



2018
FLORIDA STATE
FOOTBALL

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3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | 15 ACC CHAMPIONSHIPS | 44 FIRST-ROUND PICKS

FINAL: FSU 36, SAMFORD 26

TEAM NOTES

- Willie Taggart recorded his first victory as the Florida State head coach in dramatic fashion, with 15 fourth quarter points in a span of 1:40, as the Seminoles rallied to a 36-26 win over Samford.
- It was Florida State's first victory after trailing at the half since rallying from a 13-10 deficit at NC State on Nov. 5, 2016 for a 24-20 victory.
- The Seminoles improved to 24-0 all-time against FCS opponents. Florida State, Clemson and Syracuse are the only ACC teams who have not lost a game to an FCS opponent, dating to 1978.
- After losing the takeaway battle 5-0 in the season-opener against Virginia Tech, FSU used a 5-1 takeaway advantage against Samford to pull out a victory. Senior DB A.J. Westbrook recorded his first interception, while sophomore DB Cyrus Fagan recovered his first fumble, both in the first half. DT Marvin Taylor was credited with the forced fumble.
- The Seminoles recorded their first 4 interception game since Nov. 23, 2013 at home against Idaho in an 80-14 win.
- After yielding 341 yards and 23 points in the first half, FSU's defense limited Samford to 134 yards and 3 points in the second half.
- A week after going 1-of-4 in the red zone against Virginia Tech, FSU was a perfect 3-of-3 against Samford.
- Florida State had seven players make their first career appearances against Samford. Six of those - DB A.J. Lytton, LB Zaquandre White, LB DeCalon Brooks, DB Isaiah Bolden, OL Brady Scott and TE Camren McDonald - saw action in the first half and were joined by OL Baveon Johnson, who played after intermission.
- Samford's 26 points were the most by an FCS opponent against the Seminoles since FSU's 56-31 win over Western Carolina on Oct. 31, 1981.

PLAYER NOTES

- QB Deondre Francois eclipsed 300 passing yards for the sixth time in his career against Samford. The redshirt sophomore was 31 of 46 for 320 yards and 3 TDs, spreading the ball to eight receivers. It was his first 300-yard passing game Nov. 19, 2016 at Syracuse (315) and his most passing yards in a game since he threw for 330 at NC State on Nov. 5, 2016. His career-high came against Ole Miss (419) on Sept. 5, 2016.
- Francois' 8-yard TD run in the first half was his first since a 3-yard run against Michigan in the 2016 Orange Bowl.
- Redshirt freshman WR Tamorrion Terry collected the first two TD receptions of his career in the first half, reeling in Deondre Francois strikes of 27 and 17 yards. Terry is FSU's first freshman with two TD receptions in a game since Rashad Greene collected a pair against Charleston Southern on Sept. 10, 2011.
- Sophomore TE Tre' McKitty's 5-yard TD reception with 4:03 remaining gave the Noles their first lead. McKitty's first career TD reception capped his second consecutive 5-reception game (59 yds.). It was followed by Francois' 2-point conversion pass to Nyqwan Murray to give the Noles a 29-26 lead.
- Murray's conversion reception was the first 2-point conversion by the Noles since Nick O'Leary collected an EJ Manuel pass at Virginia Tech on Nov. 8, 2012 in a 28-22 come-from-behind victory.
- TB Cam Akers led the Noles in rushing (14-76) and also had a team-high 7 receptions (38 yds.). WR Nyqwan Murray was the receiving yardage leader with 63 yards (6 receptions).
- Junior CB Levonta Taylor's 63-yard interception return for a TD with 2:23 remaining sealed the victory. It was the first interception return for a score by the Noles since Taylor's 18-yard grab-and-dash at Florida last season.
- Junior DB Kyle Meyers snared a pair of second half interceptions, the most in a game by a Seminole since Levonta Taylor had two against Florida last season. They were Meyers' second and third career thefts. His first interception came at Wake Forest in 2017.
- A trio of Seminoles - LG Arthur Williams, WR Tamorrion Terry and DE Janarius Robinson - earned their first career starts against Samford.
- Logan Tyler punted 7 times for 325 yards and a 46.4 average. Tyler had 3 punts over 50 yards, including a 59-yarder, which was the second-longest of his career. He also had 3 punts into the 20.
- Sophomore DB Hamsah Nasirilddeen led the Noles with a career-high 12 tackles and DB Stanford Samuels III set a career-high with 8.

CAPTAINS & COIN TOSS

At the end of fall camp, head coach Willie Taggart named senior center Alec Eberle, junior defensive end Brian Burns and junior kicker Ricky Aguayo FSU's 2018 captains.

COIN TOSS

Florida State won the coin toss and elected to receive.

FSU STARTERS

OFFENSE

		2015	2016	2017	2018	Career	Consecutive
Cam Akers	RB	-	-	4	2	6	2
Mike Arnold	RG	-	-	-	2	2	2
Alec Eberle	C	6	13	13	2	34	34
Deondre Francois	QB	-	13	1	2	16	2
Keith Gavin	WR	-	-	8	2	10	7
Derrick Kelly	RT	4	2	13	2	21	15
D.J. Matthews	WR	-	-	1	1	2	1
Nyqwan Murray	WR	-	2	8	2	12	2
Tamorrion Terry	WR	-	-	-	1	1	1
Arthur Williams	LG	-	-	-	1	1	1
Jauan Williams	LT	-	-	-	2	2	2

DEFENSE

		2015	2016	2017	2018	Career	Consecutive
Brian Burns	DE	-	-	13	2	15	15
Demarcus Christmas	DT	1	13	13	2	29	28
Dontavious Jackson	LB	-	1	2	2	5	2
Fredrick Jones	DT	-	2	-	2	4	2
Kyle Meyers	DB	-	-	2	2	4	2
Janarius Robinson	DE	-	-	-	1	1	1
Stanford Samuels III	FS	-	-	1	1	2	1
Levonta Taylor	CB	-	-	13	2	15	15
Adonis Thomas	LB	-	-	2	2	4	2
A.J. Westbrook	FS	-	8	5	2	15	3
Jaiden Woodbey	STAR	-	-	-	2	2	2

