

# Heather Mitts

**Heather Mitts Feeley** (born June 9, 1978), née **Heather Blaine Mitts**, is an American former professional soccer defender. Mitts played college soccer for the University of Florida, and thereafter, she played professionally in the Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) league; for the Philadelphia Charge, Boston Breakers, Philadelphia Independence and Atlanta Beat. She is a three-time Olympic gold medalist, and was a member of the U.S. women's national team. She played in four matches in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, where the U.S. national team finished second. Mitts announced her retirement from soccer via Twitter on March 13, 2013.

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## Early life

Mitts was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 9, 1978,<sup>[1]</sup> and began playing soccer at the age of six.<sup>[2]</sup> From 1993 to 1996, she attended St. Ursula Academy in Cincinnati, where she played high school soccer and helped the team tally a 70-5-1 record during her time with the team. During her freshman season, the team won the state title. During her junior and senior years, Mitts earned all-state honors.<sup>[1][3]</sup>

## University of Florida Gators

Mitts received an athletic scholarship to attend the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, and played for coach Becky Burleigh's Florida Gators women's soccer team in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) competition from 1996 to 1999.<sup>[1]</sup> Mitts was part of the defensive line that helped the Gators win their first-ever NCAA Women's Soccer Championship in 1998.<sup>[1]</sup> She was named a third-team All-American in 1998 and a first-team All-American in 1999, and became the Gators' all-time record holder in appearances (95), starts (94), and minutes played (7,547).<sup>[1]</sup> She graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in advertising in 2000. She was inducted into the University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame as a "Gator Great" in 2013.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

## Club career

### Tampa Bay Extreme, 2000

Straight out of college, Mitts played for Tampa Bay Extreme of W-League in 2000 while waiting for the launch of the new Women's United Soccer Association league.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Philadelphia Charge, 2001-03

Upon the WUSA's launch and inaugural season in 2001, Mitts was drafted to the Philadelphia Charge.<sup>[7]</sup> With the club, she appeared in twenty games (1,751 minutes) in the inaugural season and added two assists. Throughout her Charge career, Mitts appeared in fifty-one games (4,414 minutes) and recorded eight assists over three seasons. She was named as a WUSA All-Star in 2003.<sup>[8]</sup> Unfortunately, after the 2003 season, the WUSA ceased operations.

Heather Mitts



Mitts in May 2010

#### Personal information

<b>Full name</b>	Heather Blaine Mitts Feeley
<b>Date of birth</b>	June 9, 1978
<b>Place of birth</b>	Cincinnati, Ohio
<b>Height</b>	5 <span> </span> ft 5 <span> </span> in (1.65 <span> </span> m)
<b>Playing position(s)</b>	Defender / Right back

#### College career

<b>Years</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Apps</b>	<b>(Gls)</b>
1996–1999	University of Florida		

#### Senior career\*

<b>Years</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Apps</b>	<b>(Gls)</b>
2000	Tampa Bay Extreme		
2001–2003	Philadelphia Charge	51	(0)
2005	Central Florida Krush	4	(0)
2009	Boston Breakers	19	(0)
2010	Philadelphia Independence	17	(0)
2011	Atlanta Beat	8	(0)
2013	Boston Breakers	0	(0)

#### National team‡

1999–2013	United States	137	(2)
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#### Honours

#### Women's football

#### Representing the  United States

#### Olympic Games

<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> <b>G</b>	2004 Athens	Team competition
<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> <b>G</b>	2008 Beijing	Team competition
<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> <b>G</b>	2012 London	Team competition

#### FIFA Women's World Cup

<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> <b>S</b>	2011 Germany	Team competition
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\* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only and correct as of October 28, 2009

‡ National team caps and goals correct as of December 15, 2012

## Central Florida Krush, 2005

Mitts returned to the W-League in 2005, playing sparingly for Central Florida Krush while splitting her time between the United States Women's National Team. She appeared in four games (360 minutes).

## WPS Years, 2009–11



Heather Mitts signing autographs for fans in 2011.

Upon the introduction of Women's Professional Soccer, Mitts and fellow USWNT players Angela Hucles and Kristine Lilly were allocated to the Boston Breakers on September 16, 2008.<sup>[9]</sup> In the inaugural 2009 Women's Professional Soccer season, Mitts appeared in nineteen games (all starts, 1,631 minutes) and added an assist.<sup>[10]</sup> After the season, the Boston Breakers declared Mitts a free agent.

On October 14, 2009, Mitts signed with 2010 WPS expansion team Philadelphia Independence, marking her return to play professional soccer in Philadelphia following the demise of the WUSA's Philadelphia Charge.<sup>[10]</sup>

In January 2011, Mitts signed with the Atlanta Beat and played right defensive back during the 2011 season.<sup>[11]</sup>



Mitts with the Independence in May 2010

## NWSL, 2013

In 2013, Mitts was allocated to the Boston Breakers in the new National Women's Soccer League; however, she retired before the start of the season.<sup>[12]</sup>

## International career

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Mitts is a three-time Olympic gold medalist as a member of the U.S. National Women's team in the 2004, 2008, and 2012 Summer Olympics winning gold in all three Olympics. She has also represented the United States in over 100 international matches. She was also a member of the U.S. national team who finished second in the 2006 Algarve Cup.<sup>[10]</sup>

On May 12, 2007, Mitts tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in an international friendly match with Canada. The injury put Mitts out of contention for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.<sup>[13]</sup>

On May 9, 2011, Mitts was named to the U.S. roster for the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup tournament in Germany.<sup>[14]</sup> She was on the United States women's soccer team roster for the 2012 London Olympics, and played all 90 minutes of the match against Colombia in group stage.<sup>[15]</sup>

On March 13, 2013, Mitts officially announced her retirement from the national team as well as the Breakers. She serves as a sideline reporter for Philadelphia Union games and has become a team ambassador.<sup>[16]</sup>



## Career statistics

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### International goals

Mitts scored 2 goals in international matches, which are both game winners.

	Key (expand for notes on "international goals" and sorting)
<b>Location</b>	Geographic location of the venue where the competition occurred Sorted by country name first, then by city name
<b>Lineup</b>	Start – played entire match on <i>minute</i> (off <i>player</i> ) – substituted on at the <i>minute</i> indicated, and <i>player</i> was substituted off at the same time off <i>minute</i> (on <i>player</i> ) – substituted off at the <i>minute</i> indicated, and <i>player</i> was substituted on at the same time (c) – captain Sorted by minutes played
<b>Min</b>	The minute in the match the goal was scored. For list that include caps, blank indicates played in the match but did not score a goal.
<b>Assist/pass</b>	The ball was passed by the player, which <u>assisted</u> in scoring the goal. This column depends on the availability and source of this information.
<i>penalty or pk</i>	Goal scored on <u>penalty-kick</u> which was awarded due to foul by opponent. (Goals scored in penalty-shoot-out, at the end of a tied match after extra-time, are not included.)
<b>Score</b>	The match score after the goal was scored. Sorted by goal difference, then by goal scored by the player's team
<b>Result</b>	The final score. Sorted by goal difference in the match, then by goal difference in penalty-shoot-out if it is taken, followed by goal scored by the player's team in the match, then by goal scored in the penalty-shoot-out. For matches with identical final scores, match ending in extra-time without penalty-shoot-out is a tougher match, therefore precede matches that ended in regulation
aet	The score at the end of <u>extra-time</u> ; the match was tied at the end of 90' regulation
pso	<u>Penalty-shoot-out</u> score shown in parenthesis; the match was tied at the end of extra-time
	<i>Light-purple background color</i> – <u>exhibition</u> or closed door international friendly match
NOTE: some keys may not apply for a particular football player	

	Date	Location	Opponent	Lineup	Min	Assist/pass	Score	Result	Compe
1	Jul 3, 2004 <sup>[17]</sup>	<u>Nashville TN</u>	 <u>Canada</u>	Start	73	<u>Shannon Boxx</u>	1–0	1–0	<u>Friendl</u>
2	Sep 25, 2004 <sup>[18]</sup>	<u>Rochester NY</u>	 <u>Iceland</u>	on 46' (off <u>Reddick</u> )	93+	<u>Julie Foudy</u>	4–3	4–3	<u>Friendl</u>

## Personal life

Mitts has held a number of television commentary jobs. She has served as a studio soccer analyst for ABC, ESPN and ESPN2 during the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup and was a sideline reporter for several MLS broadcasts in 2005. In addition to broadcasting soccer, she also was a sideline reporter for American college football during fall 2005 for ESPN.<sup>[10]</sup>

Mitts married NFL quarterback A. J. Feeley in February 2010.<sup>[19]</sup> They have a son born in 2014, a daughter born in 2016, and a son born in 2018.<sup>[20]</sup>

Mitts runs a soccer camp every year throughout the United States in which she teaches the basics of soccer including: dribbling, juggling, foot-skills, passing, receiving. These are one-day soccer camps that teach children to grasp the fundamentals of soccer and allow them to continue their growth and understanding of the sport.<sup>[21]</sup>

## Honors

- CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament: 2008, 2012
- CONCACAF Women's Championship: 2006
- Olympic Gold Medal: 2004, 2008, 2012

## See also

- All-time Boston Breakers (WPS) roster
- List of ESPN Major League Soccer personalities
- List of multiple Olympic gold medalists in one event
- List of Olympic medalists in football
- List of Philadelphia Union broadcasters
- List of University of Florida alumni
- List of University of Florida Olympians
- List of University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame members

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## External links

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- Official website (<http://www.heathermitts.com/>)
- US Soccer player profile (<https://web.archive.org/web/20121120064812/http://www.ussoccer.com/Teams/WNT/M/Heather-Mitts.aspx>)
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