

SPINNAKER  
LIMITED

# MAKING HISTORY



**SAN  
HOLO**

WIDENWAKE  
ENTERTAINMENT

904  
EDM

**BRING THIS AD FOR FREE ENTRY  
WITH COLLEGE ID**

MARCH 30TH DOORS 9:04 PM  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$7 904EDM.COM

ALL NEW  
**PLUR WEDNESDAYS**

**PURE**

FOR MORE INFO CALL 904-228-8673  
8206 PHILLIPS HWY JACKSONVILLE, FL





**904EDM.COM IS HIRING!**  
**STAFFING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS:**



**BARTENDERS - VIP SERVERS**  
**SHOOTER GIRLS - WEB & GRAPHIC DESIGNERS**  
**PHOTOGRAPHERS & VIDEOGRAPHERS**  
**PROMO - GUESTLIST**

**SUBMIT RESUMES - INFO: 904EDM@GMAIL.COM**  
**OR CALL 904-228-8673**



**MARCH 30TH**

FREE WITH COLLEGE ID  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$7 904EDM.COM



**APRIL 27TH**



FREE WITH COLLEGE ID  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$7 904EDM.COM



**JUNE 15TH**

FREE WITH COLLEGE ID  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$7 904EDM.COM

**ALL NEW**  
**PLUR WEDNESDAYS**



FOR MORE INFO CALL 904-228-8673  
8206 PHILLIPS HWY JACKSONVILLE, FL



# SPINNAKER

Awarded by the Associated Collegiate Press:  
2010 & 2013 Pacemaker Award  
Third Place 2013 Best of Show for Feature Magazine  
First Place 2013 Best of Show for Weekly Tabloid Newspaper  
Third Place 2014 Best of Show for Website Large School  
Finalist 2013 Online Pacemaker Award  
Finalist 2010-2014 Best Online, Streaming-Only College Radio Station  
by College Music Journal

## PRINT

PUBLISHER	Cassidy Alexander <i><a href="mailto:publisher@unfspinnaker.com">publisher@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
ART DIRECTOR	Alex Balosie <i><a href="mailto:layout@unfspinnaker.com">layout@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
LAYOUT	Madison Davell Mariana Martins
DISTRIBUTOR	Raza Shareef <i><a href="mailto:distributor@unfspinnaker.com">distributor@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>

## NEWS & ART

MANAGING EDITOR	Connor Spielmaker <i><a href="mailto:managingeditor@unfspinnaker.com">managingeditor@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
NEWS EDITOR	Mark Judson <i><a href="mailto:news@unfspinnaker.com">news@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR	Tiffany Butler <i><a href="mailto:assistantnews@unfspinnaker.com">assistantnews@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
SPORTS EDITOR	Will Weber <i><a href="mailto:sports@unfspinnaker.com">sports@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
FEATURES EDITOR	Danae Leake <i><a href="mailto:features@unfspinnaker.com">features@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR	Rachel Cazares <i><a href="mailto:entertainmentnews@unfspinnaker.com">entertainmentnews@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
DIGITAL MANAGER	Tiffany Salameh <i><a href="mailto:digital@unfspinnaker.com">digital@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
PHOTO EDITOR	Jennifer Mello <i><a href="mailto:photo@unfspinnaker.com">photo@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
DESIGN EDITOR	Alice Maule <i><a href="mailto:design@unfspinnaker.com">design@unfspinnaker.com</a></i>
GRAPHIC DESIGN	Kaitlin Sinardi Rachel Rector
REPORTERS	Nick Blank, Al Huffman, Joslyn Simmons

## OFFICE

ADVISOR	Maureen Baker
OFFICE MANAGER	Linda Durham
PRINT	The Florida Times-Union

Student Union, Bldg. 58 E room 2209  
1 UNF Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32224

Phone (Main Office): 904.620.2727  
Phone (Advertising): 904.620.1599  
Fax: 904.620.3924

*Spinnaker* is produced thanks to advertising, production revenue, and subscriptions, including generous support from UNF Student Government. For additional copies or a mail subscription, contact *Spinnaker* at [publisher@unfspinnaker.com](mailto:publisher@unfspinnaker.com) or the address and phone number listed above.

[UNFSPINNAKER.COM](http://UNFSPINNAKER.COM)



UNF Spinnaker



@unfspinnaker



@unfspinnaker



UNF Spinnaker

## CONTENTS

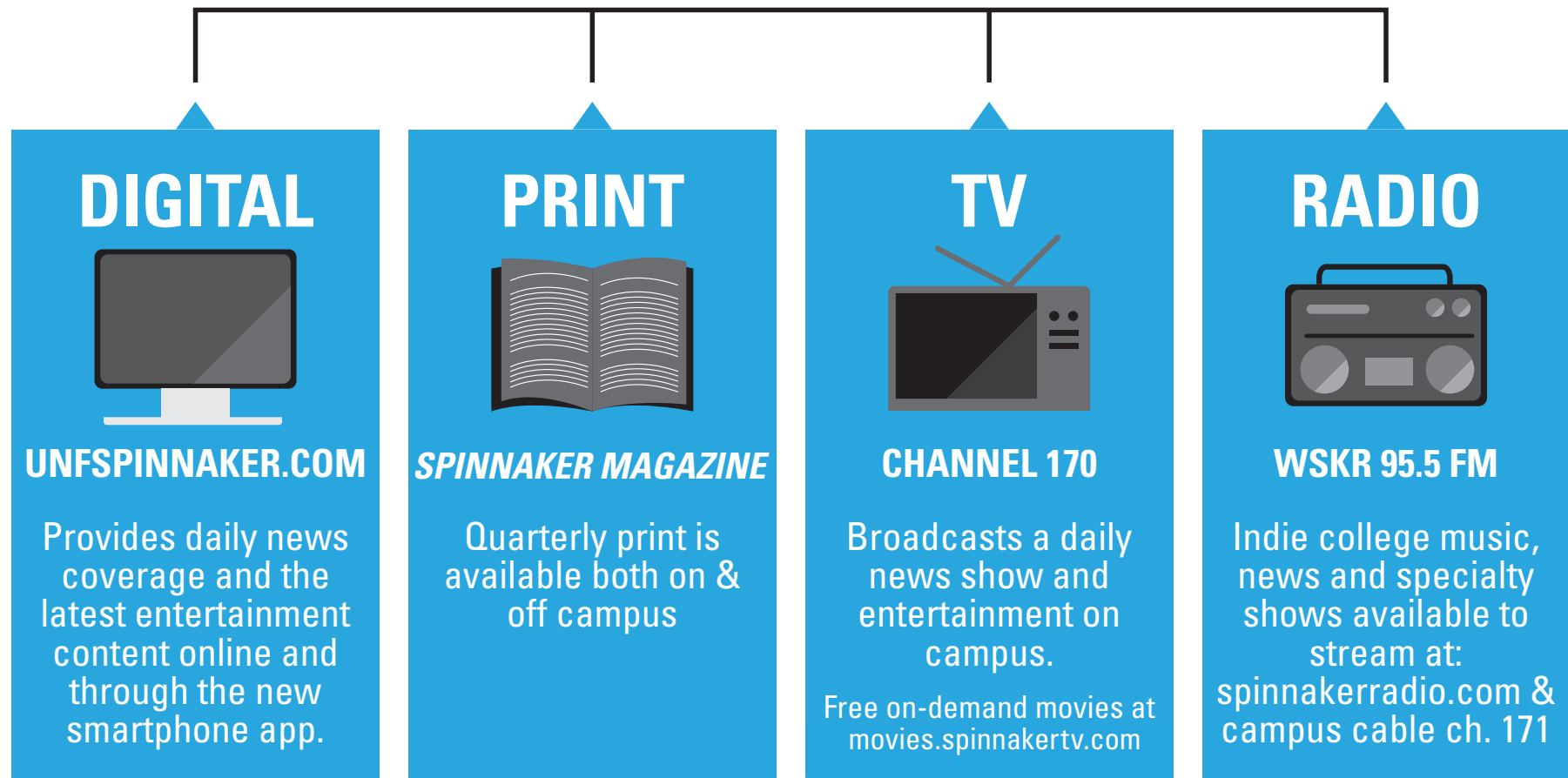
- 05 *Interview with Osprey Nation*
- 06 *Fan Photos*
- 08 *Over the Moon*
- 10 *Osprey's Women's Basketball:  
Season in Review*
- 13 *At a Glance: Women's Basketball Team*
- 15 *A Season's Worth of Scores*
- 16 *Highs and Lows of North Florida  
Men's Basketball Season*
- 22 *Birds of Trey Fly to New Heights*
- 24 *Game Days: Part of Student Life*



# ADVERTISE WITH **Spinnaker**

REACH UNF'S CAMPUS COMMUNITY WITH THE OFFICIAL STUDENT-RUN  
MEDIA OUTLET OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA.

## PLATFORMS



FOR ADVERTISING RATES PLEASE CONTACT

**BUSINESS@UNFSPINNAKER.COM** | **(904) 620-1579**





Connor Spielmaker

# AN INTERVIEW WITH OSPREY NATION

By Will Weber | Sports Editor

S pinnaker talked to Osprey Nation members Nick Szymula, junior sport management major, and Harper Kerr, junior biomedical science major, during the UNF-USC Upstate game.

Osprey Nation can be seen at all the home games in the student section right next to the opposing team's bench. Most students hear about the group for the first time during orientation.

## WHAT IS OSPREY NATION?

**Nick:** Osprey Nation is the official student supporter of UNF Athletics. [We're] just trying to make a bigger student impact here in the crowd.

## HOW LONG HAVE BOTH OF YOU GUYS BEEN A PART OF OSPREY NATION?

**Harper:** I have been a part of it for two years. This is my junior year. I started halfway through freshman year. So two and a half years.

**Nick:** I [have] been probably about the same. Started my freshman year and this is something I like to do.

## HOW DID YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH THE GROUP WHEN YOU FIRST DECIDED TO JOIN?

**Harper:** I actually saw a post on Twitter asking if there was just anybody who was involved or wanting to get involved in Osprey Nation to come to an informational meeting and I came and loved it.

**Nick:** I actually got dragged into [it] with a friend which turned to the point where I was the one asking other people for help. Just grew over time.

## SO WHAT DO YOU DO AS OSPREY NATION?

**Nick:** Us, individually, kind of run it from behind the scenes aspect. The budgeting, the marketing, setting up events, but as a whole group we just try to increase the atmosphere, increase the school spirit here on campus.

## DO YOU THINK YOUR PRESENCE HELPS WITH THE HOME COURT ADVANTAGE?

**Nick:** I always believed [the] crowd could make a big, big difference in a game, especially if it [is] a close game. It can really sway the momentum.

## WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE MAKE UP THE GROUP? ARE THERE ANY ALUMNI OR IS IT JUST STUDENTS AT UNF?

**Nick:** It [is] all students right now, current students. There are a couple of alumni that help in assisting us and directing us when we need help. It is really all student run at this point.

## DO YOU TRAVEL FOR GAMES?

**Harper:** We do. We traveled to Stetson this year and last year. So right now we are still working on trying to get a bit further. Last year we also did travel for the conference game to Dayton, Ohio. So we're hoping for another far travel again.

## IF PEOPLE WANT TO GET IN CONTACT WITH THE GROUP OR JOIN, WHERE CAN THEY REACH YOU?

**Nick:** Best way is just find us at the games. We usually have a table set up [at] most home games or you can come into the marketing office arena and come find us there.

**Harper:** We're all over social media too.



Osprey Nation members Nick Szymula and Harper Kerr.





Connor Spielmaker







Spinnaker always photographs the basketball team, but this season we turned our lenses to the stands as well.

All photographs by Jennifer Mello unless otherwise noted.

Emily Woodbury



# OVER THE MOON

HOW ONE HIRE CHANGED UNF ATHLETICS FOR YEARS TO COME

By Will Weber | Sports Editor





When the Ospreys joined the Atlantic Sun in 2005 they became the punching bag of the league, compiling just 20 wins over the following four years and living in the cellar of league standings.

Flash-forward to 2016, and the Ospreys have not only broken program records for wins and championships, but also created a culture of sustainable success.

What changed?

In 2009, North Florida hired Lee Moon to replace Dr. Richard Gropper, who had served 15 years as UNF's director of athletics. Moon, a veteran of collegiate athletic administration, has a sterling resume of hiring top-tier head coaches. While at Marshall University, he was responsible for hiring Billy Donovan, who would later win two national championships and be hired as an NBA head coach. At Creighton University he hired Dana Altman, who led the team to seven NCAA Tournament appearances.

When Moon arrived at UNF, he chose Matthew Driscoll to lead the team in its first year as a full-fledged Division 1 member.

"We want to win championships here," Driscoll said to ESPN after being hired. "That's what we want to do."

Driscoll's impact was immediate. In his first four years, the Ospreys won 90 games and two A-Sun regular season titles. His team made appearances in both the National Invitation Tournament and the NCAA March Madness tournament while breaking countless program records.

Driscoll, who recently signed a four-year extension, appears to be following in the footsteps of former Moon hires. The basketball program has dominated the A-Sun the past two years and earned national praise as an up-and-coming mid-major team capable of beating large schools with better pedigrees.

In addition to his on-court success, Driscoll ingrained himself into campus life and drove the city's attention to the Ospreys. Driscoll became known for giving out his phone number during freshman orientation, encouraging students to communicate with him. He also made occasional appearances on the Jacksonville Jaguars sideline during training camp, leading to Gus Bradley and multiple Jaguar players attending games. Driscoll garnered national attention with his emphatic proclamation during a halftime interview in the team's only NCAA Tournament appearance.

"Ballers make plays. Dudes are dudes," Driscoll said. "I mean, that's the way life works. Just play and be a baller."

The blunt words caught the attention of national media outlets such as USA Today, the Huffington Post and ESPN.

While the basketball team's rise has fetched the most publicity, the entire Athletics Department has seen success since Moon's arrival.

During his tenure, the Ospreys have brought home 21 A-Sun Conference Championships, including titles in men's basketball, baseball, women's tennis and men's golf during the 2014-2015 season. The Ospreys have also sent teams in several sports to NCAA postseason play. Moon has also created two new varsity programs — beach volleyball and women's golf, both in 2012.

Moon's focus extended beyond the playing field. Since his arrival, student athletes have sported a cumulative GPA at or above 3.0, highlighted by a 3.18 during the 2014-15 season. Attendance has also risen during his tenure, and UNF teams rank among the A-Sun leaders in home attendance, led by the basketball program's record mark of 2,725 average per game in 2014-2015.

“MY STATEMENT FROM THE BEGINNING IS ENTHUSIASM IS CAUGHT, NOT TAUGHT. AND YOU DO THAT WITH OUR STUDENTS. THEY SET THE TONE. WHEN THEY CREATE THE LOUD ENVIRONMENT, OTHER PEOPLE WANT TO SEE IT AND BE PART OF IT.”

"My statement from the beginning is enthusiasm is caught, not taught," Moon told the Florida Times-Union. "And you do that with our students. They set the tone. When they create the loud environment, other people want to see it and be part of it."

Senior Beau Beech noticed the change from his freshman year, when they had only 25 fans show up at a game, to now, when scalpers tried to upsell tickets outside the arena before the A-Sun championship game.

Moon played a main role in securing funding for enhancements to the UNF Arena, including a massive, four-sided video display scoreboard that hovers above center-court and a 40-foot digital scorer's table along the sideline.

If there's a blemish on Moon's UNF stint it occurred in March, when the school announced they reached a \$1.25 million settlement with former Women's Head Coach Mary Tappmeyer who accused Moon of discriminatory and racist behavior. President Delaney denied the accusations, saying "every one of those allegations are wrong" and settling was the best business decision.

From successful head coaching hires, to state-of-the-art renovations, Lee Moon has changed the landscape of UNF athletics in more ways than one. In 2011, former Osprey and now Assistant Director of Athletic Marketing Josh Baker told Spinnaker, "I think the biggest thing Coach Moon brought is excitement. There's now a buzz on campus and in the Jacksonville community that I don't think there was before."

At left, Coach Moon watches as the Osprey's play in the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament.



# Spinnaker

University of North Florida

Spring 16

Pick up the  
Spring 2016  
*Spinnaker*  
magazine.

*Find it in a blue box near you*

## TO DO THE RIGHT THING

HOW MEDICAL AMNESTY PROTECTS YOU

## REMEMBERING

MAITLAND HARVEY & NYCOLE BRANCH

## BAEBAE DANIELS

NORTH FLORIDA'S SIXTH MAN



ARTIST PROFILE: TRACEY TANNER  
NEXT ON NETFLIX  
SPRING CONCERT GUIDE





# OSPREYS' WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: A SEASON IN REVIEW

THE NORTH FLORIDA'S WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WAS FILLED WITH NEW FACES FOR THE 2015-2016 SEASON

By Joslyn Simmons | Staff Reporter

## NEW COACH, NEW TEAM

Before the start of the season, UNF hired Miami Assistant Coach Darrick Gibbs. Along with Gibbs came a new coaching staff to rebuild a new team for the Ospreys.

Gibbs' philosophy rested on four pieces: excellence, hard work and development, family, and nurturing relationships.

The team itself had many women who transferred to the program, with three having to sit out for the season.

## SEASON STRUGGLES

After an early victory against the University of Missouri-Kansas City on the road, the Ospreys began to struggle to finish games on the road and at home.

Their next victory came at the Thanksgiving Classic at the UNF Arena against Towson in overtime.

In the month of December, two wins were claimed by the Ospreys.

When North Florida played against Trinity Baptist, five players scored in double-digits, showing the potential of what the unit could achieve.

Sophomore guard Sierra Shepherd said the team worked well in the 97-30 victory.

"I feel like we shared the ball very well today. We focused a lot on defense this whole week and I think we responded well," Shepherd said. "I just think we had a lot of energy and a lot of confidence."

North Florida went through another skid before heading to Atlantic-Sun play.

## CONFERENCE PLAY

After two early losses in the conference, North Florida had back-to-back victories against Lipscomb and New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).

For the rest of the conference, the Ospreys had trouble securing a win.

Similar to non-conference play, North Florida's trouble of closing games continue to be exploited by other teams in the field.

The Ospreys defeated NJIT for the second time in New Jersey during the winter storm of Jonah.

## A-SUN TOURNAMENT

As the sixth seed, the Ospreys went into the tournament facing USC Upstate on the road.

Both teams went basket-for-basket in the first quarter, with the Spartans closing the quarter on a run for a 17-9 score.

In the second quarter, the Ospreys put together a 11-7 run behind stellar shooting from Claire Ioannidis, to cut the deficit to four points with five minutes left. Going into the break, UNF trailed Upstate 31-22.

In the second half, the Spartans' offensive power became too much as they pushed the lead further.

UNF guard Sierra Shepherd scored six of the Ospreys' 12 points in the third quarter, but going into the final quarter the Ospreys trailed 51-34.

The Ospreys were outscored 16-25 in the fourth, leading to the season-ending defeat.

UNF shot 29.2 percent from the field compared to USC Upstate's 41.7 percent. From downtown, the Ospreys shot 21.1 percent to the Spartans' 38.1 percent.

Claire Ioannidis tallied her seventh 20-plus point game for the season.

## FINAL RECORD

The Ospreys finished the season with a record of 7-23.

## BRIGHT SPOTS FOR THE OSPREYS

Through the struggles, the team did have some bright spots. Hot-handed junior guard Claire Ioannidis tied the single-season record of 3-pointers with 80.

## LOOKING FORWARD

Next season, the team will have seven returning players, along with three who were redshirted and forced to sit out the season. Along with the returning team, the Ospreys will have three recruits coming in to help to contribute to the unit.



# AT A GLANCE:

By Al Huffman | Staff Reporter



## SIERRA SHEPHERD

sophomore guard

33.2 mpg and 12.4 ppg



Bottom line: The best thing about this very talented player is that she is very young and should only improve over the next two years. Along with Ioannidis, Shepherd was one of the major scorers on the team; she can shoot lights out from downtown and can also carve through the paint to get layups against women twice her size. To take the next step she needs to keep her motor running every game because this team will only depend on her more as she gets older.



## CLAIRE IOANNIDIS

junior point guard

34.4 mpg and 15.1 ppg



In her one year with the team, Ioannidis has established herself as the indisputable star. Ioannidis consistently shouldered a lot of the scoring burden and only had six games where she scored less than double-digit points. The next step for her is to get players she can trust to score when she passes the ball. While 2.6 assists per game is very low for a point guard, there were few viable targets for her, so this is a stat that will likely improve greatly next year.



## KARRAH JOHNSON

junior center

19.1 mpg and 5.3 ppg



Karrah may be the most interesting case on this roster. She was almost irrelevant for most of the season, but had a few games (especially near the end of the season) where she was aggressive and got big numbers. However, a center who averages 4.8 rebounds a game (about three fewer per game than a guard) is unacceptable. It will be interesting to see which Karrah Johnson shows up to training camp next year because she will have a lot more competition.



## MAIYA RUMPH

sophomore forward

27.6 mpg and 3.7 ppg



Rumph has a similar case to Taru in that she was underweight for how much she was utilized at forward. To her credit she made her presence felt on the boards with 6.2 rebounds a game. One way she can become a major contributor is by being more involved in the scoring department. She hardly takes any shots per game, but her percentage is up there with Ioannidis, so she will need to take more shots next year to see if her accuracy holds up with a bigger sample size.



# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM



**TARU MADEKIVI**  
junior forward

29.3 mpg and 6.1 ppg.



Madekivi is another player that is known for her three pointers. Her season was cut short by injury, so her season stats may not be the best way to judge her season. However, her three-point percentage for the season (with 8 fewer games) is significantly better than Kiefer's and will benefit from being used less as a forward next season and more as a sharpshooter where she belongs. Her misuse as a forward is mostly due to a lack of depth at the forward position and should be fixed with the addition of tall recruits. The more she was utilized on the perimeter, the more she contributed so it will help her contribute a lot more next season if she can stay healthy.



**KATIE MECKUS**  
freshman forward

10.5 mpg and 1.4 ppg



It's hard to judge a player that only played 10.5 minutes per game. Meckus is a player that would've benefitted greatly from redshirting. She was a freshman this year and it was very obvious. Turnovers appear on the stat sheet (Meckus had 0.9 per game,) but one thing that doesn't appear on the stat sheet is how easily avoidable a turnover was. Meckus' turnovers tended to be dumb, noticeable mistakes. They were freshmen mistakes and although this doesn't mean she can't improve, she has a lot of work to do this offseason in terms of awareness if she hopes to play next year.



**KADESIA JOHNSON**  
junior guard

30.6 mpg and 8 ppg



KJ had a rough start to the year, but about midway through the season she erupted with double doubles and ended the season being a key contributor along with Shepherd and Ioannidis. The biggest disappointment for her was that this was her senior year and there's no speculation to make for how she'll do next year. The coaches owe her "thanks" for her services.



**HADLEY KIEFER**  
freshman guard

26.2 mpg, 6.7 ppg



Kiefer's ceiling is very hard to read. For one, she is a role player who is primarily used as a 3-point specialist, but was very streaky. In some games she would go on rampages and score 19 points, but then will go four straight games with five or fewer. To an extent, this is the nature of the beast for someone who earns their keep from the three-arc, but even on bad days a player can't afford to go scoreless for multiple games in a row. Although she has stolen the show in several games, Kiefer has teetered on being a liability in more games. She will need to be more consistent next season.



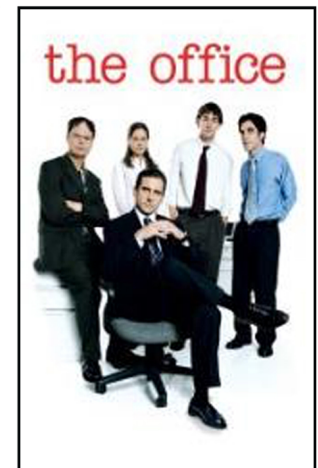


# FREE MOVIES & TV SHOWS

## ANYTIME, ANYWHERE ON CAMPUS!

New films added **every month**.

Access films from your **smart phone** and **tablet** by downloading the **FREE** Swank Media Player App



**movies.spinnakertv.com**

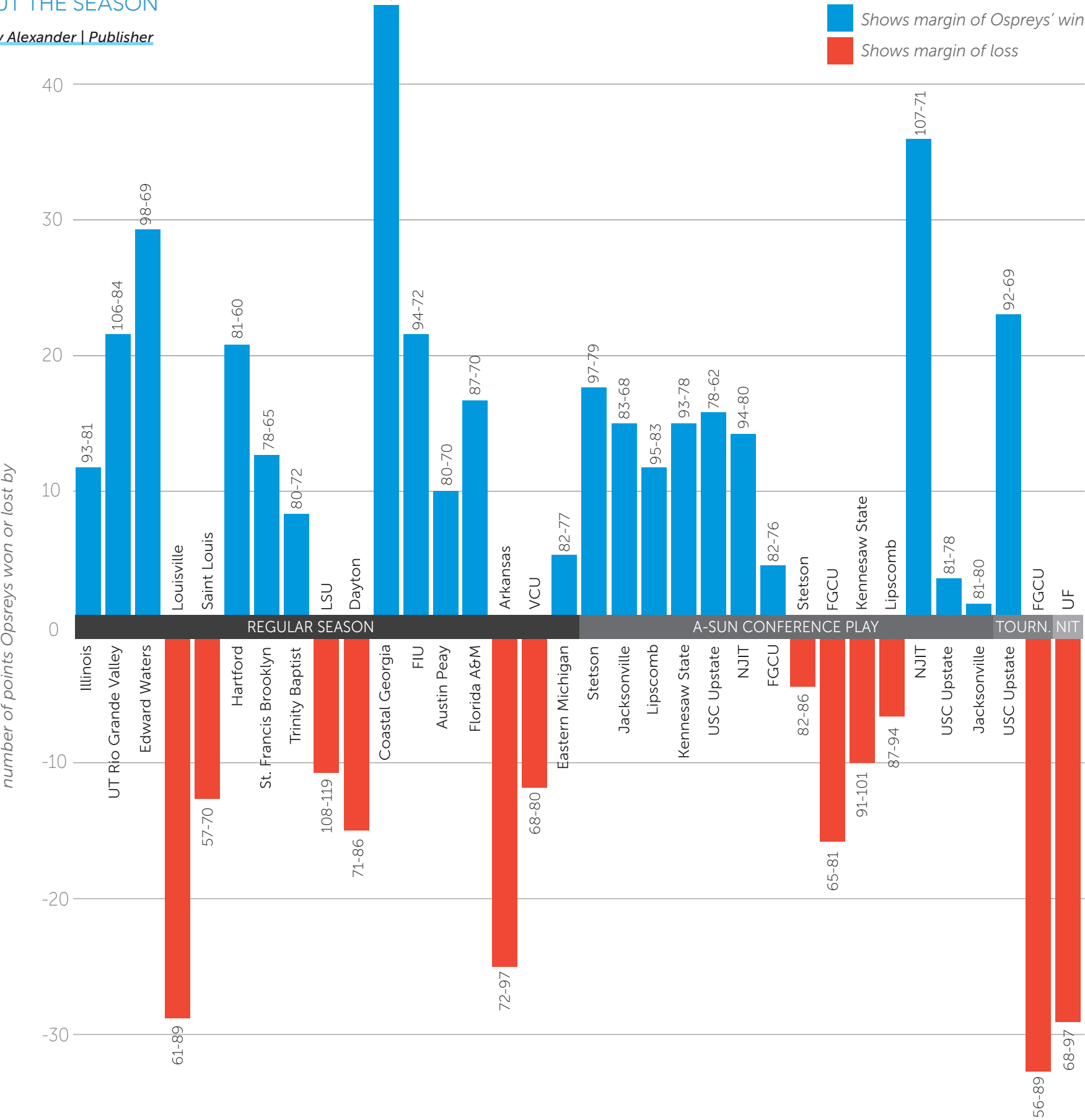
Films also available on campus channel **170**

Please email [tv@unfspinnaker.com](mailto:tv@unfspinnaker.com) with any questions or suggestions!



SEE WHICH GAMES THE  
OSPREYS WON AND LOST  
THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

Graphic by Cassidy Alexander | Publisher









# ***THE HIGHS AND LOWS*** **OF THE** **NORTH FLORIDA MEN'S** **BASKETBALL SEASON**

THOUGH THE 2015-2016 SEASON CAME TO AN END ON MARCH 15, IT WAS AN EPICALLY ENTERTAINING JOURNEY THAT CAPTURED THE CITY'S ATTENTION

*By [Will Weber](#) | Sports Editor*



The Ospreys brought home individual awards and made school history, but despite the accolades and broken records, the season ended in bitter-sweet disappointment for the Birds of Trey.

GROWING PAINS, OFFENSIVE POTENTIAL EVIDENT EARLY

The Ospreys suffered their first loss before they played a single game, when junior center Romelo Banks injured his ankle, forcing him to undergo what would be a season-ending surgery. Banks, who led UNF in rebounding and started every game the year before, was the team’s only true “big man” and a key part of the Ospreys prior success.

UNF opened the season with a 93–81 upset over Illinois, marking the program’s second-ever win over a Big Ten conference opponent. In the next game, UNF flashed signs of their offensive potential when three players had over 20 points en route to a 103–84 victory over Texas–Rio Grande.

Less than a month later, the Ospreys offense broke out again for 108 points against Louisiana State University (LSU), but freshman-phenom Ben Simmons scored an absurd 43 points and led his team to a 119–108 victory. Despite the loss, Dallas Moore and Beau Beech scored 31 points each, proving they could keep pace with any scoring duo in the county.

The Ospreys finished non-conference play a respectable 11–6.

UNDEFEATED JANUARY

Unfortunately, success in the beginning of the season means relatively nothing for a team’s tournament chances, so when A–Sun Conference games started January 6, the pressure was on. The team responded to the pressure by playing its best stretch of basketball all season.

The Ospreys won their first seven conference games, beating every team in the A–Sun. During the seven-game stretch, they outscored opponents by 96 points, winning every game by double digits. Star junior point guard Dallas Moore averaged 19.4 points per game and shot 53 percent from the floor, while senior forward Beau Beech averaged 18.2 points. The Birds of Trey looked unstoppable, hitting over 10 3-pointers in every game but one, when they only hit nine.

In the final two games of the streak against New Jersey Technical Institute of Technology (NJIT) and Florida Gulf Coast (FGCU), senior sharpshooter Trent Mackey outshot both teams from 3–point land, making seven compared to the opponents’ combined four.

The most impressive moment of the winning-streak, however, didn’t happen on the court.

The Ospreys played Kennesaw State in the fourth conference game and fell behind 14 points with five minutes left in the first half. It was the largest deficit UNF had faced since A–Sun games began, and the team was watching the game slowly slip away.

That’s when senior forward Demarcus Daniels



Connor Spielmaker



CHRIS DAVENPORT

junior forward

65 blocks, 23 stl, 12.3 ppg



Davenport is a defensive presence for the Ospreys. On the glass, Davenport has the strength to pull down rebounds or keep them out of reach from the opposite players so his teammates can reel them in. Davenport can knock down the threes, hit a jump shot and slam home dunks. While he is a defensive presence, at times, Davenport gets into foul trouble early in the game, causing him to sit for stretches.



TRENT MACKEY

redshirt senior guard

110 3pt, 60 ast



Mackey is known to pull up for a three pointer from the wings of the court, which is the strength of his game. His three-point shooting has been a key in the Ospreys’ way of playing over the last two seasons. While he does not drive to the basket often, he will dish the basketball back out for the best shot. On the defensive end of the floor, Mackey can be seen taking charge.



stepped up as the leader of the team.

“Demarcus Daniels coached the entire timeout at the under-minute meeting,” UNF Head Coach Matthew Driscoll said after the game. “He told the guys it’s a 12-point game, and not only are we good enough but all we got to do is take this to another level and we will separate ourselves.”

The Ospreys responded with an 11-0 run, followed by nine straight points from Moore, which closed the gap to five points going into halftime. The Ospreys would grab the lead after halftime and never relinquish on their way to a 93-78 victory and fourth straight conference win.

The Ospreys didn’t lose a single game in the month of January, making them the favorites to win the A-Sun Conference regular season championship and clinch the No 1. seed in the conference tournament. They were undefeated against A-Sun opponents, proved they could battle back against adversity and had won 18-straight games at home.

LOSING STREAK FORCES OSPREYS TO FACE ADVERSITY

When February started however, the Ospreys inexplicably left their winning ways in the prior month.

The slide began when the team faced Stetson for the second matchup. The Hatters stunned the Ospreys, defeating them 86-82 thanks to UNF foul trouble and excellent Stetson shooting. Still, the loss looked like a small hiccup on the road to a championship.

However, the Ospreys’ slide continued five days later when they traveled to Fort Myers to take on the FGCU Eagles. Gulf Coast outscored UNF 48-18 in the paint, exposing the Osprey’s lack of size and providing the blueprint to defeat them.

The Ospreys would lose their next two games against Kennesaw State and Lipscomb, teams who had won as many games combined as the Ospreys had all year. During the four-game losing streak UNF allowed 90.5 points per game, transforming into an unrecognizable unit.

“This is extremely disappointing for me and the guys,” Driscoll said following the team’s fourth-straight loss. “The team continues to prepare and compete, but we’ve just not been able to make the plays we need to make to get the win.”

The Ospreys slipped into a three-way tie for the A-Sun and were in the midst of their worst losing streak of the season.

Perturbed by the team’s free-fall, Driscoll decided to play his team a few verses of the for King and Country song, “It’s Not Over Yet,” before practice that week. It was a salient reminder that there was still time to steady the ship.

The team responded to the unique message by dismantling A-Sun co-leader NJIT, who entered the



Connor Spielmaker



DEMARCUS DANIELS

senior forward

73 blocks, 26 stl, 12.3 ppg



Daniels is the second-ever back-to-back defensive player of the year and his presence is a major key for the Ospreys. Although he comes off the bench, Daniels sees as many minutes as starters. When he is in the game, Daniels reels in rebounds and blocks shots to stop many possessions for the other teams. On the offensive end, Daniels can be seen taking the ball down the court when needed. His hook shot is his money shot. Daniels can be seen during timeouts helping his team with plays and giving advice.



BEAU BEECH

senior guard /forward

97 3pt, 217 rebs, 67 ast



Beech can be seen moving the ball down the court as the other half of the backcourt duo with Dallas Moore. Beech’s offensive power comes from his extremely long range 3-pointers that sparked many Ospreys’ rallies over the season. On the defensive side, Beech pulls in numerous rebounds with his 6-foot-9-inch frame before taking the basketball in the opposite direction.



game on a five-game win streak.

The Ospreys would follow with a win over USC Upstate, setting up a meeting with cross-town rival JU in the season finale with the regular season title on the line.

Swisher Gymnasium was sold out and the audience, which included four Jacksonville Jaguars, crammed in to watch the River City Rumble.

The Ospreys grabbed the lead early and extended it to 18 points with 10:33 to play in the second half. But JU scored 12 straight points and fought back, pulling within two points, 79-77, with 15 seconds left. Trent Mackey was fouled, and calmly drilled a pair of free throws to make it a four-point game. JU would hit a 3-pointer as the clock expired, but UNF escaped with an 81-80 victory, and its second consecutive A-Sun Conference regular season title, clinching an NIT bid.

"It's a great feeling to be a part of something so special, and that's why everybody that's on this team came here," Daniels said. "They always wanted to be a part of what Coach Driscoll sold us on the recruiting trail."

During the game, both Daniels and junior forward Chris Davenport exceeded the 1,000 point mark for their careers.

The Ospreys finished the regular season with the best record in UNF history, 21-10, and went 10-4 against conference opponents. They secured the No.1 seed in the A-Sun tournament, and looked forward with hopes of a championship and March Madness bid.

## OSPREYS EYE SECOND-CONSECUTIVE A-SUN TOURNAMENT TITLE.

The Ospreys showed no rust or complacency in their first-round game against USC Upstate. Three players scored over 20 points, and the Ospreys scored 23 points more off turnovers than Upstate on the way to a 92-69 blowout.

UNF's biggest challenge would come next, in a semifinal matchup against FGCU, whose size advantage and frontcourt had abused the Ospreys earlier. Many believed UNF and FGCU were the two premier teams in the A-Sun and the victor would become the champion. The Ospreys were stunned in front of over 4,000 fans, shooting just 25.8 percent from three in the 89-56 loss.

UNF's NCAA March Madness hopes should have been dead, but a quirky rule kept the team's hope for a tournament bid alive. Stetson, who was competing in the A-Sun Championship, was banned from post-season play before the season after they failed to meet NCAA academic requirements. A-Sun rules state that in a circumstance where the conference champion is ineligible to compete in postseason play, the regular season champion will replace them.

UNF fans watched with bated breath on March 6, when Stetson battled FGCU in the championship. The game went into overtime, but FGCU blocked the Hatters final shot to win the game and crush the Osprey's hopes for the second time that week.

## A SHORT-LIVED NIT RUN

Despite the disappointing loss in the conference tournament, the Ospreys earned a bid to the NIT for the first time in program history. UNF played in-state big brother Florida in the opening game of the tournament. It was the first time the Ospreys have hosted the Gators, and 6,011 people piled into UNF Arena to watch the longshot underdogs battle the traditional powerhouse. The Gators threw in a season-high 16 3-pointers, including 12 in the first half, reversing roles with the Ospreys, who came in having made more treys than any team in the country.

The Ospreys fell down 32 points by halftime and were unable to claw back, ending their season with 22-12 record.

## AWARDS

A handful of Ospreys brought home awards, garnered recognition and broke records throughout the season.

### Dallas Moore

The junior point guard was the first Osprey ever to bring home the Atlantic Sun Player of the Year award. Moore was one of four players to lead his conference in points, and was named A-Sun First Team All-Conference for the second-consecutive year. The lefty averaged 19.7 points per game and broke Koran Godwin's program record for career points (1,514).



### NICK MALONGA

redshirt sophomore guard

83 rebs , 23 ast, 9 stl



Malonga is one of the new starters for the Ospreys. While his points may be limited, Malonga can be seen going in for the rebound or giving the assist to a teammate. At times, Malonga may get lost in transition, but he is one of the first guys on the floor for a loose ball. He can be seen taking coaching advice from Coach Driscoll, which translated during the season.



### DALLAS MOORE

junior guard

19.8ppg, 31 stl, 205 ast



Moore is the A-Sun Player of the Year and it can be seen with his vision on the court. Moore drives through the paint frequently to make some of the craziest baskets for the Ospreys. When the ball is in his hand, Moore has the ability to dribble between his legs and behind his back to shake defenders. Even when he is being double teamed, Moore is able to dish the basketball out to his teammates. This quick movement is also seen when he plays defense, allowing him to steal the ball to make a play on the other end.



Beau Beech

Beech was named A-Sun First Team All-Conference for the second year in a row. The senior finished his career as the only player in UNF history to score 1,500 points and pull in 500 rebounds and as the program leader for steals with 147.

Demarcus Daniels

Daniels was the second-ever player to be named A-Sun Defensive Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons. Daniels set the UNF single-season block record with 72, and became the all-time leader in blocked shots with 178. Coach Driscoll said Daniels’ athleticism and remarkable IQ make him the most steady and engaged defender he’s ever coached.

Coach Matthew Driscoll

Driscoll and his staff brought home the A-Sun Coaching Staff of the Year for the second season in a row. Since becoming a Division 1 team in 2006, the Ospreys have scored over 100 points six times. Four of those six games came this season.

LOOKING FORWARD

Despite finishing the season with two disappointing losses, the Ospreys future looks bright. Coach Driscoll, who is under contract through the 2021-2022 season, has revitalized the program and brought relevance to UNF basketball. Next year’s team will face the pressure of rising expectations, but all signs indicate they can respond with another stellar season.



AARON BODAGER

redshirt junior guard

57 3pt, 40 ast, 18 stl



Bodager is another player who is known for his shot from beyond the arc. While he is not a starter, Bodager is the seventh man in the rotation for the Ospreys. With him in the game, Bodager’s role of shooting is a compliment to the other sharpshooters on the team. On defense, Bodager’s quick hands has led to steals and turnovers against his opponents, leading to fast break points for the Ospreys.





# BIRDS OF TREY FLY TO NEW HEIGHTS

THE TEAM'S FORMULA, CENTERED AROUND THREE-POINTERS, HAS GIVEN THE SCHOOL ONE OF ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASONS IN HISTORY

By Will Weber | Sports Editor





The east coast of the U.S. is speckled with basketball excellence. Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium is a basketball cathedral where parishioners pile in every week to watch a roster that includes seven McDonald's All-Americans.

However, if you travel about 500 miles south down Interstate 95, there is a small school with virtually no precedent of basketball excellence — a school with a long-range shot better than any team in the country this season.

The North Florida Ospreys made more threes this year than any other Division 1 program, capturing the imagination of fans and earning them the nickname, "Birds of Trey."

The Golden State Warriors, led by Stephen Curry's immaculate jump shot, have utilized three point shooting to win a championship and potentially finish the 2016 season with the best record in NBA history.

The Ospreys, led by Beau Beech and Trent Mackey, used a similar formula that led them to the two most successful seasons in program history, and the school's first-ever appearance in March Madness and the National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

Emphasis on three point shooting has changed the way teams are built and could change the future of basketball. But why is it so effective?

The NCAA implemented the three-point line in 1987, but the shots value is a relatively new and changing phenomena.

The median shooting percentage in college this season from behind the arc was 34.6 percent, according to Hoop-math.com. Since three pointers are 150 percent more valuable than two-point shots, it's ineffective to take twos unless the team shoots over 50 percent, which 226 of 348 NCAA teams don't do.

Teams like the Ospreys and the Warriors construct their roster

around the core goal of dominant three-point shooting. The median percentage of shots from three-point range nationwide is 27 percent. In comparison, the Ospreys relied on threes for 43.4 percent of their offense. UNF also made 40.9 percent of their shots from three, which ranks eighth in the nation and is five percent higher than the average. UNF not only made more threes this season than the next closest team, but they did it in 146 fewer attempts.

Simply put, the Ospreys took more threes and made a higher percentage than most teams in the NCAA.

The Osprey's made an incredible 411 treys this year, breaking the previous school record by over 94 shots. UNF made twice as many threes as they gave up, and took over 1,000 shots from behind the arc, 192 more than the previous record for attempts in a season.

All seven of the Ospreys main contributors knocked down more than ten threes throughout the season, and six shot above the national average of 36 percent. Beau Beech and Trent Mackey finished top 20 in the country for threes made, and shot over 40 percent from behind the line.

The Ospreys season was feast or famine. There weren't many teams who could keep pace with the Ospreys, but when the shooting stroke went cold the offense stagnated, leading to rough losses in the A-Sun Tournament and NIT.

Three-point shooting propelled UNF basketball to new heights, but was also the team's Achilles' heel in the postseason. Beech and Mackey are seniors and won't return next year, leaving enormous shoes to fill. Time will tell if new recruits and younger players can fill the vacated roles, but one thing is certain: they better be able to shoot.





# GAME DAYS: PART OF STUDENT LIFE

By Nick Blank | Student Government Reporter

Though the UNF men's basketball team lost against Florida Gulf Coast University, and ultimately did not get a chance to go to the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row, the energy and support from the fans remained a key element that enhanced the game day experience on March 3.

Rows upon rows of tightly-packed twenty-somethings screamed their lungs out and held enlarged cut-outs of coaches and players. The student-fans play an important role for games, and sports is the means for individuals to unite with a common cause.

YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE TO  
KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE  
GAME TO HAVE A GREAT TIME.

Being an expert on the rules of basketball isn't a requirement for game-goers. UNF student Calvin Jones, who attended his second Osprey basketball game on Thursday, said he wasn't very knowledgeable about the sport, but that didn't deter him from having a great time.

"Athletics [events] are a great place for students to just hang out. You don't really have to know anything about the game to have a great time," Jones said.

Jones previously attended Florida Atlantic University, a university with a football team that fueled much of the game day hype.

"FAU was more football-oriented. They never had this," Jones said as he looked at the nearly-full and rowdy student section.

Non-UNF students contributed to the electric atmosphere of the crowd, particularly the Florida Gulf Coast University student who wore a Where's Waldo costume as he proudly waved a university flag.

This was Miami-native Chance Fernandez, who relished the opportunity to support the Eagles on the road.

"I wanted something noticeable, everyone knows the Where's Waldo outfit," Fernandez said. "It's a funny gag."

The UNF students noticed and booed while Fernandez laughed.

Fernandez offered a tip to the fans on how to sustain UNF's winning environment.

"Try and keep [the atmosphere] hyped up because if you don't go the distance to the tournament again it will kind of die down like it did for us," Fernandez said.

Among the riotous section of UNF students was Adam Tackett, a junior studying multimedia journalism. Tackett is an veteran game-goer and attended many UNF basketball games this season. He stormed the court after the Ospreys won the Atlantic-Sun tournament last season.

The Osprey's success over the past two seasons ignited this fanbase.

"It wasn't like this at all two years ago," Tackett said. "It's fantastic the way the student body kind of rallied around the team."

Although the energy of the crowd makes up a significant part of basketball games, watching the game for the sake of it is just as rewarding.

"I can't describe how fun this team is to watch. So many threes, so little defense, they play on the edge," Tackett said. "The different styles of the players really mesh well together."

Being in the crowd can be intoxicating, and the game day experience is still one that student-fans can appreciate.



 Nick Blank

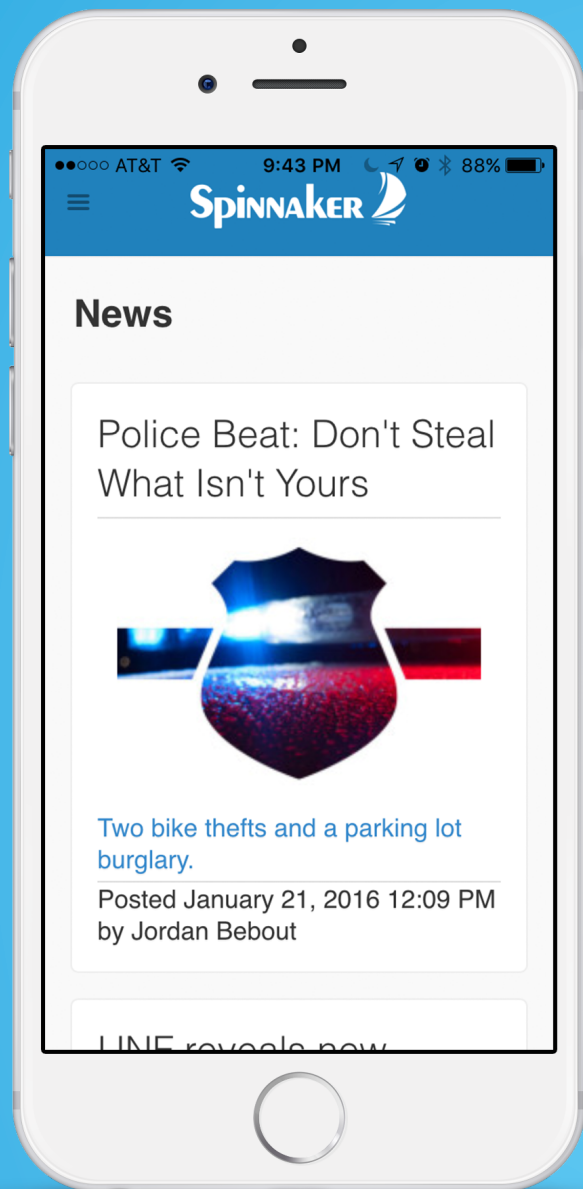
Calvin Jones, top, enjoys the social aspect of attending games. In the middle, FCGU student Chase Fernandez shows off his Where's Waldo costume. At right, Adam Tackett sits in the stands of the FGCU game, proud to support his team.







# WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST SPINNAKER NEWS?



## GET THE Spinnaker APP TODAY!



Available on the  
**App Store**



GET IT ON  
**Google play**



*On air now!*



MAKING MEANINGFUL CHANGE

## HOW GOD'S LOVE CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE AND THE WORLD



LECTURE BY MARK MCCURTIES, CS

**THURSDAY MARCH 24TH**

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST, JAX BEACH**

1505 2ND ST N. (CROSS ST 14TH AVE NORTH)

**7P.M.**

WWW.CSJAXBACH.COM

## WE ARE HIRING BILINGUALS

Introduction: European Interpreter Service has been helping local business and individuals break through the language barrier for more than five years, providing interpretation and translation services to healthcare organizations, legal professionals, and small businesses in more than 100 languages including ASL.

If you are looking for an exciting career as an interpreter or translator, EIS is the place to be!

Interpretation Training  
Internships  
Flexible Hours  
Professional Environment

Call us or stop in Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Location: 8613 Old Kings Road S suite 502 Jacksonville FL 32217

Phone: 904-866-4389

Fax: 904-329-1382

Send us your Resume to Email: [j@europeaninterpreterservice.com](mailto:j@europeaninterpreterservice.com)



SATURDAY,  
APRIL 9, 2016

UNF Campus Life presents

# SEMESTER SEND OFF

---

**BMX BIKES • FIREWORKS • DJ • FOOD TRUCKS • AND MORE**

---

7-10 P.M., OSPREY PLAZA

UNFCAMPUSLIFE: [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [s](#)

Funded by the Student Life and Services Fee.

If you require reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Campus Life at (904) 620-5355.



Campus Life  
Division of Student Affairs