



# Gator Dugout Days



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## First 2025 GDC Meeting

The first Gator Dugout Club meeting of the year was held on February 3. Voice of the Gators, Sean Kelley, powered through vocal fatigue & expressed optimism for the coming season, particularly optimistic concerning the depth of the lineup and the number of ways the 2025 Gators can score runs.



*Voice of the Gators, Sean Kelley, pictured*

## Second GDC Meeting

The March Gator Dugout Club meeting was held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites (3877 SW 37th Boulevard) on **Monday, March 3**. The featured speaker was Jacob Rudner, who recently moved from the Gators beat to national college baseball coverage for Baseball America. Jacob shared his thoughts on the Gator Baseball Team as well as the national picture of College Baseball,

(no available picture of Jacob Rudner)

On Deck for April 7<sup>th</sup> is former closer and current student assistant coach Michael Byrne, with Gator broadcaster, Jeff Cardozo In The Hole for May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Strong Open to the Season

*"Winning is a habit."* - Vince Lombardi.

The Gators have started the season in the right habit, with an **11-1** record in the first few weeks. The Gators swept Air Force and Dayton on weekends, the latter with three run rule wins. They've gone on the road and beat Jacksonville and Stetson. The first home mid-week saw the Gators top North Florida 7-6 for the first 2025 walk-off win.

The Gators followed up the walk-off by taking two of three (6-2, 6-3, 7-13) from the rival Miami Hurricanes, with over 23,000 fans in attendance over the weekend. The Gators fell 13-3 to UCF on 3/4/2025. Next Games up: Gators vs. FAU 3/5/2025 @ 6:00 p.m. at Condron Family Ballpark. Gators vs. Harvard 3/7/2025 thru 3/9/2025.

## Tailgate Events

The first GDC tailgate was held **Saturday, March 1, 1-4 pm** on the lawn Northwest of Condron Family Ballpark. Over 100 GDC members and friends gathered to talk about the beginnings of the season and enjoy some food and beverages.



*(GDC Members gather before Miami game)*

Future events will be held as follows:

- April 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-3:30 pm (Vanderbilt)
- April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-4:30 pm (Missouri)
- April 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:30-2:30 pm (Arkansas)

## 2025 SEC Baseball Tournament

The 2025 SEC baseball tournament will be the first since the addition of Texas and Oklahoma to the conference. It will also be the first with a significantly changed format:

- All 16 teams participate.
- All rounds are single elimination.
- Seeds 9-16 start on Tuesday.
- Seeds 5-8 start on Wednesday.
- Seeds 1-4 start on Thursday.
- Ticket sales open in March

The Gator Dugout Club will again offer a discounted hotel room block for members attending the tournament. If interested please contact Gary Carter at [garycarter@bellsouth.net](mailto:garycarter@bellsouth.net) for the link to the Hotel

## Keeping Track - Gators in Professional Baseball

The Pete Alonso (2014-6) contract saga ended on February 5, as the first basemen resigned with the New York Mets for two years, with a player opt-out after the 2025 season.

In part due to a roster crunch in Detroit, pitcher Alex Faedo (2015-2017) was traded to the Tampa Bay Rays during the offseason. Despite fighting through some injuries in 2024, Faedo is reported to be healthy for the coming season and will compete for a spot in the Rays' bullpen.

Pitcher Michael Byrne (2016-2018) is still recovering from an injury in the 2024 season. Rather than sign with a pro team during rehab, Byrne has come back to Gainesville as the Student Assistant Coach.

## Sunshine Showdown

The Gator Dugout Club will be traveling to Jacksonville for the March 25<sup>th</sup> Sunshine Showdown against Florida State. Both a ticket+ bus transportation (\$78 - bus departs from the North Gainesville Walmart at 5700 NW 23rd St at 2:30 pm sharp) and game ticket only (\$40) options are available, but spots are going fast. Reserve soon via: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/nfbvnrv/lp/b51c9431-df98-45b8-9fdd-de7f3d402378>

## 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. Or mail to:

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

## Club Sponsors

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