FLORIDA FOOTBALL

Devin Moore



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Gators DB Devin Moore focused on health, team success in 2025

By: Keith Niebuhr
Gators Online – On3
August 7, 2025

When Florida Gators cornerback Devin Moore is on the field, there's no question about his ability to perform at a high level. The challenge, however, has been staying out there.

Now a senior, the Naples, Fla., native has one major priority for 2025.

"Just being healthy," Moore said. "I've taken a very intensified approach on that. I stay [at the UF football complex] more than I go home now. So just being up here, any little thing from toes to knees to thighs, elbows, anything you can think of just making sure everything is accounted for."

In 2024, Moore was very good, when he played. He snagged two interceptions—one returned for 52 yards, the other for 32—and displayed the ball skills and instincts that make him a promising NFL prospect. Moore also finished with 17 total tackles and two pass breakups.

But Moore's UF career has been consistently interrupted by injuries. He sustained a shoulder injury in Florida's loss to Georgia last year—an unfortunate twist, considering he had already picked off a pass in that same game. The injury sidelined him for the rest of the season. He finished the year with seven appearances, including six starts.

That marked the third consecutive season Moore's year was cut short by injury. In 2023, he missed five games due to back and concussion issues. Altogether, Moore has played in just 19 of a possible 38 games over three seasons. It's been a difficult stretch—one that has tested his resilience as much as his body.

Even while sidelined last year, Moore remained fully engaged with the team, finding ways to contribute off the field. He made his return to the field this spring after "minor" offseason shoulder surgery.

"Working back from it has been a breeze," Moore said. "Just working with the training staff, guys around me motivated me every day, having fun with them, and finally getting out there [last week] with the guys and having some fun."

Dealing with repeated injuries has taken a toll, but Moore's perspective remains team-first.

"It's definitely a mental challenge," he said. "But it's bigger than me. It's not only one guy on a team of the Florida Gators, you know what I'm saying? So even if I'm out there or not, I'm doing anything I can to help the Gators win."

While health has been the top priority, Moore also made major strides in physical preparation during the offseason.

"I can't even remember off the top of my head, but everything went up as of August," he said of his strength and speed gains. "I remember being more explosive, getting stronger, gaining more muscle mass. I'm pretty sure I lost probably around 12 pounds of fat and gained like 15 pounds of muscle. So that was probably the biggest surprise."

Last year, Gators receiver Eugene Wilson said Moore had first-round draft pick ability. The 6-foot-2.75, 198-pound Moore, who runs a 4.4 in the 40-yard dash, is expected to be Florida's No. 1 cornerback in

2025—a role that will consistently pit him against elite receivers each Saturday. He's ready for it.

"It's gonna be a matchup every week, no matter who you play," he said. "They're gonna have a guy that's really good. You got to bring your A game, every game."

While many expect a breakout season for Moore, he said he isn't locked in on individual accolades. But it should be noted Moore believes in himself and his potential.

"I'm fully confident in myself," Moore said.

Now, he just needs to stay healthy.

If he can finally stay healthy for a full season, Devin Moore may just deliver on the promise that's followed him since he arrived in Gainesville—and help lead the Gators' defense back to national prominence.

Devin Moore taking Florida's freshmen corners under his wing

By: Zach Abolverdi
Gators Online (On3)
August 2, 2025

After starting in the secondary the past two seasons, senior Devin Moore is now CB1 for the Gators in 2025. And in his last year at Florida, he's taking the new crop of cornerbacks under his wing.

Florida's top corner the last three years was Jason Marshall Jr., now a rookie with the Miami Dolphins. Marshall suffered a season-ending injury last year against Kentucky, and Moore's time as CB1 lasted one week.

Moore injured his shoulder the following game vs. Georgia and missed the rest of 2024, with another injury ending his season for the third year in a row. He's back to full strength and looking forward to competing again.

"I'm excited, just being able to go out there and prepare and practice and use that confidence no matter who I go against. That's definitely excitement to me," Moore said. "And just being a competitor. At the end of the day, I think that's what it all comes down to — it's me versus you and we're gonna duke it out."

Moore mentors freshmen corners

The Gators added three freshmen to their cornerback room in Ben Hanks III, J'Vari Flowers and Onis Konanbanny. Flowers reclassified from the 2026 class and enrolled this summer, while Konabanny was a late arrival due to a visa issue.

Konanbanny connected with Moore on social media before he made it to campus. After getting several messages from the incoming freshmen, he finally exchanged numbers with him.

"Onis he texts me over Instagram all the time. I was like, 'Man, you might as well just get my number at this point.' But any little question he has, I'm always here," Moore said. "Once he finally got here, he's actually down the hall from my locker. To get to my locker, I got to see him every day. So, every time I see him, 'You good? You need anything? Any questions?' He'll always pick my brain and have little questions here and there. I definitely answer them."

Moore has also helped out Hanks and Flowers. He sits to the pair in the cornerback room and guides them through position meetings and film sessions. Marshall did the same for him when he was a freshman in 2022.

"I got Ben Hanks on my right side and J'Vari Flowers on my left," Moore said. "So, I'm putting my iPad notes out there, 'Did you get that? Make sure you get that, that's important.' Just the little things like that. I was once in their shoes and having guys like Jason Marshall helped me get through that. Those things went a really long way, so just being able to replicate that."

Hanks enrolled early and went through spring practices with the Gators. He had two tackles and a pass breakup in the end zone in the Orange & Blue Game.

Hanks, a five-star recruit with On3, gained 12 pounds this summer, going from 180 to 192. He made "amazing strides" in the offseason, according to Moore.

"He definitely intensified it. He matured as a freshman as all of us have to go through," Moore said of Hanks. "Just applying the things he learned from the spring, and this being like his second and third time reviewing it, going over it, you can definitely see that he's way more comfortable out there, playing way faster and making some great plays."

Competition at the cornerback position

There will be two spots up for grabs at the position in training camp. Junior Dijon Johnson and redshirt sophomore Cormani McClain are competing to start opposite Moore, while Hanks is one of multiple underclassmen vying to be the fourth cornerback in the rotation.

With UF planning to play redshirt senior safety Michael Caraway Jr. at safety this fall, the Gators have five freshmen in contention to be CB4: Hanks, Flowers and Konanbanny along with Teddy Foster and Jameer Grimsley, both of whom redshirted last year after a few games played.

"This training camp is gonna increase their ability a lot. I'm very excited to see their growth. I got trust in them. I've seen those guys come in here and shut some guys down. So, I got full belief in them," Moore said of the underclassmen. "All these guys are in a position where, if they go out there and practice every day and put it on display, they're all going to get a chance to play during this season.

"So just encouraging them that, 'OK, you might give up a play, let's go.' That next-play mentality. Because in the game, that's kind of what it comes down to, obviously. So just encouraging them to keep going, keep working hard, just stay in your playbook and keep working."

With Johnson sidelined in the spring after offseason shoulder surgery, McClain worked with the starting defense and had a breakout camp. Both players put on weight this summer, with Johnson gaining eight pounds (204) and McClain adding seven (189).

McClain is 27 pounds heavier since transferring to Florida at 162 pounds. He's now on scholarship with the Gators and the former five-star recruit has put himself in position to realize his potential.

"He's definitely taking his game to the next level," Moore said of McClain. "These things behind doors that sometimes I don't see, sometimes other teammates and other staff members don't see, but just one-on-one with coach going over all the little things.

"We all do that: How can we take our game to the next level to be that lockdown defense that we have the potential to be? He definitely started doing a lot of those things and taking them to the next level. It shows up on the field, him making plays."

Can Devin Moore stay healthy for a full season? How Florida football senior CB is preparing body for the challenge

By: Kevin Brockway
Gainesville Sun
August 1, 2025

While much of the offseason attention has centered on quarterback D.J. Lagway's health, another Florida football player is out to prove he's durable enough to withstand an SEC season.

Florida Gators senior cornerback Devin Moore has appeared in just 14 of 25 games for UF over the last two seasons, missing time due to concussion and shoulder injuries.

Moore's season came to an end in 2024 after hurting his shoulder on an interception return against rival Georgia.

"Working back from it has been a breeze," Moore said. "Just working with the training staff, guys around me motivated me every day, having fun with them and finally getting out there yesterday with the guys and having some fun."

A former Naples High standout, the 6-foot-3, 198 pound Moore made significant strength gains during the offseason to prepare for the rigors of an SEC schedule. He said he's gained 15 pounds of muscle, while losing 12 pounds of fat.

"I've taken a very intensified approach on that," Moore said. "I stay here (in the training facility) more than I go home now. So just being up here, any little thing from toes to knees to thighs, elbows, anything you can think of just making sure everything is accounted for."

That included Moore taking blood tests and nutrition tests to discover foods that caused inflammation in his body.

"A combination of all of those things," Moore said. "Also just talking to each staff on a daily basis. 'This is what I'm kind of feeling today.' And they'll just give me a great plan, and all I've got to do is execute it."

How Devin Moore is preparing for challenge as Florida football's top cover corner

Moore will take on the role as UF's No. 1 cover corner after three-year starting cornerback Jason Marshall graduated last December. Marshall was taken in the fifth round of the NFL Draft by the Miami Dolphins in April.

"I'm excited," Moore said. "Just being able to go out there and prepare and practice and use that confidence no matter who I go against. That's definitely excitement to me. And just being a competitor. At the end of the day, I think that's what it all comes down to — it's me versus you, and we're gonna duke it out."

When Healthu, Moore's size and wingspan help him match up with bigger SEC receivers. He's recorded three interceptions and eight pass breakups in his first three seasons at UF.

"He's very talented," Florida defensive coordinator Ron Roberts said. "His length, his speed, his experience — it's all there. He's got a lot of potential, and we need guys like him to take that next step if we want to be elite."

Moore also is taking on a leadership role with UF's younger cornerbacks — including true freshman Ben Hanks Jr., true freshman J'Vari Flowers, redshirt freshman Teddy Foster and redshirt freshman JamRoc Grimsley.

"I got Ben Hanks on my right side and J'Vari Flowers on my left," Moore said. "So I'm putting my iPad, my notes out there, 'Did you get that? Make sure you get that, that's important.' Just the little things like that. I was once in their shoes, and having guys like Jason Marshall helped me get through that. Those things went a really long way, so just being able to replicate that."

Gators CB Devin Moore is a complete package determined to remove fragile label

By: Edgar Thompson
Orlando Sentinel
August 1, 2025

Blessed with height, length, speed and ball skills, Florida cornerback Devin Moore is the complete package.

One problem: it comes with a fragile tag.

The top priority for the 21-year-old with All-SEC-caliber talent is to remove the label and deliver on his promise as the Gators' No. 1 corner — a weighty responsibility in the nation's top football conference.

"It's gonna be a matchup every week, no matter who you play," Moore said Thursday after Day 2 of fall camp. "They're gonna have a guy that's really good. You got to bring your A game, every game."

Moore hopes to have the opportunity after three seasons short-circuited by injuries, sidelining him 19 of 38 games at Florida. The 6-foot-2 ¾, 198-pound senior left no stone unturned this past offseason to improve his chances to stay on the field.

"I've taken a very intensified approach on that," he said. "I stay here more than I go home now. So just being up here, any little thing from toes to knees to thighs, elbows, anything you can think of — just making sure everything is accounted for."

If all the pieces fall into to place, and remain there, Moore's final college season could be life changing.

Entering 2024 fall camp, UF standout receiver Tre Wilson predicted Moore would be an NFL first-round pick. The son of two-time Super Bowl winner, Wilson called Moore, "NFL ready."

Moore played at an elite level at times last season, but reliably displayed impeccable intangibles. When Moore's season came to an unceremonious conclusion, he became a leader.

Soon after Moore just missed out on his first pick-six at UF, he joined an end-zone celebration following redshirt freshman Cormani McClain's touchdown off an interception capped a 48-20 homecoming win against Kentucky.

A season-ending shoulder injury two weeks later against Georgia came on the heels of another interception by Moore. Rather than sulk amid his third straight season cut short, he remained fully engaged during his team's 34-20 loss Nov. 2 in Jacksonville.

"I was encouraging the guys that were out there," he recalled Thursday. "We were still in that game, we had a very good opportunity to win it. So my focus was more on, how can I help the guys out there adjust? Do what they need to do to give our team the best chance to win."

The Naples native who changed his commitment from Notre Dame in December 2021 to join coach Billy Napier's first class looks to lift the Gators, regardless of circumstance.

During the offseason, Moore served as a resource in position meetings for newcomers Ben Hanks III, one of the nation's top cornerback recruits, and promising 4-star prospect J'Vari Flowers.

"I got Ben Hanks on my right side and J'Vari Flowers on my left," Moore said. "I'm putting my iPad, my notes out there, 'Did you get that? Make sure you get that, that's important.' Just the little things like that.

"I was once in their shoes."

Moore has recently welcomed Februrary signee Onis Konanbanny, a native of London, since his delayed arrival last week.

"Every time I see him, 'You good,? You need anything? Any questions?' " Moore said. "He'll always pick my brain and have little questions here and there. I definitely answer them."

But as fall camp opened, Moore aimed to do his most important work on the field. If he can stay there, Moore could be the lockdown corner the Gators need.

"I'm fully confident in myself," he said.

Whatever happens, Moore will push to make an impact.

"It's more of a team thing with me," he said. "The university blessed me with an opportunity to change my family's life, change my life. I would say the main goal would be just to help the team in whatever way I can to help us be more successful.

"But in doing that, I feel like personal goals fall in line, too."

Devin Moore looking to put a full season together, 'He's an NFL corner'

By: Nick de la Torre
On3
August 2, 2024

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Devin Moore has undeniable talent. The 6'3″ 200-pound cornerback already looks the part of an NFL cornerback. Florida Gators sophomore receiver, Eugene Wilson, wasn't shy to put that label on Moore either.

"I expect him to go first round this year," sophomore receiver Eugene Wilson said of Moore. "I think he's NFL-ready. Every rep I take against him, I look at him as a future NFL player."

The issue hasn't been Moore's size, speed, or ability. It's been his availability. Any football coach will tell you that the best ability is availability and Moore, simply put, hasn't been available. As a freshman, Moore enrolled with a pre-existing shoulder injury. He played in the first five games of the season before needing shoulder surgery that ended his season.

Moore spent the entire offseason in a non-contact jersey. Then, there was a multitude of issues in 2023. An undisclosed illness kept him out against McNeese State in the second week of the season. He missed games against Vanderbilt and South Carolina in Weeks six and seven. He suffered a concussion per Gators' play-by-play announcer Sean Kelley — that kept him out against LSU. Moore has been available in exactly half of the games he's been on campus for.

"I'm glad to have him back, glad to have him back, like you said him being healthy, that's the good thing," senior cornerback Jason Marshall said. "Just having him on other side where I can trust him, he's going to go make plays, I'm going to make plays, the biggest thing is he's healthy, and hopefully he stays healthy."

Devin Moore speaks on his health
It's been frustrating for the now junior cornerback. The freshman injury was one thing, the shoulder was probably always going to need surgery, it was just a matter of time. However, the cavalcade of injuries and illness in 2023 was hard to deal with. Moore was able to, for the first time, go through an entire offseason without a hiccup.

"It feels amazing. Really, like, I'm lost for words," Moore said after the spring game. "Just being able to continue to compound all the practices, the reps, the gains I've made in the weight room with the strength staff. It's just a great feeling just being able to continue to build on that and just being healthy overall."

There's only so much Moore could do in terms of progressing and developing while he was sidelined.

"You can't make up — you can only make up for the lack of reps so much. You can always take mental reps, kind of develop, but the only way to fully maximize it I feel like is to get on the

field, get in that live fire and take those practice reps, see it a bunch of times, get coached by your coaches and just continue to develop."

If Moore can put it all together this season and stay healthy, he has the talent to make Eugene Wilson's statement on Thursday a reality.

Healthier than ever, Devin Moore eager to elevate his game 'to another level'

By: Jacob Rudner
Swamp247 – 247Sports
July 6, 2024

By the time the ball left the quarterback's hand, Devin Moore had little doubt that his seventh game at the college level would produce his first-career interception.

Everything aligned too perfectly for it not to.

With the Florida pass rush driving him from the pocket, Tennessee signal-caller Joe Milton lofted a 39-yard pass down the field at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium with just under 10 minutes to play in the first half.

Moore was ready.

"I just camped under it," he told Swamp247, recounting the highlight moment with a smile. "I'll probably never forget that one."

But Moore's Sept. 16 turnover against the Volunteers was ultimately what felt like another tantalizing flash of the cornerback's potential. Small individual triumphs like that one have been overshadowed over the last two years by a lengthy injury history which has caused him to miss more games (13) than he's played (12).

"These last two years have definitely been a little rough," Moore said. "There's been a lot of ups and downs."

It has, of course, proven limiting.

"Anytime I couldn't be out there with my team, and just, you know, provide help to them trying to help the team win, it's been really hard for me," Moore said. "That was definitely probably the lows of the last few years, you know, just having to be at home watching."

Moore is eager to prove that he can generate highlights with more consistency.

"I just be that guy that my team can rely on to do his job every play," Moore said. "I want to be a great player."

At first, the pain was manageable, starting as an aching soreness that was easy to ignore, especially when adrenaline coursed through his veins.

But, during one of Florida's practices ahead of a home game against Missouri in early October of 2022, the ailment took a significant turn in the wrong direction.

Devin Moore dropped back in coverage and lept to break up a pass, entangling himself with a wideout before landing on the ground shoulder-first.

There was no question about it. No injury to play through as he had for five weeks.

Instantly, Moore's freshman season was over.

"I went down and felt a big pop and I knew that was it," he said. "It had been nagging all season long but when I went down that day, we knew it was much worse than before."

It didn't take long for Florida to confirm that those fears were a reality. The damage required surgery. And while no season-ending injury is timely, Moore said the situation with his shoulder came at a particularly unfortunate point in his campaign as he was just five games into the year and just started to feel "comfortable in the college game."

"I was picking up steam," he said. "I feel like your performance in college football has a lot to do with how comfortable you are on the field and each each week, I felt allowed me to compound that comfort and then boom, it was over. It was like 'Dang this, this is different.' I never felt like I missed any games in high school like that. I had to adjust."

And so he did.

After undergoing the procedure to fix his shoulder, Moore rejoined his teammates to "keep studying the game," from the sideline, using his recovery time to boost his scheme fluency.

Moore said Florida's veteran defenders such as fellow corner Jason Marshall, linebackers Ventrell Miller and Amari Burney, and others, taught him the importance of taking mental reps while his body was unable to go physically.

It proved invaluable.

As Moore learned, he was able to apply his improving knowledge in position group meetings, cementing himself as one of his unit's leaders even as one of its youngest members.

"He just always had a smile and made a great effort to help us in any way he could," Marshall said.

Maximizing time away from the field in 2022 proved beneficial throughout the next calendar year, too. Moore knew how to better handle the circumstance, which reared its head again on several occasions.

His first attempt at a comeback in the spring of 2023 was cut short by a shoulder setback, which led Florida's coaches to shut him down until fall camp and keep him on the sidelines to watch.

Healthy to start the 2023 season, Moore ultimately missed five weeks due to a back injury and concussion.

He finished the year with one interception, four passes defended and the third-highest Pro Football Focus grade among Gator defenders who played at least 100 snaps. But Moore was unhappy.

He was confident he had more to offer.

"I was like, 'Dang, man, why is this happening to me?'" Moore said. "I'm doing all the right stuff off the field. I wake up in the morning early to stretch, I'm going to pilates on my own, I never miss a session in the weight room or with our trainers or with nutrition. But I can't stay healthy. That was tough to swallow."

Moore started chuckling at the thought of it, but the sentiment, he said, couldn't have been more serious and true.

Mental reps are only as valuable as the physical improvements that eventually follow them, he pointed out in March.

"And I won't waste mine," he asserted.

Now entering his third year with the Gators, the former four-star prospect feels a great onus to help spark drastic defensive improvement in Gainesville a season after Florida's secondary ranked among the nation's worst.

He spent the spring and summer bolstering his frame, adding muscle while continuing to strengthen his back and shoulder, which gave him fits at times throughout the two years prior.

"I'm sticking to the program and adding a few things," Moore said. "I'm attacking everything. Attacking team runs, attacking the weight room, attacking OTAs, attacking whatever I can to prevent any type of injury and just to be the best I can for this team."

The Gators will need him to be, too. Seven of the team's 15 scholarship defensive backs are in their first year with the program while six of the unit's eight returnees are second-year players with varying levels of experience.

Though he's played just 12 games as a college player, Moore is viewed as one of the Gators' elder statesmen in their defensive backfield.

Florida is hoping the knowledge Moore has accumulated over the last two years while recovering from various injuries and the physical improvements he's made this offseason will enable his sustained success.

"My previous two years, you know, they've been filled with injuries," Moore said. "So I kind of see this year as a fresh start for me personally. I've grasped the scheme, we have some new coaches who are great, we have more depth and I'm as healthy as I've ever been. I'll consider it a fresh start."

And with that, he hopes to deliver on loft expectations.

"I have to take it to another level this year," Moore said. "I need to prove people right about me."

Gators CB Devin Moore finally healthy and 'ready to turn it loose'

By: Zach Abolverdi
Gators Online – On3
April 2, 2024

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — For his first two years at Florida, injuries have held back Devin Moore. Not anymore.

The junior cornerback is "finally healthy" according to UF coach Billy Napier, and it's showing up in practice.

"He's got presence out there," Napier said of Moore.

Moore made his presence known Saturday with one of the top highlights in Florida's first scrimmage of spring camp. He picked off quarterback DJ Lagway with an athletic play on the ball.

Moore also had a pass breakup in the scrimmage.

"I'm 100 percent healthy," Moore said, "and I'm ready to turn it loose."

He hasn't been able to do that in almost two years. Moore played in the first five games during his freshman season in 2022, but a shoulder injury sidelined him and eventually required surgery.

This time a year ago, Moore spent the entirety of spring ball in a non-contact jersey and missed the Orange & Blue Game as he rehabbed his shoulder. He also missed time during fall training camp.

Once the season arrived, Moore missed a total of five games due to a concussion, an illness and injuries. It was a difficult experience, he said, but made him appreciate "how big of a blessing it is" to be healthy.

"I was definitely at my lowest a few moments between that season, but you know the support I had from my teammates, coaches, training staff," Moore said. "I took a lot of lessons out of it. How to treat my body weight better, it's all about the things you eat, all the little things I could do to just prevent any of that stuff from happening."

The lessons have led to results for Moore. He lost three pounds this offseason and said he got leaner, faster and stronger through the new strength and conditioning program under Tyler Miles.

Moore is also working with a new position coach in Will Harris. He produced the nations' No. 1 secondary at Washington in 2021 and has harped on technique with the 6-foot-3, 197-pound cornerback.

"At Washington he's had a few long corners he coached that proved to be very successful, so he'll compare me to them," Moore said. "He preaches it just like me, technique. If I can be a great technician, not even have to use any of my physical traits, that's when the game gets real scary."

Moore feels Harris has already helped him improve his technique and they've put a big emphasis on that in spring camp. His early returns from the first scrimmage were encouraging.

"Just being able to learn from Coach Harris, and everything that he tells me, I'll write it down, go rep it, work it, all the extra time and work too," Moore said. "Just bring all the new knowledge he brought and apply it on the field, technique wise."

Moore finished last season with six tackles, three breakups and an interception in seven games played. He posted an 81.7 coverage grade (per PFF) and made his first career start against Arkansas.

Now Moore takes over as a full-time starter for Jalen Kimber, who transferred to Penn State. What can Florida fans expect from him now that he's finally healthy and at his best?

"You're just going to see a guy just giving receivers all they can handle, really," Moore said. "I like to play really physical, because I feel like I got the speed to run, and then my coaches help me with my technique. Trying to be a real technician and then just have the physical traits on top of it."

Florida's 23 Most Important Players for 2023: No. 17

By: Graham Hall
Swamp247
July 13, 2023

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

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

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

The rankings continue with cornerback Devin Moore at No. 17.

No. 23: Ja'Keem Jackson

No. 22: Jack Miller III

No. 21: Miguel Mitchell

No. 20: Jalen Kimber

No. 19: Chris McClellan

No. 18: Arlis Boardingham

Player Profile

Height: 6-foot-3

Weight: 188 pounds

Hometown: Naples, Florida

247Sports Composite recruiting ranking (2022): No. 20 safety, No. 251-ranked overall prospect

Career Statistics

As a freshman, Moore played in five games and totaled six tackles (four solo). He made his collegiate debut and registered one solo tackle in the season-opening victory against No. 7 Utah (Sept. 3).

2023 Outlook

Moore's decision to enroll early at Florida paid off, as he found himself in line for considerable playing time by the conclusion of fall camp.

The in-state defensive back made his debut in the regular-season opener against Utah, and he impressed with his combination of instincts, advanced physicality and awareness of the defensive scheme despite his first-year status.

The Gators intended for Moore to play the entirety of his freshman season, but a shoulder injury in early October prematurely ended the cornerback's freshman season.

Ultimately, his ailment required Moore to undergo surgery – a procedure which would limit him throughout spring camp of his sophomore season.

Fortunately for the Gators and for Moore, he's expected to be fully healthy in time for UF's trip to Salt Lake City on Aug. 31, and the expectation is he'll get a serious look to start at cornerback alongside junior Jason Marshall Jr.

The job appears to be a battle between Moore and a more-experienced player, Jalen Kimber.

The team's position coach in the secondary, Corey Raymond, has a lofty opinion of Moore, which may result in the underclassmen playing a large role for the Gators in his sophomore season – that is, if he can return to full participation and stay healthy.

Why No. 17?

Much like Kimber and Ja'Keem Jackson, a pair of players who made the list at No. 20 and No. 23, respectively, Moore is in a consequential position for the Gators this season, as the unit, led by a potential first-round pick in the 2024 NFL Draft in Marshall, is expected to take a leap forward in 2023.

Moore has the tools and the football IQ to be a perennial starter in the Southeastern Conference, and he was on track to do just that before his injury last season.

The Gators perhaps would have liked Moore to be further along in his recovery during the spring practice window, though there's no doubt Florida's coaching staff has faith in Moore to be ready – health-wise and from a defensive knowledge standpoint – before the Gators take on the Utes.

If all goes according to plan, he'll be on a trajectory similar to that of Marshall by the time Moore's sophomore season has reached its conclusion.

And if that happens, he arguably deserves to be higher on the list of Florida's most important players for the 2023 campaign.

Gators CB Devin Moore Earning the Label of 'Mr. Patient' Early In Career

By: Brandon Carroll
AllGators, Fan Nation
September 15, 2022

The development of prized freshman cornerback Devin Moore is going according to plan for the Florida Gators in the early portion of the 2022 campaign.

This offseason, Moore showed promise as an ascending entity at Florida. He quickly became a player co-defensive coordinator Patrick Toney — the first player contacted when he came over from Lousiana-Lafayette — and fellow teammates see as a future problem for opposing offenses in the storied Florida secondary.

Accordingly, the Naples (Fla.) product is already shining in the early days of his career, playing meaningful snaps and making notable plays.

On Monday, Gators wide receiver Justin Shorter continued the program-wide praise for Moore as someone who he said makes him better in practice along with Marshall. The 6-foot-4, 225-pound wide receiver even gave the freshman a fitting nickname that could stick for the longevity of his orange and blue career if he continues at this rate.

"I always call him 'Mr. Patient' because he's very, very patient," Shorter said when asked about what he's seen from Moore in coverage. "I'll never forget my first time going one-on-one with him when he first got in. I like did a little move on him, and he didn't do nothing, just stood there.

"I just call him patient because, if you see him in games and people run slants on him, he just sits there and holds tight. So I feel like that's a good trait for a defensive back to have."

That's a testament to the rave reviews of his mental maturity and grasp of the cornerback position for someone his age.

In his role in rotation at cornerback, Moore has flashed signs of excellence with his performance at critical points for Florida in his first two outings.

In game one, Moore was responsible for a monumental open-field tackle as Utah targeted the flats to keep the clock running with under a minute remaining on the final drive of the contest. It was his only recorded stat of the game but was a key point for the team's 29-26 upset victory over the No. 7-ranked Utes. The staff's trust to deploy him at that moment backed up their verbal admiration throughout the offseason and fall camp.

Jason Marshall Jr., the leader of Corey Raymond's cornerback unit, offered his take on "the young guy's" performance during media availability on Sept. 7. Like the others in the Gators facility that spoke on Moore, Marshall Jr. was complimentary of his performance and growth since arriving at Florida back in January.

"He had a great game, you know. He was thrown in the fire. He came up with that big tackle to keep the receiver in bounds, so I felt like he had a pretty good game. He grew a lot, he grew tremendously understanding the game."

Returning to the field off the bench against Kentucky, despite the loss, Moore's impact once again came late as the Wildcats neared striking distance as he shed a block, worked downhill and blew up a screen pass behind the line of scrimmage to set up a 3rd and 11 early in the fourth.

The coverage snaps have come sparingly, but when they have, the speed, fluidity and patience he exhibits in practice against Shorter are on display.

His intangibles, natural coverage traits and production for someone being eased into the lineup to begin his career are promising. As the young pieces earn more time to contribute in the calculated rotation the Gators use, Moore can carve out a considerable role for Florida down the stretch of the season.

Adding the base sets of five defensive backs and the occasional six-DB personnel packages under Toney, the chances for Moore to bolster his reputation will come frequently.

If he continues taking advantage of the opportunities he's given, "Mr. Patient," ironically, won't have to wait long to turn his potential as a feature piece in the secondary into fruition.

Moore the latest Florida freshman DB to play significant snaps in debut

By: Graham Hall
Swamp247
September 9, 2022

Before he arrived in Gainesville, Florida's starting cornerback, Jason Marshall Jr., was abundantly aware of the Florida football program's reputation, including the game-day atmosphere of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

"That was the reputation. Sold out crowd," Marshall said of UF's season-opening win over Utah. "It was pretty loud in there."

He's also cognizant of Florida's "DBU" reputation, as is the latest player looking to join the prestigious group: Devin Moore.

UF's claim to the title of "Defensive Back University" isn't solely based on the significant number of NFL-caliber corners to come through Gainesville – it's also predicated on the abundance of future professionals who saw the field at a high rate during their true freshman seasons. The list of notables includes the 6-foot-1, 198-pound Marshall, who started opposite Kaiir Elam in six contests in 2021 after arriving as an early-enrollee.

While splitting time with Avery Helm in the secondary, Marshall would appear in all 13 games, and he'd ultimately finish the year with 23 tackles, two tackles-for-loss, four pass break-ups and an interception.

With Elam now in Buffalo and poised to start in the Bills' secondary, Marshall has taken over as the team's top cornerback in the room, and by all accounts he had an impressive performance against the Utes, a game in which he deflected a pass and recorded a tackle.

The No. 1 role is a responsibility Marshall feels he's prepared for after seeing the field a considerable amount during his inaugural season at Florida.

The key word there is responsibility. After Elam turned the role into a first-round NFL Draft selection, there's reason to believe Marshall could feel pressure to follow in Elam's footsteps and be taken with one of the first 32 picks when he's eligible to enter the Draft after the 2023 season.

Though, he was already aware of the typical quality of play at defensive back at Florida before he worked his way into the job of the team's primary corner.

"You know, last year, coming in, I didn't really give up that many yards, so, it's just coming in this year with a higher standard and giving up less," Marshall said. "I wouldn't say there's pressure, but that holds me to a standard, that I can't give up this, I can't give up that."

Now in a similar position to the one Elam was in not so long ago, Marshall is tasked with aiding the ongoing development of the team's underclassmen, including Moore.

Like Marshall, Moore arrived on campus as an early enrollee, as did several other highly touted freshmen, including Kamari Wilson and Chris McClellan, and all three freshmen saw the field against the Utes. By spring camp, Moore was already ascending up the depth chart and competing against a bevy of defensive backs for starting reps in Florida's secondary opposite Marshall.

While Helm won the job, made the start and impressed; he wasn't targeted and was in on a pair of tackles against the Utes, though the official box score only credited him with a single wrap-up.

In his first game at Florida, Moore was rotated into action and was in the game at critical sequences, including UF's final defensive series of the contest. He appeared to be targeted three times by Utah quarterback Cam Rising, only one of which resulted in a completion by the opposition. Moore also recorded a tackle, a play which had Marshall singing his praises in the aftermath of the true freshman's debut.

"Ah, the young guy. He had a great game, you know. He was thrown in the fire," Marshall said of Moore. "He came up with that big tackle to keep the receiver in bounds, so I felt like he had a pretty good game. He grew a lot, he grew tremendously understanding the game (from spring)."

Of Moore's list of impressive traits, Marshall singled out several as aspects of the newcomer's game which allowed him to see the field from the jump, against a top-10 ranked team, too.

"His ball skills. His size. Like I said, his understanding of the game, and Coach (Corey) Raymond, you know, he instills that in not only his head, but everybody's head, to understand the game, read your keys, knowing where your eyes is," Marshall continued. "Things like that I feel like (have) helped him a lot."

Moore can't get complacent with his debut performance, nor can Florida's defense after achieving a positive result in the opener.

With SEC play set to commence Saturday as the Wildcats descend on The Swamp, Marshall is aware the entirety of the defense – from true freshman to sixth-year playmaker – can raise the bar even further in the second showing of the season. He gave the unit a "B-minus" when asked to grade the team's overall defensive play against the Utes – a grade Marshall knows may not cut it against an upset-minded Kentucky team.

"You know we're coming in hungry just like they are," Marshall said of the Wildcats. "They're coming into The Swamp, just like you said, they've won two out of the last four games, so, they're coming in hungry, wanting to win this game. They've got a chip on their shoulder just like us."