



TERANCE MANN

A leader among Seminole leaders

*By Hope Carpinello
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Sophomore Terance Mann, a guard on the Florida State basketball team, is quickly becoming one of the Seminoles' most respected leaders. He has raised the bar on his expectations for his sophomore season after being a member of Florida State's renowned recruiting class in 2015.

The spotlight of being a collegiate athlete comes with a great amount of responsibility both on and off the court — something Mann learned early in his life.

He grew up watching his mother, a college basketball coach, encourage her players to participate in community outreach efforts. Through such efforts, Mann saw firsthand the significant impact student-athletes can make on their communities.

"When I got to high school, my coach was really big on community service. He would always take us places to play basketball with kids," Mann said. "He always taught us that these kids look up to us."

That powerful lesson has been the reason for his constant involvement in his community. For Mann, community service isn't looked at as a chore, but an opportunity to be positive role model.

"I know that a lot of people look up to athletes around this community," Mann said. "Going out and showing kids that we are normal people just like them is a big deal. Some people are quick to say things like, 'Oh well, they are just athletes and they don't care about anything or anyone else,' and that's absolutely not true. Showing the community we are just like them really helps us to be better people and helps our community."

Last season, the Florida State men's basketball team partnered with the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend in Coaching for Literacy, a program designed to raise awareness about illiteracy in America and provide financial support to raise funds for effective local literacy programs.

"I am so proud when our players support our community and give back to the people who mean so much to our program." Seminole head coach Leonard Hamilton said. "Our players enjoy meeting and interacting with children of all ages because they know that they are role models."

The Coaching for Literacy event was held at The Florida State University Children's Center, where members of the team, including Mann, read the "Cat in the Hat" to children on Dr. Seuss Day.



"Terance is one of our leaders because he knows his actions affect how people view our team," Hamilton said. "For Terance

to embrace community service as much as he has says a lot about him as a person and about his own family. He comes from a wonderful, close-knit family that has instilled in him a deep appreciation for giving back."

In addition to his role on the men's basketball team, Mann is an active member in several student-athlete organizations, including the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and leadership programs REAL Men (Reliable Educated Approachable Leaders) and LYFE (Leaders Yearning for Excellence).

"REAL Men focuses on social issues that face male student-athletes — from picking the right friends to preparing and knowing how to network, to using their platform to build yourself and be an assistant to others," Assistant Director of Student Service Derrick Coles said. "Terance has been very vocal in our meetings, sharing his experiences and insights. He has so much potential to be one of the guys that becomes remembered not just for his on-the-court accomplishments, but his off-the-court endeavors [as well]."

Mann also has been recognized as a key service leader in Florida State's LYFE program, where he received the "Mr. Outreach Award" as a freshman.

"Receiving that award made me realize that I didn't know how much I was actually doing for the community," Mann said. "It was nice to win the award and to know the impact I was making. I don't do it for the awards. Anyone could have won it. We all were out there doing community service in LYFE. It was a big deal."

LYFE is a program that is dedicated to preparing student-athletes for life after graduation by increasing academic motivation and success as well as potential career opportunities and this year.

"Terance embodies the ideals and characteristics we want all of our student-athletes to exhibit every day," Assistant Athletics Director for Student Athlete Services Dr. John Lata said. "He inspires his teammates on a daily basis by his selflessness and commitment to service."

Even with the start of basketball season, Mann continues to stay plugged in to his leadership role as a student-athlete mentor for current FSU freshmen.

"The high standards Terance sets for himself, in terms of giving back, help guide his teammates and other student-athletes," Lata said. "We are proud of how he represents himself, his family, and Florida State University."