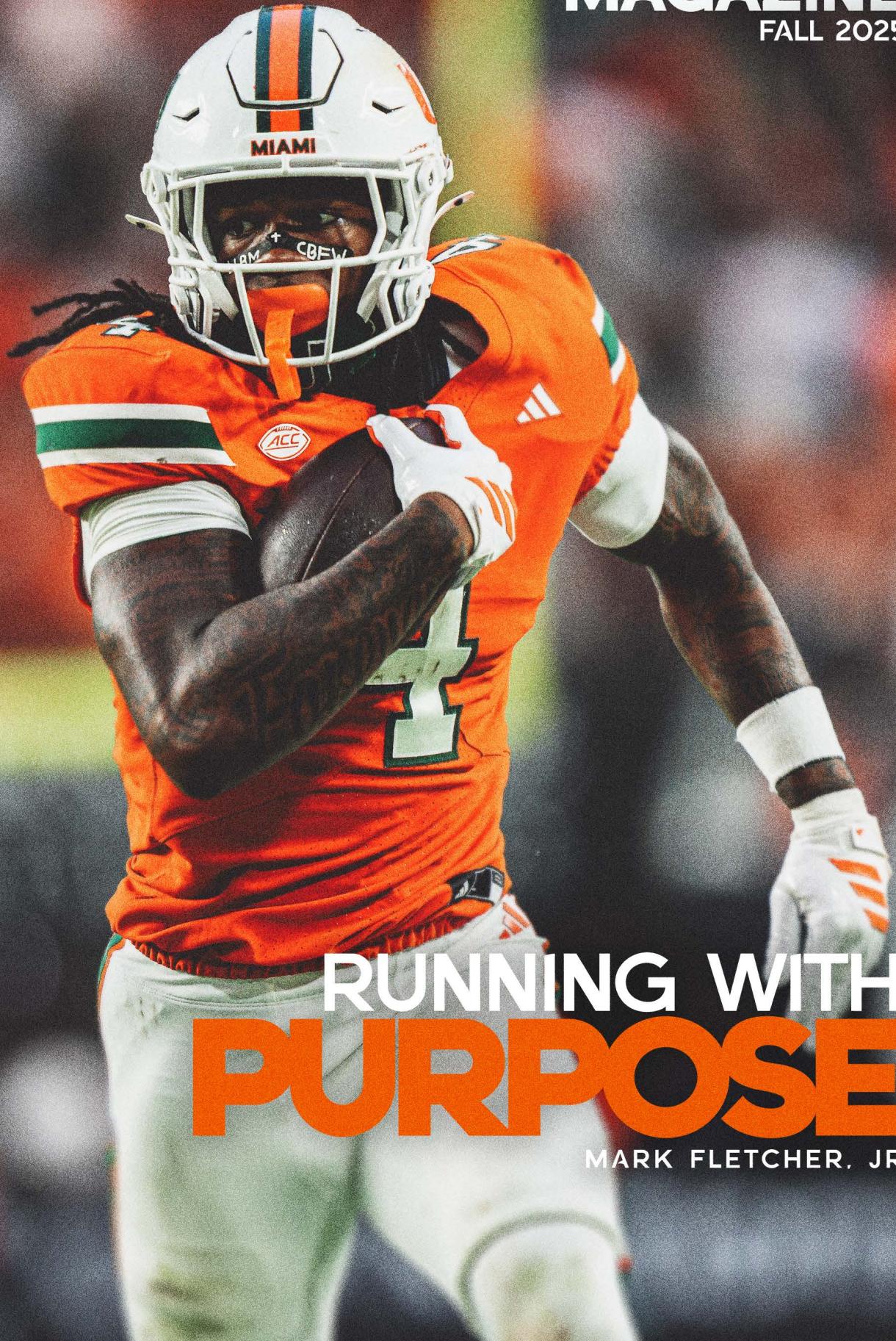


HURRICANES

MAGAZINE

FALL 2025



RUNNING WITH
PURPOSE

MARK FLETCHER, JR.

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Welcome to the fall edition of *Hurricanes Magazine*!

This issue features stories on running back Mark Fletcher, cross country runner Maddie Scheier, and volleyball standout Ariana Rodriguez. We also recognize our incredible 2025 Ring of Honor Class, which includes Ken Dorsey, Andre Johnson, Bryant McKinnie, and Dan Morgan.

We have had a successful start to the school year on many fronts, and your generous support helps us continue to provide the best resources for our student-athletes to succeed on and off the field. You can also support student-athletes by contributing to Canes Connection, our official NIL Collective. Canes Connection builds valuable partnerships with local businesses and connects those businesses with student-athletes.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Hurricanes Magazine*. Thank you again for your continued support and Go Canes!

Dan Radakovich
Vice President / Director of Athletics



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RUNNING WITH PURPOSE: MARK FLETCHER, JR.

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

For months, every day started the same way.

Mark Fletcher Jr. would wake up, brush his teeth, pray, then text his parents and girlfriend to say good morning.

It didn't matter if he'd spoken to them all the night before.

Before he went to campus and joined his teammates in meetings or on the practice field, Fletcher wanted to make sure his family – his people – knew he was thinking of them.

Most mornings, Fletcher would get responses to those messages before he even made it to Miami's facility, particularly from his father, Mark Sr., who was an early riser.

On October 24, 2024, though,

there was silence.

Still, Fletcher didn't think anything was wrong as he settled in with his fellow backs for their pre-practice meeting with running backs coach Matt Merritt.

Miami was undefeated and rolling. A matchup against Florida State loomed. There was work to be done and Fletcher figured he'd just catch up with his family after practice.

Then Merritt was called out of the meeting. Not long after, so was Fletcher.

As the running back made his way to head coach Mario Cristobal's office, he couldn't help but wonder if he was in some kind of trouble. He didn't think he'd done anything wrong, but clearly, something was amiss.

When he walked into Cristobal's office, saw his aunt waiting for him with a phone in her hand and heard his mother's shaking voice coming through the speaker, Fletcher realized why his earlier texts had gone unanswered.

And something inside him broke.

"I just asked, 'My dad's dead?' and my auntie nodded her head yes," he recalled. "She didn't have any words. She just nodded and I lost it. I just lost it."

In that earth-shattering moment, the running back did the only think he could think of.

He ran.

He ran past his aunt, past the coaches and staffers who tried to stop him.

He ran through the side door in Cristobal's office, and he ran all the way out of the Carol Soffer Indoor Practice Facility until he collapsed, in tears, onto the track at Cobb Stadium.

There, just steps from Greentree – where his father had so often watched him and his Hurricanes teammates practice – Fletcher realized he wasn't alone.

Cristobal had followed him. So had Merritt. And Stephen Field, Miami's Executive Director of Football Recruiting. And Benedick Hyppolite, then an offensive analyst for the Hurricanes.

All of them had been there when he'd learned the devastating news that he'd lost his best friend, his role model, and his biggest fan. And all of them wanted Fletcher to know that whatever grief he was feeling, he wouldn't have to feel it alone.

"If they wouldn't have chased after

me, I don't know what I would have done in that moment, honestly," Fletcher said. "So, thank God for them. I didn't know where I was going or what I was going to do. They just had to really hold me and thank God for them."

After his coaches picked him up and he'd calmed down, Cristobal asked Fletcher what he wanted to do next. Did he want to want to sit with his aunt? Go home and see his family?

For Fletcher, there was only one option.

"I said, 'I'm going to practice. We've got practice today and we've got FSU this week,'" Fletcher told his coach. "And the only reason I went to practice is because, real talk, what would my dad want me to do? It wasn't about what I wanted to do. What would my dad want me to do right now?"

Fletcher didn't just practice on the

day of his father's passing.

Two days later, he took the field for Miami's game against rival Florida State and scored the Hurricanes' first touchdown in what was eventually a resounding Miami win.

And when he reached the end zone, Fletcher fell to one knee, extended his arm and pointed up at the sky.

That simple gesture has now become a regular part of Fletcher's game and Mark Sr. remains Fletcher's biggest motivation.

"That's my why," Fletcher said earlier this year, gesturing to a shirt that bore his father's photo. "I don't know [if] I can tell you what my why was before. I guess I just loved playing football. But this is definitely my why now and it's going to forever be that."

A year after his father's death, Fletcher is still grieving; still thinking of Mark Sr. every time he takes the



the field. After all, it was his father who helped him fall in love with not only football, but the Miami Hurricanes.

But there is light again, too.

It's not uncommon to see Fletcher smiling or laughing with his teammates as he comes off the practice field. Or to watch him pose for pictures and sign autographs for the Miami fans who wait to see him outside Hard Rock Stadium after games.

He is a junior now, a veteran in the

Miami locker room and he considers it part of his job to be as positive and encouraging as possible for his teammates in their toughest moments.

Joy, his mother says, has always been part of her youngest son's personality.

"From the moment he was born, he was full of life, joyful, smiling," Linda Fletcher said. "He was always an independent, happy kid. ... And even as a little thing, he was always a leader. He would have all his little cousins around him, and he

was only 3-years old, but he was telling them what to do and they would listen. ... He was the leader from the get-go."

Thanks to his father and his older brother, he was a football player from the get-go, too.

Fletcher began playing organized football with the Lauderhill Lions when he was just seven years old and because he was one of the biggest players on the field, coaches put him on the offensive line.

It was an experiment that didn't last very long.

His coaches quickly noticed that despite his size, Fletcher was plenty quick.

He consistently outran his teammates during sprints and eventually, was given the opportunity to run the ball in a game.

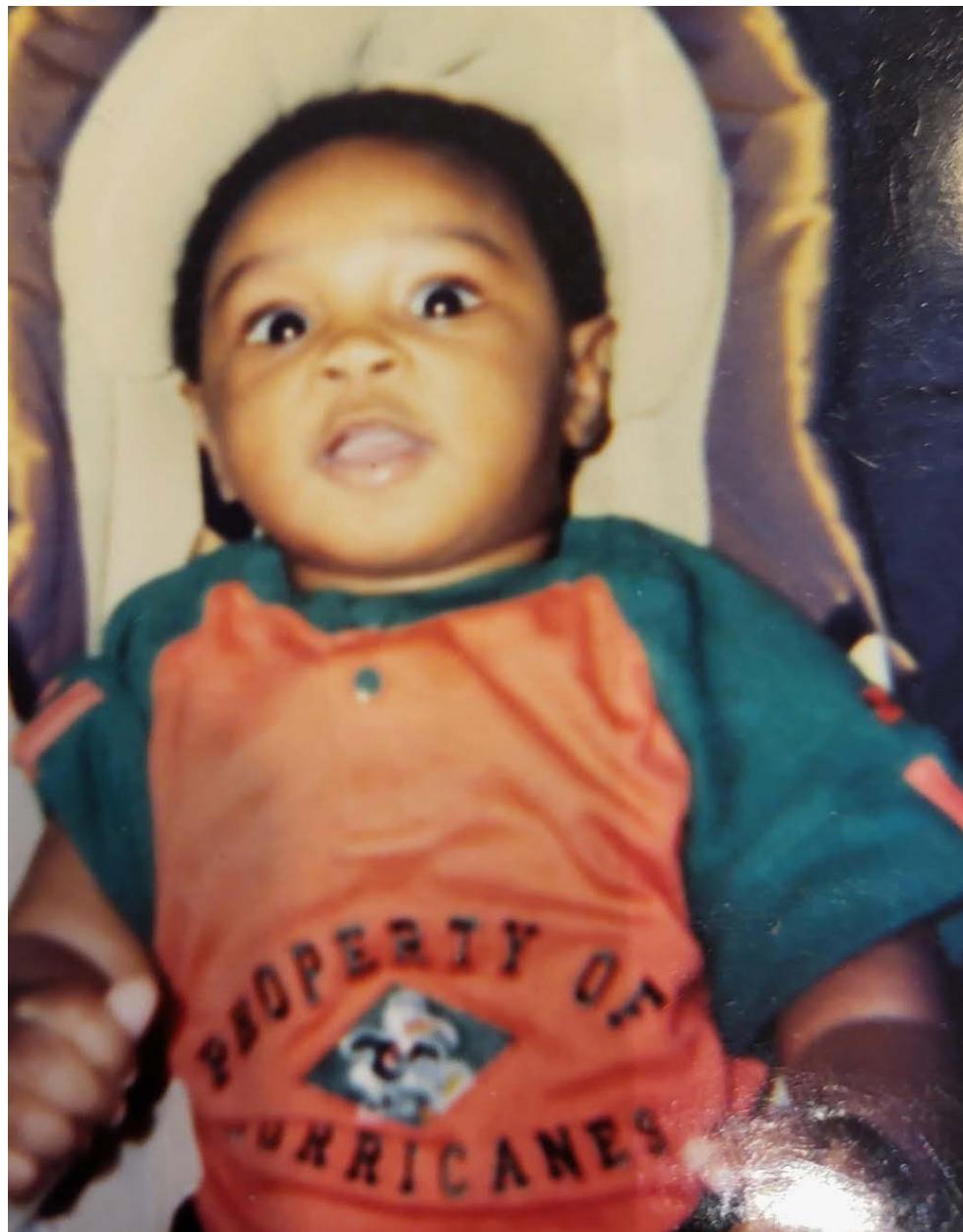
His first carry, Fletcher notes with a smile, was a touchdown.

"Then they just said, 'All right. We're going to put him at running back,'" he laughed.

Fletcher worked his way up through the youth football ranks in Broward County and eventually landed at American Heritage in Plantation. There, he developed into a four-star prospect who helped the Patriots win a state title during his sophomore year.

That season, he topped the 100-yard mark in nine of American Heritage's 13 games.

More success followed his junior



year and as a senior, Fletcher totaled 1,934 rushing yards and 23 touchdowns. Florida, Ohio State, Alabama, Auburn, Florida State, Georgia, Michigan, Penn State and others all wanted him on their rosters.

And for a brief time, it seemed that Fletcher – the South Florida kid who'd grown up watching videos of Miami legends Ray Lewis and Sean Taylor – would head north.

Fletcher committed to Ohio State before eventually changing his mind and signing with the program he – and his father – had always cheered.

"I think I was caught in this period of super excitement that this other big college I'd never really looked into wanted me and I was just so excited when I went up there to visit," Fletcher said. "But in my heart, before signing day, I just didn't feel the way I was supposed to feel.

And God put me in the right position. I was so thankful I chose Miami.

"I didn't have to think twice about Miami. I knew I was going to be okay at Miami, no matter how things went because I was close to home. I was close to my people, and this was the place where I always wanted to be when I was younger. ... I just really asked God. I prayed so hard. And I didn't even have to think twice about Miami. I knew I would be perfectly fine, and I would excel."

Fletcher was more than fine during his freshman season at Miami.

He appeared in 10 games in 2023 and made four starts. He led the Hurricanes with 105 carries and was second on the team with 514 rushing yards.

Fletcher posted 100-yard performances against both NC State

and Louisville and looked poised to put himself in position for an even bigger role as a sophomore when he was called on to start in Miami's season finale, the Pinstripe Bowl.

But he left the game with a foot injury after just two carries and didn't think much of it, figuring he'd just tweaked his ankle, and he'd be back in action soon enough.

"It was after my freshman year, so I didn't really know the benefits of an offseason, honestly. I didn't think anything of it at first when they told me I'd be sitting out," Fletcher said. "But I will say, the first two, three months in trying to recover and do my rehab, it definitely hit me like, 'Dang, this is something serious. I won't be walking any time soon.'"

It turns out Fletcher had a Lisfranc injury on his left foot – something far more serious than an ankle sprain.

He needed surgery to correct the





Photos courtesy of:
Courtesy Linda Fletcher

issue, then had to undergo months of recovery and rehabilitation work.

And while he, obviously, kept in touch with his teammates and had his eye on what the Hurricanes were doing ahead of the 2024 season, darkness crept in, and Fletcher worried.

He wanted to play. He wanted to develop his skill set. He wanted to know he'd be able to make a difference for the Hurricanes when the new season began.

Staying positive among so much uncertainty became difficult and Fletcher – who'd never had a serious injury to that point – found himself struggling in a way he'd never really struggled before.

"I've never been a negative person. I'm always the guy who can make a person's day better. I just try to always stay positive," Fletcher said. "But I realized my mind was turning me into something else. I wasn't smiling as much, and I realized I really had to bring it all up out of myself. I had to really have a wake-up call."

Fletcher turned to his family and his faith to help him navigate the uncertainty of his injury.

He dove into Scripture and spent time sharing his fears and worries with former Miami chaplain Mike Blanc. Little by little, his mindset shifted, and he focused not on what he couldn't do, but on what he could. Fletcher couldn't participate in spring drills, but he could study film, talk to his coaches and learn as much about the college game as possible.

If he couldn't get his body ready for his sophomore season, he could get his mind ready for what awaited once he got back on the field.

That return eventually came on a steamy, August afternoon in Gainesville when the Hurricanes opened the season against rival Florida.

Fletcher had seven carries for 23 yards in Miami's win that day, but most importantly, he scored – twice, even though he still didn't feel like himself.

"It was definitely emotional. I know my parents were probably crying. But for me, it was just so much joy. I felt so much joy in my heart. I put in so much work in the rehab process to play again," Fletcher said.

"No, I couldn't get better at football or work on my cuts. I was focused on getting better and being able to walk and run again. And even in that game against Florida, if you really go back and look, I tripped over myself so many times. I had such a weak foot. I was healthy enough to go out there and play and give my effort, but I still wasn't myself. I was just happy that I could contribute and help my team."

Fletcher returned to Miami's rotation and even if he didn't feel his best, he helped Miami win games and that was enough.

Then came that horrible October morning and a pain unlike any other. The same teammates who'd rallied around him when he got hurt surrounded Fletcher in his grief. Miami's entire team attended Mark Sr.'s funeral and did their best in the weeks and months that followed to remind Fletcher he wasn't alone.

"A lot of us knew Mark since he was younger and we all knew his dad," said running back Jordan Lyle. "For something that tragic to happen to him, we just felt like we needed to be there for him. He's always there for us, good and bad. So, we had to be there for him during his tough time. We were all praying for Mark: my family, everybody else in the room, their families. Mark is just a big part of everybody's lives. He's basically that jelling glue that keeps everybody together."

Added defensive lineman Rueben Bain Jr., "Big Mark, he was like a father to all of us. He'd come to practice, and he was always chilling and laughing with us. To walk into practice and find out he was gone, it drew tears out of our eyes. We all shared that moment with Mark and comforted him. It stuck out to all of us that he stayed at practice. ... It was just super important for us to be there for him. We knew we had to be there with him every step of the season."

That support proved crucial.

In the immediate aftermath of his father's death, Fletcher concedes he thought about giving up the game he'd loved all his life.

The idea of playing without his father cheering him on proved too much to bear.

But he knew in his heart of hearts he couldn't walk away from football. He couldn't walk away from the Hurricanes.

He knew his father wouldn't have wanted that and so, Fletcher powered on.

"The reason I didn't quit was really because I didn't want to quit on these people who I built these great connections with," Fletcher said. "If I didn't build such deep connections with every single player on this team, it would have been so much easier to quit. And it was definitely the knowledge of

knowing my dad would not want me to quit."

The Hurricanes, for their part, are grateful Fletcher is still a part of the team, still a part of their family.

And they've vowed to continue to be there for him, through all he may be feeling.

"His energy, his spirit, his heart, his leadership, his care factor is awesome. Mark Fletcher is a special, special young man," Cristobal said. "Big Mark is watching him from above and I know he's extremely proud of his son. He's a guy that you can't wait to go watch practice because you know he's going to bring it. He's going to change the energy of the entire team. Mark's come a long way."



Photos courtesy of: Courtesy Linda Fletcher

RIVALRY RENEWED: MIAMI-NOTRE DAME OPEN 2025 SEASON

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

There's something special about a season opener.

When that season opener is a top-10 matchup against a familiar rival, well, that has the potential to be an especially memorable night.

The Hurricanes kicked off the 2025 season – and a four-game homestand – on Aug. 31 when they welcomed then sixth-ranked Notre Dame to Hard Rock Stadium and after what head Mario Cristobal termed a “muddy and bloody night ... like rock ‘em, sock ‘em robots,” it was Miami that emerged with a hard-fought win.

Hurricanes Kicker Carter Davis, a transfer from FAU, connected on a late 47-yard field goal that helped lift the Hurricanes to a 27-24 victory.

The game showcased a number of Miami's talented newcomers, including quarterback Carson Beck.

The signal caller, a Georgia transfer who was injured in last year's SEC Championship Game, played well in his first game back after undergoing elbow surgery during the offseason.

Beck completed 20 of 31 passes for 205 yards and threw two touchdown passes. Meanwhile, freshman receiver Malachi Toney – a former four-star prospect – made a dazzling debut, catching six passes for 82 yards and a touchdown.

Miami's defense, meanwhile, forced a pair of turnovers and held All-American running back Jeremiah Love to a meager 33 rushing yards. The Hurricanes – ranked No. 10 at the time of the game – totaled five tackles for loss and collected three sacks, with Rueben Bain Jr. and Raul Aguirre Jr. each posting five tackles.

The win marked Miami's first over a top-10 team since 2017 – when the Hurricanes beat Notre Dame, also at Hard Rock Stadium.

“Tremendously proud of this team,” Cristobal said after the win. “The resiliency, complementary football, overcoming a couple of hiccups and whatnot ... All in all, just an awesome night for the Miami Hurricanes.”

The Hurricanes went on to close out their homestand with wins over USF, Bethune-Cookman and Florida.









GETTING TO KNOW ... ARIANA RODRIGUEZ

By Brandon Blanco

At just 19 years old, Ariana Rodriguez has lived a dream few athletes ever realize.

The Miami setter traded her Hurricanes jersey for the bold red, white, and blue of the Dominican Republic, stepping onto the court at the 2024 Paris Olympics with the weight of her country and her family's legacy on her shoulders.

Volleyball runs deep in Rodriguez's veins. Her mother, Sequin Fung, played in the Dominican Republic's superior league and at Columbia University. Her father, Elvis Rodriguez, was a member of the Dominican National Team, and her sister, Iliana, starred at St. John's and Virginia Tech before joining the Dominican squad herself.

For Rodriguez, Paris was not just a destination; it was the continuation of a story that began long before she ever touched a ball.

Now back in Coral Gables, Rodriguez has carried those Olympic seasons onto the court for the Hurricanes.

As a redshirt sophomore, she's already etched her name into Miami's record books, tallying over 1,000 assists in her debut season, seventh-most in program history, while earning AVCA All-Region honors and three ACC Setter of the Week awards. This fall, she'll be asked to do even more: guide a Hurricanes team on the rise, set the standard as a preseason All-ACC pick, and provide steady leadership both on and off the floor.

Hurricanes Magazine caught up with Rodriguez to reflect on her Olympic journey, her growth as a

leader, and what she envisions for her future in volleyball and beyond.

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

Hurricanes Magazine: Looking back now, what was the most memorable part of competing in the Olympics?

Ariana Rodriguez: "It would have to be when we won the game against the Netherlands, which was the game that helped us qualify to the quarterfinals. ... Competing for a medal at any type of international level, like the World Championship, especially the Olympics, is something that is crazy to even imagine. So, I would say when we beat the Netherlands, and it was 3-1, and we always go back and forth with them. For example, this year at the VNL, which is another big tournament that we played, we beat them in five, and there was a lot on the line for that game, and we just gave it our all. We were like, we've got this, we're going to do it, and that is exactly what we did. We stayed locked in all four sets, and we came out on top. There is even a photo that I uploaded where everybody's on the floor when we won, celebrating, just happiness, and that is really a memory that really stuck with me."

HM: How did it feel to represent your family and wear the Dominican Republic's Jersey on the Olympic stage?

AR: "It is always an honor to represent the Dominican Republic and to represent where my family comes from. ... I am actually very proud to be Dominican, and I love telling people that I am Dominican.

Every time I step on the court, it is with intent, especially when I have that flag on my chest. I am representing something bigger than myself. It is a whole country and a lot of people, and I take a lot of pride in that."

HM: What were some of the moments in Paris, either on or off the court, that really stuck with you?

AR: "I was definitely inspired, if anything, by being around all these Olympians. Two-time Olympians, first time Olympians. You see the drive and the demeanor and their determination, and you can tell that they have dedicated their whole life to the sport they are competing in. Not just volleyball, but basketball, diving, whatever it is, you see people working hard every single day in the weight room when they are going to compete. They know that the Olympics are not an opportunity that every athlete has, and they definitely do not take that for granted."

"You trade pins from your country [with] each other; you try to network and meet other athletes from other countries. I think it is really cool how you interact with people. We saw Snoop Dogg, Serena Williams, and LeBron James. You are starstruck because it is like, 'wow, I grew up watching you, and now we are competing in the same area, or we are competing in the same competition.'"

HM: What was the biggest lesson you learned about yourself from playing against the world's best?

AR: "I already knew this, but it was kind of like there is a lot of room for me to grow in this sport. I am still

very young and especially playing against women that I watched when I was like seven years old, eight years old. You can tell the difference between the veterans and the newbies, and every time I stepped on the court, my heart was in my stomach, because not only was I playing on the biggest stage of my life, but I was also coming face-to-face with people I saw when I was younger, and now I am playing against them. So, I guess my biggest lesson that I learned about myself is that I am only as good as I allow myself to be. ... [If] I get too nervous, and I can't play, that is going to make me look like I am not meant to be there, but if I start to gain some confidence and know that I have already shown people that I can play with some of the best in the world, then I can compete with anybody, no matter who it is, no matter how old they are. I deserve to be there."

HM: Your parents and siblings all played volleyball. How special was it to know you were continuing the legacy at the Olympics?

AR: "My parents went. My whole family went. My dad never got to compete in the Olympics, so he is kind of living this through me, and they are all very proud of me. They went to every single game. They supported me in the ups and downs, and they understand the place that I am in and how stressful this can be, especially when everybody is watching these games. There can be a lot of pressure. So, I think they enjoy watching me. They travel whenever they can to watch me play, and they love that it's all happening for me and that their daughter can play on the national team like they did years ago."

HM: After Paris, how did you approach returning to Miami, balancing school and preparing for ACC competition?

AR: "It was not easy. Especially coming from that summer. I had gone to Brazil, China, Poland, Paris. It was just all over the place and then coming back and settling down. I did not really have much of a break. I literally got off the plane, and somehow, I still had practice the next day. My body was going through it, and I was mentally not there. That affected me kind of throughout the season, because it gave me a lot of anxiety. After all, I was not performing as I usually do. All in all, I just went with the flow, and I realized that everything has a solution, and I just kept going. I kept doing my treatment. I was still taking care of my body and trying to get my mental [state] right at the same time, but I will say it definitely was not an easy transition. Would I ever want to do that again? I do not know the answer yet."

HM: What parts of your game improved most because of that international experience?

AR: How I handle certain situations in terms of [being] under pressure, because it is kind of like you played on the biggest stage, and then you come here and play against college athletes. You are not supposed to be nervous. You do not need to be nervous, because you already did something bigger than college volleyball. So, that kind of brought me back to the basics. Do what you know you have to do, and do not overcomplicate things. I am an overthinker, so I get a little anxious, and I just go back to the basics. I remember what my dad told

me: 'Play your game.'

HM: You've already racked up honors like ACC Setter of the Week and AVCA All-Region. How do you balance those individual accolades while keeping the focus on the team's success?

AR: "I don't worry about my own recognition, because at the end of the day, volleyball is a team sport, so no matter what you do individually, it is cool. But that is not the end goal, because you can't win a game by yourself. A setter most definitely cannot, which is what I play. I cannot win a game by myself. I need my hitters, so if anything, I give props to my hitters because they are making me look good. I just don't worry about the individual awards that much."

HM: What expectations do you have for yourself and the team this season?

AR: "We are fairly improved. We are learning every single day. We have ups and downs, which is normal, more ups as every single day goes by. We are getting more and more connected, and I am trying to understand my hitters and how they work and what their best sets are in [certain] situations. It is all a new process. We are all learning, but I expect our best effort every single game."

HM: Miami volleyball has been improving every year. What do you think this group can achieve together?

AR: "Teams are going to underestimate us just like they did last year. We beat Texas, Stanford, and Georgia Tech. I like thinking as the

underdog, because you have nothing to lose, and that is why we play the way we play."

HM: What do you hope to accomplish in your Miami career before you graduate?

AR: "As a student, I expect to get my master's [degree] here in finance, and as an athlete, I have been saying that I want to be ACC Setter of the Year. I am planning on working towards that for this year, and being an All-American would be cool."

HM: Looking ahead, what are your goals with the Dominican National team? Would you like to compete in Los Angeles in 2028?

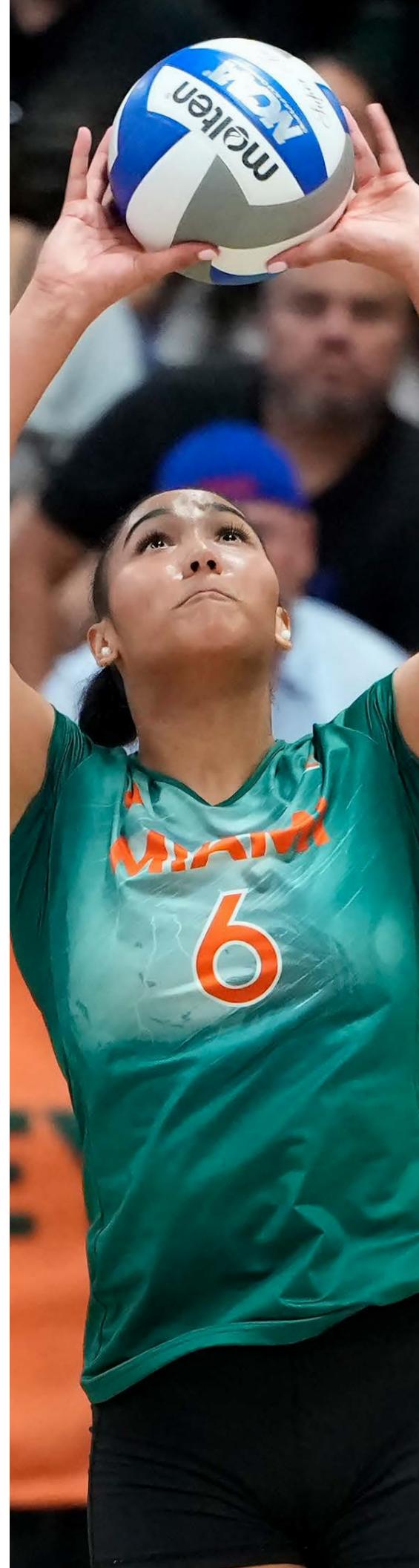
AR: "Yes. We still have to qualify next year, and it is in Santo Domingo. My freshman year, I went to China for three weeks. We ended up winning gold there and ended up coming in first. So, we were one of the first six countries to qualify for Paris, but next year, being in Santo Domingo, it should be fun."

HM: Beyond volleyball, what are some dreams or plans for your future career or personal life?

AR: "After I graduate, I want to play professionally, but you always have to have a plan B. That is why I prioritize sports and my education. It is what my family always taught me, because we can't play volleyball until we are 60. We've got to stop at around 40, and after that, you have to find something to do. So, I have definitely been taking advantage of this amazing education that I am getting here at Miami. I want to work on something in finance, and I really hope I can play professionally in Italy or Turkey."

HM: When Miami fans think of Ariana Rodriguez years from now, what do you hope they remember most about you?

AR: "Just [that I'm] a girl that loves playing for Miami, loves playing volleyball, and always wants to inspire the little girls, because they are the ones that come to our games. They support us, they follow us on Instagram. They love us. I always want to be an inspiration for the upcoming kids, because they all want to be in our position one day. It is the University of Miami, so I want to leave my footprint in a way that was like 'Oh, you want to be like Ariana when she was here. She was that girl.' I always work hard every practice, love playing ball. [I want them to] see the joy on my face, and [know] I was always an inspiration and a leader for the younger generation."



FACES IN THE CROWD

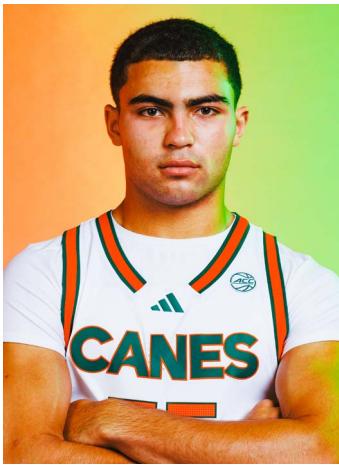
By Brandon Blanco



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 fall edition spotlights four newcomers to The U, including a shifty wide receiver who has quickly made an impact on the football field, two dynamic guards who will look to spark their respective offenses on the basketball court, and another is making standout defensive plays on the volleyball court.

Get to know Hurricanes Dante Allen, Olivia Durst, Gal Raviv, and Malachi Toney.



Dante Allen, Freshman

A former four-star prospect, Dante Allen comes from a basketball family. His father, Malik Allen, starred at Villanova and later had a 12-year NBA career that included time with the Miami Heat and several other teams. Allen, a 6-foot-4 guard, was ranked the 64th player in the Class of 2025 in the 247 Sports composite after averaging 11.7 points, 4.8 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 1.7 steals per game at Montverde Academy.



Olivia Durst, Freshman

Olivia Durst is a defensive specialist from Brookfield, Wisconsin where she was an All-American Third Team and JVA All-National Team selection. She also won state championships three times at her high school, Divine Savior Holy Angels. In her first 14 matches with the Hurricanes, Durst has totaled 33 digs, including a season-high of six digs against both Clemson and FIU.



Gal Raviv, Sophomore

Gal Raviv may be embarking on her first season as a Hurricane, but she's already played some pretty impressive basketball at the Watsco Center – and beyond. The guard, a transfer from Quinnipiac, earned a spot on the Miami Thanksgiving Tournament All-Tournament team last November after averaging 24.5 points, 6.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists in the two games the Bobcats played in Coral Gables. More honors followed with Raviv later being named the 2025 MAAC Player of the Year and the 2025 MAAC Rookie of the Year after averaging 17.9 points, 5.5 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 1.4 steals per game. A native of Netanya, Israel, Raviv played with Team Israel in both the U19 FIBA Women's World Cup and the U18 Women's Eurobasket.



Malachi Toney, Freshman

Malachi Toney reclassified to the 2025 class and skipped his senior season at American Heritage to join the Hurricanes earlier this year. Before arriving in Coral Gables, though, he won the 2024 Nat Moore Award as the top player in South Florida and led American Heritage to a 12-2 record, with 58 receptions, 12 touchdowns, and 1,008 yards. He wasted little time making his presence felt once he got to Miami and through the non-conference part of the schedule had a team-high 22 catches for a team-high 268 receiving yards.



CREATING A LEGACY: MADDIE SCHEIER

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Maddie Scheier knew she could run – and run quickly – but for much of her childhood, she never imagined herself breaking records as a collegiate athlete – at least, not on the track.

Instead, Scheier dreamed of a college basketball career.

She began playing the sport at a young age, like her older sister, Callie, and it didn't take long for her to fall in love with the game.

As she gained more experience and spent more time on the court, she developed a skillset that, she hoped, would one day help her earn a scholarship.

Running was something she did in addition to basketball, a way to keep her conditioning up through the offseason. Even when she joined her high school track team and began competing as a runner, basketball remained her passion.

Then, during her junior year of high school, Scheier found herself at a crossroads.

She tore her ACL, and doctors presented her with two options: have surgery and miss between nine and 12 months of basketball or skip the surgery, rehab her knee and once cleared to return to action, focus solely on her future as a track and field athlete.

At a critical stage in the recruiting process, a decision had to be made.

"I had already started getting some interest from colleges for track, and I thought maybe I would have

an opportunity to go to an even better school if I made the decision to run," Scheier said. "It was kind of hard at that point to give up basketball, but I ended up not choosing surgery and I got back to running like three months later, I think."

"It was the perfect example of everything happening for a reason, because I never would've had the opportunity to come to a school like Miami if I hadn't made the switch. ... It took a big injury to get me to commit to running."

That commitment has more than paid off.

Today, Scheier is a standout on both Miami's cross country and track and field teams.

She had a record-breaking sophomore season that, in the fall, included her first win at the collegiate level when she posted a time of 17:44.22 in the 5K of the FAU Invitational.

She followed that in the spring by setting a new school record in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Wake Forest Invitational with a time of 10:48.62. She also recorded the fourth-fastest time in program history in the 3,000-meter run when she posted a 9:50.33.

And as a new season of competition begins to heat up, Scheier is picking up right where she left off as a sophomore.

In September, she set a new Miami record in the 5K with a time of 17:04.48 at the Southern Showcase in Huntsville, Alabama and

she's determined to keep growing – especially since she really only embraced running late in her high school career.

"I think what I've noticed is that because I started later, that now I'm seeing that big improvement that most girls might see in high school," she said. "It just shows all the hard work from the past couple years, which is really exciting. The jump from my freshman year to sophomore year was huge and I was able to break a lot of records, which was fun. But it's really meant a lot because I do work really hard and I sacrifice a lot of other things in order to be at my best. So, it's really cool to see it all come through."

For Scheier, competing at a high level is second nature.

It had to be, given her family.

Her father, Adam Scheier, is a veteran college football coach who is currently the special teams coordinator at UNLV. Callie is now an assistant coach and the director of player development for the women's basketball team at High Point University, where she played and was a two-time conference champion. Sister Riley was a Sunsation at Miami before graduating and is now a cheerleader for the Philadelphia Eagles, while her younger brother, Brady, is taking a post-graduate year before playing football at Princeton.

Competition was always fierce in the Scheier home – but it always came with plenty of support, too.

That, Scheier says, pushed her to

become the athlete she is today.

"I just think being around so many good examples and seeing what happens when you put your mind to something and you're passionate about something, it created a sense of toughness in me," Scheier said. "I learned how to battle adversity. And also, just having that support system was huge. They're the ones that support me in every race. They text me good luck beforehand and watch all the races and everything. ... It's just cool having a group of people that I'm so close to that all understand what it means to be a serious athlete and we're all able to support each other."

As much as she has enjoyed competing for the Hurricanes, Scheier has been determined to make sure her entire Miami experience is a well-rounded one.

Earlier this year, she was one of 11 student-athletes honored at the Celebration of Women's Athletics for her efforts in the classroom, in the community, and on the track.

She is a member of Miami's HER Leadership Academy and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

An education major who aspires to be a special education teacher, Scheier also works with Special Olympics and is involved in Dream on 3, an organization which works to create memorable sports-related experiences for children and young adults with life-altering conditions.

For Scheier, being involved in the community is just another part of her Miami journey – one she is embracing to the fullest.

"I love being able to have an impact in the community, especially the special needs community," Scheier said. "Dream on 3, and Special Olympics, that's something I'm super passionate about that. And aside from that, I just want to be a leader and be someone that other athletes and younger generations can look up to."

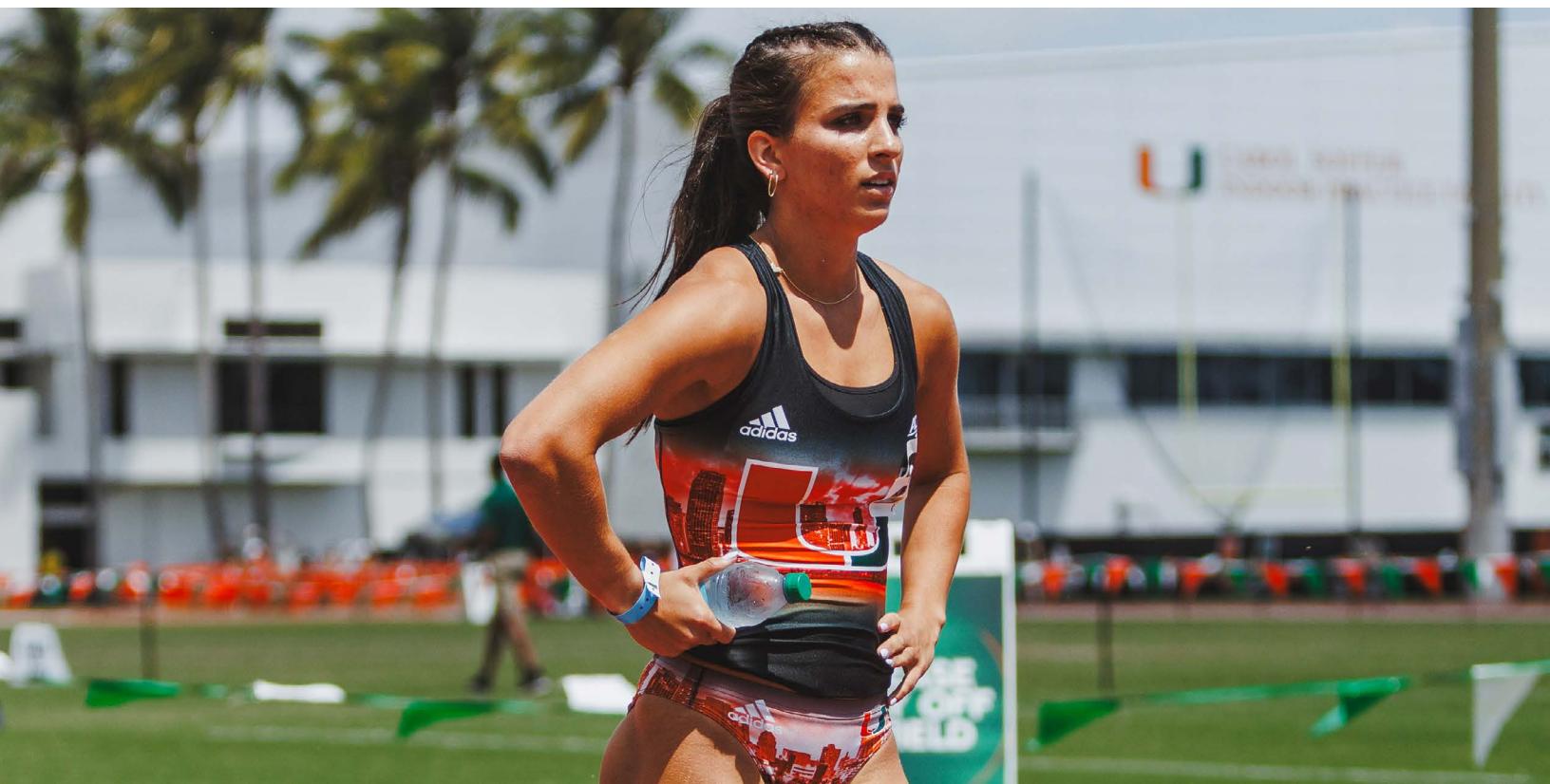
There's no doubt that during her

first two years at Miami, Scheier has made an impact.

She's broken records. She's excelled in the classroom. And she's grown into her role as a leader, not only among her fellow student-athletes, but on Miami's campus as a whole.

And she only wants to continue all of that during the latter part of her career.

"I hope for myself that I continue to improve athletically and be the best possible athlete I can be by the end of my time here," Scheier said. "But more than that, I hope to kind of leave a little legacy. I know distance running hasn't always been the best here in the past, so I hope that now, we're trending forward, and I hope that once I leave here, I leave the team better than when I got here. And I just hope to, with all my teammates and everyone else that I've met here, to just keep making an impact and have people in my corner that I'll now forever and be in touch with forever."







CANES CONNECT SPOTLIGHT: PATH OF A HURRICANE

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

They had the opportunity to don fire gear and learn what life is like for first responders. They toured the Kaseya Center and saw, firsthand, what it takes to run a professional basketball franchise. They learned about banking, homebuilding, marketing, public relations and got a chance to see what kind of careers potentially await them after their playing days are over.

This summer, members of the Miami football team – including wide receiver Tony Johnson, defensive lineman Booker Pickett, defensive back Keionte Scott and running back Jack Whitehouse – participated in the athletic department's new Path of a Hurricane Business Trip, an initiative created to help football student-athletes weigh potential career options.

Over three days, the student-athletes, along with Executive Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development Shirelle Jackson, Director of Player Development Jorge Baez, Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development LaToya Farris and Associate Director of Student-Athlete Development Jess Hurley, visited with firefighters at the Coral Gables Fire Department, and met with staffers from a variety of South Florida companies including City National Bank,

MSC Cruises, Lennar, the Miami Heat and the Museum of Graffiti in Wynwood.

"We tried to make it as diverse as possible and really help the student-athletes see all of their opportunities and what their futures could look like," Hurley said. "We talk a lot about how important it is to have multiple plans and ideas so that they're prepared for what's next, whenever that comes. ... We took them to a variety of offices to see what exists. ... They were able to see a lot of different work environments, people, dress codes, cultures, etcetera."

Helping make the experience even more personal was the fact that former Miami student-athletes – including former football player Wyatt Chickillo and former spirit squad member Sidney Sterling – were among those who spoke to the Hurricanes about their careers. Chickillo is currently a firefighter in Coral Gables, while Sterling is the director of communications at MSC Cruises.

"I think anytime we can emphasize to our student-athletes how many people are in their corner that they don't even think about or realize, and they see how many people in this city are cheering them on in all facets of life – not just when they're on the field – is so important," Hurley said.







WHERE ARE THEY NOW? DEWI WEBER

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Dewi Weber can still remember the uncertainty, and the worry.

Growing up in the Netherlands, she'd never had to deal with any kind of tropical weather. She'd never had to prepare for a hurricane or evacuate before a storm. And she'd certainly never had to pack up her possessions, her dog and, with her roommate, pile into her tiny two-seater before hitting the road for goodness knows how long.

And yet, that's the position the golfer found herself in as Hurricane Irma approached the South Florida coastline during her junior year at Miami in 2017.

It wasn't exactly a fun experience – but it proved a memorable one, nonetheless.

"I think it was a testament to how much of a close-knit community the athletics department was and probably still is because I ended up spending three weeks with the basketball team in a house that was owned by the sister of the head women's basketball coach," Weber recalled with a laugh. "They just took me in as family, the token golfer, and I got to stay with the basketball team for three weeks. It was hilarious. ... It was an adventure."

These days, Weber's adventures are a lot less nerve-wracking, but still pretty memorable.

After graduating from Miami and spending time on the Epson Tour, the former three-time All-American earned her LPGA Tour card in 2021 and has made her dream of competing at the highest level as a

professional golfer a reality.

It wasn't always an easy journey – competing on the Epson Tour tested her. But her persistence and the experience she gained at Miami paid off.

In 2021, Weber posted three top 10 finishes and was 41st in the Epson Tour's Race for the Card standings. That same year, she finished tied for 10th in the LPGA Q-Series to finally earn her tour card.

"Getting my card was more of a relief than anything else. ... I turned pro in 2019, and I tried to get my card in the fall of 2018, and I missed it, I think, by one shot. Which means I did the Symetra [Futures] Tour, which is now called the Epson Tour. It was initially fun, but it's quite a grind and you're doing it for very lit-





the financial compensation," Weber said. "And I was also living in Miami, and life is expensive in general. For lack of a better word, it was tough in the sense that, yes, I was doing something I really love. I love golf. And I love grinding and I know why I'm doing it and I know it's the only way to get to the LPGA, but it was not always as fun as it seemed because there's a lot of pressure and I felt for three years like I was living paycheck to paycheck and that is never fun....

"I think that weighed on me. So, when I went to Q-School in '21... being like, 'Damn, I really need something. I need to make something happen,' and when I did, I was obviously ecstatic. It was this weight lifted off my shoulders in the sense that, 'See, I am good enough. I can do this. I finally did the thing I was supposed to do and wanted to do for so long. Now, I finally get to really live out the dream.' The dream was never to be in the AAAs. It was always to be in the Big Leagues,

and I was finally there."

Since being on the LPGA Tour, Weber has posted 11 career top 25 finishes, including a 10-under-par performance at the LOTTE Championship that placed her in a tie for 14th in early October.

She's also notched two top 10 finishes in her career, including a sixth-place finish at the Dow Championship in 2022 and an eighth-place finish at last year's Portland Classic when she posted a score of 18-under.

"It's been great. Choosing the path of being a professional golfer, a competing professional golfer, obviously, it has its challenges, but I think mostly, I've embraced all of those," Weber said. "I knew this wasn't going to be super easy, but, I mean, I've been doing this now for seven years and it'd be crazy to say I didn't enjoy it because then what are we doing? It's been good. I'm doing the thing that I dreamt of, but

I didn't think was possible when I was little and now it is."

For Weber, the journey to the LPGA Tour started back home in the Netherlands, where she began her amateur career.

She won the Dutch Matchplay U21 Championship in 2013 and won the titles at the Copa Stogrande in 2015 and at the 2014 International Barbants Open. She posted several top 25 finishes at tournaments across Europe, including tying for fifth at the Spanish Ladies' Open in 2014 and tying for 17th at the Ladies British Open Amateur.

She then decided to play collegiately in the United States, where she knew she'd be able to both earn a degree and compete at a high level. Miami, she said, was a natural fit with its location on the East Coast and its small classes.

It was a program, too, where Weber felt she could make a difference.

"The program was good, and I knew my talent was going to be valued if I added on to the team," Weber said. "It's nice knowing that you coming to a team is maybe going to make it vastly better and then it did, in the sense that in my time there, we shot up in the rankings and that was just kind of cool."

Weber wasted no time making an impact on the Hurricanes once she arrived.

Her freshman season, she finished as the runner-up at the NCAA Championship when she posted an eight-under-par, four-round total of 280.

She became the first Hurricane to earn All-American honors three times, and while at Miami, also twice represented the Nether-

lands in the World Amateur Team Championship. In 2018, was a part of Team International in the Arnold Palmer Cup, a Ryder Cup-style competition that features top collegiate golfers from the U.S. competing against their peers from across the world.

Today, Weber is competing at the highest level and enjoying life in Los Angeles with her wife, Jen, and their dog, Ollie. There are mountain hikes and family dinners in between her busy tournament schedule.

Through it all, she remains grateful for the experiences – and friendships – she gained during her time at Miami.

And she hopes that the young golfers now teeing up at The Biltmore will enjoy every minute of their time

in Coral Gables, the way she did.

"Even though I really, really enjoy my job now, I'm never going to have that time again where my friends are all within a mile radius of me ... I guess as busy as life can be and how high-pressure all the situations seem [in college], especially on the [course], try to enjoy it as much as possible because you're never going to have that specific time and experience again," Weber said. "Even if you're in grad school, it's not going to be the same. So, try and enjoy those moments every day as much as you can. Even though you're cramming for tests or you're trying to get that top position on the team or in a tournament, it's supposed to all be fun, even if it's high stress."





IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ESPN, ACCN COME TO THE U

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

For Hurricanes fans, any matchup against the rival Gators is worth circling on the calendar.

But this year's game between Miami and Florida was more than just a showcase for the two programs on the field.

It was a showcase for the entire University of Miami and the Hurricanes fanbase.

Both ESPN and the ACC Network descended onto the Coral Gables campus ahead of the Hurricanes' Sept. 20 home game against the Gators and thousands of college football fans – most wearing Miami's orange, green and white – got a chance to celebrate the sport they love.

ESPN's flagship college football preview show – *College GameDay Built by the Home Depot* – took over the Lakeside Patio for its three-hour live broadcast that highlighted matchups from across the country, while on the Foote Green, ACC *Huddle* spotlighted the student-athletes, coaches and games from across the conference.

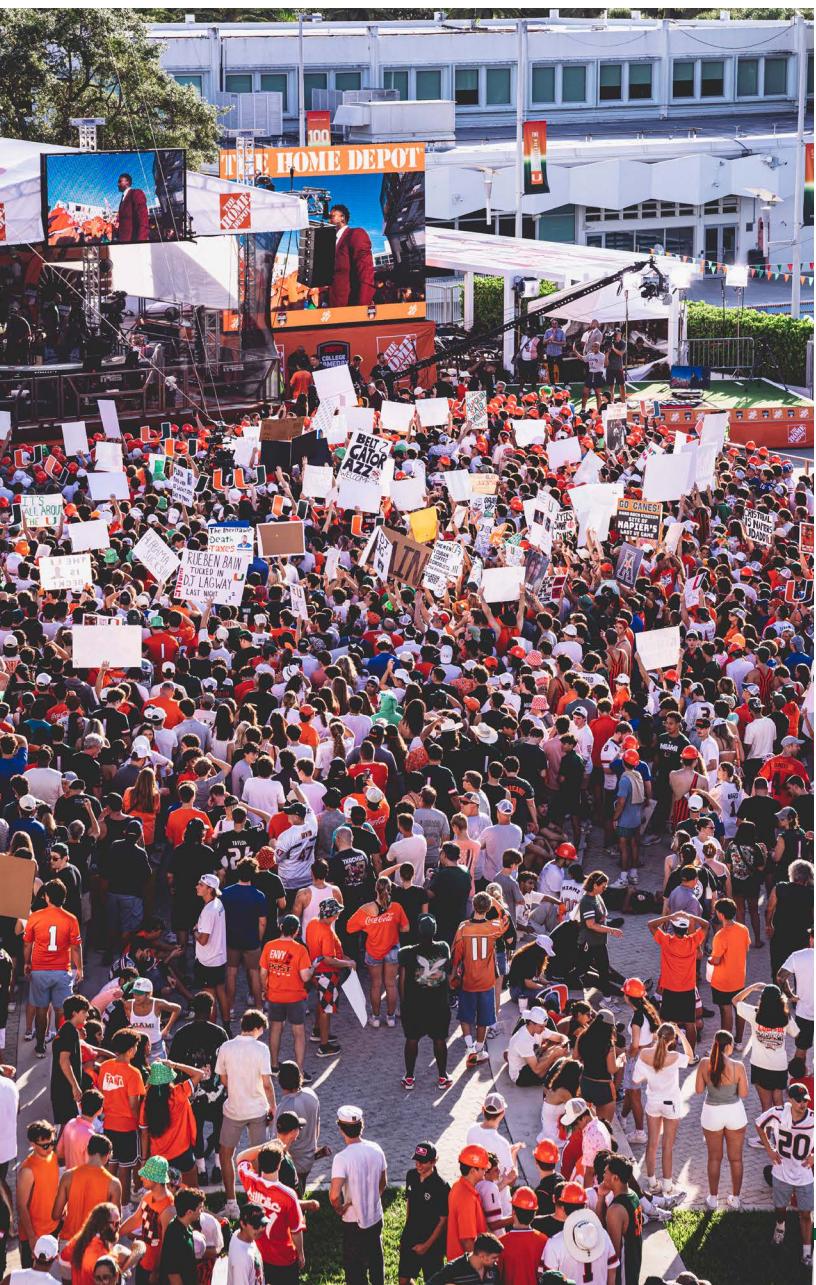
All morning long, Miami's spirit squads and the

Band of the Hour energized fans. Sebastian the Ibis made his way through the crowds. Head football coach Mario Cristobal appeared on both shows – and treated the *GameDay* crew of Rece Davis, Kirk Herbstreit, Desmond Howard, Pat McAfee and Nick Saban to a Miami staple: Cuban coffee.

There was plenty of excitement from before sunrise to just before noon when McAfee capped the morning by picking the Hurricanes to beat the Gators just before jumping off the 10-meter platform at the Norman Whitten University Center Pool.

Once the shows – and the party on campus – wrapped up and it was time to play football, the Hurricanes delivered, earning a 26-7 win over the rival Gators.

"Hopefully, everyone got to see that we have, what we feel and know, is the best university on the planet," Cristobal said. "I mean, the setting for GameDay ... it's hard to find a better one. The energy that the students brought, the faculty brought, everybody.... I felt it was an honor. Thank God for the opportunity that we had that showcase here."









MAMI ROOTS: TOM LLAMAS

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

It was as personal a visit back to his hometown as Tom Llamas could have imagined.

In August, Llamas – the anchor and managing editor of NBC *Nightly News* – returned to Miami and brought with him the flagship daily news broadcast he is tasked with leading.

During his time in Miami, Llamas reported from Key Biscayne. He introduced *Today* co-host and weatherman Al Roker to Cuban food and culture in Little Havana. He met with local NBC affiliates, visited the Telemundo Center in Sweetwater, took in a Miami Marlins game with his son, Tomas, and made a stop in Coral Gables where he and his family got a behind-the-scenes look at the Hurri-

canes' preparations for the 2025 season.

For a Miami native who grew up attending games at the Orange Bowl and cheering for the likes of Steve Walsh, Gino Torretta, Craig Erickson, Randal Hill, Michael Irvin and other Hurricanes greats, it was a morning to remember amidst a week of highlights.

"The Canes are, I think, the best in college football. They represent history and legacy and excellence and it's so great to see it up close," Llamas said. "I've been a Canes fan since I was my son's age, since I can remember. And it's just so great to see the program up close and see how much it's grown. These facilities are beautiful. The University of Miami

is a great school. The entire country is talking about UM and wanting to come to UM, so it's cool to be here."

During their visit to campus, Llamas and his family had the opportunity to watch practice, meet the football team and connect with Miami head coach Mario Cristobal, whose story resonates with Llamas because it's so similar to his own.

Both Llamas and Cristobal are the sons of Cuban immigrants who came to Miami in search of freedom and better opportunities for their families.

Both have spoken at length about their parents' work ethics and how those examples helped

guide them to where they are now in their respective careers.

And while back in his hometown, Llamas – who anchors from New York City – couldn't help but also note it was his family that instilled in him the importance of knowing what was happening in the world around him.

That knowledge – and a compelling guest speaker at his high school – opened his eyes to the possibility of a career in journalism.

"Growing up, we watched a lot of news in English and Spanish because my parents are Cuban American, so they always wanted to know what was going on around the world and in Cuba," Llamas said. "Because of that, we were constantly talking about politics, or I was hearing about politics and issues in Cuba. So, I kind of learned about global affairs pretty early on.

"When I was a freshman at Belen [Jesuit], Louis Aguirre came for a career day. He's a great reporter and anchor here in Miami and he said, 'Listen, if you like writing – and I really liked writing – you can work in news, and TV news specifically.' I didn't even know that was a job. That's when I got my first internship. But because of Louis, because he came in there, he set my life on a completely different track. To this day, I thank him. He's a good friend. It started there and it just got bigger and when I was a reporter covering politics here in Miami, I just knew it was such an important job. It's something that the community needs, but also that the country needs. I believe that to this day."

After graduating from Belen, Lla-

mas earned bachelor's degrees in both broadcast journalism and drama and speech from Loyola University in New Orleans. He began his career in New York, working with NBC News as a production assistant and correspondent before returning to Miami's NBC affiliate, WTVJ, for his first on-air reporting job.

He credits that time back in Miami with helping prepare him for some of the major national and international stories he'd eventually cover during his time at both NBC and later, ABC, where he served as the network's chief national affairs correspondent and was the weekend anchor of *World News Tonight* before returning to NBC in 2021.

Among those stories? Multiple presidential campaigns and elections, extreme weather events including Hurricanes Sandy, Harvey, Irma and Florence, the Israel-Hamas war, the war in Ukraine, the Tokyo and Paris Summer Olympics, and countless other history-making moments.

Llamas has also interviewed a series of newsmakers including President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

He's won multiple Emmy Awards, Murrow Awards and was the recipient of the Presidential Award of Impact from the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the El Award from *El Diario*, the largest and oldest Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S.



would be here. You always kind of work, and you have your goals, and you reach those goals, and you think about maybe the next one. But I've loved this career so much. It's been an incredible experience,"

Llamas said. "I've gotten a front-row [seat] of both local history in South Florida here, but also in New York and around the world. There are historical events my kids will read about, and I've been there. It's

just been an all-around great experience.

"I do pinch myself, but I come into work every day with that same energy, that same excitement of people that love what they do and the same energy and excitement that I had when I was an intern. I love this business. I love the honor and opportunity to do this."

Earlier this year, NBC announced Llamas would succeed Lester Holt as the anchor of *NBC Nightly News*. Llamas took over the anchor chair in June, and is also serving as the show's managing editor, a role he said was important to him because he wants to make sure he does more than simply deliver the news.

"There's a standard of excellence with NBC News and I want to make sure we have the best story, that we have the most comprehensive coverage, and that we're listening to all parts of the country," Llamas said. "I believe in a newsroom where people are from different backgrounds and from different cultures and from different states, so you know what's going on and you have context. I think that's important. So, for me, it's family style. I want to hear ideas. I want to hear if my ideas make sense. I want to hear your ideas. That way, I think you get to the best newscast."

As busy as his schedule is gathering news, anchoring, and spending time with his family, Llamas makes it a priority to keep an eye on what's happening back home in Miami, especially with the Hurricanes.

He spends fall Saturdays like most Miami fans – watching games, celebrating touchdowns and enjoying



wins. And during the offseason, he scours websites that cover UM to learn as much as possible about the team he grew up watching and has loved all his life.

Now, he's passing that love on to Tomas, who collected his share of autographs, handshakes and high-fives during the family's visit to Coral Gables.

"I mean, watching teams that were unstoppable was so great. Watching players that were unstoppable was so great, hearing the Orange Bowl shake," Llamas said. "There was that sort of fan community that if you were a Canes fan, you were connected to somebody, that was all incredible. That was great, in the 80s, 90s, 2000s and even now....

"We'd throw the football around in the parking lot of the Orange Bowl and we'd get the platters of chicken drumettes from Publix and the sub sandwiches, and it was just great. It was amazing. It was great memories and then the stadium was alive. It was awesome."



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: DR. RICHARD SOUVIRON

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Richard Souviron didn't spend much time on Miami's campus during his days as an undergraduate.

It was just one semester, during the summer actually.

But it was enough for him to realize just how special a place the University of Miami was and it added another chapter to what Souviron now calls a "lifelong affair" with the school.

"As far as our family is concerned," he said, "we have a big heart for the University."

Souviron, who grew up in South Florida and remembers attending Hurricanes games at the Orange Bowl during his high school days, went on to earn his undergraduate

and graduate degrees from Emory University in Atlanta.

But it didn't take long after he returned to South Florida to open his dental practice that Souviron, once again, found himself back on Miami's campus – often at the corner of Ponce de Leon Boulevard and San Amaro Drive.

There, he'd take in as many Hurricanes baseball games as he could, thanks in large part to the legendary coach who built the program into a national powerhouse: the late Ron Fraser.

"I can remember I was so impressed with him when, in the early 1960s, he was pushing the University of Miami baseball team," Souviron said. "Like, you couldn't believe it. He went to the Chamber of

Commerce. He went to the Junior Chamber. I thought, 'Man, this guy really loves the University' and that was very impressive for me. ... He was a huge, huge booster of college baseball."

Today, Fraser's impact is still felt in Coral Gables, and beyond.

And so is Souviron's.

The longtime Coral Gables resident and his family have supported the University in a myriad of ways, from cheering for the Hurricanes football, basketball, baseball teams and more to championing long-term excellence within Miami athletics.

The Souvirs recently made a gift to the athletic department's Victory Fund and have committed to a



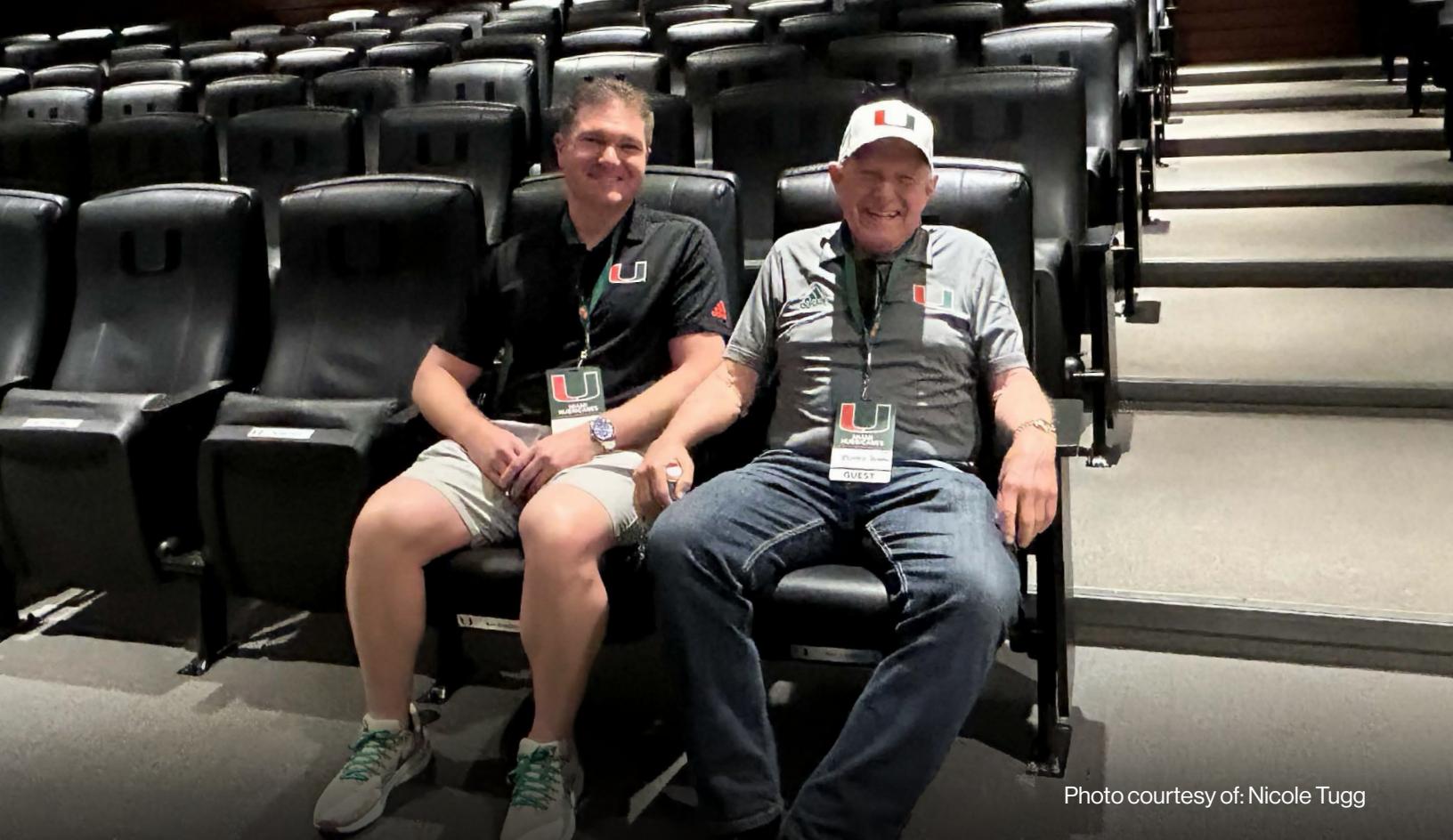


Photo courtesy of: Nicole Tugg

planned gift that will establish the Souviron Family Athletic Director Endowment, an endowment the family hopes will make a difference in the lives of Hurricanes student-athletes and coaches for years to come and will allow Miami's athletic director to support strategic priorities and key initiatives across the department.

It's a commitment Souviron said he and his family felt compelled to make, given all the University has meant to him, his wife, Barbara, and their son, Grant, who has earned two master's degrees from Miami.

"Miami is very impressive and one of the ways that you can express your gratitude is, if you're capable, financially," Souviron said. "You look at the philanthropy of some of these people who have given so much to the University of Miami and they don't do it for no reason. They do it because they know it's going to be

well spent and it's going to do good.

"That's the bottom line with philanthropy, to do good. With us, with our family, that's why we've made the arrangements we have. ... I've given to Emory University ... and now I'm going to concentrate on doing it for the University of Miami, to provide within my ability funds for students that need it. ... I feel what the University has done for the community, particularly in Coral Gables, is worthy of my philanthropic efforts."

Souviron's support of the University – and the South Florida community as a whole – isn't merely limited to cheering for the Hurricanes on Saturdays or the financial gifts he and his family have made.

An expert in forensic odontology and bite mark technology who has worked on a number of high-profile cases including serving as an expert witness in Ted Bundy's 1979

murder trial and helping identify the victims of the 1996 crash of ValuJet Flight 592 in the Florida Everglades, Souviron formerly has lectured in the pathology department at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

There, he had the opportunity to share some of his expertise with a new generation of forensic dentists and doctors who can be tasked with some difficult and gruesome work.

It's work, though, that is essential and can make a profound difference said Souviron, who is also the Chief of Forensic Odontology for the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's office.

"Certain people just want to do this kind of work. They feel like it's their way of giving back to the community, plus, in their opinion, they're doing a service for the families,"

Souviron said. "It's also challenging, intellectually. You have to figure out a lot of stuff. How do we make an ID on this person with what we have? How do we sign off as a positive [identification] so the funeral home can go ahead and process the case for the family? There's a challenge to it. ... My responsibility is to see that we have that covered. We've done a lot of cases, some very interesting, some that have gone to trial and others that have just been for the families. ... It's an area that I've gotten involved in that has proven to be, I think, a real public service."

In his career, Souviron has also done a rather different kind of dental work: providing pro bono ser-

vices for some of the very large, very furry residents at Zoo Miami including chimpanzees, a lowlands gorilla, an African lioness and a white Bengal tiger, among others.

There's no question his career and his life in South Florida have had their share of interesting moments, and Souviron believes that the University of Miami and the Hurricanes have always been a part of that – even if he was a student there for just the briefest of windows.

His hope is that with his and his family's support, Miami's athletic department will continue moving forward and inspiring the community – much the way it once inspired him.

"Before there was any other university here, it was the University of Miami," Souviron said. "I remember going to University of Miami games at the Orange Bowl and you sang the songs and pretended you were a student, even if you were just in high school. I really enjoyed that. ... Everything was the University of Miami. My cousin graduated from the University of Miami. My mother ended up working at the University of Miami library ... I went there. I went to all the games. I went to Ron Fraser's baseball stuff. My kid went to his camp."

"I mean, we're committed to the University of Miami, period."



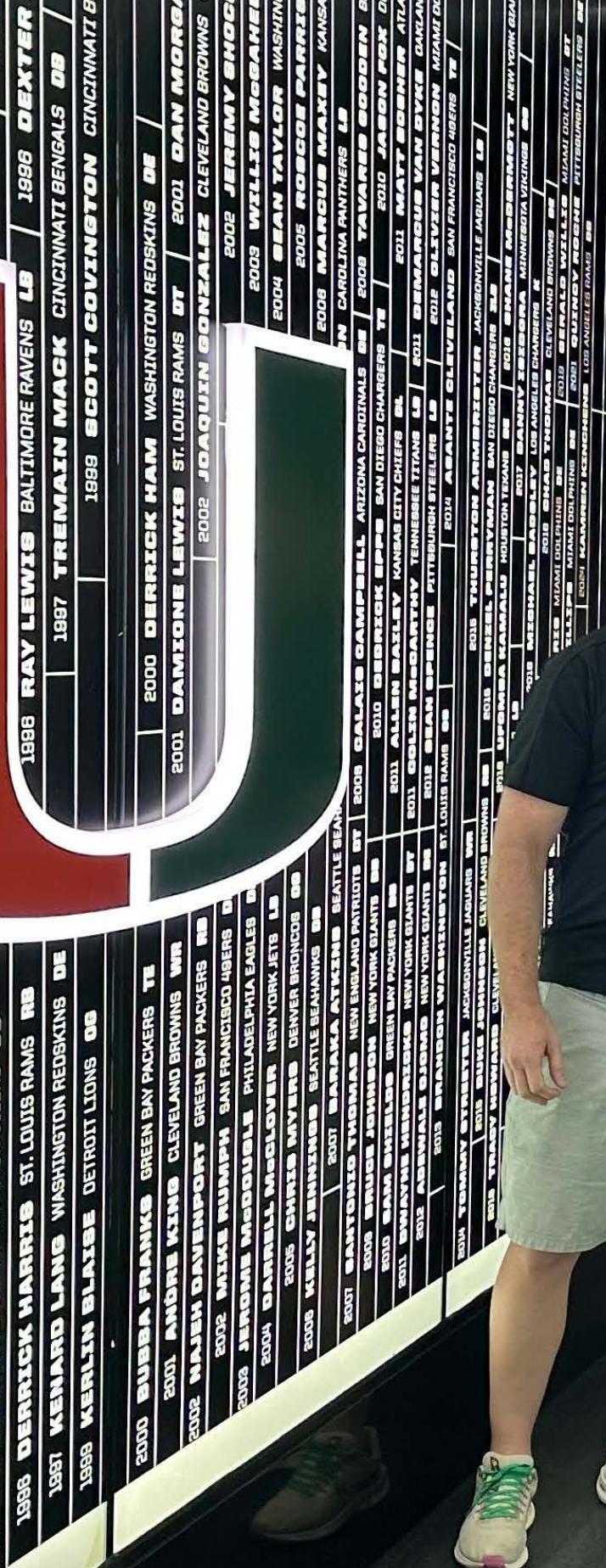


Photo courtesy of: Nicole Tugg



CANES CHRONICLES: HEAD OF THE CLASS

By Rick Remmert

Named All Conference – Good.

Selected All-American – Better.

Inducted into the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame & Museum – Excellent.

Chosen for induction into the University of Miami Football Ring of Honor – Now we're talking.

Grown men have wept at seeing their names on the University of Miami Ring of Honor, first on display at the legendary Orange Bowl, and now at Hard Rock Stadium.

Football Heaven at The U.

Only 31 men from the first 100 seasons of Hurricanes Football have been enshrined into this most exclusive fraternity.

The complete Ring of Honor inductee list includes:

- **Inaugural Class of 1997:** Jim Dooley, Ted Hendricks, George Mira, Sr., 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

• **Class of 2025:** Ken Dorsey, Andre Johnson, Bryant McKinnie, Dan Morgan

Forever started on October 25 for these Canes legends, when the Class of 2025 was inducted during halftime of Miami's game against Stanford at Hard Rock Stadium:

ANDRE JOHNSON: Played three seasons (2000-02) for the Canes and caught 92 career passes for 1,831 yards and 20 touchdowns. Johnson was the Co-MVP of the Rose Bowl with Ken Dorsey. In

2002, Johnson racked up 1,092 receiving yards, averaging 21 yards per catch. He was the third overall selection by the Houston Texans in the 2003 NFL Draft, becoming one of the most prolific wide receivers in professional football. Johnson played 14 seasons, amassing 1,062 receptions for 14,185 yards and 70 touchdowns. In 2024, he became the first Texan inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Johnson was inducted into the UM Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

BRYANT MCKINNIE: Didn't allow a sack at left tackle during his two seasons (2000-01) at Miami, helping the Canes win 23 of 24 games over that stretch, including the 2001 national title. McKinnie was twice named a first-team All-American and won the Outland Trophy as the nation's top lineman in 2001. McKinnie was the seventh overall pick by the Minnesota Vikings in the 2002 NFL Draft. He won a Super Bowl XLVII ring with the Baltimore Ravens and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2023. McKinnie was inducted into the UM Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

DAN MORGAN: A four-year starter at linebacker from 1997-2000, Mor-

gan is Miami's career tackles leader with 532 and the only player in Miami history to post 100-plus tackles in each of his four seasons. Morgan was a three-time All-BIG EAST selection and a first-team All-American in 2000. That season, he became the first player in college football history to sweep the Bednarik, Butkus and Lombardi Awards, and later was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2021. Morgan was a first-round draft pick (11th overall) by the Carolina Panthers in 2001. He played nine NFL seasons and is currently the Panthers' President of Football Operations/General Manager. He was inducted into the UM Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

KEN DORSEY: Dorsey is a mem-

ber of the Dallas Cowboys' coaching staff and will be formally inducted into the Ring of Honor during the Miami vs. Syracuse game on November 8. Dorsey posted a 38-2 record as UM's starting QB from 2000-02. He is Miami's career passing touchdowns leader with 86 and ranks second in career passing yards with 9,565. In 2001, he won the Maxwell Award as the nation's most outstanding player after leading the Canes to their fifth national championship and earning Rose Bowl Co-MVP honors with Andre Johnson. Dorsey was a first-team All-American in 2002, twice won the Archie Griffin Award, and was inducted into the UM Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

In addition to the Class of 2025,

six past Ring of Honor inductees also participated in the October 25 ceremony: Bennie Blades, Chuck Foreman, Michael Irvin, Jimmy Johnson, Burgess Owens, and Steve Walsh, plus family representatives of six deceased inductees also participated: Don Bosseler, Jerome Brown, Jim Dooley, Eddie Dunn, Howard Schnellenberger, and Sean Taylor.

Forever.

The Football Ring of Honor is one of the most revered traditions at the University of Miami, and it only gets better as it gets bigger.







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