



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