



Gator Dugout Days

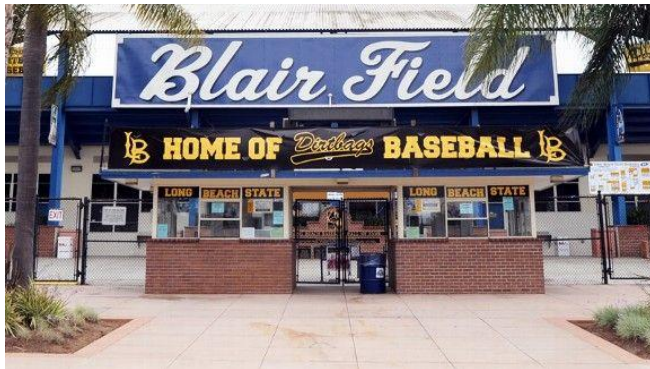


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Good Beginning

The Florida Gators started the baseball season in fine style by sweeping the Long Beach State Dirtbags, a term used only by the baseball team. All others sports are the 49ers.



The term first appeared in 1989, the first year under head coach Dave Snow. Inheriting a program that was mired in an extended stretch of sub-par seasons, Snow began his tenure by focusing his recruiting efforts on prospects who had been overlooked by higher-profile programs, with an emphasis on finding "hard-nosed guys with something to prove". Over the course of the season, infield coach Dave Malpass would routinely take his players to a local (all-dirt) Pony League field for practices, which Malpass wryly termed "Dirtbag Field". As the season progressed, the label was adopted by the players and coaches as symbolic of the tough and gritty mindset that Snow and his staff were cultivating. That year the team (which had finished 14-45 the year before Snow arrived) fought its way to an unexpected 50-15 record, and the school's first ever berth in the College World Series. Nearly 30 years later, the Dirtbag name continues to be worn with distinction by players old and new.

Next Up



The Hurricanes swept Rutgers this past weekend. The Canes are 4-0 after beating FAU 11-4 on Tuesday.

While they are known as The Hurricanes, their mascot is the Ibis. Folklore maintains that the Ibis, a symbol of knowledge found in the Everglades and Egypt, is the last sign of wildlife to take shelter before a hurricane and the first to reappear after the storm. The local marsh bird was considered UM's first unofficial mascot when the school yearbook adopted the name "Ibis" in 1926. Its popularity grew among the students during the 50's.



In 1957, San Sebastian Hall, a residence hall on campus, sponsored an Ibis entry in the homecoming celebration. The next year, student John Stormont performed at games in an Ibis costume that was glued, sewn and pinned together and was the forerunner of today's bird.

March 4 Meeting

Jeff Cardozo brings his in depth analysis to the Club on March 4.



Mr. & Mrs. Cardozo at the Ground Breaking of the New Stadium

Jeff is multi-talented business man. He is the course manager at Ironwood Golf Course, co-broadcaster for Gator Baseball, PA announcer for both women’s basketball and volleyball, cohost for the Tailgator on WRUF and spokesperson for many local TV and radio ads.

Come listen to his insight into Gator baseball at The **Bahama Breeze** restaurant on Clarke Butler Blvd off Archer Road.

You can order dinner beginning at 5:30 with the Jeff starting at 7:00.

2019 Meeting Schedule

All general meetings in 2019 will be on a Monday at Bahama Breeze, 3989 Plaza Blvd. Dinner on your own is at **6:00** with the program at **7:00**. Arrive early and be done with dinner by 7:00.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
March 4	Jeff Cardozo
April 1	TBA
May 6 -	Laird Veatch, Executive Associate Athletics Director for Internal Affairs
September 9	TBA
October 7	TBA
November 4	Coaching Staff
December 2	Holiday Party Oak Hammock

As usual, there will be two raffles each meeting. The merchandise raffle proceeds go to The Gator Dugout Club Scholarship Fund.

The SEC Tournament Package raffle ticket will be sold each meeting with the drawing for a free room and tickets to the SEC Tournament in Hoover, Alabama at the May meeting.

The Tournament is May 21-26.

During the season, The Club will have tailgates on some Saturdays.



First Dugout Club Golf Tournament

The Gator Dugout Club will hold its first Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 27 at Ironwood Golf Course.

Contact Dorian Lucey to volunteer at gatordugoutclub.golftournament@gmail.com

You can enter yourself and your team by going to www.gatordugoutclub.org and click on Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament for information. You can pay your entry fee via PayPal



Ten king rooms in Hoover have been reserved for the Gator Dugout Club. The La Quinta Birmingham-Hoover-Riverside is our headquarters. King room rate is \$85.00 plus tax.

Call 1-205-403-0096 and ask for The Gator Dugout Club rate.

New Discounts

Two more restaurants now give Club members 10% discounts when you show your cards.



Both have two locations. BTW is in the old Burrito Brothers location and on NW 39th Ave. at 83rd St. Mi Apa is on NW 34th St. at 2nd Ave. and in Alachua on US 441.

The Ninth Inning (Baseball Trivia)

In his very first at-bat, future Hall of Fame knuckleballer Hoyt Wilhelm hit a home run. His career lasted 21 more years and 493 plate appearances, but he never hit another homer. Wilhelm is also unusual because he didn't debut as a rookie until he was 29 years old, but then played to age 49. He retired with 143 wins, 228 saves and a gaudy 2.52 ERA. Oh, and that one freakish homer to go with his career .088 batting average!

Okay, there is something *very fishy* about these knuckleballers and their solo career homers! In 1976, Joe Niekro hit his one and only MLB home run. But it seems very "taterish" because the pitcher who served up the gopher ball was another knuckleballer ... his brother Phil!

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- David's Bar-B-Q 39th Ave, 23rd Ave 10%
- Donut Connection 10%
- Gator BTW 10%**
- Gator's Dockside 10%
- Gators Plus 10%
- Ker's Wing House 10%
- Leonardo's Pizza Millhopper 15%
- Mi Apa Latin Café 10%**
- Piesanos Stone Fired Pizza
- The Official Gator Sportshop
- UF Bookstore (Reitz Union)
- University World of Beer (SW 34th St.)

These folks offer discounts to Club members

- AVON by Trudy - 10%
- Planet Fitness
- The Midnight Bar (downtown) - 10%