Florida football facility, especially in mentoring Lagway.

“Graham is in every single meeting, which shows to his character,” Dike said. “He doesn’t have to do that. He could have just gone to rehab and kind of checked out. But he wants to be involved. He wants to impact it, and he is. I think DJ benefits from it just having a veteran player. Obviously your coaches have a lot of knowledge. But a guy that’s been in your shoes really recently. I think that him and Graham have a really good relationship and connection that they both have really benefit from.”

Gators' Lagway Rated the Best Deep Passer in the Country

By: Tyler Carmona

Sports Illustrated

November 22, 2024

As a true freshman, Florida Gators quarterback DJ Lagway's freakish athletic traits are already helping him stick out from the crowd.

According to Pro Football Focus, Lagway is the best deep passer in the country. The true freshman has a 99.4 deep pass rating on throws beyond 20 yards.

Prior to his hamstring injury, Lagway's 63.2% completion percentage beyond 20 yards was the best in the country.

This season, Lagway has thrown for 1,297 yards seven touchdowns and five interceptions while starting in just three full games up to this point in the season. In his three starts this season, Lagway is averaging 313 yards per game and 2 touchdowns.

Lagway's explosive 456-yard, three-touchdown performance against Samford in Week 2 cemented him as the team's leading passer five weeks before he became the full-time starter. In his collegiate debut as a starter, Lagway set the program record for completions beyond 40 yards

In his most recent game against LSU, Lagway completed four passes beyond 20 yards, with three of them going to senior receiver Elijah Badger.

The connection between the true freshman and the fifth-year receiver dates back to Lagway's first start, when he found Badger for a 77-yard completion. When Lagway tied his own record for completions beyond 40 yards against Kentucky, Badger had three catches of 40 yards or more.

Although both are newcomers, Lagway's superb arm talent has paired well with Badger's game-breaking speed and savvy route running ability to form quite the pairing.

Florida Gators Tougher than 2023 Team that Collapsed last November

By: Terrance Biggs

Sports Illustrated

November 22, 2024

A year ago this month, the Florida Gators stood on the precipice of bowl eligibility. With one win, all they needed to do was win one game and a postseason appearance would occur.

Yet, November 2023 saw the Gators go 0-4 and slide from threat in the SEC to sitting home during bowl season.

Fast forward to now, where UF heads into their last two regular-season games with the wind at their backs, trending in a positive direction. So, what changed in the last 12 months to place Florida in a similar spot but with momentum firmly on their side?

Locker Room Leadership

In the spring, Florida lost their starting running back to Georgia, best pass rusher to Ole Miss, and a slew of offensive linemen. Addition by subtraction always brings a team together in the most adverse circumstances. From there, anyone with internet access and the ability to form semi-cogent sentences looked ready to write off this season.

Burdened by a brutally difficult schedule and beset by injuries, many decided to write the premature eulogy for the team. Yet, a funny thing happened on the way to The Swamp. The players, those inside the locker room, chose to ignore the noise, the bleating static, focusing on the locker room.

From message boards to social media, the players probably enjoyed a hearty laugh at their expense. Yelling from the rooftops with the common sense usually saved for a Scooby Doo villain, fans and media alike demanded change.

However, between the chemistry on the team, a camaraderie forged and unity flipped the script. People truly believe in that room to depend on the man lining up beside them.

Chimere Dike

Few players enter a program with just one year of eligibility remaining that model not only strong leadership but play productive football like Chimere Dike. Dike played the bulk of his career for semi-successful Wisconsin teams.

He took to the place that awarded an opportunity to his former quarterback Graham Mertz. Dike has surprised many with his big-play ability at Florida, averaging 19-yards-per catch and 15.4-yards-per punt return.

Off the field, you can tell the level of respect inside the locker room for Dike. Simple additions will go a long way. Similarly, Dike displays nothing but admiration for the program.

"I'm grateful to be able to have the experience of being a Florida Gator, come out with the guys that we've been working really hard with this season and through some adversity, but it's obviously a big game as well," said Dike this week. "

I'm excited, and I think I've played enough college football for everyone, so I'm ready for the next step. I'm definitely going to cherish this one Saturday."

Bottom Line

The Florida Gators and their resilience should give the faithful hope. Despite the odds firmly stacked against them, the team can win one-more game and see their ticket punched to the postseason.

Florida's success shows the power of placing team goals over individual exploits. Modern college football dictates players seeing themselves as brands first.

Meanwhile, the 2024 Florida Gators loudly disproves that notion.

Florida Gators Myles Graham has Season-Best Performance Against LSU

By: Kyle Lander

Sports Illustrated

November 20, 2024

The Florida Gators have been plagued by the injury bug all season. It's taken a few key players on both sides of the ball each week and left them trying to fill the void with others.

However, they have tons of depth on this roster and it showed once again on Saturday. While the Gators were without starting linebacker Grayson Howard against LSU, true freshman Myles Graham made sure there was little drop-off in talent on the field.

According to PFF, Graham was graded out as the best true freshman linebacker in the country in Week 12 against the Tigers with a PFF grade of 77.6. He accounted for seven tackles in this game and five of them were assisted while the other two were solo. His seven tackles were also his highest in a single game this season.

Additionally, PFF gave him an 82.7 tackling grade in this contest, which is the highest he has received all season and also the highest of any Gator defender on Saturday.

The young star in the making has been shining over these past few weeks as well, so it is no surprise seeing him perform like this.

From the first week of the season against Miami to the Tennessee game near the middle of October, Graham only totaled five tackles and all of them were assisted. In the last four though, he has 17 tackles, (10 assists and seven solo) one tackle-for-loss and one sack.

It is unclear yet as to when Howard will be back for the Gators. Like every week prior, we'll have to wait for the availability report for that. But if his absence extends into this weekend, then the Gators will have a dependable replacement in Myles Graham.

Billy Napier hits the Griddy to hold up his end of a deal with Gators

By: Zach Abolverdi

On3 – Gators Online

November 20, 2024

Billy Napier hit the griddy in Florida's locker room following his team's 27-16 win over LSU. It wasn't a spur-of-the-moment celebration for Napier.

He had a debt to pay.

During fall training camp, the players were in the team meeting room with music playing. Some of them tried to get Napier involved.

"We were like, 'Coach dance a little bit'," UF offensive tackle Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson recalled.

Napier was willing to play ball, but not at that moment. He would honor their request if they honored his, and it was a very specific one.

"He was like 'We go out this season and beat LSU, then I'll Griddy for you guys'," Gators linebacker Derek Wingo said.

Crenshaw-Dickson confirmed Napier's proposition.

"He was like, 'I'll hit the Griddy LSU week if we beat LSU.'"

Napier apparently had the Tigers circled on his calendar in the preseason. Fast forward to Week 12, and the Gators indeed delivered on their coach's request, snapping a five-game losing streak to LSU.

The return of QB DJ Lagway and WR Elijah Badger sparked the Florida offense, while the defense made seven sacks (most since 2019) and held LSU to its fewest points (16) in the series since 2016 (10).

After the game, it was time for Napier to hold up his end of the bargain. The players didn't forget.

"Absolutely not," Crenshaw-Dickson said.

"Oh yeah," Wingo added, "We remembered."

With music blaring in the locker room, Napier made his way to the middle of a dance circle that players had formed. Crenshaw-Dickson had a front row seat along with OL Austin Barber, DL Caleb Banks, EDGE Justus Boone and WR Marcus Burke.

"He was actually trying to get a team break, and we were all just still dancing and the music was going too crazy," EDGE Jack Pyburn said. "He did his break and he said, 'Turn the music back on', and he hit that dance."

Napier did the Griddy, and the locker room erupted.

"I thought it was electrifying," Crenshaw-Dickson said. "I'm right behind him and turned up, just like everybody else in the locker room."

Napier was a man of his word.

“It was a pretty cool moment to kind of just see us fired up in the locker room after a big win,” Wingo said. “We’re always trying to get the fun side out of him.”

Grading Billy Napier’s Griddy

The team enjoyed seeing Napier’s Griddy, but his two boys, Sammy Nelson and Charlie, were not impressed with what their dad put on tape.

“Players ask for it. I delivered,” Napier said. “My sons have been very critical of my Griddy the last day or two.

“I think I got a six out of 10 or something like that. Maybe I’ll do better next time.”

While the players loved the effort and energy from Napier, they agreed with the Griddy grade from his sons.

“I would say the six out of 10 evaluation was pretty spot on,” Pyburn said.

“I think that’s a fair grade,” Florida WR Chimere Dike said. “Could have used improvement, but if you look at the context, it was 10 out of 10. ... I thought it could use some work, if I’m being honest. I loved it at the same time. It was exactly what we needed.

“Our team has been through a lot of adversity and been knocking at the door in some of those big games. To be able to get over that hump, he’s been a steady leader throughout. He hasn’t wavered in the way that he has pushed us and to allow us to grow. That was one that felt good. So, even though it was a bad Griddy, it was a good Griddy too.”

Wingo was a harsher grader, but shared Dike’s sentiments on Napier. He also thinks that moment made an impression on the recruits in the locker room.

“Five and a half. He’s got some work to do,” Wingo quipped. “The cool thing about it, especially after a big time win, was just seeing the enthusiasm, and not just him, all the guys around. Just having all the recruits that are in there as well.

“It’s just a testimony of how hard we’ve worked this season, how much we’ve overcome, and just finally being able to enjoy the little moments like that.”

Lagway, James and Smack Earn SEC Weekly Honors for Performances against LSU

By: Mac Fisher

Floridagators.com

November 19, 2024

Florida Gators Quarterback DJ Lagway, Linebacker Shemar James, and Kicker Trey Smack all garnered weekly honors from the SEC for their performances in the Gators' 27-16 win over the LSU Tigers, the Southeastern Conference announced Monday.

Lagway, James and Smack are the first trio of Gators to earn weekly honors in the same week in nearly eight years to the day, when on Nov. 21, 2016 Tyrie Cleveland (Freshman of the Week), Eddie Piniero (Special Teams Player of the Week), and David Reese (Defensive Player of the Week) garnered the same three honors against the same LSU Tigers.

DJ LAGWAY, QB – SEC FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK

Despite running only 43 plays and possessing the ball for just 18:17 minutes, Lagway authored an explosive performance, with seven of his 13 passes connecting for more than 17 yards.

He connected with Elijah Badger in the first quarter for his lone touchdown pass of the day, a 23-yard connection to put the Gators up 7-0 early. Later, the freshman again completed a pass to Elijah Badger for 36 yards – his longest pass of the day – to the LSU 1-yard line, setting up Ja'Kobi Jackson's go-ahead 1-yard rushing touchdown to give the Gators a lead that they wouldn't relinquish

Lagway finished with 13 passes on 26 attempts, 226 passing yards, one touchdown, and a 135.7 passer rating.

His nod is the second such weekly honor for the Gators this season, joining Jadan Baugh who took home freshman of the week honors following Florida's win over Kentucky on Oct. 19. The Backfield of Baugh and Lagway has been a revelation for Florida's offense, as the tandem has gone 2-0 while starting together. Their two starts are the only two all-freshman starting backfields in program history, and account for the only two wins by an all-freshman backfield in FBS this season.

He is the first Gators quarterback to win an SEC Freshman of the Week honor since Treon Harris did so on November 10, 2014.

SHEMAR JAMES, ILB – SEC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

The selection comes after James posted multiple career highs in Florida's 27-16 win over the LSU Tigers, including sacks (2), pass breakups (2) and tackles for loss (2), while collecting a season-high 11 tackles.

James led a Florida front-seven that tallied 7 sacks of LSU Quarterback Garrett Nussmeier against an LSU Offensive line that had allowed only six sacks this season prior to Saturday. Florida's assault up front stifled LSU's run game, held to just 2.9 yards per carry on 44 attempts. Florida totaled 11 tackles for loss and 6 additional quarterback hurries.

He also accounted for two pass breakups, further disrupting the Tigers' aerial attack as the pocket constantly closed.

TREY SMACK, K – SEC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Smack had a perfect night, drilling all five of his kicks including a new career-long 55-yard field goal. His 3/3 performance on extra points continued his perfect 34/34 season on point after attempts.

In the second quarter, Smack nailed a 49-yard field goal to secure a 10-7 lead for the Gators. In the third quarter, trailing 13-10, Smack concluded Florida's eight play drive with the 55-yard rocket to tie the game.

Five Florida Gators on PFF'S NFL Draft Big Board

By: Tyler Carmona

Sports Illustrated

November 19, 2024

With just two games left in the college football regular season, a number of Florida Gators players have established themselves as NFL prospects leading up to the 2025 NFL Draft.

According to PFF's lead NFL Draft analyst, Trevor Sikkema, the Florida Gators have five players that could be selected in the upcoming draft.

As the new wave of NFL prospects emerge, most of them will not have the extended NCAA eligibility that prospects were afforded immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic. If a player began his collegiate career in 2021, he would only have an extra year of eligibility if he redshirted.

All but one Florida Gator player on the board is in their final year of NCAA eligibility

Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson, OT (No.104)

The sixth-year graduate transfer from San Diego State has been a valuable addition to Florida's offensive line since arriving last spring. Crenshaw-Dickson spent five years as an Aztec, starting 35 games before making the jump to the SEC.

Since transferring to Florida, the 6-foot-7 and 322-pound offensive tackle has started nine games, earning the 11th-best pass-blocking grade among FBS players at his position. On two separate occasions, Crenshaw-Dickson has finished a game as the Gators' highest-rated offensive player, according to PFF.

Crenshaw-Dickson's jaw-dropping measurables and versatility (has started games at left and right tackle) help justify his fourth-round grade. While most of his experience has come at right tackle, Crenshaw-Dickson has also started 17 games at left tackle throughout his collegiate career.

Jake Slaughter, OT (No.184)

While Slaughter native saw limited action throughout first two seasons in Gainesville, he established himself as one of the best centers in the nation last season. The Ocala native was PFF's 14th ranked FBS center in 2023, finishing with a grade of 75.9 through 622 total snaps.

After impressing in his first season as a starter in 2023, Slaughter has picked up where he left off this season. As of last week, his 79.7 PFF offensive grade ranked first among all FBS centers.

The redshirt junior has started all ten games and currently leads the Gators offense in snaps. At 6-foot-4 and 308 pounds, Slaughter possesses the necessary size and productivity to make his way onto teams' draft boards.

Jason Marshall Jr. (No.194)

After joining the Gators as part of former head coach Dan Mullen's final recruiting class, the former five-star has been around for all of the ups and downs of the Billy Napier era.

Previously ranked as the No.2 corner in the country, Marshall saw immediate playing time upon arriving at the University of Florida, starting in seven games as a true freshman. The Miami native has started 39

games as a Gator, tallying 98 tackles, 27 pass breakups and two interceptions throughout his collegiate career.

This season, Marshall started through the first seven games before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury during a game against Kentucky.

While his collegiate career may be a tad underwhelming for such a highly rated recruit, Marshall's reliability and athletic traits will likely ensure that he hears his name called in the later rounds of the draft.

Graham Mertz (No.198)

Slotted just a few spots ahead of Marshall is former starting quarterback Graham Mertz. Last season, the graduate transfer set program records for completion percentage in a season (72.9%) and consecutive passes without an interception (239).

Through four years at Wisconsin, Mertz threw for 5,405 yards and 38 touchdowns. His first year as a Gator was clearly the best of his career, as he finished with career-highs in yards (2,903) and touchdowns (20) while throwing the fewest interceptions of his career (3).

Before suffering a season-ending knee injury, Mertz was on pace to break his own single-season completion percentage (77.2%) while throwing for 666 yards and five touchdowns up to that point.

Joey Slackman (No. 270)

After originally being recruited to the University of Pennsylvania as a wrestler, Slackman joined the football team while recovering from an ACL tear that he suffered during his freshman wrestling season. The decision ultimately paid dividends, Slackman was named the 2023 Ivy League Defensive Player Of The Year last season.

Last season, Slackman was named the third best interior defensive lineman in all of college football (first in FCS). The New York native finished with 50 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and four sacks in 2023.

Since transferring to Florida, Slackman has seen immediate action, starting in Florida's season opener against Miami. While being slowed by injuries throughout the season, the graduate transfer has seen action in just six games so far.

Before suffering a season-ending knee injury, Mertz was on pace to break his own single-season completion percentage (77.2%) while throwing for 666 yards and five touchdowns up to that point.

Cam's Column: That Kid from Willis, Texas is Something Else

By: Cam Parker

Sports Illustrated

November 18, 2024

The hype is real. DJ Lagway is a special player, and his immediate impact on the Florida Gators team, the fanbase and the future of the program is a sight to behold.

Echoing Steve Spurrier's famous "God smiled down on the Florida Gators today" statement, head coach Billy Napier had his own statement to say about Lagway, who became the school's first true freshman quarterback to win a home game over a ranked opponent.

"God blessed that young man, is what I would say," he said.

I mean, not many freshmen quarterbacks throw multiple incomplete passes in a row only to have the home crowd chant his name in an effort to lift him up. Lagway got that during the Gators' Saturday's 27-16 upset over LSU.

Not many freshmen quarterbacks come back from a serious hamstring injury in two weeks and throw for over 200 yards with no turnovers while upsetting a ranked opponent. Lagway did.

Not many freshmen quarterbacks earn the team-wide respect of an SEC program to the point where the entire team's production is elevated. Lagway did, and he's only needed 10 games and four starts to do it.

"He hasn't taken that leader leadership role yet, but he's taken a role to where he understands that a part of the team is going to feed off his energy," edge rusher Tyreek Sapp said. "I push him, and the defensive guys push him. We rally around him as a defense because we want to let him know we got your back no matter what, little brother, we got your back."

Now, it certainly wasn't a perfect night for Lagway. He completed exactly 50 percent of his passes, and he looked uncomfortable on most of his throws, a side-effect of an early return after an injury that many thought could end his season.

I mean, it wasn't like he walked off the field during the second quarter against Georgia with a minor injury. He was carted off.

Instead, though, he made the throws that mattered, and he looked good doing it.

A back-shoulder throw that many upperclassmen couldn't make resulted in a 23-yard touchdown to Elijah Badger (By the way, what a dynamic duo those two are becoming).

In the fourth quarter, still battling the discomfort of his injury, he evaded pressure, moved up in the pocket and threw a dime to Badger, which set up a touchdown rush from Ja'Kobi Jackson to retake the lead.

Not many 18-year-olds can make that throw. Not many college quarterbacks anywhere can make that throw. Then, remember that he did it with his injury.

"Jaw-dropping experience," said edge rusher George Gumbs Jr. on Lagway's throw. He also added a clutch 19-yard pass to Hayden Hansen over the middle of the field to set up Jadan Baugh's game-sealing touchdown run.

We all knew Lagway's arrival would bring a lot of immediate pressure, hype and high expectations. I mean, I couldn't imagine being compared to Tim Tebow before even taking a snap of college football. I couldn't imagine having the weight of the future of the program on my shoulders even with a veteran starter in front of me.

Instead, it never seems like the moment is too big for him. For Lagway, it's nothing spectacular. It's part of the job.

"Just somebody gotta make the play. And why not me?" he said. "That's my thought process. Always want to be a game-changer, want to change the game. When the big plays arrive, I've got to make the play."

Now, it isn't just Lagway, either. Florida's offensive line didn't allow a single sack despite Lagway being immobile, the receivers made big plays down the field, running backs Baugh and Jackson made clutch scores and the tight ends were involved. It was a true team-effort against LSU.

But it's hard to ignore that this performance came with the freshman from Willis, Texas who wears the No. 2 jersey taking the snaps at quarterback.

The Gators are now 3-1 with Lagway starting, and that one loss could have easily been a win had it not been for his second-quarter injury against Georgia. The Gators were leading 10-3 with the ball at the time of his injury. Who knows how that could've ended?

And, he's doing it all while not looking like a green freshman.

In his first collegiate season, he broke Florida's record for most passing yards in a game by a freshman (456 versus Samford, which is also ninth all-time in program history). He also owns the program record for 40-yard passes in a single game (five, which he's done twice this season).

"The game has slowed down. He'll tell you that," Napier said. "Look, he's only going to get better. I respect him as a competitor on game day, the way he handles himself between the lines. The guy's completely into it as a competitor, doing everything he can to win the game, and he did enough tonight."

It isn't just about the impact Lagway has on this season and current roster, though. He may just be Florida's best recruiting pitch for the upcoming class. In front of a multitude of high-ranked offensive recruits on Saturday, Lagway's performance may have put the Gators in a good position to change the trajectory of its recruiting class.

After athletic director Scott Stricklin's public vote of confidence in Napier, it was Lagway who talked with recruits about the immediate future of the program, and when he talks, they listen.

"I feel like on a recruiting standpoint, I felt it was huge as well. I had a lot of guys hit me up after they've seen that, texting me, trying to see what's going on," Lagway said.

His influence could make or break the Gators' upcoming recruiting classes, both from high schoolers who may want to make a collegiate career out of playing with someone who could be one of the nation's best over the next few seasons and portal players looking for a career resurgence.

Putting the sunshine-pumping to the side for a bit, is it too early to completely give Lagway his flowers? Possibly. He has only started in four games and is still a freshman.

Did he win Saturday's game entirely on his own? No. Again, the offensive line played outstanding, skill positions made enough winning plays and the defense overcame a brutal third-down showing to hold LSU to 13 points, the lowest point-total allowed by the Gators against the Tigers since 2016.

And then there's the fact that the season is far from over, and the program certainly isn't where it needs to be in year three of Napier's tenure. Florida still needs another win to go to a bowl game with two games left.

And, no amount of flowers, air freshener and five-star dual-threat quarterbacks can cover up the mess that is the UF football program. Changes need to be made from top to bottom if Florida is to return to its former glory.

Who knows if changes will be made, and if they are, if they'll be the right ones. The fact remains that as it stands, Florida doesn't plan to make a change regarding Napier's status as the head coach. Whether that'll work out or not remains to be seen, but Lagway is confident that things will turn around for the program.

And he, alongside a slew of youngsters such as Baugh, LJ McCray, Myles Graham, Aidan Mizell, Aaron Chiles, etc., will be at the forefront.

"Means a lot, being the second year in offense is huge. Just having the guys rally behind that and truly like we're going to change this. And that's the whole vibe in the locker room, that we're going to change this place and we're going to make it what it used to be," Lagway said.

Following win vs. LSU, Gators rank atop SEC with Tigers in fewest sacks allowed in 2024

By: Graham Hall
247 Sports - Swamp247
November 18, 2024

As encouraging as DJ Lagway's return from a Grade 2 hamstring strain may have been the Florida Gators, there was a clear understanding UF would have to protect the first-year signal-caller.

Florida's coaching staff would have to play-call around the freshman's soft issue ailment, preventing the Gators from utilizing the Willis, Texas native's mobility, even with LSU's defense having struggled against mobile quarterbacks thus far in 2024.

"I think obviously, given their structure and the way they play defense, obviously one of the ways to neutralize that is to use the quarterback, right? So you've seen a number of teams do that," Napier said during Wednesday's SEC teleconference. "Obviously our situation is a little bit different, but overall we're gonna do what we need to do to manage DJ in his injury situation."

Absent in Saturday's 27-16 over the Tigers was the designed runs Florida fans have seen thus far from Lagway, though UF understood the quarterback would need to remain mobile in the pocket to be effective.

The circumstances put the onus on Florida's offensive line, which has made strides consistently throughout the season regarding the team's ability to pass block, to ensure Lagway would not take unnecessary contact.

Otherwise, the promising freshman passer's ailment was at risk of becoming more significant; as soon as he'd returned to competition, Lagway could find himself back in the recovery room if a missed assignment resulted in a hit on the underclassman quarterback.

The Gators understood the mission, and throughout the contest UF largely executed it, preventing the Tigers from sacking Lagway despite allowing eight hurries to LSU's defensive front. Through 10 games in 2024, the Gators have allowed just 13 sacks – a far cry from last season's finish, which saw the Gators allow 39 sacks.

With two games remaining in the season, the Gators and Tigers are tied for the fewest sacks allowed in the Southeastern Conference.

A largely clean pocket was critical to Lagway's 226-yard passing performance, and it wasn't lost on Napier in the immediate aftermath.

"Keeping him clean was a big mission. Part of the mission was to keep him clean. They've got some good rushers," Napier said. "But overall I felt for the most part we did a good job in that area."

Furthermore, Florida's offensive line opened up lanes in the run game, resulting in 113 yards on the ground, including a game-sealing 55-yard rushing touchdown by Jadan Baugh.

As much as the freshman Baugh deserved the credit for providing the Gators with some late-game breathing room to ensure UF would secure its fifth win of the season, Napier noted the blocking, including from tight end Hayden Hansen and wide receiver Elijah Badger, on the explosive play late in the fourth quarter was just as critical to its execution.

"You're going to watch that play where Jadan scored, and you're going to see guys playing without the ball, Badger, Hansen, (Austin) Barber, critical point of attacks there on the perimeter run, and 13 did the rest," Napier said. "It was a good-looking play."

Lagway will continue to recover in the weeks ahead from his injury – he can take solace in knowing Florida's offensive line is capable of preventing him from being in harm's way when the Gators face Ole Miss on Senior Day.

"I feel like they rallied around me very well. I feel like they play well around me, and I'm just thank thankful to have a great support cast," Lagway said. "The offensive line played their butt off. We had no sacks. And I was limited today. So it was kudos to those guys."

'Get-back time': Gators DL Caleb Banks fueled by personal motivations ahead of impactful performance vs. LSU

By: Graham Hall
247 Sports - Swamp247
November 18, 2024

A year ago, Florida defensive lineman Caleb Banks arrived in Gainesville laden with potential, yet inexperienced.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Banks had showcased his capabilities at his previous program, Louisville, albeit in limited snaps, with fewer than 40 snaps across six games in 2022.

Still, Florida's coaching staff was confident the 6-foot-5.75 defensive lineman would blossom into a talented pass rusher in due time.

Although Banks would emerge as a starter along Florida's defensive line, there was a notable learning curve as he balanced a larger role with contending with the best the Southeastern Conference had to offer, including a late-season contest in Baton Rouge against the LSU Tigers.

Facing arguably the nation's top offensive line, headlined by possible first-round selections in Emery Jones Jr. and Will Campbell, Banks had an productive outing from a statistical standpoint in 2023, logging five of his 19 tackles on the season against the Tigers. Though, UF's defensive front largely failed to pressure quarterback Jayden Daniels, with a pair of sacks in a 17-point defeat on the road.

Throughout the night at Tiger Stadium, in front of more than 102,000 roaring fans, Banks was reminded of his standing by LSU's offensive line; the disrespect he allegedly faced was among numerous sources of motivation as he prepared for his second go-round in Gainesville, where he was determined to prove he not only belonged in the SEC, but he had the ability to win battles in the trenches against future NFL linemen.

"So last year, played against LSU, and on the third play of the game Emery Jones kind of got me a little block, like blindsided me a little bit. He got me, he got me, and Will Campbell, he pancaked me twice last year," Banks said Saturday. "It was a little personal, you know, with those two tackles, and knowing that they're going first round, so it's like I can prove myself and show that I can be where they're at too, like I can play at the same level as them, and I'm better than them."

If there was any doubt as to whether or not Banks could contend with LSU's offensive line, he erased it in resounding fashion.

Banks had his comeuppance in Saturday's 27-16 upset of the No. 21-ranked Tigers, recording his most impactful performance to date in his UF career with a game-high three quarterback hurries, a sack and two forced fumbles as part of a defensive front that recorded seven sacks against an LSU offense that allowed just six sacks all season prior to arriving in Gainesville.

"I'm proud of Caleb. We tried to include him more on third down. And I think he's really worked hard this offseason. Really 58 plays at his prior stop. 300 plays last year. And this year, a starter, and obviously trying to grow his role and create more value for him. So playing him on third down tonight, and he was a factor," UF head coach Billy Napier said. "I think Caleb has a bright future in front of him. He can really go places."

On opening drive of the second half, JACK linebacker T.J. Searcy sacked quarterback Garrett Nussmeier, forcing a fumble that was recovered by Jones.

The offensive lineman scooped up the live ball and attempted to make something out of nothing, and Jones turned upfield.

Then, Banks spotted the offensive linemen, one who'd been vocal throughout the contest.

"He was talking the whole game, 'Oh 88 I remember you', don't worry about it. After that I promise you, he didn't even look at me and say nothing," Banks said. "It was get-back time. I caught him with the ball, I seen him with the ball, I'm like 'Is that who I think it is?'. I tried to get there first, yeah I got him. He wasn't talking for the rest of the game either, he didn't say nothing else."

Banks tackled Jones, forcing a second fumble on the play, which Banks proceeded to pounce on, giving the Gators favorable field position and an abundance of momentum.

"We put a big emphasis on getting the ball out," he said. "It's a really big emphasis, and I'm pretty sure Coach (Gerald Chatman) is pretty happy, and it's gonna be first thing on the wall."

He was hardly the lone contingent of the Gators who felt as if Saturday's contest was atypical on a personal level.

Chatman had spent two stints at LSU, first as a defensive line analyst in 2021 with the Tigers before serving as LSU's interim defensive line coach in the spring of 2023 before spending last season at Tulane.

In Chatman's first opportunity to coach against the SEC program he'd most recently worked at, the first-year UF defensive line coach was apparently eager to showcase what the Tigers had missed out on by allowing him to depart Baton Rouge nearly 18 months prior.

"This game was real personal for him, because, you know, he came from (LSU), he coached there," Banks said. "He's preaching all week, like, they said in the meeting room, you know, like they're the best O-line, and we got to play them. And he was, like, really fired up, like, 'No they gotta come play us'. So, yeah, his energy brings a lot, it gets us going."

The redshirt junior was intent on not giving all of the credit for the night's success in the trenches to Florida's defensive line room.

The EDGE unit, let by assistant Mike Peterson, deserved its flowers, too.

"Those are my guys. We honestly believe that we can't get to the quarterback without each other," Banks said. "So if they're not, like, containing the edges, we can't, feel me, like we push the middle, they get inside. We just feed off of each other, it's like a brotherhood honestly."

And, Florida's secondary, playing without a handful of key pieces due to various injuries, made it possible for the defensive line to have ample opportunities to generate pressure and get in the backfield.

Without them, Banks and Co. wouldn't have had an opportunity for vengeance in a contest that was admittedly more personal than most.

"D-Mo (Devin Moore), you know, he's injured right now. He told me before the game, like, 'get paid, get to the quarterback,' And I'm like I got you. Like, I'm doing it honestly for them, I mean I know the people that's back there now, they can get the job done as well and guard anybody in the country, honestly, so it's really, it's like, next man up, but like, we know, like everybody on our roster is pretty good," Banks said. "I give (the secondary) a lot of credit. I might take them boys out to eat or something."

Gators WR Elijah Badger comes up big vs. LSU, happy to be at UF

By: Keith Niebuhr

On3 – Gators Online

November 18, 2024

Elijah Badger continues to make a big impact for the Florida Gators.

In Florida's 27-16 win over No. 22 LSU on Saturday in The Swamp, the talented receiver, who transferred from Arizona State this past offseason, caught six passes for 131 yards. That means he accounted for 57.9 percent of the Gators' passing yardage.

"Just coming into the SEC, I feel like I've shown a different type of skill from me like going to catch deep balls and I feel like I'm doing good," Badger said.

Badger had missed last week's Florida game against Texas with an injury (ankle, shoulder).

"It was kind of tough," Badger said. "I just had to stay out another week to heal my body and get healthy. I just knew I had to come back and do something for the team."

The senior had a great game vs. LSU

Back in the lineup, Badger played a crucial role in Florida's win over the Tigers. One of his catches went for 36 yards — the longest in the game for either team. Another was a 23-yard touchdown reception on a DJ Lagway pass in the first quarter that put the Gators ahead 7-0.

Asked Saturday night if that was one of the most enjoyable games of his college career, the senior from Sacramento (Calif.) Folsom replied, "Yeah, yeah for sure. Just picking my teammates up on the sideline throughout the game, just highs and lows keeping everybody's confidence throughout the sideline even when it was 10-10 coming out of halftime. I told everybody it was 0-0 and we needed to lock back in and come back out on fire like we did in the first half."

Having Lagway, who also missed the Texas game with an injury (hamstring), back Saturday, gave the Gators a significant, according to Badger.

"I think it just gave the whole team a lift and just confidence that we were coming back and we knew we had a team that we could go in there and compete with," Badger said. "He played really well, for sure."

Elijah Badger is having a big season

Badger now has 30 catches (tied for the team lead with Chimere Dike) for a team-high 691 yards and three touchdowns this season. He's now at 172 career receptions for 2,331 yards, or 13.6 yards per catch.

This season, Badger is averaging a career-best 23.0 yards a reception.

"I feel good about (his decision to transfer to Florida), honestly," Badger said. "Just making the move from Arizona, the West Coast, I know I had to make a change."

Lagway Returns, Gators Rediscover Winning Formula vs. LSU

By: Scott Carter

Florida Gators

November 17, 2024

It wasn't as dramatic as the last time the Gators beat LSU, but that was of little concern the moment the ball dropped to Florida Field with 47 seconds remaining on Saturday night.

As soon as Gators defensive back Trikweze Bridges knocked away LSU quarterback Garrett Nussmeier's fourth-and-12 pass to Mason Taylor and began to wave goodbye to the Tigers, Florida's 27-16 upset of No. 21-ranked LSU needed only a couple kneeldowns to be complete.

Fittingly, UF freshman quarterback DJ Lagway performed the honors.

After missing last week's loss at Texas and the majority of the Georgia game two weeks ago with a strained left hamstring, Lagway returned to lead the Gators (5-5, 3-4) to their biggest win of the season and help them remain in the hunt for a bowl berth.

"Look, he's only going to get better," Florida coach Billy Napier said. "I respect him as a competitor on game day, the way he handles himself between the lines. The guy's completely into it as a competitor, doing everything he can to win the game, and he did enough tonight."

Lagway completed 13 of 26 passes for 226 yards and a touchdown despite not being 100% and relegated to being a drop-back passer instead of the dual-threat danger that makes him one of the most talented first-year players in college football. Lagway's return provided a much-needed jolt for the Gators after their lackluster performance in a 49-17 loss at Texas.

A native of Willis, Texas, the hamstring injury forced Lagway to watch from the sideline as his teammates fell behind 42-0 less than three minutes into the second half. Napier called the performance "unacceptable" and addressed the effort at practice last week to avoid a repeat.

Gators 27, Tigers 16

The Gators played Saturday like they had undergone a personality transplant, sacking Nussmeier seven times and overcoming a penalty-plagued opening drive for their first victory over LSU (6-4, 3-3) since 2018. That was the day Gators defensive back Brad Stewart intercepted a Joe Burrow pass in the final two minutes and raced to the end zone to seal the win.

The sold-out Swamp roared similarly Saturday when freshman running back Jadan Baugh took a pitch from Lagway and raced 55 yards for a touchdown and an 11-point lead for the Gators with 3:48 remaining.

"It was a big win coming off that L we took in Texas," said junior linebacker Shemar James, who had a team-high 11 tackles and two sacks. "We kind of preached, 'wipe that out.' That's what we did."

Florida's rebounded from arguably its most deflating loss of the season to beat a ranked team for the third time under Napier. The Gators did it by putting constant pressure on Nussmeier, who was sacked by the Gators more times Saturday than opponents had sacked LSU quarterbacks all season (six), and keeping Lagway safe from LSU's defense.

"The guy wasn't 100 percent," Napier said. "Keeping him clean was a big mission. We kept him in the pocket for the most part, limited the read game and the run game, and overall, it ended up working out."

Lagway made his presence felt on the Gators' second drive of the game when he connected with Elijah Badger, who also missed the Texas game due to injury, for a 23-yard touchdown pass. Lagway's back-shoulder throw to Badger was perfect and put Florida up, 7-0, with 7:12 left in the first quarter.

Badger finished with six catches for a game-high 131 yards, including a 36-yard catch early in the fourth quarter that moved the Gators to LSU's 1-yard line. Ja'Kobi Jackson's plunge on the next play put the Gators up 20-13. On the deep pass to Badger, Lagway avoided the rush and, for one of the few times in the game, stepped up in the pocket to deliver a strike.

"Somebody gotta make the play, and why not me," Lagway said. "That's my thought process. Always want to be a game-changer. When the big plays arrive, I've got to make the play. That's what Coach Napier recruited me for. Blessed to have the opportunity to make the play."

And the Gators are blessed to have the 19-year-old Lagway, who became the first true freshman quarterback in school history to lead UF to a home win over a ranked opponent. Donald Douglas (1989) and Chris Leak (2003) fell short against ranked Florida State teams.

Lagway informed Napier on Sunday that he was going to play against LSU. He improved each day at practice in controlled reps and then took the field Saturday, limited by the sore hamstring. Still, with the offensive line providing him time to throw, Lagway improved to 3-1 as the starter, with all three of his wins coming at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

What transpired against the Tigers seemed far-fetched 14 days ago at EverBank Stadium in Jacksonville when Lagway was carted off the field in the second quarter.

"It was definitely a challenging week," he said. "But kudos to my coaches and medical team. They've helped me so much. They're the best in the country. I can say that because they helped me get back up to speed as fast as possible."

Lagway gets another shot to beat a ranked team next week when Ole Miss visits The Swamp. The Gators must win one of their final two regular-season games – they close at Florida State – to become bowl-eligible.

That seemed equally far-fetched a week ago as the Gators walked off the field in Texas. But Lagway's return and a rejuvenated defense has flipped the script.

"I think they took that personal," Napier said. "We're trying to create a culture here. I think the intangibles of the group are what we would want from our players. Obviously, the football needs to continue to improve. I do think it is improving."

"We're learning how to win, and ultimately, I think belief and hope are the most powerful things in the world. I think we've got that. Just proud of the players."

Florida a USA TODAY Sports 'winner' after beating LSU in Week 12

By: Adam Dubbin

GatorsWire

November 17, 2024

Florida football earned its fifth win of the season on Saturday inside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium over the 22nd-ranked LSU Tigers in a rivalry game that lived up to its long-time reputation. The Gators used an all-around effort to overcome the visitors, 27-16.

After the dust settled following college football's Week 12 schedule, USA TODAY Sports writer Paul Myerberg penned up his winners and losers column, with the Orange and Blue headlining the positive side of things. Here is what he offered.

"Florida pitched the decision to bring back coach Billy Napier as one focused on the program's future.," Myerberg begins. "The reality of the situation is that paying Napier's \$27 million buyout made less sense at a time when a fraction of that total can be used to develop a roster that can compete on a weekly basis with the best teams in the SEC.

"This decision may end up being one of the smarter economic allocations in recent Bowl Subdivision history," he continues. "In a dream scenario, Napier's program turns a corner over the next year. If not, the Gators fire him next November or December and pay a smaller buyout number.

"The future is uncertain, basically. But the present isn't all that bad: Florida beat No. 22 LSU 27-16 for what may be the hallmark win of Napier's tenure, Myerberg notes. "And with freshman quarterback DJ Lagway back in the lineup after missing last week's loss to Texas, the Gators seem poised to earn a bowl berth and potentially post a winning season for the first time since 2020.

"Lagway largely outplayed LSU junior Garrett Nussmeier in completing 13 of 26 passes for 226 yards and a score. Nussmeier threw for 260 yards but averaged a season-low 5.5 yards per attempt.

"Crucially, Lagway avoided any turnovers in a game that went back and forth until freshman running back Jadan Baugh's 55-yard touchdown pushed Florida ahead by two possessions with just under four minutes to go.

"The Gators will be heavy underdogs in next week's game against No. 11 Mississippi but are poised to capture bowl eligibility in the season finale against rival Florida State," Myerberg predicts. "Given the drama of this season — from Napier's job security through quarterback Graham Mertz's season-ending injury through the nastiest schedule imaginable in the SEC — that this team could reach a bowl game should be applauded.

"Hold your applause for LSU, which as a specific team and program is clearly trending downwards after a nice run through the start of SEC play. In the past three games, the Tigers have been blown away in the fourth quarter by No. 15 Texas A&M, blown out from the start by No. 9 Alabama and then lost to the Gators.

"That's not good news for coach Brian Kelly, who missed the chance to capitalize on some early success and might be better off packing up his Foghorn Leghorn-style accent and doing a reverse carpetbagger back to the friendlier confines of somewhere in the upper Midwest," he concludes.

Gator defense leads the charge in 27-16 upset win over No. 21 LSU

By: Jacob Rudner

Swamp247

November 17, 2024

The pocket was collapsing before it could even form, LSU's edge defenders wrapping around Florida star quarterback DJ Lagway while its defensive tackles pressed forward to further narrow the space.

Collected as if he'd been in the situation thousands of times before, though, Lagway pushed forward toward the line of scrimmage, his eyes never straying from his options down field.

As soon as the pressure reached him, Lagway leapt off one leg and fired toward the end zone where the ball eventually nestled into senior wideout Elijah Badger's waiting arms, putting the Gators just a yard shy of the end zone. They scored a play later.

"God blessed that young man," Napier said of the play, "that's what I would say about that."

It was the defining moment for an embattled Gator team (5-5; 3-4 SEC), which had bested a ranked opponent just three times under head coach Billy Napier's direction prior to Saturday's 27-16 victory over the No. 21 Tigers (6-4; 3-3).

The contest was far from Florida's most impressive on the offensive side, where its efforts were enough to outlast LSU in a mistake-laden contest that saw both teams stunt their own success as much as the other prevented it.

The Gators' only touchdowns came in the first and fourth quarters, their only other points a byproduct of field goals from junior kicker Trey Smack, who converted from 50 and a career-best 55 yards to help give his team the edge.

Lagway, who was stellar in the game's most critical moment, completed just 13-of-26 passes for 226 yards and a touchdown while Florida's rushing attack, which had been its lone bright spot in losses to Georgia and Texas in the two weeks prior, produced just 115 yards of its own, 55 of which came on a late touchdown from freshman Jadan Baugh to put the game on ice.

It was the Gator defense that largely secured the team's critical late-season victory, which put them on track to return to bowl-eligible status after a miss in 2023.

The unit thwarted a fourth-and-inches conversion attempt on LSU's opening drive, forced the Tigers to punt roughly three minutes later after a brief four-play drive and generated a missed field goal to end the first quarter.

The second period proved to be the most challenging for the Gator defense as it allowed the Tigers to post 10 of their 16 points but it quickly turned things around in the second half when it allowed just a pair of field goals and recorded six of its seven sacks, including one that produced a fumble.

LSU quarterback Garrett Nussmeier managed to complete just 27 of his 47 passes for 260 yards and a score against the Gators, whose most glaring defensive shortcomings came in the form of its run and third-down defense.

Florida junior linebacker Shemar James finished the contest with a team-best 11 tackles and two sacks while SAM linebacker George Gumbs, edge rushers Kam James, Tyreek Sapp and TJ Searcy and defensive tackle Caleb Banks also recorded a sack each. Banks paced the Gators with a season-high three quarterback hurries.

Saturday might have provided the positive momentum the Gators needed as they start to put the finishing touches on their third season under Napier's watch. With a win in one of their two remaining games, they would avoid a second-straight losing record in the regular-season and return to a bowl game for the first time since 2022.

The university's top decision makers have already announced that Napier will return for a fourth season in 2025, too, and Saturday's game, the Gators' first at home since that decree, gave a handful of five-star talents a closer look at the product they could ultimately opt to join before the December signing period.

Napier, whose last coached in the state of Louisiana prior to making the move to Gainesville, is hopeful that Saturday will propel his team in the right direction.

"Belief and hope are the most powerful things in the world," Napier said. "And I think we've got that."

Takeaways from Florida's 27-16 win over LSU

By: Zach Abolverdi

On3

November 17, 2024

The Florida Gators snapped a five-game losing streak to rival LSU with their 27-16 victory on Saturday. With the teams tied at 13 after three quarters, UF outscored the No. 21 Tigers 14-3 in the fourth.

The Gators regained the lead on Ja’Kobi Jackson’s short touchdown, and then Jadan Baugh sealed the win with his 55-yard TD — the longest run of his career. Baugh (65) and Jackson (37) combined for 102 rushing yards.

Now that it’s in the books, here are some instant takeaways from the game.

Lagway, Badger spark Florida’s offense

Quarterback DJ Lagway and receiver Elijah Badger were sidelined at Texas for the first time this season, but they made their return the starting lineup against LSU. Both players provided a spark on offense and gave Florida an early 7-0 lead.

On UF’s second drive of the game, Lagway converted a third-and-7 with a 34-yard pass to Chimere Dike and then found Badger — and the end zone — two plays later. He connected with him on a back-shoulder throw for a 23-yard touchdown.

It marked the seventh TD pass of the season for Lagway and the third receiving score for Badger this year. It was also Florida’s first passing touchdown in a game since Lagway’s 43-yard TD to Aidan Mizell against Georgia two weeks ago.

Lagway later completed back-to-back passes to Badger for 17 and 24 yards on the Gators’ scoring drive in the third quarter to put them in LSU territory and set up Trey Smack’s game-tying, career-long 55 field goal. He also made a 49-yarder.

The Lagway-to-Badger connection once again came up big in the fourth quarter, as their 36-yard pitch-and-catch set up Jackson’s go-ahead touchdown run — his sixth of the season — to give the Gators a 20-13 lead.

Lagway finished with 226 yards and a touchdown on 13 of 26 passing, while Badger led the team in receiving with six catches for 131 yards and the score. It’s the third 100-yard game of the season for Badger.

Gators get seven sacks on Garrett Nussmeier

The Gators sacked LSU quarterback Garrett Nussmeier more on Saturday than he had been the entire season. He entered the game with only six sacks on the year, which ranked fourth nationally and No. 1 in the SEC.

Florida sacked him a whopping seven times, led by a pair of sacks from Shemar James. Caleb Banks, Kamran James, George Gumbs Jr., Tyreak Sapp and T.J. Searcy also made sacks on Nussmeier.

It was redemption for the Gators, who were coming off their most ineffective pass rush performance of the season in the loss at Texas. The defense finished with just one sack and one QB hurry.

Florida had multiple sacks in four of the previous five games before Texas, averaging 2.8 sacks per game during that stretch. They had just one sack against Kentucky but a season-high nine QB hurries.

The Gators finished with six QB hurries on Saturday along with their season-high seven sacks. Nussmeier threw for 260 yards on 27 of 47 passing with a touchdown and no interceptions.

UF struggles on third down, finishes strong

The Tigers entered Saturday's game with an offense that ranked first in the SEC and 11th nationally on third down, converting on 48.4% of their attempts, and they'll maintain their top spot in the league after their third-down success in The Swamp.

LSU moved the chains throughout the game, converting eight of 12 third-down attempts in the first half. The Tigers got up to 10 of 14 on third down before an offensive pass interference negated a touchdown, backed them up to third-and-24 and led to a field goal.

On the ensuing drive, Florida's Searcy and Banks forced two fumbles on a third-and-6 play, with Banks recovering the second one for a UF turnover. The Gators then sacked Nussmeier on third-and-6 to mark three straight third-down stops in the third quarter.

The Tigers had four third-down attempts on their field goal drive in the fourth, with Nussmeier completing a 20-yard pass on third-and-11. Florida made the next two stops, but LSU converted both fourth-down tries before settling for its third kick after third-and-11.

UF allowed the Tigers to convert 13 of their 24 third-down attempts but made stops on seven of the last 10 tries.

Up next

Florida (5-5, 3-4 SEC) is back in The Swamp next Saturday for Senior Day against Ole Miss. Kickoff is at 12 p.m. on ABC. The No. 10 Rebels (8-2, 4-2) are off this week after their 28-10 win over Georgia last Saturday. They lost at LSU in overtime, 29-26, in Week 7.

Transfer WRs make impact and what else Florida football learned from win over No. 22 LSU

By: Kevin Brockway

Gainesville Sun

November 17, 2024

Florida football bounced back quickly from its worst loss by margin of the Billy Napier era to one of its best wins.

The Florida Gators (5-5, 3-4 SEC) bounced back from a 49-17 loss at No. 3 Texas with their first win of the season against a ranked team, beating No. 22 LSU 27-16 before 90,067 on Saturday at The Swamp.

"You've got to give this group of kids a ton of credit, relative to the resiliency they've showed," said Napier, who improved to 3-14 against ranked teams during his Florida coaching tenure. "I think for me there's a purpose behind the game, and that starts with the players, and I certainly think this group would not be able to have done what they did tonight without a good foundation, something to stand on."

LSU (6-4, 3-3 SEC) struggled to finish drives due to a Florida defense that posted seven sacks, 11 tackles for loss and one turnover.

"It was a big win coming off that L we took in Texas," said Florida linebacker Shemar James, who led the way for the defense with 11 tackles and two sacks. "We kind of preached, wipe that out, review, go into next week. That's what we did. I'm proud of the offense, special teams and defense for coming up with a big win."

Here's what Florida learned from the win over the Tigers:

Transfer WRs give Florida football offense a boost

Florida has survived a rash of injuries at wide receiver (Eugene Wilson III, Kahleil Jackson out for the season) thanks to the contributions of transfer wide receivers Elijah Badger (Arizona State) and Chimere Dike (Wisconsin), who remained on point for UF against LSU.

Badger, who returned after sitting out the Texas game with an injury, had six catches for 131 yards and 1 TD against LSU, while Dike finished with two catches for 47 yards. Both have developed chemistry with Florida freshman quarterback DJ Lagway quickly.

"Those two guys have been key, really good evaluations," Napier said. "I think the personnel, Bird (UF director of college personnel Bird Sherrill) did a phenomenal job identifying those guys, and we were able to recruit them, and they hit the ground running. Dike was here in the spring. But Badger, getting here in the summer, both have improved as players."

Napier also credited Florida wide receivers coach Billy Gonzales for developing both players.

"They've really — the scouts are high on them," Napier said. "They've increased their value."

Florida football needs work on third-down defense

The Gators allowed LSU to convert 8 of 12 on third down in the first half and 13 of 24 on third down for the game. That allowed the Tigers to run 92 plays to UF's 43, but Florida's bend-but-don't-break defense stiffened near the red zone, forcing the Tigers to settle for three field goals in four field goal attempts.

"Every conversion they had was because of us, and we can always go in the film room and correct those mistakes," Florida linebacker Shemar James said.

Florida football special teams are back to being special

Florida bounced back from having 12 players on the field on a punt attempt early to put together another solid game on special teams.

Trey Smack connected on both of his field goal attempts, following up a 49-yarder with a career-high 55-yard field goal that tied the score at 13 in the third quarter. Punter Jeremy Crawshaw, meanwhile, pinned all four of his punts inside LSU's 20-yard line, including a 34-yard punt down to LSU's 8-yard line late in the third quarter that set up Florida in favorable field position for the rest of the game.

"Jeremy obviously is a Ray Guy (Award) finalist this week," Napier said. "Has an elite future. Best punter in the country."

Sack exchange: Florida football pass rush dominant in win over No. 22 LSU

By: Kevin Brockway

Gainesville Sun

November 17, 2024

Florida football linebacker Shemar James offered a simple explanation when asked about the gameplan for LSU quarterback Doug Nussmeier.

"Get after him," James said. "Make him step out of the pocket and make the throws. That was the game plan."

The Florida Gators did more than make Nussmeier step out of the pocket. More often than not, UF drove Nussmeier to the ground

UF (5-5, 3-4 SEC) recorded a season-high seven sacks during its 27-16 win over Tigers before 90,067 at The Swamp on Saturday. It was the most sacks for UF in a game since recording eight at rival FSU on Nov. 30, 2019.

LSU entered the game allowing just seven sacks all season, fewest in the SEC. Florida football coach Billy Napier credited the coverage working with the rush to help UF's pass rushers finish plays.

"We stayed on top of them for the most part," Napier said. "I thought the leverage in coverage was pretty good. That was one of the keys to the game was we covered them with the group of DBs that we had, I felt we hung in there pretty good. A lot of those are coverage sacks, where we're landing, but we certainly affected the quarterback."

James led the way with two sacks, with Tyreek Sapp, Kamran James, Caleb Banks, George Gumbs Jr. and TJ Searcy recording one sack each.

"We just took accountability and made it our job to put our best foot forward tonight, as far as rushing the passer and getting to the quarterback this week," said Sapp, who added four tackles for loss. "They have some pretty solid guys on their o-line, you know, by top-tier talent. So, we wanted to come out and prove ourselves tonight."

Why Florida football is rushing the passer better this season

Nussmeier completed 27 of 47 for 260 yards and one TD in his homecoming of sorts to Gainesville, where he was a freshman quarterback at Buchholz High School. In addition to the seven sacks, Florida had six quarterback hurries. Coming off an embarrassing performance in a 49-17 loss at No. 3 Texas, Florida's defense played with more of an edge.

"We just wanted to come out a new week and be refreshed," Sapp said "And, you know, we put the work in this week. It was something that we harped on and that coach was kind of just pushing towards."

The addition of first-year UF defensive line coach Gerald Chatman, paired with returning edge rushing coach Mike Peterson, has helped in developing interior and edge rush players. With its seven sacks against LSU, UF improved to 27 sacks on the season, surpassing its 2023 sack total (22 in 12 games).

Banks said the game was personal for Chatman, who came to UF from Tulane but worked at LSU in 2021 and the spring of 2023 as the interim defensive line coach.

"All week, he was firing us up," Banks said.

It was a dominant all-around game on the line of scrimmage for Florida, which recorded 11 tackles for loss. Florida's offense line protected quarterback DJ Lagway in his return from a hamstring injury. Lagway was pressured eight times but wasn't sacked.

"Part of the mission was to keep him clean," Napier said. "They've got some good rushers. But overall, I felt for the most part we did a good job in that area."

Chimere Dike Satisfied with Gators Perseverance Through Injuries

By: Tyler Carmona

Sports Illustrated

November 4, 2024

When deciding to transfer to Gainesville and join the Florida Gators after four seasons at Wisconsin, Chimere Dike likely didn't expect his final collegiate season to unfold this way.

After battling through injuries last season, Dike decided to reunite with quarterback Graham Mertz, who helped Dike have the best season of his career back in 2022. With Mertz at quarterback, Dike led the Badgers in catches (44), receiving yards (653) and touchdowns (6).

Eight games into the season, Dike is now playing with his third quarterback of the year. After Mertz suffered a season ending injury against Tennessee, his prized backup, DJ Lagway, was forced to exit Florida's most recent game against Georgia due to a hamstring injury.

While Florida's third-string quarterback Aidan Warner couldn't lead the Gators to victory, Dike expressed his confidence in the walk-on quarterback.

"I'm proud of Aidan and the way he stepped up. My favorite thing about the way he played was he didn't flinch," said Dike. "You could see in his eyes that he was out there competing. He's going to continue to get better. He wasn't scared of that big moment."

After Mertz's devastating season-ending injury, Dike was beginning to establish some chemistry with DJ Lagway before the true freshman quarterback suffered an injury of his own.

Lagway had already completed multiple deep passes to Dike, the pair most recently connected on a 44-yard reception against Kentucky.

This season, Dike has hauled in 23 passes for 428 yards (second on the team) and is tied for the team lead in receiving touchdowns (2).

While Lagway's injury status remains unclear, Dike is certain that the former five-star recruit will be able to rebound from this recent setback.

"I got to talk to him for a little bit. Obviously with an injury like that, you're a little upset. He's got a great family. He's got a lot of teammates around him supporting him. I know he's going to be more than fine," said Dike.

Even after Lagway's injury, Florida hung in the game long enough to nearly pull off an upset. At halftime, Florida held a 13-6 lead.

In Lagway's absence, the Gators relied heavily on their rushing attack. Runningbacks Ja'Kobi Jackson and Jadan Baugh helped milk the clock while combining for 143 yards on 29 carries.

Although the game remained tied well into the fourth quarter, Dike explained that a storied program like Florida should never rely on moral victories.

"No moral victories. We're at the University of Florida. Our team is competing at a really high level right now. The way that we responded to some of that adversity that we had was something that shows the character of our team," said Dike. "I think that's going to be huge having that as we go forward through the season."

Run The Baugh!: Gators Freshman Tailback No Longer an Unknown

By: Asia Horton
Floridagators.com
November 1, 2024

If you've seen the hashtag on social media or heard the chant of "Run the Baugh!" echoing through The Swamp, you know something special is happening with Jadan Baugh.

Florida's freshman running back is not just bursting into the end zone — he's running straight into the hearts of Gator fans. But how did a kid with dreams bigger than Decatur, Ga., find himself in Orange and Blue on Saturdays?

Well, we may have Matt Napier to thank for that.

Baugh's journey to Florida wasn't a straight shot — more like a zigzag route on the field dodging would-be tacklers. He initially committed to Arkansas, only later to reopen his recruitment, sparking a race between Alabama and Florida to land the young talent.

Sometimes, it only takes one game to turn heads, even on the recruiting trail. After a preseason scrimmage against Baugh's team in August 2023, LaGrange (Ga.) High School head coach Matt Napier called his brother, Gators head coach Billy Napier.

Little brother had a tip.

"Hey, you need to get on that Jadan Baugh guy," Matt said.

The Gators turned up the heat, shifting their recruitment of Baugh into high gear.

As Florida fans learned 14 months later on a cool late October night, that call might have been one of the most important the Gators have taken under Napier. Florida's coaching staff didn't waste any time diving into full-recruitment mode with the energy you'd expect from a fourth-quarter comeback.

Baugh wasn't just a talent on the field in Napier's eyes. His athleticism extended to basketball, where he played point guard and was wrapped by a grounded, supportive family.

"He's the right kind. You take that one every time," Napier said.

However, for Baugh, it wasn't just about the bright lights of the Southeastern Conference or the allure of playing for a prestigious program; it was about taking care of his family and finding a place where he felt truly valued.

One of the most significant factors in his decision was the bond he developed with running backs coach Jabbar Juluke, who treated him like a son. Juluke's influence extended beyond the game's X's and O's.

Juluke showed genuine care for Baugh away from the field. It's not every day you find a coach who pushes you at practice and isn't hesitant to hug you afterward.

It all clicked on the day he got the call from Juluke. While we don't know every detail of their conversations during the recruiting process, Baugh walked away with clarity. Juluke reassured him that Florida would take care of him and his family, a game-changer for Baugh, especially considering the four-hour distance from his home in the Atlanta area.

Being away from his brothers was a big concern, but Juluke clarified that he was recruiting a player and a whole family into the Gators' fold. With that kind of support behind him, leaping to Gainesville was a no-brainer.

"That played a big part," Baugh said. "That really sealed the deal for me."

In his breakout performance against Kentucky, Baugh took the field with a thrilling twist: for the first time in Florida's history, a true freshman quarterback (DJ Lagway) and running back (Baugh) started in the same game.

The pairing wasn't just a coincidence — it was all part of Napier's vision from the beginning.

"Man, do I," Baugh recalled when asked if he remembered that conversation. "I knew that DJ was here, too. It kind of gave me more confidence that I wanted to be here, too."

Lagway, poised and ready, commanded the offense while Baugh electrified the Swamp with his dynamic play. The air was thick with anticipation as fans buzzed, knowing they were witnessing a moment that found a home in the school record books as Baugh tied Tim Tebow and Trey Burton for Florida's single-game record with five rushing touchdowns.

Baugh's explosive running style complimented Lagway's downfield playmaking, creating a perfect storm for Kentucky's defense. As he danced through defenders and found the end zone, Baugh made history and ignited a sense of hope for fans.

"Ever since the first time I saw him, I was just surprised that it was even possible for running back to look like that," said backup transfer quarterback Aidan Warner, Baugh's roommate before the Kentucky game. "Coming from Yale, the running backs didn't look like he did." Baugh, Jadan (2024 vs. Kentucky)
Jadan Baugh rushed for 106 yards in the Kentucky win.

The partnership between the two true freshmen represented perhaps a new era for the Gators, where youth and talent collided to create unforgettable moments on the field. With every touchdown, they weren't just writing their names in record books but laying the foundation for a bright future for Florida football.

As the Gators gear up for their highly anticipated rivalry game against Georgia, Baugh's no longer a secret on the sideline. Following his standout performance against Kentucky, the stage is set for him to significantly impact one of college football's biggest stages, with starting tailback Montrell Johnson Jr. listed as questionable.

Baugh's talent has long been recognized, dating back to his ninth-grade year when he attended a 7-on-7 camp hosted by Georgia. Back then, he was just a kid with dreams, competing in a sea of aspiring athletes.

Fast forward to today, and he's trading his camp jersey for a Florida uniform, ready to take on the same program he once hoped to impress. It's a full-circle moment — like going from the practice field to the spotlight, but this time, he's not just there to participate; he's there to compete.

Georgia head coach Kirby Smart has already taken notice of Baugh and is sharing praise for the young athlete.

"He's explosive, he's twitchy, hard to tackle. He runs physical," Smart said.

With the Gators set to face their hated rivals in Jacksonville, the message is clear: "Run the Baugh!"

Baugh has shown he is ready to answer that call.



bowl **Schedule**

2024 gasparilla bowl

MONDAY

DEC. 16

BUSCH GARDENS TEAM EVENT
TEAM WELCOME RECEPTION

TUESDAY

DEC. 17

COMMUNITY DAY

WEDNESDAY

DEC. 18

FAMILY DAY - ZOO
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE VISIT

THURSDAY

DEC. 19

GIFT SUITES
GASPARILLA BOWL BLOCK PARTY

FRIDAY

DEC. 20





2024 GASPARILLA BOWL

RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
TAMPA, FLORIDA