

FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES (6-2 OVERALL, 2-1 ACC)  
VS.

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS (8-4 OVERALL, 3-2 ACC)  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021; 12 NOON

DONALD L. TUCKER CENTER  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

LEARFIELD IMG COLLEGE RADIO NETWORK (GENE DECKERHOFF, ADRIAN CRAWFORD)  
ESPN (DAN SHULMAN, JAY BILAS)

*"I thought Florida State was incredible tonight. Florida State would have beaten most teams in the country. I thought they played tremendously. Probably the best team we have played in our early season. The made us pay for every mistake that we made. At the end of the day, you've got to give it up to those (Florida State) guys."*

Kevin Keatts  
NC State

### 2020-21 Florida State Schedule

D2	North Florida	W, 86-58
D9	1 Indiana	W, 69-67 (OT)
D12	Florida	W, 83-71
D15	* Georgia Tech	W, 74-61
D19	UCF	L, 74-86
D21	Gardner-Webb	W, 72-59
D29	* at Clemson	L, 67-77
J2	* Duke	Postponed
J6	* at Syracuse	Postponed
J9	* at Pittsburgh	Postponed
J13	* NC State	W, 105-73
J16	* North Carolina	12 Noon
J18	* at Louisville	7:00 p.m.
J23	* Clemson	3:00 p.m.
J27	* Miami	6:00 p.m.
J30	* at Georgia Tech	4:00 p.m.
F2	* at Boston College	9:00 p.m.
F9	* at Virginia Tech	8:30 p.m.
F13	* Wake Forest	12 Noon
F15	* Virginia	7:00 p.m.
F20	* Virginia Tech	12 Noon
F24	* at Miami	8:30 p.m.
F27	* at North Carolina	4:00 p.m.
M3	* Boston College	9:00 p.m.
M9-13	2 at ACC Tournament	TBD

\*ACC Game. 1 ACC/Big Ten Challenge at Tallahassee, Fla.; 2 ACC Tournament Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, N.C.

### 2019-20 ACC Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Florida State	16	4	.800	26	5	.839
Virginia	15	5	.750	23	7	.767
Louisville	15	5	.750	24	7	.774
Duke	15	5	.750	25	6	.806
Georgia Tech	10	9	.500	17	14	.548
NC State	10	10	.500	19	12	.613
Syracuse	10	10	.500	17	14	.548
Notre Dame	10	10	.474	18	12	.600
Clemson	9	11	.450	16	15	.516
Miami	7	13	.350	15	15	.500
Boston College	7	13	.368	13	18	.419
Virginia Tech	7	13	.368	16	15	.516
Wake Forest	6	14	.316	13	17	.433
Pittsburgh	6	14	.300	15	16	.484
N. Carolina	6	14	.300	13	18	.419

### Leonard Hamilton's Career Record

	W	L	Pct.	Years
Career	566	433	.567	1987-Pr.
at Okla. State	56	63	.471	1987-90
at Miami	144	147	.495	1991-00
at Florida State	366	223	.621	2002-Pr.

### ACC Operation Basketball Predicted Order of Finish

1. Virginia	9. Georgia Tech
2. Duke	10. Clemson
3. FLORIDA STATE	11. Virginia Tech
4. North Carolina	12. Notre Dame
5. Louisville	13. Pittsburgh
6. Syracuse	14. Boston College
7. Miami	15. Wake Forest
8. NC State	

### SEMINOLES PLAY HOST TO NORTH CAROLINA ON SUPER SONIC SATURDAY ESPN GAME

Florida State, which shot a near school-record .707 shooting percentage from the field in its 105-73 victory over NC State, plays host to North Carolina on Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 12 Noon at the Donald L. Tucker Center in Tallahassee. The Seminoles defeated the Wolfpack following a 15-day layoff as they had three games (Duke at home, at Syracuse and at Pittsburgh) postponed. Florida State's game against North Carolina is its first of two scheduled for the 2021 regular season with the Seminoles traveling to play in Chapel Hill on February 27. Following Saturday's game against North Carolina, the Seminoles travel to play at Louisville on Monday in a game that begins at 7:00 p.m. at the KFC YUM! Center. Florida State will look to earn their second victory of the season over a nationally ranked team when they face the Cardinals. The Seminoles defeated No. 25 Florida (83-71, December 12) earlier this season in Tallahassee.

### FLORIDA STATE HAS WON 19 STRAIGHT ACC HOME GAMES

Florida State enters Saturday's game against North Carolina having won 19 consecutive ACC games at the Donald L. Tucker Center in Tallahassee. The Seminoles' ACC winning streak in their home building began with a 77-68 win over Clemson on January 22, 2019. Their most recent ACC victory at home came as a 105-73 win over NC State on Wednesday in Tallahassee.

### FLORIDA STATE IN THE ACC SINCE THE START OF THE 2018-19 SEASON

Florida State is 31-10 (.756 winning percentage) in ACC regular season play since the start of the 2018-19 season. The Seminoles finished 13-5 in 2019, 16-4 in 2020 and are 2-1 this season.

### FLORIDA STATE SINCE THE START OF THE 2018-19 SEASON

Florida State is 61-15 (.803 winning percentage) since the start of the 2018-19 season. The Seminoles finished 29-8 in 2018-19, 26-5 in 2019-20 and are 6-2 this season. Since defeating Clemson on December 8, 2019, the Seminoles have won nearly 85 percent of their games with a record of 23-4 (.852 winning percentage).

### FLORIDA STATE'S NUMBERS AGAINST NC STATE

Florida State shot .707 percent from the field (41 of 58), .667 percent from the 3-point line (12 of 18) and were perfect (11 of 11) from the free throw line in defeating NC State by a 105-73 margin on Wednesday night in Tallahassee. The Seminoles' shooting percentage from the field (.707) ranks sixth in school history and is the highest field goal shooting percentage in an ACC game in school history. Florida State's shooting percentage from the 3-point line (.667) was also the sixth highest in school history and tied for second in school history in an ACC games. The Seminoles were perfect from the free throw line (11 of 11) on 10 or more shots for the third time in their ACC history.

### HAMILTON ON BALLOT FOR NAISMITH HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021

Florida State's Leonard Hamilton, who has won nearly 600 games and who is the fifth all-time winningest coach in ACC history, was named as an eligible candidate for the Naismith Hall of Fame Class of 2021. Hamilton highlights the list of four first time coaching candidates including Ken Anderson (Wisconsin-Eau Claire), Lou Henson (Hardin-Simmons, New Mexico State, Illinois) and Paul Westhead (NBA and college). Hamilton has been named as the National Coach of the Year four times and by four different national governing bodies. He was named the Clarence "Big House" Gaines National Coach of the Year in 2018, the Basketball Times Coach of the Year in 2009, the BCA National Coach of the Year in 2000 and the UPI National Coach of the Year in 1995. Hamilton has also been named the ACC Coach of the Year three times (2009, 2012 and 2020) and the Big East Coach of the Year twice (1995 and 1999).

### LOOK FOR FLORIDA STATE TO...

...Defeat North Carolina and win its 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive ACC home game. The Seminoles won their final seven ACC home games during the 2017-18 season, were victorious in all 10 of the ACC home games during the 2019-20 season and are 2-0 at home in ACC games this season;

...Defeat North Carolina and gain its third consecutive home win against the Tar Heels. The Seminoles defeated North Carolina, 81-80, on January 3, 2018 and topped the Tar Heels, 65-59, on February 3, 2020;

...Defeat North Carolina and up its ACC record to 19-5 (.792 winning percentage) in the last two seasons. Florida State won a school-record 16 ACC games during the 2019-20 season.

**Florida State Basketball / National Polls**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL**

R.	Team	20-21 Rec.
1.	Gonzaga (63)	12-0
2.	Baylor (1)	11-0
3.	Villanova	8-1
4.	Texas	10-1
5.	Iowa	11-2
6.	Kansas	10-2
7.	Michigan	10-0
8.	Creighton	10-2
9.	Wisconsin	10-2
10.	Tennessee	9-1
11.	Houston	10-1
12.	<b>Clemson</b>	<b>9-1</b>
13.	West Virginia	9-4
14.	Illinois	9-4
15.	Texas Tech	10-3
16.	<b>Louisville</b>	<b>8-1</b>
17.	Missouri	7-2
18.	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>7-2</b>
19.	<b>Duke</b>	<b>5-2</b>
20.	<b>Virginia Tech</b>	<b>9-2</b>
21.	Ohio State	9-3
22.	Oregon	9-2
23.	Minnesota	10-4
24.	Saint Louis	7-1
25.	Connecticut	6-1

**USA TODAY POLL**

Rk.	Team	Points
1.	Gonzaga (29)	797
2.	Baylor (3)	771
3.	Villanova	722
4.	Texas	703
5.	Michigan	599
6.	Creighton	597
7.	Kansas	587
8.	Iowa	586
9.	Wisconsin	556
10.	Tennessee	535
11.	Houston	496
12.	<b>Clemson</b>	<b>374</b>
13.	Illinois	347
14.	West Virginia	2762
15.	Texas Tech	255
16.	Missouri	243
17.	Oregon	205
18.	<b>Louisville</b>	<b>192</b>
19.	Minnesota	166
20.	<b>Virginia Tech</b>	<b>162</b>
21.	UCLA	148
22.	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>147</b>
23.	<b>Duke</b>	<b>124</b>
24.	Saint Louis	114
24.	Alabama	114

**Florida State's 2020-21 Poll History**

Week	AP	Coaches
Preseason	21	18
Week 1	22	NP
Week 2	20	21
Week 3	15	15
Week 4	21	21
Week 5	18	19
Week 6	25	22
Week 7	RV (29)	RV (29)

**Florida State's Defensive Players Of the Game**

North Florida	RaiQuan Evans
Indiana	Wyatt Wilkes
Florida	Balsa Koprivica
Georgia Tech	Nathanael Jack
UCF	Harrison Prieto
Gardner-Webb	Tanor Ngom
Clemson	Nathanael Jack
NC State	RayQuan Evans

**HAMILTON AMONG ALL-TIME GREATEST ACC COACHES**

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton enters Wednesday's game against NC State as the fifth winningest coach in ACC history with 366 career wins at Florida State. Hamilton became only the sixth coach in the illustrious history of the nation's best basketball conference to win 350 career games with the Seminoles' victory over Miami on January 18, 2020.

**Hamilton in ACC History**

Rank	Coach, School	Career Wins
1.	Mike Krzyzewski, Duke	1,090
2.	Dean Smith, North Carolina	879
3.	Roy Williams, North Carolina	475
4.	Gary Williams, Maryland	461
5.	<b>Leonard Hamilton, Florida State</b>	<b>366</b>

**FLORIDA STATE HAS WON NEARLY 95 PERCENT OF ITS HOME GAMES SINCE FEBRUARY 27, 2015**

Florida State is 71-4 (.947 winning percentage) in its last 75 home games since the tail end of the 2015-16 season. The Seminoles enter Saturday's game against North Carolina having won .947 percent of their games (71-4) and .927 percent of their ACC games (38-3) at home since the tail end of the 2015-16 season. Florida State's streak began with a 77-56 win over No. 23 Notre Dame on February 27, 2015. The Seminoles are 6-1 at home this season, were 16-0 at home last season (including 10-0 in ACC play), were 15-1 at home (including 8-1 in the ACC) during the 2018-19 season and were 18-0 at home (including 9-0 in the ACC) in the 2016-17 season.

**SEMINOLES FROM THE FIELD – FROM 2'S AND 3'S AGAINST NC STATE**

Florida State missed a total of 17 shots in its victory over NC State on Wednesday night in Tallahassee. The Seminoles shot .707 from the field overall (41 of 58), .667 from 3-point range (12 of 18) and .725 from 2-point range (29 of 40) in their largest ever win (+32) over the Wolfpack.

**FLORIDA STATE SHOOTS 70.7 PERCENT FROM THE FIELD IN ITS WIN OVER NC STATE**

Florida State shot better than 70 percent from the field for the sixth time in a game in program history and for the first time in an ACC game in its 105-73 win over NC State on Wednesday night in Tallahassee. The Seminoles' previous school record for the highest field goal percentage in an ACC game was a .661 shooting mark in a 109-61 win over Clemson on February 5, 2017.

**Florida State's Top Field Goal Shooting Games**

Rank	FG Pct.	FGM-A	Opponent	Date	Result
1.	.727	48-66	vs. Minnesota	Dec. 20, 1979	FSU, 112-91
2.	.724	42-58	vs. Georgia Southern	Feb. 21, 1976	FSU, 92-70
3.	.717	43-60	vs. Biscayne	Jan. 14, 1976	FSU, 107-64
	.717	43-60	vs. UNC Asheville	Jan. 2, 1992	FSU, 107-54
5.	.709	32-46	vs. Saint Joseph's	Jan. 7, 1985	FSU, 88-72
6.	<b>.707</b>	<b>41-58</b>	<b>vs. NC State</b>	<b>Jan. 13, 2021</b>	<b>FSU, 105-73</b>

**FLORIDA STATE BY THE NUMBERS AGAINST NC STATE...**

...Florida State made 41 field goals in its win over the Wolfpack – tied for the fourth highest single game total in an ACC game in school history. The 41 field goals were the most since the Seminoles made 42 in a 97-96 overtime loss at Duke on February 4, 2006;

...Florida State made 12 3-point field goals in its win over the Wolfpack – tied for the eighth highest single game total in an ACC game in school history. The 12 3-point field goals made marked the 18<sup>th</sup> time in school history the Seminoles had made 12 or more 3-point shots in a single ACC game;

...Florida State was a perfect 11 of 11 from the free throw line in its win over the Wolfpack. It marked the third time in their ACC history that the Seminoles were perfect on 10 or more free throws in an ACC game;

...Florida State totaled 24 assists in its win over the Wolfpack – tied for the fifth highest single game total in an ACC game in school history. The Seminoles school record for assists in an ACC game is 26 against three teams including NC State on January 15, 1995;

...Florida State totaled 24 assists on 41 baskets (.585 assist percentage) and had an assist:turnover ratio of better than 2:1 with 24 assists and only 11 turnovers (2.2:1);

...Florida State's +32 point margin of victory over the Wolfpack is tied for the fourth highest margin of victory over an ACC team in school history. It marked the fifth time in school history the Seminoles had won an ACC games by 30 or more points.

**FLORIDA STATE RANKS AS THE NATION'S FOURTH TALLEST TEAM**

With two Seminoles playing at 7-0 or taller (Balsa Koprivica and Tanor Ngom) and a third at 6-11 (Quincy Ballard), Florida State is one of the top five tallest teams (by average height in inches) in Division I Basketball for the 2020-21 season. The Seminoles' run of having at least one player who is 7-0 or taller is now at 14 consecutive seasons and dates to the 2007-08 season when Solomon Alabi joined the team as a freshman. Next on that list is Purdue who has had at least one seven footer on its roster for nine consecutive seasons.

**SEMINOLES' NEARLY UNHEARD OF OVERTIME WINNING STREAK**

Florida State defeated Indiana, 69-67, in overtime on December 9 in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge for its 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive overtime victory. The Seminoles have won each of their overtime decisions since a 101-90 double overtime win over Syracuse on January 13, 2018 in a game played at the Donald L. Tucker Center in Tallahassee. The all-time national record for consecutive overtime victories is 11 by Louisville (1968-75), UMass (1991-96) and Virginia (1991-96)

**FLORIDA STATE IN OVERTIME IN ACC PLAY**

Florida State has won 10 consecutive overtime games against ACC opponents – a streak that dates to a 73-70 overtime win over Miami on March 8, 2008. The Seminoles have not lost an overtime decision since December 2, 2016 (at Iowa) and have not lost an overtime decision against an ACC team since February 3, 2008.

**Florida State Basketball  
Upcoming Milestones**

**Leonard Hamilton**

**Victories as an ACC Coach**

366 (Career at Florida State)

+97 (needs)

463

To become the 4<sup>th</sup> Winningest Coach in ACC History (all victories) (surpassing Gary Williams of Maryland)

**Leonard Hamilton**

**ACC Victories at Florida State**

(Regular Season + ACC Tourn.)

172 (career at Florida State)

+39 (needs)

211

To become the 4<sup>th</sup> Winningest Coach in ACC History (ACC games) – surpassing Gary Williams of Maryland

**Leonard Hamilton**

**Wins vs. AP No. 1 In Career**

4 (career at Florida State)

+4 (needs)

8

To move into a tie for first place in college basketball history with Roy Williams for all-time wins vs. the nation's No. 1 ranked team

**Florida State**

**All-Time Victories**

1251 (current)

+49 (needs)

1,300

Florida State has an all-time record of 1,250-860 for a winning percentage of .592.

**M.J. Walker**

**Career Points Scored**

910 (career at Florida State)

+90 (needs)

1,000

To become the 49<sup>th</sup> player in school history to score 1,000 or more career points

**M.J. Walker**

**Career 3-Point Field Goals Made**

146 (career at Florida State)

+1 (needs)

147

To move into 10<sup>th</sup> place in school history with 147 career 3-point field goals made – surpassing Ian Miller (2011-14)

**M.J. Walker**

**Career 3-Point Field Goals Made**

147 (career at Florida State)

+3 (needs)

150

To become the 10<sup>th</sup> player in school history with 150 or more career 3-point field goals made

**M.J. Walker**

**Career 3-Point Field Goals Attempted**

416 (career at Florida State)

+34 (needs)

450

To become the 10<sup>th</sup> player in school history with 450 or more career 3-point field goals attempted.

**STARTING LINEUP FOR FLORIDA STATE...**

F	#1	RaiQuan Gray (7.4 ppg, 2.7 rpg; 12 pts and 7 rebs vs. North Carolina, February 3, 2020)
C	#5	Balsa Koprivica (9.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg; 2 pts and 0 rebs vs. North Carolina, February 3, 2020)
G	#2	Anthony Polite (10.1 ppg, 5.0 rpg; 0 pts and 3 rebs vs. North Carolina, February 23, 2019)
G	#4	Scottie Barnes (11.1 ppg, 4.1 apg; First career game vs. North Carolina)
G	#23	M.J. Walker (15.8 ppg, 2.5 rpg; 9 pts and 2 rebs vs. North Carolina, January 3, 2018)

**...AND TOP RESERVES**

G	#0	RaiQuan Evans (7.4 ppg, 1.1 apg; 7 pts and 1 ast vs. North Carolina, February 3, 2020)
F	#10	Malik Osborne (3.1 ppg, 5.0 rpg; 8 pts and 6 rebs vs. North Carolina, February 3, 2020)
G	#31	Wyatt Wilkes (4.1 ppg, 1.6 rpg; 0 pts and 0 rebs vs. North Carolina, February 23, 2019)
C	#15	Quincy Ballard (1.1 ppg, 0.4 rpg; First career game vs. North Carolina)
G	#24	Sardaar Calhoun (4.0 ppg, 1.1 rpg; First career game vs. North Carolina)
G	#11	Nathanael Jack (5.8 ppg, 0.3 apg; First career game vs. North Carolina)
C	#34	Tanor Ngom (2.3 ppg, 1.6 rpg; First career game vs. North Carolina)

**POSSIBLE STARTING LINEUP FOR NORTH CAROLINA**

F	#5	Armando Bacot (11.3 ppg, 8.0 rpg; 6 pts and 6 rebs vs. Florida State, February 3, 2020)
F	#15	Garrison Brooks (10.7 ppg, 7.9 rpg; 5 pts and 4 rebs vs. Florida State, February 3, 2020)
G	#1	Leaky Black (7.5 ppg, 2.3 apg; 10 pts and 3 asts vs. Florida State, February 3, 2020);
G	#2	Caleb Love (9.3 ppg, 3.3 apg; First career game vs. Florida State)
G	#24	Kerwin Walton (5.4 ppg, 1.3 rpg; First career game vs. Florida State)

**FLORIDA STATE VS. NORTH CAROLINA- A SERIES HISTORY**

The Series:	North Carolina leads, 50-14
First Game:	December 16, 1965; at North Carolina 115, Florida State 80
Last Game:	February 3, 2020; at Florida State 65, North Carolina 59
Last Florida State Win:	February 3, 2020; at Florida State 65, North Carolina 59
Last North Carolina Win:	February 23, 2019; at North Carolina 77, Florida State 99
Last Florida State Win in Tallahassee:	February 3, 2020; at Florida State 65, North Carolina 59
Last North Carolina Win in Tallahassee:	January 4, 2016; North Carolina 106, at Florida State 90
Current Streak:	Florida State has won 1
Current Streak in Tallahassee:	Florida State has won 2
Leonard Hamilton vs. North Carolina:	6-19 (5-18 at Florida State, 0-1 at Miami)

**FLORIDA STATE VS. NORTH CAROLINA – THE LAST FOUR GAMES**

<u>Feb. 3, 2020</u>	<u>Feb. 23, 2019</u>	<u>Jan. 3, 2018</u>	<u>Jan. 14, 2017</u>
at Florida State 65	Florida State 59	at Florida State 81	Florida State 83
North Carolina 59	at North Carolina 77	North Carolina 80	North Carolina 96

**FLORIDA STATE VS. NORTH CAROLINA – THE LAST GAME**

Patrick Williams had 14 points and nine rebounds, Trent Forrest also scored 14 points and No. 8 Florida State beat North Carolina 65-59 on February 3, 2020 at the Donald L. Tucker Center in Tallahassee, Fla. RaiQuan Gray had 10 second-half points as the Seminoles moved within a win of their best-ever start in league play. Florida State opened 10-2 in ACC play in 2011-12. The victory was Florida State's 19<sup>th</sup> straight home win -- 11 in 2019-20 and the last eight in 2018-19. Cole Anthony started in his second game back from knee surgery for UNC. The freshman guard scored 16 points on 5-of-23 shooting and added seven rebounds. He shot 3 of 10 from 3-point range and 3 of 8 from the free-throw line. North Carolina went 0 for 17 during a long stretch of the second half and Florida State was able to build a comfortable lead. The Tar Heels fouled to extend the game, but Florida State finished 11 of 13 from the free-throw line.

**TODAY'S OFFICIALS**

Today's referee is Bert Smith and the umpires are A.J. Desai and Lamar Simpson

**2020-21 FLORIDA STATE ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
0	RayQuan Evans	G	6-4	210	Sr.	Billings, Mont./North Idaho College
1	RaiQuan Gray	F	6-8	260	RJr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Dillard
2	Anthony Polite	G	6-6	215	RJr.	Lugano, Switzerland/St. Andrews Christian School (Fla.)
4	Scottie Barnes	G/F	6-9	227	Fr.	West Palm Beach, Fla./Montverde Academy (Fla.)
5	Balsa Koprivica	C	7-1	240	So.	Belgrade, Serbia/Montverde Academy
10	Malik Osborne	F	6-9	225	RJr.	Matteson. Ill./Bosco Institute/Rice
11	Nathanael Jack	G	6-5	195	Sr.	Mississauga, Ontario, Canada/Eastern Florida State
12	Justin Lindner	G	6-1	180	RSr.	Memphis, Tenn./Christian Brothers
15	Quincy Ballard	C	6-11	240	Fr.	Syracuse, N.Y./Quality Education Academy (N.C.)
20	Travis Light	G	6-6	190	RSr.	Vienna, Va./IMG Academy
23	M.J. Walker	G/F	6-5	213	Sr.	Riverdale, Ga./Jonesboro
24	Sardaar Calhoun	G	6-6	220	Jr.	Tappahannock, Va./Missouri University West Plains
30	Harrison Prieto	F	6-8	230	RSr.	Mandeville, La./St. Paul's School
31	Wyatt Wilkes	F	6-8	220	RJr.	Orlando, Fla./Winter Park
33	Will Miles	G	6-6	220	RSr.	Orlando, Fla./Trinity Prep
34	Tanor Ngom	C	7-2	236	Sr.	Dakar, Senegal/Ryerson University (Canada)
40	Isaac Spainhour	G	6-3	180	Fr.	King, N.C./West Stokes
42	Cleveland Yates	G	6-3	200	So.	Memphis, Tenn./Briarcrest Christian School
44	Max Thorpe	G	6-3	160	Fr.	Clearwater, Fla./Clearwater Countryside

**PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:** RaiQuan Evans (RAY-Qwan); RaiQuan Gray (RAY-Qwan); Balsa Koprivica (Ball-Sha Ko-Pra-Vizza); Sardaar Calhoun (Suh-DAR Cal-Hoon); Tanor Ngom (Tuh-NOR en-GOM)

**Florida State Basketball  
By The Numbers**

**.625** Senior RayQuan Evans is shooting .625 from the 3-point line (five of eight) in the last three games. He was a perfect two of two from the bonusphere and scored his career-high of 24 points in Florida State's victory over NC State on Wednesday night.

**.769** Sophomore Balsas Koprivica is shooting .769 from the free throw line (10 of 13) in the last four games. He was a perfect six of six from the free throw line in Florida State's win over Gardner-Webb on December 21.

**1** Senior RayQuan Evans made his first career start (and scored his career-high of 24 points) in Florida State's victory over NC State on Wednesday.

**3** Senior M.J. Walker has missed only three free throws this season. He enters Saturday's game against North Carolina as the ACC leader in free throw shooting percentage with a career-high .932 mark from the line.

**5** Florida State has earned a school record of five consecutive 20+ win seasons (26 wins in 2020, 29 wins in 2019, 23 wins in 2018, 26 wins in 2017 and 20 wins in 2016).

**6** Florida State is undefeated, 6-0, when it outscores its opponent.

**6** Redshirt junior RaiQuan Gray has made six consecutive free throws entering Saturday's game against North Carolina. He was a perfect two of two from the free throw line against Georgia Tech, UCF and Gardner-Webb.

**8** Senior M.J. Walker has made eight consecutive free throws entering Florida State's game against North Carolina.

**8** Florida State has eight players in its rotation (RaiQuan Gray, Balsa Koprivica, Anthony Polite, Scottie Barnes, M.J. Walker, Wyatt Wilkes, Malik Osborne and RayQuan Evans) who all have experience as starters.

**10** Senior M.J. Walker has made at least one 3-point field goal in each of the Seminoles' eight games this season and in 10 consecutive games dating back to Florida State's victory at Notre Dame on March 4, 2020.

**10** Senior M.J. Walker has made at last one 3-point field goal in 10 consecutive games dating back to the final two games of the 2019-20 season.

**10** Florida State has won 10 consecutive overtime games entering Saturday's game against North Carolina.

**18** Senior Nathanael Jack scored 18 points in 12 minutes of playing time in Florida State's victory over NC State. He was averaging 3.4 points scored in his first five games of the season.

**AGAINST NC STATE FROM THE FIELD...**

...Florida State shot .707 from the field and missed only 17 total shots (including free throws)

**SEMINOLES FROM THE BONUSPHERE**

Led by senior Nathanael Jack and his four 3-point field goals made in the Seminoles' 105-73 win over NC State, the Seminoles made a season-high 12 3-point field goals – eclipsing their previous season-high of 10 3-point field goals made against UCF. The Seminoles have made 21 3-point field goals in their last two games and are shooting .420 percent from the bonusphere in their games against Clemson and NC State.

**Breaking Down The Seminoles From The Bonusphere**

Games	3FGM	3FGA	Pct.	Notes
Last 2	21	50	.420%	Florida State averages 11.5 3FGM in last two games
First 6	<u>47</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>.353%</u>	<u>Florida State averaged 78.8 3FGM in first six games</u>
Improvement			+0.067%	Florida State averages 8.5 3FGM in eight games this season

**SEMINOLES HEATING UP FROM THE FREE THROW LINE**

Led by four free throws each by seniors M.J. Walker and RayQuan Evans, the Seminoles were a perfect 11 of 11 from the free throw line in their victory over NC State on Wednesday night. Florida State is shooting nearly .800 percent from the free throw line in its last three games and enters Saturday's game against North Carolina shooting .711 from the free throw line.

**Breaking Down The Seminoles From The Free Throw Line**

Games	FTM	FTA	Pct.	Notes
Last 3	41	52	.788%	Perfect 11 of 11 from the line in win over NC State
First 5	<u>77</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>.675%</u>	<u>Seminoles at .700 or better in three of first five games</u>
Improvement			+0.113%	Florida State has made 11 consecutive FT entering UNC game

**FLORIDA STATE DEFENSIVELY IN THE LAST THREE GAMES...**

...Has totaled 22 steals and 20 blocked shots. The Seminoles blocked eight shots against Clemson on December 29 and totaled eight steals in its victory over Gardner-Webb on December 21.

**M.J. WALKER'S RECORD WATCH**

Senior M.J. Walker enters Saturday's game against North Carolina ranked in the top 11 in three different Florida State career statistical categories. He is ranked seventh in career free throw percentage (.808), tied for 10<sup>th</sup> in career 3-point field goals made (146) and 11<sup>th</sup> in career 3-point field goals attempted (416). He enters Saturday's game with 910 career points; he needs just 90 points to become the 47<sup>th</sup> player in school history with 1,000 or more career points.

**WALKER LEADS THE ACC IN FREE THROW SHOOTING PERCENTAGE**

Senior M.J. Walker, who has made eight consecutive free throws entering Saturday's game against North Carolina, leads the ACC in free throw shooting percentage with a career-high .932 mark from the line. He is the only player in the ACC who qualifies to be included among the league leaders who his shooting 90 percent or better from the line. Walker was a perfect 12 of 12 from the line in scoring 17 points in Florida State's seventh consecutive victory over Florida (83-71) on December 12 in Tallahassee.

**Breaking Down Walker From The Free Throw Line**

Season	Games	FTM	FTA	Pct.	Notes
2017-18	35	43	57	.754	Averaged 1.2 FTM/Game
2018-19	35	49	63	.778	Averaged 1.4 FTM/Game
2019-20	26	61	76	.803	Averaged 2.3 FTM/Game
2020-21	<u>8</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>.932</u>	<u>Averages a career-high 5.1 FTM/Game</u>
Totals	104	194	240	.808	Ranked 7 <sup>th</sup> in school history for career FT Pct.

**WALKER LOOKING TO BECOME THE FIRST**

Senior M.J. Walker, who enters Saturday's game against North Carolina as the ACC leader in free throw shooting percentage, is looking to become the first Seminole in ACC history to lead the ACC in free throw shooting percentage.

**WALKER IS PERFECT FROM THE FREE THROW LINE IN ACC PLAY**

Senior M.J. Walker is a perfect 10 of 10 from the free throw line in Florida State's first three ACC games of the season. Only Walker and Marek Dolezaj of Syracuse (11 of 11) are perfect from the line in conference play. Among two of Walker's free throws made came as the result of a technical foul called during the Seminoles' victory over NC State. For his career in ACC play, Walker is shooting .825 from the line (104 of 126).

**NOTING RAYQUAN EVAN'S SCORING OUTPUT AGAINST NC STATE**

Senior RayQuan Evans scored his career-high of 24 points in Florida State's 105-73 win over NC State on Wednesday in Tallahassee. With 24 points against the Wolfpack in just 19 minutes of playing time, Evans scored as many points against the Wolfpack (24) as he had in his previous four games (24).

**Breaking Down Evans' Scoring Total This Season**

Games	Points	FG Pct.	3FG Pct.	FT Pct.	Rebs
Last 2	33 (16.5)	.800 (12-15)	.750 (3-4)	1.00 (6-6)	8 (4.0)
First 5	<u>19 (3.8)</u>	<u>.261 (6-23)</u>	<u>.286 (2-7)</u>	<u>.833 (5-6)</u>	<u>11 (2.2)</u>
Improvement	+12.7	+0.539	+0.464	+0.167	+2.2

**EVANS FROM THE FREE THROW LINE**

Senior RayQuan Evans enters Saturday's game against North Carolina shooting a career-high .917 from the free throw line and has made six consecutive free throws. He was a perfect four of four from the free throw line against NC State and has not missed from the line since the second half of Florida State's victory over Gardner-Webb on December 21.

**Florida State Basketball  
What's My Number**

**Scottie Barnes** – I chose to wear No. 4 at Florida State because of the many great players before me who played at Florida State and wore No. 4, including most recently Dwayne Bacon and Patrick Williams. Both players were great Seminoles and both were drafted into the NBA.

**RayQuan Evans** – There is no particular reason why I wear No. 0 at Florida State. I wore the same number at Northern Idaho and I really like the way it looks. It's a very unique number and I feel that I'm a unique player.

**RaiQuan Gray** – I chose to wear No. 1 at Florida State because I wanted to wear a number that was completely different from any number that I have ever worn before. I wore double digit numbers throughout my career. I wore No. 41 in high school.

**Nathanael Jack** – I chose to wear No. 11 at Florida State because my younger brother Joshua wears that number as a football player at St. Mary's University in Nova Scotia, Canada. He has been a huge influence on my life and has defied many odds to get where he is in his career. I sincerely admire him for all of the challenges he has been able to overcome.

**Balsa Koprivica** – I wear No. 5 because I have worn the number throughout my high school and AAU career. I feel like it's been a good number, so I asked for it when I committed to Florida State and was lucky to get it.

**Tanor Ngom** -- I try to model my game after AD (Anthony Davis) and all the bigs in the league that can do more than just dunk. Giannis is who I eventually want to play like and his number is 34; I also wear the No. 34 because of Shaquille O'Neal in his Laker days – who along with Anthony Davis – are two of the most dominant players ever to play this game.

**Anthony Polite** – I wear No. 2 at Florida State because I am the second member of my family to play at Florida State. My dad, Michael, wore No. 45 during his career as a Seminole. (1988, 1989, 1991).

**M.J. Walker** -- I wear No. 23 because LeBron James has been my favorite player for as long as I can remember. I was about four years old when he began playing in the NBA and I have patterned my game after him. I wore No. 23 throughout high school and during AAU ball.

**Wyatt Wilkes** -- When I signed to play at Florida State and the coaches asked me which number I wanted to wear, I told them I care about wins and not about uniform numbers. There is no significance to the No. 31 that I will wear during my Florida State career. I wore No. 21 in high school.

**NOTING SCOTTIE BARNES...**

...He has scored in double figures in four of the first eight games of his career with each of his double figure scoring games coming against a Power 5 team (Florida, 17; Georgia Tech, 16; Clemson, 14; NC State, 11);

...He has one blocked shot in each of the Seminoles' last three games and has two blocked shots in the first three ACC games of his career.

**NOTING SCOTTIE BARNES IN ACC PLAY**

Freshman Scottie Barnes is averaging 13.7 points scored per game in the first three ACC games of his career with double figure scoring coming against each of the three ACC opponents the Seminoles' have faced so far this season. He has shot at least 600 percent from the field in each of his first three ACC games and is shooting .630 from the field against Georgia Tech, Clemson and NC State.

**Barnes Off To A Hot Start In ACC Play**

Opponent	Points	FGM	FGA	FG Pct.	Steals	Rebounds
Georgia Tech	16	6	10	.600	2	6
Clemson	14	6	10	.600	2	4
NC State	11	5	7	.714	0	3
Totals	41	17	27	.630	4	13
Averages/Percentages	13.7				2.0	4.3

**POLITE'S SHOOTING**

Redshirt junior Anthony Polite is shooting a career-high .500 from the field (28 of 56) and a career-high .536 from the 3-point line (15 of 28). He entered the season shooting .399 from the field (after shooting .406 as a redshirt sophomore during the 2019-20 season) and shooting .317 from the bonusphere (after shooting .354 as a redshirt sophomore during the 2019-20 season)

**Breaking Down Polite's Shooting From The Field**

Seasons	Games	FG Pct.	3FG Pct.	MPG	PPG	RPG
This Season (1 Year)	7	.500	.536	28.2	10.1	5.0
First 3 Seasons (3 Years)	62	.399	.317	15.2	4.1	2.3
Improvement		+.101%	+.219%	+13.0	+6.0	+2.7

**ANTHONY POLITE HAS...**

...Made at least one 3-point shot in each of Florida State's eight games this season and in nine consecutive games dating to Florida State's victory over Boston College on March 7, 2020. He is shooting .533 from the bonusphere (16 of 30) in his last nine games.

...Made 15 3-point field goals in the first eight games of the 2020-21 season. He has already made more 3-point field goals this season in eight games (15) than he did in 30 games as a redshirt freshman (11). His single-season career-high for 3-point shorts made is 34 during the 2019-20 season.

**ANTHONY POLITE IS SHOOTING...**

.... .500 from the field (28 of 56), .536 from the 3-point line (15 of 28) and .464 from the 2-point area in the first eight games of the 2020-21 season. His previous career-best from the field was .407 (during the 2019-20 season), .354 from the 3-point line (during the 2019-20 season) and .492 from the 2-point area (during the 2019-20 season).

**JACK FROM THE NET AGAINST NC STATE**

Senior Nathanael Jack totaled his career-high of 18 points in Florida State's 105-73 victory over NC State on Wednesday in Tallahassee. He scored more points in 12 minutes played (18) against NC State than he had in his first 33 minutes played in his first five games of the 2020-21 season. Jack's previous career-high of 14 points came in the Seminoles' victory over Chicago State on November 25, 2019.

**Breaking Down Jack Against NC State**

Games	FGM-A	Pct.	3FGM-A	Pct.	Points
vs. NC State (Jan. 13)	7-8	.875	4-5	.800	18
First 5 in 2020-21	5-13	.385	4-12	.333	17
Improvement		+.490		+.467	+1

**WILKES EARNING PLAYING TIME AS 3'S CONTINUE TO FALL**

Redshirt junior Wyatt Wilkes, who enters Saturday's game against North Carolina averaging a career-high 13.8 minutes played per game, made three 3-point shots in scoring nine points in Florida State's game against Clemson on December 29. He has made six 3-point shots in the last five games and has shot especially well from the bonusphere in Florida State's three ACC games. Wilkes is averaging 7.3 points and shooting .750 from the 3-point line (six of eight) against Georgia Tech, Clemson and NC State. In 25 career ACC games, Wilkes is shooting .469 from the 3-point line (23 of 49) as compared to his .239 career 3-point shooting percentage (17 of 71) in 32 non-conference games.

**Breaking Down Wyatt Wilkes From The 3-Point Line**

Opponents	3FGM	3FGA	Pct.	Notes
ACC Games Only	23	49	.469	5-6 from 3FG / 19 points vs. N. Dame / Jan. 25 2019
Non-Conference Games	17	71	.239	3-5 from 3FG / 14 pts vs St. Francis / Nov. 23, 2019
ACC Improvement	+6	-22	+.230	Shooting a career-high .378 from 3FG in 2020-21

**IT'S NOT IF YOU START, IT'S HOW YOU FINISH**

The last two ACC Sixth Man Awards have gone to a pair of Seminoles (Mfiondu Kabengele in 2018-19 and Patrick Williams in 2019-20) who did not start a single game at Florida State during their careers. Both Kabengele (first round, No. 28 overall) and Williams (first round, No. 4 overall) were both first round NBA Draft picks.



**2020-21 Florida St. Men's Basketball  
Combined Team Statistics  
All games**

**Game Records**

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	6-2	6-1	0-1	0-0
CONFERENCE	2-1	2-0	0-1	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	4-1	4-1	0-0	0-0

**Score by Periods**

Team	1st	2nd	OT	TOT
Florida St.	311	312	7	630
Opponents	239	308	5	552

**Team Box Score**

No.	Player				Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	DQ	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
23	WALKER, M.J.	8-8	247:36	31.0	34-76	.447	17-41	.415	41-44	.932	6	14	20	2.5	17	0	18	22	2	6	126	15.8
4	BARNES, Scottie	8-7	197:55	24.7	36-73	.493	5-19	.263	12-27	.444	10	20	30	3.8	18	0	33	16	3	12	89	11.1
2	POLITE, Anthony	8-8	225:29	28.2	28-56	.500	15-28	.536	10-19	.526	15	25	40	5.0	18	0	15	10	5	9	81	10.1
5	KOPRIVICA, Balsa	8-8	151:48	19.0	29-49	.592	0-0	.000	17-25	.680	11	31	42	5.3	17	1	5	8	8	3	75	9.4
0	EVANS, RayQuan	7-1	125:38	17.9	18-38	.474	5-11	.455	11-12	.917	4	15	19	2.7	9	0	8	7	0	3	52	7.4
1	GRAY, RaiQuan	8-8	197:20	24.7	22-54	.407	4-17	.235	8-12	.667	6	39	45	5.6	25	0	17	15	7	12	56	7.0
11	JACK, Nathanael	6-0	45:27	7.6	12-21	.571	8-16	.500	3-5	.600	1	1	2	0.3	7	0	1	2	1	0	35	5.8
31	WILKES, Wyatt	8-0	110:40	13.8	12-35	.343	7-22	.318	2-2	1.000	4	9	13	1.6	5	0	13	3	4	4	33	4.1
24	CALHOUN, Sardaar	8-0	85:21	10.7	11-30	.367	6-17	.353	4-4	1.000	1	8	9	1.1	2	0	3	3	0	2	32	4.0
10	OSBORNE, Malik	8-0	161:60	20.2	9-30	.300	1-11	.091	6-7	.857	19	21	40	5.0	21	0	4	9	3	5	25	3.1
34	NGOM, Tanor	7-0	35:08	5.0	6-8	.750	0-0	.000	4-6	.667	3	8	11	1.6	8	0	0	5	5	1	16	2.3
15	BALLARD, Quincy	7-0	22:52	3.3	4-4	1.000	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	1	2	3	0.4	3	0	0	3	1	0	8	1.1
12	LINDNER, Justin	2-0	06:30	3.2	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	1.0
33	MILES, Will	2-0	03:09	1.6	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.0
20	LIGHT, Travis	2-0	03:09	1.6	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
30	PRIETO, Harrison	3-0	04:60	1.7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Team											9	9	18				2					
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>1625</b>		<b>222-476</b>	<b>.466</b>	<b>68-183</b>	<b>.372</b>	<b>118-166</b>	<b>.711</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>78.8</b>
<b>Opponents</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>1625</b>		<b>183-455</b>	<b>.402</b>	<b>66-187</b>	<b>.353</b>	<b>120-156</b>	<b>.769</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>69.0</b>

**Team Statistics**

	FSU	OPP
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>552</b>
Points per game	78.8	69.0
Scoring margin	+9.8	-
<b>Field goals-att</b>	<b>222-476</b>	<b>183-455</b>
Field goal pct	.466	.402
<b>3 point fg-att</b>	<b>68-183</b>	<b>66-187</b>
3-point FG pct	.372	.353
3-pt FG made per game	8.5	8.3
<b>Free throws-att</b>	<b>118-166</b>	<b>120-156</b>
Free throw pct	.711	.769
F-Throws made per game	14.8	15.0
<b>Rebounds</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>258</b>
Rebounds per game	36.6	32.3
Rebounding margin	+4.4	-
<b>Assists</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>90</b>
Assists per game	15.1	11.3
<b>Turnovers</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>120</b>
Turnovers per game	13.4	15.0
Turnover margin	+1.6	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.1	0.8
<b>Steals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>47</b>
Steals per game	7.4	5.9
<b>Blocks</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>23</b>
Blocks per game	4.9	2.9
<b>Winning streak</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
Home win streak	2	-
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>18592</b>	<b>1876</b>
Home games-Avg/Game	7-2656	1-1876
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	0-0

**Team Results**

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
12/02/2020	North Florida	W	86-58	2720
12/09/2020	Indiana	Wot	69-67	2956
12/12/2020	Florida	W	83-71	2761
12/15/2020	Georgia Tech	W	74-61	2664
12/19/2020	UCF	L	74-86	2576
12/21/2020	Gardner-Webb	W	72-59	2078
12/29/2020	at Clemson	L	67-77	1876
01/13/2021	NC State	W	105-73	2837



**2020-21 Florida St. Men's Basketball  
Combined Team Statistics  
Specific games**

**Game Records**

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	2-1	2-0	0-1	0-0
CONFERENCE	2-1	2-0	0-1	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

**Score by Periods**

Team	1st	2nd	OT	TOT
Florida St.	127	119	0	246
Opponents	90	121	0	211

**Team Box Score**

No.	Player	Total			3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				Other Stats									
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	DQ	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
0	EVANS, RayQuan	2-1	39:31	19.8	12-15	.800	3-4	.750	6-6	1.000	1	7	8	4.0	3	0	2	3	0	1	33	16.5
23	WALKER, M.J.	3-3	90:00	30.0	14-26	.538	6-14	.429	10-10	1.000	2	6	8	2.7	4	0	8	6	1	2	44	14.7
4	BARNES, Scottie	3-2	65:14	21.7	17-27	.630	1-7	.143	6-9	.667	3	10	13	4.3	8	0	9	6	2	4	41	13.7
5	KOPRIVICA, Balsa	3-3	59:37	19.9	11-16	.688	0-0	.000	2-5	.400	4	13	17	5.7	4	0	4	2	2	2	24	8.0
2	POLITE, Anthony	3-3	82:07	27.4	8-18	.444	5-9	.556	1-2	.500	2	7	9	3.0	7	0	9	5	1	5	22	7.3
31	WILKES, Wyatt	3-0	41:37	13.9	7-12	.583	6-8	.750	2-2	1.000	1	3	4	1.3	3	0	3	0	2	1	22	7.3
11	JACK, Nathanael	3-0	20:47	6.9	8-11	.727	5-7	.714	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.3	3	0	0	0	1	0	21	7.0
1	GRAY, RaiQuan	3-3	73:36	24.5	5-19	.263	1-7	.143	2-2	1.000	2	10	12	4.0	11	0	6	8	1	3	13	4.3
24	CALHOUN, Sardaar	3-0	31:15	10.4	5-11	.455	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	0	4	4	1.3	0	0	2	3	0	0	12	4.0
34	NGOM, Tanor	2-0	12:38	6.3	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	1.5	2	0	0	2	3	0	6	3.0
15	BALLARD, Quincy	2-0	08:52	4.4	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	1.0	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	2.0
10	OSBORNE, Malik	3-0	63:29	21.2	2-11	.182	0-5	.000	0-0	.000	3	10	13	4.3	7	0	3	2	1	0	4	1.3
33	MILES, Will	1-0	02:38	2.6	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.0
20	LIGHT, Travis	1-0	02:38	2.6	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
12	LINDNER, Justin	1-0	05:59	6.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0.0
Team											1	1	2				1					
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>600</b>		<b>94-171</b>	<b>.550</b>	<b>29-67</b>	<b>.433</b>	<b>29-36</b>	<b>.806</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>82.0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>600</b>		<b>73-177</b>	<b>.412</b>	<b>23-70</b>	<b>.329</b>	<b>42-56</b>	<b>.750</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>70.3</b>

**Team Statistics**

	FSU	OPP
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>211</b>
Points per game	82.0	70.3
Scoring margin	+11.7	-
<b>Field goals-att</b>	<b>94-171</b>	<b>73-177</b>
Field goal pct	.550	.412
<b>3 point fg-att</b>	<b>29-67</b>	<b>23-70</b>
3-point FG pct	.433	.329
3-pt FG made per game	9.7	7.7
<b>Free throws-att</b>	<b>29-36</b>	<b>42-56</b>
Free throw pct	.806	.750
F-Throws made per game	9.7	14.0
<b>Rebounds</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>91</b>
Rebounds per game	32.0	30.3
Rebounding margin	+1.7	-
<b>Assists</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>31</b>
Assists per game	16.7	10.3
<b>Turnovers</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>
Turnovers per game	13.7	11.7
Turnover margin	-2.0	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.2	0.9
<b>Steals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>
Steals per game	6.7	6.3
<b>Blocks</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>
Blocks per game	4.7	2.0
<b>Winning streak</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
Home win streak	2	-
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>5501</b>	<b>1876</b>
Home games-Avg/Game	2-2751	1-1876
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	0-0

**Team Results**

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score	Att.
12/15/2020	Georgia Tech	W	74-61	2664
12/29/2020	at Clemson	L	67-77	1876
01/13/2021	NC State	W	105-73	2837

## **Leonard Hamilton's Quest For The Respect He Deserves In The College Basketball World**

By Curt Weiler

Tallahassee Democrat

November 29, 2020

Twenty-one years ago, a Miami columnist detailed 20 questions with Miami head basketball coach Leonard Hamilton.

The first question of that 1999 interview immediately jumped out. Would Hamilton shave three years off his life in order to win a national championship?

At the time, Hamilton was in his ninth year of what would be 10 years spent atop the Hurricanes' program. He had led Miami's transition from independence into the Big East. Hamilton built the program from a 1-17 Big East record in its first year in the conference to what would be a second-place finish in the conference (15-3 record) and a spot as high as No. 9 in the Associated Press poll during the 1998-99 season.

The question wasn't especially farfetched as the Hurricanes would enter that year's NCAA Tournament as a No. 2 seed, although they made a second-round exit after being upset by No. 10 seed Purdue.

The answer Hamilton gave after a 30-second pause says a lot about the type of person he is.

"It's sad when that's a hard question," Hamilton said.

"I know I should say that I want to keep the three years of my life, but to win would mean so much to so many other people in our program that I'd have to say shave the three years off my life. It would be worth the sacrifice."

In the two decades plus since this interview, Hamilton left the Miami job for a brief stint coaching Michael Jordan and the Washington Wizards before landing at Florida State. He enters the 2020-21 basketball season leading an FSU basketball program coming off one of the best seasons in program history.

On a more personal note, he passed longtime Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins for fifth-most wins in ACC men's basketball history this past February. He enters this season with 582 career wins as a head coach, although the NCAA recognizes just 560 as FSU had all 22 wins from its 2006-07 season vacated due to an academic fraud scandal.

Regardless of which win total you subscribe to, he's expected to join an elite group of college basketball coaches that have amassed 600 career Division-I wins within the next few years. There are only 39 members of that club currently, although a few more coaches will beat Hamilton to the historic landmark.

"The bottom line is I don't think he's ever gotten the national publicity he deserves," ESPN college basketball analyst Dick Vitale said of Hamilton.

"When you think about the ACC, that's not cupcake city, man. You think about that league and what he's achieved, I believe he ranks in the top five all-time in wins in the conference. There are some great coaches in that league. That is an incredible achievement. Leonard just goes about his business, he works his butt off, he's a recruiting genius and he's also a very solid tactician. I don't think people give him credit for the job he does."

And if you talk to anyone who knows Hamilton well, they'll tell you he's done it the right way.

"This guy has always been a winner. He's always been successful and he's always won because of his heart," FSU assistant coach Charlton "C.Y." Young told the *Democrat*.

"First thing you learned in the Bible is the more you give, the more you receive. He has given so much to people and it comes back threefold."



## **'Wake Up, Knucklehead'**

Hamilton twice helped break the color barrier during his collegiate basketball career, arriving as one of the first Black student-athletes both at Gaston Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

He parlayed his playing career into a role on the Austin Peay coaching staff, first as a graduate assistant from 1971 through 1973 and then as an assistant coach for the 1973-74 season, helping the Governors to the program's first two NCAA Tournament appearances in program history.

This success made Austin Peay head coach Lake Kelly a coaching commodity who began to attract attention from a number of larger programs. Despite having just one season as a full-time coach at that point, Hamilton channeled courage and walked into the office of the Austin Peay president, asking if he would be considered for the head coach position should Kelly go elsewhere.

The president, citing his pending retirement within the next few years, told Hamilton that he couldn't bring himself to make him the first Black coach in the history of the Ohio Valley Conference, although he personally wanted to give him the job.

After this discouraging development, Hamilton briefly left coaching before he was convinced to return when legendary Kentucky coach Joe B. Hall offered him a spot on his staff, making him the first Black coach in the program's extensive history.

Although he still had aspirations of eventually becoming the head coach of a traditional basketball power early in his time in Kentucky, he looks back now with that fateful meeting with the Austin Peay President as divine intervention which led him down the path he's paved.

"It's almost like God reached down in heaven and slapped me on both sides of the face (and said), 'Wake up, knucklehead. Those programs that are already in great shape with great facilities and great tradition don't need you,'" Hamilton told the *Democrat*.

"It was almost like I came to the realization that with the type of personality I have, I would be better served by taking jobs that were not in metropolitan areas, jobs that had consistently been challenging for other people to be consistent at winning.

"Those jobs would offer me the motivation and the challenge that I needed to go in and prove that I was capable of doing something that had not been done. Those types of opportunities really became what motivated me and I was excited and I started looking for jobs that needed to be rebuilt."

## **A Career Spent At "Football Schools"**

Hamilton spent 12 years as an assistant at Kentucky, the final six of those as the associate head coach. He helped lead the Wildcats to the program's fifth NCAA Tournament Championship in 1978, Kentucky's first national title in 20 years at the time.

When the time came for Hamilton to take his first head coaching position, however, it wasn't with nearly as prolific a basketball program. He took over the reins at Oklahoma State ahead of the 1986-87 season, inheriting a program that had made the NCAA Tournament just once in the previous 21 seasons.

In the 21 years before he arrived in Stillwater, the Cowboys had finished above .500 in Big 8 play just twice.

Hamilton never took OSU to the NCAA Tournament -- the Cowboys made the NIT in each of his final two seasons -- but his tenure laid the groundwork for the success that followed years after his departure. OSU made the NCAA Tournament each of the next five years and 13 of the ensuing 15 years after his departure.

He moved on from OSU to accept the head coach position at Miami. He arrived ahead of the program's sixth year back in existence after Miami was without a basketball team from 1971 until 1985.

Once again, he found himself coaching a basketball team at a football school. The Hurricanes' football program won its third national championship the year before Hamilton arrived and won another in Hamilton's second season at UM in 1991.

There's something about this exact situation that aligns well with Hamilton's unique self-motivation.

"He had to investigate and evaluate programs where if he didn't let anybody outwork him, which is one of his big mantras, he could go in there and people would know that if he could turn it around then it was because of his effort and his talent and his focus that other people couldn't get it done," Stan Jones, a longtime assistant coach on Hamilton's staff, told the *Democrat*.

"That would be the way he would have to build his head coaching career. I think he's always looked at it that way, as I've got to take a program that needs a lot of restoration and if I do the restoration then nobody could say that it was given to me, nobody can say I didn't earn it. I think he's proven that at every stop along his journey."

It took him time to build the program up, but the gradual growth paid off when the Hurricanes made the NCAA Tournament in his eighth season in 1997-98. That snapped a skid of nearly 40 years since Miami's last NCAA Tournament appearance in 1960.

After a one-year stint coaching Michael Jordan and the Washington Wizards in the NBA, Hamilton landed back in the college game, this time at Florida State.

Taking over at FSU ahead of the 2002-03 season, Hamilton again took over a basketball program at a football powerhouse. He got to FSU just after the football program's record streak of 14 consecutive top-five finishes was snapped in 2001.

Similar to his previous stops, he again inherited a program in desperate need of strong leadership. The Seminoles, after a strong start upon their arrival in the basketball-heavy ACC, had fallen on hard times. In the nine years before his arrival, FSU had failed to win more than six ACC games in any season and finished above .500 just twice.

It again took him time to build the program his way, but he found quicker success this time. After a pair of losing seasons in his first three years at FSU, Hamilton has since led the Seminoles to winning seasons in each of the last 15 years.

He took FSU to its first Elite Eight since 1992 in 2018 and achieved perhaps the least likely accomplishment this past season, bringing home the program's first ACC regular-season championship.

"Leonard really has built programs, not just taken over programs at so-called football schools. As a result of that, especially if you're building, you don't have tradition there for basketball," Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski told the *Democrat*.

"It's not that easy. It's not easy anywhere, but it's especially hard in those situations. Because he's a tireless worker, good guy, great coach, he's been able to do that at all these locations. His most recent success story is Florida State and it's a huge one."

Were it not for the cancellation of the NCAA Tournament this past March due to the coronavirus pandemic, Hamilton could have very well made his first Final Four as a head coach. Even better, his Seminoles were one of the trendiest picks to win the entire tournament.

The ascension of the FSU basketball program to another tier has been well-timed as the FSU football program has fallen on hard times unlike any over the last 40 years.

"He's never had an easy job. Let's face it, he's had jobs where football has been dominant. Miami, Florida State, especially the times he arrived," Vitale said.

"When he arrived, they were (football) giants. Right now, the people at Florida State are talking about, I guarantee it, when does basketball start? You've never heard that cry before."

### **Rightful Perspective**

Nolan Richardson knows what it takes to succeed as a basketball coach at a football school.

He inherited a similar situation as Hamilton at FSU and Miami when he took over the Arkansas basketball program in 1985. Nearly a decade later, he became just the second Black head coach to win an NCAA basketball championship when he led the Razorbacks to the 1993-94 title, joining Georgetown's John Thompson Jr., who became the first in 1984.

Only two more Black coaches have joined this short list since Richardson, Kentucky coach Tubby Smith in 1998 and Connecticut's Kevin Ollie in 2014. Although these four all have titles while Hamilton has never made a Final Four, he's got more career wins than all of them except for Smith.

Even though Hamilton is far older than one would believe from looking at him -- he turned 72 in August -- he remains one of the likeliest coaches to join this elite club of Black coaches who have reached the pinnacle of college basketball.

"I don't really think he gets the kind of respect that he would get if he was a white coach with those kind of victories," Richardson told the *Democrat*.

"I think that's the thing that I've always said. You have to prove yourself more than once, twice, three or four or five times and it's a constant. For him to be able to win 600 games, that's quite an accomplishment. I understand what it means simply because I was in the same arena that he's in and sometimes you don't play on a level playing field that the others are playing on."

Now entering his 33rd season as a college basketball head coach, Hamilton has been one of the bridges from the last generation of Black coaches to the next generation. A mild-mannered person, especially in public settings, it's taken Hamilton time to get used to being a mentor to that next generation like Thompson and Richardson were to him.

"I try to encourage him more that he needs to be more of a voice out there in this winter of his career because he has so much to give and he has so much knowledge and he has so much savvy on how to navigate an athletic department, dealing with the media, dealing with recruiting, dealing with all the things that go on with being a successful head coach for anybody," Jones said.

"Whether you're a minority or not, he's a guy that really understands this business and he's incredibly smart and thinks through everything at a level that a lot of people that just play off of their emotions don't realize that's the key to success is how deep you're able to think. He is that guy."

Young is one coach who has taken advantage of that mentorship. He's now in his eighth season as an assistant coach under Hamilton at FSU. Although he didn't have much of a relationship with Hamilton before joining his staff, Young now views getting him the respect he feels he's deserved in the college basketball world as one of his biggest goals.

"Everybody is always asking, 'Why's he still doing it at his age?' Because he wants to walk out letting people know (he) was the best," Young said.

"One day, they're all going to say it. If you don't want to say it, we're going to make you say it. My goal for J. Leonard Hamilton is to get him in the Hall of Fame, to win a national title...I want his name to be synonymous with winning. Winning on the court, off the court, in life."

While Hamilton may not be a household name to the average college basketball fan, he's well-respected by the major figures in the coaching world.

"He does not get the attention and the recognition that he so richly deserves. Especially in this last decade at Florida State where Florida State is one of the top programs in the United States," Krzyzewski said.

"Our conference has some of the top programs in the United States and Florida State is one of them and it's a result of Leonard and his staff doing incredible work there."

Added North Carolina head coach Roy Williams, "Leonard really cares about his players. He's not only concerned with what they do on the court. He does a great job making sure his players do well off the court, in the classroom, and he helps them get ready for life after basketball. I admire him tremendously. He is one of the people that I would be very pleased if he coached my son."

Hamilton may never reach the top of the college basketball world. He hasn't discussed how many years of coaching he may have left, but it's a number that is dwindling whatever it is.

This may prevent Hamilton from getting the respect many in the college basketball world feel he deserves while he's still coaching. But George Raveling, another mentor to Hamilton who won 337 games as the head coach at Washington State, Iowa and Southern California between 1972 and 1994, is confident that Hamilton will get his due in time.

"Many years ago in a speech, Malcolm X said that history is best situated to reward a man's deeds. My interpretation of that is that ultimately history will put things into their rightful perspective," Raveling told the *Democrat*.

"If the story's not told today, it will be told tomorrow. History will put him in his rightful context at some point be it today, tomorrow or in the distant future. His contributions to life and the profession and the race and his family, those chapters are still being written right now.

"We're probably 20 chapters into a 30-chapter book right now. But at some point, history will take over and it will put him in his rightful perspective. Even if we as human beings can't do it or accept it or want to do it, history will do it for us."















































