

BASKETBALL

Florida Gators, Miami set date for men's basketball matchup in Jacksonville



Clayton Freeman Jacksonville Florida Times-Union

Reigning NCAA [men's basketball champion Florida](#) will come to Jacksonville on Nov. 16 to face Miami inside VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, renewing a long hoops rivalry in front of a First Coast crowd, arena officials announced July 11.

The Jacksonville Hoops Showdown presented by the Jacksonville Sports Foundation, in the works for [multiple weeks](#), will be managed by Chicago-based sports marketing agency Intersport, which also handled the Gators' matchup against South [Florida](#) in Jacksonville in November 2024.

Ticket sales for the game begin on Sept. 24, and fans can register online for ticket presale access on Sept. 23 through jaxevents.com. The start time and broadcast arrangements remain to be determined.



The game renews a series that has been on hold since Nov. 22, 2019, when the Gators won 78-58. Florida leads the all-time series 47-24.

The contest would also match new Canes coach Jai Lucas against his former team. Lucas signed with Florida in 2007 under Billy Donovan, but he transferred to Texas the following year.

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Florida last played in Jacksonville on Nov. 4, 2024, [beating South Florida 98-83](#) inside the arena with a crowd of 5,764. Miami last visited Jacksonville on Nov. 16, 2016, winning 94-56 over North Florida.

The Gators have never previously played in Jacksonville while holding the national championship. Florida won its third NCAA Tournament in April, 65-63 over Houston, and returns key players including Rueben Chinyelu, Alex Condon, Micah Handlogten and Thomas Haugh.

Head coach Todd Golden's roster has also added potential starters [Boogie Fland](#) from Arkansas and [Xaivian Lee](#) from Princeton via transfer.