

Orlando Sentinel

SPORTS WEDNESDAY

“That’s what I love about this game. It’s not always going to be positive, so it’s about fighting through adversity and getting better.”

— Magic guard Markelle Fultz

The fight to find his rhythm

Fultz expects to be amped up when Magic face 76ers, his former team, for a second time

BY ROY PARRY

The pleasant fall climate of Central Florida has made quite the impression on Orlando Magic point guard Markelle Fultz.

It’s not that he didn’t know what kind of weather awaited him when he was traded to the Magic last season, but Fultz is still getting used to November temperatures in the Sunshine State.

“I hear this is about the best time to be living here,” he said.

Fultz hasn’t seen anything yet.

He grew up in Baltimore, played one year of college basketball in Seattle at the University of Washington then spent his first two NBA seasons in Philadelphia.

So cut Fultz some slack if he’s impressed by the little things, like leaving practice and driving home with his windows down.

“It’s just another plus for being in Orlando,” he said.

“Wait until you see February,” one reporter said.

Please turn to **MAGIC, C3**



Markelle Fultz and the Magic face his former team, the Philadelphia 76ers, at Amway Center Wednesday night. HARRY AARON/GETTY

Wasteful Taggart buyout is final straw

Well, I hope you’re satisfied, college football.

I hope you’re satisfied, NCAA.

I hope you’re happy.

With your fiscal ineptitude and reckless spending, you’ve finally done it.

You’ve managed to take one of the last and staunchest supporters of your “no pay for play” collegiate model and turn me into Jay Bilas and all of the other clanging cymbals who scream that college football and basketball players deserve to be monetarily compensated.

I have finally been beaten down not by the Bilas bunch who claim college athletes are being exploited, but by the obscenely wasteful way college athletic departments flush their money down the toilet with all their other poop.

My revelation came within the last week when FSU decided to fire Willie Taggart after a year-and-a-half and pay him nearly \$20 million NOT to coach for the four years remaining on his contract. That was followed up by the Arkansas Razorbacks firing Chad Morris in less than two years and having to pay him more than \$10 million NOT to coach. This is on top of the

Please turn to **BIANCHI, C3**

COMMENTARY



MIKE BIANCHI
Sentinel Columnist

UF FOOTBALL

Zuniga struggling through injuries

High-ankle sprain derails DE’s season

BY EDGAR THOMPSON

GAINESVILLE — UF defensive end Jabari Zuniga’s return for one more year with the Gators has not gone according to plan.

In fact, Zuniga’s season pretty much has gone off the rails. A high-ankle sprain suffered Sept. 14 at Kentucky has limited the fifth-year senior to just eight full quarters of football and parts of five others all season.

Zuniga hopes to play Saturday at Missouri after sitting out this past weekend against Vanderbilt, the fifth game the redshirt senior has missed.

“I mean as a brother, as his friend, I mean I know it’s frustrating for him,” fifth-year senior defensive tackle Adam Shuler said. “It’s frustrating for us. But he’ll be ready when he’s ready.”

A healthy Zuniga opened the season as an unstoppable force, compiling 4.5 tackles for loss (three sacks) during wins against Miami and UT-Martin. He has not been the same player since injuring his ankle on the third play at Kentucky.

Four games later, Zuniga reaggravated the injury during the first quarter at LSU, sat out the South Carolina

Please turn to **UF, C3**

FLORIDA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

QBs Culpepper, Weinke get nod

Passers headline class of 10 inductees

BY STEPHEN RUIZ

Although they played college football in Florida, Chris Weinke and Daunte Culpepper never shared the same field until they reached the NFL.

They didn’t have to wait long, either.

After the Carolina Panthers used a fourth-round draft pick on Weinke in 2001, the former FSU quarterback started the opener that year in his home state of Minnesota. Culpepper, the former UCF standout, was the Vikings’ signal-caller that day.

The Panthers prevailed 24-13.

“I beat Daunte,” Weinke said, smiling. “Now it was downhill after that ...”

Weinke, 47, and Culpepper, 42, were among the headliners of the 10-person Florida Sports Hall of Fame class Tuesday night at Amway Center. While Culpepper did not attend the ceremony, other notable inductees such as LPGA Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam, former Orlando Magic executive Pat Williams, former Magic guard Nick Anderson and former major-league catcher Jason Varitek were there.

Former Stetson baseball coach Pete Dunn, former

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