

FLORIDA FOOTBALL

Aidan Mizell





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Mizell Is Ready To Make It Count

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It's a reality Aidan Mizell must live with, and he is okay with that. He did it, and everyone saw it.

The final judgment was unmistakable: Mizell made arguably the most dynamic play of Florida's 2024 season.

"If you look at my Hudl highlights from high school, all I did was catch little screen routes and take them to the end zone," Mizell said. "After I did the run, I was like, 'dang, that reminds me of high school.' It was fun."

The travesty is that Mizell's 65-yard catch and zigzag to the end zone in last season's win at Mississippi State didn't count among Mizell's season statistics of 17 catches, 202 yards and two touchdowns. Officials erased the pass from Graham Mertz and Mizell's highlight-worthy score after a controversial blind-side block penalty on running back Montrell Johnson Jr.

The play lives on in memory. In a rare turn of events, the social-media analysis seemed to agree: Mizell and the Gators got robbed.

"I don't care that it called back; it's on film," said Wil Mizell, Aidan's father. "That's him. That one play where he shook everybody, that's him at 5 years old. That's the same kid."

Mizell appeared ready for a breakout role after his five-catch, 36-yard performance (officially) at Mississippi State. The stage was set for a memorable return to The Swamp when the Gators hosted UCF two weeks later.

Mizell grew up in Orlando and starred on a Boone High team loaded at receiver in his career, getting his first scholarship offer from the Knights. Mizell waited for his turn as teammates Parker St. John (Air Force), Javion Phelps (South Dakota) and two-way standout JaCorey Thomas (Georgia) caught the bulk of the passes on their way to scholarships.

With the Gators having a bye week before the UCF game, Mizell went home for the weekend and attended the UCF-Colorado game with some friends, excited to play against his hometown school the following week with many family and friends at the game.

Instead, Mizell suffered an injury that week at practice and missed the game. The guy couldn't catch a break. When he returned to action, Mizell went back-to-back games without a catch until, making his first career start, he hauled in four passes for 66 yards against Georgia, including a 43-yard touchdown from DJ Lagway.

As Mizell prepares for his third season with the Gators, the redshirt sophomore is vying for a larger role at a position group that added talented newcomers J. Michael Sturdivant, Dallas Wilson, Naeshaun Montgomery and Vernell Brown III since last season. Meanwhile, veteran Eugene Wilson III is back and, while slowed by injury in preseason camp along with Dallas Wilson, can shake and bake like Mizell.

"I feel like I still have a lot to go. I feel like there's always more to do, but I feel like I've gotten better at my top of the route, route running, every little nook and cranny," Mizell said. "I feel like on the field I'm



looking at stuff I wasn't looking at before, I'm understanding stuff I wasn't understanding before."

Mizell is known primarily for three things at this point of his career. First, his parents both ran track at UF. Wil Mizell was a jumper and decathlete, and his wife, Ebony Robinson-Mizell, was a sprinter who won the 400-meter Southeastern Conference title in 1996.

Second, Mizell has track speed on the football field. Aidan said he discovered early on that he had a sprinter's ability on his side.

"Elementary school, that was the big thing," he said. "You're cool if you're fast. In third grade, I was always trying to race the fifth-graders. I always knew I had some athletic and speed ability."

Finally, Mizell went viral on social media in 2022 when he announced his commitment to Florida. He had narrowed down the decision to Alabama, Tennessee and Florida after his grandmother devised a blind test for Mizell and his parents on the pros and cons of each.

Aidan kept his parents guessing until near the end, when Wil came up with the plan for his oldest son to bring a couple of young baby alligators to the official announcement.

"We can't do the elephant [Alabama], that ain't going to happen. If it's the Volunteers, I can get a hound dog," Wil told him. "If it's the Gators, there is Gatorland. I can rent an alligator. That's how it went down.

"It was a big deal [he chose Florida]. We were hyped."

Mizell drew national attention for his quirky announcement and became an instant favorite of Florida fans. He seeks the next phase of his career to include more plays, such as the one at Mississippi State.

The 6-foot-1.5, 176-pound wideout was recently slowed at practice due to an injury but returned this week. Mizell capped his redshirt freshman season with four catches for 50 yards in Florida's victory over Tulane in the Gasparilla Bowl.

"It's a deep, competitive camp," Napier said early in camp. "I'm excited about Aidan being back."

Mizell is still a young player out to prove himself, but he is enough of a veteran to offer advice for his younger brother, Isaiah Mizell, who is a freshman at Arizona in his first preseason camp. The Mizell family's busy football season is about to kick off.

"I've told both my boys, 'Yeah, you're good, you've got great gifts, but there's about a thousand of you that have existed on this earth already.' You're not a special case," said Wil Mizell, who played football at St. Cloud (Fla.) High. "There is somebody that is just as fast, just as aggressive, just as talented.

"Aidan is very analytical, looks at the angles, sees the issues. He does that on the football field. He is kind of like a quarterback out there on the edge. He knows where everyone is and what is supposed to happen."

Mizell didn't start playing tackle football until he was a teenager at the insistence of his mother. In a family of Division I athletes, Ebony set a competitive tone in the household.

Aidan has a story about that.

"She had a sticky note, 'D-1 Only,' on her bedroom door," he said. "I would have to knock and wait for her to open the door before I was allowed in. She made it known she was the best athlete of the family."



The entire Mizell family is now D-1. Aidan said Friday that he is healthy and eager to make more plays like the one at Mississippi State — and have it count, of course.

"If you're still sleeping on me, that's one on y'all," he said. "I'll show what I can do this year and move forward."



Aidan Mizell has chemistry with QB DJ Lagway on and off the field

By: Zach Abolverdi

Gators Online – On3

August 17, 2025

The breakout season last year for Florida quarterback DJ Lagway coincided with the emergence of wide receiver Aidan Mizell. And that did not happen by chance.

When they got their opportunities as freshmen, first vs. Samford and then in SEC play, they connected on touchdown passes in both games, which marked the first career starts for each player.

Lagway became Florida's seventh true freshman starter at quarterback against Samford and set the UF true freshman passing record with 456 yards, which ranks ninth all-time in school history.

After redshirting in 2023 and playing as a reserve in last year's opener, Mizell received some snaps with the starters in Week 2 and caught his first career touchdown, a 41-yard pass from Lagway.

Former Florida QB Shane Matthews, the color analyst for UF football games since 2022, said afterward that Lagway's TD to Mizell "was the best throw I've seen in The Swamp since I've been here."

"On that play, just trust my receiver," Lagway said when asked what was going through his head. "My man is better than their man. That's the biggest thing. We'd been working since January, so I have trust in Aidan."

Lagway and Mizell's chemistry

After Lagway enrolled early in 2024, he worked throughout spring and fall camp as the No. 2 quarterback. That paired him with Mizell, who was with the backup offense and became one of Lagway's go-to targets at practice.

Once they started playing in games, their connection and rhythm in the passing game produced some big plays.

"Last year, DJ was running with the 2s a lot with me. So that spring ball, that's all we was doing, just throwing and catching," Mizell said. "As the season went on and stuff happened how it did, he started starting, I started starting, it just carried on."

Mizell continued to get reps on offense and had a breakout game at Mississippi State. He had two 60-yard touchdown receptions called back and still made a career-high and team-best five catches for 36 yards.

After Eugene Wilson III shut it down for season-ending hip surgery, Mizell received his first career start against Georgia. Lagway had taken over as the starting QB a week prior following the injury to Graham Mertz.

Lagway and Mizell hooked up again for another touchdown pass of 40-plus yards, this time a 43-yarder in Jacksonville that put the Gators up 7-3 over No. 2 UGA.

"DJ is DJ. He's always going to be on the mark," Mizell said. "He just puts it where it's a real advantageous spot for us to catch the ball."

Mizell made four catches for 66 yards in the loss, but Florida also lost Lagway to a hamstring injury and



subsequently lost a 10-3 lead in the second quarter. He returned against No. 22 LSU and led the Gators on a four-game winning streak to close out the season.

Lagway eclipsed 300 yards passing for the first time in the bowl game, winning Gasparilla Bowl MVP honors, and Mizell had another strong performance with four receptions for 50 yards. He finished the year with 17 catches for 202 yards and two touchdowns.

Mizell has two more scores and 120-plus yards missing from his stats. Is he still salty about those plays being negated in Starkville?

“No, it is what it is,” Mizell said. “I feel like y’all have seen what I can do. It’s on tape.”

A quarterback’s best friend

It’s often said that a strong run game is a quarterback’s best friend. There’s an also argument to be made for the offensive tackle protecting his blindside or his go-to receiver. For Lagway, it might be Mizell.

One of Lagway’s best relationships on the team is with him. They communicate regularly and spend time away from the field outside of football, riding with together to places such as the Hawkins Center.

Their rapport and comfort level with each other translates to the football field.

“We’re just cool. We’ll call each other, text each other,” Mizell said. “On the field, we’re both competitors. If I’m messing up, he’s gonna say something. If he’s messing up, I’m gonna say something. We just try to work and make each other better.”

Does Lagway look his way more?

“Absolutely,” Mizell said. “I hope he keeps it up.”

After making three starts as a redshirt freshman, Mizell is now projected to be a full-time starter in 2025.

He got the nod at the Z position last year with Wilson out but has been cross-training at all three WR spots in training camp.

“Z, X, H, all of them,” Mizell said. “Wherever they need me I’ll be. If that’s X, if that’s Z, if they want me motion, if they want me going deep, if they want me doing the little crossing routes, I can do whatever.”

“I feel like I still have a lot to go (to become a full receiver). I feel like there’s always more to do, but I feel like I’ve gotten better at my top of the route, route running, every little nook and cranny.”



Is Aidan Mizell poised for a breakout year in 2025?

By: Keith Niebuhr

Gators Online – On3

April 24, 2025

Florida Gators receiver Aidan Mizell made significant improvement from Year 1 to Year 2 in Gainesville. Now, he's hoping for a similar jump entering his redshirt sophomore season.

"I'm just trying to be an all-around player," Mizell said in early April. "Just improving everything I can, taking in knowledge, studying more, just the little things, top of routes, just little stuff like that."

Florida's receiver room is loaded. And there is buzz about several players, from UCLA transfer J. Michael Sturdivant to returning starter Eugene Wilson III to the talented trio of true freshmen who early enrolled (Dallas Wilson, Vernell Brown III, Naeshaun Montgomery). But quietly and without much fanfare, Mizell, a 6-foot-2, 176-pound product of Orlando (Fla.) Boone, has put himself in position to be the Gators' starter in 2025 at the Z position (often called a "flanker," who typically lines up off the line of scrimmage).

Aidan Mizell's offseason growth turning heads

"He's a guy that's gotten stronger in the offseason, so his body looks a lot better," Florida receivers coach Billy Gonzales said of Mizell. "He's just got to be able to continue to push through and continue to maintain health. Obviously, he was banged up a little bit last year where we need to maintain. He's got great speed, but he needs to continue to take care of his body. He's made a bunch of plays vertically down field for us (in spring camp). You can tell that he can stretch the field and open it up for us."

As a true freshman, Mizell played two games, had two receptions for 25 yards, and was redshirted. He then took on a much greater role in 2025, when he caught 17 passes for 202 yards and two touchdowns. His 43-yard touchdown reception vs. Georgia is the one people probably remember the most, but it's worth pointing out Mizell capped the season with a four-catch, 50-yard performance vs. Tulane.

Spring progress shows expanded skillset

Mizell seemed to build off that this spring.

"I think if you were to ask me one thing that's stood out the most (this spring), it's the ability to get vertical and run by some guys," Gonzales said. "We want to be able to get a minimum of five yards (in the wide receiver screen game), and he's done a really good job of, as soon as he's touching the ball, exploding and understanding, that, 'listen, I'm a little stronger now so I can run right through some tackles. I don't just have to outrun everybody.'"

The more confidence he has, it's going to be based on how strong he continues to get and allow him to have a unique aspect to his game, as far as not just bringing speed, but adding some physicality as well."

Mizell capped the spring with touchdown catches in a scrimmage and then again in the Orange & Blue Game (see below). He caught only one pass in the latter, but it covered 24 yards (19 after the catch) and went for six. On a throw to the sideline, Mizell grabbed an Aidan Warner pass while running to his left, then quickly turned upfield and went untouched into the end zone.

It was a play that showcased his route running, hands, and ability to get yards in space.

In a strong receiver room, Mizell is poised to make a name for himself



Overall, Florida is in a strong spot at receiver. The Gators have so much talent and depth, that when asked where he would rank the receiver room on the UF roster, Mizell put it on top of all the others.

“Got to be one,” Mizell said. “We got all the speed, we got all the talent, playmakers... we got it all. Whatever you need, we got, so I feel like we got to be the best.”

With Mizell trending up, he should be a big part of that group’s success in 2025. Having chemistry with starting quarter DJ Lagway won’t hurt.

“I mean, when DJ got here, we were running with the twos,” Mizell said. “Me and him were just building that connection. So I feel like when we both got our opportunity last year, we just stepped in, you know what I mean? We both hit it running.”



Aidan Mizell discusses upcoming contest vs. Texas, rallying around Aidan Warner

By: Graham Hall
247Sports – Swamp247
November 5, 2024

For the first time since his arrival at Florida, sophomore wideout Aidan Mizell met with the media, where he discussed his performance thus far this season, the injury to DJ Lagway, and more.

Here's everything he had to say:

You got to tell us, where did you get the "Early" nickname from?

"My dad came up with it when I was young. It's my initials, AM, like morning, early. It just coincides, so yeah."

A lot of injuries at wide receiver this year. Kahleil, obviously Tre and so forth. How do you feel like you've tried to take advantage of your opportunity through that?

"Not much has changed. Even when they were healthy and everything else like that, I've been trying to always put in 100%. When I get my opportunity, I just try to make the most of it."

Just what happened to you in the Mississippi State game? What was the process getting back?

"I just had a little injury. They just thought it wasn't the best idea for me to play the next week, and I just trust them. That's what we did."

You wanted to play through injury?

"Absolutely. I always want to play. Especially we played UCF next week, hometown team. I was bummed, but it is what it is."

What was it like to have two touchdowns called back vs. Mississippi State?

"It was unfortunate, but I mean, we got the win. We did our thing, so I wasn't too bummed out."

What has been kind of just the path to kind of getting on the field for you? Bill has talked about you trying to build up physically, learning how to run your routes more sharply, what the defense is doing. Can you kind of discuss some of the elements that have gone into kind of getting you on the field?

"It's really just for me just staying consistent in every aspect, whether that be in the weight room, in the lunchroom, meeting room, on the field. Just staying consistent and just taking the knowledge that my coaches and the staff is giving me. It's helped me."

What do you think you bring to this offense?

"Speed mainly, but (laughing). Yeah, I just think speed, but when the ball is in my hand, I just feel dangerous with the ball. So I feel like I can score from any yard line of the field."

Q. When did you realize that you had kind of special speed growing up?



"Speed? Probably elementary school. I used to beat -- we all used to race, but they used to, like, almost kick me out of the races. There was no point. I was, like, Okay, yeah, that's cool."

Q. Did you do track early on? Did you do football more?

"Growing up it was really soccer. That was my main sport growing up. I wasn't allow to do play tackle football because my mom, she wasn't going for it. Couldn't do that. So soccer, flag football. I was a running back in flag football. I think that's why I'm a little shifty. Just a lot of things. I did jiu-jitsu, volleyball. Just everything but tackle football."

When did you start playing tackle football?

"Middle school I played two years, but I was at quarterback. Then high school I made the switch to receiver."

How long did you do track for?

"Track... like when I was young, we just used to show up to meets, like not for a team. Used to run, have fun. Middle school I ran, but it wasn't really coordinated or anything, but high school is when -- after COVID because my freshman year is when COVID canceled the track season, so sophomore and junior year is when I dedicated myself to track in the spring."

What's the fastest 100 that you have run?

"My 100 was 10.6, but I wasn't really a 100 guy. I only ran the 100, like, three times in high school. I was more of a 400 guy."

What's the fastest 400 time there?

"46 something. 46.9 I think. That was more my event, yeah."

How did you get mom to relent on tackle football?

"I mean, I just kept asking. It was more of a thing where I kept asking and bugging her when I was young, so she was, like, Fine, when you are in middle school, we'll let you play. Then middle school rolled around, and she couldn't go back on her word, so yeah."

Is she a mother hen about that as far as, Hey, you're my son, don't get hurt, don't get hurt?

"Yeah, absolutely. I mean, especially because me and my brother play. We're both in season at the same time. She's deathly nervous during this time. You can tell she's got a little nerves going on. She loves the game. She loves to see us play."

How much credit do your parents deserve for your speed?

"100%. They definitely gave me the gift of my speed. I've definitely worked on it and everything like that and gotten faster, but they definitely deserve a lot of credit."



What did they do at UF?

"So my mom was mainly a 400 runner. She got here and hurt her hamstring, so switched from the 100 to the 400. She was a 100 runner in high school. Then my dad was a decathlete, so he did ten events. He was a well-rounded athlete. I think he was a better jumper than actual runner, but yeah."

Your parents met here?

"Yeah, yeah."

Was there any way you were going anywhere but Florida? What was your recruiting process like?

"I didn't get my first offer until midway through junior year, which was UCF ironically. Yeah, was going through the process. I wasn't trying to -- I was trying to make it more of a business than, you know, like a personal decision. So I tried to rule out just, yeah, family ties and everything like that, but it was just the love for the campus, the family feeling. Everything just brought me here."

How much was weight a challenge for you early on trying to get to the weight that you -- they wanted you at or that you needed to be at?

"I mean, I've always been a smaller guy, a skinnier guy. It was difficult, but just consistency."

What did you come in at weight-wise and where are you at now?

"I can't remember what I came in at. I was tiny. I don't remember. I'm about mid-180s right now."

Q. Were you in the 160s, 150s?

"Yeah. Probably 167. Yeah, I was 160 probably."

Q. I guess from freshman to redshirt freshman year, your first two years, Bill talked about route trees and stuff like that. What was that process like translating your speed to football speed?

"It was just something -- I haven't played much receiver I guess as a lot of guys have here. It was just putting in work just doing the little extra stuff that really helped me out."

Your senior year I think you got hurt your first game.

"Yes, sir, first play."

That first play. Yeah, I remember reading that you were -- one of the analysts was saying if that hadn't happened, you would have been pushing for maybe a five-star ranking.

"Yeah."

How much did that set you back in your confidence, in just kind of getting here ready because you seem - now you're blossoming, but it took a little while?

"Yeah. It was hard just finding out the news that I wouldn't be able to play senior year. Everyone looks forward to that senior year."



Injured on the first play?

"First play, yeah. When I got here spring ball, last time I really had played football was my junior year playoffs, so it had been a minute. There was a big just -- I don't know. There was a big change with athletes and everything like that, but it just took time, but I feel like I'm here now."

How did you kind of get through that process and make the decision to come here and then kind of get here and feel like you were behind?

"Yeah. At first my decision was to -- I wasn't going to enroll early. I was going to go through and run track because I love track, but once I found out I got hurt, I was, like, Oh, maybe it would be a better decision to get here, you know, get in, learn the system, get the treatment here. That just wound up being my decision. My family played a big part in my decision, but--"

Did you feel behind for a good while, and then when did you feel like you finally caught up?

"I don't think I ever felt like behind-behind, but I felt like, Oh, yeah, these people can ball. I have to step up my game."

You go from Graham to DJ and then you seem like a perfect fit for DJ and his deep ball acumen, and now you're trying to get to a third quarterback, get comfortable. What's that challenge like to go from week to week to a different quarterback?

"I feel like at least for me it's not that difficult because in practice we always run like a multitude of quarterbacks. I have caught balls from every quarterback on roster. Obviously I've caught more with DJ and Graham, but I know Aidan. Me and Aidan have played. He's from Orlando. We've caught balls together. He's thrown against me. Then Clay. Everyone is -- it makes it easy to have the switch-up."

Q. A moment you had in the Florida-Georgia game, 43-yard touchdown pass. What kind of confidence do you think that could give you for the remainder of the season?

"Oh, absolutely. Just going against a rival, high-ranked team, it definitely gave me great confidence, but I always knew I had it in me. Just showing everyone else, it was real nice."

Have you thought about running track here at all?

"I haven't yet. I've debated about running track, but there's no decision for right now."

Q. I have to ask you, always a hot topic in the offseason, but fastest guy on the team, your name has been brought up a couple of times. Have you had any races with Tank? How does that go in the offseason? Did you go off the numbers you put up in workouts, or do you all get together and actually race?

"We usually just go off the numbers we put up in workouts. Me and Tank, especially this summer, we were going back and forth because we had different lift groups, right? So he would lift in the morning, and I would lift later in the morning. We would just always go back and forth. Real fast dude. I'm a real fast dude. So it's just good to have that competition."

So miles per hour on the treadmill?

"Yeah, yeah. We have it on our little Catapult, and we'll do sprints. Did you say what was it?"



Is it 23?

"His was 23.1. Mine was 23.2, so..."

At 23 miles-per-hour in the offseason, though?

"Yeah, it was built up. I think it was really through us pushing each other. Yeah, just me hearing -- like, I would show up to the weight room, and the weight coaches be, like, You heard what Tank ran? I was like, That's smooth, just wait to what I show you what I got. You know what I mean? There was always that competition and drive. We used to joke around with each other."

At some point would you like to line up against him in a race?

"I'm always down. Yeah, yeah."

Do you want to race him in a 40-yard or 100 meter?

"It doesn't matter. I feel like we're both track guys. We can go one or 40. It don't really matter."

Would you take yourself in the race?

"Oh, yeah, always."

We need an answer. You committed and signed holding a pair of live gators. How did that happen? Where did you get them from?

"Once I told my parents that I wanted to go to Florida, my dad was, like, All right, we got to do it big. I'm, like, Okay. Then one day we're in the car. I can't remember where we were going, but we were in the car driving, and it just hits him. He is, like, I'm going to get you some Gators. I was, like, Ha, ha, ha, real funny. The day of the commitment, I had to get there early. We set it up and everything. My dad takes me to this back room, and he was, like, You've got to practice. I'm thinking, What am I practicing for? You know what I mean? I hear hissing in a bag. It's like whipping. There's like this little Gatorland lady. She had to teach me how to hold them. I thought we were just going to do one. He's like, Got to go big. So I do both. Yeah, it was definitely an experience."

Were you scared at all holding alligators?

"Yeah, I think the gator was more scared than me, to be honest because when I walked out, I walked out, and as soon as everyone started screaming, they both just started peeing all over me. Yeah, it was not -- it was not the best option. Then I just try to keep it cool and everything like that. Made sure no one noticed, but when I handed it to my brother because once I start speaking to the mic, I had to put the hat on, but a little occupied. So I handed it to my brother, and it starts peeing on him. He starts to freak out in the back. Yeah, it was definitely a cool experience."

You had a long-sleeve on?

"No, short-sleeve. It went straight down the arm, straight on the pants, yeah."

Did you manage to keep your composure pretty well? That's a stressful thing.



"Yeah."

If you can be composed through that, what is it to go to Texas?

"Yeah. Football is nothing new."

When you committed to Florida, who was your second?

"It was between Florida, Bama, and Tennessee."

Would have had trouble holding an elephant.

"Yeah. Yeah, elephant would not have been fun."

That 41-yard touchdown with DJ at Stanford, that play, it might have been the best highlight play of the season offensively from my perspective. What happened on that play? What do you recall about that one? You were blanketed.

"Yeah, I had a little -- basically like a hitch and go, and I seen the dude was real off. I really tried to sell the hitch route, and he didn't bite at all. I just got out of it and just tried to be as fast as I can. I couldn't really see much because the line, the way they shifted, and then the DBs in front of me. So I can't see much. I hear something in the crowd. Everyone goes, Oh, and I look up, and the ball is just spiraling. It's a perfect ball, so I just ran under it. Yeah, it was a great ball."



Consistency in all phases is the key for Gators WR Aidan Mizell

By: Corey Bender

On3 – Gators Online

November 4, 2024

When Aidan Mizell signed with the Florida Gators as a top-100 recruit, he envisioned himself being in the headlines for numerous top plays. There are not many who boast game-breaking speed like he does.

This past weekend against Georgia, Florida witnessed that ability against one of the nation's top programs, as Mizell finished the game with four receptions for 66 yards and a touchdown. That score was a 43-yard strike from DJ Lagway that gave Florida its first lead of the game and shifted the momentum.

“(I bring) speed mainly, but (laughing). Yeah, I just think speed, but when the ball is in my hand, I just feel dangerous with the ball. So I feel like I can score from any yard line of the field,” Mizell told reporters during Monday's press conference.

The best has yet to come for Aidan Mizell

There has been a learning curve for Mizell though. He also went down with an injury during the Mississippi State game despite finishing with five receptions for 36 yards and having two touchdowns called back. He missed nearly all of his senior campaign with an unfortunate injury too.

“It's really just for me just staying consistent in every aspect, whether that be in the weight room, in the lunchroom, meeting room, on the field,” said Mizell. “Just staying consistent and just taking the knowledge that my coaches and the staff is giving me. It's helped me.”

Now though, the Orlando native is finding his groove and will be relied upon to finish the season. That's especially the case with Eugene Wilson III in and out of the lineup due to injury.

Through three games played, Mizell has season totals of 10 receptions for 143 yards and two touchdowns.

“Not much has changed. Even when they were healthy and everything else like that, I've been trying to always put in 100%. When I get my opportunity, I just try to make the most of it,” said Mizell.



“I just feel dangerous with the ball”: WR Aidan Mizell showing significant growth in year two

By: Nick Marcinko

Gator Country

November 4, 2024

Florida Gators' wide receiver Aidan Mizell did just about everything but play tackle football growing up: Flag football, soccer, track, jiu-jitsu, and volleyball.

His mother, an All-American sprinter at UF, wouldn't let Aidan play tackle football because she just 'wasn't going for it.' It wasn't until middle school where Mrs. Ebony Robinson-Mizell caved in and let Aidan play for two years, where he was a quarterback.

Mizell didn't make the switch to receiver until high school, meaning he only logged three seasons of experience at receiver as the Orlando native suffered a season-ending injury on the first play of his senior season.

The adjustment from high school to college wasn't easy for Mizell as he was relatively raw as a receiver and didn't have the same level of experience as those around him.

“When I got here spring ball, last time I really had played football was my junior year playoffs, so it had been a minute. There was a big just — I don't know. There was a big change with athletes and everything like that, but it just took time, but I feel like I'm here now,” Mizell said.

“I don't think I ever felt like behind-behind, but I felt like, Oh, yeah, these people can ball. I have to step up my game.”

Mizell has done exactly that in year two. The Boone High School product got to campus at around 160 pounds, and after a productive offseason, Mizell weighed in at 187 pounds. He looked like a completely different receiver on and off the field, sharpening his route running and improving his first step off the line of scrimmage.

“It's really just for me just staying consistent in every aspect, whether that be in the weight room, in the lunchroom, meeting room, on the field,” Mizell said on his path to playing time. “Just staying consistent and just taking the knowledge that my coaches and the staff is giving me. It's helped me.”

After appearing in just two games and redshirting last season, Mizell has played in seven of Florida's eight games in 2024, hauling in 10 catches for 143 yards and two touchdowns while logging the 4th most snaps among Florida wide receivers.

“Speed mainly,” Mizell said on what he brings to the table. “I just think speed, but when the ball is in my hand, I just feel dangerous with the ball. So I feel like I can score from any yard line of the field.”

Mizell is coming off the best game of his career vs Georgia, where he led Florida in receptions (4) and yards (66) while hauling in a career long 43-yard touchdown from DJ Lagway.

“Just going against a rival, high-ranked team, it definitely gave me great confidence, but I always knew I had it in me. Just showing everyone else, it was real nice,” Mizell said on his performance in week ten.



FLORIDA FOOTBALL DAILY NEWS SUMMARY

Mizell has showed steady improvement through two seasons at UF and looks the part of a future center piece in Florida's offense. His hyper-elite speed and dynamic run after the catch ability make him a valuable weapon for the Gators moving forward.



Aidan Mizell primed to make an impact after standout offseason

By: Jacob Rudner
247Sports – Swamp247
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It would have been difficult, to be sure, but it's not far fetched to think that Aidan Mizell could have achieved five-star status in the 2023 recruiting cycle out of Orlando (Fla.) Boone High School. A slender 6-foot-1 wideout who barely topped 165 pounds at the time, Mizell was one of the fastest players in the nation in his class, earning All-American status on the track where he posted blazing personal bests of 10.65 in the 100-meter dash and 46.99 in the 400-meter.

But, when a Week 1 knee injury forced him to be shut down for the remainder of his senior season at the prep level, an ascent to the top of the 2023 crop became impossible.

Two years later, Florida feels as though the redshirt freshman wideout is back on an elite trajectory and even starting to make good on what could have been five-star expectations.

Viewed as just "the burner," or "the fast guy" upon his arrival in Gainesville, Mizell is beginning to fill into the mold of a more well-rounded receiver.

"I've been very impressed with Aidan," Florida head coach Billy Napier said Monday. "I think he's one of the players that probably improved the most from year one to year two. In particular, just the skill level, the route running, the releases, the top of the route, the detail there. Then the hands, his ball skills."

Mizell's emergence is hardly a new development, according to several sources who spoke to Swamp247 on the matter. If anything, it's be a steady rise since the start of spring camp that has the Gators feeling bullish about their second-year offensive weapon.

Mizell has added nearly 20 pounds to his frame since he enrolled at Florida, increasing his strength and allowing him to become more of a factor when fighting for contested passes, a skill that has shone through more clearly in recent practices where he's "made some very impressive, challenging catches," according to Napier.

While he's unlikely to earn a spot in the team's starting lineup ahead of its Aug. 31 season-opener against No. 19 Miami, Mizell has proven that unlike in his true freshman season when he appeared in just two games, he's ready for a more prominent role in Florida's offense.

"The biggest thing with Aidan, he's combined his speed with finishing the play," quarterback Graham Mertz said. "If it's a contested catch, he's going to go make the catch. You can see him, guy's putting on weight, being a little bit stronger. He's stronger, finishing those plays. He's done a fantastic job."

Dubbed Florida's fastest player by several of his teammates, Mizell's quickness could allow him to be utilized in a somewhat similar fashion to how the Gators deployed Eugene Wilson in 2023.

One of the most effective true freshmen in the country last season, Wilson was obviously a prominent threat out of receiver alignments but kept defenders on their toes with an occasional rep out of the backfield, which allowed him to capitalize on mismatches, especially against man coverage.

Florida realized a great deal of success with Wilson in a more of a gadget role and sources have indicated to Swamp247 that Mizell could be on the same path in his first year as a more consistent contributor.



"You get to identify who is playing him in man-to-man coverage," Florida legendary quarterback Tim Tebow told Swamp247 regarding the impact of lining up a speedy receiver in the backfield. "And now I get to say, 'Okay, what is that defender's weakness? Is he a really big physical guy, but maybe he's not as good in space? Is he a smaller guy, but doesn't want to come up?' And if you can find that weakness, then you can go after it."

Tebow was no stranger to exploiting defensive weaknesses by putting elite route runners and athletes in the backfield. Florida fans shouldn't be, either.

"We did that with Percy (Harvin)," Tebow said. "And we did that a little bit with Jarred Fayson early on. I mean, you could even say some of the different scat-backs that we had were just very all-purpose, just great football players."

"I've always loved that trend. You know, if a defense is trying to figure out what personnel you're in, they're coming up to the line of scrimmage and they're trying to identify, and you have someone that you don't know if I identify him as a receiver, as a running back, what personnel are we going to call. That only makes them hesitate a little bit more. So I love it."

Mizell could be the next Gator wideout to capitalize.

"I think he brings a speed element to our team that we need," Napier said. "We're hopeful that he can make an impact."



“He’s stronger and finishing those plays”: Gators detail Aidan Mizell’s improvements this offseason

By: Nick Marcinko

Gators Country

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Florida is deep at wide receiver entering the 2024 season. One of the receivers I’ve been keeping a close eye on is redshirt freshman Aidan Mizell, who appeared in just two games last season.

Mizell, who stepped foot in Gainesville weighing 170 pounds, put on 16 pounds this offseason and looks like an entirely different receiver. The four-star recruit was known for his speed out of Boone High School in Orlando, Florida. Mizell was a state qualifier in both the 100 and 400-meter dashes as a junior, owning personal bests of 10.65 in the 100 and 46.99 in the 400. Speed is in Mizell’s blood as his mother, Ebony Robinson, was an All-American sprinter at UF, qualifying for the NCAA 400m finals twice.

While Mizell’s speed and length were evident in year one, it was clear that he was very raw as a receiver. Mizell suffered a knee injury early in Boone’s season opener back in 2022 and was shut down for the remainder of the season, which certainly halted his development as a receiver.

With a full year and offseason at UF, the 6’1.5, 186-pound receiver is ready to make an impact on the football field.

“I’ve been very impressed with Aidan. I think he’s one of the players that probably improved the most from year one to year two,” Head Coach Billy Napier said on Mizell. “In particular, just the skill level, the route running, the releases, the top of the route, the detail there. Then the hands, his ball skills. He’s made some very impressive, challenging catches the last couple days. “I think he brings a speed element to our team that we need. We’re hopeful that he can make an impact.”

The media is only allowed to observe 15 minutes of individual drills during spring and fall camp, but even from a short viewing window you can see the progress Mizell has made as a receiver. His hands, route running, and body control have noticeably improved this offseason. As I’ve said before, Mizell looks much more like a football player than a track star.

“When he first came in here, he was known as the burner, the fast guy. He was always a little bit smaller than everybody,” quarterback Graham Mertz said on Mizell. “The biggest thing with Aidan, he’s combined his speed with finishing the play. If it’s a contested catch, he’s going to go make the catch. You can see him, like I said, guys putting on weight, being a little bit stronger. He’s stronger, finishing those plays. He’s done a fantastic job.”

Mizell hauled in two catches for 26 yards in Florida’s home opener against McNeese State last season. I expect a major uptick in playing time and production for the second-year receiver, who has the speed and contested catch ability to take the top off opposing defenses. It’s also possible you see Mizell in a special teams role this season.