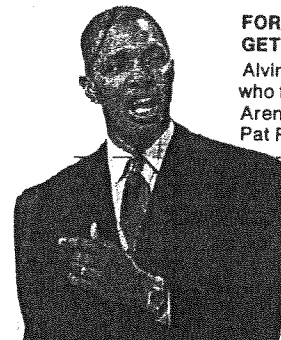


AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION ...  
GAILY NAMED DALLAS COACH, 3D  
Owner Jerry Jones says former Steelers  
offensive coordinator will 'put fire into  
the players when they see his skill level.'



# WEEKEND SPORTS



**FORMER HEAT COACH GENTRY  
GETS CHANCE IN DETROIT, 4D**  
Alvin Gentry hopes to turn his Pistons,  
who face the Heat tonight at Miami  
Arena (8, Sun shine), into a  
Pat Riley-type team.

SECTION

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INSIDE COLLECTIBLES, 2D; HORSE RACING, 5D; UM HOOPS MANAGER CELEBRATES SPECIAL DAY, 11D; TV LISTINGS, 13D; PREVIEW OF SATURDAY'S FANFEST, 14D

The Herald

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1998  
THE HERALD

# UM manager to enjoy his 'second birthday'

### He's celebrating new life after near-fatal crash

By D.L. CUMMINGS  
Herald Sports Writer

Adam Blomberg and his mother, Mara Young, will celebrate today.

The fact that it's Friday the 13th has nothing to do with it. Ms. Young is not superstitious, she's just happy. That's because the last two years she and Adam, the University of Miami's basketball team manager, have spent this day together. She calls it "Adam's second birthday."

On Feb. 13, 1995, Adam and a friend were driving to a UM-St. John's basketball game at Miami Arena when Adam almost died. Another car broadsided theirs on the corner of Sterling Road and Palm Avenue in Cooper City, and Blomberg, the passenger, flew out of the car and landed 39 feet away. He fell directly on his head and sustained a fractured skull. By the time EMS made it to Memorial Hospital in Hollywood, Blomberg had a blood clot the size of a fist on his brain and a collapsed lung.

"Basically, I was dead," Blomberg, 21, said recently while folding towels before a UM basketball game at the Arena. "They called me in dead on the way to the hospital."

"I heard the sirens," said his mother. "I'm still learning every siren doesn't mean it's Adam. You know, there's nothing like losing a son and getting him back."

Ms. Young said when she got to the hospital doctors told her Adam was not going to make it, that there was nothing they could do.

"It was in the Lord's hands," said Ron Blomberg, Adam's father and the answer to one of the most popular sports trivia questions as the first designated hitter in major-league baseball.

"I didn't know the extent of it until I got there," said Ron, who now lives in Atlanta. "It's very, very hard to see somebody you created in front of you injured. When I saw him, he had tubes running all through his body and

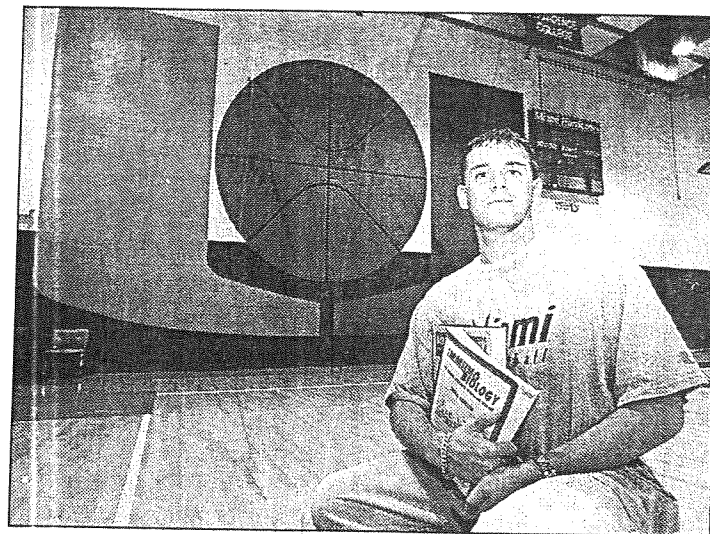
it was very difficult to stomach." Adam was in a coma, and had so much swelling in his brain that doctors deemed him unfit for surgery.

"There are patients with his type of injury that never function again," said Dr. Lynn Atkinson, the neurosurgeon in charge of Blomberg's care at Memorial.

But function again he did. In fact, he didn't miss a beat.

Nine days after the accident, the honors student at Cooper City High School started to get better. He was released and continued his rehabilitation at home. Unable to finish high school, Blomberg's grades were good enough that school officials allowed him to graduate while he rehabilitated at home. He lost 30 pounds, but nothing was going to keep him from his goal of attending UM and studying medicine.

"The first thing he said when they took him off the ventilator was this was never going to get him down and he was going to



NURI VALLBONA / Herald Staff

**BACK IN ACTION:** Three years ago, doctors said Adam Blomberg would not survive a severe head injury. Today he divides his time between managing the UM basketball team and studying to become a doctor.

medical school," Ms. Young said. "The last thing he said to the intensive care nurses when he was being wheeled out of the hospital was 'I'll be back.' Then he told all the nurses, 'You're going to see me 10 years from now and wonder, Who is that doctor?'"

It's only been three years, but Blomberg is well on his way to fulfilling his promise. Although doctors forced him to take a reduced course load his freshman year, the junior has a 3.82 grade-point average in Micro-Bi-

ology and Immunology and is on schedule to graduate on time. Blomberg, who said he wants to become a neurosurgeon because of his accident, hasn't decided on a medical school, though he is leaning toward UM.

Despite the busy class schedule, Blomberg makes time to manage the basketball team because, he says, it keeps him involved in sports. He was captain of the track team at Cooper City, and he planned before the accident to walk on the UM track team.

Now he channels his energy

toward basketball.

"No one on the team knows what he's been through, but he's definitely one of the best managers we have," said UM assistant coach Stan Jones.

However, school is the first priority, and because of his workload, Blomberg wouldn't be able to join the Hurricanes if they gain their first NCAA Tournament bid since 1960.

"I would love to go," he said. "But school comes first. And believe me, just being able to do what I'm doing is good enough for me."