



TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN
FLORIDA STATE
 FOOTBALL

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3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | 15 ACC CHAMPIONSHIPS | 43 FIRST-ROUND PICKS

FINAL: FSU 42, SOUTHERN MISS 13

TEAM NOTES

- Playing in a bowl game for the 36th consecutive season, Florida State beat Southern Miss 42-13 Wednesday afternoon in the Walk-On's Independence Bowl. Interim head coach Odell Haggins moved to 2-0 in his career as head coach.
- The win improved FSU to 7-6 on the season, FSU's 41st consecutive winning season, one shy of the all-time record.
- FSU is 29-16-2 all-time in bowl games, with eight wins in the past 10 tries.
- FSU had a 23-6 halftime lead and improved to 7-1 in 2017 when leading at halftime.
- FSU has 16 scoring drives of 75 or more yards (15 touchdowns, one field goal), including three TD drives against USM.
- FSU has forced at least one turnover in eight of 13 games this season.
- After allowing 63 yards and a touchdown on the first drive of the game, FSU's defense allowed 86 on the Golden Eagles' next four drives combined, resulting in three punts, a lost fumble and the end of the first half.
- FSU was 6-for-7 in the red zone vs. USM and is now 44-of-48 on the season, which included 26 consecutive at one point. In that span, FSU has scored 22 touchdowns and four field goals (five TDs today vs. USM).
- FSU has had a 1,000-yard rusher in five straight seasons (D. Freeman 2013, D. Cook 2014-16, Akers 2017). FSU did not have a 1,000-yard runner between 1997 and 2012.
- FSU was making its first appearance in the Independence Bowl and improved to 11-6 when playing in a bowl game for the first time.
- FSU outscored opponents 199-51 over the season-ending four-game win streak.
- FSU's 42 points scored are its most in a bowl game since scoring 42 in the 2008 Champs Sports Bowl.

PLAYER NOTES

- Freshman running back **Cam Akers** ran for 94 yards on 13 carries, passing Dalvin Cook for the most rushing yards by an FSU freshman in a season (1,024). Akers also caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from James Blackman in the second quarter. It was Akers' first career receiving touchdown.
- True freshman quarterback **James Blackman** passed for a career-high four touchdowns. Blackman has thrown at least one touchdown in 11 of 12 starts and has multiple touchdown passes in five games, including three of the past four.
- Blackman's four touchdown passes set an Independence Bowl record for TD passes in a game and are the most for a Seminole QB in a bowl since Chris Weinke had four against Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl (1/4/2000).
- Junior wide receiver **Auden Tate** caught five passes for 84 yards against Southern Miss, including three touchdowns. Tate's 10 touchdown catches are the most for a Seminole since Kelvin Benjamin (15) in 2013. It was the first multi-TD game for an FSU receiver this season and tied the Independence Bowl record for TD catches in a game.
- Blackman's 19 TD passes this year are tied for No. 19 in single-season history. Tate's 10 TD catches are tied for 13th in FSU single-season history.
- Freshman wide receiver **D.J. Matthews**, redshirt sophomore defensive end **Jalen Wilkerson** and sophomore linebacker **Emmett Rice** made the first starts of their careers.
- FSU's starting offensive line of **Josh Ball**, **Derrick Kelly**, **Alec Eberle**, **Cole Minshew** and **Rick Leonard** starting for the ninth consecutive game.
- Sophomore kicker **Ricky Aguayo** made two field goals Wednesday. He is now 17-for-20 on the year and has made six straight over the past seven games. Aguayo entered bowl season 21st nationally and third in the ACC with an .833 field goal percentage.
- Tight end **Ryan Izzo** had six catches for 59 yards, setting a career high for receptions in a game.
- True freshman defensive back **Stanford Samuels III** forced a Southern Miss fumble late in the second quarter, the first of his career. It was recovered by junior **A.J. Westbrook**, his first career recovery.
- Playing his final career game, redshirt senior **Nate Andrews** led FSU with six tackles, a season high.
- Junior running back **Jacques Patrick** ran 16 times for 61 yards, including his 16th career rushing touchdown, tied for 18th in FSU history.

CAPTAINS & COIN TOSS

CAPTAINS

C Alec Eberle, WR Jared Jackson and DE Derrick Nnadi.

COIN TOSS

Southern Miss chooses heads; Florida State wins the toss and defers.

FSU STARTERS

OFFENSE

| | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Career | Consecutive |
|-----------------|----|------|------|------|------|--------|-------------|
| Josh Ball | LT | - | - | - | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| James Blackman | QB | - | - | - | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Alec Eberle | C | - | 6 | 13 | 13 | 32 | 32 |
| Keith Gavin | WR | - | - | - | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Ryan Izzo | TE | - | 11 | 12 | 13 | 36 | 24 |
| Derrick Kelly | LG | - | 4 | 2 | 13 | 19 | 13 |
| Rick Leonard | RT | - | - | 6 | 13 | 19 | 16 |
| D.J. Matthews | WR | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cole Minshew | RG | - | - | 3 | 13 | 16 | 16 |
| Jacques Patrick | RB | - | 1 | 1 | 9 | 11 | 3 |
| Auden Tate | WR | - | - | 4 | 8 | 12 | 1 |

DEFENSE

| | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Career | Consecutive |
|--------------------|----|------|------|------|------|--------|-------------|
| Nate Andrews* | SS | 13 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 2 |
| Brian Burns | DE | - | - | - | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Demarcus Christmas | DT | - | 1 | 13 | 13 | 27 | 26 |
| Ro'Derrick Hoskins | LB | - | 6 | 13 | 9 | 28 | 5 |
| Tarvarus McFadden | CB | - | - | 13 | 13 | 26 | 26 |
| Derrick Nnadi | DT | - | 13 | 11 | 13 | 37 | 21 |
| Jacob Pugh | LB | - | 4 | 8 | 7 | 19 | 1 |
| Emmett Rice | LB | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Levonta Taylor | CB | - | - | - | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| A.J. Westbrook | FS | - | - | 8 | 5 | 13 | 1 |
| Jalen Wilkerson | DE | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |

*Andrews also had 1 start in 2013