

HURRICANES

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025



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ONE

CAM WARD

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Welcome to the spring edition of *Hurricanes Magazine*!

This issue features stories on our new men's basketball head coach Jai Lucas, national champion diver Chiara Pellacani and former soccer goalkeeper Phallon Tullis-Joyce, who is starring overseas at Manchester United. We also chronicle Cam Ward's NFL Draft weekend, where he became the third Hurricane to be selected with the first overall pick.

We are heading down the home stretch of another school year 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 START: JAI LUCAS

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

There is still so, so very much to do.

But for a moment in April, Jai Lucas caught his breath.

He'd already put together most of his staff. Built the framework of a roster. And, just as importantly, he and his family had just found a place to live – no small feat, given the chaos that can often come with the South Florida real estate market.

"It is no joke," Lucas chuckled of his South Florida home-buying experience. "But it's close, and that's all I cared about."

To say the last three months have been a whirlwind for Lucas would be an understatement.

In February, he was a part of Jon Scheyer's staff at Duke, where the Blue Devils had their sights

on competing for another ACC title and putting together another deep postseason run, a run that ultimately ended for them at the Final Four.

But Lucas wasn't in San Antonio when the Blue Devils competed on college basketball's biggest stage.

He'd already been in Coral Gables for a bit, starting the work of reshaping the men's basketball program at Miami, which he'd just been entrusted to lead as its new head coach. And because the college basketball calendar has changed thanks in part to the advent of the transfer portal, there wasn't really much time for good-byes in Durham, or to savor the personal milestone of earning his first head coaching opportunity.

Lucas had to get moving and had

to do so quickly.

"A lot of talking, I guess, is the best way to describe it," Lucas said of his first weeks at Miami. "It's interviews, it's phone calls, it's visits. And then it's more phone calls, and more visits. There's a lot going on, but it's what you asked for. It's been exciting. But that would be the biggest thing – it's been a lot of talking."

By all indications, the conversations have been plenty productive.

Five high-profile transfers quickly joined the Hurricanes after Lucas' hire, including former Michigan guard Tre Donaldson and former Indiana forward Malik Reneau.

Five-star prospect Shelton Henderson – who attended Bellaire High School in Texas, which happens to be Lucas' alma mater –



also joined the Hurricanes in recent weeks.

And while the coach has gotten a warm welcome from the Hurricanes fans he's encountered out in the community during his short time in Miami, excitement for what Lucas is building has extended even beyond Coral Gables.

He received congratulatory messages from the likes of LeBron James and Dwyane Wade after he was hired. Scheyer and Tennessee coach Rick Barnes – who offered Lucas his first coaching opportunity while he was at Texas – gave the new coach ringing endorsements.

Even renowned college basketball analyst Dick Vitale took note of the work Lucas was doing and praised the first-time head coach on the social media site, X.

But, as Lucas points out with a smile, his Hurricanes haven't played a game yet and things are generally pretty rosy before a loss or two blemishes any team's record.

Still, he's encouraged by all the support he's received and he's hopeful that support will only continue to grow as the program looks to build on the success it had under former coach Jim Larrañaga, who led the Hurricanes to their first Final Four berth in 2023 and their first ACC Championship in 2013 before stepping away from the program in December as its winningest coach.

"That was the most attractive thing, that it wasn't a program in disarray," Lucas said of Miami. "They had a bad season, but there's a lot of things that go into that. What Coach L was able to do over his time here, he built a strong foundation. And that was a big key for me, [going] somewhere that had a strong foundation, but also had an upward momentum and upward trajectory that you could go and make it kind of your own.... It wasn't something that has already been kind of stamped as this blue-blood or something that has this great tradition and you're just another name that's part of it. It has something you can kind of create and make your own."

And as he starts to put his imprint on the Miami program, Lucas can draw inspiration from plenty of savvy basketball minds around him, including his biggest influence: his father, former NBA star and coach, John Lucas II.

When his sons were young, "Big John," as he is affectionately known by his family, would often sit Jai and his brother, John III, down, show them basketball plays and ask each how they'd run them.

Even then, Jai had concepts and ideas that seemed intriguing, especially since he was still in elementary school.

"John told me even then, 'Jai is going to be an unbelievable coach,'" said Debbie Lucas, Jai's mother. "He saw something, being a coach, that we knew would help Jai take off."

Throughout his life, Jai Lucas has done his best to forge his own path in the basketball world. He played at Florida before transferring to Texas, where he eventually joined Barnes' staff after brief stints playing in both

Europe and with the NBA Development League.

After Texas, stops at Kentucky and Duke followed.

He did his best to soak up as much knowledge as he could from people like Barnes, Scheyer and Arkansas head coach John Calipari, whom he worked with at Kentucky.

But through the entirety of his basketball journey, Lucas has never shied away from seeking advice and guidance from the man who helped him fall in love with the

game as a child.

He's beyond grateful for every bit of counsel he's gotten from his father, and he doesn't expect his questions for John Lucas II will end any time soon.

"He's one of the people I trust completely, so anything that comes up, any situation, anything I need to talk about, I go to him and talk to him about it," Lucas said. "I have leaned on him for a lot and will continue to lean on him for a lot, too. He's one of the smartest people I know when it comes to everything and just being

able to have somebody like that in your corner is a big key."

The best advice Lucas says his father has given him? To remain true to himself and his vision for what kind of program he wants the Hurricanes to be, not just now as he's building his team, but in all the years that follow.

That's part of the reason that as Lucas put his staff together, he looked for coaches that had personality traits and strengths similar to his own.

"It's hard, when you think of yourself as a successful assistant coach, which I did. You always want to find somebody who's like you," Lucas said. "But I ended up just finding everybody who had a little bit of me in them. So, a guy like [assistant coach] Andrew Moran, I've always been big on player development and skill development and he's one of the best in the country. A guy like [associate coach] Erik Pastrana, just having a certain type of temperament that you're able to kind of navigate in any room, any situation, was a big key for me. And then hiring a guy like [associate coach] Charlton Young, just somebody who has a bigger personality and can kind of say things a certain way that people understand and gravitate towards was a big key to having.

"And then also somebody like [special assistant to the head coach] Riley Welch, who comes from a similar background as me. Being the son of a coach, understanding the dynamic of coaching and what it means to work, knowing there are no hours [because] you've seen your father do it, so



you understand the responsibility that comes with the job. ... Just having a bunch of people who were a little bit like me and also an extension of me was a big key.”

Moran, who earlier this spring was named the 2025 Naismith National High School Boys Basketball Coach of the Year after leading Miami’s Christopher Columbus High School to its fourth straight state title and the 2025 national championship, was more than intrigued by the opportunity to work with Lucas at Miami after getting to know the 36-year-old coach.

The two built a relationship while Lucas was recruiting some of the prospects Moran has coached and trained, and it didn’t take long for Moran to see the emphasis Lucas put on player development – or how effective he was when it came to helping players grow their game.

“Even before we had conversations, I knew what type of person he was, so that was exciting. But when he said the foundation of the team would be player development and

then [the fact] he’s a defensive guy, that was just it for me,” Moran said. “Sometimes people don’t think you can have player development [in the transfer portal era], but I’m a firm believer that even if you have a couple of weeks, you have a month, you have two months, you have three months, you can really help players improve their game and really have them be ready for the season. ... Hopefully, we’re going to get most of our guys [here] in June and we’ll have time to really focus in on the player development aspect and have them ready. But really, player development and him being a defensive guy got me very excited in terms of philosophy.”

Moran also has first-hand experience with another of Lucas’ coaching strengths: recruiting.

While at Duke, Lucas helped the Blue Devils secure the nation’s top recruiting classes in both 2024 and 2025. And during his two years at Kentucky, Lucas helped the Wildcats land five players who participated in either the McDonald’s All-American Game or the Jordan

Brand Classic.

Every expectation is that he’ll bring that same recruiting prowess to Coral Gables and as a former high school coach himself, Moran is eager to see how Lucas continues working to build Miami’s roster.

“He just gets the job done. He goes in there and I think what he does best is create relationships with the guys,” Moran said. “Even the guys that maybe he hasn’t gotten in the past, he still has a relationship with them because he’s done such a great job. So, I mean, if you’re going up against him, good luck because he goes in, he’s relentless and he really makes sure that he is connected with those players. I think that’s why they feel comfortable when they decide to go where he is. So, I’m excited to see what he does here because obviously, he’s been one of the top recruiters in the country for the last three, last five, last 10 years, you know? And I’m excited because I think I can do a pretty good job myself as well and we’ve got other guys [on staff] that have recruited at a high level, so





putting us all together helps us to, hopefully, bring in some high-level guys and have a lot of success.”

Being a top-notch recruiter and a coach can be time consuming, something Lucas – a husband and father of three – understands well. He relies on a color-coded calendar to help keep his day-to-day schedule on track as best he can.

But as he tries to balance all the responsibilities that come with his high-profile work and his family, Lucas knows he’s rarely – if ever – off the clock, even when he’s home with his wife, Kori, and their boys.

That’s one of the reasons he tries to make sure his 7-year-old son, Jaxin, is a regular fixture at practices or around his teams.

“It’s important to him. To say there’s a balance would mean equal parts get all of him and I would say there’s no real balance if you’re trying to be at the top of your game as a head coach in college,” Kori Lucas said. “But I will say that the way it works is that he includes [Jaxin], and he brings him with him. ... He wants to be present at home, but he does work at home. And that is really the only way that it works. He cherishes and values his relationship with Jaxin and his family and everybody understands. Sometimes, Jaxin will see his phone ring and he’ll be like, ‘Oh, Dad has a phone call’ and he goes back to whatever he’s doing.

“But Jaxin also gets to see that with the hard work comes the reward. He sees his dad working hard and he gets to go up there and see it’s not just basketball, it’s not just fun all the time. He’s seeing somebody put in really hard work, so that’s

also setting a good example.”

When there is the rare time to disconnect, Lucas – who grew up playing tennis along with basketball – will sometimes find himself back on a different kind of court, this time holding a racquet. He enjoys reading and he and Kori like exploring new restaurants and discovering new cuisines in their community.

There will, at some point, be time for all of that in Miami. But in the meantime, even if there are moments when he can take a breath, there’s still plenty of work to do and Lucas is embracing every bit of it.

And his hope is that next spring, when his first year at Miami is behind him, the Hurricanes will have been a team that used every second of the season to grow.

“I want to see us improve throughout the whole year, that we aren’t the same team in March that you saw in November; that we got better as you watched us play and you knew we were competing and fighting to win every possession that we could,” Lucas said. “And to that end, [I hope] we have the opportunity and the chance to make the NCAA Tournament and play for a national championship.

“That’s all you ask for every year, to have that opportunity to compete for a championship and be one of those 68 teams at the beginning of March. But the biggest thing for me is that as you watched us, you saw us grow and it made you want to watch us more by the way we played, the way we competed and the passion and the care that we showed.”



ONE GOES ONE: CAM WARD

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

During his throwing session at Miami's Pro Day in March, Cam Ward made it clear.

He was going to do his part to ensure he'd be the top pick in this year's NFL Draft.

After making an impressive throw that elicited some cheers from the family and friends in attendance, the quarterback turned to where Tennessee Titans general manager Mike Borgonzi and President of Football Operations Chad Brinker watched closely.

"I'm solidifying it today," Ward said he told the Titans' personnel of his status as the No. 1 pick.

On that day – and in personal workouts and conversations after – the Titans saw plenty.

And a month later, Tennessee did indeed make Ward the first player taken in the draft.

In the process, the quarterback made Miami history, again.

Ward became just the third Hurricane drafted first overall, following quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who went No. 1 to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1987 and defensive tackle Russell Maryland, who went No. 1 to the Dallas Cowboys in 1991.

As historic as the moment was, though, it was plenty emotional, too because Ward, a former zero-star prospect, had once again defied expectations.

Before he walked on stage to receive his jersey from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, television cameras captured the quarterback hugging his parents, Calvin and Patrice Ward. And in one of his first interviews after being drafted, his voice broke when he spoke about his family and his journey.

Now, Ward – who led the Hurricanes to their first 10-win season since 2017 and set new single-season Miami records with his 4,313 passing yards, 39 touchdowns, and 305 completions – will look to succeed at the game's highest level.

"Anytime you get a chance to be a franchise quarterback, any chance you get to lead a group of guys who want to win every game is a blessing," Ward said. "But I'm ready for it. I've asked for it from God and He delivered. I'm just trying to pay my dues to it."









GETTING TO KNOW ... **CHIARA PELLACANI**

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

speedo

It has been nothing short of a “roller coaster” of a year for Chiara Pellacani.

The Hurricanes diver stepped away from collegiate competition with Miami’s encouragement and approval to focus on training for the 2024 Summer Games in Paris. She competed in the Olympics and just narrowly missed winning a medal for her native Italy. She took a breather after Paris to reset and process the experience. And then she returned to Miami and became a champion.

First, in February, she won the ACC championship on the 3-meter springboard and took home the bronze in the 1-meter. Then, in March, a national title.

At her first NCAA Championships as a Hurricane, Pellacani scored a 354.65 on the 1-meter to become the 17th diver in program history to win a national championship.

And she shared the podium with Miami teammate – Mia Vallée, who scored a 333.85 to place second. Vallée, a former national champion herself, won the 1-meter title in 2022.

It was a moment Pellacani said she’d never forget.

“It was kind of just a feeling of reward for all the work that we did during the year,” Pellacani said. “Not just me, but also my coach, and the school. It just felt very rewarding.”

Hurricanes Magazine asked Pellacani to take us through her emotional year, her time in Paris and her experience as a Hurricane.

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

Hurricanes Magazine: Winning a national championship is huge. Winning a national championship with one of your teammates on the podium with you must have been even more meaningful. What was that moment like for you?

CP: “It was amazing. It was very fun, because I knew it was always me and Mia, first and second during the competition. It was really fun to pretty much do what we usually do in practice, and then do it at the NCAA [meet]. I think we’re just very supportive of each other and it’s a healthy competition. It was very nice.”

HM: How do you think the two of you bring out the best in each other?

CP: “It’s just every day in practice. We bring competition there, but in a good way. We’re very supportive of each other and we try to do our best, but we also help each other to bring out our best.”

HM: There have been 16 national champions before you at Miami. What did it mean to add to the program’s tradition?

CP: “I think it was good for me to keep up with that tradition, and I think it was really good for Dario [di Fazio] in his first year as head coach. He’s been doing an amazing job, so it was just kind of a reflection of the work we did. I was kind of nervous because it was my first year competing for the University and I know it’s an amazing program. So, I just wanted to give the program what the program has given to me.

I was nervous, but I really wanted to do well and I’m so happy that at the end, it worked out and the work we did came out. I’m just happy we kept the legacy going.”

HM: You mentioned wanting to give back to the program after what the program has given you. What would you say Miami has given you?

CP: “For me, [letting me] take a redshirt year in an Olympic year the first year that I came to the school, that’s not something that every school would do. ... I don’t think many schools would do it, really, because they’re just thinking about the college season and not really anything else. I’m really appreciative that Miami gave me time to focus on the Olympics and myself and understood where I was at the time. Also, especially after the Olympics, Dario and the school were really understanding. I had a hard time because it was a very busy year, and I kind of needed a break. They supported me in every decision that I made, and they trusted what I was doing. I’m just really glad that I could give them something back, and something big.”

HM: It has been a lot over the course of the last year. How would you describe the last 12 months?

CP: “I think it was kind of like a roller coaster because it was a lot of good things, but it was also really hard for me to keep up with everything. I was really focusing on the Olympics and then after the Olympics, everything kind of hit me – all the hard work, and the pressure. I needed a little break, so I spent some time at home with my fam-



ily and Dario understood that. ... I took some time off and then I came back, and I started diving again and I was just really excited to be back at the pool and practice with the team again. And I was very excited to start competing for the school. At that point, I was just hoping and thinking it was going to be a fun season, and it worked out."

HM: What was it like to compete at the Olympics?

CP: "My time in Paris was really fun, but at the same time, it was very stressful because I know all the expectations that people had on me. So, it was stressful and there's a long period of time to accumulate all the stress. When I was there, it was fine and I was really focused on my goal. Then of course, when I was done, it kind of all hit me at once. Fourth place. I was really happy with all the work I did to get there and how prepared I was for the Olympics, but once you're there and you kind of see your dream pass in front of you, it

hurts and can be hard. That's why I had a little bit of a hard time after the Olympics. ... I just got so close and the next one isn't going to be for another four years. It's not something you can just try again next year.

"But I had a lot of people helping me, the school, Dario and at some point, you have to realize that was just part of the whole process, and I have to enjoy it. It's not just the goal, but it's the whole process and the people. Now, I'm trying to enjoy everything and diving in every aspect. I'm just focusing, really, on the process. And of course, I'm still working to get that medal."

HM: How much did it mean to you, to have all that support around you after the Games?

CP: "It was actually very special for me. That kind of support isn't something you find easily, so I am just grateful that I had all these people around me that could understand and actually help me,

and believed in me. If I didn't have it, maybe I wouldn't be diving right now. It was very, very important for me."

HM: What was it like coming back to campus and getting settled back into the routine of being a collegiate diver and the collegiate season?

CP: "At the beginning, I was a little worried because I felt a little behind, because I took a break and started diving later. But the team and Dario helped me to just get back into it, very slowly and without any pressure. They reminded me to just enjoy it and when I got back, yes, I was a little worried, but then I just got really excited to start competing for the school and getting back to practicing with my team. I got really excited for the season."

HM: What was your favorite part of the season?

CP: "Well, of course when I won

the NCAA title because Dario and I had been talking about it for so long and when it actually happened, it was amazing. I just loved seeing Dario smiling after my first dive. I was so happy because I think we all deserved that. We all worked hard.”

HM: You started your college career at LSU. How would you describe the journey that ultimately brought you to Miami?

CP: “So, not a lot of people know this, but [Miami] was my first choice. I really wanted to come here to Miami, but it didn’t work out at first. There was no scholarship for me that year, so I was like, ‘I’ll just start somewhere else’ and I had a lot of friends from all over the world at LSU. I was just like, ‘I’ll go there and see how it is,’ and at the same time, it was actually a really good program, too. I enjoyed it, especially because all my friends were there. But after a year and a half, I had the chance to go to Miami and it was a really hard decision for me because once you find good people – and I was away from home – moving somewhere else and starting all over again can be kind of scary.

“But I talked to my family and some of my friends and realized that Miami was the best option for my diving career, and for my future. We all know that Miami is the best program in diving and it has been for a lot of years. So, if I want to get to the next level, it’s the best choice I can make. I decided to come here and it actually has been the best choice I could make.”

HM: What’s been your favorite part of being a Hurricane?

CP: “Well, of course, living in Miami is not bad at all. But I think it’s just the people I found here. I was so scared to start over again, but I actually found a family here at Miami. I think that’s the best part of it. And also, the campus is so beautiful. I can’t really complain about anything.”

HM: Free time can be hard to come by when you’re a college student-athlete, but what do you like to do when you can get away from the pool and classes for a little bit?

CP: “I think my favorite thing that we do, when we have time during the weekend, is just go to the beach and enjoy the weather and just hang out there at the beach. I also really enjoy going to a nice brunch with my friends, and with the team. We just like to disconnect from diving and school for a little bit.”

HM: Your first season as a Hurricane obviously proved to be really memorable. How do you build on it now moving forward and how do you want to see yourself continue to grow as a diver?

CP: “Honestly, I’m just going to try to work on myself and improve my diving for myself. And I think here in Miami is the best place I can do it, especially after this season. I realized that I’m improving every day a little bit. And after we were done at NCAA’s, the first thing I told Dario is that next year, we’re going to win both [the 1-meter and the 3-meter]. So, that’s going to be the goal. But at the same time, I just want to enjoy the process, just like this season.”



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 spring edition includes a group of experienced veterans who have found countless ways to impact their teams. From a pitcher whose move to the bullpen has helped Miami win a series of crucial ACC games this season, to a rower who has seen the program consistently improve through her career on the water, to tennis and track standouts who have earned All-Conference recognition, each has been an integral part of their teams' success.

Get to know Hurricanes Aaliah Dawson, Sanaa Hebron, Martin Katz and Brian Walters.



Aaliah Dawson, Senior

When Aaliah Dawson arrived at Miami from her native Australia, she wasn't quite sure what to expect when she joined the rowing program. Four years later, she's been a part of helping the program grow and has been an essential part of Miami's success. She earned first-team All-ACC honors last spring after helping the Hurricanes win the Sunshine State Invite and helping the first varsity eight boat post a program-record time of 6:34.427 at the ACC Championships. Her success earned her a spot on this year's Preseason ACC Rowing Watch List and in April, she was among 11 student-athletes honored at the Celebration of Women's Athletics. Dawson was a CRCA National Scholar in 2022 and an All-ACC Academic team selection in both 2023 and 2024.



Sanaa Hebron, Junior

Sanaa Hebron didn't waste any time making her presence felt during her first season at Miami. At her very first outdoor meet with the Hurricanes, Hebron – the daughter of two-time Super Bowl Champion Vaughn Hebron – posted a time of 56.47 in the 400-meter hurdles. She won that race at the Hurricane Invitational and has been a force for Miami ever since. She earned a pair of second-team All-American distinctions that season, won the ACC Championship in her signature event and currently holds the fourth-fastest time in program history in the 400m hurdles after clocking a 55.87 at the Florida Relays last month. She was also part of the 4x400 relay team in 2023 that won the ACC Championship. Like Dawson, Hebron, too, was honored at this year's Celebration of Women's Athletics.



Martin Katz, Senior

A steady, reliable presence for the Hurricanes, Martin Katz has worked his way up from playing at the No. 5 and No. 6 courts early in his career to now being on Court No. 1. In that spot this season, he posted a 25-9 overall record through April, went undefeated at home and helped Miami secure its first berth in the NCAA Tournament since 2022. He earned second-team All-ACC recognition this year after having two seven-match win streaks and earlier in April, notching the second-highest ranked win of his career when he bested then 18th-ranked Sebastian Dominko of Notre Dame.



Brian Walters, Junior

Brian Walters came to Miami from Eastern Florida State hoping to pitch alongside his brother, former Hurricanes closer Andrew Walters. But a season-ending injury just two games into his Miami career cut that dream short. Walters worked his way back onto the field and last year, posted a 3.29 ERA, totaled 11 scoreless appearances and a save. This season, he's continued his solid pitching for Miami. In February, he earned the first win of his collegiate career against Niagara, notching 10 strikeouts and allowing just one run on three hits. He moved into the closer role mid-season and through April, had already totaled six saves, with a 4.83 ERA and 47 strikeouts.



PUSHING FOR MORE: EDGAR CAMPRE

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Edgar Campre has endured his share of ups and downs during his time at Miami.

A multi-event athlete for the Hurricanes track and field team, he's won an ACC title, competed at nationals and earned first-team All-American honors.

But the junior – a native of Lisbon, Portugal – has also had to adjust to living an ocean away from family and friends and has dealt with injuries that have taken their toll.

Still, despite some lagging discomfort in his knee earlier this year, Campre put together another strong performance during the indoor season and in March, finished third in the heptathlon at the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships in Virginia Beach.

He broke his own school record by totaling 5,394 points in the event, finished first in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.88 and notched a personal best of 4.97m in the pole vault.

All of that came after he earned a second-place finish in the heptathlon at the ACC Championships earlier in the month and after he placed third in the men's decathlon

at last year's NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships, where he recorded personal bests in six of 10 events.

All of that success over the course of the last 12 months has Campre feeling confident as he sets his eyes on this year's NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships in June.

But, he admits, coming up just shy of two national titles during those same 12 months has put a rather large chip on his shoulder.

"To be honest, last year, even when I won ACCs, I was not happy. I was still angry because I knew that I was capable of doing even more," Campre said. "Unfortunately, little things happened during the competition that didn't let me do my best of the best. And that's just the way I think. If I don't compete as well as I think, I feel angry. I feel like I still need to push myself and get better and better and better every day."

There's no doubt Campre has grown consistently during his time in Coral Gables.

After missing the indoor season during his freshman year because of a freak knee injury, he competed

in his first full decathlon at the ACC Outdoor Track & Field Championships in 2023, where he earned second place.

Then came his ACC heptathlon title and All-American performance at NCAAs in 2024.

Now, the veteran is a reliable point-getter for the Hurricanes and a leader for Amy Deem's program.

"He's always been a tremendous competitor, a fierce competitor. That's just who he is," said Deem, Miami's Director of Track & Field and Cross Country. "I think the biggest thing that I've seen with Edgar is his growth. When he first got here ... it can be tough to bring kids in in January, to come in and then start the season immediately. But he really got a feel for the collegiate system before last year and trusting [former Miami assistant] coach [Rob] Jarvis' system and now [assistant] coach [Alex] Bloom's system, we're just really seeing he has a better understanding of things now..."

"He's just one of those kids that you just love because he's bought in. He wants to work hard, and he really seems to trust the process. ... Once they really buy in, the sky's

the limit. I think that's just the biggest growth, learning and understanding the collegiate system and getting a feel for how his training is going to go and how competition is going to go."

Campre has never shied away from a challenge—after all, he competes in one of the most grueling, physically demanding competitions in track and field.

The decathlon, with its 10 events spread over the course of two days, is taxing and it isn't for everyone.

But Campre's first track coach

made it a priority to ensure all the athletes he trained at least tried every event before settling on a specialty.

Campre, it turned out, was competitive in more than a few of the events in the decathlon and a career was born.

"I would say I didn't choose multis," Campre laughed. "Multis chose me."

Whether it was pushing himself to excel in a wide variety of events, adjusting to the collegiate system or making his dream of competing

in the U.S. a reality, Campre has always pushed for more.

He came to Miami looking to challenge himself and earn a degree while getting stronger and competing at a high level.

He's followed a path similar to that of his good friend, former Hurricanes record-breaking thrower Decio Andrade.

Andrade, who also hails from Portugal, encouraged Campre to consider not just competing and studying in the United States, but doing so at Miami, telling his friend about



the opportunities and support he'd get as part of the Hurricanes program.

Campre, who initially considered beginning his professional career once he got out of high school in Portugal, opted to give college in the States a try.

He's had no regrets since.

"The ability to train and at the same time go to school, it's really good. That was one of the things that motivated me because in Portugal, if you do track and at the same time try to study, it's hard," said Campre, who is pursuing a degree in finance. "Professors don't always collaborate with you when you have a track meet. Here in the United States, it's something that is more normal and professors understand and help you. That's one of the things that made me want to come to Miami and to the United States."

Now, Campre wants to continue making the most of the opportunities in front of him.

He'd like to qualify to represent Portugal at this year's world championships in September. And before that, he'd like to finally bring home the NCAA title that he's already come so close to winning.

There are a few more simple goals, too.

"I want to keep raising the school record," Campre said. "And make all my coaches proud."

It's safe to say he's already done the latter.





CANES CONNECT SPOTLIGHT: HURRICANE HONORS

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Solomon Strader can still remember how tough some of his first days as a Hurricane were.

The sprinter from Valencia, California arrived in Coral Gables during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

It was hard to get to know his fellow students. Even competing felt different. And there weren't very many ways to connect with his new community.

"During the Covid year, things were a little weird. We weren't as [close] with the athletic department as much and I remember complaining a lot because I wanted us to be closer," Strader recalled. "But my mom would tell me, 'You're at where you're at ... try to make the most of it.' And ever since then, I've tried to make the most of it because I love this school."

In April, Strader – now a graduate student at Miami – was one of 19 Hurricanes student-athletes honored at the athletic department's annual Hurricane Honors awards ceremony for his efforts not only on the track, but in the classroom and in the community.

Strader was the recipient of this year's Ibis Award, the department's highest honor.

He was also one of six Hurricanes recognized by the ACC for their commitment to community service, bringing home a Top Six for Service Award.

On the track, Strader – who has a 3.76 GPA while pursuing a master's degree in Sports Management – broke a 27-year-old Miami record when he posted a time of 45.74 in the 400-meters at the ACC Indoor Championships in March.

At that same meet, Strader was also part of Miami's gold-medal winning 4x400 relay team.

He is also a second-team All-American honoree and was a two-time ACC bronze medal winner last season during his final year of outdoor competition.

When he isn't at practice, or training, or in class, Strader can be found helping host track and field clinics for local youngsters, serving meals, or advocating for his fellow student-athletes as both the President of Miami's Black Student-Ath-

lete Alliance or as part of the Hurricanes' Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

There's a lot on his plate, but all of it, Strader says, has only enhanced his Miami experience.

"Definitely volunteering at the homeless shelter, that's something I like a lot. And the clinics that track does, whether it's Special Olympics or the Miami Police Athletic League, things like that are really nice to give back to the community," he said.

Said Shirelle Jackson, Miami's Executive Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development and Strategic Initiatives, "To watch Solomon evolve into a student-leader – not just a student-athlete leader, a student leader – makes me so proud. He's done everything the right way and he's done it with humility and integrity. He was always thinking about his peers, and not just his peers on the track team. His leadership work with the Black Student-Athlete Alliance has been exceptional. His leadership on voter registration drives, and to think about all of the variety of experiences that he put

himself in, I'm just so happy for him and proud that he's part of this Miami Hurricane family. To watch a young man come in during a global pandemic and end his career receiving an award from the athletic director, it's why we do this work, to see someone evolve like that. I'm just so, so happy for him."

Strader was far from the only member of Miami's track and field team to be recognized at Hurricane Honors.

The program had seven total individual honorees, swept the Scholar Athlete of the Year Awards with Erika Hill and Devoux Deyssel, and was recognized as the department's Most Engaged team overall.

That all, of course, helped put a smile on the face of Amy Deem, Miami's longtime Director of Track & Field and Cross Country.

"We have such a tremendous group of young people," Deem said. "They mesh very well as a team. They work together. They support each other and to see them be rewarded, not just for their work on the track but in the community, is special. That group of young people really define the word student-athlete. They're doing it in the classroom. They're doing it in the community and

then on the track as well. I'm very proud of them."

While Hurricane Honors was an opportunity for Miami to celebrate the accomplishments of its student-athletes, it was also a chance for those student-athletes to celebrate each other.

Throughout the event, it wasn't uncommon to see members of the track and field team cheering baseball student-athletes who were recognized. Or to see rowers cheering golfers.

Community was as much a part of the event as the awards themselves. That only helped make the night that much more special.

"We're all student-athletes. We're all used to seeing each other on the court, on the field, in our sweatpants, going to class and now, to see all our peers in this setting is incredible," said women's basketball forward Sophia Zulich, who was recognized as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee MVP. "This allows us to take a step outside in our nice getups and our nice gowns and understand we make an impact not only on the court, but off it as well. I think it's really great. ... To support each other like this really means a lot."

2025 HURRICANE HONORS AWARD WINNERS

Career Cane

Sarah Sensenbrenner, Women's Swimming

Leadership Award

Mohamed Farouk, Men's Diving
Semrit Nijjar, Volleyball

Rising Star Award

Ahnay Adams, Women's Basketball
Ace Malone, Men's Track & Field

SAAC MVP

Sophia Zulich, Women's Basketball

Most Improved Team in Community Engagement/Service

Golf
Baseball

Most Engaged Hurricane

Elle Mezzio, Women's Cross Country/Track & Field
Ian Johnson, Football

Most Engaged Team

Track & Field

ACC Top Six for Service

Sky Klein, Soccer
Brian Walters, Baseball
Reese Wheeler, Soccer
Maria Mastrando, Rowing
George Franks, Men's Track & Field
Solomon Strader, Men's Track & Field

Outstanding Community Service Student-Athlete Award

Maddie Scheier, Women's Track & Field

Outstanding Community Service Team Award

Football

Staff Unsung Hero Award

Karl Rennalls, Athletic Trainer
Sebastian Flores, Athletic Trainer

Scholar-Athlete Award

Erikka Hill, Women's Track & Field
Devoux Deyssel, Men's Track & Field

Iron Arrow Recognition

Xavier Restrepo, Football
Sky Klein, Soccer

Comeback Performance of the Year

Volleyball, 3-2 win over No. 1 Texas
Football, 39-38 win over California

Best Female Newcomer

Chiara Pellacani, Women's Diving

Best Male Newcomer

Daniel Cuvet, Baseball

Comeback Student-Athlete of the Year

Sanaa Hebron, Women's Track & Field
Mark Fletcher Jr., Football

Best Female Student-Athlete

Alexa Noel, Tennis

Best Male Student-Athlete

Cam Ward, Football

Ibis Award

Solomon Strader, Men's Track & Field





WHERE ARE THEY NOW? PHALLON TULLIS-JOYCE

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

It was a conversation Phallon Tullis-Joyce wasn't expecting to have.

With graduation approaching, the former Hurricanes goalkeeper went in to meet with one of the academic advisors she'd been working with after receiving the University's Hammond Scholarship, one of the premier scholarships awarded to UM students.

For years, the two had been planning for Tullis-Joyce's future beyond Miami, a future she always figured would lead her to work in the field of marine biology, the field she'd happily studied during her time in Coral Gables.

But now, a different path had presented itself and Tullis-Joyce wanted to pursue it.

"I told him I wanted to play soccer professionally and he was like – 'Whoa, we never talked about this. What do you mean? Aren't you going to go into marine biology? Aren't you going to go into marine ecology? Something along that field?'" Tullis-Joyce recalled with a laugh. "And I said, 'No, I think I want to keep playing soccer as long as I can and see if I can make it.'"

Seven years later, it's safe to say Tullis-Joyce has more than made it.

She's thriving with some of the beautiful game's biggest clubs.

Tullis-Joyce earned her first cap – and shutout – as a member of the U.S. Women's National Team in April when the Americans hosted Brazil in a friendly at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles.

In that match – a 2-0 win for the U.S. – Tullis-Joyce made six saves and became just the 10th goalkeeper in USWNT history to record a shutout in her national team debut.

Getting her first start in the red, white, and blue was the opportunity of a lifetime, but it's one Tullis-Joyce has worked for years to earn.

The Shoreham, New York native was invited to her first USWNT camp in November. That came after suiting up for her current team, Manchester United.

And after she spent two seasons with the OL Reign of the National Women's Soccer League.

And after she upended her life to

make her professional debut with the Division Two French club Stade de Reims in 2019.

Moving across the ocean to a country where she didn't know the language, didn't know the customs, and didn't know what to expect just months after graduating from Miami was a leap of faith, no doubt.

But it was one Tullis-Joyce felt she needed to make to pursue her dream of playing professionally. Besides, she joked, she eventually mastered French and figured out how to navigate French grocery stores and markets.

"I had a lot of shots against me at Miami, so I did have quite a highlight reel, and I got lucky enough to have an agent find me a trial in France in Division Two for Stade de Reims," Tullis-Joyce said. "They told me to bring two suitcases because it's a two-week trial and you could be going right back home after those two weeks if they don't like you. Luckily enough, they did like me after that first training session, so I stayed there, spent six months in Division Two, and then another two years in Division One."

“It was my first taste of the professional world of soccer, and it was actually incredible to be on the same field as some of the players I recognized from some previous World Cups for the French national team. I was googly-eyed over them and then I got even luckier when [a team] then-called OL Reign reached out to me and said they wanted to sign me.”

After returning to the States and serving as a reserve keeper during her first season with OL Reign, Tullis-Joyce started all 30 of the club’s matches during the 2022 season.

OL Reign – today known as the Seattle Reign – posted an 11-4-7 record that year, good enough to win the NWSL Shield.

But returning to the U.S. did more than spark Tullis-Joyce’s career.

It reignited her passion for scuba diving, a passion she discovered while at Miami.

When she wasn’t training or at practice, Tullis-Joyce could be found in the water, be it in the ocean off the coast of Seattle or at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, where she volunteered as a diver and educator.

She began producing educational social media videos and vignettes she dubbed “Phishy Phinds” and “Phishy Phridays” and before long, Reign fans – and her teammates – caught on to her passion for all things aquatic.

Soon enough, Tullis-Joyce noticed those fans holding signs and wearing t-shirts declaring themselves part of her “Octopus Army” during matches.



It was humbling – and still makes her smile.

“Those fans were incredible, and I have to give major appreciation to them,” Tullis-Joyce said. “They got right on board with the Phishy Phinds videos that I was posting, just trying to provide a little bit of free education of what I learned at the University of Miami from some amazing professors. They got right on board, with the t-shirts saying, ‘Octopus Army.’ I was welcomed there and that was probably the biggest thing for me, how great the fans were and how receptive they were. ... It’s where I was really able to merge two passions of mine.”

While with the Reign, Tullis-Joyce totaled 135 saves and 15 clean sheets in 47 appearances. She was twice selected for the NWSL Best XI of the Month and was a finalist for 2022 NWSL Goalkeeper

of the Year.

Her success, of course, did not go unnoticed.

In September 2023, Tullis-Joyce signed with Manchester United of the Women’s Super League, with the club reportedly paying a transfer fee close to \$160,000 – a record amount for a goalkeeper.

It was a surreal moment, though Tullis-Joyce didn’t have much time to take it all in.

“It was honestly shocking, and I think it didn’t hit me until I was actually on the plane. It was a wild circumstance,” Tullis-Joyce said. “In order for me to make it over to Manchester United in time for that transfer window, I had to hop on a flight the same day as agreeing to go to Manchester United. So, within four hours, I was on a flight and

out of Washington. I didn’t have much time to process what was happening until I actually landed in Manchester and had to do my clearance physicals. It was very wild, very shocking, but it definitely paid off to make yet another massive, challenging leap.”

She made her United debut two months later, notching a clean sheet in a 7-0 win over Everton and since, has found a new home.

Through the first 19 games of the 2024-25 season, Tullis-Joyce has notched 13 clean sheets and posted an 88.1 save percentage. She’s bonded with her teammates, is embracing living and playing in Britain, and says the weight of wearing the Manchester United badge has helped prepare her for the responsibility of representing her country.

And of course, she’s found ways



Photos courtesy of: Phallon Tullis-Joyce

to stay close to the water, learning her way around ponds, rivers and streams when she can't get to the ocean.

“Any time I have off, I’ll go to Anglesey, which is in Wales, or I’ll go down to Southern England and I’ll hop in the ocean there,” Tullis-Joyce said. “They actually have cuttlefish in Southern England, which I love seeing. And there’s plenty of sea slugs here, so there’s a lot to see off the UK coast. I’m not doing too bad.”

She continues chronicling her aquatic adventures on social media, continues growing in the game and hopes to continue her successful career – one she credits Miami with helping her achieve.

“Being at Miami, that was the first time where I could see both of my biggest passions in life merging, and I think it really set the tone for who I wanted to be. It paved the first footsteps of who I was and figuring myself out,” Tullis-Joyce said. “It was just an environment where I could grow exponentially and led me to this perfect opportunity to play professionally in France, then on to the Reign and then onto Manchester United.

“I still think back on my Miami days so fondly. All the study abroad [programs] I did... How many people get those opportunities? And it was all through the University of Miami. The quality of education I gained through my courses and from professors I still talk to this day. It really was an amazing experience, and I just love talking about it. I’m very proud to be a Miami Hurricane.”



AT HOME ON THE WATER: LAUREN BRICCA

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

There were moments, early on, where Lauren Bricca couldn't help but wonder just what she'd gotten herself into when she walked on to the Miami rowing team.

As a four-year varsity letter winner in field hockey at Ursuline Academy in her native Ohio, she knew there'd be challenges with competing in any sport at the Division I level, especially one as grueling as rowing.

She expected the fatigue in her muscles. She learned to adapt to the 4:30 a.m. pre-dawn wakeups in order to make it to practice on time. But the pain in her hands—blistered, callused and raw from constantly holding oars during daily three-hour long practices—was something that caught the then-rowing novice by surprise.

"You know about the fatigue, the building of the muscles, the endurance," Bricca said. "But the hands? And being able to work on your pain threshold and pull through having your hands being shredded? That was kind of insane. I wasn't expecting that one for sure."

Three years later, Bricca quips there are times her hands still

"sound like sandpaper," but the senior has done more than get comfortable with the rigors of rowing.

She's become one of the Hurricanes' veteran leaders.

After starting her career in one of Miami's novice boats—and worrying about whether said boat would flip over and send her into the water—Bricca now competes in the Hurricanes' top boat, the varsity eight.

This season, she was also voted a team captain.

Now, as the Hurricanes set their sights on the ACC Championships, Bricca is determined to do her part to help the Miami rowing program continue moving forward.

"I just want this team to receive the recognition that they deserve from a national perspective," Bricca said. "I feel as though it's always been just like, 'Oh, that's Miami rowing. Whatever.' We've kind of always been put on the back burner. I don't think that's indicative of who we are and what we do."

"At the end of the day, everyone is results-driven, right? But what I want most for this team is the ac-

knowledgement that we deserve respect. I want people to be like 'That's Miami rowing' and not 'Oh, that's just Miami rowing.' We've been working hard on that image... I just want people to be appreciated for the work they do and I'm really proud of this team and see what we've been able to do so far. I'm super excited about not only the rest of this season, but next season and what comes after that."

Bricca's time as a Miami rower has coincided with the program's retool under head coach James Mulcahy, who came to Coral Gables in 2022 after spending six seasons as an assistant coach at Alabama.

Since his arrival, the Hurricanes have opened a new training facility, added top-notch signees and improved their times across all of their boats.

Last year, Miami won the Sunshine State Invite—with the varsity eight posting its first-ever first place finish in more than a decade of competition at the regatta. The Hurricanes then set multiple school records at the ACC Championships with two rowers, Constance Stirling and Aaliah Dawson, both earning All-ACC recognition.





Miami finished fifth at the conference championship, its best finish since the ACC field expanded to nine.

Progress, surely. But last year's showing at Raleigh left Bricca wanting more, for her and her teammates.

So, she spent the summer rowing and training on her own. She got stronger and once back on campus, teammates and coaches alike noticed her progress.

"I remember sitting there watching the other teams get their medals on the podium and being like, 'I'm coming back fast and I'm coming back fast for my team,'" Bricca said. "I did a ton of training over the summer – a lot of training on my own, because I don't have a club to go back to because I didn't row in high school. ... I just parked myself on the erg, [an indoor rowing machine] and would just go meters and meters by myself. I definitely learned a lot about myself in that

process [about] breaking barriers and my own mental toughness.

"I came back this season definitely ready to work. We posted up some really good results against UCF and the University of Alabama this fall. I gained a spot in the varsity eight and the beginning of this spring season has been really, really exciting. My teammates saw that work and voted me to be team captain and if you would have asked novice Lauren if she would ever be in this position, I definitely wouldn't have even thought that this was where I would be now."

Added Mulcahy, "She works hard, and she reaps the rewards of that. ... Rowing is a repetitive sport. It's the same thing again and again and again. It's a ton of volume. It's a ton of hard work. It's a ton of commitment. It requires grit. It requires sacrifice. It requires perseverance. There are no shortcuts in rowing. There's no shortcuts in Lauren's journey. There's no big heroic moments, you know what I mean?

She's gritty. She works hard. She's a great teammate and yeah, it takes a few years to get really good at it. But that's what's happening with her and what I think is really cool is that her teammates see that and that's why now she's a team captain."

But it isn't just on the water for Miami where Bricca is making a difference.

The senior, who has set her sights on attending law school after graduation and is pursuing degrees in both global health studies and political science, is a two-time All-ACC Academic Team honoree.

She's also founded a nonprofit charity, Waves of Hope, which upcycles donated clothing, turning old t-shirts into reusable bags that are then distributed to food pantries across Miami-Dade County. The organization also donates non-perishable items to those food pantries.

All of it – school, rowing, training, her non-profit work – makes for busy days and long nights.

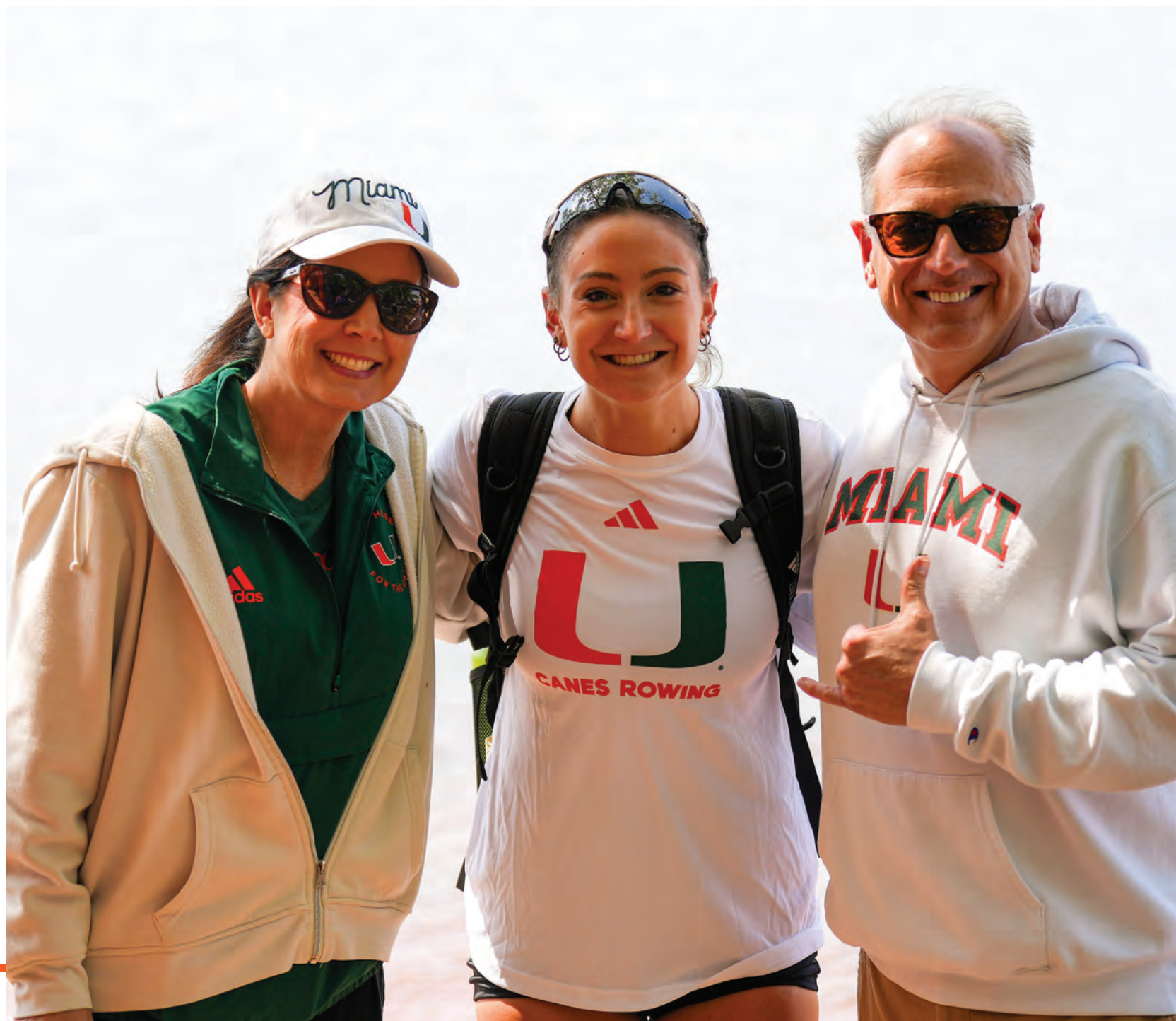
Still, Bricca can't imagine her Miami experience without her full days and she's determined to make the most of the time she has left in orange and green, including her master's season with the Hurricanes next year.

"I was just thinking the other day about how if I had not made the singular decision to show up that one

day to [rowing] orientation that my entire college career – athletically, socially and everything in between – would have been completely different," Bricca said. "Rowing requires a lot of confidence in yourself, but it also requires a lot of confidence in others. I know James always says this is the ultimate team sport because at the end of the day, you can be the strongest individual, but that means nothing if you aren't all working as one. ...

"The lessons I've learned from row-

ing, about just being a hard worker, being diligent in your trade, pushing your limits and not being defined by things like 'Oh, she walked onto the team' or 'She's a novice' or 'She's never done this sport before.' You have to be able to break out of those boxes. I learned a lot about who I am as a person, how I work with others, and I definitely came out stronger on the other side. It feels good and it feels empowering to say I'm part of the Miami rowing team."





BACK IN THE 305: JORDAN MILLER

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Jordan Miller opened the box held out to him by his college coach and smiled.

There, glistening under the bright lights of the Kaseya Center, was a piece of jewelry he'd been waiting to hold in his hands for nearly two years.

Circumstances had kept the former Hurricanes star from returning to South Florida after his 2023 graduation and history-making turn with Miami's basketball program.

But on a Wednesday night this past March, Miller stood on the Miami Heat's home floor as a member of the Los Angeles Clippers and celebrated not just his team's win, but what he called a "full circle moment" as former Hurricanes men's basketball coach Jim Larrañaga presented him first

with his Final Four ring and then his ACC regular-season championship ring.

"I feel like a kid on Christmas day," Miller said with a big smile. "I've been looking forward to this. Last year, I wasn't able to come back and get them. So, it was in the back of my mind this whole time. To put them on and feel them, it's just fantastic."

The game against the Heat came during a dizzying two-week stretch for Miller, who found himself back in Miami not long after signing a four-year deal with the Clippers, the team that selected him with the 48th overall pick in the 2023 draft.

But since being drafted, Miller – who led the Hurricanes to both an Elite Eight run and then a Final Four run during his two seasons

at Miami – has endured a series of ups and downs.

There has been a lot of time in the G League and when Miller has been called up to join the Clippers, minutes have sometimes been hard to come by.

Still the two-way guard continued doing his best to stay positive, and make the most of his opportunities, wherever and whenever they've presented themselves.

"I just tried to keep pushing, keep going," he said. "It's been a roller coaster, but I just tried to stay even kilter throughout the whole thing and keep getting better."

While with the G League's San Diego Clippers last season, Miller averaged 22.5 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.2 steals per game. Those numbers improved to 24.5

points, 5.2 rebounds, and 3.3 assists in six games with San Diego this season.

In March, that improvement – and Miller’s work ethic – helped the guard convert his two-way contract into a standard NBA deal reportedly worth \$8.3 million.

It’s a deal his coaches say Miller has truly earned.

“He’s kind of like a coach’s dream, just in terms of a young guy that came in very humble, [with] a lot of humility. He works every day,” said Clippers assistant coach Brian Shaw. “Dahntay Jones is his coach and he’s done a great job with him daily, building his confidence, getting him a lot of reps and he was very, very good for our G League team when he played in those games. He’s been good for us at times when he’s played with the main team. [We] just want to continue to see him grow. We’re happy for him, that he signed that deal recently. He earned it. He deserved it. That’s what you like to see. And he’s a guy that, for a young guy, is very mature. He has that pro attitude already, even though he’s not getting a lot of opportunities. He prepares himself and stays ready for when he gets the call.”

Said fellow Clippers assistant coach Jay Larrañaga, who understandably, knows Miller’s game well, “From the moment he joined our program, whatever we’ve asked of him, he’s done it almost immediately. He’s one of the most coachable guys we have in our organization. His work ethic is second to none and it’s just nice to see that hard work pay off ... Obviously, I watch all my dad’s games

and saw how impactful he was on those Miami teams, especially at the end of games. I was always really impressed with how cool and confident he was and how many game-winning plays he made for Miami through the years. ... He’s really gotten great opportunities in the G League and has proven himself to be one of the best players in the G League the last two years and now he’s been rewarded with an NBA contract. Really, really happy for him.”

For his part, Miller says he still hasn’t quite grasped his new reality, even if it’s meant guarding players like LeBron James when he gets on the floor and sharing a locker room with the likes of six-time All-Star Kawhi Leonard and 11-time All-Star James Harden on a daily basis.

He admits there have been moments where he’s felt a bit starstruck by it all, but Miller says he’s trying to do his best to learn from the veterans around him.

“Just being around those guys was definitely a surreal moment,” Miller said. “I watched those guys growing up, but sharing a court with them ... They have really good insight and they’ve been doing this at a high level for a very long time. I think the biggest thing I learned was just how they work and the habits they have on the court. It’s very intentional. [They’re] not in [the gym], just having fun. It’s ‘I’m in there for X amount of time and I’m going to do this at game speed, game reps.’ That’s something I’ve been able to incorporate into my workouts and it’s helped. So, I think not only the advice they give, but [seeing them] lead by example is huge.”



As happy as he is to now be an NBA regular, Miller is adamant that simply earning a deal and roster spot isn't his ultimate goal.

He wants to be a contributor for his

team. He wants to see his game continue to grow. And he wants to make an impact, much the same way he did during his time at Miami.

Miller is determined to continue

working to make all of that happen.

In his return to South Florida, he played a little more than seven minutes in the Clippers' 119-104 win over the Heat and converted on the one field goal he attempted. He also had an assist.

They weren't the flashiest of numbers, but that hardly mattered.

Not on that particular night.

"I keep saying it, but it's a full circle moment. Playing in the Kaseya Center now, from watching games here ... there's not really much to say. It's a speechless kind of feel. I'm glad I could connect with my coaches, too," Miller said. "I'm just trying to capitalize on any minutes I get. I have to work my way up the totem pole, but I'm going to keep working hard, keep stacking days and see where it gets me."

His college coach has no doubt that growth, and Miller's rise, will only continue, especially if he keeps the determination and drive he had during his time with the Hurricanes.

"He was only with us for two years and we only got to the Elite Eight and the Final Four. I'd say that was a pretty big impact," Jim Larrañaga said. "And it wasn't just the winning. It was the way he conducted himself, the kind of leader he was, not just on the court but off the court. ... Jordan is such a smart player, so professional and to get a four-year contract in the NBA, after he's already been in the league for two years, now he gets to stay and he's going to be a real veteran. ... He's obviously learning and improving."





SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: ISABELLE RODRIGUEZ & MIGUEL FONSECA

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Their love for the University of Miami couldn't have been cultivated more differently.

Miguel Fonseca grew up attending a Catholic school in Savannah, Georgia and jokes there were times during his childhood that he may have “erred on the other side” of the Miami-Notre Dame rivalry that made countless college football headlines throughout the 1980s.

Isabelle “Isa” Rodriguez, meanwhile, grew up in Coral Gables, not far from the University where her father earned an engineering degree. There were countless childhood visits to campus where Rodriguez remembers her brother took diving lessons and where she would go bowling, back when Miami had an on-campus bowling alley.

As unlike as their paths may have been, both Fonseca and Rodriguez eventually found themselves studying at the Miami Herbert Business School, albeit at different times.

Fonseca earned his master's degree at Miami in 1995 and Rodri-

quez earned both her undergraduate and master's degrees there in 2000 and 2003, respectively.

In their own ways, both were impacted by their time at Miami, in particular by the people they met while on their journeys at The U.

For Fonseca, that meant sharing tax classes with football players, young men he quickly learned didn't fit the stereotypes linked to the infamous Miami-Notre Dame rivalry. And for Rodriguez, that meant learning from older students on campus – particularly those in the Beta Alpha Psi business honor society – who mentored her and gave her advice as she navigated a completely new and unexpected course of study: accounting.

“Miami gave me the opportunity to really grow,” Rodriguez said. “I don't necessarily come from a business background, so I didn't know how to dress for office interviews, or office visits and the University of Miami – specifically Beta Alpha Psi – helped coach me through all of that. I met different folks, some really good friends, that I've stayed in touch with. Really, that's what the University gave me: the opportu-

nity to grow and develop and ultimately impacted where I am today.”

Said Fonseca, “I attended classes with some of the football players and I was like, ‘These are good guys. What is this narrative nationally?’ I just really got to know some of the players because some of them were in my tax [classes]. ... And while I was getting my master's there, I just really turned completely and became very pro-UM.”

Those experiences and their Miami degrees ultimately led them to the careers they have today at Deloitte, the multinational professional services network that consults some of the biggest names in business.

It was at Deloitte where the two Miami alums met, and upon discovering their shared love for the University – and for Hurricanes athletics – a friendship was born.

So was an idea.

The two colleagues began discussing how they could impact the place that had impacted them, but Fonseca noted it was important that this gift, in particular, be one that stood apart from any he and

Rodriguez had previously made to the University.

“I wanted to do something meaningful with the University and the athletic department, but I didn’t necessarily want to tie it like a quid pro quo,” Fonseca said. “You know, with Golden Canes, you do this, but you get tickets, or you get all these other things. I just wanted to do something that also helped the business department.”

Their solution? An endowed scholarship that would be funded in perpetuity.

Fonseca and Rodriguez each donated to create what is now the Fonseca and Rodriguez Endowed Business Scholarship for Student-Athletes. Through its company match program Deloitte – which has deep ties to the University and often recruits graduates from the Herbert Business School – contributed to the scholarship fund as well, boosting Fonseca and Rodriguez’s impact.

Now, the two Miami alums hope their gift will help provide life-changing opportunities for high-achieving Hurricanes student-athletes who have their sights set on careers in the business world once their competition days are over.

“It makes it easier for them. ... It takes off a little bit of the financial pressure,” Fonseca said. “And if nothing else, as they get these scholarships and they say, ‘Oh, the business world,’ they’ll also see that there are opportunities for high performers in the classroom in the highest tranches of the business world. If that helps



Photos courtesy of: Miguel Fonseca



Photos courtesy of: Isabelle "Isa" Rodriguez

open their eyes to possibilities beyond their sport, I think that's a win-win, too."

Added Rodriguez, "I enjoy the sports at the University of Miami, but I've always wanted to do something more than just donate to the Hurricane Club. I love the idea of the scholarship. I love the idea of being able to give back and know where the money is going, that it's going to help someone make something out of their life and have a career that could bring as much value to them, as much joy to them as this has done for me. ... And it was important to have a scholarship in the business school because I do think in business school, you get a well-rounded background. It was important to me that whatever we set up was something where the folks were going to be able to take that learning forward."

Brian Campbell, Miami's Assistant Vice President of Athletics Development noted there's no

doubt Fonseca and Rodriguez's gift – along with all the scholarship gifts Miami receives – have a significant impact on the Hurricanes student-athletes.

"Often lost in the conversation about the changing landscape of college athletics is the continued – and growing – need to fund our student-athletes' educations. With the expected outcome of House v. NCAA, we anticipate needing to raise an additional \$5 million in scholarship support, making it more essential to invest in this area," Campbell said. "Of all the generous gifts we're fortunate to receive and steward, few offer a greater return than a scholarship. These opportunities not only help us attract top-tier student-athletes, but they also change the trajectory of lives – opening doors long after their playing days are over."

Now, with the scholarship established, Fonseca and Rodriguez hope future generations of Hurri-

canes will benefit from their time in the Herbert Business School the way they did.

And, they hope, one day, those Hurricanes will, in turn, support Miami in their own ways.

"I remember being a first year at Deloitte and having people take me under their wing and helping me grow and develop and although Mike and I aren't necessarily there with the scholars, we've given the scholars the opportunity to help them really build their futures," Rodriguez said. "Miami doesn't just give you the opportunity to study. It gives you the opportunity to network with firms that you might not have at other schools. ... It's really about their futures. And to me, it's also about the fact those student-athletes were on a scholarship that someone gave to them. I hope that they give back. It's always about paying it forward."







CANES CHRONICLES: FIRST ROUND FACTORY

By Rick Remmert

The National Football League Draft, officially known as the Annual Player Selection Meeting, dates to 1936. Being drafted is every football player's dream, but the odds are long.

Unless you play for the Miami Hurricanes.

Through 2025, 369 Hurricanes have been selected in the draft, 66 in the first round. Three of those - quarterback Vinny Testaverde in 1987 by Tampa Bay, defensive tackle Russell Maryland in 1991 by Dallas, and quarterback Cam Ward in 2025 by Tennessee - are among college football royalty, those 90 players who were the overall No. 1 selection.

Testaverde made the Pro Bowl in 1996 and 1998 and threw for 47,533 yards. Maryland made the 1993 Pro Bowl and earned three Super Bowl rings with the Cowboys. Ward dazzled in his one season for the Hurricanes, leading the nation in touchdown passes and earning All-America and ACC Player of the Year honors. Two more Hurricanes were cho-

sen No. 1 overall in the NFL Supplemental Draft, quarterbacks Bernie Kosar by Cleveland in 1985, and Steve Walsh by Dallas in 1989.

No Miami player has ever been the second overall pick, but five have been taken third: defensive tackle Eddie Edwards, running back Alonzo Highsmith, safety Bennie Blades, defensive tackle Cortez Kennedy, and wide receiver Andre Johnson.

Of The U's nine top three selections, save for strong candidates for future consideration in Edwards and Highsmith, the remaining seven have been enshrined in the Miami Football Ring of Honor (ROH): Testaverde, Kosar, Kennedy, Blades, Walsh, Maryland, and Johnson; three were inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame (CFHOF): Blades, Maryland, and Testaverde; and two were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame (PFHOF): Kennedy and Johnson.

Two more Hurricanes were chosen in the top five, running back

Edgerrin James at No. 4, and the late Sean Taylor as a safety at No. 5. James and Taylor are both enshrined in the ROH, and James was inducted into the PFHOF.

Another 10 UM stars were Top 10 picks, with Early Era (1936-59) backfield stars Jim Dooley and Jack Losch at No. 8, and Don Bosseler at No. 9. Modern Era (1970-Present) Top 10 selections include offensive lineman Bryant McKinnie at No. 7, running back Ottis Anderson at No. 8, and the late defensive tackle Jerome Brown at No. 9 -- all three named to the ROH -- and McKinnie inducted into the CFHOF.

Additional Miami Top 10 picks include tight end Kellen Winslow II at No. 6; cornerback Antrel Rolle at No. 8; offensive lineman Ereck Flowers at No. 9, and cornerback Duane Starks No. 10.

The U has many distinctions in its NFL Draft history, including:

- Two-way standout Jim Dooley, UM's first player to have his jersey retired (42) and a member of the inaugural ROH, was Miami's initial first-round

ROH, was Miami's initial first-round pick as Chicago's No. 8 selection in 1952.

- Running back Chuck Foreman and defensive back Burgess Owens were both first-round selections in 1973, Miami's first draft with multiple first-rounders. Foreman and Owens are both in the ROH.

- Jim Kelly was the first quarterback chosen in the first round, by Buffalo in 1983, although Kelly would play in the USFL before his 11 seasons with the Bills punched his ticket to the PFHOF and ROH.

- 1987 saw three Hurricanes taken in the first nine selections, with Testaverde going first, Highsmith third, and Brown ninth.

- 1988 had two first rounders, Blades at No. 3 to the Lions and wide receiver Michael Irvin at No. 11 to the Cowboys, with Irvin named to both the PFHOF and ROH.

- 2001 had four Round 1 choices: linebacker Dan Morgan, a future CFHOF and ROH inductee at No. 11; defensive tackle Damione Lewis, UM's new defensive line coach, at No. 12; followed by wide receivers Santana Moss (16) and Reggie Wayne (30).

- There were five first-round Hurricanes in 2002 following Miami's fifth national championship season.

- McKinnie (seventh overall); tight end Jeremy Shockey (14); cornerback Phillip Buchanon (17); and safety Ed Reed (24), who would help the Ravens win a Super Bowl and was later named to the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame and ROH.

- Four Round 1 selections followed in 2003: Johnson third overall to the Texans; defensive end Jerome McDougle (15); running back Willis McGahee (23); and defensive

tackle William Joseph (25).

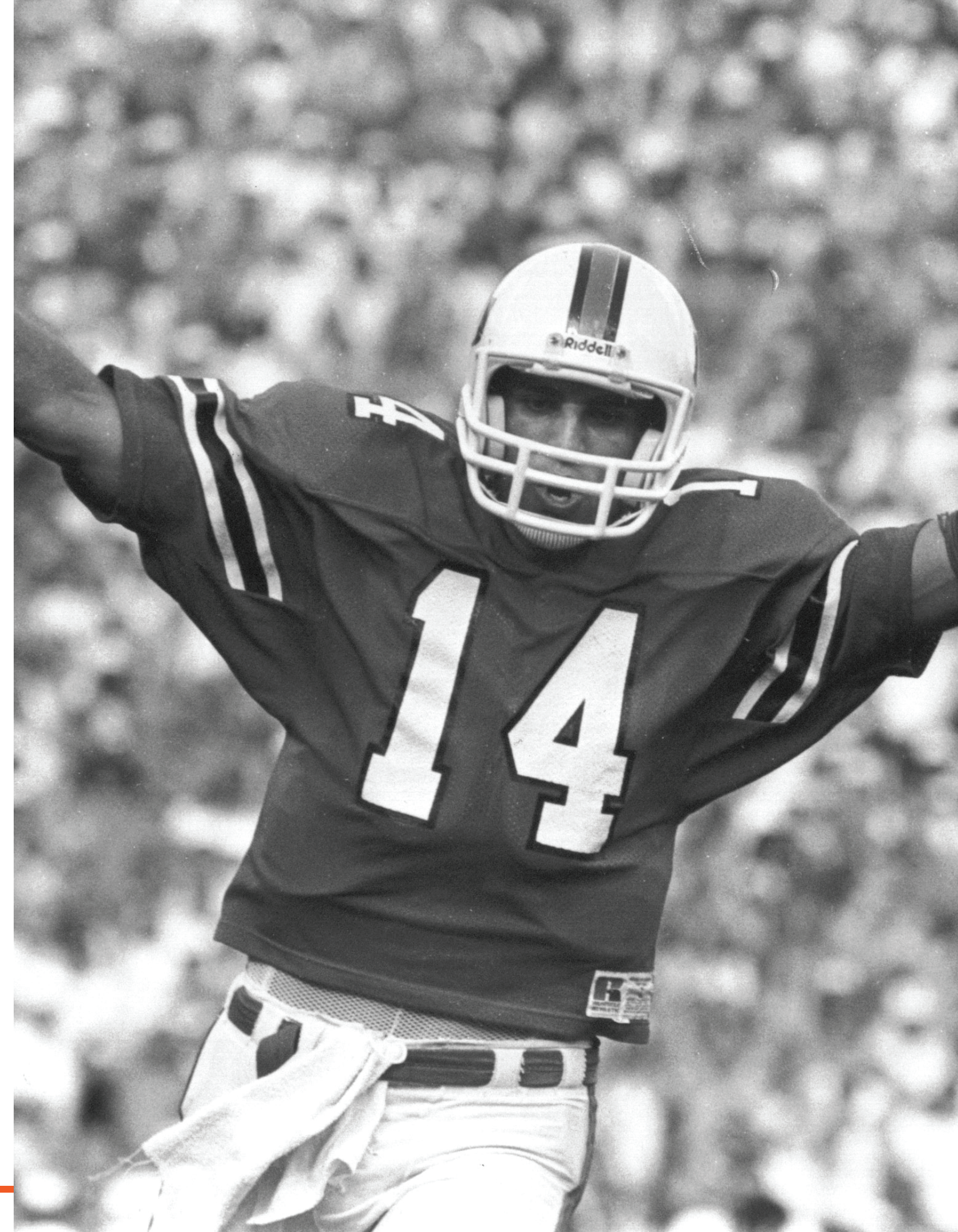
- The 2004 draft saw an incredible six Hurricanes go in the first round, tied with Alabama 2021 for the most No. 1 NFL Draft picks in a single year: Taylor (fifth overall); Winslow Jr. (6); linebacker Jonathan Vilma (12); linebacker D.J. Williams (17); offensive lineman Vernon Carey (19); and defensive tackle Vince Wilfork at No. 21.

Over the four-year period from 2001-2004, The U had 19 first-round selections and Miami's 2001 national championship team, regarded by most as the greatest college football team ever, had a remarkable 17 players would become first-rounders, with 38 overall draftees.

The University of Miami's football program truly is a first-round factory.







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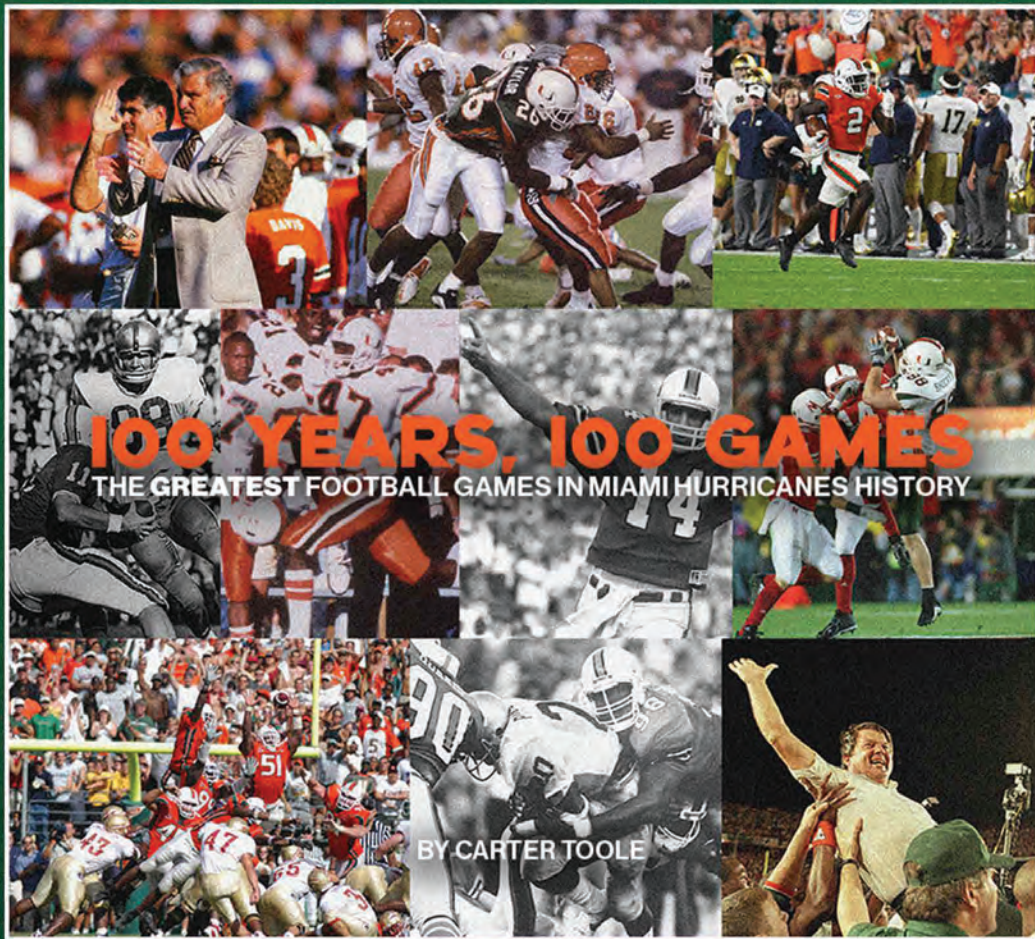
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