



# Gator Dugout Days



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## Gators: NCAAT Eligible

With the triumphant series victory against the rival Georgia Bulldogs, the Gators (28-26 regular season, 13-17 SEC) would at least be eligible for selection to the NCAA Tournament. As I write this, the Gators' RPI is 24, which makes a strong case.

The chance for our boys to be selected to the field of 64 now hangs on the whims of the NCAA Baseball Tournament selection committee, unless they win the SEC's auto-bid by winning the:

## 2024 SEC Tournament

The first round of the SEC tournament is single elimination of the 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> ranked teams in the SEC standings. After application of the tiebreakers, the 13-17 Gators will play in the first round against Vanderbilt at 5:30 EDT Tuesday, May 21.

Should our boys win that game, they'll have at least two more games on Wednesday and Thursday. If they win both, they qualify into the semifinal on May 24. If they win 1/2, they'll play a *de facto* quarterfinal on May 23 to get into

the May 24 semifinal. If they lose both, their tournament is over. The winners of the May 24 semifinals play on May 25 for the SEC tournament championship.

(Dates above assume no rain delays... in late May in Birmingham, Alabama, which would require a miracle of Biblical Proportions. The nearly inevitable re-schedules can be tracked at [LINK](#).)

## GDC Meetings

On Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Gator Dugout Club hosted its most recent meeting. The speaker was Nick de la Torre. He's been covering the Gators for more than a decade and is the Florida Gators Senior Writer for GatorsOnline and On3 sports.



*(Nick de la Torre addresses the GDC)*

Nick has been covering Gator Baseball for a long time and has a reputation for telling it like it is. This meeting was no exception as he gave his candid takes on the current team, NIL, the transfer portal, Hoover, and the future of Gator baseball.

Meetings are held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites (3877 SW 37<sup>th</sup> Boulevard) with a 6 pm social hour and a 7 pm meeting.

### Future GDC Meeting Dates:

Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

## Former Gators Update

**Welcome to The Show** – of course [Wyatt Langford](#) must go first, as he made the defending World Series Champion Texas Rangers out of spring training. His first 31 games in the majors weren't all that good, and then he suffered a hamstring injury. He'll be healthy later this year and maybe he'll have to "take another lap" through the minors... but he's still going to make Gator baseball fans proud.

Former Gator (2019-21) pitcher [Christian Scott](#) also made his debut in MLB this year for the New York Mets and has started 3 games and been an average MLB starter so far.

Another 2019-21 Gator [Jacob Young](#) is again in The Show after being initially optioned to the minors. He's stealing bases and playing top-tier CF defense for the Washington Nationals.

### Some Not-Happy News

- (1) [Jackson Kowar](#) (traded to the Mariners during the offseason) will miss the 2024 season and undergo Tommy John surgery.
- (2) [Anthony DeSclafini](#) had flexor tendon surgery (Twins). He will miss all of the 2024 season and will – at best – be available for part of the 2025 season.
- (3) [Nelson Maldonado](#) retired from baseball in January 2024, having reached AAA-Iowa/Cubs.

**Akron Alligators** – the Cleveland Guardians drafted three recent Gator

starters. Their AA team is in Akron and all have spent time there.

- (1) [Tommy Mace](#) is having the best season in his minor league career, largely from keeping the HR rate down.
- (2) [Jack Leftwich](#) looks to have moved to the bullpen with had OK results.
- (3) [Franco Aleman](#) has also moved to the bullpen and is now at AAA Columbus, though working through the IL with a (hopefully) minor injury.

[Hurston Waldrep](#) – has had 7 starts in AA. He got lit up in first game; his second was OK at best. But, in the following 5, his ERA is below 1.20.

[Jud with a New Approach](#) – Jud Fabian remains with the AA Bowie Baysox. He played a bit more than half a season there, with a slash line of .176/.314/.399. So far – about a quarter of a season – he’s still in Bowie with a slash line of .243/.323/.470. His pitches per plate appearance is down from 4.46 to 3.92. Looks like he’s being more aggressive, and it’s been to his – and his team’s – benefit.

[Alex Faedo](#) has moved into Tigers bullpen. He’s pitched in 15 games with 3 Holds and 2 Blown Saves. The first of was when former Gator Pete Alonso [took him deep](#) on a homer off slider about least 6 inches below the strike zone. His ERA is under 3.00; so, other than that Gator-on-Gator jack, he’s doing well.

If your favorite former Gator wasn’t in this update – or if you have other comments on the GDC newsletter – please contact me at:

[duwayneschubring@gmail.com](mailto:duwayneschubring@gmail.com)

Pictures of the 2024 SEC Tournament are especially welcome.

## We Made a Difference

*(from Henri Logan, former GDC  
President)*

The baseball gear we collected at our 2023 holiday party is being used in 19 baseball at Saint Francis Academy at weekend games. Several kids got their first glove and first bat and this little guy got a game hit with his bat.



*(A potential future Gator baseball player  
using equipment donated by GDC  
members.)*

## Club Sponsors

Please remember to patronize these fine businesses which give Club members discounts & thank them for their continued sponsorship:

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Gator's Dockside  
Hooters  
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Mi Apa Latin Café  
PDQ  
Piesanos Stone Fired Pizza  
The Midnight Underground  
World of Beer

## Snack Fund

Help feed the team! During baseball season the Gator Dugout Club and friends provide nutritionist-approved snacks for the team. Donations are accepted through PayPal (link on the GDC website) or by check, payable to Amy Brown, Snack Coordinator. Mail checks to:

Amy Brown  
P.O. Box 5204  
Gainesville, FL 32627  
Contact: [AGBrown4852@gmail.com](mailto:AGBrown4852@gmail.com)