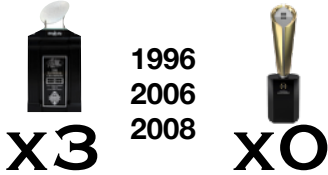




### FLORIDA BIO

National Championships - 3



SEC Championships: 8  
(Last Won: 2008)

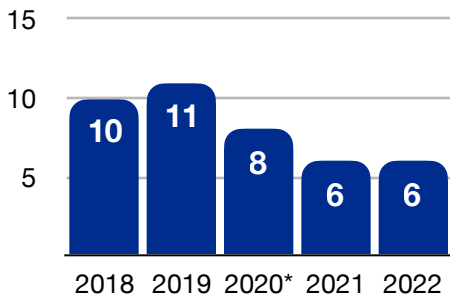
Location: **Gainesville, FL**

All-Time Record: **728-429-37**

2022 Results: **6-7**  
**Lost in Las Vegas Bowl**

Head Coach: **Billy Napier**  
2nd Year (6-7)

### 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)

## Gators Must Navigate Brutal Schedule

Billy Napier wrapped up a somewhat tumultuous 2022 campaign in his first season with the program. His record matched the previous record posted by Dan Mullen in 2021 and fans in Gainesville will be short on patience if the Florida barely scrapes into a bowl game again in 2023. The Gators did start the season strong with a big win over Utah but suffered a handful of losses and finished the regular season just 6-6 before suffering a disparaging blowout loss to Oregon State in the Las Vegas Bowl. To be fair to Napier, several of the losses occurred against ranked opponents including LSU, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida State and the road loss to Vanderbilt was the only truly shocking defeat. However, life doesn't get any easier for Napier in year two. In fact, it arguably only gets more difficult with the nation's most difficult schedule, according to Phil Steele.

To make matters even more trying, Napier loses a first round draft pick at quarterback and the top five tacklers are gone. The Gators will be facing an uphill battle this year to improve upon their six wins but the roster isn't devoid of talent. Napier has recruited well and brings a top 15 class into Gainesville. He may need immediate contributions from both the 2022 and 2023 classes, especially on defense. If Florida can find a way to reach seven wins and perhaps even spring a big upset along the way against the likes of LSU, Georgia, or Tennessee, then the season will be a big success.

One of the primary concerns facing Florida is the quarterback position. Anthony Richardson is now an Indianapolis Colt and the Gators went through a quarterback competition that Wisconsin transfer **Graham Mertz** appears to have won. He brings in three years of starting experience but was relatively unremarkable as a quarterback for the Badgers. **Jack Miller III** was also in the mix but the former Ohio State transfer seemed lost at times in his first career start in the Las Vegas Bowl and couldn't capitalize on the opportunity to start. Miller may very well have another opportunity if Mertz struggles.

The ground game was the focus of the offense and that appears to be the case again in 2023 considering both **Trevor Etienne** and **Montrell Johnson** return at running back. Johnson ran for 841 yards and Etienne followed closely behind with 719 as a true freshman. This duo is one of the best in the country and **Trepan Webb** was a highly sought recruit who could also see some carries as a freshman. The Gators will miss Richardson's 654 yards on the ground and neither quarterback will be able to replicate that kind of production nor his elite athleticism.

The depth at receiver took a hit but Florida's leading wideout **Ricky Pearsall** is back after 33 catches and 661 yards in his first season with the Gators after transferring from Arizona State. Pearsall is a versatile wide receiver with good hands and deceiving speed and the Gators utilized him in the run game from time to time last season. Outside of Pearsall, the Gators will be reliant on talented but unproven options like **Marcus Burke**, **Caleb Douglas**, and **Aidan Mizell**.

The once-fierce Florida defense has struggled the past three seasons allowing 26 points or more in each season. The Gators had an especially difficult time defending against the pass although recording only 17 sacks in conference play may have had something to do with it. The top five tacklers are gone including Rashad Torrence and Trey Dean. **Princely Umanmielen** is probably the biggest impact player up front and will be joined by transfers **Cam Jackson** (Memphis) and **Caleb Banks** (Louisville). Safety **RJ Moten** also joins the team out of the transfer portal from Michigan. **Jason Marshall** is a notable talent on what is otherwise a very young secondary.







**The Bottom Line:** Napier has added a lot of young talent to the roster over the last year and a half but needs those players to grow up quickly to meet the many challenges on the schedule. The season opens with a bang in a Thursday night road game at Utah where Kyle Whittingham's team has only lost a single game at Rice-Eccles in the past four seasons. Dates against Tennessee and Kentucky in September will quickly decide whether the Gators are contenders or pretenders in the East. If Napier can somehow find a way to win against either Georgia or Florida State he'll earn some major brownie points with the fans. The 2024 class looks extremely strong so help is on the way but patience is required first.

### Projection: 6-6 (6th in SEC East)

#### 2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
<b>29.5</b>	<b>200.2</b>	<b>223.8</b>	<b>+10</b>
57th in FBS	24th in FBS	77th in FBS	T-12th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
<b>28.8</b>	<b>175.2</b>	<b>235.8</b>	
87th in FBS	100th in FBS	84th in FBS	

## 2023 Florida Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Thu, Aug 31	 @ Utah
2	Sat, Sept 9	 vs. McNeese
3	Sat, Sept 16	 vs. Tennessee
4	Sat, Sept 23	 vs. Charlotte
5	Sat, Sept 30	 @ Kentucky
6	Sat, Oct 7	 vs. Vanderbilt
7	Sat, Oct 14	 @ South Carolina
8	Bye Week	
9	Sat, Oct 28	 vs. Georgia*
10	Sat, Nov 4	 vs. Arkansas
11	Sat, Nov 11	 @ LSU
12	Sat, Nov 18	 @ Missouri
13	Sat, Nov 25	 vs. Florida State

Conference Games in Bold

## KEY GAMES

**Thu, Aug 31: @ Utah** - The Gators survived last year's matchup with the Utes with a timely interception in the end zone with just 17 seconds left on the clock. Florida must now travel to Rice-Eccles, a formidable place to play, but Utah quarterback Cam Rising could miss the game which would be a huge advantage to Florida.

**Sat, Oct 28: vs. Georgia\*** - The last two meetings against the Bulldogs have been forgettable for Florida with a combined losing margin of 49 points.

**Sat, Nov 25: vs. Florida State** - When these two rivals met in Gainesville in 2021, Florida was 6-5 while the 'Noles were 5-6. FSU has since pulled ahead and are legitimate contenders but Florida could play spoiler.

## KEY PLAYERS

### Trevor Etienne - RB



Like his brother Travis, Trevor made a big impact in his freshman season and ran for 719 yards and six touchdowns. He breakaway speed and is shifty and quick and can cause defenders to whiff. He only saw double-digit carries in four games but made the most of his workload with 6.1 yards per carry. He'll still share carries with Montrell Johnson but that should help keep him healthy and dangerous in 2023.

### Princely Umanmielen - DE

Umanmielen seemed to get stronger as his third season went along. He didn't have a sack in the month of September but then had one in four of the next five games and forced fumbles against both Eastern Washington and Texas A&M in two winning efforts. With several impactful players on last season's roster gone to the NFL, Umanmielen's role will be more important to the success of the Gators' defense.



## 2022 RESULTS (7-6)

**Utah (W 29-26)**

Kentucky (L 16-26)

**South Florida (W 31-28)**

@ Tennessee (L 33-38)

**E. Washington (W 52-17)**

**Missouri (W 24-17)**

LSU (L 35-45)

Georgia (L 20-42)

**@ Texas A&M (W 41-24)**

**South Carolina (W 38-6)**

@ Vanderbilt (L 24-31)

@ Florida State (L 38-45)

Oregon State (L 3-30)

# FLORIDA

## RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

# 14th

(Via 24/7 Sports)