

HAITH'S FAITHFUL GAMEDAY REPORT



VOLUME III, ISSUE 3

www.umbeach.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008

FIU stumbles into BUC off rough season

After winning a tough game against Kentucky in Rupp Arena, one of the hardest places to play in college basketball, the Canes have returned home for finals and a little home cooking. Tonight, the crosstown rival FIU Golden Panthers visit the BUC to try to turn around their season.

Miami has dominated the series against FIU, winning the last 5 games. The only victory FIU has over the Canes was way back in 1992. Last year, the Hurricanes drove over to the FIU Campus and defeated the Panthers, 67-53.



Richard Lewis - www.fiu.sports.com

Center Freddy Asprilla was recruited early on by UM, but ended up going to FIU.

This year, the Golden Panthers have had some rough times. Under Sergio Rouco, who went to high school at Miami High, Florida International has struggled, losing big to UCLA and Washington on the road but also dropping home games to Cleveland State and West Georgia, a Division II school. However, FIU always gets up to play the Hurricanes, an emotional game for the team and its fans.

FIU is led by junior F **Nikola Gacesa**, who is their only player averaging double figures in points at 12.2 per game. From Serbia, he is a good shooter and has some range, shooting 44% from three (albeit in only 18 attempts). He shoots 81% from the FT line and leads the team in free throw attempts. Also picking up some of the slack for FIU are **Michael Dominguez** and **Tremayne Russell**, two guards who average between 9 and 10 points per game and who aren't afraid to jack up shots. **Dominguez** has taken almost half of his team's three point attempts, but he shoots only 28% from downtown.

Part of FIU's problems this year stem from the injury bug. The Golden Panthers have been hit hard by it, losing many of their better players for extended periods of time. C **Freddy Asprilla**, who leads the team in rebounding, just returned from an Achilles injury last game. However, FIU is without the services of C **Russell Hicks**, F **Alex Galindo**, G **Josue Soto**, and F **J.C. Otero**, all of whom were expected to play big minutes this year. At one point in its season, FIU had just five healthy scholarship players and was forced to rely on some of their six walk-ons.



In order for the Canes to win, Miami needs to play pressure defense. The Golden Panthers will turn the ball over, as they have 50 more turnovers than assists as a team. The Hurricanes also need to play much better in the second half than they have recently. In their last two games against Ohio State and Kentucky, UM has been outscored by double digits in the second half. In addition, Miami MUST make its free throws. The Canes missed 6 straight free throws in crunch time against Kentucky, but managed to hold on.

FIU will bring a good number of fans to the game tonight, so make sure to cheer extra loudly and root your Canes on to victory!

Tale of the Tape



VS



4-5 (0-0) RECORD 5-2 (0-0)

NR RANKING #25/NR
(Coaches/AP Polls)

Sun Belt CONFERENCE ACC

38% SHOOTING % 43%

34.7 REBOUNDS/GAME 42.9

67% FT % 69%

30% 3 PT % 36%

Miami leads the series, 11-1.

Next Home Game

ROBERT MORRIS COLONIALS

Sunday, 12/14/08 1:00 PM

WEAR ORANGE!

Upcoming Schedule

12/14 vs. Robert Morris

12/21 vs. Clemson

12/27 @ St. John's

12/31 vs. North Florida



The Lineups



#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown	#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown
1	Freddy Asprilla	C	6-10	FR	Villavicencio, Colombia	00	Jimmy Graham	F	6-8	SR	Goldsboro, NC
2	Alex Galindo	F	6-6	SR	Mayaguez, PR	1	Lance Hurdle*	G	6-2	SR	San Diego, CA
3	Tremayne Russell*	G	6-0	SO	Savannah, GA	3	Malcolm Grant#	G	6-1	SO	Brooklyn, NY
5	Josue Soto	G	6-0	SO	Jacksonville, FL	5	Eddie Rios	G	6-0	SO	Miami, FL
10	J.C. Otero	F	6-7	JR	Miami, FL	10	Mark Warren	F	6-5	JR	Pensacola, FL
11	Harley Fuller	G	6-1	JR	Gloversville, NY	20	Cyrus McGowan*	F	6-9	JR	Brooksville, MS
12	Manuel Nunez	F	6-3	FR	Miami, FL	21	Dwayne Collins*	F	6-8	JR	Miami, FL
15	Nikola Gacesa*	F	6-9	JR	Belgrade, Serbia	23	James Dews*	G	6-3	JR	Cincinnati, OH
21	Cedric Essola*	F	6-9	JR	Yaounde, Cameroon	25	Ryan Quiglar	G	5-11	FR	Skyway, WA
23	Nick Taylor*	G	5-10	SO	Hollywood, FL	30	Adrian Thomas	F	6-7	JR	Pembroke Pines, FL
31	Badara Ndiaye	C	6-11	SR	St. Louis, Senegal	31	DeQuan Jones	F	6-6	FR	Stone Mountain, GA
32	Russell Hicks	C	7-0	SR	Niagara Falls, Canada	32	Brian Asbury	F	6-7	SR	Miami, FL
34	Michael Dominguez*	G	6-3	JR	Espanola, NM	33	Jack McClinton*	G	6-1	SR	Baltimore, MD
40	Michael Cano	G	6-1	FR	Miami, FL	42	Reggie Johnson	C	6-9	FR	Winston-Salem, NC
44	Marcus Crawford	G	6-0	SR	Old Bridge, NJ	45	Julian Gamble	C	6-9	FR	Durham, NC

* DENOTES LIKELY STARTERS

* DENOTES LIKELY STARTERS #REDSHIRTING THIS YEAR

Head Coach: Sergio Rouco (5th year at FIU)

Assistant Coaches: Dwight Evans, Kevin Fricke, Heath Glick

Head Coach: Frank Haith (5th year at the U)

Assistants: Jorge Fernandez, Jake Morton, Michael Schwartz



SEBASTIAN'S CORNER

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With Winter Break coming up, the Hurricanes' schedule does not get much easier. While the Canes don't have any ranked teams on the schedule in the next few weeks, there are some challenging games facing this hungry UM team.

Next Sunday, Miami takes on **Clemson** in its first ACC game of the year. While the Tigers are not ranked, they are undefeated with a 9-0 record. Their out-of-conference schedule has been pretty soft, but they did beat Illinois in Assembly Hall in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge, giving the Illini their only loss of the young season. Clemson always plays a tough game against the Canes, so if you're still in the area during Winter Break, make sure to come out to the BUC and support your basketball team.

New Cheer:

THE HURRICANE

- Done during the first free throw of the opposing team.
- Immediately sit down and have hands in the air while screaming.
- Move your hands the same direction as Sebastian while yelling "Whoosh" at each motion.
- At the end, get up, scream with hands in the air, and go into the C-A-N-E-S spellout with Sebastian.

Two days after Christmas, the Canes travel to New York City to face the **St. John's Red Storm**. UM handily defeated St. John's last year at the BUC, but playing this Big East team in Madison Square Garden is never an easy task.

After a few easier games against North Florida, North Carolina Central, and FAU, the Hurricanes travel up to Chestnut Hill for their second ACC game this season, challenging the **Boston College Eagles**. Miami has traditionally had a tough time playing in the Conte Forum, not winning there in this decade. UM won its last game against BC, but lost 13 straight before that. Tune in on ESPN U to watch your Canes in this game.

Cheering 101

Don't be silent when the Canes are hoopin' it up! Make the Bank-United Center an imposing place to play with cheers like these:

OFFENSE:

- "Let's Go Canes!" with claps on each word.
- "Goooo Miami Go!" with 3 claps afterwards.
- "Let's Go UM!" with 5 claps after.

DEFENSE:

- "Ohhhhh!" while jumping up and down for the entire possession.

FREE THROWS:

- Hold one finger in the air for a Canes FT; if it's made, go "Whoosh! Ohhh!" and then jump and stomp. Stomp twice if he makes both FTs.

ENEMY PLAYER INTROS:

- Turn around, with your back to the court, and hold up the "U."

