

NO. 15/17 FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES (1-0, 0-0 ACC)

AT

TULANE GREEN WAVE (0-0, 0-0 CUSA)

AVRON B. FOGELMAN ARENA AT THE DEVLIN FIELDHOUSE (4,100)

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018; 7:00 PM ET

ESPN3 (TIM GRUBBS, VICTOR HOWELL)

SEMINOLE IMG RADIO NETWORK (ERIC LUAllen)

"It starts with the Seminole defense. They're tough and long and quick. Unbelievably long with (Christ) Koumadje on the court. And discipline ... how connected they are defensively is really impressive. Their culture seems to be in a really good place."

Mike White
University of Florida

SEMINOLES TRAVEL TO NEW ORLEANS TO TAKE ON TULANE

No. 15/17 Florida State, which defeated Florida by an 81-60 margin in its season opener on Tuesday night in Tallahassee, travels to play at Tulane at the Avron B. Fogelman Arena at the Devlin Field House on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. ET. The Seminoles' game against the Green Wave is their second against each other in the last two seasons after Florida State took a 72-53 win at the Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla., on December 10, 2017. The game between the two former Metro Conference rivals is the Seminoles' only true non-conference road game of the season and first game in the state of Louisiana since falling to LSU in the Sugar Bowl Classic by a 67-50 margin on Dec. 30, 2004. Following Sunday's game against Tulane, the Seminoles play host to Canisius as part of the AdvoCare Invitational on Monday, Nov 19, at 7:00 before traveling to Orlando for their remaining three games in the tournament. The event is played at the HP Field House at Walt Disney World.

FLORIDA STATE VS. TULANE – A SERIES HISTORY

Florida State will play Tulane on Nov. 11, 2018 at the Avron B. Fogelman Arena at the Devlin Fieldhouse – on Tulane's campus. The game is Florida State's only true non-conference road game of the regular season. The Seminoles and the Green Wave will meet for the 37th time and second time in the last two seasons after Florida State took a 72-53 win on Dec. 10, 2017 at the Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. The Seminoles (1976-91) and the Green Wave (1975-85) were co-members of the Metro Conference from 1976-1985. Tulane left the Metro in 1985 when it dropped its men's basketball program, but rejoined the league when it reinstated the sport in 1989. The Seminoles left the Metro in 1991 when it joined the ACC. The Seminoles lead the all-time series by a 24-12 margin and have won seven of the last nine games played between the two teams. Tulane is coached by Mike Dunleavy, Sr. Dunleavy, a 17-year veteran coach of the NBA, is in his third season at Tulane. As the general manager of the Los Angeles Clippers, he drafted former Seminole All-American Al Thornton with the 14th pick in the 2007 NBA Draft. Dunleavy played and graduated from South Carolina in 1976, but never played against the Seminoles during his collegiate career as the Gamecocks didn't join the Metro Conference until the 1980-81 season.

FLORIDA STATE'S DEFENSIVE EFFORT AGAINST FLORIDA

No. 15/17 Florida State limited Florida to 60 points, a .370 shooting percentage from the field and a .250 shooting mark from the 3-point line in its 81-60 win over the Gators at the Donald L. Tucker Center in Tallahassee on Tuesday in the season-opener for both teams. The Seminoles forced a total of 16 turnovers, earned nine steals and held Florida to 20 points in the first half in winning their school-record fifth consecutive game against Florida. Florida State held Florida to 20 points in the first 20 minutes of the game, to 30 points in the first 29:44 of the game and led by 35 points (74-39 with 5:31 remaining in the game) in the win. The Seminoles limited the Gators' starting five to .366 percent shooting from the field (11 of 30) and .286 shooting from the 3-point line (four of 14).

THREE-JAY SAVOY CONTINUES TO FIND HIS (LONG) RANGE

Senior PJ Savoy led the Seminoles with 20 points on five-of-eight shooting from the 3-point line in Florida State's 81-60 win over Florida on Tuesday night. It marked the fifth time in his career as a Seminole that he had made at least five 3-point shots in a single game and the second time he had scored at least 20 points in a game since his arrival in Tallahassee as a sophomore. He scored his career-high of 27 points (on a career-high seven 3-point shots made) in Florida State's 98-49 win over Southern Miss on Dec. 6, 2016. Savoy enters Sunday's game against Tulane ranked eighth in school history with a career 3-point shooting percentage of .391 (95 of 243). He needs only five 3-point field goals made to become just the 22nd player in school history with 100 or more 3-point field goals made.

LOOK FOR FLORIDA STATE TO...

...Defeat Tulane and up its record to 2-0. It would mark the fourth consecutive season and 13th time in 17 seasons under Head Coach Leonard Hamilton the Seminoles; would win at least third first two games of a season;
...Defeat Tulane and gain a win over the Green wave for the fifth time in the last six meetings;
...Defeat Tulane and gain a true road win against the Green Wave for the first time since Feb. 20, 1990 when the Seminoles won, 69-67, at Fogelman Arena in New Orleans.

2018-19 Florida State Schedule

O26	1 West Florida	W, 96-56
N1	1 Valdosta State	W, 99-77
N6	Florida	W, 81-60
N11	at Tulane	7:00 p.m.
N19	Canisius	7:00 p.m.
N22-25	2 at AdvoCare Invitational	
N22	2 UAB	9:30 p.m.
N23	2 Charleston/LSU	TBD
N25	2 TBD	TBD
N28	3 Purdue	9:15 p.m.
D3	Troy	8:00 p.m.
D8	4 vs. UConn	6:30 p.m.
D17	Southeast Missouri	7:00p.m.
D19	North Florida	7:00p.m.
D22	5 St. Louis	2:30 p.m.
J1	Winthrop	2:00 p.m.
J5	* at Virginia	3:00 p.m.
J9	* Miami	9:00 p.m.
J12	* Duke	2:00 p.m.
J14	* at Pitt	7:00 p.m.
J20	* at Boston College	12 Noon
J22	* Clemson	7:00 p.m.
J27	* at Miami	6:00 p.m.
F2	* Georgia Tech	12 Noon
F5	* at Syracuse	8:00 pm.
F9	* Louisville	4:00 p.m.
F13	* Wake Forest	7:00 p.m.
F16	* at Georgia Tech	2:00 p.m.
F19	* at Clemson	9:00 p.m.
F23	* at North Carolina	3:45 p.m.
F25	* Notre Dame	7:00 p.m.
M2	* NC State	12 Noon
M5	* Virginia Tech	7:00 p.m.
M9	* at Wake Forest	12 Noon
M12-16	at ACC Tournament	TBD

1 – Exhibition Game and Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.; 2 – AdvoCare Invitational, HP Field House, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.; 3 – ACC / Big Ten Challenge, Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.; 4 – Never Forget Tribute Classic, Prudential Center, Newark, N.J.; 5 – Metro PCS Orange Bowl Basketball Classic, BB&T Center, Sunrise, Fla.; ACC Tournament, Spectrum Center, Charlotte, N.C.

2017-18 ACC Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Virginia	17	1	.944	31	3	.912
Duke	13	5	.722	29	8	.784
Miami	11	7	.611	22	10	.688
Clemson	11	7	.611	24	10	.706
NC State	11	7	.611	21	12	.636
N. Carolina	11	7	.611	26	11	.703
Virginia Tech	10	8	.556	21	12	.636
Florida State	9	9	.600	23	12	.657
Louisville	9	9	.529	22	14	.611
Notre Dame	8	10	.444	21	15	.583
Syracuse	8	10	.444	23	13	.639
Boston College	7	11	.389	19	16	.543
Georgia Tech	6	12	.333	13	19	.406
Wake Forest	4	14	.222	11	20	.355
Pittsburgh	0	18	.000	8	24	.250

For Information on FSU Basketball
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**Florida State Men's Basketball
In the National Polls**

ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL

Rk.	Team	17-18 Rec.
1.	Kansas (27)	21-8
2.	Kentucky (19)	26-11
3.	Gonzaga (1)	3205
4.	Duke (4)	29-8
5.	Virginia (2)	31-3
6.	Tennessee (1)	26-9
7.	Nevada	29-8
8.	North Carolina	26-11
9.	Villanova (1)	36-4
10.	Michigan State	30-5
11.	Auburn	26-8
12.	Kansas State	25-12
13.	West Virginia	26-11
14.	Oregon	23-13
15.	Virginia Tech	21-12
16.	Syracuse	23-14
17.	FLORIDA STATE	23-12
18.	Mississippi State	25-12
19.	Michigan	33-8
20.	TCU	21-12
21.	UCLA	21-12
22.	Clemson	25-10
23.	LSU	18-15
24.	Purdue	30-7
25.	Washington	21-13

USA TODAY POLL

Rk.	Team	17-18 Tourn.
1.	Kansas (14)	NCAA
2.	Kentucky (12)	NCAA
3.	Duke (4)	NCAA
4.	Gonzaga (1)	NCAA
5.	Virginia (1)	NCAA
6.	Tennessee	NCAA
7.	North Carolina	NCAA
8.	Villanova	NCAA
9.	Nevada	NCAA
10.	Michigan State	NCAA
11.	Kansas State	NCAA
12.	Auburn	NCAA
13.	West Virginia	NCAA
14.	Syracuse	NCAA
15.	FLORIDA STATE	NCAA
16.	Oregon	NIT
17.	Virginia Tech	NCAA
18.	Michigan	NCAA
19.	Mississippi State	NIT
20.	UCLA	NCAA
21.	TCU	NCAA
22.	Purdue	NCAA
23.	Clemson	NCAA
24.	Washington	NIT
25.	Nebraska	NIT

PRESEASON ACC POLL

ACC OPERATION BASKETBALL

Rk.	Team (FPV)	Points
1.	Duke (52)	1,709
2.	Virginia (47)	1,699
3.	North Carolina (20)	1,641
4.	Syracuse (1)	1,268
5.	Virginia Tech	1,187
6.	Clemson (1)	1,148
7.	FLORIDA STATE	1,127
8.	NC State	885
9.	Notre Dame	859
10.	Miami	816
11.	Louisville	735
12.	Boston College	568
13.	Georgia Tech	324
14.	Wake Forest	313
15.	Pittsburgh	241

THE LAST TIME FLORIDA STATE WON AT FOGELMAN ARENA ON FEB. 20, 1990

The last time the Seminoles won at Fogelman Arena (69-67, Feb. 20, 1990), both Michael Polite (11 points and 13 rebounds in 36 minutes) and Lorenzo Hands (zero points in three minutes of playing time) played for Florida State in the victory. As the Seminoles get set to play on Nov 11, 2018, the sons of both Polite (Anthony) and Hands (Ty) are on Florida State's current roster. Anthony Polite scored five points and pulled down one rebound in Florida State's 81-60 win over Florida on Tuesday night. Ty Hands is currently sidelined while recovering from a knee injury.

SEMINOLES BEGIN SEASON IN NATION'S TOP 15

Florida State began the 2018-19 season ranked in virtually every national preseason top-15 poll. The Seminoles are ranked No. 15 in the USA Today Coaches Poll and No. 17 in the preseason Associated Press poll – the highest preseason ranking by the AP since beginning the season at No. 9 to start the 1992-93 season. Florida State's ranking marks the first time the Seminoles are in the preseason poll since the 2012-13 season.

FLORIDA STATE LOOKING TO PLAY IN ITS THIRD CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT

The Seminoles will look to follow up their NCAA Tournament Elite Eight appearance in 2018 with their third consecutive selection to the NCAA Tournament in 2019. It would mark the fourth time in school history the Seminoles would have appeared in the NCAA Tournament in three consecutive seasons. Florida State most recently played in three consecutive NCAA Tournaments in 2010, 2011 and 2012 – during a string of a school-record four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances (2009-2012). The Seminoles won the ACC Championship in 2012.

HAMILTON AMONG ALL-TIME ACC VICTORY LEADERS

Seminole head coach Leonard Hamilton, the winningest coach in Florida State history, enters Sunday's game against Tulane ranked eighth in ACC history in total wins with 306. Hamilton needs only 22 wins to surpass Virginia coaching legend Terry Holland for seventh place on the ACC's all-time coaching wins list.

Career Victories – All Games – ACC History

Rank	Coach, School	Wins
1.	Mike Kyzyzewski, Duke	1,028
2.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	879
3.	Gary Williams, Maryland	461
4.	Roy Williams, North Carolina	425
5.	Bobby Cremins, Georgia Tech	354
6.	Lefty Driesell, Maryland	348
7.	Terry Holland, Virginia	326
8.	Leonard Hamilton, Florida State	306

FLORIDA STATE SCORING AT SOLID PACE

Florida State, which scored 81 points in its victory over Florida on Tuesday, continues to be one of the highest scoring teams in the ACC. The Seminoles were one of five conference teams to score at least 80 point on Tuesday night as all 10 of the league's teams in action earned victories. With at least 80 points scored in three of their final four games of the 2015-16 season, the Seminoles have scores at least 80 points in 39 of their last 75 overall games and in 19 of their last 36 games not against ACC opponents dating back to an 84-74 win over Davidson in the first round of the 2016 NIT on March 15, 2016. Against Florida, each Seminole who earned at least five minutes of playing time (11 players) scored at least one field goal with seven players scoring the first half.

Seminole's Recent Scoring

Season	Games	Points	PPG	Leading Scorer
2016-17	35 (26-9)	2,873	82.1	Dwayne Bacon, 17.2 ppg
2017-18	35 (23-12)	2,806	80.2	Phil Cofer, 12.8 ppg
2018-19	1 (1-0)	81	81.0	PJ Savoy, 20.0 ppg
Totals	71 (50-21)	5,760	81.2	At least 80 points scored in 36 of 71 games

SEMINOLES CONTINUE TO EARN STEALS AT A HIGH RATE

Led by two steals each by sophomore M.J. Walker and senior David Nichols, Florida State earned nine steals in its 81-60 win over Florida on Tuesday in Tallahassee. A total of seven different Seminoles recorded at least one steal as Florida State turned 16 Florida turnovers into 18 points off of those turnovers. Florida State finished sixth in the ACC in steals per game with a 6.9 steals per game average during the 2017-18 season. In their win over Florida, seven different Seminoles totaled at least one steal.

FLORIDA STATE FROM THE BONUS SPHERE

Led by five 3-point field goals made by senior PJ Savoy, Florida State made 11 shots and shot .478 (11 of 23) from the 3-point line in its win over Florida. It marked the seventh time in the last two seasons the Seminoles had made at least 10 3-point shots in a game – the Seminoles are 7-0 in those games with victories over Kennesaw State (No. 22, 2017), The Citadel (Nov. 24, 2017), Loyola, Md. (Dec. 6, 2018), Southern Miss (Dec. 21, 2017), North Carolina (Jan. 3, 2018), Syracuse (Jan. 13, 2018) and Florida (Nov. 6, 2018). A total of six different Seminoles made at least one 3-point field goal against the Gators.

Seminole's From The 3-Point Line

Season	3FGM	3FGA	Pct.	Notes
2018-19	11	23	.478	PJ Savoy leads team with 5 3FGM vs. Florida
2017-18	273	781	.350	PJ Savoy ranked second on team with 50 3FGM
Improvement			+.128	Florida State averages 7.9 3FGM in last two seasons

SEMINOLES GETTING BACK TO JUNKYARD DOG DEFENSE

Florida State limited Florida to 60 points on .370 shooting from the field in its 81-60 win over the Gators on Tuesday night in Tallahassee. In advancing the to the Elite Eight of the 2018 NCAA Tournament, Florida State held its four tournament opponents to a combined .379 shooting mark from the field (Missouri, .327 field goal percentage in a 67-54 Seminole win; Xavier, .469 in a 75-70 Seminole win; Gonzaga, .339 in a 75-60 Seminole win and Michigan, .388 in a 58-54 Wolverine win).

**Florida State Men's Basketball
Upcoming Milestones**

Leonard Hamilton

Victories as an ACC Coach

306 (Career at Florida State)

+21 (Needs)

327

To Become the 7th Winningest Coach in ACC History (all victories)

Leonard Hamilton

ACC Victories

(Regular Season + ACC Tourn.)

136 (career at Florida State)

+4 (Needs)

140

To Become the 7th Winningest Coach in ACC history (ACC games) – surpassing Lefty Driesell of Maryland

Leonard Hamilton

Wins vs. AP No. 1 In Career

3 (career at Florida State)

+3 (Needs)

To move into a tie for first place in ACC history with Mike Krzyzewski (Duke) and Gary Williams (Maryland) for all-time wins vs. the nation's No. 1 ranked team

Christ Koumadje

Career Blocked Shots

95 (career at Florida State)

+6 (Needs)

101

To move into 15th place in school history for career blocked shots passing Xavier Gibson (2009-12)

PJ Savoy

Career-3-Point Shots Made

95 (career at Florida State)

+5 (needs)

100

To become the 22nd player in school history to make 100 career 3-point field goals

PJ Savoy

Career-3-Point Shots Attempted

243 (career at Florida State)

+13 (Needs)

256

To move into a tie for 25th place in school history for 3-point shots attempted with Todd Galloway (2003-06)

Terance Mann

Career Steals

88 (career at Florida State)

+35 (Needs)

123

To move into a tie for 25th place for career steals with Douglas Edwards (1991-93) and Michael Joiner (2001-04)

Terance Mann

Career Points

909 (career at Florida State)

+ 91 (needs)

1,000

To become the 47th player in school history to 1,000 or more career points. With 1,000 career points, Mann would tie Ray Swain (1960-62) for 46th place in scoring in school history

POSSIBLE STARTING LINEUP FOR FLORIDA STATE...

C	#21	Christ Koumadje (9.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg; First career game against Tulane)
G	#3	Trent Forrest (13.0 ppg, 5.0 apg; 12 pts, 6 rebs and 4 steals against Tulane, Dec. 10, 2017)
G	#5	PJ Savoy (20.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg; 6 pts and 2 rebs against Tulane, Dec. 10, 2017)
G	#14	Terance Mann (9.0 ppg, 9.0 fpg; 12 pts and 4 rebs against Tulane, Dec. 10, 2017)
G	#23	M.J. Walker (10.0 ppg, 2.0 rpg; 6 pts and 4 rebs against Tulane, Dec. 10, 2017)

...AND TOP RESERVES

F	#25	Mfiondu Kabengele (5.0 ppg, 1.0 rpg; 9 pts and 4 rebs against Tulane, Dec. 10, 2017)
G	#31	Wyatt Wilkes (2.0 ppg, 30 rpg; 0 pts and 0 rebs against Tulane, Dec. 10, 2017)
F	#1	RaiQuan Gray (2.0 ppg, 2.0 rpg; First career game against Tulane)
G	#10	David Nichols (3.0 ppg, 2.0 spg; First career game against Tulane)
G	#24	Devin Vassell (3.0 ppg, 1.0 spg; First career game against Tulane)

POSSIBLE STARTING LINEUP FOR TULANE

F	#21	Samir Sehic (10.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg;
F	#23	Blake Paul (3.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg; 12 pts and 8 rebs vs. Florida State, Dec. 10, 2017)
G	#0	Jordan Cornish (9.9 ppg, 3.3 apg; 2 pts and 1 ast vs. Florida State, Dec. 10, 2017)
G	#3	Ray Ona Embo (10.1 ppg, 3.3 apg; 8 pts and 4 rebs vs. Florida State, Dec. 10, 2017)
G	#10	Caleb Daniels (6.4 ppg, 2.2 rpg; 0 pts and 4 rebs vs. Florida State, Dec. 10, 2017)

FLORIDA STATE VS. TULANE - A SERIES HISTORY

The Series:	Florida State leads, 24-12
First Game:	Jan. 14, 1967, at Tulane 87, Florida State 85
Last Game:	Dec. 10, 2017; Florida State 72, Tulane 53 (at Tampa, Fla.)
Last Florida State Win:	Dec. 10, 2017; Florida State 72, Tulane 53 (at Tampa, Fla.)
Last Tulane Win:	Dec. 5, 1995; at Tulane 78, Florida State 77
Last Florida State Win In New Orleans:	Feb. 20, 1990; Florida State 69, Tulane 67
Last Tulane Win In New Orleans:	Dec. 5, 1995; at Tulane 78, Florida State 77
Current Streak:	Florida State has won 1
Current Streak In New Orleans:	Tulane has won 1

FLORIDA STATE VS. TULANE – THE LAST FOUR GAMES

<u>Dec. 10, 2017</u>	<u>Dec. 5, 1995</u>	<u>Dec. 10, 1994</u>	<u>March 20, 1993</u>
Florida State 72	Florida State 77	at Florida State 81	Florida State 94
vs. Tulane 53	at Florida State 78	Tulane 74	Tulane 63
(at Tampa, Fla.)			(at Orlando, Fla. – NCAA)

FLORIDA STATE VS. TULANE – THE LAST GAME

Braian Angola had 18 points and eight rebounds to lead Florida State to a 72-53 win over Tulane at the Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. Florida State jumped out to a 21-7 lead midway through the first half after a 10-0 run. Tulane answered with a 10-2 run to close to gap to 23-17 but the Seminoles scored the final six points of the half to take a 29-17 lead. Cameron Reynolds scored five straight for Tulane early in the second half to cut the deficit to eight but with Trent Forrest scoring back-to-back baskets, Florida State scored five straight points to put the lead into double figures for good. After a Reynolds bucket the Seminoles put the game away with 10 straight, four from Forrest, to lead 52-31 with 10:25 to play. Forrest and Terance Mann each had 12 points for the Seminoles. Reynolds led the Green Wave with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Blake Paul added 12 points and eight rebounds but got into early foul trouble in the second half. Florida State got its offense rolling in the second half, shooting 58 percent (15 for 26) from the floor, including five of nine behind the arc. The Green Wave had 19 turnovers and Florida State scored 17 points off those mistakes. The Seminoles bench outscored Tulane's bench, 33-15.

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS

Tonight's referee is Don Dailey and the umpires are Joe Lindsay and Chuck Jones.

2018-19 FLORIDA STATE ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
0	Phil Cofer	F	6-8	230	RSr.	Fayetteville, Ga./Whitewater
1	RaiQuan Gray	F	6-8	260	RFr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Dillard
3	Trent Forrest	G	6-5	210	Jr.	Chipley, Fla./Chipley
4	Ty Hands	G	6-5	180	Fr.	West Palm Beach, Fla./Palm Beach Lakes
5	PJ Savoy	G	6-4	210	Sr.	Las Vegas, Nev./Sheridan College
10	Malik Osborne	F	6-9	215	So.	Matteson, Ill./Bosco Institute/Rice
11	David Nichols	G	6-1	185	Sr.	Chicago, Ill./Mount Carmel/Albany
13	Anthony Polite	G	6-6	215	RFr.	Lugano, Switzerland/St. Andrews Christian School (Fla.)
14	Terance Mann	G	6-7	215	Sr.	Lowell, Mass./Tilton (N.H.) School
15	Justin Lindner	G	6-1	180	RSo.	Memphis, Tenn./Christian Brothers
20	Travis Light	G	6-5	175	RSo.	Vienna, Va./IMG Academy
21	Christ Koumadje	C	7-4	268	Sr.	N'Djamena, Chad/Montverde Academy
23	M.J. Walker	G/F	6-5	213	So.	Jonesboro, Ga./Jonesboro
24	Devin Vassell	G	6-6	180	Fr.	Suwanee, Ga./Peachtree Ridge
25	Mfiondu Kabengele	F	6-10	250	RSo.	Burlington, Ontario, Canada/Bosco Institute
31	Wyatt Wilkes	F	6-8	220	So.	Orlando, Fla./Winter Park
33	Will Miles	G	6-6	220	RSo.	Orlando, Fla./Trinity Prep
35	Harrison Prieto	F	6-8	230	RSo.	Mandeville, La./St. Paul's School

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE: RaiQuan Gray (RAY-Qwan); Christ Koumadje (Chris with a T Koo-MA-Gee); Mfiondu Kabengele (Fee-On-DU CAB-en-Gelly); Devin Vassell (Dev-IN Vuh-SELL)

Florida State Men's Basketball By The Numbers

.460 Senior PJ Savoy is shooting .460 (23 of 50) and averaging 3.6 made 3-point field goals in the last seven games dating to three made shots from the bonusphere in the Seminoles' win over Boston College on March 3, 2018.

.615 Florida State's starting five shot .615 (nine of 13) from the 3-point line in its 81-60 win over Florida on Tuesday in Tallahassee.

.726 Junior Trent Forrest is shooting .726 from the free throw line (53 of 73) in his last 12 games. He was a perfect six of six from the free throw line against Florida in the Seminoles' season-opener on Tuesday night in Tallahassee.

.968 During head coach Leonard Hamilton's tenure at Florida State, nearly 97 percent of his seniors (62 of 64) have earned their degrees. Seniors Phil Cofer, Christ Koumadje, Terance Mann and PJ Savoy will all receive their degrees in May at the end of the 2018-19 season.

1 Florida State is undefeated, 1-0, when it outscores its opponent.

4 Four Seminoles – RaiQuan Gray, David Nichols, Anthony Polite and Devin Vassell -- scored their first career points for the Seminoles in Florida State's victory over Florida

9 During the 2018-19 season, Florida State will face nine teams who played in the 2018 NCAA Tournament (Clemson, Florida, Miami, North Carolina, NC State, Purdue, Syracuse, Virginia, Virginia Tech) – and could face either Villanova or Oklahoma State during the AdvoCare Invitational.

22 Senior PJ Savoy needs only five 3-point field goals made to become the 22nd player in school history to make 100 or more 3-point field goals.

24 Florida State made more free throws (24) than Florida attempted (21), had more assists (10) than the Gators (nine) and outscored their neighbors to the south by at least 10 points in both halves in its victory on Tuesday night in Tallahassee.

24 Florida State is one of 24 teams nationally that returns at least 75 percent of its offensive output from the 2017-18 season. The Seminoles return 75 percent of their scoring total from their Elite Eight team.

35 Florida State led Florida by as many as 35 points (74-39 with 5:31 remaining in the second half) during its season opening win over the Gators on Tuesday in Tallahassee.

1,135 Senior David Nichols has scored 1,135 career points in 83 career games – an average of 13.7 points per game for his career. He averaged 14.1 points per game during his three-year career at the University of Albany (2016-18).

SAVOY STAYS HOT FROM THE 3-POINT LINE

Senior PJ Savoy made five 3-point shots and scored 20 points in the Florida State's season opening victory over Florida on Tuesday night in Tallahassee. It marked the fifth time in his career that he had made at least five 3-point shots in a single game as a Seminole. Savoy has made at least one 3-point field goal in eight consecutive games dating to Feb. 28 at Clemson. Savoy shot .407 (11 of 27) in four games during the 2018 NCAA Tournament. Among the 11 3-point shots he made during the tournament was one of the biggest shots in school history against Xavier to send the Seminoles to the Sweet 16. His shot against the Musketeers gave Florida State a 71-70 lead with 1:08 left to play in Florida State's 75-70 win over the No. 1 seed in the West Region of the 2018 NCAA Tournament.

Savoy's Best Games From The Bonusphere

Opponent	Date	3FGM	3FGA	Pct.	Points	Outcome
Southern Miss	Dec. 6, 2016	8	11	.727	27	FSU, 98-45
Nicholls State	Dec. 8, 2016	5	14	.429	18	FSU, 118-63
Southern Miss	Dec. 21, 2017	5	10	.500	17	FSU, 98-45
Pitt	Feb. 18, 2018	5	7	.714	18	FSU, 88-75
Florida	Nov. 6, 2018	5	7	.714	20	FSU, 81-60

FORREST PERFECT FROM THE FREE THROW LINE AGAINST FLORIDA

Junior Trent Forrest was a perfect six of six and totaled 13 points in Florida State's victory over Florida. His six free throws marked the most he has been perfect on in a single game during his Seminole career. His performance from the free throw line marked the fourth time in his career that he made at least six free throws in a single game. Forrest made his career-high of eight free throws at Miami (Jan. 9, 2018, 12 points) and against Boston College (March 3, career-high 21 points).

FORREST IS FLORIDA STATE'S MAN OF STEAL

Junior Trent Forrest earned one steal in Florida State's victory over Florida marking the 12th consecutive game during which he has gained at least one steal. He has led the Seminoles in steals in both of his first two seasons as a Seminole and is one of the top on-ball defenders in the ACC. Forrest totaled nine steals in four games during the 2018 NCAA Tournament including a career-high tying four against Xavier on March 18 to help the Seminoles advance to the Sweet 16.

FORREST LEADS THE SEMINOLES IN ASSISTS AGAINST FLORIDA

Junior Trent Forrest, who is in his first season as Florida State's full-time starting point guard, led the Seminoles in assists against Florida with five. It marked the 18th time in his career that he totaled five or more assists in a game. Forrest's single game career-high of 12 assists came in the Seminoles 98-45 win over Southern Miss on Dec. 21, 2017. He totaled 19 assists, including eight in the Seminoles' victory over Missouri, during the 2018 NCAA Tournament. He has led the Seminoles in assists in seven consecutive games.

MANN REBOUNDS AGAINST SYRACUSE

Senior Terance Mann, who averages 4.6 rebounds during his 104-game career, led the Seminoles with nine rebounds in their victory over Florida on Tuesday. It marked the ninth time in his career – and fifth time in the last two seasons – that he has pulled down at least nine rebounds in a single game. He averages 8.0 rebounds in four games (32 total rebounds) during his career against the Gators. Mann has now pulled down 479 career rebounds and is looking to become only the 33rd player in school history with 500 or more career rebounds.

WALKER FROM THE 3-POINT LINE AGAINST FLORIDA

Sophomore M.J. Walker, who made 41 3-point field goals as a freshman, made two of four shots from the bonusphere in scoring 10 points against Florida. It marked the 11th time in his career that he had made multiple 3-point shots in a game AND scored in double figures in a game during his career as a Seminole. During the 11 times Walker has made multiple 3-point shots in a game, he has scored in double figures 10 times.

KOUMADJE CONTINUES TO SHOOT THE BALL WELL

Senior Christ Koumadje enters Sunday's game against Tulane ranked third in school history with a .614 career field goal shooting percentage. He was four of-eight from the field and scored nine points in Florida State's victory over Florida on Tuesday night. After shooting .481 from the field in limited playing time as a freshman, Koumadje shot better than 62 percent as both a sophomore and a junior and get off to a strong start in the Seminoles' season-opening victory.

Breaking Down Koumadje From The Field

Season	FGM	FGA	Pct.	Notes
2017-19 (Last Three Years)	124	196	.633	Double figure scoring eight times
2015-16 (First Year)	13	27	.481	Double figure scoring zero times
Improvement			+ .152	Career high 23 points vs. Syracuse, Jan. 13, 2018

KOUMADJE NEARS 100 CAREER BLOCKED SHOTS

Senior Christ Koumadje earned one blocked shot against Florida and enters Sunday's game against Tulane with 95 career blocked shots. He needs only five blocked shots to become just the 16th player in school history with 100 or more career blocked shots.

Breaking Down Koumadje On The Blocks

Season	Games	Blocks	Average Blocked Shots Per Game
2015-16	26	19	0.7
2016-17	35	40	1.1
2017-18	24	35	1.5
2018-19	1	1	1.0

MAKING THEIR SEMINOLE DEBUTS AGAINST FLORIDA...

...Redshirt freshman RaiQuan Gray scored two points and pulled down two rebounds in 13 minutes of playing time;
 ...Senior David Nichols scored three points, earned 1 assist and 1 steal in 17 minutes of playing time;
 ...Freshman Devin Vassell scored three points and added one steal in six minutes of playing time.

THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
Florida State Combined Team Statistics (as of Nov 07, 2018)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0

##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
					fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg								
05	Savoy, PJ	1-1	27	27.0	5-7	.714	5-7	.714	5-8	.625	0	3	3	3.0	2	0	1	2	1	0	20	20.0
03	Forrest, Trent	1-1	25	25.0	3-4	.750	1-1	1.000	6-6	1.000	0	1	1	1.0	3	0	5	2	0	1	13	13.0
23	Walker, MJ	1-1	31	31.0	3-7	.429	2-4	.500	2-3	.667	0	2	2	2.0	3	0	3	1	0	2	10	10.0
14	Mann, Terance	1-1	27	27.0	3-5	.600	1-1	1.000	2-3	.667	3	6	9	9.0	1	0	0	2	0	1	9	9.0
21	Koumadje, Christ	1-1	21	21.0	4-8	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	4	5	5.0	1	0	0	0	1	1	9	9.0
25	Kabengele, Mfiondu	1-0	15	15.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	5-6	.833	0	1	1	1.0	2	0	0	2	0	1	5	5.0
13	Polite, Anthony	1-0	9	9.0	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	2-4	.500	0	1	1	1.0	2	0	0	1	0	0	5	5.0
11	Nichols, David	1-0	17	17.0	1-5	.200	0-3	.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	1.0	2	0	1	3	0	2	3	3.0
24	Vassell, Devin	1-0	6	6.0	1-4	.250	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	3.0
31	Wilkes, Wyatt	1-0	5	5.0	1-2	.500	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	3.0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2.0
01	Gray, RaiQuan	1-0	13	13.0	1-3	.333	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	2.0	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	2.0
20	Light, Travis	1-0	1	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
15	Lindner, Justin	1-0	1	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
33	Miles, Will	1-0	1	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
35	Prieto, Harrison	1-0	1	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Team											1	4	5									
Total.....		1	200		23-48	.479	11-23	.478	24-34	.706	7	26	33	33.0	22	0	10	16	2	9	81	81.0
Opponents.....		1	200		20-54	.370	6-24	.250	14-21	.667	9	21	30	30.0	26	-	9	16	3	5	60	60.0

TEAM STATISTICS	FS	OPP	Date	Opponent	Score	Att.
SCORING	81	60	11/06/18	FLORIDA	w 81-60	11103
Points per game	81.0	60.0	* - Conference game			
Scoring margin	+21.0	-				
FIELD GOALS-ATT	23-48	20-54				
Field goal pct	.479	.370				
3 POINT FG-ATT	11-23	6-24				
3-point FG pct	.478	.250				
3-pt FG made per game	11.0	6.0				
FREE THROWS-ATT	24-34	14-21				
Free throw pct	.706	.667				
F-Throws made per game	24.0	14.0				
REBOUNDS	33	30				
Rebounds per game	33.0	30.0				
Rebounding margin	+3.0	-				
ASSISTS	10	9				
Assists per game	10.0	9.0				
TURNOVERS	16	16				
Turnovers per game	16.0	16.0				
Turnover margin	+0.0	-				
Assist/turnover ratio	0.6	0.6				
STEALS	9	5				
Steals per game	9.0	5.0				
BLOCKS	2	3				
Blocks per game	2.0	3.0				
ATTENDANCE	11103	0				
Home games-Avg/Game	1-11103	0-0				
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	0-0				

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Totals
Florida State	31	50	81
Opponents	20	40	60

Exhibition 1 -- Florida State 96, West Florida 56

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- As basketball season officially tipped-off in Tallahassee, Florida State breezed past West Florida 96-56 in its first exhibition of the year. The Seminoles wasted little time jumping out to a big lead over the visiting Argonauts and led 11-3 with 16:34 left in the first half after a PJ Savoy triple. A pair Christ Koumadje free throws built the Florida State lead to double digits at 25-12 with 9:30 left in the half. Koumadje had a strong game and finished the night with 20 points, eight rebounds, and four blocks as his size was far too much for the Argonauts to handle inside. Trent Forrest had a big night driving to the rim, using his trademarked ability to finish through contact to extend the lead to 28-16 with 8:01 left in the half. The Seminoles got into transition all contest with 28 points off turnovers during the game. A Devin Vassell steal and lay-in gave FSU a 33-16 lead with 6:30 left in the half. Against West Florida, FSU forced 19 turnovers with eight steals and five blocks.

Florida State 96, West Florida 56 Donald L. Tucker Center Oct. 26, 2018

West Fla.	Min	FG	3FG	FT	O-D	Reb	F	A	T	B	S	Pts.
Henderson	30	2-10	0-0	1-2	3-5	8	2	0	2	1	0	5
Ventoniemi	28	4-6	0-0	0-0	5-1	6	4	2	1	0	0	8
Brown	27	3-12	1-3	2-2	3-0	3	2	2	3	0	1	9
Benson	27	6-11	3-7	2-5	1-0	1	2	2	4	0	1	17
Carter, Jr.	28	0-6	0-4	1-3	0-2	2	1	2	1	0	0	1
Cox	12	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Chalfoux	17	2-3	2-3	0-0	0-2	2	1	0	3	0	0	6
Greene	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0	1	2	1	3	0	0	0
Kah	14	2-7	0-1	0-0	1-3	4	4	0	1	0	0	4
Gomes	12	1-2	1-2	3-4	0-2	2	0	0	1	0	0	6
Team				2-1	3							
Totals	200	20-58	7-20	9-16	16-16	32	19	9	19	1	3	56

Fl. State	Min	FG	3FG	FT	O-D	Reb	F	A	T	B	S	Pts.
Kabengele	14	1-3	0-0	0-0	2-3	5	2	0	1	0	0	2
Koumadje	19	7-8	0-0	6-8	4-4	8	1	1	1	2	0	20
Forrest	17	3-5	0-0	2-2	1-6	7	1	2	1	0	2	8
Mann	19	3-4	1-2	0-0	1-3	4	1	1	2	1	1	7
Walker	21	4-6	3-5	0-0	0-1	1	3	1	3	1	0	11
Gray	15	1-4	0-0	0-0	1-1	2	2	2	1	0	0	2
Savoy	22	5-11	3-8	3-3	0-1	1	0	2	0	1	1	16
Nichols	20	4-8	2-4	0-0	0-0	0	1	3	0	0	1	10
Polite	13	1-3	0-2	0-0	1-2	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Lindner	3	1-2	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Light	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vassell	15	5-7	3-4	1-3	2-2	4	3	0	0	1	1	14
Wilkes	13	0-1	0-1	2-2	0-1	1	3	4	1	0	0	2
Miles	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Prieto	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team				0-0	0							
Totals	200	35-62	12-27	14-19	12-24	36	18	20	11	5	8	96

FG% - West Florida, .345, Florida State, .565. 3FG% - West Florida, .350, Florida State, .444. FT% - West Florida, .563, Florida State, .737. Technical Fouls: West Florida -- None. Florida State -- None. Referees - Ron Groover, Anthony Franklin, Jeremy Mosier

West Florida	27	29	-	56
Florida State	9	47	-	96

Exhibition 2 -- Florida State 99, Valdosta State 77

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida State defeated Valdosta State, 99-77, in its second and final exhibition game to open the 2018-19 season. Redshirt freshman RaiQuan Gray scored the first seven points of the game for the Seminoles on a pair of smooth driving lay-ins and a three-point bomb from the wing. A quick 7-0 run gave FSU a 21-13 lead at the 12:06 mark after a short jumper from freshman Devin Vassell. Later in the half an 8-0 run, spurred by strong defense and attacking the basket, gave the Seminoles a 29-16 lead with 9:22 left. Trent Forrest's driving and-one lay-up capped the run for Florida State. On the night, the Seminoles scored 64 points in the paint. A Christ Koumadje dunk with 2:26 left before the break gave FSU its largest lead of the half at 45-26 and the Seminoles went into the locker room at halftime leading 47-35. The Seminoles shot 62 percent from the floor (40-65) on the night, including 7 of 16 from beyond the arc. Forrest led FSU with 15 points, six rebounds, and five assists in the win.

Florida State 99, Valdosta State 77 Donald L. Tucker Center Nov. 1, 2018

Valdosta	Min	FG	3FG	FT	O-D	Reb	F	A	T	B	S	Pts.
Jones	28	1-6	0-1	0-0	1-3	4	4	2	2	0	1	2
Zuppas	25	3-4	0-1	0-0	3-6	9	4	3	4	0	0	6
Morgan	24	2-7	2-6	0-0	0-2	2	2	1	5	1	0	6
Guillozet	30	9-13	5-7	5-7	1-2	3	1	3	3	0	1	28
Justice	30	6-18	4-12	2-3	1-0	1	3	2	4	0	0	18
Johnson	12	3-7	3-7	0-0	0-2	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
DeRamus	19	2-3	1-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	5	3	0	1	5
Ingram	11	0-1	0-1	0-1	2-0	2	0	1	2	0	1	0
Smith	12	1-4	0-1	1-1	1-1	2	2	0	2	0	0	3
Williams	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Venable	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team				1-0	1							
Totals	200	27-63	15-37	8-12	10-19	29	18	18	25	2	4	77

Fl. State	Min	FG	3FG	FT	O-D	Reb	F	A	T	B	S	Pts.
Gray	11	4-7	1-4	0-0	0-1	1	2	1	3	0	0	9
Forrest	26	7-10	0-1	1-1	1-5	6	2	5	3	1	1	15
Koumadje	20	2-5	0-0	0-2	0-5	5	2	0	2	1	0	4
Mann	29	6-10	0-3	2-3	0-2	2	2	2	1	0	1	14
Walker	26	1-5	0-1	2-2	0-0	0	3	5	2	0	3	4
Nichols	17	4-7	1-1	1-2	0-0	0	2	2	3	0	3	10
Polite	18	3-3	2-2	3-4	0-2	2	1	2	0	0	0	11
Lindner	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Light	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vassell	17	6-7	1-1	0-0	1-2	3	2	0	1	0	2	13
Kabengele	17	5-8	0-0	3-3	4-3	7	2	1	3	0	0	13
Wilkes	17	2-3	2-3	0-1	0-5	5	0	1	1	0	2	6
Team				1-3	4							
Totals	200	40-65	7-16	12-18	7-28	35	18	19	19	2	12	99

FG% - Valdosta, .429, Florida State, .615. 3FG% - Valdosta, .405, Florida State, .438. FT% - Valdosta, .667, Florida State, .667. Technical Fouls: Valdosta -- None. Florida State -- None. Referees - Tony Henderson, Jeff Pon, Tommy Morrissey

Valdosta State	35	42	-	77
Florida State	47	52	-	99

Game 1 -- Florida State 81, Florida 60

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- P.J. Savoy scored 20 points with five 3-pointers, Trent Forrest added 13 points and five assists, and No. 17 Florida State opened with an 81-60 win over Florida at the Donald L. Tucker Center in Tallahassee. Terance Mann had nine points and a team-high nine rebounds for the Seminoles, who won their fifth straight game against Florida. They led 31-20 at the half and never looked back, leading by as many as 35 points and using an aggressive defense to stifle the Gators. Florida State dominated by making 23 of 48 shots from the floor and 11 of 23 3-pointers. But the Seminoles also had nine steals and held Florida to just 19 of 53 from the floor. Florida State has won 32 of its last 34 home games. The Seminoles have been tough to beat at the home, with one of their two losses in 2017-18 coming to No. 1 Virginia on Feb. 7.

Florida State 81, Florida 60 Donald L. Tucker Center Nov. 6, 2018

Florida	Min	FG	3FG	FT	O-D	Reb	F	A	T	B	S	Pts.
Stone	26	2-6	1-3	1-2	2-6	8	3	0	4	0	1	6
Hayes	18	2-2	0-0	0-1	3-3	6	4	1	4	1	0	4
Nembhard	34	4-8	2-4	2-3	0-0	0	2	4	4	0	1	12
Hudson	22	3-10	1-5	4-5	1-1	2	1	0	0	0	1	11
Allen	23	0-4	0-2	0-0	0-1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Okauru	10	1-3	0-2	2-2	0-1	1	4	1	1	0	0	4
Locke	13	1-6	1-2	1-2	0-1	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Johnson	15	2-3	0-0	0-0	0-3	3	3	1	2	0	1	4
Stokes	14	0-3	0-2	2-4	1-3	4	3	0	1	1	1	2
Bassett	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ballard	17	5-9	1-4	2-2	0-0	0	2	0	0	1	0	13
Team				2-1	3							
Totals	200	20-54	6-24	14-21	9-21	30	26	9	16	3	5	60

Fl. State	Min	FG	3FG	FT	O-D	Reb	F	A	T	B	S	Pts.
Koumadje	21	4-8	0-0	1-2	1-4	5	1	0	0	1	1	9
Forrest	25	3-4	1-1	6-6	0-1	1	3	5	2	0	1	13
Savoy	27	5-7	5-7	5-8	0-3	3	2	1	2	1	0	20
Mann	27	3-5	1-1	2-3	3-6	9	1	0	2	0	1	9
Walker	31	3-7	2-4	2-3	0-2	2	3	3	1	0	2	10
Gray	13	1-3	0-1	0-0	1-1	2	4	0	1	0	0	2
Nichols	17	1-5	0-3	1-2	0-1	1	2	1	3	0	2	3
Polite	9	1-2	1-2	2-4	0-1	1	2	0	1	0	0	5
Lindner	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Light	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vassell	6	1-4	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Kabengele	15	0-1	0-0	5-6	0-1	1	2	0	2	0	1	5
Wilkes	5	1-2	0-1	0-0	1-2	3	1	0	1	0	0	2
Miles	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prieto	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Team				1-4	5							
Totals	200	23-48	11-23	24-34	7-26	33	22	10	16	2	9	81

FG% - Florida, .370, Florida State, .479. 3FG% - Florida, .250, Florida State, .478. FT% - Florida, .667, Florida State, .706. Technical Fouls:

Defense-Minded Florida State Already Showing Why Its Elite Eight Run Was No Fluke

By Molly Geary
Sports Illustrated
Nov. 8, 2018

If you were one of 2.85 million college basketball fans watching Duke throttle Kentucky on Tuesday, you probably missed opening night's other most notable result: Florida State routing rival Florida.

For the second year in a row, the Seminoles easily dispatched the Gators, this time at home in Tallahassee for the 'Noles fifth-straight win in the in-state series. The final margin was 81-60, but that doesn't tell the whole story. This was a beatdown; a game that was 74-39 with just five and a half minutes to go before a garbage time run by the visitors salvaged some dignity.

Unlike last year, when FSU went into Gainesville and stunned the No. 5 team in the country by a similar final score, 83-66, Florida State was favored this time around. Fresh off a trip to the Elite Eight and with most key players back, the Seminoles started the year ranked No. 17 in the AP poll and No. 14 in *Sports Illustrated's* rankings. The Gators, meanwhile, lost two starters but were considered a fringe top-25 team with plenty of talent.

The latter still may be true—after all, it's only one game. And Florida was breaking in a new point guard, five-star freshman Andrew Nembhard, who should only get better as the season continues. But it's time to start taking Florida State seriously, because something's brewing in Tallahassee.

Leonard Hamilton's team had its moments in 2017-18, including the aforementioned win over the Gators and wins over UNC, Clemson and Miami, but ultimately finished with a .500 record in the loaded ACC. The Seminoles' run to the Elite Eight, therefore, caught many by surprise as they knocked off No. 9 seed Missouri, No. 1 seed Xavier and No. 4 seed Gonzaga before falling by four to eventual national runner-up Michigan.

Florida State's March run came on the back of its length and physicality, which drove an efficient team like Gonzaga crazy in holding the Zags to their lowest points per possession mark (0.82) of the entire season. That was no coincidence—FSU held Missouri and Michigan to their second-lowest PPP, and Xavier to its seventh lowest. Teams struggled to get off good shots and hang onto the ball against the 'Noles, and it almost resulted in a trip to the Final Four.

There's reason to believe that the Florida State team that showed up in March and against Florida on Tuesday night is the one that's here to stay. Last month, an anonymous ACC coach told SI.com's Emily Caron that late last season, FSU was "as unified of a group as I'd seen in a long time from a team down there ... There's always talent there, but I think they figured out how they had to play. I know [Coach Hamilton] is going to push those guys to play together and be unselfish and really pester you defensively, which makes it hard to run your stuff."

Unselfish. That's a good word to describe a team that had three different players average between 12 and 13 points in '17-18 and another four average between 7.0 and 8.0. Five of those seven players are back, as well as 7'4" senior center Christ Koumadje and senior guard P.J. Savoy, who both started against Florida (Savoy hit five threes and scored a game-high 20 points).

The lack of a go-to player can at times limit a team, but senior Terance Mann has the ability to fill a crunch-time role when needed. And don't forget about top senior forward Phil Cofer, who averaged 12.8 points and 5.1 rebounds a season ago and didn't play on Tuesday as he recovers from a foot injury. His absence makes it all the more impressive that the Seminoles cruised past a tournament-minded opponent.

In case you haven't figured it out from the numerous mentions yet, the other advantage this team has is that it's senior-laden. It's also buoyed by sophomore guard M.J. Walker, a former top-30 recruit, and junior Trent Forrest, who chipped in 13 points and five assists against the Gators. But on defense is where Florida State once again shined

the brightest Tuesday, utilizing a full-court press to limit Florida to 32 points in the first 30 minutes of play—yes, that's a rate of 1.07 points per *minute*—before Florida cleaned things up late to soften the final margin.

Jalen Hudson, the Gators' leading scorer last year, was held to just 11 points on 3-of-10 shooting, and senior starter KeVaughn Allen was scoreless in 23 minutes. Nembhard finished with 12 points on 4-of-8 shooting in his debut but had four turnovers.

Starting Gators big men Keith Stone and Kevarrius Hayes totaled just 10 points (and 14 rebounds) and turned it over four times apiece going against the Seminoles' front line.

The Seminoles should be rewarded for their opening blowout with a leap in the polls on Monday, and while it's unlikely they crack the top 10, it may only be a matter of time before they get there. The reality for FSU is that it plays in the ACC, an incredibly deep conference that through Wednesday's action has five teams in kenpom.com's top 10 (the 'Noles are No. 10), but there's no reason to think it can't contend.

In the meantime, its next big test will come at the AdvoCare Invitational during Thanksgiving weekend. After an opener with UAB, FSU should face No. 23 LSU in the semifinal—win that, and Villanova will likely be waiting in the championship game. That tournament is a chance for these Seminoles to truly announce themselves to the college hoops world, but perhaps we should already be listening.

Koumadje's Healthy Diet Allows For Expanded Role As A Senior

By Kristen Smith

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Standing at 7-foot-4, senior center Christ Koumadje knows how to command a room without having to say a word.

Koumadje has proven to be a valuable member of the Seminole men's basketball team since he stepped foot on Florida State's campus in 2015. As a freshman, he was one of the Seminoles' top rebounders and distinguished himself as an elite shot blocker. He has assisted his team with many victories in non-conference and conference play, appeared in two NCAA tournaments, and helped lead the Seminoles to an Elite Eight appearance in 2018.

Koumadje and the No. 15 Seminoles will open their 2018-19 campaign at home Tuesday against rival Florida (9 p.m., ESPN2) in the Fresh from Florida Sunshine Showdown.

During his career at Florida State, Koumadje's game has continued to evolve along with his physical stature.

When he began his Florida State basketball career Koumadje weighed 220 pounds. While his height, talent, and incredible work ethic set him apart, his weight still presented a challenge when going against the big, physical bodies that come with ACC play.

"As a center playing in the paint, you have to be prepared for people pushing you while you're trying to get rebounds," said Koumadje. "I've always had the height, but I didn't have the weight."

At the start of his senior season, things started to shift for Koumadje. He was able to put on an extra 40 pounds of muscle and now stands at a solid 270 pounds for the 2018-2019 basketball season.

"At the end of last season, Coach Hamilton wanted me to gain some weight," said Koumadje. "But no one expected for it to be like this."

This was no overnight phenomenon. The process required a combination of discipline, a healthy diet and perfect timing.

For Christ, there was no down time during this past off-season. Over the summer, he remained in Tallahassee and focused on his goals. He committed to being in the weight room at least five times a week and constantly met with the team's nutritionist to make sure that he was eating right.

Florida State's men's basketball athletic trainer, Amanda Robinson, explained that over the years Christ, a Chad native, has really learned how to properly eat American food.

"He learned what he should eat and what is actually healthy to eat, which can sometimes be difficult with American foods," said Robinson. "Once he got on the right page and found some things that he liked, that definitely helped."

Nutrition was a key component of Koumadje's weight-gain journey. His diet placed an emphasis on healthy carbohydrates and proteins. He consciously stayed away from processed foods and instead opted for cooked meals from the dining halls on campus. When he needed quick snacks, he would grab them from the snack room at the basketball training facility.

Gaining weight is not as easy as it may sound, especially for a Division I student-athlete.

"It gets hard with our lifestyle," said Koumadje. "You have to plan your days because the times that we eat have to work with when we have classes and practice."

“He also had to learn how much to eat in order to maintain all of the energy that he expends throughout practice and games,” added Robinson. “Once he grasped that concept, that was one of the main reasons he has been able to keep the weight on.”

Along with everything that Koumadje had the ability to control such as his workouts and eating habits, there was also the element of perfect timing that just worked out in his favor.

“We all have genetic dispositions where our bodies start holding mature body weight at different ages of our lives,” said FSU Associate Head Coach Stan Jones. “It took a little longer for Christ, but it came at a great time for him.”

Beyond his weight, Koumadje has been able to develop other skills that set him apart from other players on the court. Now, he expects to expand upon those skills in order to contribute to his team even more.

“Along with being able to hold people off, he’ll be able to take collisions,” said Jones.

He is now equipped with not only the physicality but also the confidence to face anyone on the court more effectively.

“I still want to continue getting my weight up,” said Koumadje. “I don’t want to get too big to the point that I hurt my knees, but I do want to have lean muscles and be toned overall.”

At the rate he’s going, there’s no doubt that Koumadje will be able to accomplish and surpass all of his goals. Things are certainly looking up for Koumadje this season – both on the court and on the scale.

Said Jones: “The nutrition, weight training, and time are all starting to work positively for him.”