

HURRICANES

MAGAZINE

FALL 2023





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Dan Radakovich
DAN RADAKOVICH
VICE PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Welcome to the first edition of *Hurricanes Magazine*! *Hurricanes Magazine* is designed and produced to highlight many of the great stories surrounding Miami Athletics. In this issue we spotlight First Team All-American Safety Kamren Kinchens, volleyball standout Janice Leao, men's basketball newcomer Matthew Cleveland and our distinguished 2023 Football Ring of Honor class, among many others.

We had a terrific year in 2022-23 as our men's basketball team advanced to the first Final Four in school history, our women's basketball team made its first-ever Elite Eight, nine student-athletes won individual ACC titles and 13 Canes earned All-America honors. We're looking to build on that competitive success in 2023-24.

Thanks to our generous supporters we raised more than \$26 million last year, which helped us continue to provide the best resources and support for our student-athletes. We recently opened the Susan and Stephen Symons Basketball Training Center and will soon break ground on our new, on-campus Football Operations Center, which will benefit all 18 of our teams.

You can also support our student-athletes by contributing to the Canes Connection collective, which is rapidly building valuable partnerships with local businesses and connecting those businesses with our student-athletes. You can learn more about Canes Connection on page 46 of this edition.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Hurricanes Magazine* and I hope to see you cheering on the Canes throughout the fall season!

Thank you again for your continued support and Go Canes!

Dan Radakovich

Dan Radakovich
Vice President / Director of Athletics



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Finding His Voice

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Merdie Kinchens has always been proud of all six of her children.

But when her eldest son – goofy, fun-loving Kamren – stepped out of his comfort zone in a most unusual way last fall, Merdie was impressed, even if she was a bit taken aback.

Kamren Kinchens had just capped what would turn out to be an All-American season with a seven-tackle performance in the Hurricanes' final game of the season.

But the sophomore wasn't happy. Far from it.

And on that disappointing November night at Hard Rock Stadium, where Miami had just finished a 5-7 campaign with a loss to Pittsburgh, Kinchens did something out of character.

In a quiet locker room, surrounded by dejected teammates, the safety who'd long preferred to let his play speak for him, found his voice, and made it abundantly clear to everyone that he wasn't going to endure another season like the one he and the Canes had just weathered.

He loved his hometown program too much to let that happen again, and so, if anyone wasn't ready to do the work needed to make Miami significantly better, well, there would be no hard feelings if they wanted to leave.

Suddenly, Kinchens had embraced a new role: vocal team leader.

“For me, it was surprising because Kamren has always been like, ‘I’ll just do what I need to do for me and everybody else can do what they need to do for them,’ so, it was surprising. But it also made me very proud,” Merdie Kinchens said of that night. “It’s hard to talk to men and boys of your caliber and your age, where they’ll actually listen to you. For me, that just made me really proud to know that he was stepping up and saying ‘I want to be here. I want to make the program great. I want it, but I can’t do it by myself, so we all have to get on one accord.’”

Kamren Kinchens, a former four-star safety prospect out of Miami’s Northwestern High School, arrived at Miami two years ago a proven winner.

He was a three-time state champion in high school and proudly notes he didn’t exactly do much losing during his time with the Bulls.

But, because he was surrounded by so many talented, older teammates, he didn’t feel the need to step up as one of his team’s leaders. He was perfectly fine letting

others take on that responsibility.

During his first year at Miami, he didn’t feel comfortable speaking his mind, and because of his age, preferred to let older teammates speak, while hoping his work ethic and play on the field sent a message.

But last November, something finally clicked. Kinchens couldn’t hold back any longer.

After totaling a team-high 59 tackles and hauling in six interceptions, he was compelled to speak his mind. In doing so, he earned the respect not only of his then first-year head coach, Mario Cristobal, but his teammates, too.

“I thought Kam Kinchens said it best in the locker room as he left. He called up everybody and told them how much he loved them and that we’re going to get it done and anyone that can’t, or doesn’t want to be a part of that, move fast and get out the way,” Cristobal said after the Pittsburgh game. “That’s what it takes. That’s what it’s taken at Miami every single time, every single time Miami has been rebuilt.”

Said Miami receiver Colbie Young, “It was very heartfelt. It wasn’t fake. It was real. It came from his heart, and we all understood the message. We all understand what we have to do. We all got behind him, stood behind him and we respect him...It’s never easy to speak in front of a team, but I feel like everybody in that room, who’s either here or not here, felt his message and understood it to the maximum.”

In the months since, Kinchens has done his best to live up to the standard he set, both on and off the field.

He became the first current Miami player to have his name hung in the rafters of the Carol Soffer Indoor Practice Facility after multiple media outlets, including the Associated Press and *The Sporting News*, named him a first-team All-American.

He entered the season with a plethora of accolades, earning spots on the watch lists for the Thorpe Award and the Nagurski Trophy. He is both a preseason All-American and a preseason All-ACC selection.



Teammates and coaches note Kinchens is often the first one in the building and the last to leave anytime there are workouts, team meetings or practices to attend.

He studies film whenever possible and encourages his teammates, particularly his fellow safety and good friend James Williams, to join him.

And when he isn’t at Miami’s practice facility, in class, or spending time with his younger siblings, it’s not unusual to find Kinchens somewhere in the South Florida community, doing his best to help those in need.

In fact, while the Hurricanes were navigating training camp, Kinchens used his limited free time to provide school supplies for both teachers and students at his old elementa-

ry school, Little River Elementary, through his non-profit organization, Charms of Life.

He also spent part of the weekend before the season opener against Miami of Ohio feeding the hungry, delivering pizzas throughout Miami with teammates Kaleb Spencer and Jaden Harris.

Kinchens has also participated in beach cleanups, volunteered at the Miami-Dade Animal Shelter, packed holiday gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and has hosted his share of football clinics across South Florida, including at Gwen Cherry Park, where he himself played youth football.

He was recognized by the ACC and named a Top 6 for Service Award winner and in much the same way his play has been recognized,

Kinchens has been named to the preseason watch lists for both the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team and the Wuerffel Trophy, which is given annually to “the FBS player who best combines exemplary community service with leadership achievement on and off the field.”

For Kinchens, doing work in the community is a way of life. It’s as important to him as excelling on the field after his mother and grandmother – a former City of Miami employee whose focus was neighborhood enhancement – taught him the importance of helping others.

They’re lessons Kinchens has brought with him to Coral Gables, lessons he tries to share now with his teammates.

“Since freshman year, we’d be in the dorms and he’d give me a call and be like, ‘Let’s go feed the homeless,’ and he’ll take me,” Williams said. “And there are times, I’ll call him and say, ‘Let’s do this, let’s go do this for the community.’ We understand where we come from. We know little girls and little boys need it. They’re waiting on us to speak up. And when we speak up, it brings a light to the community, and they love it.”

Said Kinchens, “My grandma and my mother, we didn’t have the most. But any time we had extra, we found a way to give back. If it was extra clothes, giving it to Goodwill or just having some extra fries in a bag and you see somebody on the side of the highway, you know, you just give them some food...I didn’t have the best situation ever, but I made the most of it. You give those people hope...When you give back to them, a toy, a book, or anything, it just puts a smile on their face. You’re just doing it because you’re a human being.”

That same passion that drives him on the football field and in his community translates at home, too. Part of the reason Kinchens opted

to play for his hometown program was so that he could stay connected to his five younger siblings, Demetrius, Dontavious, Kai, Karter, and Dallas.

He’s a regular presence at his younger brothers’ football games and takes all their good-natured teasing about how they’re better than he is in stride. He’s there when his younger sister has cheerleading and dance tournaments.

And as often as possible, he spends time with his parents and uncles, all of whom he says helped build in him the work ethic that’s made him a force at Miami.

To be able to share his journey with all of them, Kinchens says, is a blessing.

“It means a lot to be here,” said Kinchens, who received offers from the likes of Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, LSU, Nebraska, Ohio State, Oregon, Texas A&M, Utah, Washington State, and plenty of other programs far and wide before choosing Miami. “If I had gone somewhere far, I wouldn’t be able to do things like be at their

games and events. None at all. I’d have to do it on a break and hope it matched up perfectly. Now, it won’t take anything but two hours of my day to go be there...

“I want to make sure I’m the best role model I can be, so they don’t miss a turn or go in the wrong direction. I want them to know that giving hard work and being great in school and off the field, doing stuff in the community, is the way to do things.”

Now, as he navigates his junior season, Kinchens has set his focus on a simple, singular goal: he wants Miami to be better and to find itself playing late into the season.

As a freshman, he saw his opportunity to play in a bowl game snatched away by a Covid outbreak that kept Miami from traveling to El Paso for the Sun Bowl. And last year’s disappointing finale kept the Hurricanes from qualifying for a bowl game.

Kinchens wants – and expects – better from himself and his teammates.

“I don’t want a regular bowl game,

like a 7-5 bowl game or an 8-3 bowl game. I want a New Year’s Six [bowl]. It’s very personal,” Kinchens said. “I think about that probably half the day. How can I make myself better? How can I make the secondary better? The defense? The whole team? I know the guys that came with me in the ‘21 class have the same mindset as me and they don’t want to lose. I don’t want to lose either.”

“Going into the year, we feel good coming from spring and summer. Everybody’s kind of jelling together to build this one unit, just hoping we can put it all together and make it work. It’s been a great journey and I just want to see it end up with a happy ending.”

His teammates and coaches want the same – for Kinchens and for themselves.

That fact was on full display when Kinchens suffered what appeared to be a scary-looking injury in the final minutes of Miami’s 48-33 win over Texas A&M in early September.

Though the safety had to miss the Hurricanes’ ensuing game against

Bethune-Cookman, Cristobal has indicated he will be back in Miami’s lineup soon enough.

But in his absence, more than one Hurricane felt called to follow Kinchens’ example, both on the field and in the locker room.

His leadership, teammates said, set the tone for moments like those.

“That’s our leader,” said Jaden Davis, a transfer from Oklahoma. “He’s the only one on the team with a banner in our indoor [practice facility]. He’s in there at 5 a.m., and he’s the last one to leave. That’s my guy. ...

“As soon as I got here, day one, what surprised me was that Kam called a players’ meeting and I’ve been places where you call a players’ meeting and some guys show up, some guys don’t, some guys straggle in. But he called a players’ meeting, and everybody was in the locker room 15 minutes before. Everybody was there on time. That was one of my first days here, before the summer, before we put in that grind. Once I saw that, I knew these guys were ready to work.”

Davis and the Hurricanes know their All-American leader has become a force in all he does. And like Miami’s coaches and fans, they’re looking forward to seeing what comes next, for him and for the team as a whole.

“He’s a kid that really doesn’t ever have a bad day,” Miami defensive coordinator Lance Guidry said of Kinchens. “He’s like an in-between player-coach. He’s very mature, like a coach. He doesn’t act like a kid with a lot of things...He’s a beautiful person. He never has a bad day. Even when you get on him, he never drops his head. He’s positive and upbeat. It’s refreshing.”

Added quarterback Tyler Van Dyke, “He knows what the standard is, and a lot of guys look up to him now as a true leader of our team, a true leader of the defense. He’s a special player, a special leader and I can’t wait to go to battle with him this year.”





Hurricane Pride: Mark Richt

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

It was a scene Mark Richt knew well.

Midway through practice on Greentree during preseason camp, the Hurricanes were on the move, headed out of the elements and into the safety of the Carol Soffer Indoor Practice Facility.

Once it became clear that move wasn't part of the Hurricanes' original schedule but was happening because Miami's lightning prediction system indicated conditions were ripe for a strike, Richt couldn't help but feel a bit of pride.

The former Hurricanes quarterback and coach – now an analyst with the ACC Network, which was on Miami's campus that particular day as part of its preseason coverage for the upcoming football season – had not only helped design the Hurricanes' indoor practice facility but was an integral part of helping it get built.

To now see that facility being used – in real time, as intended – was special.

"I can't tell you how many times we had to go to the Wellness Center, put our tennis shoes on, start practicing in tennis shoes – which is no good – and then 15 minutes later, it would clear up and you could go outside, but it was too late. You've wasted time," said Richt, who coached at his alma mater from 2016 through 2018. "Now, they never miss a day of preparation. And also, the benefits of an indoor being right next to your grass fields is the ability to start practice here, maybe do some drill work that would normally tear up your grass but doesn't tear up your field turf. Then you can get outside, do your work, and come back and finish inside. And if lightning strikes, you take, what, a five-minute transition and then you're back up and running? ... When you see it functioning as you hoped it would function, it's great."

The Hurricanes, who were in the midst of preparing for their Sept. 1 season opener against Miami of Ohio during Richt's and the ACC Network's visit, opened the Carol Soffer Indoor Practice Facility in August 2018.

One of the big reasons they were able to do that? The efforts of Richt, who along with his wife Katharyn, donated \$1 million toward the construction of the 90,000-square foot facility.

But the financial investment was far from Richt's only contribution.

The former coach spent countless hours helping design the facility, from researching the safety margins the building would need to allow the Hurricanes to practice at full speed to expanding the scope of the original project so that coaches' offices could be built into the facility, along with some expanded team meeting space.

And during his visit to Coral Gables, Richt shared more than a few moments with Soffer, whose family donated the lead gift that helped make the facility a reality.

Those moments, too, were memorable.

“Every time we’re in Miami, we always call Carol and try to set up a dinner, lunch or some time to spend with her because it became more than just a business relationship,” he said. “It’s a true friendship. We love Carol and we think she loves us, too.”

For Richt, connections like those are what make each return visit to Miami special.

As he made his way around the Hurricanes’ facility, he exchanged countless handshakes and hugs with former teammates, longtime friends and the new generation of coaches and players now wearing the same orange and green that have always meant so much to him.

The former coach had a front-row seat to that day’s practice, and he took full advantage, soaking up the opportunity to see how the Hurricanes were faring in their preparations for the season ahead, and chatting extensively with Miami head coach Mario Cristobal.

“As an analyst, you don’t just see Miami. You see 13 other schools and as good as these guys are practicing, as hard as they’re working, I’m highly confident they’re on the right track and great things are on the way,” Richt said. “But there’s other teams that are doing the same thing and you get to see that up close as an analyst. You know there’s going to be some really good competition in this league. Miami’s got a lot of the ingredients you need for success and I’m proud to say they’re my school.”

Said Cristobal of the opportunity to have Richt back on campus, “He’s a legendary figure in college football. Actually, the first clinic I went to when I first started becoming a GA was his clinic, talking offensive football way back in ‘97, ‘98. It’s an honor to have him here. His wisdom, the things that he sees in practice, the nuggets from a schematic standpoint, a culture standpoint, his insight, his natural feel for a team, things of that nature, that’s priceless spending that time out there with him.”

For Richt, the next few months will be an incredibly busy stretch.

The former coach will be a part of one of the ACC Network’s weekly signature shows, “ACC Huddle,” along with host Kelsey Riggs and fellow analysts Eric Mac Clain, EJ Manuel, and Eddie Royal.

“It’s teamwork, still. We need each other to have success,” Richt said of his work as an analyst. “If you put your egos at the door and everybody does their part, and does their share, everybody benefits. I think we have a good camaraderie and I think everyone is really sharp and they know what they’re talking about.”

Once the regular season is done in December, Richt is set to be formally inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, along with former Hurricanes offensive lineman Bryant McKinnie.

In between all of that, Richt said there will also be as much family time as he can muster, especially since his son Jon, his daughter-in-law Anna and their three children

live just down the street from him and Katharyn.

“It’s awesome. They live 10 houses down and we see them every day. They love us. They still think we’re cool,” Richt laughed. “We call it grandparent heaven.”

As busy as his days may be, though, Richt will, no doubt, also continue to keep an eye on the Hurricanes, watching from afar as Miami navigates a new season and looks to make an impact in the ACC and beyond.

He’s had the opportunity now to see the program as a player, as a coach and an analyst. And in ways big and small, Miami has long been a part of his personal journey.

For that, the former coach said, he is grateful.

“I was, obviously, an alum of the school and a player at the school and that meant something to me,” Richt said. “To come back as a coach and do something like [help build] this and have the success that we had...We had 15 wins in a row, the longest streak in America at the time. We didn’t finish, but we got where we could see the top of the mountain and I felt good about that.”

“It’s just nice to know that you’re welcome at a place like that and that we had something to do with that success for years to come.”





Getting to Know ... Janice Leao

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Last year, Janice Leao had the opportunity of a lifetime.

The veteran middle blocker was chosen by USA Volleyball to spend part of her summer training with the collegiate national team after excelling at a tryout that featured some of the nation's top players.

"I was just in shock," Leao said last year of the opportunity.

Turns out it wouldn't be her only stint with USA Volleyball.

Leao, who helped lead the Hurricanes to a berth in the NCAA Tournament last fall and earned first-team All-ACC honors after recording a career-high 356.5 points for Miami in 2022, was invited to train with the collegiate national team again this past summer.

Though she wasn't a wide-eyed rookie when she joined the team in Anaheim, California this time around, Leao was no less humbled by the opportunity and grateful for the experience that came with it.

"It just felt so surreal because it was my second time going and this time, they chose only 20 girls and the year prior, was 36," said Leao, who was also an All-ACC Academic selection last year and was one of 11 student-athletes honored at this year's Celebration of Women's Athletics at Miami. "So, just being part of a smaller number felt more intimate with the coaches, [getting] more attention from them. That was really special. I felt like I got more insight and more knowledge and more teaching from going this past year, so, it was really fun. And the group of girls, I think this year was definitely more competitive. I

just loved the experience because it showed me that I can be the volleyball player I want to be, especially getting the recognition I've been getting. So, it gives me more confidence going into the season. ...

"It just felt super special and great. I was grateful that I was there for a second time."

Hurricanes Magazine asked Leao to take us through her summer, what the experience meant to her and what she's looking forward to this season from Miami volleyball.

Here's what she had to say, in her own words.

Hurricanes Magazine: Last year, you spoke about how special it was to play for Team USA, not just for you, but for your family. What is it about that that is so meaningful for all of you?

Janice Leao: "My parents, they came from Cape Verde, so I'm first-generation here. I graduated already and having all these accolades and opportunities, especially with Team USA, kind of goes to show that the American dream for my parents is real and that they're accomplishing things through their kids, which makes me feel super, super special because of the sacrifices they made and the obstacles they had to endure just to get me here. So, I'm just super grateful that I have all of these opportunities. It's because of my parents."

HM: What do you think it meant to your parents to see you in the red, white, and blue a second time?

JL: "They're super proud, obviously. They loved talking about it with

their coworkers. I would talk to my family and family friends and they're always like, 'Oh my gosh, your family loves to talk about you and the things you've done and playing for Team USA.' I go on Facebook and see my dad posting all of the posts from Team USA and Canes volleyball and it feels so special that I'm making them proud, one way or another. Whether it's school, if it's volleyball, those are my main priorities and it's just special because of all the sacrifices. Cape Verde is a [developing] country. They don't have that many resources there, so they came here for a reason."

HM: That experience with Team USA and those volleyball players and coaches from all across the country, how do you think that's going to benefit you on the court this season here at Miami?

JL: "So, with less girls there than in the year prior, I got more training and more coaching than the year prior. There was more attention to each individual that was there. So, having that insight from different coaches at the D-1 level gives you more insight and knowledge of the game, some things you didn't recognize ... You have a collective of information coming from different programs, so it kind of just shows you different things that you can do on the floor."

"And obviously, these are the best coaches and best players from every conference in the Power Five. So, it just grows you as a player on the court having all those people next to you. It makes you a better player and a smarter player. It was really competitive, so that was good as well."

HM: For you, as a graduate student, knowing this is your last year at Miami, what are you looking forward to most this season, both personally and as a team?

JL: “I just want to leave with a bang, having the best season I can have while I’m still here. And I want to take everything in because, obviously, it’s my last year. I don’t want to take anything for granted. I’m just taking this as a really special year ... Just taking everything in, these last moments with my coaches and teammates. It’s obviously super emotional, but I’m happy I get to do it again.”

HM: Last year, this team advanced to the NCAA Tournament for a second straight season after a four-year absence. What did those back-to-back tournament berths mean to you, as one of the veterans on the roster?

JL: “It was great. From the first moment we stepped on the court at the beginning of last season, our goal was to make the NCAA Tournament and go far in it. So, I was glad we made the tournament, and we had a really good experience, going to Nebraska. Unfortunately, it didn’t come out the way we wanted it to, but that’s what this season is for. We want to go even farther than we did last year. Even for ACCs, we’re trying to be the best we can be and win it.”

HM: How do you now take the lessons and experience of last year’s run and build on them moving forward?

JL: “So, we pretty much brought everyone back. We have really talented freshmen that we can use this

year. We all know what we felt last year, we don’t want to feel again this year. We know the potential that we have, but kind of just building off our emotions from last year and trying to do better and play better with each other and feel that chemistry on the court.”

HM: You mentioned that tournament appearance at Nebraska. Their program has been in the headlines this season for that incredible match that drew more than 90,000 fans. What was it like to see college volleyball in the spotlight like that?

JL: “We all thought that was so insane. In my volleyball group chat, we couldn’t stop talking about it for at least three days. It was so surreal and so special to see so many people coming together for a volleyball match. Sometimes, women’s volleyball doesn’t really get as much recognition as we should, so, just seeing that and seeing how much attention it got really put into perspective that women’s volleyball is getting more popular and getting more love. It was just great to know that [our sport] broke the world record [for attendance at a women’s sporting event]. That’s honestly insane. I’m so excited for the future of volleyball and the future of women’s sports in general. It goes to show it’s the next big thing.”

HM: Getting back to your experience at Miami and knowing you still have a season to finish, how would you describe your journey here and what has it meant to you to be a Hurricane?

JL: “Oh, I think it’s been one for the books. I did not expect it to go this way, but I’m honestly super grate-

ful because Miami volleyball kind of pushed me to where I am today ... I feel like I wouldn’t be at the point that I’m at right now if it wasn’t for my growth and development throughout my whole years being here. So, definitely shoutout to them. I am so grateful for them ... Having my coaches support me and all the resources they provided me, I took advantage of that. It’s just a special place and I have special feelings about Miami volleyball. I’m grateful for everything they’ve done for me, that they’re doing for me.”

HM: What have been some of your favorite moments during your time here so far?

JL: “Honestly, there’s just so many that I can’t really pinpoint my favorite moments and memories. It’s just like the little things. My teammates and I were talking about it the other day ... The moments when we’re hanging out and when we’re playing. Those are my favorite times. Our little moments in the airport and when we’re traveling.

“Obviously, the games are memorable. When we beat Georgia Tech last year, that was a super fun game. Definitely when we went to Nebraska, when we have our long away trips, those are always fun. Even when we’ve gotten stuck, we’ve made the most out of it. There are so many multiple memories. This whole journey has been memorable and so many little things that are special.”

HM: When you were being recruited, what made you feel Miami was the right place for you?

JL: “When I first stepped onto campus, I just felt this welcoming vibe

from the coaches, from the environment here, from the teammates that I met. I felt like this was already home for me, so that’s what persuaded me to commit here.”

HM: How would you say you’ve grown as a player and a person here at Miami?

JL: “I think I’ve grown a lot. I think I definitely have grown to be open-minded. I feel like when I first got here, I thought I was just going to play volleyball. That would be it. Even with school, I thought I would just go through the motions. But during my first year here, I knew more and more it was for me and there was more this program was willing to offer me. So, that definitely made me grow as a person. Even school helped me grow. It just made me a better all-around person and all the different experiences that I had here shaped me into who I am today.”

HM: You’ve already graduated and earned a business management degree. What are you working on now during your final season at Miami?

JL: “I’m working to complete my MBA. I’m in the accelerated MBA program now.”

HM: How are you balancing pursuing an MBA with all the demands that come with playing high-level college volleyball?

JL: “It’s pretty difficult, especially with it being an accelerated program. But I also had experience from taking my [undergraduate] business classes while being an athlete. My time management skills have definitely gotten better. And



I’ve definitely made sacrifices with my social life, but I think in the end, it’s going to be worth it. I’m going to come out with a degree from one of the most prestigious universities in the nation. But yes, I’ve had to bring in the same habits I had as a student, graduating a semester early, to now completing my MBA.”

HM: Once that degree is completed and you’ve finished your career here at Miami, what would you like to do next?

JL: “I definitely want to go pro. I’m not sure yet if I’m going to stay in the States, but there’s a new federation starting called Real Pro Volleyball and they’re bringing a league here to the States. Hopefully, that is established when I graduate and that can be an option. Obviously, I can go pro playing in Europe, if a team signs me. That’s pretty much what I want to do when I get out of college. And then obviously, after that, I want to come back to the States and create a life for me and use my degree in business. That’s definitely what I want to do.”

Faces In The Crowd

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos



In each edition of *Hurricanes Magazine*, we'll spotlight some of the student-athletes who are rising above the competition in each of their respective sports and making a difference for Miami.

Our inaugural edition includes an NCAA golf championship qualifier, one of the ACC's top divers, a March Madness star and an All-American track standout.

Get to know Hurricanes Sara Byrne, Max Flory, Jasmyne Roberts and Russell Robinson.



Sara Byrne, Fourth-year junior

Byrne emerged as one of the Hurricanes' leaders on the golf course after tallying 17 performances of par-or-better among the 37 rounds she played last season. The native of Douglas, Cork, Ireland qualified for the NCAA Golf Championships after a career-best finish at the NCAA Palm Beach Regional where she placed third with a three-round score of 214 (-2). She finished in the top 25 of the ACC Championships with a score of 221 (+5) and earned top-10 finishes at both the Hurricane Invitational and at Briar's Creek. The junior is pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting and has made the Provost's Honor Roll in each of the last two semesters. In July, she was recognized as a Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American scholar.



Max Flory, Senior

Flory has been a force since arriving at Miami and his performance last season was no different. The Fairfax, Virginia native was named the ACC Men's Diver of the Year after sweeping all three events – the 1-meter springboard, 3-meter springboard and the platform – at this year's ACC Swimming & Diving Championships. He was the first diver since 2014 to accomplish that feat. His win on the platform marked the seventh year in a row a Miami diver finished atop the podium and his win on the 3-meter was his second consecutive win in that particular event.



Jasmyne Roberts, Junior

Roberts had a breakout season for the Hurricanes as a sophomore and was a key contributor during Miami's historic Elite Eight run in March. She averaged 9.3 points, 4.9 rebounds and 1.5 assists last season and was named to the NCAA Tournament Greenville 2 All-Region Team after averaging 19.0 points and 7.3 rebounds in Miami's tournament games against Oklahoma State, Indiana, Villanova and LSU. The Jacksonville native scored a career-high 26 points in the Hurricanes' thrilling 70-65 win over Villanova in the Sweet 16 and also tied her career high in rebounds (nine), steals (four), and made field goals (10) in that victory. A broadcast journalism major, Roberts was an All-ACC Academic Team honoree last season.



Russell Robinson, Senior

All season long, Robinson was a consistent performer for the men's track and field team. He posted a mark of 16.94m in the triple jump at NCAA Track and Field Championships, where he earned first-team All-American honors and finished as the national runner-up in the event.

During the indoor season, his mark of 7.60m in the high jump earned him the ACC silver medal. A day later, he earned a second ACC indoor silver medal with his mark of 16.29m in the triple jump. A sports administration major, Robinson was named to the 2023 Outdoor All-ACC Academic Team in June.



Run To The NBA Finals: Amy Audibert

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

It was the career opportunity of a lifetime, the kind of job she'd dreamed of having.

Still, that didn't mean it was easy for Amy Audibert to pack up her life and move back to Miami.

The Niagara Falls, Ontario native had to ensure she had all the necessary paperwork in place to work in the United States. She'd have to leave her family and current job as a reporter covering her hometown Toronto Raptors. She'd have to find a place to live in South Florida and as if all of that weren't nerve-wracking enough, she had to do all of that quickly.

Very quickly.

The NBA season was about to begin, the Miami Heat were days away from taking the court for their opener against the Chicago Bulls and Audibert – a former center and forward for the Miami Hurricanes women's basketball team – knew if she wanted to be successful in

her new role with the Heat, she had to immediately start studying the players whose games she'd now be breaking down on a day-to-day basis as the team's new on-air analyst for both radio and television.

It was a daunting challenge, but one Audibert was more than ready to embrace.

"There was a lot. I just kind of got into it and before I knew it, I drove down," Audibert recalled. "I left Friday morning, got here Saturday afternoon had my first game within a day or two."

Eight months after the whirlwind start to her time with the Heat, Audibert has no regrets about the decision she made to join the team – or how quickly she had to act on that decision.

In her first season with Miami, she got to be on the call when Heat star Jimmy Butler scored a career-high 56 points in a first-round playoff win over the top-seeded Milwaukee

Bucks. She watched with delight when Heat forward Caleb Martin celebrated a clutch shot over two-time NBA MVP and seven-time All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo. And she reveled in the Heat's Game 7 win over the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference finals.

All of those clutch performances brought Audibert to another improbable moment: the chance to call the NBA Finals during her first season as a full-time analyst.

"I feel like one of my biggest challenges has been to try and take that deep breath and continue to soak everything in," Audibert said in between Finals games in June. "It's incredible and it's kind of hard to describe it. This is the NBA Finals. This is the top of the top, the highest level. I just want to be the best I can be and make sure my work is the best. That requires a lot of time and work, and sometimes, you're just trying to look around and take it all in."

For Audibert, the journey to calling the Finals came with its share of challenges, both during the season and in the years leading up to it.

After graduating from Miami with a degree in sports administration in the School of Education and Human Development, she'd hoped to play professionally, but a serious back injury she'd dealt with during college kept her from making that dream a reality.

She coached at the high school level for a bit before returning home to Canada to regroup and settle on her next chapter. She worked as a bartender and spent a lot of time with her family, including her grandmother, who encouraged her to keep pushing forward.

Eventually, Audibert decided to try her hand at a career in broadcasting. She entered the Radio, Television and Film Program at Niagara College and tried to get on camera as often as possible, a daunting task given the lack of sports teams to cover on the Canadian side of the border.

Soon enough, she began calling games for Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, which led to an opportunity to serve as a sideline reporter for Time Warner Cable in Buffalo. That led her to the University of Buffalo, where she became an analyst for the men's and women's basketball programs just as the school began expanding its on-line streaming services.

There was a return to Miami, where Audibert did an internship with the Hurricanes' athletic department doing on-camera work for the school's website. She covered Mi-



ami's Pro Day, chronicled the women's basketball team's season and interviewed the likes of Ed Reed, Bryant McKinnie and Calais Campbell, among others, at various Hurricanes events.

Through it all, she had the support of her former coach at Miami, who continually encouraged Audibert to keep going if she wanted to make her broadcasting dreams a reality.

"There were so many hurdles she had to overcome just to even work in America," said Hurricanes women's basketball head coach Katie Meier. "But she really had a vision that she wanted to be a broadcaster and I remember her saying 'One day, I want to call games in the NBA.'...When people were saying no, Amy just kept saying yes. 'Yes, I'll do this. Yes, I'll do that. Yes, I'll do that.' Nothing was below her. Nothing was too small for her, and every opportunity just built and built for her. She's very poised and now, she's doing a great job."

To help try and advance her career, not only did Audibert say yes to nearly every assignment sent her way, but she also tried to create meaningful connections with NBA teams.

Each July, she'd head to Las Vegas during NBA Summer League to try and meet with players, coaches, team executives and broadcasters. During one of those trips, Audibert's agent suggested she try and meet with Jason Jackson of the Miami Heat.

In 2017, the two connected via text, only for Audibert to learn Jackson would be arriving in Las Vegas a day after she was scheduled to leave. After working multiple jobs to self-finance her trips to summer league, Audibert wasn't sure whether it made sense for her to change her airline ticket and stay another night to meet with Jackson.

A fortuitous turn in a casino, she says, helped make the decision for her.

"I was playing a slot machine and I hit. I won like \$400, \$500 and I was like, 'Alright, I'll switch my flight and stay another night' and thank God I did," Audibert said. "I was able to connect with him and when I met him, he was with some other people from the Miami Heat broadcast family."

Though there wasn't an opportuni-

ty for Audibert to join the Heat after that initial meeting with Jackson and the Heat broadcast team, the two stayed stayed in touch, with Jackson mentoring Audibert as she continued working to try and land her dream job.

She eventually earned an analyst role with Toronto's G-League team, the Raptors 905, and an analyst role with the WNBA's Atlanta Dream. In March 2021, Audibert helped make history when she was part of the first all-woman crew to fill every on-air role during a TSN Canadian broadcast of a regular-season matchup between the Raptors and the Denver Nuggets.

Two years later, she found herself in the middle of another history-making moment when, after joining the Heat's broadcast team, she helped call Miami's improbable run as the first play-in team to advance to the NBA Finals.

It was an opportunity that came to be in part because of her connection with Jackson, who last summer alerted Audibert the team might have an opening.

Fresh off a vacation to Jamaica with her family, Audibert came to Miami, auditioned for the job and soon enough, found herself packing to move south.

"She hit the ground running," said Jackson, who just completed his 19th season as part of the Heat's broadcast team. "First, you have her status as a Canadian, trying to work in the United States. That's not easy. Then there's the fact she came in and blew her audition away. She was magnificent. She'd never done radio play-by-play be-

fore, which is a whole different animal. We have to talk a great deal to create an image for the mind's eye, but she blew everybody away..."

"I think when you watch her on television, she's the perfect mix of insight and entertainment. She's so fired up. You know she loves hoops just by watching her. Then, on the radio side, she has learned the rhythm. She's learned how to teach and instruct and inform in really concise spaces because the tempo of this game is out of control. It couldn't have been better for year one and then she got to call the finals, too?"

As memorable as her first season with the Heat has been, though, Audibert has had to navigate it while dealing with an incredibly personal loss.

Her father, John Audibert, passed away in December and through all the joy of Miami's playoff run, Audibert has often thought of what her father would think or say about her journey.

It has been, understandably, bitter-sweet.

"Here I am, at the highest level of basketball and my basketball hero is not here," Audibert said of her father, who coached her as a youngster. "This summer is going to be a lot of reflecting and healing. It's been a lot of emotion...We would talk after every single game. It's a little bit eerie that he's not on the other end of the phone right now. But I am definitely thinking of him... He was my biggest advocate and supporter."

With the Heat's playoff run now



over, Audibert knows there will be time to reflect.

She hopes, too, that given how hectic everything was for her last summer, that there will be time for her to catch her breath.

But through it all, she's grateful for each of the opportunities she's had, from playing basketball at Miami to making history in Toronto to now being back in South Florida, pursuing her NBA dream.

"Sometimes I laugh and think 'How did I get here?' Three jobs, a lot more no's than yeses, trying to break through," Audibert said. "I'd just keep going and keep showing up and I think it was all those years at Miami. It was awesome [playing there]. It was super rewarding. But it wasn't easy at all. I think it built so much belief in myself...I simply showed up and impacted in ways that I could [after getting hurt]. I couldn't play. I couldn't lift. But I was a voice. I studied. I knew the plays. Sometimes, I would direct our guards on what to do."

"I used to communicate in college. Now, I communicate for a living."



Difference Maker: Matthew Cleveland

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Matthew Cleveland concedes it felt a bit strange to pull on the jersey.

After spending two years in Tallahassee, playing in garnet and gold at Florida State, suddenly seeing himself in Miami's orange and green was more than a bit jarring.

"It was very weird, especially on my visit, when I put on the jersey," Cleveland said with a laugh. "Extremely weird...But I feel like I'm accustomed to it now. It's been good being here so far."

That's something the Hurricanes, no doubt, are happy to hear.

Cleveland, now months removed from his transfer to Mi-

ami, is deep in the process of getting to know his new teammates and coaches during summer workouts. He's working on learning the Hurricanes' system, going through their off-season conditioning program and adjusting to his new life in South Florida.

While he still gets some good-natured teasing from those new teammates and coaches – and maybe even a few comments about that one particular buzzer-beating shot back in February that wound up giving Miami its only home loss of the season – the 6-foot-7 junior guard says he's found a home in Coral Gables.

And after watching the Hurricanes magical run through March earlier this year, he's

ready to do his part to help continue elevating the program and helping it reach new heights.

"The success they've had is just a testament to the coaching staff and the players and just how it's really a family environment... When you're coming from one program to another, the transition is always hard," Cleveland said. "But when you have someone that's as genuine as [Miami head coach Jim Larrañaga], it kind of makes everything easier because he instills a lot of confidence in you."

Cleveland brings with him to Coral Gables a pretty impressive resume.

He claimed the ACC's Sixth Man of the Year award after averaging 11.4 points, 4.6 rebounds and 26 minutes per game as a freshman during the 2021-22 season.

And last season, he was a Top 10 candidate for the Julius Erving Award, presented annually to the best small forward in the nation, after finishing as Florida State's leading scorer with an average of 13.8 points and 7.4 rebounds per game.

The improvement in his numbers came, he says, after a summer working to revamp his shot and become a stronger, all-around player.

"I've seen my game grow in pretty much all aspects. Coming into college, I was like 185 [pounds]. Now I'm around 200 to 205. I'm able to put the ball on the floor better, creating for my teammates and myself. And shooting-wise is where I've seen the biggest growth," Cleveland said. "Just the work I put in...on [my shot] and repetition on changing it and seeing the work that has shown from it has been really good."

He's now bringing those skills and that work ethic to Miami, where Larrañaga says Cleveland can have as much of an impact as former Hurricane standout Jordan Miller had during his Miami career.

"Matthew Cleveland is the perfect replacement for Jordan Miller. He has so many of the same tangible and intangible qualities," Larrañaga said. "Number one, he's a very versatile player. Number two, he can really score the ball and he scores in a very efficient manner. He can shoot the 3, he's a terrific straight-line driver, he's an excellent rebounder at both ends of the court and he's kind of a very unassuming personality...He's basically just fundamental and that's what made Jordan so good. He didn't need the ball a lot and then yet scored a lot. He just scored so efficiently, and I think Matthew Cleveland has a lot of those same characteristics in his game."

Added Hurricanes assistant coach Kotie Kimble, "Matt is going to be a very good player for us. I think, for one, he's experienced. Just having a guy that has two years of experience

in the ACC – 13, 14 points a game, 7.5 rebounds – he's just proven. He's proven he can do it at this level. We're obviously losing a really experienced guy in Jordan Miller. Having a guy that can step in and that's done it before is going to be huge for us."

Those comparisons, Cleveland says, are fitting.

He sees plenty of similarities between his game and Miller's and watching Miller – along with fellow transfers Nijel Pack and Norchad Omier, among others – thrive at Miami was inspiring.

"Just seeing the success they've had with transfers, particularly Jordan Miller, was big," Cleveland said. "He's my size, my build and how he developed from his first year here to his second year..."

As much of an impact as Cleveland hopes to have on the court, he arrives at Miami looking to continue his success in some other places, too, namely the classroom and in the community.



The Atlanta native had a 4.0 GPA at Florida State while studying criminology and says he hopes that one day, when his basketball career is over, he'd like to work in either law enforcement or as a mental health counselor.

His dedication to his academics, he says, stems from conversations he had with his parents as a middle schooler about the need to do better in school.

A self-described perfectionist, Cleveland set out to improve his grades. That drive hasn't left since.

"When I was in eighth grade, I think I had all Cs in my classes and my parents just weren't having it. They

made me go to each one of my teachers and ask 'How can I bring this up? Can I see all my assignments?' That's when it clicked that there's more to life than just sports and having fun," Cleveland recalled. "That's when it clicked. And I'm still a perfectionist in that way. I have to make sure anything I do is done to the best of my ability. If it's not, it's a big wonder to me. So, I just do it the best I can, no matter what it is."

His efforts have paid off on and off the court.

Now, as Cleveland begins his Miami journey, he does so with his focus set on one major goal: helping the Hurricanes win their first national championship.

The pieces for another deep NCAA Tournament run are there, he believes.

He wants to help push Miami forward.

"They went to the Elite Eight and the Final Four and there's good buzz from the last two years," Cleveland said. "But taking the next step is bringing a championship. The Final Fours and the Elite Eights last forever. But so do championships. They'll never be forgotten. That's something I'm hoping I can bring."



Where Are They Now?

Jacory Harris

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

It was as tough a start to his new career as he could have imagined.

On just his second day as a newly minted firefighter with the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, Jacory Harris found himself being called out to a neighborhood he knew well.

Not far from Miami Northwestern High School – where Harris had once starred as a highly touted, record-breaking, national champion quarterback – two children and two adults had been injured in a drive-by shooting.

As Harris and his colleagues raced to the scene, the former signal caller tried to wrap his mind around the task that awaited them once they'd arrive.

It wasn't easy – especially given the fact one of the young victims was the same age as his then 2-year-old daughter, Kori.

But even as a rookie firefighter, Harris reminded himself he had undergone the kind of training he needed to do his job to the best of his ability. Staying focused, he knew, would be essential.

It was then, Harris said, that another kind of training kicked in.

“It was traumatic. It was eye-opening, but in that moment, I felt like football helped me, especially my position of playing quarterback,” said Harris, who after his career at Miami Northwestern suited up for his hometown Miami Hurricanes. “You mask your fear and your nervousness, but it's there. Seeing it, hands on, dealing with two pediatric patients ... then getting to the hospital and seeing those doctors putting on their scrubs, it's like everything slowed down for me.

“Watching [the other firefighters] and watching how those doctors performed inspired me to get to that level where I knew I could be level-headed and know if I do what I was taught in the academy, I could save someone's life. That helped me.”

Harris would later learn that three of the four patients he and his colleagues stabilized and rushed to the hospital overcame their injuries and survived. And while it hurt to know one of the patients passed away, the entire day – emotions and all – convinced him that he'd

found a new calling.

“That day made me realize I wanted to be a firefighter for the rest of my career,” Harris said. “To be in my community and be able to help as much as I can, that's special. ... It's a blessing.”

From Northwestern to The U

While these days Harris can't imagine doing any other kind of work, the former quarterback arrived at Miami in 2008 with his eyes set on winning big and hopefully, playing professionally.

A Miami native, he'd grown up watching, and cheering, the Hurricanes.

He'd seen how Miami had produced a plethora of NFL-caliber players and had, in 2001, won a national championship in dominant fashion.

Having the opportunity to wear orange and green – and to do so with many of his talented teammates and friends from high school – was the stuff of dreams, even if his time at Miami eventually came with its share of challenges.

“It meant a lot to be a Hurricane,” said Harris, whose 8,826 career passing yards and 70 career touchdown passes still rank third and second, respectively, in program history. “I wish we could have done more for the program, but we did a lot. Being from Miami and being able to stay home, wear these colors and play with the guys that I went to high school with, those were great times. All of those guys, we grew up together. You had guys from my high school, guys from Booker T. [Washington], guys that went to Belle Glade and Pahokee, that went to all these local South Florida schools.

“We all knew each other or played against each other growing up. For all of us to be on one team and get the opportunity to live out our dream and accomplish our goals, that was a great thing, especially doing it here at the University of Miami. We all could have gone other places. We all had offers everywhere. But everybody decided to stay home and try to do everything we could to bring glory back to the University of Miami. But Miami will always be glorious.”

After his time in orange and green ended, Harris had a brief stint with the Philadelphia Eagles before moving on to the Canadian Football League, where he spent six seasons playing for the Edmonton Eskimos, Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Montreal Alouettes.

But even as he tried to make his professional football dreams a reality, Harris always had an eye on the future.



Photo courtesy of Jacory Harris



In between seasons, he tried his hand at a series of jobs, from working at a restoration company to serving as a landscaping manager for Miami-Dade County.

Each opportunity was eye-opening, he says, especially since he'd spent most of his life focused on two things: school and football.

"Every offseason, I worked somewhere different," said Harris, who graduated from Miami with a sports administration degree. "I did things during the offseason to make sure that once football was done, I'd be able to have a smooth transition."

Finding a Calling

That transition eventually came when Harris and his wife, Kristen, welcomed their daughter.

At that point in 2017, Harris concedes he didn't know much about the possibility of becoming a firefighter. But his mother, Shebra Pollock, urged him to look into it at the recommendation of one of her colleagues, whose husband was a firefighter.

Harris was intrigued, but knew he still had to get his body right before attempting the application process

and trying to pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test required of all fire department applicants.

Football had taken a physical toll on him and to be in the best possible shape to become a firefighter, Harris had to have not just knee surgery, but shoulder surgery and back surgery, too.

He attacked his rehabilitative work and physical therapy with the same intensity that had made him a top-tier college quarterback and when doctors cleared him to take the CPAT test, Harris passed.

Then came Harris' next challenge: navigating the fire academy.



It's a challenge that came with its own particular set of difficulties given that Harris entered the academy as a civilian with no firefighting certifications.

"When you come into the academy and you don't have any certifications, they say it's like winning the lottery. There are like 12,000 people that apply for maybe 200 positions and I got one of those," Harris said. "But at the end of the day, you have to spend nine months there, at headquarters. You have to go through three months of minimum standards, which is like state certification to become a firefighter. Then you spend another three months becoming an emergency medical technician. And then once you accomplish those two things, then they can finally start you in SOPs, the standard operating procedures for Miami-Dade County.

"It's nine months of every day, five days a week, running miles and miles, being in gear for about eight hours a day. It's tough. It's not for the weak, I'll tell you that. Everybody used to always mess with me

because I played football. I'd always tell them, 'I don't know what position you guys thought I played, but I was a quarterback. We didn't do much running. And I had a red jersey on, which meant you couldn't touch me.'"

It was a physically grueling process that tested Harris in ways he couldn't have imagined. But even on the most difficult days, he powered through. Quitting, he said, was never an option.

Harris graduated from the academy in 2020 and was thrust into the field during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Still, as tough as they were, those first days, weeks and months on the job all served as reminders, Harris said, that he'd made the best decision possible.

The fact he'd often be recognized while out on calls only reiterated that fact.

"To be in my community and be able to help as much as I can, that's dope. ... Being in that same neighborhood [as Miami Northwestern] for three, four months, I'd go on calls and see people and they were like, 'Jacory, you're a firefighter?' I know it inspired people," Harris said. "There were kids that saw me and recognized me, and our conversations went from 'How do I become a football player?' to 'How do I become a firefighter?' That's cool."

Now more than three years into his new career, Harris can't help but feel grateful for the collective experiences that brought him to this point.

From winning a national champion-



ship in high school to sporting orange and green, each moment prepared him for the journey he's on and the challenges he encounters on a near-daily basis in the field.

And, he noted, there are similarities between donning a football helmet and firefighting gear.

"The camaraderie is the same. It's like a brotherhood," Harris said of the work he and his colleagues do together on a daily basis. "I know I wouldn't be the man I am today without the experiences I had here [at Miami]. It just goes to show you

how great the program is. It doesn't matter how many coaches come through here or what type of season you may have. The U will always be The U and the guys who came before us really set the tone and built this program and established the brand that's been around forever. ...

"Just being able to come to this University, where I graduated, got my degree, and accomplished a lot, that was enough and that was great for me. I love this place and its people. The people here are what make it amazing."



Football Season Opener at Hard Rock Stadium

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

There's nothing like a home opener and the Hurricanes made theirs plenty memorable.

Miami kicked off its new season in style with a 38-3 win over Miami of Ohio that had fans – and players – celebrating at Hard Rock Stadium.

The Hurricanes scored on their first three possessions and never looked back, with quarterback Tyler Van Dyke throwing for 201 yards and running backs Donald Chaney, Jr. and Ajay Allen combining for 251 rushing yards in the win.

Miami went on to close out its three-game, season-opening homestand with three wins.





Student-Athlete Development Spotlight: Learning, Reflecting & Growing in D.C.

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos



It was an experience Jalen Rivers says he won't forget any time soon.

This summer, the offensive lineman was one of several Miami Hurricanes student-athletes who had the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. thanks in large part to a grant presented to UM's Black Student-Athlete Alliance.

In the nation's capital, Rivers – along with football teammates Kam Kinchens, Mike Redding III, and Chantz Williams, soccer student-athlete Taylor Shell, volleyball student-athletes Janice Leao and Flormarie Heredia Colon, women's basketball student-athlete Kyla Oldacre and track and field student-athlete Caleb Chevis – had the opportunity to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture, attend a Wash-

ington Mystics game, visit the United States Secret Service James J. Rowley Training Center and network with professionals in a variety of fields and careers.

The student-athletes also had some time to explore the city on their own, with some choosing to visit places like The Smithsonian Institution and others visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The goal was to provide the student-athletes with both a cultural and educational experience, something both Rivers and LaToya Farris, Miami's assistant athletic director for student-athlete development, said the trip most certainly did.

"That trip meant a lot," Rivers said.

"I got to learn more about my ancestors at the museum. I learned about other things that happened in our history, like the Holocaust and different things that happened in the past that we can learn from and build toward being a better society."

Added Farris, "It was awesome because you get to the airport and everyone's kind of like 'Oh, hey,' and by the end of the trip, it felt like all the student-athletes had become best friends. They all got to share the same experiences. They ate all their meals together. They went everywhere together, and they really got to know each other. And on that trip, we were able to have the faculty that helped write the grant come along, so there were discussions and reflections.... It wasn't just 'Hey, we're going to look at these things,'

but we came back and talked and reflected on what they learned and what they saw."

But the student-athletes in the Black Student-Athlete Alliance group weren't the only Hurricanes to visit Washington D.C. this summer.

Another group of Miami student-athletes – including track and field's Solomon Strader and Jalen Gordon, women's soccer's Hallie Salas, rowing's Trinity Ferebee, and volleyball's Alanys Viera – were selected to participate in this year's ACC Unity Tour, which, coincidentally, was also in the nation's capital.

On that trip, which also featured representatives from all of the ACC's member schools, student-athletes had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Capitol, the National

Museum of African American History and Culture, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and retrace the steps of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Those opportunities – and that chance to interact with student-athletes from other ACC schools, Farris said – left a lasting impact on the Hurricanes who made the trip.

"I wasn't sure in the beginning how it would go, because it's one thing when you're just with your own school, but now you're bringing all these schools together and you're wondering how all the students are going to interact with each other," Farris said. "But I thought our student-athletes did a great job. I was really proud of the opportunities they took to speak up when we'd

all be in the same room. ... The times the Miami students spoke, I thought they were insightful and thoughtful about what they were saying and what they learned.

"On both of these trips, you were able to see in their interactions, in the things that they said and in their reflections that they're definitely going to remember those experiences later in life. When we got in those Secret Service cars, when we were walking through the U.S. Capitol, all of those things, I feel like we were able to create two meaningful trips. ... In the student-athlete development space, we're trying to help them develop outside of academics and outside of sport. Being able to see how these things impacted all of them, it just makes you feel like you're doing exactly what you're supposed to be doing."



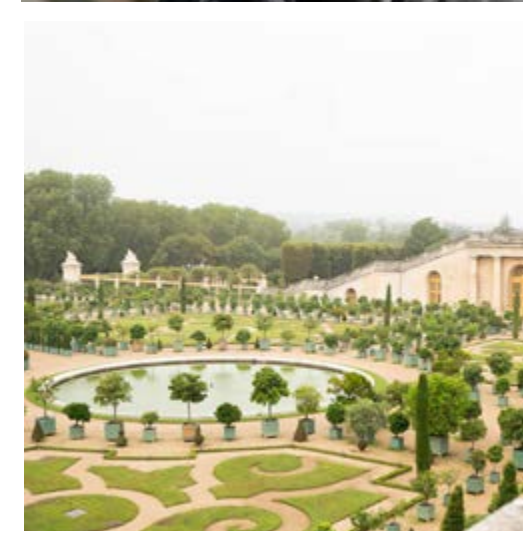
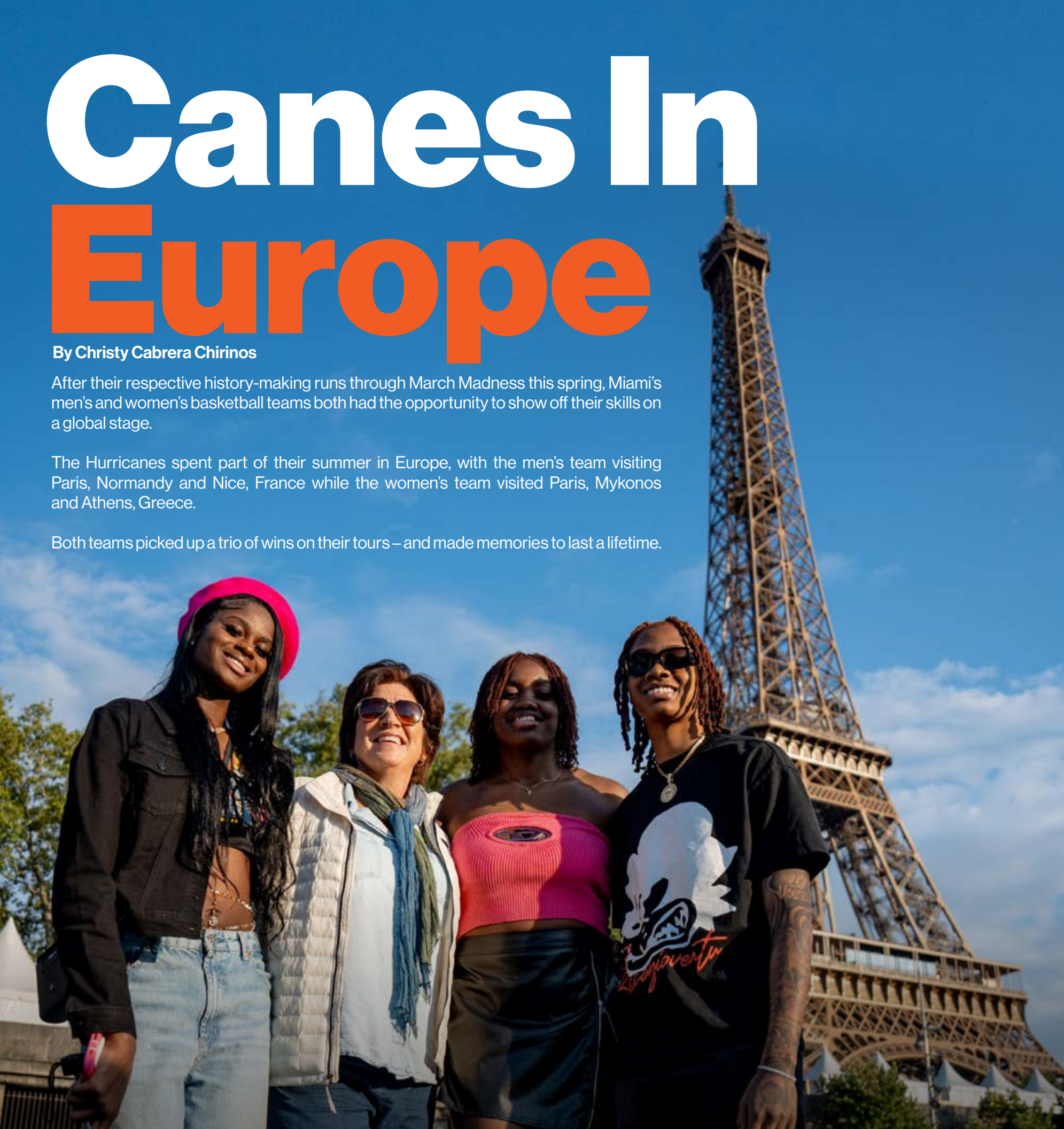
Canes In Europe

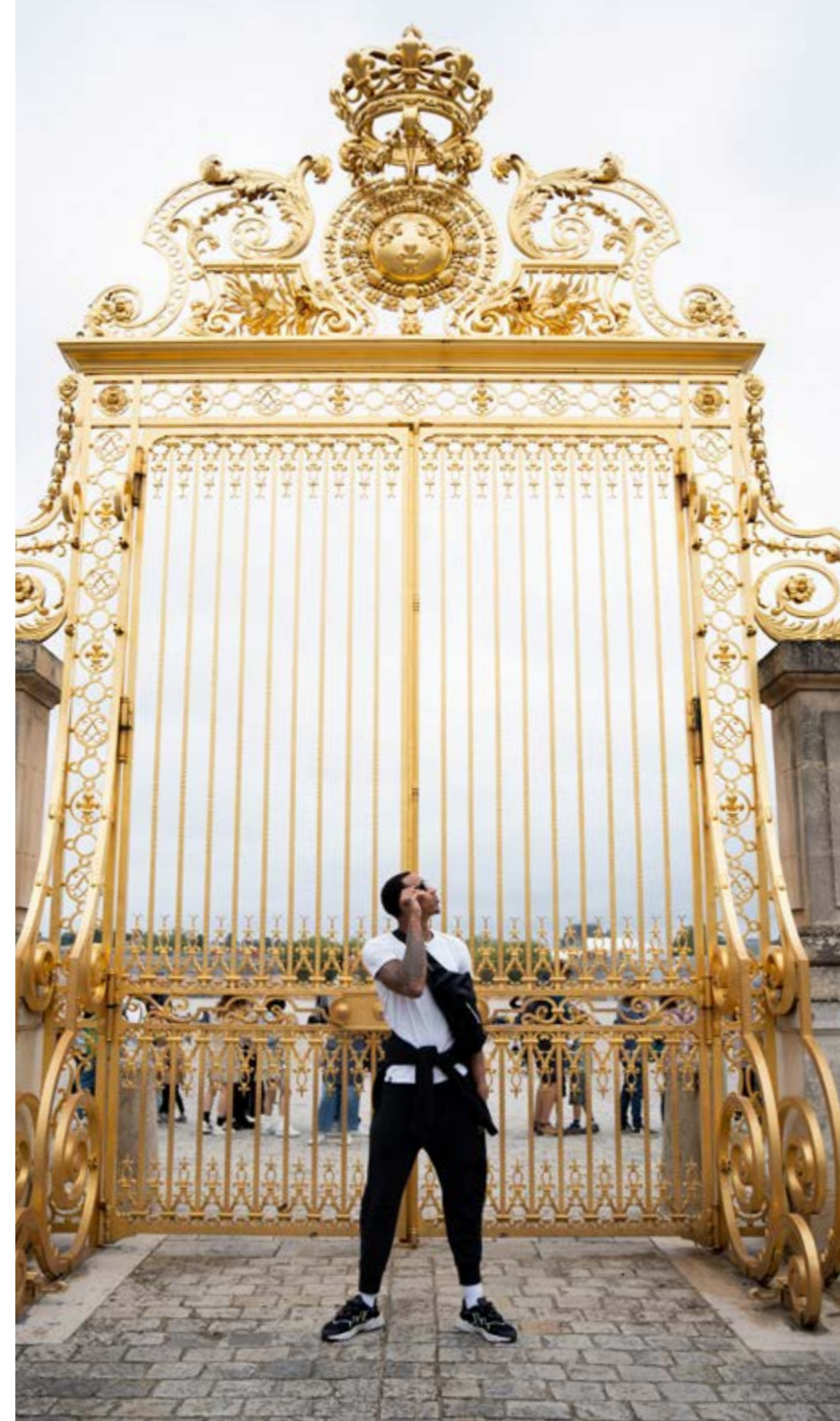
By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

After their respective history-making runs through March Madness this spring, Miami's men's and women's basketball teams both had the opportunity to show off their skills on a global stage.

The Hurricanes spent part of their summer in Europe, with the men's team visiting Paris, Normandy and Nice, France while the women's team visited Paris, Mykonos and Athens, Greece.

Both teams picked up a trio of wins on their tours – and made memories to last a lifetime.





Canes Connection:

The New Era Begins With U

By Carter Toole

In the rapidly changing landscape of college football, the programs that embrace change – and invest in the student-athlete experience – will be the ones that thrive.

The University of Miami has always been a destination for the best and brightest. Miami has the location; the tradition; the brand; and the fan base. And now UM is seizing the opportunity to elevate its athletic department to even greater heights in this new era of Name, Image & Likeness.

One of the primary ways Canes fans can support student-athletes and their NIL opportunities is through the Canes Connection collective.

Canes Connection manages NIL opportunities for student-athletes by building valuable partnerships with local businesses and connecting those businesses with student-athletes. Canes Connection is currently working with 75 football student-athletes, the entire women's basketball roster and all but one student-athlete on the men's basketball team.

"We spent the past year building out a professional organization that is well organized and well-funded," Canes Connection CEO Zach Burr said. "We have been strategic in finding a variety of revenue sources to help us grow."

The NIL opportunities directed by Canes Connection can also help student-athletes maximize the value of their brand and learn valuable entrepreneurial skills during their time in college.

"There is a business education element to this for the student-athletes which has been rewarding to witness," Burr said. "They are viewing themselves as businessmen and businesswomen and are gaining valuable real-world experience through the partnerships we've created."

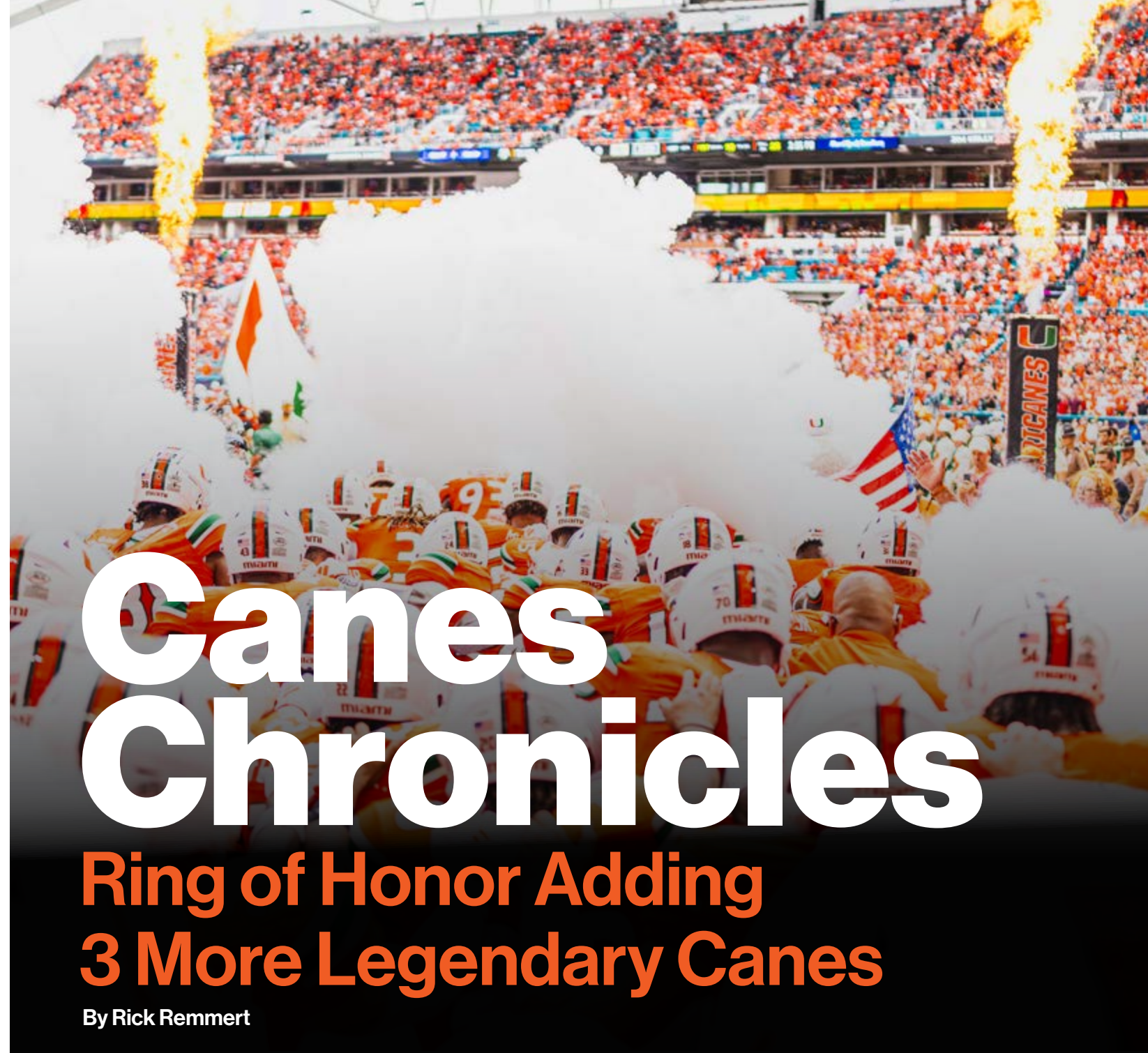
Miami Vice President/Director of Athletics Dan Radakovich is encouraged by the momentum that Canes Connection is generating for NIL opportunities.

"Canes Connection is working together with our athletic department to deliver an exceptional



NIL program that will help us build championship programs and create the best student-athlete experience in college athletics," Radakovich said. "NIL support can help us achieve our bold new vision for Miami Athletics and impact the lives of our student-athletes for years to come."

You can learn more about Canes Connection by visiting CanesConnection.com.



Canes Chronicles

Ring of Honor Adding 3 More Legendary Canes

By Rick Remmert

The University of Miami's Football Ring of Honor recognizes the greatest Hurricane players and coaches in program history. Since 1926, only 24 men have been inducted.

This fall in the 98th year of Miami Football, the Ring of Honor will open its doors to three Hurricane legends who will be inducted at

halftime of the Miami vs. Clemson game on October 21:

- 1989 and 1991 National Championship coach Dennis Erickson
- 1972 All-American running back Chuck Foreman
- 1987 National Championship coach Jimmy Johnson

"We are thrilled to welcome Den-

nis, Chuck, and Jimmy into the Ring of Honor," Vice President/Director of Athletics Dan Radakovich said. "Dennis and Jimmy are two of the greatest coaches in college football history and Chuck is one of the best running backs in Miami's storied history. All three men are incredible ambassadors for the University of Miami."



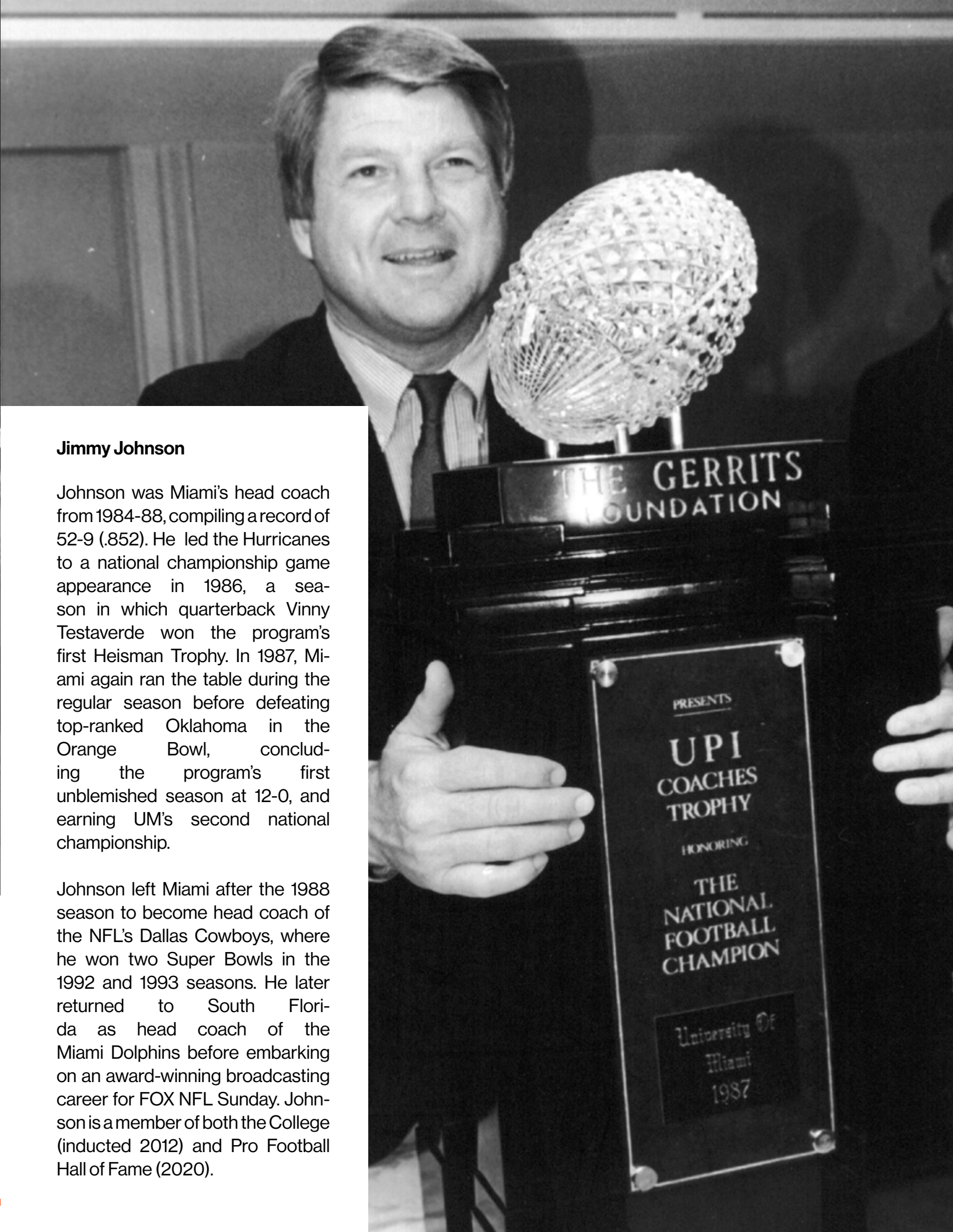
Dennis Erickson

Erickson was Miami's head coach from 1989-94. He had a 29-game winning streak from 1990-92, and his 63-9 record represents the program's highest winning percentage (.875). Erickson is the only head coach to win two football national championships at Miami, leading the Hurricanes to titles in

1989 and again in 1991, the school's second unbeaten season at 12-0. Miami also advanced to the national championship game in 1992, the year quarterback Gino Torretta became the second Hurricane to win the Heisman Trophy.

Erickson left UM after the 1994

season to become head coach of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks for four seasons. He later served as head coach of the San Francisco 49ers and had college head coaching stints at Idaho, Wyoming, Washington State, and Arizona State. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2019.



Jimmy Johnson

Johnson was Miami's head coach from 1984-88, compiling a record of 52-9 (.852). He led the Hurricanes to a national championship game appearance in 1986, a season in which quarterback Vinny Testaverde won the program's first Heisman Trophy. In 1987, Miami again ran the table during the regular season before defeating top-ranked Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, concluding the program's first unblemished season at 12-0, and earning UM's second national championship.

Johnson left Miami after the 1988 season to become head coach of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, where he won two Super Bowls in the 1992 and 1993 seasons. He later returned to South Florida as head coach of the Miami Dolphins before embarking on an award-winning broadcasting career for FOX NFL Sunday. Johnson is a member of both the College (inducted 2012) and Pro Football Hall of Fame (2020).



Chuck Foreman

Foreman played three varsity seasons at Miami from 1970-72, earning first team All-America honors as a senior. He left UM with 1,631 rushing yards and 17 touchdowns. More than a half-century after playing his final game for The U, Foreman still ranks in Miami's top 10 for all-purpose yards (3,355).

Pro Bowl berths in addition to first-team All-Pro honors in 1975. As a pro, Foreman rushed for 5,950 yards and 53 touchdowns, adding 350 receptions for 3,156 yards and 23 touchdowns.

Foreman was a first-round pick of the Minnesota Vikings in 1973, earning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year honors and a Pro Bowl invitation in his debut season. He played six seasons for the Vikings and one season for the New England Patriots, earning five overall



Chuck Foreman
(Photo by Focus on Sport/Getty Images)

The Class of 2023 will increase the total Ring of Honor membership to 27 Hurricanes – 24 players and three coaches. The full Ring of Honor list of players and coaches includes:

Class of 1997:

- Jim Dooley
- Ted Hendricks
- George Mira
- Vinny Testaverde

Class of 1999:

- Ottis Anderson
- Don Bosseler
- Bernie Kosar
- Burgess Owens

Class of 2008:

- Edgerrin James
- Jim Kelly
- Cortez Kennedy
- Jim Otto
- Gino Torretta

Class of 2009:

- Bennie Blades
- Eddie Dunn
- Steve Walsh

Class of 2014:

- Jerome Brown
- Russell Maryland

Class of 2017:

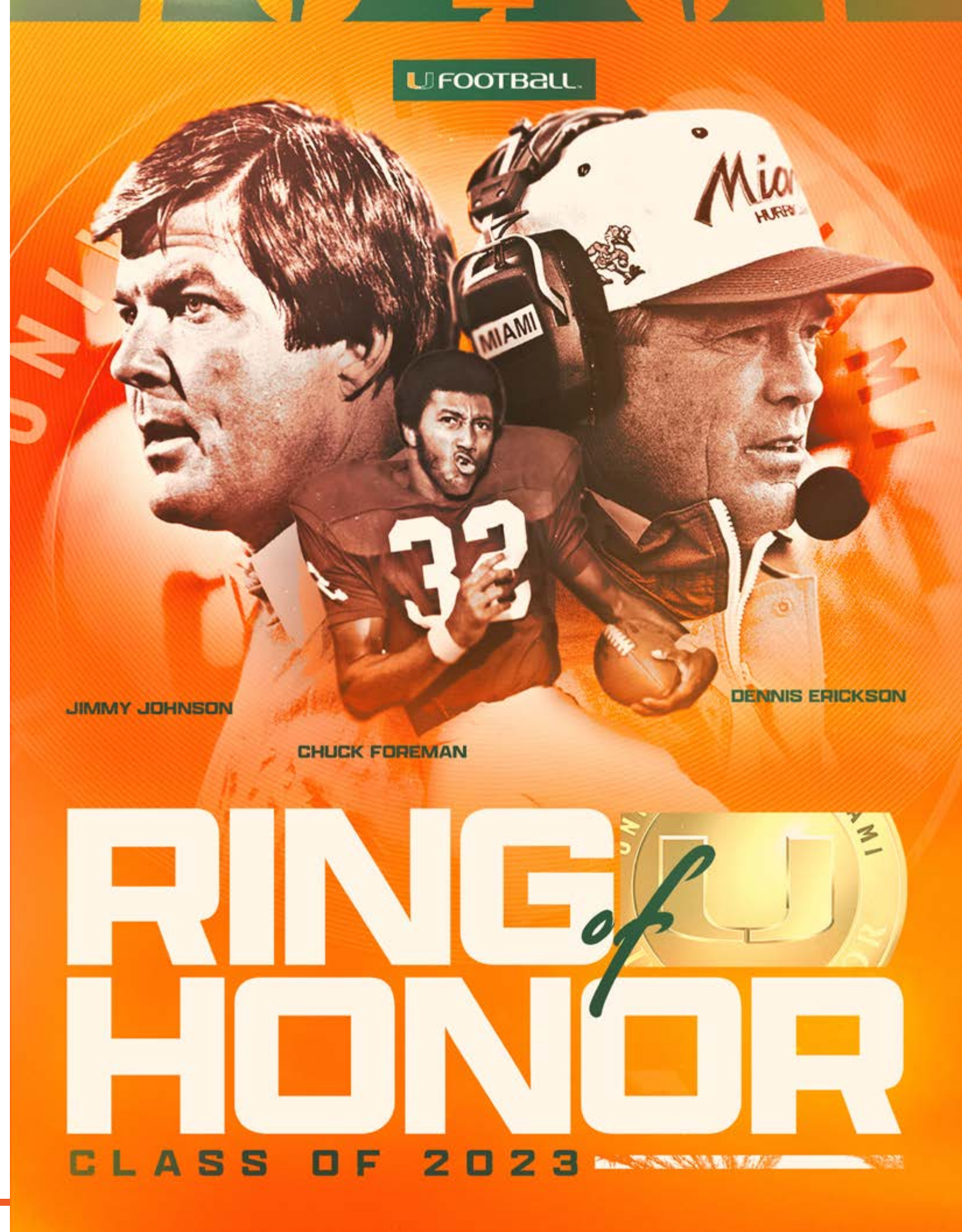
- Michael Irvin
- Ray Lewis
- Ed Reed
- Warren Sapp
- Sean Taylor

Class of 2021:

- Howard Schnellenberger

Class of 2023:

- Dennis Erickson
- Chuck Foreman
- Jimmy Johnson



2023-24

MIAMI

HOME SCHEDULES



WOMEN'S

NOV 9 <small>THURSDAY</small>	DEC 8 <small>FRIDAY</small>	JAN 28 <small>SUNDAY</small>
NOV 12 <small>SUNDAY</small>	DEC 20 <small>WEDNESDAY</small>	FEB 8 <small>TUESDAY</small>
NOV 17 <small>FRIDAY</small>	DEC 28 <small>THURSDAY</small>	FEB 15 <small>THURSDAY</small>
MIAMI THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT	DEC 31 <small>SUNDAY</small>	FEB 18 <small>SUNDAY</small>
NOV 24 <small>FRIDAY</small>	JAN 7 <small>SUNDAY</small>	FEB 29 <small>THURSDAY</small>
NOV 26 <small>MONDAY</small>	JAN 18 <small>THURSDAY</small>	MAR 3 <small>SUNDAY</small>
DEC 3 <small>SUNDAY</small>		

MEN'S

OCT 29 <small>SUNDAY</small>	DEC 16 <small>SATURDAY</small>	JAN 27 <small>SATURDAY</small>
NOV 6 <small>MONDAY</small>	DEC 21 <small>THURSDAY</small>	FEB 3 <small>SATURDAY</small>
NOV 10 <small>FRIDAY</small>	DEC 29 <small>FRIDAY</small>	FEB 10 <small>SATURDAY</small>
NOV 13 <small>MONDAY</small>	JAN 3 <small>WEDNESDAY</small>	FEB 21 <small>WEDNESDAY</small>
DEC 2 <small>SATURDAY</small>	JAN 10 <small>WEDNESDAY</small>	FEB 24 <small>SATURDAY</small>
DEC 6 <small>WEDNESDAY</small>	JAN 17 <small>WEDNESDAY</small>	MAR 6 <small>WEDNESDAY</small>

SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT MIAMIHURRICANES.COM

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