

## FSU Guard Darin Green Finds Success On The Basketball Court

By Matt Murschel  
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Darin Green's love for basketball came at an early age.

It was hard not to, growing up in a basketball family with both parents having played the sport: Mom in high school and Dad at George Washington University.

His father first put a basketball in his 3-year-old son's hands and eventually taught him how to shoot.

"He played guard as well, but he was more an athlete — a slasher and dunker — who could get above the rim," said Green. "He got hurt and that's when he learned to shoot, so he taught me to shoot early on because he knew that would last longer than your athleticism."

Those shooting skills have helped Green Jr. as he's made his way from high school to college.

Green transferred to Florida State after spending three seasons at UCF, averaging 11.6 points in 82 games for the Knights. The 6-foot-4 guard shot

"It just felt like home," Green said of the decision to transfer to FSU. "They preach the same things my parents preach. The discipline part of this program and the attention to detail. The ability to come off ball screens and show I can do more than just shoot."

It's been a challenging start for Florida State (0-3), which lost its first three games for the first time since 2000-01. A loss to Florida (2-1) on Friday would be the worst start by a Seminoles team since 1959-60.

Injuries and a suspension have reduced FSU's lineup to seven scholarship players, led by Green, averaging 16.3 points and 35.5 minutes per game. It's not an ideal situation, admits coach Leonard Hamilton, who has been forced to lean on the transfer guard more than anticipated.

"It is almost virtually impossible to play 36 minutes a game and live with it," said Hamilton. "But we're doing what we have to do to compete at this level."

Hamilton believes the last time a Seminoles player averaged 36 minutes was Toney Douglas, the former guard who logged 36.5 minutes in 2008-09.

"That's almost abusive, and it might get me arrested," he joked. "My point is that's not healthy, but that's where we are right now."

The extra minutes haven't bothered Green, who is willing to do whatever it takes to help the Seminoles win.

"If I've got to play 36 minutes or if I've got to play three minutes, I'll do whatever coach asks, at least to the best of my ability," said Green. "I'm not focused on how long I've had to play. I don't get tired out there, so I didn't notice it was 36 minutes until after."

Green isn't the only one playing significantly more minutes because of the short bench, with the remaining four starters averaging 29 minutes. Hamilton hopes help will be on the way as center Naheem McLeod (ankle), forward Baba Miller (16-game suspension) and De'Ante Green (knee) and guards Chandler Jackson (broken thumb) and Jeremiah Bembry (undisclosed injury) return.

Meanwhile, Hamilton wants the team to be more efficient, especially on the offensive end. He would like to see the Seminoles pass the ball around more, creating open shots for Green

“We’ve got to make sure that we find ways to get him the looks that allow him to utilize his skills and talents,” said Hamilton.

That was on display against Troy on Monday when Green connected on 7 of 9 3-pointers (78%) on his way to a season-high 24 points.

As one of a handful of veterans on the roster, Green also has been a crucial voice in the locker room and court, especially with a lineup featuring seven freshmen.

“Coaches have been harping on me to become a leader on and off the court,” he said. “In study hall, in class, in apartments and also here in practice or the film room.”

That leadership role is something else he can trace back to his upbringing. His parents stressed the importance of academics, rewarding him for working hard in the classroom.

“I got to meet [Golden State Warriors guard] Stephen Curry off my success in the classroom,” Green recalled. “In sixth grade, my dad told me that if I got straight A’s, he would take me to a Golden State Warriors game. So I did and I got to meet, Steph. He told me how hard work pays off and some shooting things he does.”