

SunSentinel SPORTS

ON THE DOLPHINS

It's simple.

It's about **being a leader** and **developing players**. So why did the Dolphins miss with their previous hires? **Here's what the Dolphins need** in their next head coach...



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP 2017

Let's look back to look ahead. When Steve Ross hired Joe Philbin, the Miami Dolphins owner said his primary consideration was how, "organized," his new coach was during the job interview that included a power-point presentation. When Ross hired Mike Tannenbaum as vice president of football operations, he said it was because of Tannenbaum's success in the sports science side of the Dolphins. When Ross hired Adam Gase, it was because of his youth and inexperience — not in spite of it. "I hired here just like in business," Ross said of Gase in his first sea-



Dave Hyde

son. "Young. Bright. Passionate. Someone who thinks out of the box." The Dolphins did get all that in Gase. They also got an immature and unsteady coach whose inexperience was compounded by a weak roster he had a hand in making. Look at the recurring themes with Gase. Coaching staff issues. Trouble dealing with good players. Shifting offseason plans. And lots of excuses. The Dolphins also got that "organized" coach in Philbin. So organized he picked up bits of litter to clean the locker room during a nota-

See **HYDE, 2C**

HEAT

'I don't know what's going on'

Walters vents on stalled return to Heat rotation, games on the bench

By **IRA WINDERMAN**
South Florida Sun Sentinel

MIAMI — Dion Walters appreciated that patience would be required in his return from a yearlong absence. He just thought it would mean small steps on the road back from last January's ankle surgery, instead of being stopped in his tracks after the first game of his return. After playing 11 minutes in last Wednesday's season debut in the road victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers, Walters has been held out of the past two games by coach Erik Spoelstra, Friday night's victory over the Washington Wizards at American-Airlines Arena and Sunday's loss to the Atlanta Hawks at State Farm Arena. The initial impression was of being brought along steadily, based on the boost he provided in the victory over the Cavaliers. "Of course I envisioned that," he said. "You come back, you work your way slow and steadily. You keep increasing the minutes, at the end of the day. I don't know what's going on, so I can't tell you."

See **HEAT, 4C**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ALABAMA VS. CLEMSON



JEFF CHIU/AP

QUICK START FOR LOCAL PLAYMAKER

Alabama's Jerry Jeudy, a Deerfield Beach grad, catches and scores on a 62-yard pass in front of Clemson's Tanner Muse during the first quarter Monday night. For complete coverage of the game, go to SunSentinel.com/sports

■ Dennis Erickson named to College Football Hall of Fame. **3C**

UM FOOTBALL

Reunited: Diaz brings Baker on

Hiring of former colleague defines roles for defensive coaching staff

By **CHRISTY CABRERA CHIRINOS**
South Florida Sun Sentinel

CORAL GABLES — Miami's defensive coaching staff is officially set. A little more than a week after taking over as the Hurricanes' new coach, Manny Diaz officially named Blake Baker his new defensive coordinator, while announcing adjustments for the rest of UM's defensive staff, all of which he retained after taking over for the retired Mark Richt. Baker and Diaz worked together at Louisiana Tech, where Baker has been the defensive coordinator since Diaz left the program in 2015. At Miami, Baker will also coach the Hurricanes' inside linebackers. "We're thrilled to welcome Blake to 'The U,'" Diaz said in a statement announcing Baker's hire. "He built and orchestrated a fast, tenacious defense at Louisiana Tech that consistently made big plays. I have watched him grow and develop as a coach throughout his career and I'm confident he will help our defense continue to excel!" Under Baker, the Bulldogs finished last season

See **UM, 3C**

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