Kweisi Mfume speaks about One Florida

Darcy Elena Rodriguez  STAFF WRITER

Kweisi Mfume, CEO and president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spoke to students and the Central Florida public in the UCF Arena on Feb. 20. The event, sponsored by the African-American Student Union and the Campus Activities Board, was one of the many lined up in honor of Black History month at UCF.

Mfume spoke to remind Americans that loyalty, hard work and commitment to a vision pave the way for political and personal change:

"Mfume is someone black men and women can look up to."
— Willie Nelson, UCF student

Mfume also voiced his opposition to Governor Bush's One Florida Plan, which will permit universities to look at factors such as geographical diversity and socioeconomic background, instead of race and ethnicity, when considering applicants for admissions. Other programs, such as the Talented 20, which guarantees the top 20 percent of each graduating class admission to a state university, will be implemented.

Mfume also shared his views on the issue involving South Carolina and their Confederate flag. He reminded attendees of the NAACP's decision to boycott South Carolina.

"He talked about his successes in life," said Michael Rosick, vice-president of the ASUU and chair of Black History month. "He's an outstanding leader."

Mfume is someone black men and women can look up to," Willie Nelson, UCF student, says. "He is a great man. I like him a lot."

Mfume became the president of the NAACP after giving up his ten-year congressional seat. While a member of the House of Representatives, Mfume helped to propose and pass acts such as the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Voting Rights Act.

The Board of Regents voted Feb. 18 on a plan that will allow Florida's universities to contact Mom and Dad and let them know about cases of underage drinking and drug use. The Board of Regents decided, the day after its vote on the Talented 20, plans that the state's 10 public universities will take up policies that will notify parents of underage students who are caught drinking or using drugs on campus.

Before the vote on Feb. 18, UCF did not notify parents of such things, but will be changing its guidelines under the BOR's directive. The university is going to be taking action immediately.

According to state law, notification of such offenses will only be to those students who are claimed as dependents on their parent's income tax returns. Student's whose parents do not claim them will not be reported to their parents. This however might turn out to be a difficult task for university officials.

The Regents are lobbying to have the Florida State Legislature change this policy to match that of the federal government. With such a change parents of all students caught in underage drinking or drug use would be reported, not just those claimed as dependents.

A typical American college student spends more on beer than they do on textbooks showing that underage drinking is not just a problem on campus though. Underage drinking and drug use can be found in many of the surrounding area pubs and apartment complexes near the university.

"A lot of places near the school serve underage kids,"

UCF helps improve body image

Krista Zilizi  STAFF WRITER

"The media has such a negative influence on body image, we've got to provide an alternative," said Cathy Barbano, Campus Wellness Center MS, RD.

The alternative - an exhibit of a chronological series of nude photographic portraits of women from the moment of birth through 100 years of age, simply titled The CENTURY Project. Masterminded by photographer/artist Frank Cordelle, these portraits of women and girls portray real-life people, as opposed to the stars and models the media and advertising continue to promote.

We see a lot of clients with eating disorders or those really upset about their body shape.
— Cathy Barbano

Parental notification mandated by BOR

Adam Shiver  STAFF WRITER

That awful hangover may not be the only thing to worry about after a long night of drinking any longer. The Board of Regents voted Feb. 18 on a plan that will allow Florida's universities to contact Mom and Dad and let them know about cases of underage drinking and drug use.

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March 1, 2000

UCF senior, entrepreneurial success

TAYLOR CLARK
STAFF WRITER

UCF Senior Management Information Systems major Michael Scully never suspected he would be so successful when he began his own e-commerce business, BuyCoffee.com. A couple of years ago he began researching online businesses, which eventually led to the selling coffee beans via the Internet in 1997 when he purchased the domain name. "It's not some­thing that you have to try on and it's not fragile," said Scully. "It's the ideal product."

With the help of a local roaster in Orlando, First Roaster's of Central Florida, Scully's coffee business has been very successful, earning $2,000 in cash and $500 in Duck Head clothing. In June one of the monthly winners will be selected as "Entrepreneur of the Month," winning $10,000 and an internship at College Television Network in New York. The first winner since the contest's creation, Scully was chosen for the uniqueness of his business, its fulfillment of a need in the marketplace, and the likelihood of its long term success. Like many other businesses, Duck Head, obviously sees BuyCoffee.com's potential.

Scully's coffee business has taken off, earning almost $10,000 in the first few months. "I'm very pleased," said Scully. "The business is going well and it's a good way to help support the students." Although BuyCoffee.com is not the largest, it's one of the 27 pilot online merchants from selected merchants. As the eCard's popularity grows, BuyCoffee.com will be promoted.

Almost simultaneously, Southwest Airlines' in-flight magazine, SouthWest Spirit, named BuyCoffee.com the best site for gourmet coffee on the net, ahead of Starbucks who came in third. Between the recognition in the magazine and eCard, Scully received a surge of traffic, leaving him feeling much more confident about the stability of his commerce. Scully considered other options, but refused to give up. His perseverance definitely paid off.

A couple months ago, just as funds were running low and he was pondering the notion of quitting, Scully was chosen as one of the 27 pilot online merchants to launch First USA's eCard, a credit card, which offers incentives for cardholders who make online purchases. He was chosen among other entrepreneurs, of traffic, leaving him feeling discouraged. "I was starting to think about moving back to my hometown-Cheshire, Connecticut. He was pondering the notion of stability of his commerce. Scully was much more confident about the future. Following graduation, he plans to move back to his hometown-Cheshire, Connecticut. He intends to stick with the coffee business, working closely with his ties in Orlando.

"Hopeful," he said, "I can use BuyCoffee to help a few other online businesses."

Although Michael obtains realistic short term goals, when asked about his long term goals, he replied, "Starbucks goes down!" Then on a more serious note he added, "I would like to expand into a conglomerate of e-commerce businesses."

Michael Scully knows from personal experience that success does not always come easily. His success is a demonstration of perseverance. "Persistence is the key. It can literally happen overnight, so don't give up."

"I'm not much of a drinker," explained junior Sue Black*, "so it doesn't bother me that they are going to tell par­ents. I'll just keep me safer by helping to discourage underage drinkers who seem to like to also drive drunk."

"At the time of print, nobody with the university could be contacted for com­ments regarding the policies. (All student names marked with an asterisk have been changed to mask their identity.)"

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"I'm impressed with First Roaster's level of quality, excitement and enthusiasm," said Scully. Following graduation, he plans to move back to his home­town-Cheshire, Connecticut. He intends to stick with the coffee business, working closely with his ties in Orlando.

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Mfume speaks about political, personal change

From Page 1

the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Mfume graduated magna cum laude at Morgan State University, where he also taught political science and communications as an adjunct professor. He also received a Masters degree in Liberal Arts from Johns Hopkins University.

Currently, as the head of the NAACP, Mfume promotes his five-point action agenda, which includes Civil Rights, Political Empowerment, Educational Excellence, Economic Development and Youth Outreach. The NAACP was founded in 1909 and is the country’s oldest, largest and strongest civil rights organization. The

NAACP is dedicated to the political, educational, social and economic equality of minorities in the U.S. The organization is committed to non-violence and relies heavily upon the courts, petitions, ballots and the press. Membership presently exceeds 500,000.

Mfume hopes to attract a younger generation of Americans to the NAACP. He invites men and women of all ages, races and religions.

For his achievements and leadership, Mfume has received hundreds of awards, proclamations, citations and is the recipient of nine honorary doctorate degrees.

Bostick learned from Mfume’s speech that “My mission as a black man is never done.” The general view for the ASU is that “we need to get on the ball.”

Century Project promotes self esteem

From Page 1

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Fine Arts Breezeway
Career Resource Ctr
Thursday Knight Jive entertains audience

DIANA MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The Campus Activities Board's Cultural Arts committee hosted its monthly Thursday Knight Jive on February 24.

Thursday Knight Jive is an opportunity for those who want to share their thoughts, expressions, and feelings with an audience. The poetry readings have opened its doors and expanded opportunity for those who want to share their thoughts, expressions, and feelings to an audience with their jazzy sounds. Grape Koolaid is made up of four incredibly talented musicians: Ben Blackburn on bass, Matthew Brown on drums, Harrison Light on piano, and Philip Martin on saxophone.

As Grape Koolaid opened the jive, their sounds attracted many Student Union passers-by. The Cultural Arts committee has moved the poetry readings from the UCF Barnes and Nobles bookstore to the Student Union's Charlotte Harbor (SU 313) because of a larger audience. The jive's audience was entertained by a guitar solo, a drum trio, and a song played on the piano by Aiyana Cadwell.

Keturah Bailey, a junior at UCF and the creator of the Thursday Knight Jive expressed her feelings about the poetry readings as the jive's last performer of the night. "I love Thursday Knight Jive!!"

The next Thursday Knight Jive that the committee has scheduled is on March 9. This jive is part of the Campus Activities Board's Week of Knights. To sign up to read or for more information about the jive, stop by the CAB Office at the SU 215, or call (407) 823-6471.

RTNDA Brings Broadcast Opportunities to UCF

KRYSTAL ZILLEI
STAFF WRITER

UCF's Radio TV News Directors Association (RTNDA) will sponsor their annual internship fair-Monday, March 6 in the Student Resource Center from 7 to 9 pm.

Coordinated by faculty advisor Michelle Netto, RTNDA is an organization for students studying journalism and broadcasting. As a campus chapter, RTNDA's focus is to better prepare students for the broadcast news industry. Biweekly meetings include discussions from the instructors, guest speakers, and field trips to local news agencies.

Entry Forms: For more information and online entry forms, visit the UCF Library home page: library.ucf.edu and then click on "What's New" or look at the top of the WebLuis home page: weblib.ucf.edu and then click on "Name That System Contest."

Who may enter: Registered students and currently employed faculty and staff of any of the 10 State Universities.

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked no later than midnight, Friday, March 24, 2000.

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- Shelley Wilson, Staff Writer

Are you interested in winning a brand new computer?

If so, you can register to win a new laptop computer worth $3,500. How do you enter? The State University System of Florida is looking for a name for its new statewide library system, which brings library and information resources and services to SUS faculty, staff, and students at the library, to their home, or office. Submit a winning name and the computer could be yours!

Who may enter: Registered students and currently employed faculty and staff of any of the 10 State Universities.

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The new Uno's Pizzeria on University is now open and showing their support of UCF students.

Campus News Briefs

Give blood, receive t-shirt

The Central Florida Blood Bank is going to be holding a blood drive on March 7 and 8, from 8am until 5pm in front of the Student Union. Students are encouraged to come out and donate, and will be given a free t-shirt for their participation. Supplies are low and the blood bank can use all the help they can get. You can contact Karline Cunningham with the Central Florida Blood Bank at (407) 999-8485 for more information.

Graduate students work with folk art at House of Blues

Art professor, Kristin Congdon, holds class each Wednesday morning at Disney's House of Blues restaurant located in Lake Buena Vista's West Side. Her students are studying the bistro's large collection of folk art. These nine students are producing a book on the art and artists displayed in the restaurant, with the book's proceeds being given to the House of Blues foundation. For information you can contact Congdon at (407) 823-2195.

Scholarships up for grabs

The UCF Alumni Association is offering scholarship opportunities to current full-time students. Students can apply and pickup information regarding the scholarships in the Alumni Association, ADM 340, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.

Taking a break from all that writing

The University Writing Center will be closing Friday March 10 at 3pm and will re-open Monday March 20 at 8am. The UWC is closing for spring break.

Pizzeria hosts UCF Night

The new Pizzeria Uno located on University Blvd will be hosting a UCF Night, with all proceeds going towards the College of Business Administration. The event is open to everyone. The event will take place March 7 from 5pm to 12am.

Anything Goes extended to March 12

Theatre UCF is extending it's run of the popular play, Anything Goes in order to allow more students to enjoy its witty humor. Anything Goes will be running March 2 through 12, with an added 2pm matinee on Saturday, March 11. Curtain will promptly raise opening night at 7pm, all other showings (Thursdays through Saturdays) will begin at 8pm, with Sunday matinees at 2pm. Tickets are $4.50 - $8.75. Tickets can be obtained through Theatre UCF Ticket office at 823-1500.

Health and wellness expo slated

The Health and Wellness Resource Center will be hosting a health and wellness expo in front of the UCF Bookstore Wednesday March 8 from 10am until 2pm. Contact the Health and Wellness Resource Center for further information.

UCF announces conservation biology certificate

UCF is going to team up with Disney’s Animal Kingdom in offering courses in Conservation Biology. The biology department is currently accepting applications to the program for the summer 2000 term. Classes will be offered at the Animal Kingdom itself for a hands on learning environment. If you are interested in the program you should contact David Kuhn at (407) 823-2976.

-Wilson

Adam Shiver, Staff Writer
Students have plenty of Spring Break options

Elaine LeBlanc
STAFF WRITER

A relaxing week sunning on the beaches of the Bahamas? Or skiing down a snowy slope? How about experiencing the infamous New Orleans culture during Mardi Gras? These are Spring break, which officially begins on March 14, is a welcome vacation for those finding themselves in the "mid-semester slump," even if they are not planning an exotic trip.

Sophomore Katie Auger said, "I really can't leave town this year because of crew practice, but I am just ecstatic not to have to leave Orlando.

A survey of UCF students found 3 in 10 plan to migrate to the beach. Popular choices included Panama City, Daytona Beach and Key West.

Senior David Howard said, "Key West is the perfect place for me. Between water sports all day and Duval Street packed with college kids at night, it's definitely worth the drive."

In addition to the Florida beaches, cruises departing from nearby Cape Canaveral to Mexico, the Bahamas and Jamaica are also frequent destinations.

Freshman Sarah Gagnon said, "I picked Jamaica because I heard there is a place there where you can jump naked off of a cliff."

New Orleans is also an annual favorite due to its proximity, eclectic culture, and, of course, Bourbon Street. Celebrated on the last Tuesday before Lent (March 7 this year), Mardi Gras celebrations fill the streets of New Orleans with elaborate costumes, musicians, masks and beaded necklaces.

If you need to find me, I will be snowboarding down the Swiss Alps.

Sophomore Karine Trudel will also be donning a heavy coat for her trip to Canada. She said:

"Bourbon Street, at least for me, is the place to get totally wild and earn some cool beads," said senior Viviana Hampers.

In search of snowy fun, some Knights plan to leave the warm temperatures and venture into colder climates.

Senior Ryan Westberry said:

"I will not have to hear any mean jokes about Canadians there."

For information, students can contact STA Travel at (407) 541-2000. The agency offers student fares for some flights and vacation packages.

Shooting some hoops is a way to relax during the time off from classes on Spring Break.

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22 percent knew that the words "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" was a line from the Gettysburg Address.

Kappa Delta Shamrock

The ladies of Kappa Delta are hosting their annual philanthropy event on March 9 at 8:00PM in Visual Arts Building. Shamrock is a dance contest between fraternities, sororities, and campus organizations with a mandatory entry fee and 1:00 admission. Prizes will be awarded for each individual division. A silent auction will be held as well; however chapters are not obligated to participate. Three judges will be selected to review dances. All proceeds will be donated to The Children's Hospital of Richmond, Virginia.

Krista Zilliz, Staff Writer

Washington who? Study suggests seniors lacking in knowledge of U.S. history

SPECIAL TO THE FUTURE

LOS ANGELES (TNS) — Know the finer points of George Costanza's life but not George Washington's? You're not alone. A recent survey released by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni shows that college seniors at several of the nation's top universities know their popular culture, but are blind to history when it comes to U.S. History.

The report, "Losing America's Memory: Historical Illiteracy in the 21st Century," states that 81 percent of college seniors surveyed in December received a grade of D or F on history questions taken from basic high-school curriculum. The survey was distributed to students on 55 nation's leading universities and was identified by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni shows that college seniors at several of the nation's top universities know their popular culture, but are blind to history when it comes to U.S. History.

Among the survey's findings:

-34 percent of respondents said they knew that Washington was a general at the battle of Yorktown.

-22 percent knew that the words "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" was a line from the Gettysburg Address.

-23 percent correctly identified James Madison as the "father of the constitution.

-42 percent knew that "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen" was a phrase referring to George Washington.

By contrast, students' scores soared on the popular-culture front. Almost 98 percent knew that Snoop Dogg was a rap singer, and 99 percent correctly identified the cartoon characters Beavis and Butthead.

The study's results are a "clarion call for action," said Anne D. Neal, the study's author and vice president of the council. "If institutions of higher education no longer require their students to have basic knowledge of American civilization and its heritage, we are all in danger of losing a common frame of reference that has sustained our free society for so many generations."
Florida universities facing new challenges under admissions rules

Maria T. Padilla

State universities have a new challenge to manage in the wake of last week's high school seniors' vote to abandon the use of race, ethnic and gender preferences in college admissions.

Although the state's 10 universities will get a new admissions tool that guarantees college placement to the top 20 percent of each high school's graduating class, they still have to figure out how to make it increase diversity.

It sounds like a paradox because the plan, called the Talented 20, is supposed to send more minorities to the universities. But in the short term, at least, some minorities who qualify might not be fully prepared for college.

For years, universities could find themselves scrambling to maintain or improve on the level of diversity that now exists. Minorities currently make up 32 percent of all students in the state university system - a figure that mirrors the state's minority population.

This is all part of the education portion of Gov. Jeb Bush's One Florida plan, which the state Board of Regents unanimously adopted last week. Approval by the Cabinet puts the plan into effect.

"It will be a different world, but I don't want to make it sound like it's totally different," said John Hitt, president of the University of Central Florida.

Following Tuesday's Cabinet vote, public universities will have to mobilize quickly to figure out what to do next.

Hitt said, for example, he would be convening a "war council" this week to establish a plan to boost diversity at the school. UCF has a minority enrollment of nearly 23 percent.

Looming in the background is a voluntary civil rights agreement with the federal Department of Education that Florida entered into in 1995. It commits the state to increase diversity on college campuses. University presidents don't want to upset that goal, even though there are no specific penalties if they do not comply.

Many are looking into the model set by Florida State University, one of five state schools that had ended preferences before last week's regents vote. The others are UCF, Florida International University, Florida A&M University and the University of North Florida.

FSU has a minority enrollment of 26 percent, one of the highest in the state for a non-minority institution such as FAMU or FIU.

It got there by old-fashioned legwork, according to Provost Larry Abele.

"It takes time, money and commitment. This isn't rocket science," he said.

Bush developed One Florida last November in part to preempt a ballot measure by California businessman Ward Connerly that would make race and ethnic preferences unconstitutional in public employment, state contracting and college admissions.

Connerly's initiative, which is pending before the state Supreme Court, is considered more severe than Bush's proposal.

For years public universities, not just in Florida but nationwide, relied on preferences to choose some of their minority students.

The system worked by giving black and Hispanic students "extra credits," for their color or ethnicity in the same way that students also earn points for completing rigorous academic courses, scoring high on standardized tests or being the children of alumni.

Removing race and ethnicity as admissions criteria will have the effect of increasing competition among all students.

Minority students themselves have sensed this. In public hearings after public hearings they have agonized over "losing" the opportunity to attend college.

Marit Jose Hays, a sophomore at the University of South Florida, broke down and cried during her testimony at the recent regents meeting, saying between sobs that she feared her 15-year-old sister, who has a "pretty good" grade point average, wouldn't be able to go to college.

University presidents do not rule out the possibility, but they maintain that under the Talented 20 plan, students such as Hays' sister still have a good shot at higher education.

If Hays' sister maintains her GPA, she likely will find she had to work harder in high school, said Anthony Cataneo, president.

Talented 20 students also will have to do one other thing: complete 19 hours of academic credits in core subjects such as English, math, science and foreign language.

Such coursework isn't necessary to earn a high school diploma, but is required to gain entry to a state university.

Preliminary data show that less than half of minority students take such courses, according to the regents.

Making sure that minority students enroll in these courses will fall to the state's school districts as well as the universities.

Under Bush's One Florida plan, universities are expected to partner with high schools, especially low-performing ones.

In such states as Texas and California, where preferences were outlawed either by court order or ballot box, universities have forged relationships with high schools and even middle schools in an effort to identify and encourage talented minority students, news reports indicate.

That is considered crucial contact for minority students -- and their parents -- many of whom may not be thinking of college, talented or not.

In addition, FSU's Abele said the school already buys "tons of lists" of names of prospective students from the College Board, which administers standardized college admissions tests.

The school telephones and writes the students, planting the seed that they are considered college material.

"You have to have a relationship with the student by the 10th grade. If you wait for the 12th grade, then it's too late," Abele said.

At the University of North Florida, educators plan to focus on four inner-city schools in Jacksonville that earned D grades from the state Education Department last year, said President Anne Hopkins.

Schools such as Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton confirm that more upfront recruiting work is in store for the universities in the years ahead.

"Ten years ago FAU didn't have many minority students. Now we are 14 percent African American and 14 percent Hispanic. That didn't happen by accident. We had to work much harder with high schools," said Anthony Cataneo, president.

Write the Future

Letters to the editor should be typed and must include a name, address and phone number for confirmation. The Future reserves the right to edit for length, style, grammar and libel. Submit to:

editor@UCFfuture.com
Spring Break career fair to take a break

DEREK CATRON
KNIGHT-RIDDER TRIBUNE

DAYTONA BEACH — Spring break has often found ways to put Daytona Beach in the national spotlight, almost all of them bad — pool deck parties on MTV, drunken balcony falls, the occasional shooting.

About the only good publicity tourism officials could count on was the career fair, which has often found ways to put Daytona Beach in the national spotlight, almost all of them bad — pool deck parties on MTV, drunken balcony falls, the occasional shooting.

Tourism officials learned this week that the career fair will be, well, taking a break, at least for this year.

Mike Jiloty of Jiloty Communications, the Holly Hill advertising firm that built up the career fair, broke the news Wednesday to members of the Halifax Area Advertising Authority at their monthly meeting.

"It was a useful event when we introduced it, but it was still kind of a novelty event," Jiloty said before the advertising authority meeting. "Hopefully, in June or July they will be able to make a commitment for next year." Jiloty said before the advertising authority meeting.

Through out its five-year history the career fair had been funded by the advertising authority, which oversees the spending of hotel bed-tax money to market tourism in the area. The two-day event cost the board $50,000 last year. Its spring break marketing committee decided that was too much, considering the career fair does little to fill hotel beds.

Supporters said the importance of the event couldn't be measured in numbers. An intangible benefit was that the career fair allowed Daytona Beach to keep spring break while telling the world it promoted a more responsible event. "I think it's a good thing," Daytona Beach Mayor Bud Asher said recently. "These young people have an opportunity to talk to prospective employers while they're enjoying themselves here on spring break. I'd like to see it continue in Daytona Beach."

Ironically, the career fair is ending at a time when corporate recruiters are scurrying for job candidates. "It was a useful event when we introduced it, but it was still kind of a novelty event," Jiloty said. "Now, all of a sudden, the demand for the best college students is better than ever. We'd like to think the students who are going to give up part of their spring break to do this are among the best out there."
North Central College's new dorms like home away from home

Laura Zahn Pohl
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NAPERVILLE, Ill. -- The entryway to Ross Gourley's new dorm suite at North Central College includes a large closet for coats and backpacks, spacious enough to please any suburban homeowner. The bay window with vertical blinds frames the entertainment unit and fish tank, while two love seats form a comfortable "L" for studying.

"This weekend, we're going to buy a table and chairs for the kitchen," said Gourley, 21, of Plainfield, Ill. "This is like living in an apartment."

Through a lottery system, Gourley and three friends snared a choice end unit in the new townhouse residence hall, which officially opened Feb. 12. Many of the 90 residents were living temporarily at a former convent owned by Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Located at Loomis Street and Chicago Avenue, the new facility was designed to look like a row of town homes to complement Naperville's historic neighborhood.

The 20 units contain amenities unknown to most dorm dwellers. Many are arranged on two floors, with a spiral staircase joining two upper bedrooms with a living area and bedroom downstairs. Residents can use the small kitchens in their units to supplement dining hall meals. Bathrooms are private, replacing communal shower rooms and rows of toilet stalls.

"There are apartments in the area, but they're expensive," said Melissa Moore, 20, a town home resident from Manitowoc, Wis. "This allows upperclassmen to stay on campus through the holidays or over the summer, because this is their home."

The new town homes will probably be available for year-round living in 2001, Hamen said. "All in all, the defendant used his home computer to leave a trail of cybercrime from coast to coast," U.S. Attorney Donald Stern said in a statement. The defendant gained illegal access, causing substantial business loss, defacing a Web page with hacker graphics, copying personal information or, in the case of a NASA computer, effectively seizing control.

Prosecutors said there was no disruption to the nation's defense, no interference with satellite control and no improper use of information.

This is not Iffin's first brush with law enforcement. He was charged with hacking the Interior Department's site last year. And in August, he was charged in Seattle with a computerized attack on Zebra Marketing Online Services, an Internet service provider in Bainbridge Island, Wash. Prosecutors in that case said the company sustained "a significant loss of business."

Northeastern University officials said they have been cooperating with law enforcement since last fall, when they discovered Iffin had copied classified information about students, faculty and alumni.

"c'mon, let's go study... right now... it'll be fun."
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Time!!

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Driving on campus causes big headache

BETH SHAW STAFF WRITER

Driving around campus the other day I noticed a feeling of deja vu. It was really strange. As cars pulled out in front of me and darted around the speed limit, I realized where I had gotten the feeling before. I had felt this same annoyance and road rage in my high school parking lot.

For some unknown reason college students seem to revert back to their days of being a new driver. Cutting people off, tailgating, and flipping birds has somehow come back into play three to five years after getting a license. Now I know there are guys outs there claiming that it is only female drivers, but come on, I have seen some of the manliest men swear at me in the lane.

I live in a well known college apartment complex, let's just say it isn't known for it's peaceful calm environment. The driving around this area is probably ten times as bad as on campus. Apparently, no one knows about the speed traps or about the fact that Americans drive on the right side of the road. Yep, that's correct, we drive on the right side.

We can all understand being in a hurry to get to class or to get home, but endangering the lives of others is without a doubt, out of the question. Not only could you hurt someone else, you could hurt yourself. This is all pretty obvious information, but I don't remind you guys who will.

I am so glad to finally get this off my chest, but what is the deal with stealing parking spaces? Hi, um hello? Can you see that I am sitting here with my blinker on? Wait I think I just heard all of you yell "Hey, I hate that tool!" I just cannot understand why a person would do that. Maybe it's just me, but is getting a parking spot really that important. How much technology you have is almost a status symbol in our culture. With new inventions popping up every day no one knows what is next to come. Let just hope it doesn't take over the world.
The church of Paula Cole

Pablo Silva
Entertainment Editor

WMMO 98.9 FM wrapped up its Free Concert Series last Friday with a short 1-hour set played by the Paula Cole Band.

The series that kicked off on Feb. 5 with legendary West Coast lowriders War, attracted local residents to the Church St. Marketplace with the promise of good performances for an unbeatable price — free.

The Berklee College of Music graduate stepped on stage along with schoolmates and collaborators of 11 years, Jay Bellerose on the drums and guitarist Kevin Barry and played hits from her 1994 effort Harbinger, Grammy-nominated This Fire and the latest self-produced Amen.

Hits like “Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?” and “I don't Want to Wait,” out of the Dawson’s Creek soundtrack, were sure shots to keep the large audience singing along for the rest of the evening.

Cole, who was invited to support singer/composer Peter Gabriel's world tour in 1992-93, is no stranger to success. This Fire topped both MTV and VH1 charts and was nominated to nothing less than 7 different Grammy categories, including one for producer of the year.

Cole was the first female producer to be nominated to that category.

In Amen, Cole goes beyond the boundaries of her own music trying different approaches to songwriting and producing. Cole, a closet hip-hop fan, enlisted old school Gang Starr’s DJ Premier and Tionne “T-Boz” Watkins of TLC for the needed extra kick.

“I love Gang Starr and was so excited to have someone ‘old school’ and authentic contributing to the album,” said Cole during recent interview. Premier scratches on both the album’s stunning title track and on “Rhythm of Life,” a song which features Paula alternating between rapping and singing.

“I’ve never done that on a record before, but I love hip hop and just decided to go for it. I did do sort of a bare bones talking part on ‘Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?’ but I think it sounds better when you all a little ‘flava.’ I don’t care if I get criticized for it, that’s what moves me.”

Cole left the large Orlando audience with a sweet after taste and promised to come back for a much anticipated show at Orlando’s House of Blues in the near future.

Next month Cole and her boys are off to playing Tokyo and Osaka, in Japan and then a short stop in Mexico before coming back to the U.S.

PHOTO BY PABLO SILVA

Cole introduced schoolmates/collaborators, Jay Bellerose and Kevin Barry.

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UCF gets a taste of classical

LISA APPLEGATE
STAFF WRITER

Anyone who doesn’t already have a profound love for classical music has never seen dedicated, professional musicians performing in a live setting.

Those fortunate enough to have heard about and then attended a concert by the Arman Ensemble can appreciate this seldom-mentioned art form.

The Arman Ensemble features Deniz Arman Gelenbe, Constantin Bogdanas, and Dorel Fodoreanu who play the piano, violin, and cello, respectively.

They formed their trio in Paris and have been astounding their audiences for the past fifteen years, most recently at our very own music rehearsal hall this past Wednesday night.

Their chemistry was nothing short of miraculous, as if they were born to play these beautiful instruments together in one womb.

From love to pain, hope to fear, and new beginnings to foreshadowed demise, these artists painted an emotional portrait in their audiences' mind using classical music perfected with grace and refinement.

"The cello seemed to represent tension, the violin fury, and the piano provided us with a passionate resolution," said student Missy Nordstrom about the first half of the concert, "I've never heard these pieces performed so well before."

The University of Central Florida's Chamber Arts Series, founded by UCF faculty member Ms. Gelenbe, was gracious enough to allow students with school identification into the show free of charge.

This collaboration invites artists from all over Europe to perform here. This past fall it was the Talich Quartet (from Prague), and this spring will feature the Haydn Quartet (of the Netherlands). In spite of all this, there were only 20 students at the event.

Those who wish to take advantage of this opportunity to see a talented musical performance and be exposed to cultural ambiance are encouraged to do so at the Series’ next recital on Sunday, April 2 at 3 p.m.

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George Henderson, author of Our Souls to Keep, had me, as a white liberal, pegged before I read the first page. Unfortunately, he didn’t know how to communicate with me, which was the stated intention of his book.

“Even white liberals, while they do not trivialize the issue of slavery.....wish blacks would just celebrate their culture and stop being obsessed with their past,” Henderson wrote in the first chapter. He is right, to a certain extent.

I do feel that as Americans, both black and white, we should concentrate on changing our society by eliminating his definition of race as “a wall between blacks and whites.”

The past should serve as a warning, not as an unpayable debt. It is at that point that any similarity between my views on race relations and the views he attributed to “white Americans” ends.

This discrepancy results from his tendency to overgeneralize the views of “white Americans” and “African Americans”. While I think he did an excellent job summing up the barriers that exist in a society comprised of a variety of races, I don’t think his proposed solution to ending those barriers is probable.

He suggests that white Americans become more knowledgeable, and thereby more concerned, with the culture of black Americans. I wish this attitude was possible, but I don’t think anybody can condition themselves to care more for a person who is not in their immediate family or race than they naturally do.

Caring about the world their children will grow up in is a different matter.

For this reason, I feel that his excellent writing style should have been directed at a more specific solution than changing the thought process of “white Americans.”

What about rewriting the history books? Fully educating underclass blacks and whites? Changing the culture of America to accommodate everyone, regardless of skin color?

Instead of using recent data, or stories from real life, he composes several fictive conversations between whites and blacks that ultimately stereotype both races.

These mini-stories, though they ultimately undermine his attempt to demolish a racial communication barrier, do show a wonderful skill in storytelling.

I would love to read Henderson’s autobiography; the few, brief pages where he outlines his childhood were my favorites. Or, if that project is too limiting, I’d like to see a collection of personal anecdotes from blacks and whites that illustrate the racial barrier.

Convince people of the severity of the problem, then propose solutions that involve both races.

If we can work as a nation, not a race, to end segregation, discrimination, and racial tension, then we won’t be keeping our souls, we’ll be sharing them.
Chuck Shepherd's
NEWS OF THE WEEK

LEAD STORIES

Cynthia Lane told reporters in February that she would file a civil suit against the Ontario Human Rights Commission because Windsor Regional Hospital had labeled her Down syndrome child as "FLK," which several health care personnel told reporters she was a commonly used term meaning "funny looking kid." Said the hospital's chief of pediatrics, "A lot of parents disagree with the term.

State-of-the-art veterinary care was described in a January New York magazine story on Manhattan's Animal Medical Center, including kidney dialysis (at $55,000 a year), heart interruptions, hip replacements, anterior-cruciate ligament repairs, root canals and brain surgery. CPR on small animals (such as, witnessed by the reporter; a pet rat) consists of placing the animal's head inside a doctor's mouth. The New York Times reported in January that veterinary care flourishes in Canada because the private sector runs it, unlike human health care; one man, long wait-listed for an MRI at Ontario hospitals, quickly booked time at an animal hospital.

Lost Words

"Who wants old ugly Kevin Green, anyway?" uttered by a 17-year-old Atlanta woman who was then shot to death by Kevin's other girlfriend, who was convicted in December. "Make me stop being a Christmas caroler!" uttered in December by a 78-year-old Menlo Park, Calif., man who was then strangled by his roommate. "I killed your dog," uttered tauntingly by a 37-year-old woman to her forgiving husband, who then shot her to death, according to his December confession; she had already admitted having an affair with an old boyfriend.

Compelling Explosions

Former pastor Eric Daniel Harris, 37, pled guilty in November to the 1996 arson that burned down the Kentucky Missionary Baptist Church in Saline County, Ark. According to a federal prosecutor, Harris said he did it because "there was a division among church members, and they needed a project to unify them." In October, a Pennsylvania Commonwealth Health Court accepted driver John Carlin's argument that it was impossible for him to comply with the police's Breathalyzer demand because he had to urinate so bad that he could not blow firmly into the device. Said Judge Rochelle Friedman, "The difficulty of such a task is obvious," Officers had denied Carlin a restroom break until he consented to make the standard two blows; the first registered 0.16 (over the legal limit), and he refused to take the second.

According to reports of an NCAA investigation published in the Knoxville News-Sentinel in February, an official in the University of Tennessee English department last year claimed that a star football player plagiarized a class paper, but the university concluded that an athletic department tutor had merely misinterpreted the federal Americans With Disabilities Act. The athletic tutor said she thought the act allowed a student with a learning disability to talk to her about a classroom topic and that the tutor could then explain it to the student.

Not My Fault

Jack Ramsay, who is a member of the Canadian Parliament and who was convicted in November of the 1969 attempted rape of a 14-year-old girl while a member of the Mounted Police, said the charge "would never have happened" if she had not let him see her panties. Ramsay admitted recently that while questioning the girl as a crime victim in 1969, he needed to know whether she understood the concept of sexual intercourse and thus asked her to demonstrate it. Ramsay said it was then that he removed her jeans that he caught the fatal glimpse of her panties. (Ramsay has been visited from the Reform Party but has not resigned his seat.)

In August, a New York woman and a Massachusetts woman received huge windfalls to their checking accounts due to data-processing errors, and now both are fighting to keep the money, in both instances claiming "human incompetence." Susan Madakor, 40, has spent $230,000 of her $700,000 that should have gone to a United Nations environmental agency, and retired Continentel, Mass., schoolteacher Joan I. Phillips has spent most of the $800,000 accumulated since 1990 when her pension checks mysteriously increased from $800 a month to $8,000.

People Who Are Not Like You and Me

Joseph Motyka, 32, was arrested on Jan. 1 in Chicago and charged with child endangerment because he, not content with a firecracker celebration of the New Year, had brought home a quarter-stick of dynamite. Motyka's 3-year-old daughter discovered it and put it into a candle, and the resultant explosion took off her right hand and caused hearing and vision loss.

Hand in Pocket Then in Days

Matthew Harley, 27, sentenced to prison on weapons charges in 1995, surrendered at a courthouse in Portmouth, Va., but was sent home, where he continued with his life until September 1999, when authorities finally came for him. And Doris Preston, 74, sentenced to five years' minimum for arson in 1991, went home in Columbus, Ohio, but was not out 24 hours until September 1999. (And in August, parole-violating rapist Gerald Bennett, 30, tried politely to surrender at the police station in Glenolden, Pa., but was turned away because of a records glitch and remained free for six more days, during which time, according to police, he killed one woman and raped another before being caught.

Least Competent Criminals

Miguel Avadas-Rivera, 28, was arrested in Fairfax, Va., in November after being found screaming in pain in a car, his hand had gotten stuck in the dashboard as he tried to steal the stereo, and he had broken three of his fingers. And Jimmy Cooksey, 36, also was discovered screaming in pain in October: sheriff's deputies in Dallas said he had tried to steal electricity by connecting powerline wires with a homemade pole, but took 50,000 volts, burning him so badly that he lost both legs and is still hospitalized (though no criminal charge was filed).

Also, in the Last Month...

A couple parked in a Loudoun County, Va., nighttime lovers' lane was so startled by an approaching sheriff's cruiser that the man abruptly drove off, accidently right into the Potomac River before being rescued. A 7-year-old girl was stabbed 25 times (not life-threateningly) by a playmate enacting Chuckie in "Child's Play 2," which he had seen three days earlier (Brasilia, Brazil). A racist sentenced to two life terms plus 110 years asked the judge for a sex change, saying, "I can't do that much time" (Prince George's County, Md.). A drug-dealing couple were arrested for trying to collect a $40 debt by dashing a guy out a window with the same music video (Evansville, Ind.). A math teacher was arrested for forcing a 13-year-old boy to take his classroom break in a classroom trashcan (Montgomery, Ala.).

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 181937, Tampa, Fla. 33687 or WorldCom­ puters.com or go to www.WeirdNews.com.
Dear Nancy,

My neighbors are constantly playing their music too loud. I have to turn up the volume on my TV almost all the way to hear it, and sleep is out of the question until after midnight. I've pounded on the wall a few times and it didn't work. I've thought about talking to them face to face but I don't want a confrontation. What do you think?

- Noisy Neighbors

Dear Noisy,

If you're counting beats instead of sheep and singing along to the words through the wall, it's time to put the neighbors in check.

And as usual Nancy has a number of ways to accomplish this. You choose the one that works best for you:

1. If and whenever they're not playing music call and ask them to turn it up because you're going through withdrawal.
2. When they are playing their music call and request a song.
3. Bust through the wall like Hulk and turn it down yourself.
4. Break into their apartment and steal their stereo (when they're not home).

Of course you could do it the conventional way (which will probably be the most effective and keep you out of jail). You could knock on their door and ask them politely to turn it down. I also suggest that when you do this play it cool. You don't want to sound like a person they can push around. You have to let them know you mean business so don't squeak or snort or talk in a puny voice.

And DO NOT tell them you're trying to study — that's just too dorky. And will most likely result in them playing their music increasingly louder.

Dear Nancy,

Lately all I do is sleep. I have a thousand things that I could be doing and things I'd like to do, but I don't have the energy. I find it a challenge to get out of bed in the morning and a lot of the time I'm late to work because of that. A friend asked me if I was depressed the other day and I said I didn't know. How do you tell?

- Too Tired

Dear Too Tired,

Get a grip, you're not depressed or you'd know it. So stop listening to The Cure and examining yourself in the mirror looking for clues because you're fine.

You might not like your job and in that case you are not alone. But you have to work so, suck it up and get there on time. Exercise is especially important it gets the chemicals in your brain working (runner's high is not a myth).

There's also foods like peanut butter and bananas that are supposed to give you energy.

Unless you have a life threatening disease you have no excuse to stop whining and get out of bed.

The Outdoor Festival will take place on “The Green”, March 21, 2000 from 10am - 3pm. It is open to the UCF community. Mark your calendars! We'll see you there!
Treat yourself some Bacco

PATTY CANEDO
ASSIST. ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

For the past seven years Bacco Ristorante Italiano has featured delicious Italian cuisine served by a warm, friendly staff. Roberto Bozzalino and Liliana Badamo, owners and chiefs of the restaurant, have been recognized for this not only in Orlando but throughout the country.

Bacco's serves savory southern and northern Italian dishes, which are made fresh in the restaurant every day. It is for this reason that in 1996 and 1997 Florida Trend named Bacco's one of the top 200 restaurants in the country and Zagat Survey named it one of the top ten for '96, '97, '98 and '99.

Eclectic Gourmet Guide of Orlando '99 stated that the restaurant "distinguishes itself with authentic dishes expertly prepared."

But Bacco's has not only been recognized for its marvelous food, but for its delightful service as well. In 1997 Entertainment awarded Bacco's the Members Choice Award for "Friendliest Service."

In fact the owners not only help prepare the food but they walk around the restaurant greeting and chatting with guests, as well as serving them.

Along with an attentive staff, Bacco's provides a casual, home-like atmosphere.

Liliana Badamo said that she used to entertain guests quite often. "The restaurant is like a second home to me," she said. Since the restaurant is "like a second home," she has incorporated that ambience in Bacco's with beautiful Italian decor from her own home and antiques that she has brought over from Italy.

Every month the menu is changed to feature several dishes from the various northern and southern regions of Italy.

For this month, dishes varied from veal cutlets, filet mignon, pork tenderloins, duck legs, a medley of seafood prepared over linguine and various pasta entrees, as well as a Crepe appetizer and another type of appetizer.

The Crepe appetizer for the month was a fresh mushroom shallot served in the creamiest goat cheese sauce with zesty Italian herbs surrounded by a soft delicate dough.

But make sure that you don't fill up on the outstanding appetizers, you'll want to save room for the amazing entrees.

For February the pasta entrees menu included a variety of different pasta dishes.

The Penne 4 Formaggi was made with fresh penne pasta and had a mozzarella, gorgonzola, fontina, and parmesan cheese sauce, which tasted even better than it sounds! The Rigatoni alla Bolognese is a northern Italian pasta entree.

As well as making outrageous dinners, Bacco's makes its own desserts from scratch. However, one thing that does not change throughout the month is the Prix Fixe Menu.

This menu lets you choose from a meal that includes soup or salad, a pasta entree and dessert or another meal that includes antipasto, side of pasta, entree, and dessert. So you get a great meal at a great price.

Bacco Ristorante Italiano is a wonderful restaurant that serves amazing food.

If you are looking for a great date place, I strongly recommend Bacco's not only for its warm, romantic atmosphere and excellent, authentic Italian cuisine but for its friendly service.

Bacco's is open for dinner every night and is located on University Blvd and Dean Rd., in the Publix Plaza.
Anthrax

Return of the Killer A’s

There is no doubt that Anthrax lives and dies for its fans. While most bands would release “greatest hits” packages to entice new fans, Anthrax put its collection together for the people who have stuck with the band through thick and thin. And now, fans of Anthrax can hear the best tunes out of its 17-year career with its latest release, “Return of the Killer A’s.”

Killer A’s is packed with the best songs from one of the most innovative yet underappreciated bands to ever storm the planet. From the opening classic “Bring The Noise,” featuring Chuck D and Flavor Flav of Public Enemy to their newer hits like “Inside Out,” Anthrax refuse to disappoint its fans. Though original plans for a dual-lead singer tour fell apart, current fans of Anthrax can hear what the band was like “Inside Out.” Anthrax set their egos aside for their fans and combined their vocal efforts for a collection together for the people who have stuck with the band through thick and thin. And now, fans of Anthrax can hear the best tunes out of its 17-year career with its latest release, “Return of the Killer A’s.”

Anthrax bridged the gap between rap and metal, ate “Loosers Lunch” with Metallica, and made heavy metal fun. Killer A’s reminds the world that Anthrax was an innovator; frequently imitated, but never quite duplicated.

Violent Femmes

Viva Wisconsin

Think of rebellion and you might think of the Violent Femmes. In an age of music excess — foot-high hairdos, over-produced albums, bombastic live sets, the band was bare bones. When spouting cliched love ballads was considered poetic, they were writing meaningful satires and critiques. While Poison and Winger mounted their groupies, the Femmes mounted a revolution.

18 years and 12 albums later, the Femmes are still relevant. Pop music has changed: false breasts have replaced fake hair, boy ballads have replaced power ballads and screaming female fans have been replaced by, well, more screaming female fans. And although the faces of good music’s enemies have changed, the fight against them is the same.

Viva Wisconsin, the Violent Femmes’ newest live release, epitomizes the spirit of this fight. Recorded live at six different venues in the cheese state, the album is 20 tracks of live, unadulterated Femmes: the way they were intended to be. For fans and Femmes virgins alike, the album is a must listen.

Wisconsin is a cayldnald of sweet Femmes songs. “Prove My Love,” “Add It Up,” and crowd favorite “Blinder In The Sun” each bring the house down. The previously unreleased songs “Life Is An Adventure” and “Sweet Worlds of Angels” are also played in top form. The band’s unique folk/punk approach to songwriting and performance are evident throughout.

The album appeals because it isn’t fake. With superficial songs and styles saturating our culture, it is refreshing to hear the Femmes do it the way they have for nearly 20 years. Viva Wisconsin is, like the Femmes, intimate and uncut; two guitars, two drums and three voices. Gordon Gano’s raw vocals accompany his equally crude, but amazing, guitar playing. Talented bassist Brian Ritchie follows Guy Hoffman’s precise meter. Five other musicians join the others on various songs, but the album’s true life comes from the original trio’s unique synergy.

Viva Wisconsin is nothing new. Fans expecting something new from the Femmes must wait for their soon-to-be-released album, Freak Magnet. This album is great not because it’s fresh, but rather because it isn’t. It is a history of the band’s greatest songs played the only way they should be: live and raw. It also epitomizes the band’s long revolt against the standards of pop music.

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Wed. March 8: A Knight of Music
"Big Sky" & "Sho Nuff"
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Thur. March 9: A Knight of Fun
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FROM THE SPORTS DESK (cont.)
FROM PAGE 32

Sunday at the USF Tennis Complex. With the loss the UCF men drop to 2-5 on the season. UCF got wins from the #1, #4 and #6 singles slots, but dropped a close match at the #3 where Fernando Martinez fell 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 to USFs Steve Capriati. South Florida won two of the three doubles matches, including an 8-6 victory at the #1 doubles where Tintori/Capriati downed UCF's Grayden Moore and David Moore 8-6.

The UCF men return to action on March 5 when they host Sienna College at the UCF Tennis center at 2:00 p.m.

McPherson Leads UCF To Second Best Finish

University of Central Florida golfer Jeff McPherson fired a three-round 217 (70-73-74) to place eighth at the Ron Smith/USP Invitational, helping the Golden Knights crack the top 10 individual and top five team standings for the first time this season.

McPherson hit 37 out of 54 holes at par to finish just six strokes behind Florida Southern's Jeff Klauk, the tournament champion. Freshman Ben Osbrach (Gainesville/Buchholz HS) finished at a six-over-par 219 to grab 15th place honors. His second round stroke count of 68 was the single-round lowest score of any competitor at the tournament.

"This was the best performance of the season, and by far the most consistent," said UCF head coach Brian Craig. "Jeff McPherson and Ben Osbrach stepped up their games, which we needed in order to be competitive as a team."

The two top 20 individual performances helped the UCF men finish at a season-high fourth place, tied with 50th-ranked Middle Tennessee State. Simon Sainz (Madrid, Spain/Arturo Soria HS) and Jeff Whitman contributed 224 and 228 to the team total of 886.

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Student participation is key to UCF's athletic success

David Marsters

It's official; gameday are the days when your friendly Central Florida Future writers were the only ones calling for more people to show up at UCF football games - now the outcry has spread to the national media.

ESPN's Chris Fowler, who hosts the network's College Football GameDay show, was the guest speaker for last week's 1999 UCF Football Awards Ceremony, and even he got into the fan-lobbying act. During his speech, Fowler asked how many students were there. He then addressed those students in attendance.

"You guys need to go back and spread the word," said Fowler. "As good as this program is progressing, there's still a lot of room for getting the students to drive the 12 or 15 miles to the Citrus Bowl, and that's a big step but one that has taken place at every program that comes from nowhere to somewhere. I hope you guys can go back and religiously convert others, because that would help the perception of this program around the country.

"Consider your fanhood challenged. Granted, fans need to know they are going to talk about UCF in the same breath as the Kansas State success stories and the Virginia Tech success stories.

College Football GameDay at the Citrus Bowl is not that farfetched. Some Friday night in the not too distant future we will be hanging out in Church Street Station waiting for a big Saturday game and a visiting team will come in with their fans and there will be 70,000 people to see the Golden Knights. I look forward to that day," - ESPN's Chris Fowler

Being in a conference means bowl game affiliation, national recognition, and above all else, money. To get into a top conference, however, a school needs to prove that it will be competitive and bring in a lot of fans. In addition, they have to have money. Last year, the Golden Knights were courted by some conference whose history coming in, the building process does take time, and it also takes the effort not only of the players and coaches, but also the boosters, the school administration, the community, and the fans. Fowler compared UCF's development to two schools that, 10 years ago were nobodies, but now have to be mentioned in any debate about the nation's top teams.

"I really think that by the end of this decade, you're going to talk about UCF in the same breath as the Kansas State success stories and the Virginia Tech success stories," he said. "This piece is here, the coaches are here, and the players are in this state, and you guys have laid the groundwork. I look forward to watching this thing develop."

So can UCF become a national power and create its own identity despite being in the shadow of college football's Bermuda Triangle - Florida, Florida State, and Miami? Stay tuned, says Fowler.

"College Football GameDay at the Citrus Bowl is not that farfetched," he said. "Some Friday night in the not too distant future we'll be hanging out in Church Street Station waiting for a big Saturday game and a visiting team will come in with their fans and there will be 70,000 people to see the Golden Knights. I look forward to that day.

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bright," Fowler told the crowd. "There’s no reason this program can’t go as far as you want it to. It has progressed with a courageous vision. Those of us that follow this sport admire that, and appreciate that kind of vision and the guts to play anybody anywhere.

"Obviously you didn’t get that breakthrough win you were looking for, but you will always be able to look back and remember taking on those giants week after week. And you’re going to get that breakthrough win; it’s going to happen."

Much to the audience’s delight, Fowler observed that UCF was most definitely robbed against Georgia last season, and looked forward to bringing his show to the Citrus Bowl sometime in the near future.

"College Football GameDay at the Citrus Bowl is not that farfetched," he said, comparing UCF’s development to the Cinderella stories of Kansas State and Virginia Tech. "I look forward to watching this thing develop."

Then it was time for the awards, which included the recognition of the seniors, introduction of the lettermen, Academic-Athletic awards, Strength and Conditioning Awards, Individual Team Awards, and the "Big Stick" award.

Quarterback Victor Penn took home the Offensive MVP Award, defensive lineman Justen Moore earned the Defensive MVP, and Ricot Joseph was selected as MVP of Special Teams. The Most Spirited award went to defensive lineman Josh McKibben, and graduating senior Marv Richardson won the Stuart Stipe Award, given to a walk-on that makes the most significant contribution to the team. The coveted "Big Stick" award, which is given weekly and at the end of the year for the biggest hit during a game, went to strong safety Elliot Shorter for his destruction of a Georgia Tech wide receiver.

Head coach Mike Kruczek also spoke, commending his players and focusing on next season.

"Tonight was about recognition," he said. "We talk about striving for excellence, and I think that these young men who have done that."

Kruczek had a special message for his graduating seniors, recognizing each of them individually and thanking them for their time at UCF.

"I want to thank you for your commitment and sacrifice to this program, this football team, the University, and the community," he told the seniors. "We’re bringing this program along as fast as we can, and you are to be congratulated for your contributions to the success of these past four years."

But Kruczek could not refrain from putting an emphasis on next season, which opens September 2 at national power Georgia Tech.

"The success of next year hinges upon what we do from today until that opening game against Georgia Tech," said Kruczek. "You know the kind of competitive level that you have to maintain and get to in the next six months. It takes a special commitment of time, effort, and emotion to get where we want to be. There’s a championship waiting for UCF, it’s just out there waiting."

The evening closed with a short message from UCF President John Hitt. It was a refreshing interlude from practice for the Golden Knight players, and a much-needed dose of football for UCF fans forced to wait until September for more regular season action.
UCF singles out coach to build softball program

Special To The Future

The University of Central Florida made a giant step toward reestablishing a women's softball program at the school Thursday as former Texas Tech coach Renee Gillispie has been singled out by the search committee as the recommended candidate for the coaching position. Her hiring will become official after the search is reviewed by University officials and a contract is issued.

Gillispie, who announced her resignation at Texas Tech this week, has spent the past nine years building the programs of three different schools. UCF is hoping to revive its own program, which started in 1975, but was disbanded after the 1980 season. Gillispie will have the remainder of 2000 and 2001 to organize the program, which will begin play in the spring of 2002, at a soon-to-be-built on-campus softball complex.

"Gillispie stood out because she has started programs at other schools and brought them to national prominence," said UCF associate athletics director Mary Kaufman. "Everyone we talked to noted that she has brought success to each softball program she has touched. She graduated from West Texas State University in 1984 with a degree in Recreation Administration. Gillispie set seven school records while pitching at WTSU, including records for career strike-outs and career wins."

Building the Texas Tech program, leading the Red Raiders to a 17th place national ranking in 1998 and a 24th place ranking the following year. Her teams posted a three season record of 115-79-1, garnering runner-up honors to the 1999 NCAA Regional Championship third place in the 1999 Big 12 Conference Tournament and fourth place in the 1998 conference championship.

Prior to her successful career at Texas Tech, Gillispie rebuilt softball programs at Bradley University and Joliet Junior College. She took over the BU team in 1993, transforming a 1992 record of 12 wins and 25 losses to 33 wins and eight losses in 1994. The 1994 team also finished second place in the Missouri Valley Conference and ranked fifth in the nation for winning percentage.

A member of the National Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association, Gillispie took conference coach of the year honors as head coach of the 1992 Joliet Junior College conference championship softball team. Gillispie inherited the team in 1991, just after they had posted a 2-29 win-loss record in 1990. She transformed the team into a NICAA Regional runner-up with a much improved 32-12 record in 1992.

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Arnold establishes UCF saves record

Travis Bell
STAFF WRITER

Junior Jason Arnold came to UCF from Melbourne High School with a reputation as a hard-throwing starting pitcher. When he chose to attend UCF, it already had three established starters but was in need of a closer.

Arnold fit the bill.

Knowing that relieving would be his best opportunity to make an impact as a freshman, he took the role as the closer and the rest, as they say, was history.

"The main adjustment you have to make (from starter to reliever) is a mental adjustment," Arnold said. "It took a while, but I was groomed pretty much the whole fall (as a freshman) for that. It didn't come as hard to me as it does to a lot of people. They always say that anybody can start, but not anybody can relieve."

Arnold has proved that he can pitch out of the bullpen and is one of a select few who can be a dominant closer. He proved it under pressure on Feb. 25, when he came into the game against Alabama in the ninth inning with an 8-5 lead. He struck out the first batter, and then forced a double play to end the game and give UCF a win over the fifth-ranked Crimson Tide.

In the process, Arnold etched his name into the record books as the most prolific closer in UCF history. He recorded his 22nd career save, surpassing Brian Huie's mark of 21 set from 1990-92.

"Going into this season I pretty much had an idea (of breaking the save record) after my freshman year," said Arnold, who recorded 12 saves as a freshman to earn Freshman All-America honors. "Going into this season I pretty much had an idea that I would be able to do it. And what a place to do it. Perfect time."

Arnold's 22nd save came in only his 24th career save opportunity, proving his dominance when he comes in to close out a game. Starter David Rankin says it's a comfortable feeling knowing that Arnold is there to finish the job.

"It's definitely a big plus because he's one of the few closers in the country that every time he goes in there you know the game is pretty much over," Rankin said. "It takes a lot of strain off the pitching staff because if you can get the ball to the seventh or eighth inning, then you know he's going to close it out for you."

This year, Arnold has only thrown 10.1 innings in the first 15 games, a far cry from last year when he was used in a variety of roles that became very difficult to handle. On two different occasions, he closed the first game of a double-header and started the next game. Other times he would come in relief in the fifth or sixth inning and throw the remainder of it.

"It was more difficult because you don't really know what to expect going to the park," Arnold said. "We just didn't have as many guys around me that were as good, so I had to step up my game and my innings."

And the efforts were felt in the latter part of the 1999 season. Arnold's velocity and control had decreased and teams were able to hit him better because he threw 57.1 innings in only 24 appearances, compared to 35.1 innings in 1998 in four fewer games.

"I had to pick up a lot more slack for the team, and it was a lot different than my freshman year when we had everybody," Arnold said. "It was awesome (in 1998) because I only had to throw one or two innings at the most."

He has proven that he is as dominant as any other closer in college baseball, especially when you consider he has career numbers that would intimidate some of the nation's best hitters.

In 59 games, he has a 2.29 ERA in 103.1 innings. The most telling numbers are his 128 strikeouts and the fact that he's held opponents to a paltry .202 average, including .088 this year.

"We knew he was going to be a good pitcher, and he came along at a time when he was able to play a role and be successful at that role," Coach Jay Bergman said. "Any team has got to have that type of mentality for a closer. And any team that has a closer like him has a chance to be successful."

Success has not come for UCF in terms of wins since Arnold's arrival. It had won three consecutive Trans America Athletic Conference championships from 1995-97, one of the main reasons why Arnold came to Orlando.

ARNOLD, Page 29
Arnold seeks out first trip to NCAA’s

FROM PAGE 28

But while all the personal accolades have come for him, his hopes of winning multiple conference championships have not come as quickly and easily.

“We haven’t even won a TAAC championship since I’ve been here,” said Arnold, a two-time first-team All-TAAC selection. “We’re talking about all this tradition, but we haven’t done anything since I’ve been here. It gets kind of frustrating when you win some games and you have good individual statistics but we’re not going anywhere. It’s time right now to get it done.”

He jokingly wonders what he has to do to help the Golden Knights win a TAAC title while he is here.

“It makes you just wonder, what am I doing wrong?”, Arnold said. “I think that all the guys have their mind set this year, and that goal (to win the TAAC) is extremely reachable. And our goals are a lot higher than that.”

Arnold will be draft eligible this year, and UCF knows what it’s like to be hit hard with underclassmen leaving for the big leagues, having lost seven juniors to the pros following the 1998 season. Scouts are waiting for Arnold to make the jump to the next level, but he says that winning a conference title is something that he wants to try and accomplish before leaving.

“I want to see how this year goes as a team especially,” Arnold said. “It’s going to effect my decision a lot on how the team comes together and how we fare. I’m really pretty frustrated when you win some games and you have good individual statistics now to get it done.”

Rankin says he is one of the two best pitchers he has seen, along with Michael Zigler of Florida State. And he feels Arnold has everything he needs to succeed at the next level.

“He's got three pitches that are unbelievable,” Rankin said. “It’s nice to throw 93 miles per hour, but at the same time he can rely on some other pitches too, which makes him even more effective. He’s got the complete package.”

Despite having the complete package, Arnold is still hesitant to say if he would definitely turn pro after this season. He saw last year that then-sophomore Dustin Brinson turned down the New York Mets to return to UCF for his senior year after putting up record-breaking numbers.

Arnold now has had his own record-breaking season, but he will take a lot of persuasion to get him to leave UCF.

“It’s going to have to be a good enough offer from a team where it’s going to outweigh the experiences and stuff that you have in a senior year and the value of graduating,” Arnold said. “It’s going to take quite a bit to get me out of here, but it could happen.”

So while UCF will have to play the waiting game to see if Arnold decides to turn pro, it will at least have him for the remainder of this season to make a run at regaining that TAAC dominance that brought him here in the first place.

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LSU in town for three game series

FROM PAGE 36

“This is a typical LSU team because they're going to have power-pitching and they're going to swing the bat,” Coach Jay Bergman said.

The Tigers are the highest profile team to visit Orlando since the University of Florida made a trip to UCF in 1994. The Golden Knights are 1-7 all-time against LSU with its only win coming in the middle of a three-game series in 1985. LSU has since won six straight over the Golden Knights.

Bergman hopes bringing a team the caliber of LSU to Orlando will draw the fans out to Tinker Field so that UCF has the same home intensity.

“We hope that the city of Orlando and the students can come out and support us,” Bergman said. “If they don't, then it’s like playing a road game.”
March 1, 2000

Central Florida Future • 30

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BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

UCF TAKES ONE AGAINST A TOP 5 PROGRAM

UCF (9-6) traveled to Tuscaloosa, Alabama in search of some respect against the No. 5-ranked Crimson Tide. It earned it Friday night, gaining an 8-5 upset win, but Alabama (8-4) came out the next two games wanting to prove why they were ranked fifth in the country. They did so in a big way, losing 18-4 and 10-5.

Tuesday was everything out of the series that we wanted to get because we wanted to play on the road against a Top 10 with in a very hostile with a good baseball environment, and that's exactly what we did," Coach Jay Bergman said. "We won one ball game, we got blown out, and we played hard in the third ball game. These are the carry over things you look for.

Sunday's finale was over early, much like Saturday's game, as the Crimson Tide scored early and often in route to a 10-5 victory over UCF. Justin Pope was the second consecutive UCF starter to struggle as he allowed four runs in the third and three in the fourth.

The Golden Knights made up the score respectable and never let up despite being down 8-1 through four innings. UCF scored two in the fifth and two more in the seventh to give itself some confidence heading into a three-game home stand against LSU.

"I thought we hit the ball real good, but we didn't hit the ball in the air and they got the ball up the air and the wind carried a couple of them," Coach Jay Bergman said. "We put ourselves in a position to win, and Pope did not pitch that bad of a ball game."

The loss Saturday resembled the drubbing that UCF took last year in Baton Rouge against LSU. It was over early because of an offensive thawout by Alabama, and it was the identical score (18-4) the Golden Knights lost to LSU.

David Rankin struggled early, lasting only 1.2 innings and allowing the left-handed pitcher, pitching, Bergman said. "I have no answer to it. We just have to play through it and figure out how we're going to hit left-handed pitchers. That's just a matter of the players doing what they're supposed to do."

GIVING UP THE LONG BALL

Heading into the Alabama series, UCF pitchers had thrown 105 innings and allowed only 105 hits and 58 runs, including a meager three home runs. Against the Crimson Tide, the Golden Knights staff threw 25 innings, yielding 33 runs on 42 hits. But Alabama crushed five home runs, including three off Justin Pope Sunday.

ETC.

On the eve of last year's 18-4 loss at LSU, Alabama beat UCF by the exact score Saturday. Outfielder Jason Graham was suspended for Sunday's finale against Alabama due to a team rules violation. Graham ended his 11-game hit streak Saturday with a 0-for-3 performance before being replaced by Mark Batia... Dustin Brisson extended his team-high hit streak to 11 games Sunday with a two-run double in the seventh inning... UCF is now only 5-for-28 with the bases loaded this season... UCF pitchers lost control in the final two games against Alabama, hitting eight Crimson Tide players... The Golden Knights helped Alabama set a record for the second weekend in a row that we've... 8-5 upset win, but Alabama (8-4) came out the next two games wanting to prove why they were ranked fifth in the country. They did so in a big way, losing 18-4 and 10-5.

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Women’s basketball team closes regular season

DAVID MARSTERS
STAFF WRITER

For the UCF women’s basketball team, a very long regular season is about to come to an end. The defending TAAC Champions have endured what Coach Gail Striegler calls “a merry-go-round of injuries”, losing seven of the 12 players on their roster to injury at some point during the season. Mixing and matching lineups on the court, the Golden Knights have struggled to find any measure of consistency and currently sit in next to last place in the conference standings. Their 7-19 record is the worst for the team since the 1992-1993 season.

But if the Golden Knights can put together four wins in four days, all can be forgotten with a Cinderella run through the upcoming TAAC Tournament.

Last week, the team broke a four-game losing streak with a 69-60 win over Troy State, but then returned to their struggles in a 49-33 loss to Mercer. This week, the team plays its last regular season game, a home matchup with conference foe Florida Atlantic (14-12, 12-5 TAAC) on Mar. 4. FAU is riding a four-game winning streak, and picked up an 88-87 win over Tusculum and a 56-5 win over Mercer last week. The Owls are the conference’s top offensive team at 73.2 points a game, but also are league’s worst defensive team, giving up 77 points a game.

Senior center Sheridan Andrews leads the way for FAU with 18.7 points and 6.5 rebounds a game, while senior guard Rita Mosley adds 11.1 points a game. The Owls offensive strength lies in their passing, as they have three players that rank among the TAAC leaders in assists. Their main outside threat is junior guard LaTorrina Mathews, who is seventh in the conference in three-point shooting.

Senior forward LaToya Graham and guard Khaliah Guillory, who have carried the team since the loss of center Camille Howard to a knee injury during that time, have three players that rank among the TAAC leaders in assists. Their main outside threat is junior guard LaTorrina Mathews, who is seventh in the conference in three-point shooting.

UCF well rely heavily on forwards LaToya Graham and Khaliah Guillory, who have carried the team since the loss of center Camille Howard to a knee injury during that time, as they have three players that rank among the TAAC leaders in assists. Their main outside threat is junior guard LaTorrina Mathews, who is seventh in the conference in three-point shooting.

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UCF currently sits in ninth place in the conference standings, and depending on the outcome of this week’s games, could play either Troy State or Jacksonville University in the first round of the TAAC Tournament. The Golden Knights swept Troy State in the regular season, including last week’s win and a 70-70 victory on Jan. 8. Jacksonville, however, took two close games from UCF winning 61-54 on Feb 17 and 57-56 on Jan. 15.

Regardless of their opponent, the Golden Knights will have to play to their full potential if they want to earn the TAAC’s bid to the NCAA Tournament. Striegler has maintained all season that when healthy, her team is among the best in the conference. The Golden Knights face an uphill battle, however, as winning four games in four days will require them to reach a level of consistency that they have not had all season.

“We’re just going to have to come to play every night, do whatever it takes to win each ballgame,” said Striegler. “You can’t look too far ahead, you’ve got to prepare for each one individually and try to win it.”

The Golden Knights have the edge in rebounding, averaging 41.1 per game to FAU’s 38.3. UCF will rely heavily on forwards LaToya Graham and Khaliah Guillory, who have carried the team since the loss of center Camille Howard to a knee injury during that time, but then returned to their struggles in a 49-33 loss to Mercer. This week, the team plays its last regular season game, a home matchup with conference foe Florida Atlantic (14-12, 12-5 TAAC) on Mar. 4. FAU is riding a four-game winning streak, and picked up an 88-87 win over Tusculum and a 56-5 win over Mercer last week. The Owls are the conference’s top offensive team at 73.2 points a game, but also are league’s worst defensive team, giving up 77 points a game.

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In an effort to maintain its national ranking among team scoring leaders and establish a strong defensive foundation for the future, the University of Central Florida men’s soccer team announced the signing of four local student-athletes to national letters of intent Monday.

Striker Bruno Santos (Orlando/Dr. Phillips HS) is foremost among them. Orange County’s leading scorer with 26 goals is 5-foot-11 and 175 pounds. He will join another forward with a keen scoring touch, Hugo Martins (Orlando/Dr. Phillips HS), a 5-foot-8, 150-pounder who has been Santos’ teammate since the age of seven, ranks just behind team scoring leaders and establish a strong defenser with 26 goals.

Together they should help refuel the scoring tal­ents that the Golden Knights lose this year with the graduation of stars Heikki Ritvanen (Espoo, Finland/Makelanrinteen Lukio) and Ari Nurmi (Helsinki, Finland/Hamshkyyn Lukio), who combined for about 69 percent of UCF’s goals in 1999 and paced the Golden Knights to sixth place in the NCAA Division I rankings at 2.84 goals per game.

"These players have proven they can score at the club and high school levels over the last four years," says Winch. "They will be looked upon to score immediately at the college level to compen­sate for the 43 goals lost to graduation."

All-State candidate Nick Ascenzo (Oviedo/Oviedo HS) gives UCF an excellent option at backup goalkeeper, a position at which the Golden Knights were caught short this past season. The 6-3, 200 pound neminder averaged 17 shutouts per year the last four years. The leader for a Class 4A Region 1 Finalist squad, Ascenzo backstopped a player run that ended with Friday’s overtime loss to Orange Park. "Nick is very vocal back there. He dominates in the box and reminds me of [Miami Fusion keep­er] Jeff Cassar," says Winch.

The Golden Knights look forward to senior leader­ship from (wo-time All-TAAC) keeper Antti Laitinen (Vantaa, Finland/Makelanrinteen Lukio). Junior striker Remi Hariz (Vestby, Norway/Vesbyfredvengeskole) will be able to move back to his natural position from midfield and improve on his 13 points of 1999 as a go-to man.

Women’s tennis defeats FAU

The University of Central Florida women’s tennis team defeated Florida Atlantic 8-1 in Tennis action Sunday at the UCF Tennis Center. The win improves the Golden Knights to 6-2 overall and 3-0 in TAAC play.

UCF swept all three doubles matches and won five of the six singles matches to defeat the Owls. In the singles #1 UCF’s Veronica Widyadharma fell to FAU’s Kristin Jordan 6-2, 6-2 for her first loss of the year after seven straight wins to open the season. The win comes after the Golden Knights defeated Rollins 9-0 at the UCF Tennis Complex on Friday afternoon.

UCF returns to action on March 2-3 when they travel to Dallas, Texas to take on SMU and then TCU. Both matches are slated to start at 2:00 p.m.

Men’s tennis falls at USF

The University of Central Florida men’s tennis team fell 4-3 to South Florida in Tennis action...
**TAAC tourney awaits Knights**

Junior Joey Coo has stepped into the starting lineup and will have to play big to give the Knights a good chance in the TAAC Tournament. Because of injuries, the 6-foot-4 Coo is the team’s power forward.

The Knights out-scored JSU 39-26 in the second half of that victory, erasing a 46-35 lead with 15:39 remaining. UCF scored the game’s final seven points, holding the Gamecocks scoreless for the final three minutes of the contest. Gurley couldn’t match his performance in the first outing against the Knights, scoring just four on two-of-nine shooting and committing five turnovers. He missed each of his six 3-point attempts.

UCF needs a carbon copy of their final fifteen minutes against the Gamecocks to be successful in their quarterfinal rubber game. The Knights must overcome lack of height; depth that sums it up pretty nicely. With the loss of Roy Judd, depth, UCF is left without much in the post, as Paul Reed and Darvin Cranberry have to do all the dirty work. The team must rebound collectively and scrap for every loose ball, rebounds included. Stewart must dominate offensively, and Jason Thornton must regain the form from beyond the arc that at one point had him as the nation’s second most prolific 3-point shooter.

UCF must overcome lack of height, depth

The team’s small lineup should create mismatches on the offensive end, and Coach Kirk Spieraw has proven to do his best work in tournament play, stressing execution to win three in three days.

**Weaknesses:** Lack of depth. Lack of height. That sums it up pretty nicely. With the loss of Roy Leah for the season, UCF is left without much in the post, as Paul Reed and Darvin Cranberry have to do all the dirty work. The injury problems have also robbed the team of its depth, which could doom the Knights if players’ legs start to give way.

**Tournament keys:** UCF must play smart and play with the level of intensity that helped them gain short-handed wins against Samford and Jacksonville State during the final homestand of the season. The team must rebound collectively and scrap for every loose ball, rebounds included. Stewart must dominate offensively, and Jason Thornton will have to regain the form from beyond the arc that at one point had him as the nation’s second most prolific 3-point shooter.
TAAC has five teams capable of winning NCAA bid

TONY MEJA
SPORTS EDITOR

This week’s TAAC Tournament has a chance to be one of the best in recent memory, as the top five seeds, including the University of Central Florida, all have a realistic chance of winning three games in a row to earn the tournament championship and the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The conference race has seen two teams who finished near the bottom of the standings a year ago surge to the top this year, with Troy State actually gaining a share of the conference crown, and Jacksonville State, UCF’s quarterfinal opponent, remaining in contention until the final week of the regular season. Georgia State also gained a share of the conference title, winning their last five games, including a 78-75 beating of the Golden Knights to end the regular season. Samford enters with wins in six of its last seven games and finished third in the TAAC despite losing five more conference games than it did last season. Throw in a UCF team that has beaten each of the top five seeds except Troy State and has the athleticism to compete, and it’s anybody’s ballgame. Even upset-minded Campbell, Sutton, and Mercer can end somebody’s season prematurely given the chance.

Here’s an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the five favorites involved and what they have to do to win the tournament:

No. 1 TROY STATE

Strengths: Point guard Derry Golden can take over a game like no other player in the conference and is a virtual lock for Player of the Year Honors. His ability to control the action will be critical to the Trojans’ success. Another strength is the team’s 3-point shooting ability, with their percentage ranking among the national leaders. Matt Holman, Tote Christopher, and sixth man Robert Rushing can all ignite rallies with their perimeter shooting.

Weaknesses: Golden can’t afford to get into foul trouble because guard Nelson Daniels has not logged significant minutes behind him this season. The Trojans closed the regular season with a 70-49 loss at Samford, which was good example of what happens to Maestri’s team when Golden plays poorly. He hit just one-of-seven shots and dished out just three assists. For the season, he averaged over 17 points and six assists to lead the TAAC in both categories.

Tournament key: Get Golden to solid starts early, and hope one of the three rifleman can supply a scoring boost from the outside. Post players Donnie Pemberton and Jacqua Jenkins must produce, as their little depth behind them.

No. 2 GEORGIA STATE

Strengths: GSU boasts the most athletic talent in the conference. Anton Reese, Kevin Morris, and Sheriard Long each started on teams that participated in the SEC, ACC, and Big East tournaments, each can take over a game when things get stagnate. This is very important in a tournament setting. Lefty Driesell has his team playing solid basketball, as their is little depth behind them.

Weaknesses: Turnovers. The Panthers can’t afford to be careless with the ball or they’ll find themselves out of the mix with a quickness. Morris earned the final Player-of-the-Week award, and has come around after a poor start to the season, but is still capable of losing his head and creating easy baskets for the opposition.

Tournament key: The Gamecocks must knock down the outside shot and continue the sound rebounding edge they enjoyed for most of the regular season. With three freshmen seeing significant minutes, and a sophomore point guard running the show, they must keep their wits about them. To his credit, Willie, is unflappable and should be the least of Tuskegee’s concerns.

No. 3 SAMFORD

Strengths: Samford comes in with the confidence of having been there before. Last season, the Bulldogs rolled through the regular season with a 15-1 mark, but weren’t the clear-cut favorite to win the crown, as Georgia State and UCF still got the most consideration. However, Tillett’s team carved up the competition and cruised into the NCAA’s. They’ll use that same system and veteran savvy in their quest for a return trip.

Weaknesses: The Bulldogs’ invisibility is gone, and they have to fight for everything they get. The team has for some reason lost their room for error, and must execute at maximum efficiency in order to get by the three games in three days.

Tournament key: Marc Salyers has been steadily all season and must continue to play like the TAAC’s top big man, while seniors Reed Rawlings, Will Daniel, and Mario Lopez must have solid performances to extend their collegiate careers by at least one more postseason game. A performance off the bench like they got a year ago from shooter Chris Weaver wouldn’t hurt either.

No. 4 JACKSONVILLE STATE

Strengths: JSU may be the deepest of any of the teams in Jacksonville this week. The guard combination of Rashard Willie and Marlon Gurley is formidable one capable of putting a lot of points on the board, but the most improved strength lies upfront, where undersized Mike McDaniell and Nebraska transfer Brazi Harriman have become two of the league’s top rebounders and most effective post tandems.

Weaknesses: Gurley and Willie are capable of disappearing acts, which could spell big trouble for Mark Turgeon’s team. The team is also completely untaxed in Division I tournament competition, having not qualified for last year’s tournament and having been ineligible from postseason play since coming over from Division II in ’96.

No. 5 UCF

Strengths: UCF can rely on its guard play, which is always pivotal during tournament play. Seniors Cory Perry and DeQuan Stewart have one last chance at an NCAA berth and will do their best to get it.

Tournament key: Play consistently and with lots of energy. The Panthers don’t shoot the ball well consistently, and if they did, this conference tournament would be a moot point, as they would be the clear favorite. They can still win without catching fire however, by simplifying hustling on both sides of the ball and relying on their sheer superiority in the talent department to gain the bid.

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EEO/AA
Golden Knights seeded fifth in TAAC Tournament

Toney Mejia
SPORTS EDITOR

Forced to scrap with an undersized line-up for the latter part of the regular season, UCF managed to get through it and earn the fifth seed. The coaches, winning a favorable draw in that it avoids Sanford and Georgia State, the TAAC's two hottest teams and pre-season favorites, until the finals.

"Certainly, Georgia State and Sanford come into the tournament as the two highest-seeded teams, playing the best basketball," Coach Kirk Speraw said. "It appears we'll avoid them as long as possible, but Troy State and Jacksonville State in the bracket are tough teams as well."

UCF split with opening opponent Jacksonville State during the regular season, and fell in both meetings against Troy State. However, the Knights' early-season struggles are now obsolete, as they now face the same predicament that faces each of the TAAC's top six seeds: win three games in three days or see your season end.

Simple as that.

The 2000 Bank of America Trans America Athletic Conference tournament gets underway on Mar. 1 in Jacksonville with the opening round of play-in games, pitting No. 8 Mercer against the No. 9 tournament host Jacksonville Dolphins. No. 7 Stetson takes on No. 10 Florida Atlantic in the second game of the evening, as the Hatters look to advance to the second round with winning a winless conference game. The Owls finished the regular season at 0-18 in TAAC play.

Thursday's quarterfinals will feature No. 3 Samford, the defending champion, facing No. 6 Campbell at 1 p.m., with No. 2 Georgia State playing the Stetson/Florida Atlantic winner following the conclusion of the first game of the day. The evening session of action at the Jacksonville Memorial Coliseum will start with No. 1 Troy State facing the Mercer/Jacksonville winner at 7 p.m., and conclude with the No. 4 Jacksonville State/No. 5 UCF matchup.

UCF played Jacksonville State well this season, blowing a double-digit lead at the Pete Mathews Coliseum in an eventual 90-83 overtime loss on Jan. 10. JSU leading scorer Marlon Garley matched Jason Thornton's and O'Quan Stewart's 28-point output, and hit a pair of 3-pointers in the final 20 seconds, the second of which forced the extra period.

Thornton tied the school record with eight 3-pointers in that game, but had his performance offset by Garley, who countered with six. JSU also got solid contributions from its frontcourt, getting 17 points and nine rebounds from Mike McDaniel and 14 points and 15 rebounds from Nebraska transfer Brant Harriman, who has emerged as the conference leader in rebounding, getting an average of 9.6 per game.

UCF got even and started its late season surge against the Gamecocks, winning at the UCF Arena, 68-64 on Feb. 17, rallying from a double-digit deficit of its own to pull themselves out of a two-game losing streak.

3Coach Kirk Speraw announced that big man Roy Leaf should be out for the next game, as he is going to undergo minor surgery on his knee.

Senior Devin Crumberry will have to continue his recent surge of solid play, giving the Knights a sound presence in the middle of the bench for UCF to make a legitimate run at the TAAC title in this week's conference tournament.

Knights take swing at second straight SEC foe

Travis Bell
STAFF WRITER

After battling through a three-game series against Alabama, the schedule doesn't let up this weekend as another SEC power faces the Golden Knights. The LSU Tigers make their way to Tinker Field for a three-game series beginning Friday, giving UCF another opportunity to test itself against a high caliber opponent.

This is the second straight season UCF will have played LSU after losing a two-game set in Baton Rouge last year. Following an 18-4 drubbing in the first game of the series, UCF managed a respectable 5-2 loss in the finale.

Fortunately for UCF, 18 current players faced the Tigers last year and know what to expect from the perennial national title contender. LSU lost one round short of the College World Series last year after losing both games in the Super Regional in Tuscaloosa.

Sophomore starter Justin Pope faced the Tigers last year and hopes this weekend's experience against Alabama will help the team get comfortable opposite SEC-caliber competition:

"We got to go on the road in front of a big crowd, and we played Alabama, who is great competition," Pope said. "Hopefully (playing Alabama) will help prepare the new guys for LSU."

LSU was ranked No. 8 in the preseason Baseball America poll and had risen to No. 3 last week. However, the Tigers have gone into a tailspin since rising in the polls after a 6-0 start.

They won two of three games against then-No. 17 Arizona State, but lost the final game of the three-game series to the Sun Devils starting a five-game losing streak that includes getting swept in a three-game series against Houston at home, which was the first home-sweep of LSU since 1988. Despite the Tigers' recent struggles, UCF knows its in for a battle.

Tiger senior Ben Simmons will have to continue his recent surge of solid play, giving the Knights a sound presence in the middle of the bench for UCF to make a legitimate run at the TAAC title in this week's conference tournament.

Awards show sheds light on football program's progress

David Marsters
STAFF WRITER

Amidst greating spring practices and a collective one-track mind on next season, the UCF football team turned their attention away from the future, looking back at last season for the 1999 UCF Football Awards Ceremony. Held at the UCF Arena on Feb. 26, the show was highlighted by a guest appearance from ESPN's Chris Fowler, and recognized last year's biggest accomplishments.

The ceremony was co-hosted by Jerry O'Neill and Marc Loyd, both radio personalities for Orlando's 540 The Team sports talk station, and began with a video presentation of last season's most memorable plays. Following the video, Fowler, who is the host of ESPN's College Football GameDay, spoke about his experiences with college football and the future of the UCF program.

"There's no doubt the future is..."