

# FURMAN PALADINS IN PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Furman University, long noted for its consistent combination of athletic and academic excellence, boasts an impressive number of former student-athletes now in professional sports. In fact, during the 2003-04 school year, Furman counted 32 products competing at the professional level — the most of any Southern Conference member school.

From the National Football League (NFL), to the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour, to Major League Soccer (MLS), to the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour, former Furman student-athletes have distinguished themselves and their alma mater.

Furman's NFL connection consists of linebacker Orlando Ruff '99 of the New Orleans Saints and safety John Keith '00 of the San Francisco 49ers. Ruff, who earned All-America honors as a Paladin in 1998, completed his fifth professional season in 2003 by totaling 69 tackles and an interception in his first year with the Saints. Keith, meanwhile, spent his first four seasons with the San Francisco 49ers and tallied 17 tackles a year ago. He was a SoCon Defensive Player-of-the-Year and All-America pick in 1999.

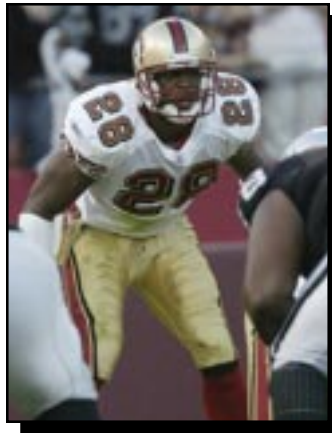
Furman's representative on the PGA Tour is Brad Faxon '83, who as a senior captured the Fred Haskins Award as the nation's top collegiate golfer. Winner of eight professional tournaments and more than \$8 million in career earnings, he has twice represented the United States in Ryder Cup competition.

Few collegiate women golf programs have produced more outstanding professionals than Furman, which boasts 11 former Lady Paladins on the LPGA Tour, including Hall-of-Famers Betsy King '77 (1995 inductee) and Beth Daniel '78 (1999 inductee). From 1989-94, King, Daniel, and Dottie Pepper '87 combined to capture Rolex LPGA Player-of-the-Year honors five times — a span of dominance rarely equaled by alumni of any college or university in all of professional sport — and in an eight-year stretch from 1987-94, the trio took home the LPGA's Vare Trophy (lowest stroke average) six times. All told, Furman graduates, have earned 14 Solheim Cup invitations and claimed

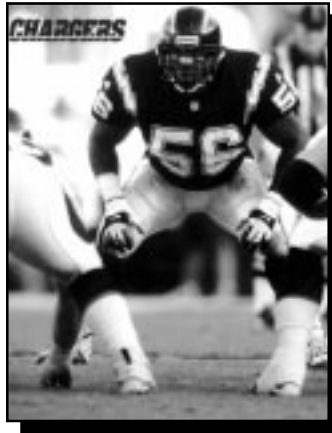
89 tournament titles over the years, including 10 major championships.

Two of Furman's most recent additions to the professional ranks include soccer standouts Ricardo Clark '02 and Clint Dempsey '03. Clark was the No. 2 overall draft pick of the MLS New York-New Jersey MetroStars in 2003 and finished as runner-up in league rookie-of-the-year voting. Dempsey, meanwhile, was the No. 8 overall draft selection of the New England Revolution earlier this year.

Other notable Furman products competing in the professional ranks include Rushia Brown



**John Keith**  
San Francisco 49ers



**Orlando Ruff**  
San Diego Chargers, New Orleans Saints



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**Brad Faxon**  
8 Career PGA Victories, 2 Ryder Cups



**Ricardo Clark**  
New York-New Jersey MetroStars



**Clint Dempsey**  
New England Revolution



**Betsy King**  
LPGA Hall-of-Fame, 34 Career Victories



**Beth Daniel**  
LPGA Hall-of-Fame, 32 Career Victories

## FURMAN PALADINS IN PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (Active or on 2003-04 rosters)

### Baseball

Tom Masty '03, RHP, Charleston, W.Va., Alleycats (SALY, A)  
Danny Rueckel '01, RHP, Harrisburg Senators (Eastern, AA)

### Men's Basketball

Guilherme Da Luz '03, G, Reggio Calabria, Italy (A League)  
Karim Souchu '03, F, Villeurbanne, France (A League)

### Women's Basketball

Rushia Brown '94, F, Charlotte Sting, WNBA

### Football

John Keith '00, S, San Francisco 49ers, NFL  
Orlando Ruff '99, LB, New Orleans Saints, NFL  
Jason Wells '00, PK, Orlando Predators, AFL

### Men's Golf

Brad Faxon '83, PGA Tour  
Rich Massey '90, Nationwide Tour

### Women's Golf

Caroline Blaylock '95, LPGA Tour  
Dara Broadus '01, Futures Tour  
Ashli Bunch '97, LPGA Tour  
Diana D'Aleesio '97, LPGA Tour  
Beth Daniel '78, LPGA Tour  
Jen Hanna '98, LPGA Tour  
Christina Harrell '99, Futures Tour  
Brandi Jackson '03, LPGA Tour  
Sarah Johnston '04, Futures Tour  
Denise Killeen '84, LPGA Tour  
Betsy King '77, LPGA Tour  
Leigh Turner '03, Futures Tour  
Sherri Turner '79, LPGA Tour  
Dottie Pepper '87, LPGA Tour  
Jennifer Perri '02, Futures Tour  
Maggie Will '87, LPGA Tour

### Soccer

Daniel Alvarez '00, Virginia Beach Mariners (A-League)  
Ricardo Clark '02, New York-New Jersey MetroStars, MLS  
Clint Dempsey '03, New England Revolution, MLS  
John Barry Nusum '01, Toronto Lynx (A-League)  
Ronnie Pascale '99, Richmond Kickers (A-League)  
Sergei Raad '02, Calgary Mustangs (A-League)

'94, John Barry Nusum '01, and Tom Mastny '03. Brown recently completed her seventh season in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) with the Cleveland Rockers and, most recently, the Charlotte Sting. Nusum, a member of the soccer A-League's Toronto Lynx, scored three goals for his native Bermuda in recent World Cup qualifying competition, and right-handed pitcher Tom Mastny '03 was selected to play in the 2004 South Atlantic League All-Star Game.