

## **Tim Tebow**

### **University of Florida**

### **Football, Quarterback**

Team Captain

Heisman Trophy winner as sophomore

Major: Family, Youth and Community Sciences

GPA 3.7

If you ask the University of Florida football staff which athlete on the team devotes himself most to the game, the answer would be unanimous – Tim Tebow. You would be hard-pressed to find another student athlete that is more dedicated to the game of football. That does not just mean the four hours spent on the gridiron every Saturday. Training for Tebow includes off-season workouts, conditioning, film sessions, team meetings, game planning and of course, actual practice. In a recent article featured in *The New York Times*, UF head coach Urban Meyer describes Tebow as “as hard of a worker as I have ever seen.”

He does anything and everything that is necessary in order to help the Gators to victory. Tebow broke his hand on the opening drive of the third quarter versus Florida State and continued to play the entire game, completing nine of 13 passes for 123 yards and a touchdown. Whether it is running the 40-yard dash or lifting weights, Tebow’s competitiveness is apparent and his competitive nature rubs off on his teammates.

Tebow is two-time member of the UF Football team’s Leadership Committee, a group charged with acting as spokesmen for the team and handling situations related to team policy issues, academic affairs, off-campus circumstances and other issues. For any player to be selected to the Leadership Committee shows a great amount of respect and trust on behalf of both the players and the coaches. But perhaps the biggest indication of the relationships between Tebow and his coaches is the fact that although they all praise his athletic ability, most if not all of the coaching staff would commend Tebow’s character first. They mention his honesty, his leadership abilities and his high moral standards as encapsulating who Tebow is more than his completion percentage or his passing efficiency

### **Community Service**

...before he became one of the most sought after recruits in the country, he was doing the kind of missionary work he does now. Does it ever get old? "Some days you don't feel like doing everything," he said. "Those are just the pros and cons that come with what you do and how you do it. I've been blessed to have some success at the college level, so I have more obligations and more things I have to do. Sometimes you don't want to do that. You just want to be a college student, relax or something. But when I really sit down and think about it, I want to do those things because those things are more important than playing football for me. Going and speaking in a prison is more important for me. Going to speak to a youth organization is more important to me than winning or playing a game." What about beating a rival like Tennessee, Georgia or Florida State? "It doesn't come close to having the ability to put a smile on a kid's face or go to a hospital and see a girl who is about to die, see her smile because you're there to see her," he said. "I mean, you can't put a price on it, on what that does for me."

## **Powder Puff Game**

Tebow decided to create, plan and host the first annual, 1<sup>st</sup> and 15 Powder Puff Tournament. Under his leadership University of Florida sororities competed against each other in a flag football fundraiser tournament with over \$10,000 going to a local orphanage in Gainesville. Many of Tebow's teammates participated in the event and it serves as an example of Tebow's ability to bring people together to serve a common good.

Recipient: University of Florida's Office of Student Life's **Goodwill Gator Community Service**

**Award:** Tim has spent over 500 hours of community service and appearances this year, including:

- many hospital visits and community service functions
- his own hospital visits in his hometown of Jacksonville, Fla. during his off-weekends
- March 2008: Spent spring break as a missionary in the Philippines as part of the Bob Tebow Evangelical Association
- May 2008: Spoke at a business conference in Croatia
- May 2008: Spoke in front of 2,500 people at a local church in Starke, Fla.
- June 2008: Invited by the International Mission Board (IMB) to speak to missionaries in South Asia
- June 2008: Spent a day speaking to a local YMCA in Black Mountain, Ga.
- Spent time speaking at several prisons across the state of Florida from April to June of 2008.

Has traveled with his father on numerous missionary trips to the Philippines and worked extensively with the people there.

## **Honors (Selected)**

2008: Only sophomore ever to win the Heisman Trophy; Davey O'Brien and Maxwell Award winner...2007 first-team AP All-American...Walter Camp All-American...AP SEC Offensive Player of the Year...SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll...ESPN.com Academic All-American first-team selection...SEC Football Community Service Team Honoree...2006 All-SEC Freshman team honoree...2008: Finalist for the Sullivan Award... Only player in NCAA history to rush and pass for at least 20 touchdowns in a season... NCAA single-season record holder for the most rushing touchdowns in a single season by a quarterback (23)...

This is a letter of recommendation on behalf of Gators' quarterback Tim Tebow. I first met Tim in 2005 shortly after being named as the Head Football coach at the University of Florida. I knew from the moment I first watched him in high school that he could play hard tough football because he trained with relentless effort and discipline. After Tim enrolled at the University of Florida in January 2006, he quickly demonstrated his leadership by his consistent work ethic and positive relationships with teammates, staff and coaches. During the 2006 BCS National Championship season, Tim embraced his role and although he was not a starting player, he was one of the most valuable players because he was a team player. Whenever successful on the field he quickly shared the moment with his teammates and always demonstrated a sense of fair play and sportsmanship. He is respectful of the game of football and of opposing players and coaches and wins or loses with grace and dignity. Although disappointed with losses, Tim has the resolve to learn, improve, and leads teammates by his incredible competitiveness. Tim is a person of great faith and strong inner peace and shares that faith with people throughout the world. A Christian missionary, Tim has traveled extensively in Asia, Europe and the United States of

America sharing his values, beliefs and love for others. Tim is a person of high character and integrity and has a reputation of always doing the right thing. His peers respect his work effort and rally around him. As he consistently strives to do the right thing all the time, it is easy to follow his example. When needed, he can be equally vocal to exhort his peers with words of encouragement or positive reinforcement. Tim strives for perfection and performs at a high level. He will jump in and do whatever is necessary to help the team accomplish its goals. A self starter, he does not wait, but will anticipate the need before it arises and takes charge of the task. His football accomplishments during the 2007 season resulted in Tim being awarded the Heisman Trophy which he graciously accepted on behalf of his teammates. Tim has excelled academically and currently boasts a 3.70 grade point average. Attached are numerous supporting documents and articles outlining Tim's accomplishments and activities. I am confident that Tim would be an outstanding recipient of The Coach Wooden Citizen Cup and I am honored to be his coach and to place his name in nomination.

Sincerely,  
Urban Meyer  
Head Football Coach

"I love Tebow. He's the hardest worker on our team. He's always first in everything. He always encourages people to do good. Even if he's doing something, he'll study with you any time you ask. He's trying to help everybody be good."

**Percy Harvin, UF Wide Receiver**

"There are things more important every day. Going to the Philippines with my dad and being at the orphanage and hanging out with the kids and thinking how could you get your whole life wrapped up in what's going to happen on fourth down instead of thinking it is a blessing you have the athletic ability to go out there and play football. That takes a lot of pressure off. It lets you go out there and enjoy playing and have fun."

**Tim Tebow**