

FSU's Phil Cofer Granted Fifth Year of Eligibility To Play for Seminoles

By Safid Deen
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Florida State forward Phil Cofer, an instrumental contributor to the Seminoles' Elite Eight run last season, was granted a fifth year of eligibility by the NCAA, the school announced on Friday.

Cofer and FSU petitioned for a medical redshirt in his sophomore season in 2015-16, in which he sustained a foot injury that limited him to 11 games – one more than the NCAA threshold of 30 percent required for a medical hardship.

With Cofer's return, head coach Leonard Hamilton will have a stable, veteran presence to help the Seminoles pursue another deep NCAA tournament run during the 2018-19 season.

"We're trying to repeat what we did last year," Cofer said on Friday.

Cofer finished his senior season as FSU's leading scorer, averaging 12.8 points with 5.1 rebounds per game, shooting 48.6 percent from the field and nearly 70 percent at the free-throw line.

His versatile play and improved shooting helped the Seminoles reach their first Elite Eight since 1993, and first Sweet 16 appearance since 2011.

Now, Cofer's presence will help FSU offset the departures of backup point guard C.J. Walker, who transferred to Ohio State, and backup center Ike Obiagu, who transferred to Seton Hall.

"I'm so happy for him and happy for his teammates because we get to continue the growth of our program," Hamilton said.

"Not only is he a good player for us, but he has great leadership qualities that will really, really be the type of leadership we need for this team. ... We feel that we can be better this coming season than we were last year."