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NOTEBOOK

## Gaining insurance policy for season

By JOHN PATTON

Sun sports writer

**T**he NCAA provides the Exceptional Student-Athlete Disability Insurance Program for college football players projected as top-three-round selections, and this year, five Gator seniors have taken out policies.

Offensive guard Shannon Snell said that he, offensive tackle Max Starks, strong safety Guss Scott and tight end Ben Troupe are covered for around \$1 million, and cornerback/receiver Keiwan Ratliff would receive close to \$1.5 million in the event of a career-ending injury.

The program is administered by ASU International and calls for the NCAA to provide athletes with a loan to take out a premium (which usually costs about one-tenth of the payout).

A policy taken out by former Gator defensive lineman Ed Chester, whose career ended with a knee injury against LSU in 1998, paid him \$1 million a year later.

"You have to look out for yourself," Snell said.

**OFFERING HELP:** In addition to taking classes and preparing for the upcoming season, Starks has had a major role in a humanitarian project begun by the valedictorian of his graduating class at Orlando's Lake Highland Prep.

As the vice president of marketing and communications for CentsofRelief.org, Starks helps friend and fellow UF student Anup Patel gather funding for AIDS-infected victims (and their family members) in India. The money collected is used to provide educations for commercial-sex workers' children, implement preventative measures against the disease and trafficking of young girls, and give commercial-sex workers and their children access to the basic necessities of life, according to the website.

"It's very rewarding, and something I feel is a very good cause," said Starks, who added that teammate Carlos Perez wants to help provide Bibles to victims. "When (Patel) approached me about this, I was really eager to help."

**ROUGH RIDE:** Freshman defensive lineman Jarvis Moss didn't get to Gainesville by conventional means. In fact, he says he's lucky to have arrived at all.

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A prep All-American at Ryan High School in Denton, Texas, Moss signing with Florida was a bit of a shock, as that area of the country predominantly is controlled by the Big 12. And then on his way to town for classes in early June, Moss totalled the Toyota 4Runner belonging to his girlfriend, Michelle Henry, on Interstate 10 just west of Shreveport, La.

"Her phone rang and she was sleeping, so I reached over to pick it up," said Moss, who had gotten his driver's license a day earlier. "We were going about 80 (mph) and swerved before rolling (once) into the median. It was wet and mud came into the car, but we got out without a scratch."

**TIGHT END APPRECIATION:** Recently, a pair of NFL scouts were asked their thoughts on the top tight end prospects in college.

Both of them listed Miami's Kellen Winslow Jr. first and Troupe second.

"I think Kellen Winslow is a great player who brings a lot to the position with his athleticism," Troupe said. "I guess we both have similar things we can do."

Troupe caught 15 passes for 200 yards as a junior, and his role is expected to expand this year. But that doesn't necessarily matter to him.

"Hopefully, I can catch a lot of balls, but I'd rather have a 14-0 season," Troupe said.

Coach Ron Zook said he hopes for both.

"When you've got a guy like Ben Troupe, that's a mismatch (we need to take advantage of)," said Zook, who compared the 6-foot-4, 262 pound Troupe favorably to Denver Broncos' Pro Bowl tight end Shannon Sharpe.

**EXTRA POINTS:** Sunshine Network and UF announced Saturday that the Aug. 30 San Jose State and Sept. 13 Florida A&M games would be made available live on pay-per-view for \$29.95 each. Both contests have a scheduled 6 p.m. start. ... Freshman receiver Andre Caldwell, one of the state's top high school sprinters while at Tampa Jefferson, said he will not run track at UF. ... Coach Ron Zook said freshman Eric Wilbur, sidelined for a few days with a staph infection, could be ready to practice Monday. Zook also said Wilbur, a kicker/punter/safety at Winter Park Trinity Prep, will focus solely on punting at Florida. ... Freshman Joe Cohen will wear No. 20 in honor of James McGriff, a childhood friend of his from Melbourne who drowned April 17, 1998. McGriff was a Gator signee that year and was buried in a No. 20 UF jersey. ... The idea for Ratliff to play both offense and defense came in a conversation former quarterback Rex Grossman had with members of the UF coaching staff last summer. ... For more photos and video on Media Day, check out gatorsports.com.

... Freshman Tranell Morant played reporter during part of media day, walking up to defensive coordinator Charlie Strong with a tape recorder looking for comment on the team's young defensive linemen (of which Morant is one). Strong chuckled and said he is excited about the group's potential. ... Funny sight of the day: a group of shapely (but not necessarily in shape) sports writers made the 340-step round trip to view the soon-to-be-finished renovated press box and club level at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. The walk to the buffet for lunch was received much better.

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**Correction**

Cornerback Deshawn Carter is dealing with a lung disease. The Sun reported otherwise in Saturday's edition. The Sun regrets the error.

*You can reach John Patton by calling 374-5074 or by e-mail at [pattonj@qvillesun.com](mailto:pattonj@qvillesun.com).*

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