

# BACK TO SCHOOL

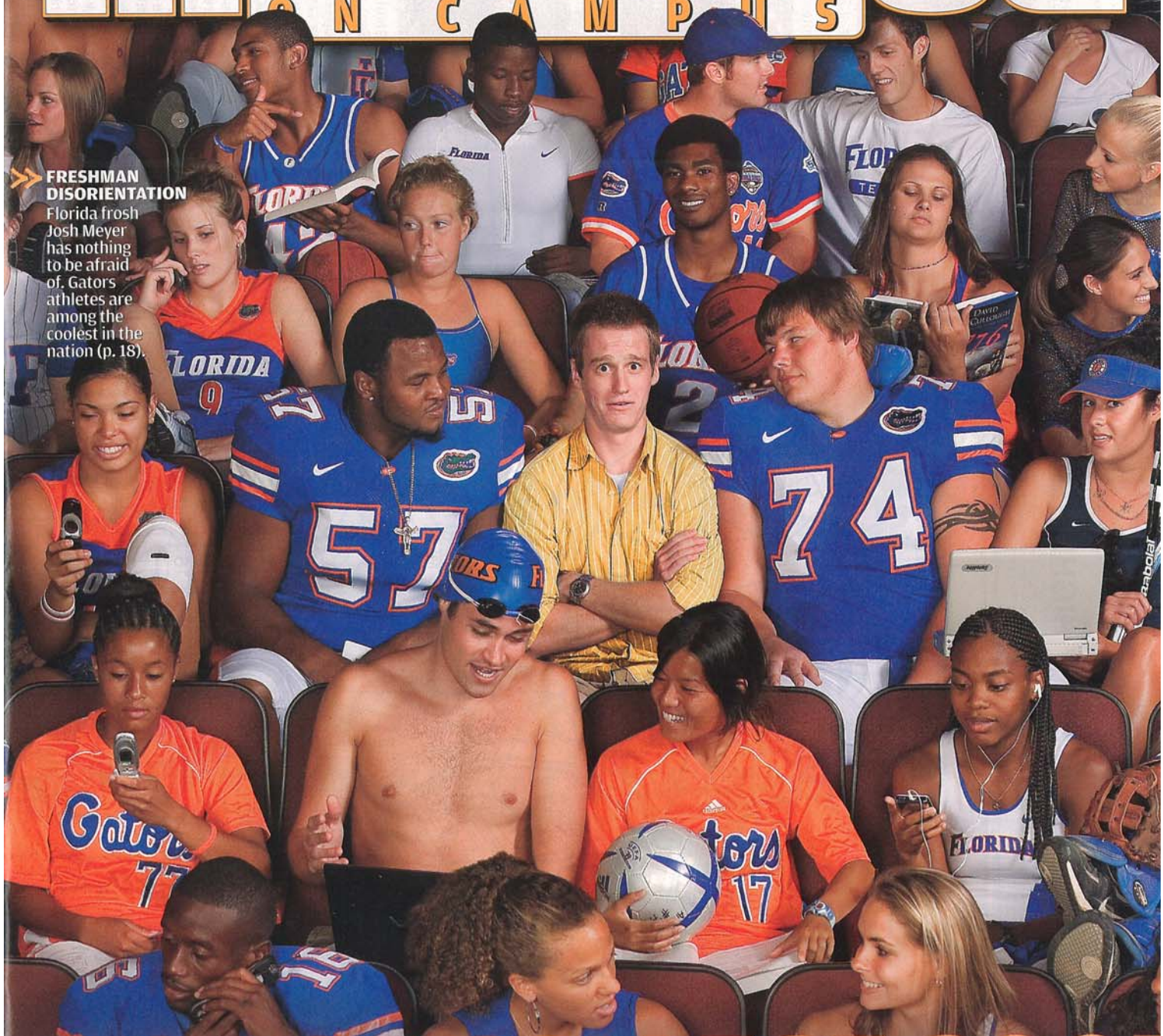
College Sports  
College Life

September 15, 2005  
WWW.SIONCAMPUS.COM

# Sports Illustrated

## S I O N C A M P U S

➤ **FRESHMAN DISORIENTATION**  
Florida frosh Josh Meyer has nothing to be afraid of. Gators athletes are among the coolest in the nation (p. 18).



# BEST OF COLLEGE 2005

➤ **THE NO. 1:** Seat in the House... Conference to Road-trip... Joint to Pick up an Athlete... Pregame Party p.14





**Best... REC CENTER: MISSOURI**

**Good luck, freshman** Tigers. Even a well-traveled supersenior would struggle deciding how first to take on Mizzou's two-month-old Student Recreation Complex. In crafting the \$50 million, 293,000-square-foot structure, designers drew on styles ranging from Las Vegas to Disney to how college-y is this?—MTV's *Cribs* for its waterfalls and XL whirlpools.

Maybe a dip in the pool first? Sure. There's a 50-meter competitive pool and a 10-meter diving well, but rec director Diane Dahlman also addressed the needs of students who just want to relax in the water—or lounge in the sauna. (That's right.

Sauna.) The indoor Tiger Grotto (there's also an outdoor pool, Truman's Pond) takes on a South Beach vibe: Students chill in the hot tub or splash in a lazy river surrounded by palm trees and a rocky waterfall while waiters serve poolside wraps, smoothies and protein shakes. Affordable amenities like manicures, facials and massages come in 2006.

Of course, if you're one of those people who prefers to actually work out at your rec center, the Jungle Gym doesn't disappoint. One million dollars

in cardio equipment, 10 basketball courts and studios for an extensive lineup of Pilates, yoga and aerobics? Ho-hum. Now spice up the walls with 56 flat-screen televisions (upon which you can catch ZouTV, the in-house TV station) and a deejay booth right in the middle of it all. Want to get toned like former UM student Brad Pitt? Hop on one of 12 steppers equipped with a personal DVD player and sweat it out to Troy.

Dahlman's goal for the joint she describes as "hip and hot and sexy": "To get on the list of places students go on Thursday, Friday and Saturday." Could happen.



**Best... USE OF STADIUM SPACE**

**ARIZONA**

Michigan's Big House doesn't actually house anyone. Old women don't live in Ohio State's Shoe. If you want to live stadium-style 24/7, your best bet is Arizona Stadium, where 152 students occupy Navajo-Pinal Residence Hall, four floors of dorm rooms that lie below the south end zone. Note to opportunists: NPRH doesn't afford any sight lines, and dorm-to-stadium tunnels have long been sealed.