

## **Vic Allen: A Scholar And An Athlete**

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GAINESVILLE, Fla. (seminoles.com) – As the Florida State Women’s Tennis Team gets set to play Florida International on Saturday in the first round of the NCAA Championships at the Alfred A. Ring Tennis Complex at the University of Florida, junior Vic Allen is building quite a legacy.

She’s a member of two NCAA Championship teams, earned All-American Honors from the ITA for her doubles play in 2020 and is among the top 20 in school history for doubles winning percentage. She’s also one of four players in school history with multiple winning streaks in singles play of 10 matches or more.

Allen is not only successful on the tennis court, but in the classroom as well. She is a recent recipient of the Golden Nole Award for her outstanding academic achievements and the newly elected Vice President of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) at Florida State. She earned Academic Dean’s List honors this spring and has earned either President’s List (three times) or Dean’s List (three times) honors in each of her first six semesters as a Seminole.

Allen works daily to contribute to the athletic community by working with various Florida State departments to improve student-athlete life.

From Ashbourne in the United Kingdom, Allen’s introduction to tennis actually began in Sarasota when she was four-years old. Allen was on vacation with her parents when she picked up a tennis racket for the first time.

She joined in playing with the kids group on the trip and loved the game.

When she returned home, she started her tennis journey by playing in clubs. While Allen began her tennis career, she also continued to balance her academics.

“When I was younger my mom said to me ‘if your academics slip, tennis stops’,” said Allen. “So I definitely kept that my whole career.”

Allen knew to continue competing, she would also have to learn to make a schedule.

She continues to play and practice all while studying and going to class. When it came time to take her academic and athletic career to the collegiate level, Allen decided Florida State would allow her to be successful in both.

“I hadn’t thought about college tennis until I was about 16, then I got a message from Coach Jen (Hyde),” said Allen. “She offered me a visit and as soon as I came out here I fell in love with campus and I loved the team.”

Although Allen comes to Florida State from across the globe, she has found that the adjustment was not as hard as she expected.

“I think I am lucky that I speak English being from the UK, so it is not a crazy transition. Life out here is different but I do love it,” said Allen.

There is a big international community within Florida State athletics that has helped Allen not feel as isolated. Allen has taken advantage of this by spending a lot of time with the team outside of the courts.

However, Allen still misses her family back at home.

Coming from a big family, she is extremely family oriented.

“I have a lot of respect for my parents and my siblings,” said Allen. “Everyone has worked very hard and is very successful.”

Allen’s family has influenced the standards she sets for herself and has helped her become the person she is today. Her sisters do not play, but her parents enjoy playing for fun. They have been incredibly supportive to Allen and have assisted her through her travels.

When asked about her favorite part of competing, she responds by saying, “just the excitement of going out there to win for yourself and the team.”

For Allen, she enjoys competing with the people she plays and trains with every day. She works every day to get better and climb up the rankings.

“I have been really lucky. I’ve put in some hard work and had a couple of great results and experiences,” said Allen.

This season, Allen recalls her proudest moment is when the team beat No. 10 Duke on their home court. There were only four Seminoles competing who competed in the game because of injuries.

“That was a crazy win,” said Allen. “To do that with not even a full team was really special.”

She has continued her hard work throughout this season and has made goals for her and the team.

“The main goal was to make the NCAA’s for the team,” said Allen

With that goal accomplished, Allen and her teammates will look to advance in the NCAA Tournament beginning Saturday.

Senior Petra Hule has played doubles with Allen during the last three years and has come to trust her teammate.

“Vic is a well-rounded human and she’ll be there for you no matter the time of day,” said Hule. “On the court she will always give you her best. That’s when you know you can trust her to keep it real, as she will work to make herself better, and also be better for you. This translates off the court too; she’s a stellar student and a true role model.”