

Florida State Basketball Guard Devin Vassell Becoming A More All-Around Player

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Florida State guard Devin Vassell has ice in his veins.

As a freshman, the moment was never too big for him and he never backed down even during the Seminoles' run to the Sweet 16.

After playing the sharp-shooter role on last year's team, he wants to become an all-around player in his second year.

"Just play as hard as I can on defense and not really worry about offense," Vassell told the *Democrat*.

"Just try and get all the little things like the deflections, the steals, and rebounds and just all the little things to help our team win."

Despite being a freshman, Vassell was the top shooter on FSU's roster a season ago.

He knocked down 41.9% of the threes he took. No other player shot over 39% from beyond the arc last season.

Vassell connected on 26 of the 62 three-point shots he took, and all 26 were assisted. His ability to catch and shoot immediately is a valuable weapon for the FSU offense.

"It's a lot of hours I just did with coach C.Y. (Charlton Young) and coach (Stan) Jones and just with the whole coaching staff," Vassell said.

"I'll just say that credit to them to, you know, get me to where I am and I just keep working every day."

FSU needs Vassell to step up this season after losing half of last year's roster to graduation and the NBA.

With six newcomers, Vassell is one of the more experienced players on the roster, at least from a playing at FSU standpoint.

But he's not only stepped up his play on the court. He's become one of the leaders of the locker room despite being one of the youngest players on the roster.

"We expect him to continue the improvement that he showed us from the beginning of the season last year until now," FSU coach Leonard Hamilton said.

"The difference that I expect to see from Devin is his maturity, his confidence. He is a lot more vocal. He's becoming a guy who is the voice in the background who's consistently vocal enough to help guys remember exactly what he's supposed to do. He's been outspoken, as much as any sophomore that I've seen."

The system that FSU runs requires the players to be in top shape due to the effort that they have to play with when they're on the court.

The Seminoles rotate players constantly and players are supposed to give everything they have for around a four-minute stretch before coming off for the next wave of players.

The pace of the game and the effort that FSU requires was one of the things that were the hardest to adjust to last season, according to Vassell.

He's put in a lot of work this off-season to make sure he's ready for it as a sophomore.
"I probably gained about 10-15 pounds over the summer," Vassell said.

"I've just been really working on my defense to be able to guard one through four and just be able to switch it and be the match-up problem on offense and on defense."