

HURRICANES

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2025



ONE LAST DANCE

HALEY AND HANNA CAVINDER

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Welcome to the winter edition of *Hurricanes Magazine*!

This issue features stories on the Cavinder twins from women's basketball, baseball preseason All-American Daniel Cuvet, and swimming standout Giulia Carvalho. We also turn the spotlight on our third NCAA Community Service national championship and welcome the latest class into the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame.

It's a busy time for our athletic department with winter and spring sports overlapping 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*, and I hope to see you cheering on the Canes through the semester! Thank you again for your continued support and Go Canes!

Dan Radakovich
Vice President / Director of Athletics



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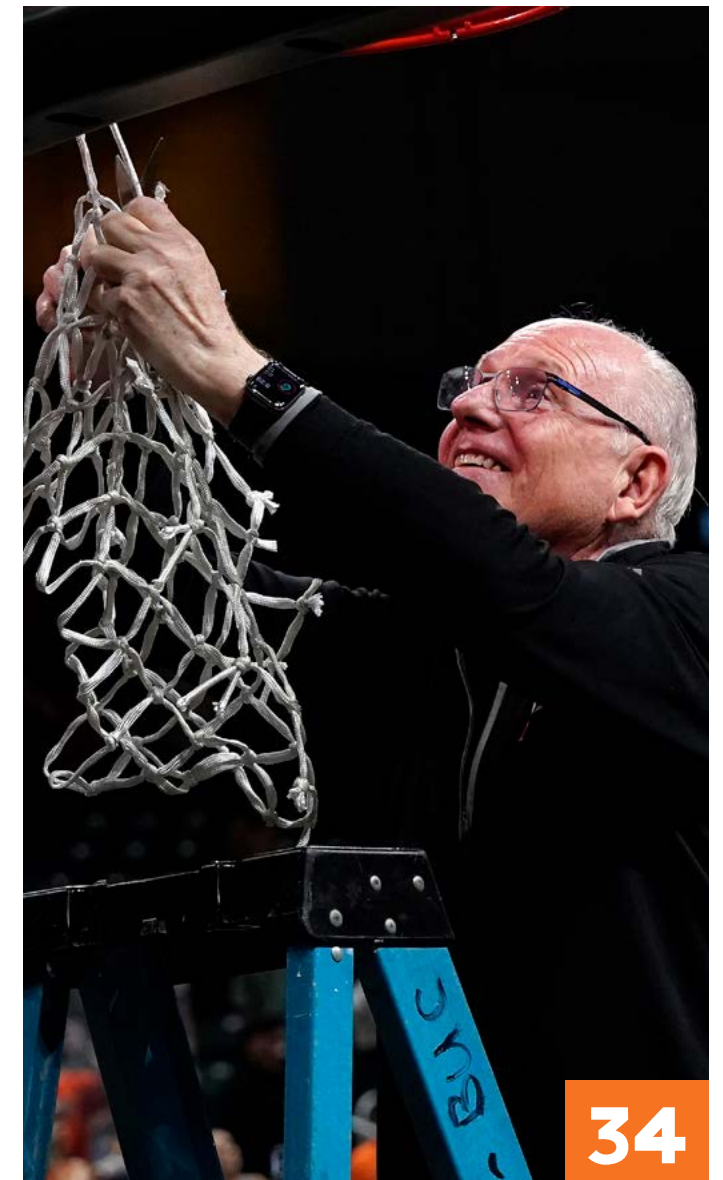
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ONE LAST DANCE: HALEY AND HANNA CAVINDER

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Hanna Cavinder had made peace with her decision to step away from basketball.

She and her twin sister had already earned their degrees. They'd competed at a high level and made their shared dream of being part of a memorable March Madness run a reality. And in the process, they'd emerged as pioneers in the Name, Image and Likeness space, helping open doors for countless student-athletes all across the country.

Now, with Miami's Elite Eight run behind them, Hanna Cavinder believed it was time for her and her sister to take all they'd learned during their eventful college careers and together, fully dive into their next adventure, one they'd been preparing for for years.

There was plenty to do, plenty of business ventures for them to pursue, except, well, Haley Cavinder wasn't quite sure she was ready to leave college basketball behind her just yet.

And so, the sisters – teammates, business partners, and lifelong friends – found themselves at a crossroads, one that had Haley considering a return to school and to basketball, and Hanna pondering a future without the sport.

"I wanted to avoid asking 'What if I didn't use my fifth year?'" Haley Cavinder said. "I think the thought that I didn't take it was eating me up because I really wanted to close it out."

Hanna Cavinder felt differently.

But as is often the case when it comes to all things involving her sister, she took a pause.

"I think when I put it to bed and said I wasn't going to take my fifth year, I truly did put it to bed. I didn't touch a basketball for eight months. I was just done. I put that chapter away," Hanna Cavinder said. "But I woke up one day and was very into my devotional, and journaling, and thinking about God's plan, and I saw Haley leave and I remember writing in my journal 'Would you rather watch your twin play her last year from the stands and live with that regret, or would you rather regret going [back], playing your fifth year and [maybe being] on the bench?'"

Turns out, Hanna Cavinder hasn't had to deal with either of those particular regrets.



After ultimately making the decision to rejoin her sister on the court and return to Miami to join first-year coach Tricia Cullop's roster, both of the Cavinders are relishing their final chance to play basketball together.

And both are key contributors for the Hurricanes.

Haley Cavinder, a second-team All-ACC selection during Miami's Elite Eight season in 2023, has been a consistent force for the Hurricanes and midway through the season, is Miami's leading scorer with multiple double-double performances to her credit.

Hanna Cavinder, meanwhile, is a starter averaging nearly 33 minutes a game and is a master at getting her teammates involved, dish-ing out more than 100 assists with a handful of conference games still on the schedule.

Both together and individually

they've found ways to make an impact on the court – all while navigating a complicated schedule that includes classes, representing multiple brands and managing their own businesses, including an online fitness app they founded.

"They're two of the hardest workers I've ever been around," Cullop said of the Cavinders, who became household names during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic thanks in large part to an ever-growing social media presence.

"They're very organized. They're very competitive. They're giving everything they've got to have a great season, and I really appreciate that. I think they really set the tone for the rest of our team by showing what it takes to be great ... To be Haley's height and stature and have 1,000 [career] rebounds, in addition to 2,500 points is phenomenal. It just goes to her heart and her desire. She's a phenomenal player. And Hanna has got an incredible IQ.

"She reads things extremely well [and is] one of the best passers I've ever coached. ... They've been a joy to coach because of all the effort they're putting into this season."

Added Hurricanes guard Jasmyne Roberts, who was part of the 2023 Elite Eight team along with the Cavinders, "They bring great energy every day. They bring that dog mentality. ... They both bring great leadership as well, just that great tenacity where you want to be on the court with them. You know they want to win. I want to win, and it's just going to push us all to excel."

For the Cavinders, pushing each other to excel has long been routine.

The two grew up in a basketball playing home, with the sisters and their siblings following in the footsteps of their father, Tom, who was a letterwinner at Nova Southeastern.

Friendly games of driveway pick-up often turned intense, and that competitiveness proved appealing to the sisters, even as they tried other sports like hockey, gymnastics and soccer.

By junior high, the two realized their passion was on the court, above all else. It didn't take long after that for the pair to realize they could have the opportunity to play beyond high school – together.

"It's a very quick, high-intensity sport and Hanna and I have always loved intensity," Haley Cavinder said. "We love competitiveness, and I just think being able to have accountability and [use] that competitive edge that we have in our

DNA, basketball really soaks that all up and we found that out at a really young age and it's never burnt that fire out. That's what drew us to basketball over any other sport."

While at Gilbert High School in Arizona, both sisters averaged more than 20 points as seniors, totaled more than 2,000 points in their respective careers and both earned spots in the Arizona All-Star Game, where Haley was named the most valuable player.

Throughout the recruiting process, the two made it clear they wanted to play together at the next level, and ultimately, the sisters signed with Fresno State.

There, in 2020, Haley was named the Mountain West Freshman of the Year, while both Haley and Hanna earned spots on the Mountain West All-Freshman Team. A year later, both were All-Mountain West selections, with Haley earning Mountain West Player of the Year honors, too.

All that success came even as the sisters found themselves growing ever more popular on social media.

During the pandemic, the Cavinders often turned to TikTok to keep themselves entertained. The videos they filmed often went viral and their success on the basketball court only seemed to help grow their online presence.

That growth collided with a changing landscape in college athletics, one that now allowed student-athletes to profit off their name, image and likeness.

More than a few major national



brands, including Boost Mobile, took notice of the Cavinders' online popularity and when the NIL era started in July 2021, the sisters found themselves on a Times Square billboard promoting the wireless carrier.

Other opportunities, of course, followed. But through it all, the Cavinders remained committed to basketball. And they knew they wanted to play for a championship.

After the 2021 season, the sisters opted to leave Fresno State and sought to join a program that would give them the opportunity to finally compete in the NCAA Tournament.

They saw the chance to do that at Miami, where the Hurricanes had become postseason regulars under former head coach Katie Meier.

The Cavinders came to Coral Gables and before long, found themselves doing exactly what they dreamed of doing: playing on college basketball's biggest stage.

Both were part of Miami's magical Elite Eight run, a run that saw the ninth-seeded Hurricanes overcome a double-digit deficit against Oklahoma State in their tournament opener and then saw them

knock off top-seeded Indiana to earn a berth in the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1992.

In that 70-68 win over the Hoosiers, both of the Cavinders hit crucial 3-pointers and Haley Cavinder went viral when she sank a pair of late free throws then brought a finger to her lips to silence an Indiana crowd that had been heckling the sisters about their TikTok fame throughout the game.

A win over Villanova followed before the Hurricanes' run ended with a loss to LSU, the eventual national champion.

It was an experience the Cavinder sisters say they still haven't forgotten.

"Being in the March Madness tournament and then going deep, deep into the tournament is every girl's dream. You want to play at the highest stage," Haley Cavinder said. "And then you're playing at the highest level with your team and you're winning games, knowing you're the underdog. It's the best feeling. ... That's my best memory that basketball has ever brought me, and I wouldn't trade that ride or that decision of entering the portal because that's exactly what I wanted to do."



Said Hanna Cavinder, “Being a part of knocking off the No. 1 team at Indiana was truly one of my favorite basketball moments. I wouldn’t change it. It was a great learning lesson.”

After that unforgettable tournament run, and with their degrees already in hand, the Cavinders initially decided they would bypass the fifth year of eligibility they’d been given by the NCAA during the pandemic to focus on their business ventures.

Haley Cavinder, though, eventually changed her mind and decided to return to college – a decision her sister wasn’t quite ready to make – yet.

In November 2023, Haley Cavinder announced she had committed to play at Texas Christian. Months later, after watching her sister train for a return to basketball, Hanna Cavinder realized she wanted to get back in the game too – but she wanted to do it at Miami.

That prompted Haley Cavinder to reconsider her decision to play for the Horned Frogs and a day after her sister committed to play for the Hurricanes, she did the same.

Their return to Miami came in large part, the sisters say, because of their relationship with Hurricanes associate head coach Fitzroy Anthony, who had been on Meier’s staff in 2023 and was a big part in helping recruit the sisters ahead of their first season in Coral Gables.

Once the sisters met with Cullop, they were all in on helping start a new era of Miami women’s basketball.

“I love being a Hurricane, everything from academically to being

a student-athlete at Miami,” Haley Cavinder said. “Coach TC, when she got the job, Coach Fitz, they played a massive role in getting me back.... I’m really happy with our decision and I’m glad I’m just finishing out my career at the University of Miami with Hanna.”

Said Hanna Cavinder, “Being able to come back to the University and have the opportunity to play with my twin sister one more year at The U is so surreal. Sometimes, I’ll be in practice and be like, ‘Wow. I can’t believe I’m playing basketball again and I’m here.’ I think time flies and you really need to be where your feet are. ... I’m just really trying to soak in every single moment and not trying to wish time away. I just want to be truly present. But it’s been amazing, and I love the University, and I love playing basketball here.”

Their chemistry on the court is undeniable.

After years of playing together – and sharing that twin mentality – the pair always seem to know where each other is on the court, making backdoor cuts and difficult passes look easy.

More often than not, that proves plenty entertaining for their teammates and coaches.

“It’s fun to watch. They’re always looking for each other and they just have that chemistry,” Anthony said. “There are things they read that you’re trying to teach your team to do, but they do naturally from just playing with each other for so long.”

And while many seniors and graduate student-athletes might struggle

with their college careers drawing to a close, the Cavinders don’t find themselves fighting the same battle as they navigate the last few months of the season.

During their time away from college basketball, the two embraced the opportunities given to them by their various business ventures, including their TWOgether app and Hustle Beauty, a cosmetics brand they co-founded.

They know the business world awaits them and both are excited for those opportunities, especially after being named to the prestigious Forbes 30 Under 30 list last November – an honor both sisters described as a “bucket-list” moment.

“It’s all meant so much. Being able to learn and grow in the business space and learn about investing and building your own brand has been something that has changed our lives,” Hanna Cavinder said. “I think being able to connect with different girls and show them you don’t have to be the best in your sport to be able to capitalize off NIL and set yourself up for success ... has meant everything to us. Being able to work with such amazing brands, getting equity within those brands and starting our own company, I couldn’t have dreamed up this life any better. We’re just truly blessed.”

But before they focus solely on life after basketball, the sisters are doing their best to enjoy their last few months as college student-athletes.

With Miami this season, they’ve had the opportunity to play in Hawai’i,

reconnect with a former coach and teammate, and get to know a whole new set of teammates and coaches.

They don’t take any of that for granted and the fact they’ve been able to do it together, the Cavinders say, has only made it all the more meaningful.

“Being on the court with Hanna, I missed that feeling so much,” Haley Cavinder said. “It’s bittersweet that this is our last year this year, but I know all these memories that we’re creating as the season goes by, I’m going to hold on to for a very long time.”

Said Hanna Cavinder, “Every single game, Haley and I will do our little handshake and just being able to do it every single game with her, still, I would say that’s definitely been a highlight.... The last time we were at The U, we didn’t really get to enjoy the bond and share the chemistry that we have. To be able to do that now and showcase that at The U has been something very important to us and something we don’t take for granted. ... It’s been an honor to be a Cane. No matter what, I hope I’ve represented that every single day.”



ONE OF A KIND: CAM WARD

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

A dazzling debut against an in-state rival. A thriller of a comeback 3,000 miles from home. And more than a few improbable plays during a record-breaking campaign no Miami fan will be forgetting any time soon.

Last fall, quarterback Cam Ward proved to be one of the top signal callers in the nation, throwing for 4,123 yards and 36 touchdowns during the regular season.

Those numbers were single-season Miami records and helped Ward earn a December trip to New York as a Heisman Trophy finalist, the first Hurricane to earn that distinction since Ken Dorsey and Willis McGahee in 2002.

While it was Colorado's Travis Hunter who ultimately won the Heisman, Ward brought home more than a few honors of his own.

He was named the ACC Player of the Year and won both the Davey O'Brien Award and the Manning Award. And as a consensus All-American, his name will now hang in the rafters of the Carol Soffer Indoor Practice Facility.

Ward led the Hurricanes to their first 10-win season since 2017 and ultimately finished his college career with 158 passing touchdowns, breaking the NCAA Division I record set by Case Keenum from 2007-11.

Now, with his college career behind him, the West Columbia, Texas native has turned his focus to preparing for this year's NFL Draft, where he is projected to be a top-five pick.

Not bad for a quarterback who was rated a zero-star prospect coming out of high school.

"Cam has been an exceptional, an elite Miami Hurricane," head coach Mario Cristobal said. "As a competitor, as a player, as a teammate, he's elevated the profile [and] the exposure of the University of Miami. He is leaving a legacy that is going to be impactful for generations to come. He's the best I've been around, and I look forward to watching him lead an NFL franchise to championships and watching him play on Sundays."



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GETTING TO KNOW... DANIEL CUVET

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Daniel Cuvet arrived at Miami looking to make an impact.

He wasted little time in doing exactly that.

Last spring, during an opening-weekend game against NJIT, Cuvet – a freshman playing in just his second game of college baseball – went 4-for-4 with a home run, two RBI and four runs scored.

That same day, during the second game of a double-header, he added another home run, five more RBI and scored two more runs.

The weekend was a sign of things to come.

Cuvet, a Fort Lauderdale native, went on to have a record-breaking freshman year.

He finished with 24 home runs, a new Miami freshman record, and led Division I freshmen nationwide with 75 RBI.

He earned Freshman All-American recognition from Perfect Game, D1Baseball and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and now, as he embarks on his second year in orange and green, Cuvet is determined to continue growing his game – and finding ways to hit the ball out of Mark Light Field.

“Last year, I would say that I learned I’m good enough and I’m ready for this, and ready to keep playing at this level and even the next level,” Cuvet said. “I feel like the harder it gets, the better I perform. That’s the confidence that I have in myself and the more I play and the tougher the game gets, the tougher the moment gets, the better I’m going

to perform.”

Hurricanes Magazine asked Cuvet to share more about his Miami journey. Here’s what he had to say, in his own words...

Hurricanes Magazine: After an incredible freshman season, you’re getting ready now to really dive into a new year with your teammates. How would you describe the excitement level for the season ahead?

Daniel Cuvet: “It’s going to be exciting, a whole new team. We have [about] 30 new guys, with I think, six returners. It’s going to be really exciting to see how well we gel, and how well this team comes together and how different it’s going to be from last year. It’s impossible to tell [what it will be like] when you’re not really playing competition, but you can feel the excitement in practice and within the guys. We’re all excited to compete with each other. You hear it all the time, when we’re on the field or in the locker room. It’s fun playing against each other, but it’s going to be so much more fun when we’re all on the same side, rooting for each other.”

HM: You mentioned all the new faces in the clubhouse and now, you’re one of the veterans on this team, even as a sophomore. What do you want to show this team and how do you want to lead going into the year?

DC: “It’s exciting. We have a lot of guys who are ready to go, and I think once we get that first taste of what Miami baseball is all about, and how important winning is and that we take a lot of pride in winning and representing the University of

Miami, it’s going to be a big awakening for a lot of the new guys. We want to show them that it really is different here, how much pride we take in our baseball.”

HM: You’ve had the chance now to reflect on all of those awards and accomplishments from your freshman year. What was the highlight for you?

DC: “The highlight for me was actually that my parents could be at every game, pretty much, that was home and the support [I received] from the guys on the team. Everyone was so supportive of me, and they all wanted to see me do well, which was great. I feel like there was no jealousy or anything like that. Everyone was pushing for me and that definitely helped and allowed me to be so successful.”

HM: What does it mean to you to be from South Florida, playing at Miami, and knowing your family can be a part of your college baseball journey?

DC: “It’s awesome, because my junior and senior year [of high school], they didn’t get to see me play very much because I was at the [Elite Squad Baseball Academy]. Having them be able to come and watch all my games here at Miami is really special and that’s a big reason why I came here. I enjoy it every single game.”

HM: To lead the nation in RBI as a freshman and to break school records here, what did those accomplishments mean to you?

DC: “It’s awesome. But, I mean, it’s what I expect of myself. I hold myself to a high standard and I always

shoot for big goals. So, it wasn't really a big surprise. But it was definitely cool to see it be done because it's much easier to think about it than it is to actually do it."

HM: This program has such a rich history and tradition. What does it mean to be a part of it, especially knowing you're from South Florida?

DC: "It's an honor. To represent where you're from, South Florida, at the University of Miami ... obviously, it's been a power program forever and a dynasty at one point. To be here and represent Miami is super important. I think all the local young guys definitely take pride in that as well because there's nothing more special than to represent where you're from and show off to people what the University of Miami is all about."

HM: Going back to the recruiting process and weighing whether to go pro or go to school, what made you feel like Miami was the right place for you?

DC: "I just thought it was awesome. I've always loved this place. Growing up, it was always like, 'Oh, you can go to Miami, hopefully you can go to Miami one day.' So, then, once I got the call, it was a big yes for me. I knew I would be able to be somewhere my parents would be able to come watch, and I was always building for that. So, when I got the moment, I took it."

HM: How would you describe your journey to this moment and what made you fall in love with baseball?

DC: "I started playing at least since I could walk. And I've always loved

baseball. But I realized I wanted to do this for a long time probably like my sophomore year of high school. I had a rough freshman year and then I kind of didn't really know where I was. But then my sophomore year, I really worked to prove myself and realized this is what I really love and want to do and ever since then it's just been taking off."

HM: Those struggles your freshman year of high school, how did you navigate them and use them to motivate you to become a better baseball player?

DC: "I just saw the other guys around me who were doing [well] and I knew I wanted to be the best on the team. That just motivated me, because I knew I wasn't the best at the time. It pushed me to work harder and push every day because I knew I could be better."

HM: Going back to the season ahead. You mentioned all the new faces and there's always some uncertainty that comes with that. How have you guys adjusted and come together?

DC: "This team is awesome. My favorite part is that we're all new guys, really. There's not one person who only a couple of us know. Everyone needs to get to know each other. Everyone has had to gel and figure each other out and become friends and good teammates to each other. ...

"The first couple weekends, I invited everyone over to my apartment, just to get the ice broken. We did some burgers and watched college football. I tried to get that started and it was a good start for us, like an icebreaker kind of thing.

Everyone came over, we all hung out and it was a good time. We've just been doing little stuff like that to kind of get everyone to get to know each other."

HM: After that incredibly successful freshman season you had last year, you know pitchers and teams are going to game plan for you. How are you going to adjust and deal with that?

DC: "I think it's about handling the situations that come my way and understanding how the game's going to change for me this year. People are going to game plan for me more and I have to figure out what other people are trying to do, so I can attack them based off that."

"I mean, they might try to come at me a little differently, but at the end of the day, pitchers aren't perfect. Neither are hitters. But they're going to make mistakes, and my job is just to make them pay when they make those mistakes."

HM: What's your favorite thing about playing baseball?

DC: "Probably the consistency, playing so many games and being able to come out and be consistent and have that same focus every day and understanding the kind of mentality it takes to be successful."

HM: What makes Miami baseball so special?

DC: "You see all the alumni guys come back and they're always here in the offseason, working out and training and obviously, they wouldn't come back if it wasn't special to them. So, it shows how much of an impact this program has on

every player that comes through here. I think that's why it's so important to be proud of being a Hurricane."

HM: Who are some of the former players you've had a chance to connect with?

DC: "I know some of the guys who have maybe graduated or got drafted like a year ago, two years ago, like [Yohandy Morales] and [C.J.] Kayfus. Those are two main guys that I always see around and they're always here to talk and they're always working out. I get to watch them work, and it's cool seeing those guys around."

HM: What's the best piece of advice you've gotten from them, or any of the other former players you've had the chance to talk to?

DC: "It's just the work they do. They're baseballers. They show up, they're so consistent with their

work and you can just tell they're always thinking about baseball and trying to improve. That's what makes them so good and that's why they're going to play at a very high level for a while."

HM: You mentioned playing at the academy before coming to Miami, and that meant occasionally playing away from home and at some big-league parks across the country. What was that experience like for you?

DC: "I loved it. Every time I go to a big-league game, it always reminds me that that's my goal, that's where I want to be going, and I can be there in a couple years. So, that always motivates me."

"When you walk out there, you just kind of take that moment in. You embrace the stadium and how nice it is, and you kind of picture in your head what it must feel like to play there with a full [crowd] and atmo-

sphere. I usually pictured those kinds of moments in my head and obviously, it's super cool."

HM: Speaking of crowds, and atmosphere, how would you describe what it's like to play at The Light?

DC: "Our fans are electric, you know? When they come out on a Friday night and we get that first strikeout and you hear the guys going, 'Left, right, left, right,' you know it's going to be a good series when you hear that in the first inning."

HM: How do you want to see your game continue to grow this season?

DC: "I've been really working on my defense, so I can help out my pitchers and help the team win. That's a big part of winning, how good the defense is. Usually when the defense is solid, it's tough to beat a team."



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 winter edition includes a pair of freshmen who had made stellar debuts for the Hurricanes soccer and football teams during the fall, a member of the men's basketball team who has put up some eye-popping numbers through the first 25 games of the season and a junior track sensation who is looking to continue building on her Miami success.

Get to know Hurricanes Giovana Canali, Matthew Cleveland, OJ Frederique, Jr. and Gabriella Grissom.



Giovana Canali, Freshman

Giovana Canali wasted little time making an impression during her first season as a Hurricane. The freshman was named the ACC Offensive Player of the Week on Sept. 3, 2024 – a whole four games into her college career. She earned the distinction after scoring two goals in Miami's wins over Missouri and FIU. Canali went on to finish the season with a team-high nine goals, including game-winners against both FIU and FAU. She had multi-goal performances against SMU and California and finished fifth in the conference in both shots per match (4.0) and shots on goal per match (2.12). At season's end, she was named an All-ACC Freshman Team selection and earned third-team All-ACC honors, becoming the first Hurricane since 2008 to earn all-conference recognition.



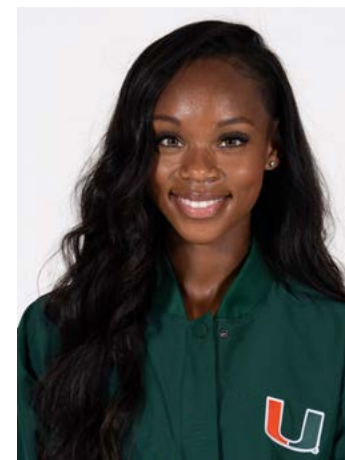
Matthew Cleveland, Senior

Through the first 25 games of the season, Matthew Cleveland has provided an offensive spark for the Hurricanes. He notched a career-high 32 points in a win over Syracuse and as of February 17, had logged three 30-point games on the year. At that point in the season, he was the only ACC player to accomplish that feat and just one of 23 Division I players to do it. The guard, who hails from Atlanta, also put together a stretch of seven straight games in which he scored at least 20 points. During that span, he averaged 26.4 points, 4.0 rebounds, and 2.3 assists per game. He is the only Miami player in the last 20 years to score 20-plus points in at least seven straight games.



OJ Frederique, Jr., Freshman

A three-star prospect coming out of St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, OJ Frederique, Jr. worked his way into Miami's starting lineup by Week Two of the season and found ways to make his presence felt all year long. He finished with 30 total tackles, including 23 unassisted stops. He also had an interception and broke up seven passes, numbers that helped him earn Freshman All-American honors from the Football Writers Association of America and All-ACC honorable mention recognition. But it wasn't just on the field where the freshman excelled. In February, the exploratory arts and sciences major was one of 15 Hurricanes to earn All-ACC Academic honors.



Gabriella Grissom, Junior

A two-time first-team All-ACC selection as a sophomore last year and bronze medal winner as part of the Hurricanes 4x400m relay team, Grissom is already off to a blazing start early during her junior campaign. In January, she was named the ACC Women's Track Co-Performer of the Week after posting a time of 1:26.89 in the 600m at the Gamecock Opener. She shattered the school record of 1:27.64 set in 2021 by former Hurricanes runner Kayla Johnson and set a new ACC record with that time. Grissom went on to break another school record at the Tiger Paw Invitational when she posted a time of 2:03.01 in the 800m. That improved her time in the event by 1.73 seconds and bested the time of 2:03.80 also set by Johnson in 2021.



MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME: GIULIA CARVALHO

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Like most international student-athletes in her position at the time, Giulia Carvalho was stuck.

Travel was limited by the COVID-19 pandemic and taking a recruiting visit was nearly impossible, unless she had the time, means, and ability to endure an extended quarantine.

But the Brazilian swimmer knew she wanted to compete and study in the United States and knew she wanted the opportunity to do both somewhere warm, that felt like home.

A handful of phone calls and video chats with Hurricanes head coach Andy Kershaw had her wondering if Miami could be the right fit for her. Sight unseen, she decided it was.

Carvalho committed to Miami without ever visiting Coral Gables and now, four years later, can't imagine having been anywhere else.

"It's meant a lot, and I love it. It's so unique," Carvalho said. "People don't realize how good this opportunity is and how being a Miami Hurricane is so unique and so special. You have an opportunity to be here around people that really care about you and want to represent Miami the best way possible. ... I

can't describe how important it is to me to swim with a 'U' on my cap and put on that uniform. I respect the alumni that have been here, the people that have been here for years and my coaches. There is such a passion here.

"You grow during the years you are here, and every single competition just involves so many emotions. ... It is just so great to be a Miami Hurricane."

That said, Carvalho acknowledges her time at The U hasn't come without its challenges.

Of course, it's been hard to be away from her family and friends. And learning to swim in yards, versus meters, was an adjustment.

But during her first year at Miami, another unexpected hurdle presented itself: a knee injury that kept her from performing the way she knew she could, the way she wanted to.

She was still one of Miami's top point-getters during her freshman season, posting three times that ranked among Miami's "Top 10" performers list in the 100-yard breaststroke, the 200-yard breaststroke, and the 100-yard butterfly.

But Carvalho knew she could be even better.

"My first year wasn't good at all. I got a knee injury, and I almost decided to come back home because that first year was really, really hard for me," Carvalho said. "But I talked to my parents, and I was committed. I was like, 'I'm going to go all in and no matter what happens, I will stay.' I really wanted to be better and put myself in a better position and show who I am and what I'm capable of because after my first year, I knew that was not who I was. That was not what I had to show.

"So, my second year, I came with a different mindset, and everything started getting better and better. I was getting better in practice, getting better at communication with my team and being even more connected with people that I was before."

Her efforts, and her dedication, have paid off.

Carvalho finished her junior season last year as an Honorable Mention All-American after earning a trip to the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships where she became the first Hurricane in pro-



gram history to swim the 50-yard freestyle in under 22 seconds, notching a time of 21.99.

She added a second school record at the championship meet when she posted a 51.31 in the 100-yard butterfly, one of her signature events. And last summer, Carvalho had the opportunity to compete at Brazil's Olympic trials.

She didn't make the team that competed in Paris, but the experience was an unforgettable one, one that she says has only fueled her to get

stronger not only for the Games in Los Angeles, but for her final season as a Hurricane.

"I was so excited, and I think it helped me gain more experience, definitely to build toward the future," Carvalho said of her trials experience. "I wanted to be on the team, but now I think it helped me have an idea of how everything works. ... I really wanted to be part of the team, but after finishing fifth and not making the finals in the 100-free, which I was excited for, I just took the meet as an experience. I have a lot to im-

prove on and that's what I actually want, to improve. And I want to be at the Olympics in 2028."

Before she turns her focus completely on the next Olympic cycle, though, Carvalho is determined to finish her collegiate career at Miami in style.

It's a journey that started for her during her childhood in Belo Horizonte and her parents put her in a pool as a baby. She grew up swimming and competing in gymnastics and eventually shifted her focus

completely to the pool.

Her coaches noticed her knack for the sport and for a while, Carvalho competed in just about every event and stroke possible.

By the time she was in middle school, though, she'd perfected the butterfly and at 14, she won a national competition in the 200-fly.

Since, she's only gotten stronger in the event and she smiles recounting how her parents have dubbed her "Little Butterfly." She now sports a butterfly tattoo to remind her not just of their term of endearment, but how much the event has meant to her.

Over the course of the next few months, Carvalho will do her best to continue improving in her signature event and her goal is simple: She wants to finish her Miami career with a title at the NCAA's championship meet.

It will be, she says, the perfect way to end what's been an incredible journey at The U.

"Being a senior, for me, is unreal," said Carvalho, who is set to graduate in May with an advertising management degree and a minor in sports administration. "I don't think I'll realize it until my last meet. But being here, it changed my life. It made me a completely different person, and gave me a different vision of the world ... I grew up being alone here [without my family]. It was a challenge, but I became a completely different person, for the better. I've loved it here and it's been a blast. I'm so grateful that I made the choice and that I've stayed here at Miami."



CANES CONNECT SPOTLIGHT: CHAMPIONSHIP OUTREACH

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

For Jess Hurley, being a Miami Hurricane and serving the community go hand-in-hand.

During her career as a swimmer at Miami, Hurley was among the student-athletes who helped Miami win the 2018 NCAA Team Works Helper Helper Community Service Competition – in essence, the national championship for community service.

Today, Hurley is a part of another championship effort.

As Miami's Associate Director of Student-Athlete Development, Hurley is charged with overseeing the athletic department's community service and campus engagement initiatives and in February, she and the Hurricanes learned that they had once again won the NCAA Team Works Community Service Competition.

It marks the third time since 2018 the Hurricanes have won the competition – the Hurricanes also won the title in 2023 – and that is a special source of pride for Hurley, a legacy Hurricane whose family ties to the University run deep.

"My dad says all the time that when I was younger, I used to say things like, 'I wish I could volunteer for a living' and I mean, I found a way to do that somehow, to help others volunteer," Hurley said. "A big part of why I wanted to do this as a job was because of our involvement in the community when I was here as a student-athlete. And the platform, the connection to the community and the impact our student-athletes have, and then what community service actually provides to them, is my favorite part of the job. So, for my experience to have influenced me to get into this industry and now continue that culture and standard of community service within athletics is really, really special. And it's extremely personal."

Under guidance from Hurley, Executive Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development Shirelle Jackson and Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development, Belonging and Inclusion LaToya Farris, the Hurricanes totaled 5,331 hours of community service during the competition window, with 100 percent of Miami student-athletes participating in at least one service activity.

Miami's efforts generated an economic impact of \$178,535, but that's only a fraction of what the Hurricanes' efforts have provided.

Through their outreach, the Hurricanes have provided back-to-school supplies at local elementary schools, Thanksgiving meals for foster and adoptive families in South Florida, swimming lessons and track coaching for local youngsters, pen pal friendships with local school children, and more.

Lots more.

But it's not just the community that benefits from all the work the Hurricanes are doing.

It's Miami's student-athletes, too.

"When our student-athletes are in the community, I think they are learning and getting something positive from serving that they don't necessarily expect," Jackson said. "They don't realize how good it feels to give and become a servant-leader. Our student-athletes come back to campus and say, 'Wow. I didn't realize I would get so much out of serving lunch at the Miami Mission' or 'When's the next

time I can sign up? I want to go back again.' Donating gently used cleats and shoes to a youth football team and watching those smiles and excitement that they have gear from a Miami Hurricane. That's the thing ... the feeling of mutual gratitude and joy."

Said Hurricanes pitcher Brian Walters, "This is super special because it shows Miami is more than just athletics. Miami is about taking care of the people. It's one of the things they taught me when I got here. It's like, 'You have a big opportunity, not just as a baseball player, but as a person, to change people's lives.' And I think community service, especially here in Miami, is huge. We've had opportunities as a team. We've had opportunities as a school. And you know what? It's

very humbling. It's something I want to do as much of as I can because of the way you see people's lives change. But our lives are changing, too. It's beautiful."

While Miami offers a plethora of ways for student-athletes to give back, Farris, Hurley, and Jackson say on more than one occasion, some Hurricanes have even suggested new ways to help, new organizations to connect with or have asked them about starting their own charitable endeavors.

And Farris, Hurley and Jackson have always been happy to help those students get those initiatives going. For all of them, watching Miami student-athletes continue to give back – even after graduating – is beyond rewarding.

"We took a group of student-athletes to an event for Jason Taylor's foundation, and we went to Old Navy, where 12 student-athletes from a variety of teams helped children with their back-to-school shopping and Jaelan Phillips and Braxton Berrios were there," Jackson said. "That was a special, connective piece. Two former Hurricanes on the Dolphins' side signed up to volunteer and we're at the same event. ... It was just so fun."



With Miami now having won three NCAA Team Works Community Service Competitions, Farris, Hurley and Jackson say the Hurricanes remain committed to seeing their outreach efforts continue to grow.

And they're grateful that not only have Miami's student-athletes stepped up to help the community, but that Hurricanes' coaches, staff and administration have been supportive and encouraging of the department's efforts as well.

"Service is honestly just a part of who we are as a team and the fact our students can showcase their love for the community is really special," Farris said. "That our student-athletes can go in and help the communities, and that the coaches are supportive of that, it's so important. ... I'm glad that our coaches and administration are able to help our student-athletes see that connection to the community that surrounds them in this area."

Said Hurley, "I really want to make sure that we continue to grow and expand, while keeping the impact the same. ... Whether we're at an annual event or it's the first time a group is on campus, that special feeling of serving never goes away. ... It feels exactly the same as when I was a student here. I think Miami is known as a really, really big city with a lot happening and that's true. But when you go into the communities, it's such a small, tight-knit community and that makes what we do even more special."



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? MEGAN ROSE

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

Megan Bradley Rose found herself at a crossroads.

Her professional tennis career was behind her. So was graduate school, where she'd earned a master's degree in journalism with the hope of pursuing a broadcasting career or maybe even becoming a tennis journalist.

She'd dabbled in media, picking up some freelance assignments with the Tampa Bay Lightning and even the US Open. But still, there was more to do, she felt.

Then her former college coach – Paige Yaroshuk-Tews – called with an opportunity.

Why not come back to Miami – where Rose had won an ITA National Championship, had been a five-time NCAA All-American and set a school record with a 39-match win streak – and help coach?

It was a volunteer position, but Rose was intrigued and so, she headed back to Coral Gables.

"I mean, it was a dream job because since I was a volunteer, I didn't really have any of the real responsibilities

of recruiting or budgeting or any of those things," Rose chuckled. "I got to go out on the court and enjoy working with the girls and being back in that environment of being around competitive athletes again. That was really important and special."

There was more to the role of course, and Rose tried to learn as much as possible as she could from her college coach.

"Paige and I have always been really close, so it was really interesting to kind of see behind the curtain a bit and be in the room with the coaches and see how decisions were made, instead of just being in the room with the team," Rose continued. "And one of the things I've always really admired about Paige is how she coaches everyone as an individual. She really takes the time to get to know you and understand you and what makes you tick and how she can get the best out of you. ... To kind of see that now, on the coaches' side, I think it really helped structure a lot of the way I am today as a leader. I think it was a really important time in my life to kind of hone in on my own leadership skills that I've continued to

take with me to this day."

That experience at Miami brought Rose back to tennis and the sport has remained an integral part of her life – and career – since.

Not long after her time with the Hurricanes, Rose was named the head women's tennis coach at Princeton, where in her first year, the Tigers posted a 21-7 record and won the Ivy League conference championship.

After three seasons with the Tigers, Rose found herself considering a new opportunity, one that brought her back into the world of professional tennis, this time on the sport's business side.

She joined the Women's Tennis Association, working in player relations and tournament operations.

It was a rewarding experience, one that allowed Rose to travel the world, connect with some of the biggest stars in professional tennis and gave her the opportunity to help launch a new tournament – the WTA Rising Stars, which featured Naomi Osaka as its inaugural winner.

And it brought lessons – and challenges – galore.

"I definitely think that was the hardest transition for me, just professionally. When you're playing sport, or coaching sport, there aren't a lot of politics, especially in tennis. You kind of get what you deserve, right? If you train hard and you train hard, you win matches and if your ranking is going up, it's hard to deny you the opportunity, right?" Rose said. "Then, coming to corporate America, there's a lot more politics. ... For me, that was certainly a learning curve. It's not just about doing your job. [It's about] how are you working well with other people? How are you seeing gaps in the organization that you can help fill? How are you raising your hand for different opportunities?"

"For me, that was a huge period of growth, both personally and professionally. And I was lucky to have a lot of really great people around me at the WTA that helped me on that journey. ... But that jump from being on the playing side or coaching side into the business side was certainly a steep learning curve."

Still, though, Rose – a UM Sports Hall of Fame inductee – handled the challenges she faced, which helped lead to her next opportunity with the USTA, the governing body for American tennis.

At the USTA, Rose has served as the director of the Pro Circuit and the senior director of the USTA's Competitive Pathway, which helps provide opportunities for junior tennis players to begin transitioning to professional tennis through events and tournaments all across the country.



She's been the managing director of the USTA's major events, which includes the US Open series, the Billie Jean King Cup and Davis Cup, the US Open Wheelchair Championships, the US Open Junior Championships and more.

She was the team leader for American tennis at both the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, an experience Rose termed "the opportunity of a lifetime" and last fall, after the US Open, she transitioned to a new role within the USTA where she now serves as the managing director and head of business development and operations for USTA Coaching, a new organization designed to increase the number of tennis coaches in the United States.

All her work at the USTA, Rose said, has done more than give her the opportunity to grow professionally.

It's also helped her give back to the sport she's loved since her childhood.

"It's been an incredible opportuni-

ty and it's such a huge part of my DNA, being a tennis player and a coach, to be able to contribute to the growth [of tennis] and to contribute to it being a more inclusive space, to contribute to making more opportunities for players, coaches and parents to get involved," Rose said. "It's been a really special opportunity, and I feel like a lot of people don't have the opportunity to kind of contribute back to something that really kind of shaped who they are as a person. I think that's why I'm still there. There's been times where I'm like, 'Well, maybe I need to get out of tennis. Maybe I need to do something else.' But I keep being drawn back and I think that's because so few people get the opportunity to work every day in a space that has given them so much."

As she's navigated her career, Rose has often relied on the experience she gained during not only her own tennis career, but during her time at Miami specifically.



Her first season as a Hurricane, she notes, was hardly what she expected. She transferred from UCLA with high expectations, but a shoulder injury and the necessary surgery to fix it kept her from playing and contributing to Miami's success.

But during her recovery, she learned about patience and time management, and with Yaroshuk-Tews' guidance, continued working to get back on the court.

"I feel like I walked out of Miami feeling like I had a lot of confidence in what I can do if I just put my head down and do the work and I feel like that kind of confidence and that success that I had, especially toward the end of my career at Miami, really helped me feel like I was ready for the next chapter," Rose said. "I still carry a lot of those lessons with me still to this day. I'm super grateful to Miami for all the support and everything they helped me with, just providing support

and resources that helped me feel like I was ready to tackle that and graduate and be a contributing member to a successful athletic department."

And Rose, who now lives in Orlando with her husband and two children, has a simple piece of advice for the current generation of Hurricanes student-athletes who now learn and compete on the courts where she once starred.

"Just enjoy it, you know? It's such a cliché, but one minute you're 20, going to the Schiff for practice and the next minute, you're 41 and talking about the good old days," she laughed. "It literally goes by that quick and you think it doesn't, because that's just what old people say. But it really is so true.

"The times I spent at Miami were for sure some of the best days of my life and a lot of times, you don't appreciate it because you're just living it and thinking that that's what life is always going to be like. But it's such an honor to be able to play for The U and be a student-athlete and to be able to show how physical and talented you are as a female student-athlete. Just lean into all of that and enjoy it, know what I mean?"



Photos courtesy of: Megan Rose



LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY: JIM LARRAÑAGA

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

When Sheldon Mac arrived at Miami, he was struggling.

Though he'd started his college career with two solid seasons at Texas, where he averaged double digits nightly, his confidence was gone. He knew he needed a fresh start, even if that meant he'd have to spend a season watching the game he loved instead of playing it.

The Hurricanes, and head coach Jim Larrañaga, offered that fresh start. Mac took it.

Three years later, he left Miami as an All-ACC honoree who'd played in the Sweet 16 of the Men's NCAA Tournament. He went on to sign with the Washington Wizards and spent two seasons with

the organization before a serious injury took its toll on him.

Today, Mac says his dream of reaching the NBA, and of once again finding joy in the game, wouldn't have been possible without Larrañaga, the coach he says believed in him, and made a point to remind him of that every day, whether he was playing or not.

"He just gave me a great sense of direction of what he wanted to do with me on and off the court. He instilled so much confidence in me," Mac said. "I came from the University of Texas where I kind of lost my confidence and I wanted to regain that. Just by talking to Coach L in the office, I already felt like I was home, and I knew I could do big things. ... He always told me

I was the best player in the ACC, and I started to believe that, and my play reflected that. He was just a coach that gave you confidence in every way you could want, as a human being and a basketball player. That's why I thrived at Miami. ...

"I don't think I could have made the NBA without Coach L because he just set me up to be viewed and looked at in a different way and it paid off for me. It was the best decision I ever made in my life, sports-wise."

In December, Larrañaga announced he was stepping down as Miami's head basketball coach after thirteen-plus seasons couldn't help but send well wishes their coach's way.

the Hurricanes and Mac was one of countless Hurricanes who couldn't help but send well wishes their coach's way.

It was a decision Larrañaga said didn't come easy, but one he felt was necessary, despite his ongoing love for basketball, for teaching, and for the student-athletes he worked with as a head coach at Miami, George Mason and Bowling Green.

"It's been an honor to be the head basketball coach at the University of Miami and I've loved every minute of it," Larrañaga said. "I can't thank the coaches that are with me now, who've worked so diligently these last several years and all my former coaches and former players who helped create the environment that we have and the legacy that I'm leaving behind. It is really hard to put into words why I've decided to do this, but it's because

of my love of basketball. I love the game. I love coaching it. I love practice every day. I love working with the players.

"But because I love the game and I love the University that much, I felt like, okay, there's one thing you've got to constantly ask yourself: are you going to give everything you have the commitment it deserves? A hundred percent of yourself, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually? Quite frankly, I've tried to do that throughout my life and throughout my time here. But I'm exhausted."

Larrañaga leaves Miami as the all-time winningest men's basketball coach in program history, with a 274-174 record. He led the Hurricanes to six NCAA Tournament appearances, including most recently, the program's first Final Four berth in 2023. He also led the Hurricanes to their first Elite Eight appearance in 2022, their first ACC

Tournament title in 2013 and their first two ACC regular-season titles in 2013 and 2023.

He built Miami into a consistent winner in the ACC, one of the nation's toughest basketball conferences.

But that, his former players say, is just one part of Larrañaga's remarkable legacy.

It was what he did away from the court that made their coach special.

"Coach L was, more than anything, a teacher. And obviously, the X's and O's were a given," said former Hurricanes guard Angel Rodriguez, who spent three seasons at Miami and like Mac, was a part of the program's 2016 Sweet 16 team. "But what separated him was that he was a natural teacher, and good teachers care for their students. That's what he did. He was constantly trying to teach us new things about life, new things about just being a good person and that goes a much longer way than the basketball part does. X's and O's, a lot of coaches are going to teach you that. That's why their impact is limited. Coach L helped us become men."

The lessons – and feeling like they were still part of Larrañaga's family – didn't stop once players graduated or began their professional careers.

Rodriguez has found himself back at the Watsco Center often, putting up shots and working out in Miami's facility. And when he has, it wasn't unusual for the former star guard and coach to catch up and



discuss everything but basketball.

"I think his greatest gift is making players feel loved," Rodriguez said in December. "Just last week, we were going from the practice facility into the Watsco Center, and he hugged me the whole way. I felt so special, as if I were still trying out for him or something. But it's just that genuine energy. He makes his players feel loved and appreciated. I'm going to miss that about him."

Like Mac and Rodriguez, Los Angeles Clippers guard Jordan Miller starred on one of Larrañaga's history-making teams at Miami.

The former second-team All-ACC honoree and NCAA Midwest Region All-Tournament Team selection was a key contributor during the Hurricanes' magical Final Four run in 2023.

He had his share of memorable moments, including one of the most remarkable individual performances in program history when he went a perfect 7-of-7 from the field and 13-of-13 from the free throw line during Miami's Elite Eight win over Texas that March.

But as special as nights like those may have been for him personally, Miller said it was the entirety of Miami's Final Four run, and the way Larrañaga coached him all throughout his career that helped make his time as a Hurricane so meaningful.

"There's a lot of memories, actually," Miller said. "I think the favorite one and what everyone expects me to say is just getting to the Final Four, right? Him being able to help us get there because he'd been there before and then being able to cut down those nets and see that gen-

uine happiness from him ... That was definitely a highlight moment. But I'll always remember, too, how calm Coach always was. I always respected that because you don't always need a coach that's yelling in your face every time you make a mistake. Coach L had a lot of trust in me and my other teammates, too. He was never a yeller. He just got his message across efficiently and effectively, and honestly, that just made us want to play harder."

Larrañaga's ability to connect with players, despite an age gap many of them said he navigated with humor and grace, was yet another one of his unique traits.

Former Hurricanes guard Davon Reed still smiles when he recalls getting to know Larrañaga throughout the recruiting process.



At the time, Reed – a top-100 prospect out of New Jersey – was receiving a barrage of text messages from coaches all across the country. Some, he noticed, didn't even bother to change who they were addressing in those messages, simply cutting and pasting the same texts to multiple recruits.

But for Reed, conversations with Larrañaga – via text, or in person – always felt honest, sometimes brutally so.

"I had a lot of different coaches reaching out to me, telling me everything I wanted to hear. But something that stuck out to me from Coach L, that separated him from the other coaches was when he was like, 'Hey, I think you can rebound the ball a little bit more,'" Reed recalled with a laugh. "He wasn't just telling me what I wanted to hear. He gave me constructive criticism and that stood out to me. During the entire recruiting

process, coaches would mess up and text me the same message they would text somebody else. It just didn't really feel authentic. Then to have Coach come sit in my mother's living room and say how excited he was for me to come to the University of Miami, just those little things when he recruited me, and finally teaching me a lot about the game of basketball as a whole ... those are things I'll never forget."

Those relationships, those connections continue to mean the world to both Larrañaga and his former players. That's why even as the coach is stepping away from the day-to-day duties of coaching, he said Thursday he hopes to remain connected to Miami in some fashion.

For him, it's a special place that made his dream of coaching in the ACC a reality; a place that's felt like home.

"I love coaching. I love what I do," Larrañaga said. "I want to stay very heavily involved with the University in whatever capacity they see fit. ... This place is awesome, and the University has been so kind and generous to me and my wife."

His players, for their part, say whatever comes next for their coach, his legacy at Miami, and beyond, is one that won't ever be forgotten.

"He forever changed the face of Miami basketball and they're going to have some very big shoes to fill, not just from the basketball perspective, but just as a person and as a leader," Reed said. "he's been able to impact and change so many lives. He changed my life. He helped me accomplish my dream of going to the NBA and going to the NCAA Tournament. There are so many things I can give him a lot of credit for helping me with and I'm sure all of his players can say something very similar."



MAUI MEMORIES: CANES COMPETE IN HAWAII

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

The women's basketball team concluded non-conference play in December with two games in Hawaii as part of the Maui Classic.

While in Maui, the Hurricanes earned wins over both Nevada and Oregon State, participated in a community outreach effort where they had the opportunity to meet and play basketball with local elementary school students and enjoyed a sunset cruise that gave them the chance to soak up the island's natural beauty.

Guard Haley Cavinder was named the Maui Classic MVP after posting a pair of double-doubles at the showcase. She had 25 points and 12 rebounds in the win over Nevada and 20 points and 12 rebounds in the win over Oregon State. Once Miami returned home, she also earned ACC Player of the Week honors for her performance in Hawaii.

Forward Cameron Williams, meanwhile, was named to the Maui Classic All-Tournament team after averaging 17.5 points and six rebounds in the Hurricanes' two wins in Maui.





SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: DR. STEPHEN CERRONE

By Christy Cabrera Chirinos

It was a conversation, a moment, and a kindness she doesn't think she will ever forget.

As part of a discussion in one of her classes in the Miami Herbert Business School, Maria Mastrando, along with Holliday Prichard, shared with their classmates and professor some of the experiences they'd had and people they'd met as members of Miami's rowing team.

They detailed their competition and practice schedules. Talked about the real-life examples of leadership they'd seen from Shirelle Jackson, Miami's Executive Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Development and rowing's sport administrator. And before long, they shared how their program was hoping to raise funds by offering supporters the opportunity to name the Hurricanes' boats.

"For me to be able to talk about that in class, I was so familiar and so excited," said Mastrando, a junior from Ocean City, New Jersey. "It's not often you get to share with a classroom of 30-plus people how much dedication your team has and what you've been working to

wards. Holly and I were both kind of stunned."

But that was far from the only surprise Mastrando would get in Dr. Stephen Cerrone's class.

Not long after those first-day conversations, Cerrone – a longtime supporter of Hurricanes athletics and associate professor in the Herbert Business School – informed Mastrando and Prichard that he intended to help in the rowing team's efforts.

Now, every time Mastrando sees the newly named *Black Panther* boat, she can't help but smile and feel gratitude for the belief her professor showed in her and her teammates.

"It's very rare that you get to meet someone that's helping your program in such a substantial way and not even in how the program is funded, but in your day-to-day practice," Mastrando said. "You're going to be using that equipment. You touch that boat. You are representing that name and your school and it's such an honor to sit inside something that was gifted to you because of how someone else

believed in your abilities and your team's strength and determination."

Mastrando and her teammates are just a few of the countless Hurricanes student-athletes that have been impacted by Cerrone's generosity over the years.

And she's far from the only Hurricane who has had the opportunity to take one of the professor's classes at Miami.

Among those former students? Head football coach Mario Cristobal, who took one of Cerrone's management classes during his time as an offensive lineman at Miami, a fact both the coach and the professor reminisced about on the Greentree Practice Field after Cristobal returned to lead his alma mater's program three years ago.

"It was a human resources class, the management of people," Cerrone recalled with a chuckle. "It's fascinating. The class I was teaching him in was how to recruit, how do you engage, how do you motivate, how do you compensate, how do you manage performance and set goals, how do you build the right culture. It's all the stuff he's doing

now. And after [Miami], he went on his own journey and earned his way to where he is today."

For Cerrone, teaching has always felt like a calling.

He first answered that call not long after moving to South Florida to work as a corporate human resources manager for Burger King. At the same time, the University was seeking out adjunct professors for its management department.

And so, Cerrone, who'd served as a teaching fellow while completing his master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Houston, began teaching at Miami.

He continued that work for nearly five years before moving to London as Burger King's Vice President for Human Resources. When the company brought him back to South Florida in 1999 as its Executive Vice President for Worldwide Human Resources, Cerrone once again returned to the University as an adjunct professor.

Despite his busy schedule, being in the classroom remained a priority.

"The one thing I realized was that the classroom was a wonderful environment where, in a very short period of time, you could have a significant impact on someone's life," Cerrone said. "If I compare that to corporate, I could be the head of HR for a company like Burger King, work with an executive, and they would make a small adjustment to their behavior. [But] I can be in a classroom for three months with 35 under-



Photos courtesy of: Dr. Stephen Cerrone

undergrads and move them a mile. son's Bay.

"The ability the classroom provides you, if you do a good job, to impact someone's life in a meaningful way ... to get them to think hard about what they value, what they want, how they're going to get there, what the hurdles are, how they're going to measure their success ... to think about that in your early 20's is unparalleled. There is nothing like it. ... I've done big jobs for 300,000-person organizations, but there's no comparison in terms of the impact. No comparison."

Eventually, though, Cerrone left the University when his career moved him to Chicago.

He spent time there with major corporations including JP Morgan/ Bank One, Sara Lee, and SunEdison. He helped handle mergers, acquisitions, and bankruptcies. And he did consulting work with the likes of Hewlett Packard, KKR, Tough Mudder and Hud-

But after 16 years in Chicago, he and his family began weighing a potential return to South Florida.

A phone call helped move that along.

Dr. Linda Neider, who'd chaired the Management Department at Miami Herbert Business School when Cerrone first served as an adjunct professor at Miami, reached out and posed a question.

Would Cerrone be interested in stepping away from his corporate career to become a full-time professor at Miami?

The timing was less than ideal, given that it was March 2020, and the world was thrust into chaos and uncertainty because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But Cerrone and his family decided to move back to Florida and he happily rejoined the Miami faculty.

Through all the moves and changes in his career, however, there was always one constant: Cerrone's love of sports.

A self-described "crazy sports person," Cerrone has been to five Super Bowls, two World Cups, two Olympics, tennis Grand Slams, multiple College Football Playoff games and the Men's Final Four.

That love, of course, came with him back to Miami, where he has been an avid supporter of Hurricanes athletics, and the student-athletes that have sat in his classroom.

"The amount of work that goes into being a student-athlete is remarkable," Cerrone said. "People see them and think, 'Oh, it's great. You guys are going to school for free and you get this and this and this.' But it's remarkably difficult. I think one thing that teaching athletes has done for me is given me an appreciation of the amount of work



that goes into just being on a team. ... The training, the discipline and the rigor they have to go through. And when you see them succeed, it's incredibly satisfying."

But Cerrone's support of Miami athletics isn't limited to just the donations he's made to various programs or the work he's done with student-athletes in the classroom.

The professor serves as a liaison between the athletic department and faculty at the University as part of the UM Athletics Committee. And he recently worked with Matt Smale, Miami's Executive Associate Athletics Director of Business Operations to create the UStrive Leadership Program, a nine-month development program for members of the athletic department.

"Individuals like Stephen, and Ste-

phen specifically, willing to take time, effort, energy and set that aside for our department and our student-athletes and invest in them is a critical ingredient in our success and our future success," Smale said of Cerrone's impact on Miami's athletic department as a whole.

Cerrone says that time, effort and energy he's invested at Miami and for the Hurricanes will continue.

The Associate Professor, who has been lauded with multiple teaching awards by his students, has found a home in Coral Gables and within the University community, one that he loves.

And he's hopeful there will be more moments like the one he recently shared with Mastrando and Prichard, among other Hurricanes stu-

dent-athletes.

"Miami is a place where you can really make a difference," Cerrone said. "I feel like both in the classroom, with athletes and agnostic of athletes, I feel like I can really make a difference. And there's a certain vibrancy and energy that Miami has that I don't think any other place has. You can go to Calle Ocho and sit at a little bakery and get a cafecito or a cortadito and feel like you're in another world. That authentic, genuine characteristic is really unusual. It's a very unique environment and I am grateful to play a small part in what all of us do at the University each and every day."



VIKKI ALONZO

MARK COOPER

KEVIN HOWARD

CINDY KESSLER MILLER

JEROME MCDOUGLE

BRIAN RAMOS

DARIUS RICE

KRISTA SIMKINS

CANES CHRONICLES: UM SPORTS HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2025

By Rick Remmert

As the University of Miami prepares to celebrate the start of its Centennial Year on April 8, the latest class of luminaries who helped make The U, The U, will be inducted into the UM Sports Hall of Fame & Museum the following week on April 17 at the Watsco Center on campus.

The eight-member Class of 2025 is comprised of Vikki Alonzo (soccer), Mark Cooper (football), Kevin Howard (baseball), Cindy Kessler Miller (golf), Jerome McDougale (football), Brian Ramos (diving), Darius Rice (basketball), and Krista Simkins (track & field).

These inductees bring to only 372 the number of student-athletes, coaches, and administrators who have attained this high honor in UM's long and distinguished history.

Here's more on the Class of 2025...

Vikki Alonzo, Soccer (2008-2011)

Holds nearly every school record for goalkeepers including wins (36), shutouts (25), saves (358), and minutes in goal (7,256) ... Also holds single-season records for saves, shutouts, and minutes ... Ranks in UM's career top 10 list 15 times for multiple goalkeeping categories ... Named a 2008 third team Freshman All-American and set the school record that year with 17 saves against perennial powerhouse North Carolina.

Mark Cooper, Football (1978-1982)

Recruited as a tight end, but Coach Howard Schnellenberger moved him to left tackle to protect quarterback Jim Kelly following many injuries on the offensive line ... Named second team Independent South All-American and selected to the East-West Shrine Bowl and Senior Bowl following his final season ... Picked in the second round of the 1983 NFL Draft by Denver ... Spent seven seasons in the league and played in Super Bowl XXI for the Broncos.

Kevin Howard, Baseball (2000-2002)

Named the 2000 Freshman of the Year and a Freshman All-American by Baseball America and Louisville Slugger; Was named a Freshman All-American and third team All-American by Collegiate Baseball ... Hit .413 with 90 hits in his first season ... As a junior, hit .363 with 86 hits, 23 doubles, 12 home runs, and 52 RBIs ... Ranks fourth all-time in career hits with 260 and his career .368 batting average is eighth all-time.

Cindy Kessler Miller, Golf (1975-1978)

Began her UM career as a walk-on in 1975 and earned her way to a full scholarship in 1976 ... Helped the Canes to back-to-back AIAW national championships in 1977 and 1978 and was named an All-American in her senior campaign ... After three years on the LPGA Tour, she established herself as one of the game's finest teachers and was named to the Class of 2024 for the LPGA Professionals Hall of Fame.

Jerome McDougale, Football (2000-2002)

Was named a 2002 first team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association and a two-time first team All-Big East selection in 2001 and 2002 ... Finalist for the 2002 Ted Hendricks Defensive End Award ... Named 2001 third team All-American by AP ... Key member on the defensive line of UM's legendary 2001 national championship team ... First round selection in 2003 NFL Draft by the Philadelphia Eagles and spent six seasons in the league.

Brian Ramos, Diving (1990-1995)

One of legendary head coach Randy Ableman's first top recruits, Ramos helped turned the UM diving team into a dynasty ... He was a seven-time All-American who finished second at the 1992 NCAA Championships in the 1-meter springboard ... Named the 1995 Big East Diver of the Year and was a key contributor to the historic season that saw the Canes boast five All-American divers.

Darius Rice, Basketball (2000-04)

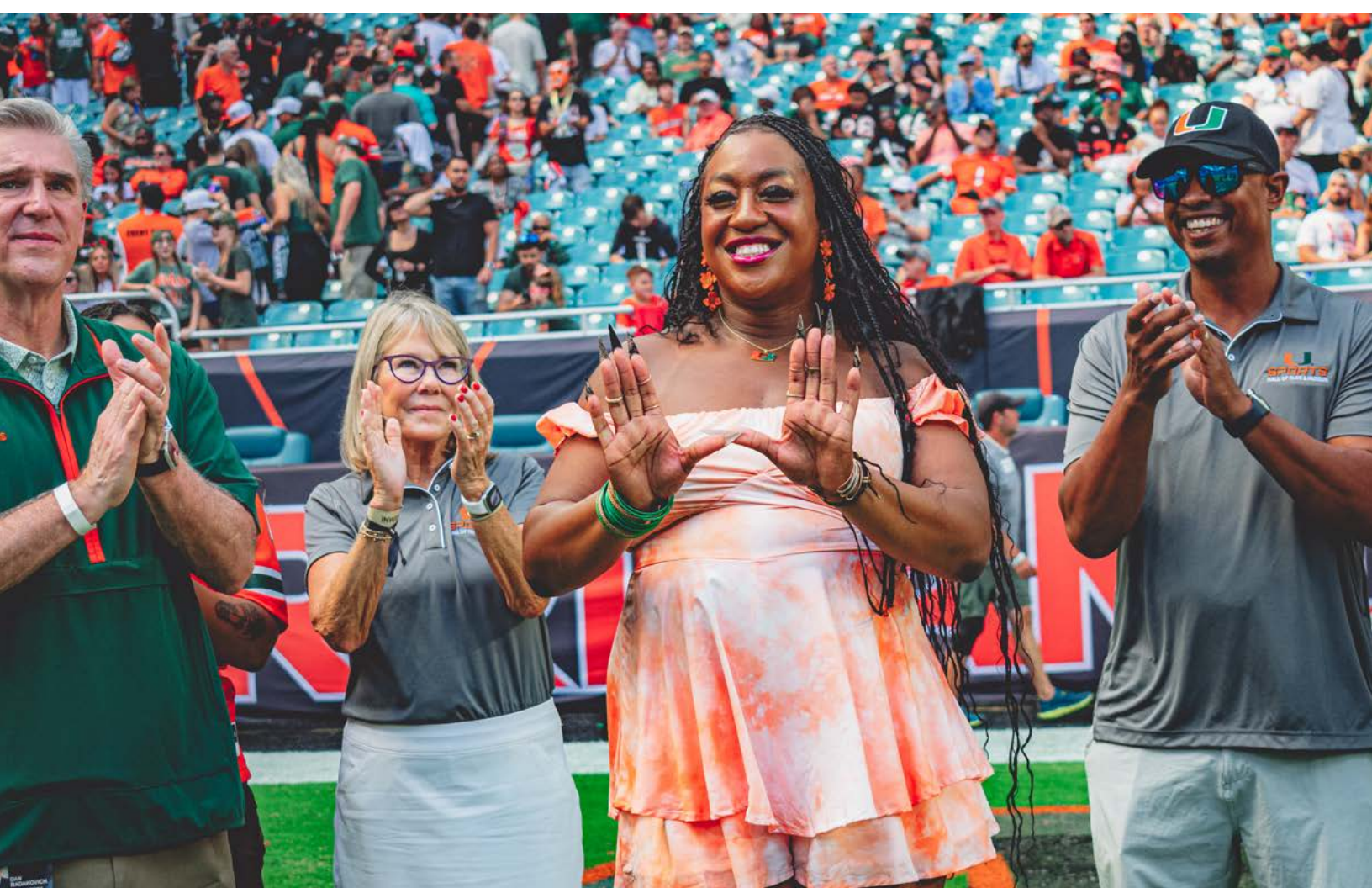
Electrifying scorer from all areas of the court ... Three-time All-Big East selection ... Left Miami as its fourth-leading scorer with 1,865 points for a career average of 16.1 points per game ... Ranks in UM's career top 10 for field goals made and attempted, 3-point field goals made and attempted, free throws made and attempted, and games started.

Krista Simkins, Track & Field (2006-2008)

2008 NCAA indoor 400-meter champion with a time of 52.16 seconds ... Also named the 2008 Atlantic Coast Conference Indoor Track Performer of the Year after claiming ACC titles in the 200 and 400 meters ... Won the 2007 ACC title in the 100 meters ... Four-time All-American, receiving honors twice each in indoor and outdoor events in her career.

The University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame & Museum was founded in 1966 by eight Miami-Dade County Circuit Court judges, all UM alums. The founders wanted to establish an organization that would recognize student-athletes, coaches, and administrators who excelled at their sport and brought acclaim to the University through their achievements and championships.

Tickets to the Hall of Fame induction are \$200 for individuals, and a table of 10 is \$2,000. Sponsor Tables are available for \$2,750, and a limited number of Elite Sponsor Tables are also available for \$5,000. Tickets, tables, and banquet program ads can be purchased by contacting the UMSHoF&M at 305-284-2775.



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