

## **Mills Fits In Well With FSU Rhythm**

By Ben Meyerson

FSView

November 21, 2021

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- After arriving to the University of Houston, Caleb Mills led the Cougars in scoring as a freshman in the 2019-20 season with 13.2 points per game — making him just the second player at Houston to do so.

He played in all 31 games for the Cougars, helping lead them to a 23-8 record and an AAC regular season championship. In his second season after four games, Mills entered the transfer portal — eventually choosing the Seminoles over Kentucky, Texas, NC State and North Carolina.

Mills will have three seasons of eligibility in Tallahassee. Through three games this season, he has started every game and been an important two-way player for head coach Leonard Hamilton.

Ahead of Wednesday's game, Hamilton talked about adding Mills and discussed how the other additions fit in.

"When you ask about how they're fitting in — a lot of how they're fitting in is going to be in relation to how efficient we are as a team," Hamilton said. "They cannot be as efficient as we would like for them to be until we are as a unit."

In their 59-54 win against Tulane, Mills was a crucial contributor with 13 points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals. Mills also finished the game with more minutes than any other Seminole.

With all the losses to the Seminole roster over the offseason (Walker, Barnes and Gray), they needed to replace some of the production and minutes they lost, and it looks like they have with Mills.

He needed to be a key contributor for the Seminoles to have early success and he has been so far. When he was in the game, they were +10 against the Green Wave.

FSU has spent the early part of the season figuring out what players work well together and which lineups are the most efficient.

After the game, head coach Leonard Hamilton acknowledged the struggle of bringing in so many new players to a system already in place.

"We are in a development stage right now and that is understandable," Hamilton said. "There is some indecision right now and that's what happens when you have a lot of first-year players. We'll work our way out of it."

This version of the Seminoles is still building and figuring out things as the season progresses. So far, the biggest addition that has played the most has been Caleb Mills.

While Mills is not a dominant one-man show, his ability to fit in and find his spots is working seamlessly with Hamilton's system that encourages selflessness.

While the 'Noles have not found replacements for who they lost last season, they have found multiple players who can fill different roles and are versatile.

After Wednesday's game, Malik Osborne talked about the additions of Mills.

“For Caleb, he is a very quick defender, very gifted when it comes to scoring, able to find a shot, create a shot and get a bucket when we need it,” Osborne said.

Mills has been and will likely continue to start — but more than anything, he has earned the trust of Hamilton and his teammates.

In Tallahassee, Mills has found the right role for him to play and is fitting in nicely.