

Miami's rise under Cristobal takes the Hurricanes home to play for a national title

BY JOHN MARSHALL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Mario Cristobal returned to South Florida to find his alma mater in disarray.

A national powerhouse during Cristobal's playing days, Miami had slipped out of prominence for the better part of 20 years, a handful of losing seasons sprinkled with mid-level bowl appearances.

Cristobal's goal when he was hired was to recreate a winning culture, put the Hurricanes in the mix for national championships again. Four years later, the Hurricanes will play for their first national championship since 2001 — in their home stadium, no less.

"It's a reflection of our players and their DNA and the way that they're wired, how they came into the program and how they've continued to develop and evolve," Cristobal said after Miami's 31-27 win over Mississippi in the Fiesta Bowl Thursday night. "It almost seems like the tougher it gets, the better we play. And it's a testament to them, to their resilience and their will."

One of Cristobal's first steps after being lured



Ross D. Franklin / AP photo

Miami safety Zechariah Poyer (7) and defensive back Ethan O'Connor (24) break up a pass intended for Mississippi wide receiver De'haun Stribling (1) during the second half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal game, Thursday, Jan. 8, in Glendale, Ariz.

away from Oregon in 2021 was to make Miami again a destination for top recruits and transfers, something he had done with the Ducks. The former offensive lineman who won two national championships with the Hurricanes also wanted to re-instate a winning culture, adding physicality and discipline to the program.

Miami has been on a steady climb since Cristobal's hiring, increasing its win total every year until this season's 13 wins — and counting.

With the win over Ole

Miss at the Fiesta Bowl, the Hurricanes will be the first team in the BCS/CFP era (since 1998) to play a national championship in their home stadium. Miami will face top-ranked Indiana or No. 5 Oregon in the Jan. 19 title game.

"What an unbelievable year," Miami quarterback Carson Beck said. "It was never easy. It was never perfect. There were a lot of ups and downs. There was a lot of adversity that not only I faced individually, but that we faced as a team. We really banded together and showed that we believe in connection, that we just



Rick Scuteri / AP photo

Miami head coach Mario Cristobal yells from the sideline during the second half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal game against Mississippi, Thursday, Jan. 8, in Glendale, Ariz.

don't fake it."

Beck has been a big part of Miami's run from No. 10 College Football Playoff seed to the national championship game.

The sixth-year quarterback started his career at Georgia, winning a national championship as a backup before two highly-productive seasons as a starter. After a knee injury knocked him out of the playoffs last season, he looked at declaring for the NFL before opting to play at Miami.

The Hurricanes are sure glad he did.

Beck was instrumental in the Hurricanes earning

an at-large CFP bid and played a huge role in their Fiesta Bowl. He threw for 268 yards and two touchdowns with an interception — on a tipped pass — and orchestrated the game-winning drive behind Miami's massive offensive line after Ole Miss took the lead with three minutes left.

Beck took it in himself for the winning score, scrambling to the right for a 3-yard touchdown run with 18 seconds left. He's 36-5 as a starter.

"He's hungry, he's driven, he's a great human being, and all he wants to do is to see his team-

mates have success," Cristobal said. "And that's what we witnessed tonight."

Miami's defense certainly has played its part.

The Hurricanes were middle of the FBS pack defensively last season, but took huge strides under first-year coordinator Corey Hetherman. Miami allowed the fewest points per game since the 2001 national championship team — fourth nationally — and was 11th in the FBS in total yards allowed.

The Hurricanes gave up 398 yards in the Fiesta Bowl, but forced Ole Miss to kick five field goals — four makes — and made one last stand in the closing seconds after the Rebels reached Miami's 35.

"It's the simplicity of these guys," Cristobal said. "They know exactly who they are, and they know what it took to get us to this point and they were not settling for getting to this point just to get here. They weren't going to let anything get in the way."

Now the Hurricanes are headed back to Miami after playing five straight games away from home, one last hurdle in their way on the path to a national title.

The NCAA has denied Ole Miss QB Trinidad Chambliss' eligibility waiver. Rebels plan to appeal

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NCAA denied Mississippi's request to extend the eligibility of Trinidad Chambliss on Friday.

The Rebels star quarterback just finished his fifth year of college football in a 31-27 loss to Miami in the College Football Playoff semifinals on Thursday night.

He had planned to return to Ole Miss for one more year if the waiver was approved.

The NCAA said Ole Miss and Ferris State failed to provide adequate medical documentation to back up the request.

Ole Miss athletic director Keith Carter said his school will appeal the ruling.

"We are disappointed with today's announcement by the NCAA and plan to appeal the decision to the Committee level," Carter said in a social media post, in which he included the flag of Trinidad and Tobago. "Additionally, we will continue to work in conjunction with



Rick Scuteri / AP photo

Mississippi quarterback Trinidad Chambliss throws during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal game against Miami, Thursday, Jan. 8, in Glendale, Ariz.

Trinidad's representatives in other avenues of support."

Tom Mars, who is an attorney for Chambliss, said

he was disappointed but not surprised by the NCAA's decision.

"The last time I checked,

however, the only score that matters is the one at the end of the fourth quarter," Mars said.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMISSIONER'S SALE

V02 TAX SERVICE, LLC., Plaintiff, Against James a. Binkley, et al., Defendants

CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00237

BY VIRTUE of a Judgment and Order of Sale of the Christian Circuit Court, rendered on November 12, 2025 in the above cause, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the OFFICE OF THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY MASTER COMMISSIONER, LEE M. HARTON, at 1606 SOUTH MAIN STREET, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to the highest bidder at PUBLIC AUCTION on Monday, January 26, 2026, at or about the hour of 11:00 a.m., upon a credit of 10% of the sale price on day of sale, balance in 30 days, the real estate located at 202 Springmont Drive, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and described with particularity in Deed Book 398, Page 449, Office of the Christian County Clerk.

The judgment in this case is for approximately \$ 6,600.00 for the balance of the purchase price, the purchaser must execute bond with approved surety or sureties, bearing interest at 1% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and having the force and effect of a judgment. This sale is subject to all *ad valorem* taxes for 2026, *et seq.*

Bidders will be prepared to comply promptly with these terms. Any announcements made on date of sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein.

Bouchillon Law Co.
Louisville, KY
Counsel for Plaintiff

LEE M HARTON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
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I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Notice of Sale was this day served by United States mail, postage prepaid, to all parties not in default for failure to appear in accordance with CR 53.02 and 53.02(1).

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2025.

LEE M. HARTON

LEGAL NOTICE

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NEW AMERICAN FUNDING, LLC., Plaintiff, Against James Calvin Wilcox, et al., Defendants

CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00125

BY VIRTUE of a Judgment and Order of Sale of the Christian Circuit Court, rendered on October 28, 2025 in the above cause, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the OFFICE OF THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY MASTER COMMISSIONER, LEE M. HARTON, at 1606 SOUTH MAIN STREET, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to the highest bidder at PUBLIC AUCTION on Monday, January 26, 2026, at or about the hour of 11:00 a.m., upon a credit of 10% of the sale price on day of sale, balance in 30 days, the real estate located at 1498 South Clay Street, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and described with particularity in Deed Book 794, Page 43, Office of the Christian County Clerk.

The judgment in this case is for approximately \$ 187,700.00 for the balance of the purchase price, the purchaser must execute bond with approved surety or sureties, bearing interest at 6.12500% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and having the force and effect of a judgment. This sale is subject to all *ad valorem* taxes for 2026, *et seq.*

Bidders will be prepared to comply promptly with these terms. Any announcements made on date of sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein.

Reimer Law Co.
Newport, KY.
Counsel for Plaintiff

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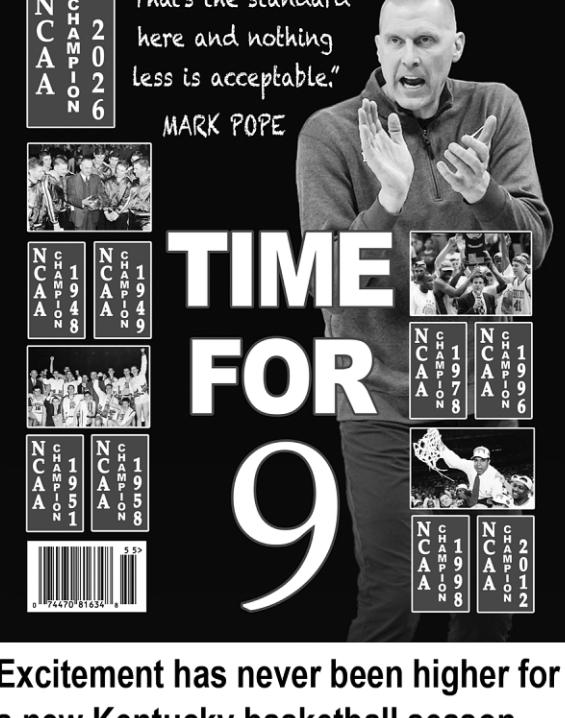
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