

Hampton is leaving OU for FSU

Oklahoma FC, which will host a first-round Women's Premier Soccer League playoff game tonight
By Michael Kinney The Norman Transcript

NORMAN — Dria Hampton was the face of Oklahoma soccer. When the highly touted Edmond native decided to stay home and play for the Sooners in 2008, it signaled that the women's soccer program was on the rise.

However, after three years of wearing the crimson and cream, Hampton has decided she needed a change of scenery. She will be transferring to Florida State this fall where she will finish out her soccer career.

Because of NCAA rules, Hampton will be able to play right away and not sit out a year. But as soon as the fall season concludes, she will return to Oklahoma to graduate in the spring of 2013.

"The majority of it is soccer-wise," Hampton said. "OU is a great school. Good people. Love my teammates. More just soccer level, I was just real unhappy for a bunch of different reasons. I gave it a shot, and it didn't work out. That's all right."

Hampton started all 62 games she appeared in at Oklahoma and leaves with 15 career assists and 12 goals. Her 39 points are eighth best in the program's history.

"OU did make me a better person and a better player," Hampton said. "I still think I took something out of the situation even though it didn't work out there. I still grew in ways that I wouldn't have grown if I had went elsewhere. It was a good experience."

Yet, that was not enough to keep Hampton at Oklahoma, which is going through regime change. Matt Potter was hired as the new head coach when Nicole Nelson stepped down following the 2011 season having served four years as head coach.

When asked if she would've stayed at OU if Nelson had retained her job, Hampton had no comment. Yet, she admitted she had been considering leaving for a while.

"I kind of started looking in February as soon as Nelson stepped down," Hampton said. "Then we got a new coaching staff. It was kind of what was best for me, I think. The past couple years I've looked and didn't want my team to think I quit on them. But this is my last go-around, and this just kind of fell into place at Florida State. It's just kind of what I needed to do personally, I think, to be happy."

Hampton said the Seminoles have been on her trail since she was in high school. That was one of the reasons she chose to join them.

"To be honest, it was the coaches and the players," Hampton said. "I'm strictly going to play ball. But their coaches and program sold me as soon as I stepped on campus. I think they have been after me since I was a senior in high school. I've turned them down and turned them down, but they just kept coming back. They never gave up on me. That meant something to me. They just kept at it."

One of the players Hampton will miss most is her longtime friend and teammate Caitlin Mooney, who joined the Sooners two seasons ago after one year at Maryland. They played on the same teams growing up in Edmond.

“We’ve played together for so long,” Mooney said. “For me, personally, it’s kind of tough, because you like having good players around you. Dria reads me and I read her like no other player. We’ve been together that long. So it’s tough, but I know she is going to go in and make a huge impact.”

Despite the loss of Hampton, Mooney said the Sooners will be fine.

“With my team, we will just keep doing what we are doing,” Mooney said. “We have good players that are going to step up and fill her position and play to the best of their abilities.”

Hampton and Mooney are currently both members of Oklahoma FC, which will host a first-round Women’s Premier Soccer League playoff game at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Stars Field on the campus of Oklahoma City University. OFC (10-1-2) will take on the American Eagles Soccer Club (8-3-2).

With Hampton leaving Saturday for Tallahassee, this will be their final game together as college students.

“It’s going to be really hard,” Hampton said. “I think my freshman year was the last time I had to play without her when she went to Maryland for a year. But it’s not like I’m not coming back. I hope to partner up with her and play overseas one day. It would be a dream come true. When in doubt, we always have this to come back to this summer. She is a very special player.”

FSU soccer loaded for another run

10:29 PM, Jul 30, 2012 |

Comments

Written by

Corey Clark

Nolesports.com Editor

His program has been elite for years now, but even Mark Krikorian admits this team could be different.

The Florida State head soccer coach says the 2012 Seminoles may be the most talented collection of players he's coached during his time in Tallahassee.

"Certainly from the top spot on the roster to the last player on the roster," said Krikorian, whose team begins practice on Wednesday morning.

"The quality of player and depth is greater than it's ever been."

And it's been pretty darn good.

The Seminoles are coming off a 2011 season in which they won the ACC Championship and advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament, losing to eventual national champion Stanford in the College Cup.

They return a number of significant pieces from that squad, including a talented trio of redshirt seniors in Jessica Price, Casey Short and All-American forward Tiffany McCarty.

"The biggest question mark we have is what our midfield is going to look like," Krikorian said.

"Not because we have a lack of talent, it's more a matter of we have a lot of talent and how will it fit together to have us be successful in November?"

Many coaches around the country would love to be in Krikorian's shoes, obviously, but the veteran head coach says he does have a bit of a dilemma heading into the new season. With so much experience returning he'll have to figure out how to find enough playing time for his influx of talented newcomers.

The head coach is very excited about the players he added to the roster in 2012 – it was considered one of the top recruiting classes in the nation – and he'll try to figure out ways to get them on the field in the fall.

"You really have to manage the team, manage the roster," Krikorian said.

"We have an awful lot of very good players. Getting minutes for those players, finding the result we want to find and keeping the players is happy is a good problem to have.

"The challenge is to find the right formula."

When the team gets together for its first practice on Wednesday morning, the head coach will talk about the upcoming season and what he expects. Even though it has a chance to be his best FSU team, Krikorian said the goals won't change for 2012.

They never do.

"We'll talk about the reason they've all come here and the reason I'm here so it's all clear in everyone's mind," he said.

"We are about excellence on the field, in the classroom and the community. That's kind of the position we're taking.

"The goal is always the same here. We want to be playing in late November and early December."

The Seminoles begin their season on Aug. 17 at Minnesota.

For Yankees' Joba Chamberlain, the beginning of a new chapter

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Marc Carig/The Star-Ledger By Marc Carig/The Star-Ledger

CHAPTER 2

Seven months had passed since he left the place where he healed his body and soul, and on the occasion of his return to the Yankees, immediate introspection escaped Joba Chamberlain.

"I never really had a worst day," he said, appeasing a questioner, curious about the lowest point in the pitcher's journey back.

Reared by a father whose bout with polio left him in a wheelchair for life, his upbringing made him immune to such thinking. The son, unlike the father, knew his injury would heal. So it was silly to call any one day "the worst."

However, there were times when it was easy to give in, moments of weakness shared with those who healed alongside him in Florida, at the rehabilitation center founded by renowned orthopedic surgeon James Andrews. These times were visible only to people such as 18-year-old Rylee Hart, who could always sense when Chamberlain was having "one of the hard days."

"I'd say that I was stronger than him," said Hart, who often joked with Chamberlain to rescue him from those dark moments, just as he would so often do for her.

"He's a complete goofball," Hart said. "He made coming to therapy every day fun. ... I'd help him, encourage him when he was struggling a little bit. And he'd help me as well, joke around, make me smile when I was having a hard day."

And so it went for those who passed through during Chamberlain's four months at the rehabilitation wing of the Andrews Institute in Pensacola, Fla. From September to December of last year, Chamberlain lived in an apartment near Sarasota, Fla., so he could turn his focus to recovering from Tommy John surgery.

While there, he met football players and nine-to-fivers, weekend warriors and elite-level athletes. Animal expert Jack Hanna passed through. As did Kansas City Chiefs running back Jamaal Charles, and safety Eric Berry, whose father rose early to prepare home-cooked meals for the group.

And then there was Hart, the Florida high school soccer star who first visited the center two years ago. She had torn the ACL in her left knee. She returned when she tore it again last November.

All of them came at their weakest point, what Hart calls "that in-between state."

"You can't do anything completely, but you can still walk," she said. "You just can't really do anything."

Nevertheless, for a few grueling hours three days a week, they reported to the Institute to stay on their routines: Mondays and Fridays for workouts. Wednesdays for stretching.

Rest.

Repeat.

“In all honesty, you just want to quit,” Hart said. “You say, you know what? It doesn’t matter anymore. But then having Joba there saying you can come back, you can keep going, have a goal, you’re going to play soccer, it helped so much.”

Looking back, Chamberlain needed the time away. He arrived in New York a phenom in 2007. From his sudden rise, and through his steady fall, he was analyzed and scrutinized at every turn.

“Sometimes, everything was going so fast,” he said. “I’ve been in the spotlight for good and bad reasons for six years. It’s nice to take a step back.”

Surrounded by strangers who would eventually become friends, the Institute shielded him from the isolation of rehab. Sometimes they talked baseball. Mostly they didn’t. In many ways, it was Chamberlain’s first true time out from baseball in years. He left the Institute last December with a new sense of appreciation, one he has resolved to take with him for the rest of his career.

That appreciation has already endured its first test.

His rehab from Tommy John surgery had gone smoothly. He was on track to return in June. In spring training, he took his son Karter for an afternoon of jumping on trampolines. By that night, Chamberlain was in a Tampa emergency room, his career in potential danger.

He landed awkwardly and his ankle snapped.

Days later, crutches at his side, a tube to drain fluid sticking out from the brace on his ankle, Chamberlain said his latest calamity was just another twist in “The Book of Joba.”

His comeback began with aid of a foot stool, on which he propped up his ankle for games of catch. It continued with minor-league fields in Florida, where he proved his readiness. It ended Tuesday night, when a familiar voice delivered the news.

“You might want to turn around,” Yankees head trainer Steve Donohue said.

Chamberlain was in the back seat of a car that had just pulled into the parking lot at Waterfront Park in Trenton, where he was to pitch in his final minor-league rehab game. If all had gone well, he was to be activated from the disabled list.

But general manager Brian Cashman had traded away a relief pitcher, and the Yankees bullpen needed an arm. Chamberlain rushed to the bathroom, snagged a bottle of water for the trip, then climbed into the back seat.

His heart raced. He closed his eyes to take a nap. It was pointless.

Chamberlain thought of the doctors who repaired his elbow and ankle. He thought of the fans who followed his progress on Twitter. He thought of the people he met at the Institute.

He knew they'd understand.

"It's very gratifying because you're like, 'Wow, I'm glad I didn't quit because I wouldn't be here at this point,'" said Hart, now a freshman defender with the Florida State women's soccer team. "But I stuck through it."

Chamberlain spent his entire hour-and-a-half car ride calling those who put him on this road.

As his Suburban whizzed up the New Jersey Turnpike, he went down the list, starting with his father Harlan. He ended with the massage therapist who released the muscles around his ankle before every workout in Tampa.

Chamberlain placed his last call as his car passed over George Washington Bridge, just a few miles from Yankee Stadium, the last stop in a journey that took 14 months.

His heart raced once more as his SUV arrived at an entrance reserved for players, the most satisfying turn in "The Book of Joba."

CHAPTER 3

He returned to the Yankees on a gray Wednesday afternoon. The stitching on his glove spelled out just one word: "Dream." He wore it on his left hand as the bullpen gates swung open.

Chamberlain paused at the warning track, stopping for an instant to soak in the moment, his first in a big-league game in more than a year. Then he started his jog once more, concerned only with what would come next.

FSU soccer ranked No. 4 in preseason

12:19 AM, Aug. 8, 2012 |

Written by

Democrat staff report

The Florida State soccer team now knows what the National Soccer Coaches Association of America thinks of its potential for the 2012 season.

The Seminoles were ranked No. 4 in the NSCAA preseason poll announced Tuesday. It's the highest preseason ranking for the Seminoles since they were voted No. 4 at the start of the 2008 season.

The ranking also marks the sixth straight year FSU has earned a spot in the top 10 of the NSCAA's preseason poll.

"It is an honor to open the season ranked in the top 5," FSU coach Mark Krikorian said. "It also shows the level of respect we have earned over the course of time as being a top program. But it is where we finish at the end of the season that mean a lot more. We know that with the quality of the schedule that we have we are going to be tested from the beginning to the very end of the season."

Eight starters and 13 letterwinners are back from last year's squad that finished with 18 wins while capturing the Atlantic Coast Conference championship for the first time in school history and advancing to the College Cup.

With five College Cup appearances since 2003, Florida State is one of only three programs in the nation, and the only school in the ACC, to play in soccer's version of the "Final Four" five times in the last nine years. Since 2000, the Seminoles have made 12 straight trips to the NCAA Tournament, played in 10 Sweet 16's and advanced to the quarterfinal round seven years in a row – the longest active streak in the nation.

FSU returns five of seven players who recorded double-digit points last year including all-time leading scorer Tiffany McCarty (42 points), redshirt senior Jessica Price (17 points), sophomore Dagny Brynjarsdottir (13 points), senior Ines Jaurena (11 points) and sophomore Jamia Fields (10 points). Redshirt senior Casey Short returns after missing the entire 2011 campaign with an injury.

In all, the Seminoles return over 72 percent of their scoring from last year. The veteran leadership will come in handy for Krikorian and his staff as they welcome 13 newcomers in 2012.

Florida State is one of eight teams from the ACC ranked in the top 25 including one of five ranked in the top eight. The ACC is so good headed into 2012 that the Seminoles are the third-highest ranked team in the league in the NSCAA's pre-season poll. Duke and Wake Forest are ranked second and third, respectively, while Virginia is ranked No. 7 and North Carolina is ranked No. 8.

"It doesn't get much tougher than the ACC," Krikorian said. "Eight teams in the top 25 and five in the top 8, it's a credit to the quality of the institutions, the coaches, the players and their commitment to excellence in this league."

Florida State's quest for the school's first national title begins Aug. 17 with a game at Minnesota.

Seminoles rally past Minnesota

Jaurena scores game-winner in 3-2 victory

12:09 AM, Aug. 18, 2012 |

Written by

| Democrat staff report

The first seven minutes of Florida State's soccer season wasn't exactly what head coach Mark Krikorian hoped to see.

The fourth-ranked Seminole gave away two quick goals to the University of Minnesota and looked in danger of losing their season-opener for the first time in five seasons.

Instead, Krikorian's team rallied back to secure a 3-2 win that was clinched with a goal from senior Ines Jaurena in the 86th minute.

"The fact is, we have a mature team. An experienced team with very good young players as well," Krikorian said. "If we're in a game and hanging around, we will give ourselves a chance to win. That, to me, was the best part of the game. We hung in and hung in and hung in and gave ourselves a chance to get the victory."

Sophomore Dagny Brynjarsdottir scored FSU's first goal off an assist from Tiffany McCarty in the 14th minute to cut the lead to 2-1.

Freshman Nora Kervroedan tied the game off an assist from Kristin Grubka in the 62nd minute. Jaurena completed the scoring off Jessica Price's assist.

FSU plays at Marquette on Sunday at 2 p.m.

 **espnW.com:**



Thursday, August 23, 2012

FSU's first trip is a 'bon voyage'

By Ines Jaurena

As a Division I student-athlete, my goal is clear: To be a national champion. I share this goal with my 25 teammates on the FSU women's soccer team.

I spent the whole summer in France, which is home for me. Whether we come back from Japan, Germany, Iceland, England, Australia, France or one of the 50 American states, it is always a pleasure to reunite with our teammates after a good summer. The joys of preseason -- the smell of fresh grass, the heat of the August Florida sun, the refreshing rains, the numerous team dinners and the noise of the contact between a soccer ball and your brand new pair of cleats -- get me excited for the upcoming season.

After falling short of our journey last year (we were defeated in the national semifinal by Stanford), our team returned to the practice field on Aug. 1 with plenty of ambition. Following some rigorous fitness tests, the two-a-day practices finally started. Each returning player was assigned a new player to mentor to help integrate them on how we do things at Florida State. We teach them how we attack, how we defend and how to cool down after a match. We even help each other bridge the language gap because of the vast diversity on our team.

After two speedy weeks of training, the excitement was certain as we headed to the University of Minnesota. However, we probably lived the worst seven minutes ever in a season opener. We seemed to have lost our spark in the locker room as we found ourselves down early 2-0. We fought hard and managed to get a 3-2 win after a great comeback.

Without a doubt, this new team showed some character. Yes, the two goals were hard to digest when you expect excellence, but after the game I was very proud of the way every single one of my teammates battled throughout the 90 minutes on the field.

Traveling is one of my favorite things in the world besides soccer and, luckily, soccer allows me to travel a lot. Discovering and passing through the different states in the U.S. is also part of the college soccer season. Indeed, downtown Minneapolis, with its many sights, including its professional sports' venues, is now much less of a secret to all of us.

Milwaukee was our next destination. The Marquette University soccer team was our next opponent, but after many interruptions in the game because of lightning warnings, the game was canceled and ruled a no contest despite 41 minutes remaining in the match. We were leading 3-0 and only the lightning stopped us on this day. With no time to shower, we hustled to catch our flight. Luckily, we made it on time. Needless to say, I felt bad for the passengers sitting by us.

Even if we faced some small difficulties along the way, we can say that this first trip was a "bon voyage."

Ines Jaurena is a senior defender from Charenton-le-Pont, France. She enters her fourth season as a

starter on the Seminole backline and has registered 26 career points on eight goals and 10 assists. She has appeared in 72 matches, making 71 starts at Florida State.

FSU soccer earns No. 1 national ranking

12:04 AM, Aug. 29, 2012 |

His sarcasm was obvious.

Now that the Florida State soccer team has moved up to No. 1 in the nation in the latest NSCAA poll, head coach Mark Krikorian joked there was really nothing left for his Seminoles to accomplish in 2012.

“Yep,” he said with a laugh. “The season’s over. It’s time to renegotiate my contract.”

The veteran coach obviously understands being No. 1 in late August isn’t nearly the same as being No. 1 in early December. And his soccer program, one of the elite ones in the United States, is much more concerned with post-season accomplishments instead of preseason or pre-conference accolades.

“I think preseason polls are always a reflection of what happened last year,” said Krikorian, whose team advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament in 2011. “The fact is there were a couple of upsets of teams that were sitting above us in the preseason poll.”

Which opened the door for his team to slide into the top spot.

The Seminoles, who host No. 22 Florida on Friday night, are technically 2-0 on the season with wins at Minnesota and No. 9 Central Florida. They also had a 3-0 lead in the second half at No. 12 Marquette but that game was canceled due to inclement weather.

Even with that result washed away, Florida State has been impressive enough early on to ascend to the top spot in the country. Yet even though it’s the first time his program has been ranked No. 1 in the NSCAA, Krikorian is not about to make it a big deal.

“We don’t care about being ranked No. 1 or No. 20 or No. 40,” he said. “We’re just about preparing for every day, every game. However it shakes out it shakes out. The only ranking that matters is at the end.”

FSU's goalkeeper Kelsey Wys wins ACC honors

12:04 AM, Aug. 29, 2012 |

Florida State goalkeeper Kelsey Wys earned Atlantic Coast Conference women's soccer player of the week honors for her play in last week's shutout of No. 9 UCF.

Wys, a redshirt junior from Coral Springs, recorded four saves to help FSU earn a 1-0 victory last Friday. She made two saves in the final eight minutes of the match to preserve the shutout.

The shutout was her first of the season and 21st of her career, moving her within ½ a shutout of becoming the all-time leader in that category in Florida State history.

Pardon will play at world beach volleyball junior championships

Florida State sophomore Jace Pardon will represent the United States at the FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch Junior World Championships this week in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The five-day event features 32 women's pairs competing for the Under-21 World Championship.

Pardon will team with USC's Kirby Burnham in the event.

Pardon, from Manhattan Beach, Ca., was one of the leaders of the Seminoles' inaugural sand volleyball team in 2011, teaming with Jekaterina Stepanova to finish with a 45-6 record and advance to the semifinals of the pairs portion of the AVCA National Championships.

In July, Pardon teamed with Loyola Marymount's Litara Keil to win the USAV High Performance Under-21 Championship in Los Angeles, defeating her FSU teammates, Stephanie and Nina Pelliteri, in the finals.

 **[PRINT]** [espnW.com:](#)



Friday, August 31, 2012

We're excited to play in front of home crowd

By Tiana Brockway

Each year every team returns from summer break the first week of August to begin its journey to a national championship. The journey for most doesn't start in August, but is a continuation of hard work, determination and progress put forth during the spring semester and leading up to the fall.

Our journey began much sooner. It began on Dec. 3, 2011, the day after we lost to Stanford in the College Cup in Kennesaw, Ga. That day was the starting point of our new journey. We were dissatisfied with how our season ended. To not finish the year as national champions was not what we planned.

But with each defeat comes a lesson, and for us to become better we needed to take everything from that game, the good and the bad, and turn it into a learning opportunity. Our coach, Mark Krikorian, always says this is a game of inches, so we needed to look at every facet of our game and find ways to improve to reach our ultimate goal.

Our coaching staff is so instrumental in making our team the best we can be. They give all their time, effort and knowledge into making us better student-athletes, helping us to develop and refine our skill set each day we step foot on the field. The coaching staff at Florida State sees each game and each practice as a teaching moment. They put us in an environment where we will succeed, but when we fail, they do a great job of picking us up and teaching us how to conquer it the next time.

So here we are, not far from home on our second road trip of the season. This past weekend we played the University of Central Florida and came out of the game with a 1-0 victory. Not all games in soccer can be beautiful, and this game was no exception. Passion and character made up for the lack of beauty and finesse.

With each passing game, we learn more and more about ourselves as individuals and as a team. We are constantly growing. We are off to a great start and hope to keep the momentum rolling throughout the season.

We just found out on Tuesday that we are currently ranked No. 1 in the nation! We were ecstatic when we heard the news, but it will only make us more determined to play at a consistent level and to win every game we play.

Each game is another chance to measure our abilities as a team against a valid opponent. This next measure comes Friday in our home opener against the University of Florida. This will be the first time this season where we play in front of a huge crowd. It is such an experience to play in front of our amazing fans. I am excited to share this experience with all the new players on my team. I hope they enjoy the moment as much as I will.

No. 1 FSU Blanks No. 22 Florida, 1-0

The Seminoles capture their first win over the Gators at home since 2006.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Sophomore Kristin Grubka accounted for the only goal Friday night as top ranked Florida State (3-0-0) blanked No. 22 Florida (1-2-1), 1-0, in front of a packed house of 2,243 – the second largest crowd in school history.

“I don’t know if you could top the atmosphere here tonight; I was so thrilled that the crowd came out and supported our team against a very, very good Florida team,” said head coach Mark Krikorian. “That was some high level soccer on display tonight. We felt good that we were able to score the goal, get the result and have the shutout as well.”

“It’s always a great feeling to get back here and get on our home field,” said Kelsey Wys. “As you can see, we had a great crowd and it’s awesome to have their support.”

“It was unbelievable,” added Grubka. “I love the home crowds; we always get a good turnout, and they’re always behind us.”

Grubka gave the Seminoles the early lead finding the back of the net off a throw-in from Jessica Price in the 10th minute of play. The Melbourne, Fla., native took the pass and flicked a header cross on goal from about 12 yards out that bounced once before finding the inside of the right post for her first goal of the season. Price was credited with the assist on the play, her third assist of the season, to move within two of tying Mami Yamaguchi atop the Seminole record books.

“It’s always interesting when Jessica throws it in because it’s such a long throw-in,” said Grubka. “I’m always trying to get around the defenders that are on me. I flipped it, hoping it was going to the back post, and luckily I turned around, and the back post player hadn’t kicked it out.”

Both teams had their chances to find the back of the net Friday night but some fantastic goalkeeping on both sides kept the two offenses in check.

Kelsey Wys turned in her second straight shutout performance as she made five saves to become the all-time leader in shutouts at Florida State with 22. The shutout was her first against the Gators in three meetings.

“Kelsey was once again tremendous in goal for us tonight,” said Krikorian. “She was reading the ball well and made some great saves to keep the Gators off the scoreboard.”

Florida’s Taylor Burke was equally impressive making four saves in 90 minutes of action. All four saves came after the Seminoles took the one-goal lead.

The win for Florida State Friday night was its first at home against the Gators since a 1-0 victory in 2006. It also marked the first time the home team successfully defended their home turf since Florida defeated FSU 2-1 in Gainesville. The Seminoles have now won the last two matches against Florida to tie their longest win streak in the series at two as their last two-game win streak over the Gators came in 2005 and 2006.

“We created some pretty good chances tonight,” added Krikorian. “I thought during the first 25 or 30 minutes we had some chances to score a second or third goal. But the Florida group defended us well, and did quite good on the counter as well.

“We’re going to have to do a better job of stopping their transition, and we have to be a little bit more disciplined, but it’s an early season game against a very good opponent. That’s why we play these games, so we can have some of your weaknesses exposed.”

FSU wasted very little time putting the offensive pressure on the Gators as Price sent a header on goal off a corner kick in the seventh minute that was saved by a Florida defender on the near post.

After the Seminoles went on top with Grubka’s eventual game-winner, FSU looked to add to its lead in the 18th minute off a Gator defensive miscue. The ball trickled out to some open space and with Casey Short running in on the play, the senior defender blasted a shot from 25 yards out forcing Burke into a diving save.

“I was the most impressed with the way we came out to play tonight,” added Wys. “Every person on the team brought something with them, and we knew what it was going to take in order to be successful.”

The Gators had a pair of good looks in the 22nd and 23rd minute, but Havana Solaun went wide on the first shot. The second shot came off the foot of Erika Tymrak as she tried to sneak a long range shot past Wys, but the Seminole keeper was there for the first of two first half saves.

Florida would attempt to tie the game right before the half but Wys would have nothing of it making a tremendous leaping save on a blast from about 35 yards out off the foot of Adriana Leon. The ball was headed toward the upper left corner of the goal as Wys snatched the ball with her outstretched arms for the save.

Florida State went into the locker room with the edge in shots (8-5) and corners (4-1), while Price paced the Seminoles with two shots.

In a span of 45 seconds in the second half, Florida State had two great looks on goal but Burke made two outstanding saves to keep the Seminole lead at 1-0. Tiffany McCarty attempted the first shot off a pass from Dagny Brynjarsdottir in the 66th minute, but the senior’s shot from 18 yards was tipped out of play by Burke.

On the ensuing corner kick, freshman Carson Pickett sent a bending shot on goal toward the far post, but Burke was there to keep the ball out of the net with a punch save to her right.

Wys returned the favor with a great save of her own in the 72nd minute when Tymrak slipped a pass to Solaun, who found herself one-on-one with the Seminole keeper. Solaun tried to beat Wys with a shot to the far post, but the Coral Springs, Fla., native came through with an outstanding diving save to keep the Seminole lead intact.

Less than two minutes later, FSU’s Isabella Schmid forced Burke into another save situation as her shot from 25 yards out was tipped over the crossbar.

The Gators would make one final push to find the equalizer in the last 10 minutes of regulation but Wys made a pair of saves on back-to-back shots by Mckenzie Barney. In the 88th minute, Solaun took a pass from Tymrak and tried to beat Wys with a cross into the upper right corner but she sailed the shot high and out of play.

Florida State outshot Florida, 14-12, while maintaining the edge in corners at 7-4. Schmid led the Seminoles with three shots Friday night.

The top-ranked Seminoles will return to the field on Sunday, September 2 against the College of Charleston at 1:00 p.m. EST. Live stats will be available via gametracker, while fans can always receive in-game updates on Twitter @FSU_Soccer. Also, do not forget to like the Seminole Soccer team on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FSUSoccer.

Grubka's goal lifts No. 1 FSU over Florida

'Noles return home Sunday against College of Charleston

12:42 AM, Sep. 1, 2012 |

Written by

Brian Miller

Democrat writer

By now, defenders know full well the damage Florida State forward Jessica Price's speed creates.

They also shouldn't discount the senior's upper body strength.

Price's long throw-in to the left corner of the six-foot box in the 10th minute found perfectly-positioned teammate Kristin Grubka, defended on her back.

The sophomore midfielder's flick-on header goal inside the far post lifted newly-minted No. 1 FSU to a 1-0 win over No. 22 Florida on Friday night at the Seminoles Soccer Complex.

"It's always interesting when Jessica throws it in because it's such a long throw," said Grubka, who scored her first of the year.

"You're trying to expect it and get around the defenders that are always on you. I just flicked it hoping it would go back post for one of my teammates to run on. It went in, and it was pure excitement."

The victory, in front of the second largest crowd in program history (2,243), moves the Seminoles to 3-0-0 on the season with College of Charleston (1-2-0) visiting Sunday.

Florida falls to 1-2-1 on the heels of a win over previously No. 2 Duke, which allowed FSU to jump to the top of the polls.

"I don't know if you can top this atmosphere and environment," Seminoles head coach Mark Krikorian said. "That's a very good Florida team and some high-level soccer. We feel good that we were able to score the goal and get a result and get a shutout as well."

Price first warned the Gators' defense of her throw-in power a few minutes before, tossing in to the middle of the box, but the goal could not be completed on the backend.

"She had the throw-in when we recruited her, but her technique and ability to hold the ball under pressure is significantly better," Krikorian said. "It seems every game she does something to change the game in our favor."

Only after a flurry of three straight corner kick attempts did Price make the perfect heave. Grubka barely moved.

"I know she's really strong so I try to get it up in the air and let her roll with it," Price said. "We were trying to get the early goal. Unfortunately, we didn't put it away on the corner kicks, but it gave us some good opportunities."

The Seminoles have now won nine of the last 15 matches in the series, though this is the first time the home team has won since 2007.

It wasn't without a couple breaks, as the Gators had a goal from Havana Solaun a minute into the second half waved off for offsides.

"Florida defended us well and countered well," Krikorian said. "We're going to have to do a better job stopping transition. We weren't particularly good at it today. It's discipline, but it's an early-season game against a very good opponent."

FSU junior goalie Kelsey Wys (3-0) picked up her second shutout of the year, recording five saves in the match, including three crucial ones in the second half. Wys is now FSU's all-time shutout leader with 22 in her career.

Gators sophomore goalie Taylor Burke made five off 14 Seminoles' shots, but the defense, led by SEC Defensive Player of the Year Kathryn Williamson, could not keep FSU from scoring a huge rivalry win.

"The freshmen learn fast that this is a huge game," Grubka said. "Our house, their house, there is always going to be a huge crowd rooting for the home team. Very glad they were rooting for us tonight. It was unbelievable."

Seminoles capture high-level derby

by **Paul Kennedy**, September 1st, 2012 6:40AM

[FLORIDA STATE-FLORIDA] Sophomore **Kristin Grubka** scored in the 10th minute, and No. 2 Florida State held on to blank No. 15 Florida, 1-0, in front of a packed house of 2,243 -- the second largest crowd in school history.

"I don't know if you could top the atmosphere here tonight," said FSU coach **Mark Krikorian**. "I was so thrilled that the crowd came out and supported our team against a very, very good Florida team. That was some high level soccer on display tonight."

Grubka took a throw-in from **Jessica Price** in the 10th minute and flicked a header on goal from about 12 yards out that bounced once before finding the inside of the right post.

Price was credited with the assist on the play, her third assist of the season, to move within two of tying **Mami Yamaguchi** atop the Seminole record books.

"It's always interesting when Jessica throws it in because it's such a long throw-in," said Grubka. "I'm always trying to get around the defenders that are on me. I flipped it, hoping it was going to the back post, and luckily I turned around, and the back post player hadn't kicked it out."

Kelsey Wys turned in her second straight shutout performance as she made five saves to become the all-time leader in shutouts at Florida State with 22.

"Kelsey was once again tremendous in goal for us tonight," said Krikorian. "She was reading the ball well and made some great saves to keep the Gators off the scoreboard."

A Gator equalizer by **Havana Solaun** was called off for offside early in second half.

"The offside was very close," Florida coach **Becky Burleigh** said. "For the other ones, we need to have a bit more composure. We had awesome chances. Ultimately, that final execution was the difference in the game."

Aug 31 in Tallahassee, Fla.



Florida State 1 Florida 0. Goal: Grubka (Price) 10.

Florida State -- Wys, Jaurena, Short, Grubka, Brockway, Brynjarsdottir, Fields, Hampton, Schmid, Price, McCarty. Subs: Hahn, Pickett, Hogg, Murakami, Kervroedan.

Florida -- Burke, Williamson, Dragotta, Westphal, Silver, Travis, King, Speese, Tymrak, Solaun, Barney. Subs: Bobbitt, Falknor, Andujar, Graff, Gutsche, Leon.

Att.: 2,243.

Comment

 Email  Print



No comments yet.

Grubka claims the air for FSU

Defender has a knack for scoring off 'set pieces'

12:23 AM, Sep 7, 2012 |

Written by
Brian Miller

Opposing defenders don't see a lot of Florida State sophomore Kristin Grubka during the live-ball moments of a match. That's because the top-ranked Seminoles soccer team has been using her physical talents in its backline defense this season.

Her directive changes drastically on set pieces and for good reason.

"It's a special quality to be able to time headers or take a free kick into the corner of the goal over a wall," FSU head coach Mark Krikorian said. "I think it's a specialist aspect when you talk about set pieces."

Lately, the Melbourne native has turned set-piece assassin, posting a pair of game-winning headers.

"She's incredible in the air and incredibly strong and so dangerous on set pieces," said fellow defender Casey Short.

Against then-No. 22 Florida, her early flick-on goal was the difference in a 1-0 win. It came off a throw-in.

Versus College of Charleston, she buried a header on the run off a corner kick, jump-starting a 4-0 victory.

"I always like going up for headers and my size helps me out a lot with it, so I look forward to the challenge of getting it in the back of the net," said Grubka, who played 180 minutes in the back in the two wins. "You have to want to head it, not everyone does. (Those players are) probably more technical, but I like heading a whole lot. It's preference."

Grubka received a national player of the week honor to go with an ACC Player of the Week accolade, the first of her young career, for her recent contributions.

Her start this season corresponds very well with how she finished last season— starting the final 11 games of the season as a freshman, totaling three goals and three assists for the season. Two goals were game-winners.

"When we were recruiting her, we knew she had some special athletic gifts," Krikorian said. "She was a multi-dimensional player. Within her high school team, she played front, midfield, back and even played as a goalkeeper. She's just naturally gifted."

"And when you take the natural gifts and then you look at the winner's mentality she has and add in her interest in development and becoming a better player, I think you have a formula for a pretty good player."

It's not really a surprise how Grubka has progressed. Her sophomore year of high school resulted in a Class 6A state championship. The next year brought a 5A title before leaving early for college.

Current freshmen teammates Tori Abnathy and Kacy Scarpa got a good look at what was to come when they lost to Grubka in the state semifinals as members of George Jenkins High.

"I remember— she played up top and I was in the back— being pretty intimidated going up against her because she was so physical and strong," Scarpa said. "I don't think that's changed much, but just the technical side is so much stronger."

Krikorian cites Grubka's versatility in moving from forward to midfield to now left back, along with similar progression of senior Short, as key to postseason success.

"We've had a number of players over the course of the seven years I've been here that have developed into players that are quite different than when they walked in the door," Krikorian said. "It makes them a better player and it makes us a better team."

The Seminoles (4-0-0), in the midst of a three-match shutout streak, host Cal State Fullerton (1-4-0) tonight at 7 and then travel to play at Arkansas (3-2-0) on Sunday.



Friday, September 7, 2012

Rivalry win highlights successful weekend

By Ines Jaurena

What a weekend!

I wouldn't be able to tell you why and where it comes from, but what I can assure you of is that the rivalry between Florida State University and the University of Florida isn't just a myth, it is reality.

As an FSU athlete, playing UF is always a big deal; playing UF at home is an even bigger deal. So I'll let you imagine that playing UF for our season home opener on Aug. 31 was something we had all been waiting for. Coach Mark Krikorian made sure we were mentally ready for the big rendezvous.

About 2,300 fans showed up to support us that night. You had to be there early to get a seat in the bleachers. The not-so-lucky ones sat on the grass around the field while others watched the game from the parking garage overlooking the field.

I hadn't felt as much pressure and excitement for a game since the College Cup last year. During the whole week, people on campus, on Facebook and on Twitter were talking about it, wishing us the best of luck. Losing wasn't an option. It wasn't only a question of the end result but a question of pride as well. As a soccer player, I live for games like this one.

It was 7 p.m. on Friday, the game between FSU and UF could finally start. We came out with the right mentality and managed to score an early goal. We didn't know it then, but Kristin Grubka, our left center back, had just scored the game-winning goal. No other goal would be scored that night. It was such a relief to win this game, especially in front of a great crowd.

Saturday was going to be an important day for us. Our legs and bodies needed to recover from that intense game as we would have to turn around and play the College of Charleston on Sunday. Regeneration was scheduled at 10 a.m. for the players who played a significant amount of minutes, while the rest of the group practiced a little bit longer.

It just so happened that Saturday was also the FSU football season opener at home against Murray State. Even though a bunch of us were excited about it, attending the game would mean standing in the sun for four straight hours. This was, of course, out of the question as Coach was very clear about it after our game on Saturday, "You can only go for a quarter, and make sure to bring along your water bottle!"

Despite only being able to go for a quarter, I was still looking forward to doing the Seminole chop, cheering and watching the game with my friends. The Noles went on to the win game, and the weekend continued to be a great one with one more thing to accomplish.

The last thing on the list was beating the College of Charleston and improving our record to 4-0-0. Under a persistent sun and extreme heat, we managed to defeat our opponent 4-0 to remain undefeated for the year. Beating UF on Friday would have been meaningless if we hadn't won on Sunday. This second win was another relief.

Another week in the books, and I can't tell you how proud I am of my team. There are just two more games before we begin our ACC schedule. Until then we have to continue to hold ourselves to high standards, work hard and prepare for our next opponent, Cal-State Fullerton Friday and Arkansas on Sunday.

Florida State soccer faces toughest test yet in Duke

5:28 PM, Sep. 12, 2012 |

Written by
Perry Kostidakis
Staff Writer

In one of the most anticipated games of the season, the top-ranked Florida State soccer team will take on the squad directly behind them in the rankings, the Duke Blue Devils.

The Blue Devils are the team that had No. 1 stolen from them by the 'Noles after losing to Florida 3-2.

Florida State beat Florida 1-0 on August 31, the third of their five wins, the latest coming against Arkansas last Sunday, beating them 1-0 in Fayetteville.

This is the first matchup between teams ranked No. 1 and 2 in Florida State women's soccer history.

The only game that comes close was when FSU was ranked No. 1 in 2006 and played No. 4 North Carolina, losing 2-1.

"We're hopeful that our nonconference schedule has prepared us for this, but in the ACC, it's going to be a battle everytime we play," said FSU head coach Mark Krikorian. "We shared time with Duke and Wake Forest in the Final Four last year, we know the quality of their programs. Not only are they talented kids, but they're also experienced."

While the Seminoles have gone on the country's best win streak, the Blue Devils have been on a hot streak of their own.

Since losing to Florida, the Blue Devils have won four straight, including a 5-2 win over then No. 12 Marquette on Sept. 10.

Along the way, they have accumulated an NCAA-best 4.14 goals per game with the help of junior forward Laura Weinberg, who is No. 7 in the nation, with 2.57 points per game and 18 on the season.

"They're organized, they're quick, strong, just like a lot of other ACC teams," said redshirt junior forward Tiffany McCarty. "They're No. 2. The last four years I've been here they've been great competition and we've had some great battles. Duke's just a great team to play."

FSU, in comparison, only has 2 goals a game and is ranked outside the top 25 in offensive categories, but mainly because defense has been the highlight of this team.

The 'Noles have only allowed .5 goals per game, and are also No. 7 in the nation in shutout percentage, with a rate of 66.7 percent.

Offensively, McCarty leads the team with three goals on the season, and sophomore Dagny Brynjarsdottir, senior Jessica Price, and sophomore Jamia Fields all share the assist leadership with 3 apiece.

The recent matchups between these ACC rivals show the equality of the two programs.

Since 2006, the series is 2-2-2, with the largest margin of victory coming in 2009 when the final score was 5-3 in Florida State's favor.

"It's our first ACC game," said redshirt junior goalie Kelsey Wys. "We know every team in the ACC is a good team. We know we have to be ready and we have to be sharp. The backline is going to be organized, and we're going to have to be our best in order to get the result we want."

The game takes place Thursday, Sept. 14 at 7:00 p.m., and will be broadcast on ESPN3.

The first 200 students to arrive to the game will receive a free FSU tanktop.

Wys' play key to stopping Duke

No. 1 'Noles and No. 2 Blue Devils in ACC showdown

11:44 PM, Sep. 12, 2012 |

Written by

Brian Miller

Democrat writer

With the top-ranked Florida State women's soccer team ready to open ACC play with a bang tonight against No. 2 Duke — and the Blue Devils feeling likewise — it could all come down to which goalie makes the bigger impact.

And lately, FSU keeper Kelsey Wys' stalwart presence in goal has been a huge reason why the team is undefeated.

"I think not just me or the backline but the whole team takes pride in not giving up goals because at the end of the day there are sometimes goals I can do nothing about," Wys said.

"It comes down to defending as a team and we take pride collectively, not just myself."

Wys has recorded three solo shutouts and a team shutout in getting the Seminoles to 6-0 on the year. She's allowed just three goals, and all have come in the first 12 minutes of a game— two off turnovers in the back and one on her own goal-kick mistake.

Otherwise, opposing attackers are finding it hard to deposit a ball past the junior — FSU's all-time leader in shutouts — on set pieces or its standard offensive attack.

"Staying organized can make our jobs a lot easier," Wys said.

"We know we've given balls away and given teams chances that they haven't really earned. That's something we've talked about and something we'll work to improve on as the season goes on to limit their chances."

Duke (6-1) boasts a proficient bunch of goal scorers. Laura Weinberg enters with a team best seven goals and four assists and has 25 career goals, good for eighth in Blue Devils' history.

Yet, her recent goal flurry has come without starting midfielder Nicole Lipp and previous leading scorer Kim DeCesare, who missed Duke's last game with ankle injuries.

Both will be available tonight, as will the Blue Devils' leading scorers last year in Mollie Pathman and Kelly Cobb, who have returned from leading the U.S. U-20 team to a World Cup win over Germany.

"It's now about collective discipline on defense," FSU head coach Mark Krikorian said.

"They have a collection of very good players. You need to pay attention to all of them. The idea is to get a lot of numbers around the ball and together have good organization so the individual qualities of the players are less pronounced."

Duke enters with an NCAA-best 4.14 goals-per-game average, it's only loss a 3-2 defeat in overtime to No. 24 Florida, while Wys' goals-against-average is at a diminutive 0.53.

"As a back, I trust my goal keeper," Seminoles senior defender Ines Jaurena said.

"It has happened to me not to trust my goalie and it's probably the worst feeling as a back, as I'm sure it's probably the worst feeling as a goalie not to trust the defenders. I know she'll be ready if I make (a mistake)."

It doesn't get any easier for the Seminoles as No. 14 Wake Forest (6-1-1) visits Sunday afternoon, completing the opening conference weekend between three of last season's four NCAA College Cup finalists.

 **espnW.com:**



Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Excitement is in full power for ACC play

By Tiana Brockway

When you're a child, all you dream about is what you want to be when you grow up. No one steps back and assesses all of the steps it takes to get to that final destination.

In youth soccer, a lot of our dreams are the same. We all aspire to play for a prestigious university and win a national championship before going professional and winning a gold medal in the Olympics.

Big dreams for such small children, but dreams are meant to be big. If they weren't big, then they wouldn't be dreams. They would be items that could easily be obtained.

Growing up, you set all these goals without realizing the work you are putting in to help you move forward because you are doing what you love. I am happy to say that this still holds true today. I get the opportunity to play the sport I love with people I truly cherish.

But be careful as the dream catches up to you before you realize it. One day you're playing club soccer trying to pick a school to commit to, and the next day you realize you're starting conference play of your senior year looking to compete for that national championship at the end of the year.

My senior year crept up on me so quickly. We are already six games into the season and ACC play begins this week.

Nervousness is not an emotion I am feeling; excitement and enthusiasm are in full power this week. It's like a change in the air, a new season is upon us. You go into these matches with a different mindset.

Each game in the ACC is difficult and challenging. We approach conference games differently than our non-conference opponents, including UF, which we play with a lot of emotion and hype. We approach our conference games with careful preparation, focusing on tactics and strategy.

The majority of the teams in the ACC play a possession-based style similar to ours. Keeping the ball is highly important in these games, as is finishing the chances provided.

The first ACC opponent we face is Duke at home on Thursday at 7 p.m. What a way to start off league play -- both teams played in the College Cup last year, and both enter the week as the top two teams in the nation with FSU ranked No. 1 and Duke ranked No. 2.

After Duke we play Wake Forest, another top 20 team. Two hard opponents in four days can wear a team out. It is so important that we are physically and mentally prepared for both matches. An off-day on Tuesday gave us some much needed time to rest, catch up on school work, and unwind before getting back to business.

In closing, I also would like to mention how proud I am of my teammate and friend Kassey Kallman for winning a gold medal with the U-20 women's national team. The United States defeated Germany in the

finals of the 2012 FIFA World Cup last weekend. We are so excited to have Kassey back with us on the field this week.

Women's College Soccer: Preview

Article Written by **J.R. Eskilson, ESNN**

Published: September 13, 2012

With the start of play in the Atlantic Coast Conference this weekend, there are a number of fixtures that include two teams in the top 20 [TopDrawerSoccer.com's Tournament 64](#).

The main gem of the slate is a clash between the #1 team in the land [Florida State](#) and #2 [Duke](#) on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (ET).

Top Five in Action:

The **#1 Seminoles (6-0-0)** host the **#2 Blue Devils (6-1-0)** on Thursday in a nationally broadcast fixture on ESPN3. Florida State enters the game with only one goal conceded in its last five games. Goalkeeper Kelsey Wys has been the stalwart between the sticks, but she has been hardly tested with only 18 saves to make in those six games. That will change on Thursday.

Duke is the top team in the nation in scoring offense with 29 goals in seven games. The Blue Devils have a balanced attack with Laura Weinberg, Kim DeCesare, Gilda Doria, and [Cassie Pecht](#) all breaking into double digits in points this season.

It only gets better for Duke too with U.S. U20 Women's National Teamers Kelly Cobb and Mollie Pathman set to rejoin the squad this weekend after winning the World Cup in Japan last week.

Florida State will have their hands full with Duke, and it does not get much easier with a game against #6 Wake Forest (6-1-1) on Sunday. The Demon Deacons also enjoy the return of one of their stars from the U20 WNT in Katie Stengel.

The Blue Devils wrap up their swing through the Sunshine State with a game against #28 Miami (4-2-1) on Sunday.

Out west, **#3 Stanford** (4-1-1) takes on the #23 [San Diego State](#) (7-0-0) on Friday at a neutral venue. The undefeated Aztecs have enjoyed a dream start to the season, but face a very difficult test with the Cardinal.

The defending Pac 12 champions bring Chi Ubogagu, U20 WNT forward, back into the lineup this week, which adds another weapon to already loaded roster. Paul Ratcliffe's side closes out the weekend with a game against [UNC Greensboro](#) (3-3-3).

The **#4 Aggies of Texas A&M** kick off their first season in the SEC with a pair of games against ranked opponents. First up is #21 [LSU](#) (4-1-2) on Friday.

Both teams possess unforgiving defenses with LSU only letting in two goals in its last four games. The Aggies bring in a 270-minute shut out streak to the contest.

After LSU, Texas A&M takes on #42 [Mississippi](#) (7-0-0). Ole Miss is second in the nation in scoring with 26 goals in seven games.

Rounding out the top five is **UCLA (5-0-1)**, which also welcomes back a couple of U20 WNT standouts in Sarah Killion and Sam Mewis this weekend. The Bruins host #47 [Princeton](#) (2-1-1) and #26 [Pepperdine](#) (5-2-0) in the midst of this long stretch of home games.

Game of the Week (beside the Game of the Year):

#9 [Virginia](#) (7-1-0) - #10 [North Carolina](#) (4-1-1), Sunday, September 16, 2:00 p.m. (ET)

Highlight the Florida State-Duke clash again seemed redundant, so instead the attention is on another ACC fixture. The Tar Heels of North Carolina travel hit the road this weekend for games against [Maryland](#) and Virginia.

While both games should be entertaining, it is the Sunday showdown that deserves the spotlight. North Carolina has started finding their form lately after struggling to find the back of the net in the first few games. The Tar Heels have 12 goals in their last four games. They will also enjoy the return of Crystal Dunn, Kealia Ohai, and [Bryane Heaberlin](#) to the roster after their success with the U20 WNT.

The Cavaliers are no pushovers though. Head coach Steve Swanson is back in Charlottesville after leading the U.S. U20 WNT to the World Cup title last week. He also brings midfielder Morgan Brian back to campus with him.

The two star-studded rosters should provide some quality entertainment as both squads blend in the returning faces to this year's roster.

Team of the Week:

[Air Force](#) (4-1-2) defense is tough to beat. The Falcons have not let in a goal in the last 400 minutes of play, a streak that stretches back to August 27, which feels like a year ago. This weekend, the top defense in the nation, statistically hosts Colgate on Friday before heading for an in-state rivalry game against Colorado on Sunday.

Three stories to watch:

Minnesota sophomore Taylor Uhl is top of the nation in scoring with 11 goals and four assists in eight games. Can she keep up the scoring against [Ohio State](#) on Sunday?



Minnesota's Taylor Uhl

The U.S. U17 Women's National Team left for Europe for World Cup preparations on Wednesday. It was not a big deal in the college sphere because only one player from that team has already started her collegiate career. UNC freshman forward [Summer Green](#) is the only one who will be absent and she will be missed. Green was top of the team in scoring through the first six games.

Can anyone score on Katelyn Rowland? The UCLA goalkeeper is the last netminder in the nation yet to give up a goal while playing over 50% of the minutes for her team. Rowland has gone 360 minutes without letting one past her for the Bruins.

FSU's Krikorian: 'We still have a huge upside'

by **Paul Kennedy**, September 13th, 2012 10:33PM

[FLORIDA STATE-DUKE] Florida State won the battle of top two ranked teams in the Soccer America Women's Top 25 as the No. 1 Seminoles edged No. 2 Duke, 1-0, on a goal by **Jamia Fields** off a deflection.

Fields scored the lone goal of the match in the 24th minute, blasting a left-footed shot from the top of the 18-yard box into the upper left corner for her first goal of the season.

"That was one heck of a game," said FSU coach **Mark Krikorian**. "Again, another team came in here, fought us as hard as we could deal with and I thought our kids were resilient and fought hard. We scored a heck of a goal by Jamia Fields, bending the ball into the upper corner. Overall, I thought our performance was solid. We will get better. I know that right now we are regarded pretty highly but we still have a huge upside and we are just going to continue to get better."

Florida State remains undefeated at 7-0-0 overall and Duke drops to 6-2-0 overall. The game was the first for both teams in ACC play.

"It was a great soccer game," said Duke coach **Robbie Church**. "I thought we competed, except for parts of the first half. We played at an extremely high level in the second half, but didn't do a good job of finishing our opportunities. I have no problem with our effort as we played at a championship level effort in the second half. We have to continue to play at that effort for 90 minutes."

The game featured the return of U.S. Under-20 Women's World Cup champions **Kassey Kallman** for Florida State and **Mollie Patham** for Duke.

Sept. 13 in Tallahassee, Fla.

Florida State 1 Duke 0. Goal: Fields (Pickett) 24.

Florida State -- Wys, Jaurena, Short, Grubka, Brockway, Kallman, Fields, Hampton, Schmid, Price, McCarty. Subs: Hahn, Pickett, Murakami, Kervroedan.

Duke -- Campbell, Jandl, Anasi, Koballa, Haller, Kerr, Simpkins, Doria, Trees, Pecht, Weinberg.

Subs: Lipp, DeCesare, Pathman.

Att.: 2,300.

Comment

Email Print



No comments yet.

FSU soccer wins 1-2 duel vs. Duke

Seminoles score 1-0 victory on Fields' tricky first-half goal

1:40 AM, Sep. 14, 2012 |

Written by

Corey Clark

NoleSports.com editor

No. 1 Florida State women's soccer knocks off No. 2 Duke

In the first No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup on the Florida State campus in more than four years, the top-ranked FSU women's soccer team knocked off Duke 1-0 on Thursday night in front of an overflowing crowd at the Seminole Soccer Complex.

The Seminoles are now 7-0 overall and 1-0 in the ACC. Duke drops to 6-2 and 0-1.

"It was exciting," said sophomore Jamia Fields, who scored the match's lone goal. "But every game is big here at Florida State. Every game is big. And that's why players come here."

Not many regular-season matches have been quite this big, though. The No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown was the first in any sport for Florida State since April 2008 when the No. 1 Miami baseball team won two out of three against Buster Posey and the second-ranked Seminoles.

This one ended up much better for FSU.

Florida State took the lead in the 24th minute of the match when a Carson Pickett pass deflected off a Duke defender in the box and rolled toward the middle of the field. Fields took advantage, ripping a left-footed rocket past Duke keeper Tara Campbell and into the top, back corner of the net for a 1-0 lead.

It was Fields' first goal of the season.

"That's a top-quality goal," FSU coach Mark Krikorian said. "No goalkeeper probably in this country or in the world saves that."

Fields was asked if it was one of the best goals of her career. At any level.

"Yeah, because I'm not left-footed," she said with a laugh. "I mean, I just went for it. ... I saw it bouncing around and I knew if it came out I could just shoot it as hard I can."

"When it came out I just looked for the left corner and got it in."

Duke had a couple of terrific scoring chances of its own in the first half, but squandered each. One was on an ill-advised chip right to FSU goalkeeper Kelsey Wys in a one-on-one opportunity and another was on a flubbed shot, with a wide-open net, that sailed 20 feet high.

Florida State missed a couple of chances of its own, including a free kick in the second half from Isabella Schmid that bounced off the left post.

“They certainly had a few good chances,” Krikorian said. “We had a few good chances, too. Sometimes that’s soccer. It’s about the composure to finish.

“Boy, Duke is a darn good team. They’re going to win a lot of games in this conference, I hope we are as well.”

It may have been the soccer program’s own version of “The Game of the Century,” but the FSU head coach didn’t put a whole lot of emphasis on beating the No. 2 team in the country.

He was more concerned with knocking off a conference foe.

“It’s just another ACC game against a great opponent,” Krikorian said. “At the end of the day it’s just another three points for the win, and now we start our preparation for (No. 14) Wake Forest on Sunday.”

FSU 1, DUKE 0: Seminoles win 1-2 women's soccer showdown

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — In a showdown of the top two ranked women's soccer programs in the nation, the second-ranked Blue Devils dropped a 1-0 decision at No. 1 Florida State Thursday at the Seminole Soccer Complex.

Duke drops to 6-2 overall and 0-1 in ACC action, while Florida State remains undefeated at 7-0 overall and 1-0 in league play.

"It was a great soccer game," said Duke head coach Robbie Church. "I thought we competed, except for parts of the first half. We played at an extremely high level in the second half, but didn't do a good job of finishing our opportunities. I have no problem with our effort as we played at a championship level effort in the second half. We have to continue to play at that effort for 90 minutes."

The Blue Devils outshot the Seminoles in the first half, 9-8, but it was Florida State that was able to find the back of the net in the 23rd minute as Jamia Fields connected off a deflection for her first goal of the season.

Between the 28th and 33rd minutes, the Blue Devils had a flurry of activity in the box as Kim DeCesare and Kaitlyn Kerr each had shots that were blocked, Cassie Pecht had a shot that was saved by a FSU defender, Mollie Pathman had a shot that was saved and Laura Weinberg fired a shot that went wide.

Florida State opened the second half with a shot, but Duke came right back with three straight attempts off the legs of Weinberg and DeCesare. A product of Massapequa Park, N.Y., DeCesare came off the bench on Thursday after missing the Marquette match with an ankle injury.

Duke continued to pressure the Seminoles but couldn't get anything past the FSU defense. Over the final five minutes of play, Katie Trees, DeCesare and Weinberg all attempted shots but could not connect.

For the match, Duke outshot Florida State, 19-14, but only had five shots on goal.

"I thought we were really good in the second half, but I was a little disappointed in our effort in the first half," said Church. "The final ball, scoring opportunities and the things we have been good at lately kind of got away from us. I thought we competed very well."

In goal for the Blue Devils, senior Tara Campbell registered five saves. For Florida State, Kelsey Wys collected the shutout with four saves.

Making her return to the Duke lineup was Pathman, who returned on Monday from Japan, where her U.S. U-20 women's national team defeated Germany, 1-0, to win the World Cup. A Durham Academy graduate, Pathman attempted three shots, including two on goal. Sophomore Kelly Cobb, who also played on the U-20 national team, did not make the trip to Florida State and is listed as questionable for the Miami match.

NOTES—Dating back to last season, all six of the Blue Devil losses have been by one goal. Duke was averaging 4.14 goals a match heading into Thursday's match, but was shutout for the first time this year. The Blue Devils had not scored less than two goals all season. Duke fell for the sixth straight time at FSU and has not won a match in Tallahassee, Fla., since 1999.

"Credit Florida State, what a great team," said Church. "It was a great atmosphere and great women's college soccer game. Overall, we are really disappointed to drop this game, but we came away with some positive points and now we move on to Miami."

Duke will play at Miami at 1 p.m. Sunday in a match that will be aired live on ESPN3.com.

Read more: [The Herald-Sun - FSU 1 DUKE 0 Seminoles win 1 2 women s soccer showdown](#)

No. 1 'Noles notch shutout in soccer

Brockway scores winner as FSU blanks Wake Forest

12:30 AM, Sep 17, 2012 |

Written by

Brian Miller

Democrat writer

Recording a shutout might seem to be the norm for the top-ranked Florida State soccer team this season, but each has its own nuances.

The Seminoles remained undefeated on the season with a 1-0 victory Sunday afternoon over No. 14 Wake Forest at the Seminole Soccer Complex, but getting a second ACC victory by the same score as they beat No. 2 Duke last Thursday came with different challenges. A lot more grit was needed.

"My comment to the team after the Duke game was at times we played beautiful soccer and at other times we played kind of rock 'em, sock 'em and had to be physical and had to compete," Florida State coach Mark Krikorian said. "But I think that's a real credit to our group that we're going to be able to make the game beautiful at times, but when we need to dig down deep and win that head ball in the penalty box to save a goal or the game, I think we have that."

FSU (8-0, 2-0) found itself in an entirely physical affair Sunday, needing to clear away numerous dangerous balls off corners, while the game itself got a little chippy after halftime.

By that point, the Seminoles had scored their game-winning goal in the 23rd minute, as senior midfielder Tiana Brockway kneed home a right-box pop shot over Demon Deacons goalie Aubrey Bledsoe, following a beautiful buildup and a pass from forward Jessica Price.

"We had to pick our moments," said Brockway, who scored her first goal of the season. "It started in the midfield and went out wide. (Price) beat her player and then got a good cross in and (Tiffany McCarty) made a nice run near post which opened me up."

Wake Forest (7-2-1, 1-1) stayed a few shots and corner kicks back of FSU's quantity of 11 each, respectively, but Seminoles goalie Kelsey Wys kept the Demon Deacons wanting with four saves, some of the spectacular variety.

"It's something we work on in practice, trying to make the goal look as small as possible," Wys said. "That's what I keep in my mind — being on good angles and making it look hard for them."

Minutes after Brockway's goal, Wys (8-0) took on Wake Forest's Jackie Logue one-on-one and made a diving block to her right to stop a sure goal.

The junior and reigning ACC Player of the Week made a similar play in the second half on the way to picking up her fifth shutout of the season and school-best 24th of her career. This was also the fifth 1-0 shutout the Seminoles have recorded this year.

Georgetown, Notre Dame, BC win big

Article Written by *Travis Clark, ESPN*

Published: September 19, 2012

Seminoles blank pair of ACC sides at home

So how does an entire back line end up on the [TopDrawerSoccer.com Team of the Week](#)?

By picking up back-to-back shutouts against nationally-ranked ACC opposition and winning both of those games 1-0.

That's what #1 [Florida State](#) was able to do against [Duke](#) and [Wake Forest](#), beating both teams at home over the past weekend by that same score line.

Jamia Fields scored the game winning goal against [Duke](#), and Tiana Brockway's second half tally stood up against Wake on Sunday as [Florida State](#) extended its winning streak to eight.

"This was a great weekend for us," head coach Mark Krikorian said in a press release. "The competition can't get much better than this; to be able to play a Thursday night match against Duke and get a 1-0 result and then to come back and duplicate that effort against Wake Forest is a great weekend."



Ill State's Sarah Mussallem

Lopsided results

While there was a majority of close games in the Eastern corner of the country, a few prominent programs blew out their respective opposition.

[Georgetown](#), fresh off a west coast trip that saw them lose 6-0 against defending champion [Stanford](#), took their anger out on [Seton Hall](#) in an 8-0 win. Sophomore midfielder Daphne Corboz bombarded the Pirates, scoring three goals for her first ever hat trick at the collegiate level.

"I'm very proud of the girls," Hoyas head coach Dave Nolan said in a release. "It was a disappointing result against Stanford, but overall, the performance was fantastic from start to finish."

Eight was the recurring theme in some of these blowouts, as [Boston College](#) romped past Boston rivals [Harvard](#) by an 8-1 score. Senior Kristen Mewis bagged a hat trick, the first of her career, and freshman [McKenzie Meehan](#) added two of her own.

For [Notre Dame](#), seven different goal scorers found the back of the net in a 7-0 defeat of [Cincinnati](#), as the Irish opened up its Big East schedule with two wins. Among the goal scorers were U.S. U20 returnees Mandy Laddish and [Cari Roccaro](#).

"We needed one like this and it felt a lot like we normally have it around here," Notre Dame head coach Randy Waldrum said in a release. "For the first time since pieces of last year, it felt like the dominance we're used to seeing. I'm really proud of the kids because with all the (substitutions) we made, we didn't lose anything. All the players played well and we got to play everybody who was healthy."

Hokies pile up the shutouts

Another ACC power posting a clean sheet was #9 [Virginia Tech](#), winning its conference opener by rolling past [NC State](#) 3-0 on Sunday. Tech has now gone six straight games without conceding a goal.

Forward Shannon Mayrose put in a two-goal performance to lead the way, while substitute Nicolette Young added the team's third goal on the day, as Tech won its ninth straight game in a row.

Redbirds back on winning track

Heading into the weekend coming off back-to-back losses, [Illinois State](#) needed to bounce back on the road.

And that's just what they managed to do, winning 2-1 on the road against [Bowling Green](#), before following that up with a 1-0 defeat of [Toledo](#).

Sarah Mussallem scored the decisive goal for the Redbirds in the 1-0 win, while Rachel Tejada – second in the nation with 10 goals to her name – was kept silent for the afternoon.

"For the second game in a row, we raised the intensity level in the second half," [Illinois State](#) head coach Drew Roff said in a release. "In the second half, we were winning challenges in the midfield and doing a better job of getting the ball to our forwards. They were able to create some good scoring chances for us."

One non-conference game remains for the Redbirds before crucial Missouri Valley Conference play begins.

Ivy League madness set to begin

Perhaps one of the nation's most underrated conferences is the Ivy League, and the frenetic season is scheduled to start this weekend with a number of tasty matchups.

Entering the slate with the most momentum is [Yale](#) and [Brown](#). The Bulldogs currently own a three-game winning streak after beating [Central Connecticut](#) 1-0 at home on Sunday. Kristen Forster netted the only goal of the season.

The Bears of [Brown](#), meanwhile, also own three game winning streak, winning three straight games by a 1-0 score line. The latest triumph was over [Sacred Heart](#) that saw Chloe Cross net the game winning tally.

 **espnW.com:**



Friday, September 21, 2012

We're off to a great start in the ACC

By Ines Jaurena

What's better than playing ACC games?

I am so lucky I get to compete in the ACC. As a French player, I didn't know about the ACC until I came over to play for Florida State a little more than three years ago. I didn't grow up dreaming to play in the league; I just happened to discover it. But it didn't take me long to find out that the ACC is, without a doubt, the conference to be playing in.

The 11 teams that play women's soccer in the league are able to challenge and make each other better throughout the year, and every single game is to be taken seriously. The league is so tough that every game is a grind, and you never know who is going to win night in and night out. There is no underdog in this conference.

Our ACC opener was at home against Duke on Sept. 13. The No. 2-ranked team in the country and 2011 national finalist was coming to our field. As if this wasn't exciting enough, Wake Forest also would be coming to challenge us just three days later. Wake Forest was a 2011 national semifinalist just as we were, and both of these teams were returning almost all of their players.

You can imagine how much we were looking forward to these two games. One goal was all we needed to defeat these teams, as Jamia Fields scored against Duke, and Tiana Brockway did the same against Wake.

Both games were anything but easy. They were exactly the kind of games we needed to develop as a team. We are going to continue to work hard and hope the results will remain positive, because the only thing better than playing ACC games is winning ACC games.

At this point, what I really need to mention is the team behind the team. How haven't I already? It is true that ultimately the players are the actors who dictate what goes on on the field. We often get all the credit for the good things that happen or the blame for the not-so-good things that happen.

This is a great opportunity to not only share this credit with our great fans but also the athletic department at Florida State, which makes sure we have all we need to perform on a daily basis. From the people who come and support us at every home game, to the ones who watch us on the Internet and the most faithful ones who follow us on Game Tracker when we are away, we thank you.

When I step onto the field my desire to win is, of course, for myself and my teammates, but also for that team behind the team. I can't find the words to tell you how great our support system is at Florida State and how grateful I am to play there.

The FSU soccer team will return to ACC competition Sept. 27 with a trip to the state of North Carolina to face the Tar Heels and then NC State. But until then, we have to focus on the task at home. Our next game is a nonconference one, Friday at home against Jackson State. One game at a time.

Seminoles No. 1 as season gets serious

Sep 25, 2012 3:54 PM ET | By Graham Hays

The autumnal equinox means fall is finally here, but soccer season didn't wait around. Believe it or not, we'll have an NCAA tournament bracket in just 40 more days. In the short term, seven teams in our power rankings face at least one opponent this week ranked in the NSCAA Top 25, while the other three all face potentially troublesome road games.

1. Florida State (9-0-0)

The Seminoles weren't exactly tested in a 5-0 win against Jackson State, outshooting the Tigers 35-0. It was the only game on last week's schedule, giving them ample time to recover from games against Wake Forest and Duke a week earlier and to prepare for a visit to North Carolina on Thursday (ESPN3, 7 p.m. ET). Since allowing two goals in the first seven minutes of its opener at Minnesota, Florida State has allowed one in nearly 800 minutes.

2. Stanford (7-1-1)

Make it five shutout victories in a row for the Cardinal, who opened their Pac-12 schedule with a 3-0 win at home against Arizona State in their lone game of the week. Better still, junior goalkeeper Emily Oliver made her season debut in the second half after missing the first eight games due to injury. Thursday's game against Oregon State (9-1-0) is the only one in the country this week pitting teams with one loss or none.

3. UCLA (7-0-2)

The Bruins opened Pac-12 play by limiting Washington State to five shots and recorded their seventh shutout in nine games. The cloud attached to that silver lining is that the Bruins also failed score against the Cougars and had to settle for a 0-0 draw at home. UCLA coach B.J. Snow noted it was the first time this season he was disappointed with his team's effort. Five consecutive road games await.

4. Duke (7-2-1)

The question when the season began was how Duke's offense would manage without Mollie Pathman and Kelly Cobb for an extended period. The offense was fine, and Pathman and Cobb are now back, but it's the defense looking for answers after a 2-2 draw against Maryland. The Blue Devils have already allowed 13 goals this season, hardly a deluge but equal to the total they allowed all of last season with much the same personnel.

5. Texas A&M (10-1-0)

Four games in, and the SEC still hasn't scored on Texas A&M. The Aggies posted 2-0 wins against South Carolina and Auburn last week to improve to 4-0-0 in league play. Goalkeeper Jordan Day matched the SEC record with her seventh consecutive shutout, but getting No. 8 won't be easy. A road test awaits Friday at Kentucky, which is tied with Florida a game behind division leader Missouri in the SEC East.

6. Penn State (8-2-0)

Maya Hayes is doing her best to put together a Hermann Trophy campaign in little more than half a season, with four goals and two assists in three games since returning from the Under-20 World Cup. At the very least, she's providing the help senior midfielder Christine Nairn (nine goals, five assists) may need to make a run at the award. Arguably the biggest conference test looms in Thursday's road game at Ohio State.

7. Virginia (9-1-1)

Sunday's home game against Duke (ESPNU, 2 p.m. ET) provides another national stage for the Cavaliers, who play some of the most attractive, possession-oriented soccer out there, all the more so with midfielder Morgan Brian back in the lineup behind Caroline Miller and others. But Virginia must first concern itself with Thursday's trip to Maryland. The Cavaliers hold a 26-4-4 edge in the all-time series but lost their last visit, in 2010.

8. Boston College (8-1-2)

All things considered, getting three points out of an ACC road swing isn't a bad week. Boston College was outplayed and couldn't handle Katie Stengel in a 2-0 loss at Wake Forest, but two goals from Stephanie McCaffrey in the final seven minutes salvaged a 2-1 win at Virginia Tech on Sunday. Trips to Duke and North Carolina loom, but Boston College must first deal with a quality Pepperdine team this week in Boston.

9. Maryland (7-2-2)

Maryland's place in the ACC race may still be up for debate, but Jonathan Morgan is making coach of the year an increasingly easy decision in his first season in charge. Picked seventh in the preseason after former coach Brian Pensky left for Tennessee and half the roster graduated, Maryland drew 2-2 at Duke and won 2-1 at Wake Forest last week, a week after beating North Carolina for the third season in a row.

10. North Carolina (5-2-2)

No, this won't please fans of Missouri, BYU, Georgetown and several other contenders with better records and less name recognition, but a 3-1 win against Virginia Tech last week gave a glimpse of the team the Tar Heels can be when they're whole (which they still aren't with Summer Green in Azerbaijan for the Under-17 World Cup). This is a different team with Kealia Ohai and Crystal Dunn in the starting lineup and Bryane Heaberlin in the goalkeeping mix.

Free kicks

- As mentioned last week, Portland has always been a place to look for quality soccer outside the major conferences, but it was the visiting team putting forward the best show in Denver's 3-1 win. The Pilots were without three key players, but take nothing away from the Pioneers or Kristen Hamilton's hat trick. Denver has had some puzzling results (a draw against Wright State), but at 8-1-2, with wins at Portland and Kansas and against Colorado and UC Irvine, the Pioneers merit attention.
- Central Arkansas junior Adriana Lucar recorded a hat trick in a win against Texas Southern to push her season total to 14 goals, best in the nation. She also tied the school career goals record among those who played the majority of their career after the move to Division I in 2006. What makes that a touch more noteworthy is that the Peruvian striker has played just 10 career games for Central Arkansas after transferring from Division II Harding University. Minnesota's Taylor Uhl and Iowa's Cloe Lacasse share the goals lead among players from major conferences with 11 each.
- Oklahoma State is off to a rough start in Big 12 play. Ranked in the top 10 all season in the NSCAA poll, the Cowgirls dropped a 1-0 decision at West Virginia on Sunday after a 2-1 loss at Kansas two days earlier (an earlier loss against Bedlam rival Oklahoma, the first in seven years, did not count as an official conference game). Plenty of season remains, but the 0-2 start matches the program's total conference losses from the past two seasons.

 **espnW.com:**



Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Football game was another world for me

By Tiana Brockway

In my four years at Florida State, I've never been part of anything that generated as much excitement and hype or showcased as much competitiveness as what was on display in Tallahassee last Saturday night. A total of 83,231 people filled Doak Campbell Stadium for the football game between Florida State and Clemson.

You could barely hear the words leave your mouth as you were talking to the person next to you because of the crowd's cheers and the massive war chant being led by the student section in the end zone.

I thought there was pressure playing in front of a couple thousand people at the College Cup last year in Kennesaw, Ga. You walked out of the locker room into a roaring stadium, filled with people yelling and waving, but the atmosphere inside Doak Campbell Stadium was something I have never experienced in my life.

Scanning the stadium, one could not see a section that was not filled with garnet and gold or orange and purple. Then the Seminole Chop erupted as FSU's special teams took the field and Dustin Hopkins placed the ball for the opening kickoff.

I haven't been to many football games due to the conflicting schedule with my own soccer season, but because we had only one game last week, we were able to attend "College GameDay" after our morning training session and the game later that night.

It was so cool to be on hand to see a lot of my friends play in such a big game and to have the community come out to support them.

Football is not as big in Seattle as it is here in Florida, so I did not grow up attending the local university's games. Boy, was I missing out! These football games are so much fun to watch; I've even learned all the rules in my four years here.

I had so much fun at the game that I lost my voice screaming and cheering all night long. I am so glad I got to attend the "Big Win" against Clemson. I am so proud to be a Seminole! >----;---|`>

McCarty Aiming To End On High

Former Washington, Pali forward has had stellar FSU career

W-League Feature

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Tiffany McCarty has accomplished a lot in her four seasons at Florida State. The redshirt senior forward is the program's all-time leader in goals scored, points and shots. She's been a MAC Hermann Trophy Semifinalist twice, and was again on the preseason watch list announced last month. She's twice been named an NSCAA All-American.

But for all of the individual achievements, the thing that stands out most for the native of Laurel, Md. is what she and her teammates were able to accomplish together.

"I have to say getting to the Final Four last year," McCarty said when asked of her proudest moment as a Seminole this week. "It was my first time since I've been here, and it was good to get our program back into the College Cup. Obviously, we were kind of disappointed when we lost to Stanford in the semis, so I'm just looking forward to getting another chance to get back there this year."

That loss to a Stanford side that would end up winning last season's national championship provided all the motivation McCarty and her teammates would need to make another run at a title this season. And with a perfect 9-0-0 record going into Thursday night's ACC clash against North Carolina, which can be seen live on ESPN3 at 7 p.m. ET, the Seminoles appear on course to do just that.

"That's been my personal goal since we lost against Stanford last year," McCarty said. "I know that a lot of people on our team took that loss personally, and we're just going to move forward and try to do the best we can."

McCarty's individual accomplishments at Florida State began fomenting before she arrived in Tallahassee, Fla. A member of the U.S. U16, U17 and U18 national teams growing up, McCarty also began playing in the W-League before she attended college. Making her debut for the Washington Freedom Futures in 2007, which allowed her to train and play alongside U.S. internationals such as Lori Lindsey and Becky Sauerbrunn, allowed McCarty to prepare for the rigors that college soccer would have to offer.

"When I first played with the Freedom, I was really young," McCarty said. "When I got into the games, it was a good atmosphere to play in, and I just remember playing with Christie Welsh and a lot of the other older players who were on that team. It was just a great experience training every day, I think it really paid off, and I think I learned a lot while I was there."

McCarty then spent the summer of 2011 with the Pali Blues, for whom she scored five goals in 14 games. Coming off a season-ending injury in 2010 for the Seminoles, McCarty headed west to try and sharpen her fitness, but got more than just games from her time in California.

"The season I played with them, they had some of the best players in the country," McCarty said. "They had Stanford players there as well, so it was a very high level, and that was my first time being in California for that extended period of time. The environment was really good to play in, and I learned more about tactics as well."

Entering the season the fittest she'd ever been, McCarty then delivered for the Seminoles that fall as they made their run to the College Cup. She has also been sharp this season, recording eight points in nine games, as FSU continues its pursuit of an undefeated season that McCarty thinks is achievable.

Undefeated or not, though, while the short-term focus remains on each upcoming game, the long-term view is fixed directly on ending her Seminoles career with a national championship.

"That would be amazing," McCarty said. "I would really love that, it would be a good feeling and a good way to end my career here as well. That would be great."



Attitude sets FSU's Carson Pickett apart

Sep 27, 2012 8:45 AM ET | By Graham Hays

Sleep didn't come easily to Carson Pickett the night before Florida State's opening game this season, the first of the freshman's college career. From strangers in the airport who wished her well upon spotting her Seminoles gear to the plush hotel in Minnesota, the sights and sounds of a road trip had only amplified a caffeine-like rush that left her wide awake to ponder what the game would bring, how fast it would feel, how long she had waited for it.

Yet even such sleepless anticipation proved insufficient preparation for the feeling that came when she pulled on her No. 16 jersey the next day.

"The first time you actually get to wear a jersey, it's honestly breathtaking," Pickett recalled. "Going to warm-ups in front of all those people -- and we had fans there even though it was so far away -- and everyone doing the chop and everything, it's just a great feeling to know you're a part of something so special."

What she can be a part of always interests her more than what anyone else assumes she cannot.

Pickett was born without a left arm. When she put on that Florida State jersey for the first time, she did so a little differently from her teammates. She does a lot of things a little differently from her teammates, and from most other people. But if she defined herself by what she does not have that others do, or by what she cannot do that others can, she would not have been on that road trip in the first place. She certainly would not be a significant contributor on the nation's top-ranked team as a freshman, a midfielder with speed and a cultured left foot who torments opponents with her crosses.

She plays her part in something special not because she finds a way to be like everyone else, but because she's always found a way to be herself.

"After all of this, looking at the world, I see that there are people who have it way worse than me, and a simple disability really shouldn't shape who you are," Pickett said. "You need to be you. Obviously, it's going to [shape who you are] to other people, but you always have to be yourself and you always have to stick with what you love no matter what."

Mike and Treasure Pickett's first indication that the birth of their child would be different from the others in the hospital in Spartanburg, S.C., came when a nurse in the delivery room told Mike she needed to speak to him outside. There was a problem. Their daughter had been born without a left arm below the elbow.

With no roots in South Carolina, having moved there for work, they had no family with them in the hospital to lean on for support. But the hospital arranged for another family to visit that first night, one whose nearly teenage daughter had been born with the same disability as Carson. The strangers reassured the Picketts that it was far from the end of the world, that their own daughter was as healthy, happy and independent as any other girl, right down to tying her own shoes, a minute detail that might seem part of an incomprehensibly distant future for most new parents, but which meant much more to the Picketts.

Baby Carson figured out a way to hold her bottle, figured out a way to crawl on her own -- to the point that, when doctors at the Shriners Hospital tried to equip 6-month-old Carson with a prosthesis, she would crawl just a small distance, stop, pull off the prosthetic appendage and throw it across the floor before continuing on her way.

Unlike most parents, who are able to teach children the hundreds of actions we take for granted -- like buttoning a shirt, putting up long hair or typing on a keyboard -- Mike and Treasure most often had to wait for Carson to figure out her own way to accomplish something. To do otherwise would be the equivalent of trying to teach her a language they didn't speak.

"We learn to do things because of what we have," Treasure said. "She does the same thing because she doesn't know any different."

One day, Treasure opened the door to Carson's room to find her young daughter sitting with her hair perfectly braided. Baffled, she asked her how she had done it, and Carson demonstrated the one-handed technique that to her was no big deal. To this day, Carson prefers to do her own hair rather than leave it to anyone else.

It's one small part of everyday life, but it's the distinction between unable and disabled that is easily blurred by even the most well-meaning observers.

"I would say there are just people out there who would give me more sympathy than I need," Pickett said. "And I've learned that. I've learned that so much throughout my life. My parents never gave me sympathy for having one arm, but I realize other people do kind of give me sympathy that I don't need, just because they feel like I can't do something or that it's hard to do something. When, in reality, I can probably do things just as easily as other people."

That includes sports, which she proved at an early age she could do just as easily as others and better than most. Soccer might seem a natural fit for someone with one arm, but she settled on it only after trying all the other sports her friends played growing up. She played basketball. She played tennis, learning to bounce the ball off her racket and up into the air in place of the toss and how to master the one-handed backhand. She swam competitively.

Her dad recalled only two occasions when he and Treasure shed tears because of Carson's disability. One was the day she was born, the tears products of shock and uncertainty. The other was at a swim meet some years later. Swimming freestyle in the last leg of a relay, Carson entered the pool with her team trailing by more than a full length. She made up the deficit and touched the wall first for the win.

"She jumped out of the pool, she was 6 years old, and we're over there just crying, bawling tears," Mike recalled. "And she's looking at us going, 'Why are you crying? We won.' She didn't understand. It was just tears of pure amazement for me."

"We didn't know if she'd sink to the bottom of the pool when she jumped in."

If soccer was the sport she was destined to pursue, it was as much because of her abilities as her disability. She has a soccer mind, the product of spending hours as a kid hearing about the sport and watching game tapes with her dad, a former college soccer player who coaches at the club and high

school levels. And she has physical gifts that still set her apart, even as part of one of the best programs in the college game.

"I knew she had a lot of advantages going into soccer," Mike said. "It's funny to say that because she doesn't have an arm, but to be left-footed and to be fast is a big advantage, in women's soccer especially."

Pickett heard from dozens of interested college programs, but growing up in the Jacksonville area, she had been a regular at Florida State games and soccer camps for years. The program was a place where she felt comfortable, with coaches and players she knew. And yet even in familiar surroundings, college itself was a new environment. Aside from a stretch both she and her parents identified early in her teenage years, she had always been secure in her self-image. It helped that she went to the same school from grade school through high school and had a familiar network of friends.

Suddenly surrounded by people who didn't know her, there was a temptation to blend in and not let that one thing be the first impression others had of her, to try in even the simplest ways to forestall judgment.

"When I first came to Florida State, obviously, like starting over again, I was a little more skeptical about wearing tank tops around; I'd always wear a jacket," Pickett said.

It didn't last. People might look, they might even ask questions, but she is used to explaining. She isn't used to hiding. Asked to describe her teammate, Kirsten Crowley offered the word "bubbly" before anything else. What people see, because they can't miss it, is a happy, bubbly person, the kind of person genuinely excited by a nice hotel on the road. They see someone tremendously talented on a soccer field. And who doesn't have a left arm.

She is all of those things.

"She's really comfortable in her skin, she's real confident in herself," said Crowley, a teammate both in club soccer last year and at Florida State this year. "She knows who she is and what she's trying to do here."

Beyond the soccer field, Pickett would like to make connections in Tallahassee that allow her to do for others what a family of strangers did for her parents on that confusing day nearly two decades ago: reassure them that a disability isn't automatically insurmountable. Not only can a girl with one arm learn to tie her shoes, she can lace up cleats and take the field for the No. 1 team in the nation.

"For anyone who has any type of disability, no matter what it is, if it's physical, mental, there's always hope if you just stick with your dreams," Pickett said. "You're the only one who can stop you from doing what you love."

Pickett still declines to wear a prosthesis on or off the field. She received the most recent version around the time she turned 18. Matched to her skin tone and designed with details right down to simulated veins, it was difficult to distinguish from her real arm. She doesn't have anything against them, doesn't look down on anyone who does take advantage of how far prosthetics have come functionally and cosmetically. They just aren't for her.

She wears instead the tattoo her parents allowed her -- three words inscribed on the inside of her right wrist that reveal more about who she is and how she ended up putting on a Florida State jersey than an arm that isn't there.

Imperfection is beauty.

"Everything she's ever done, she's taken it on and she works at it and figured things out," her dad said.
"She's my biggest hero."

FSU soccer team shuts out UNC, 1-0

12:05 AM, Sep 28, 2012 |

Written by

| Democrat staff report

The Florida State soccer team extended two streaks and, more importantly, posted a key road victory over 12th-ranked North Carolina.

FSU's 1-0 victory pushed the Seminoles' shutout streak to five games and extended the program-best winning streak to 10.

It also gave FSU (10-0) a second straight win over the Tar Heels in Chapel Hill.

Seminoles' coach Mark Krikorian told FSU sports information director Jason Leturmy the victory was hard-fought.

"It's a credit to our kids that we could come in and win a game that's not really our style," Krikorian said. "But we stayed, we battled hard, we fought hard and created a heck of a nice goal. We walk away with a good result on the road. I mean any win on the road in the ACC is a good win. This is a real good win."

Dagny Brynjarsdottir, a sophomore midfielder from Iceland, scored the game's only goal at the 60-minute mark. Her score was set up perfectly by a pass from Tiffany McCarty, who attacked the right side of the goal and left the ball in the middle of the box for Brynjarsdottir.

That lead would hold thanks to some sensational play from goalkeeper Kelsey Wys, who recorded seven saves. Included in those totals was a diving stop going to her right late in the match that was worthy of more than a few television replays.

"The back line did a good job of pushing her wide and she had a tough angle to get a shot off," Wys told Leturmy. "We work on those kinds of shots in practice all the time and work on making the goal look small. I was able to get to the ball and hold on to it."

FSU has not allowed a goal in 528 minutes of game action, the second-longest streak in program history.

The Seminoles next play at North Carolina State at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Seminoles make all their pieces fit

by Paul Kennedy, September 28th, 2012 4:19AM

[NORTH CAROLINA-FLORIDA STATE] Top-ranked Florida State kept its perfect record intact Thursday night with a 1-0 win at No. 9 North Carolina thanks to Iceland international Dagny Brynjarsdottir's goal.

Despite being outshot 14-5 in the match, Florida State broke the scoreless tie in the 61st minute on a counterattack triggered when Jamia Fields stole the ball in midfield. She found a streaking Tiffany McCarty, who beat her defender to the end line before sending a pass back toward the middle of the 18-yard box, where Brynjarsdottir made a run into open space and one-timed a shot into the back of the net for her third goal of the season.

"Carolina is hard to play against," said Seminoles coach Mark Krikorian. "They are so fast and strong. It's a credit to our kids that we could come in and win a game that's not really our style, but we stayed, we battled hard, we fought hard and created a heck of a nice goal. We walk away with a good result on the road. I mean any win on the road in the ACC is a good win; this is a real good win."

Goalie Kelsey Wys made a season-high seven saves, none bigger than the one she made in the 85th minute when Crystal Dunn dribbled into the box on the right side, beating her defenders, but was denied by Wys on a diving save.

"Carolina is always a fun team to play against," said Wys. "They have a different style than we are used to playing but during the week we prepared for them and I think we did a pretty good job of sticking to that game plan and making all our pieces fit together at the end of the day to get the victory."

FSU, which registered consecutive victories over the Tar Heels for the first time in school history, is off to its best start in history and has not allowed a goal in its last 528 minutes of play.

Florida State remains perfect after defeating No. 13 North Carolina

Florida State Athletics

Last Updated - September 28, 2012 12:56 GMT

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – Top-ranked Florida State (10-0-0) kept its perfect record intact Thursday as the Seminoles defeated No. 13 North Carolina (5-3-2,) 1-0 on Fetzer Field. Dagny Brynjarsdottir scored the lone goal of the contest and Kelsey Wys made a season-high seven saves as the Garnet & Gold registered consecutive victories against the Tar Heels for the first time in school history.

“Carolina is hard to play against; they are so fast and strong,” head coach Mark Krikorian said. “It’s a credit to our kids that we could come in and win a game that’s not really our style, but we stayed, we battled hard, we fought hard and created a heck of a nice goal. We walk away with a good result on the road. I mean any win on the road in the ACC is a good win; this is a real good win.”

“Carolina is always a fun team to play against,” Wys said. “They have a different style than we are used to playing but during the week we prepared for them and I think we did a pretty good job of sticking to that game plan and making all our pieces fit together at the end of the day to get the victory.”

Despite being outshot 14-5 in the match, Florida State broke the scoreless tie in the 61st minute on just its second shot of the second half as Brynjarsdottir found the back of the net for her third goal of the season.

The scoring play came off a North Carolina turnover at midfield when Jamia Fields stole the ball and found a streaking Tiffany McCarty. A native of Laurel, Md., she beat her defender to the end line before sending a pass back towards the middle of the 18-yard box, where Brynjarsdottir made a run into open space and one-timed a shot into the back of the net. McCarty and Fields were credited with assists on the play while the goal for the Icelandic native would go down as her second game-winner this year.

“It was fantastic,” Krikorian said. “Tiff driving down toward the end line; a nice pull back to Dagny running on to it and a quality finish. That’s really what you play for. I thought our back line and goalkeeping was outstanding, our collective defending from front to back was quite good. There weren’t a whole lot of chance either way in the course of the game but even going up a goal I thought we stood strong and did a pretty good job.”

“Jamia stripped them of the ball,” McCarty said. “We made eye contact and I made a run behind my defender. She played the ball to me and the defender missed it a little bit. I saw there was space in the 18 and I slipped the ball to Dagny, who ran on and had a good finish.”

The one goal would stand up as the Seminoles received another tremendous effort from their backline as Casey Short, Kristin Grubka, Kassey Kallman and Ines Jaurena kept the speedy Tar Heels in check for 90 minutes. Wys was again solid between the posts saving all seven shots on goal. She made two saves on back-to-back scoring chances by the Tar Heels with less than eight minutes to go in regulation to keep UNC off the scoreboard.

The first scoring chance came after a Florida State foul in UNC's offensive third. Katie Bowen delivered the ball into the box but Kallman was there to clear the ball with a header. Meg Morris tracked down the loose ball and sent a pass back into the box, but Wys was there for the save.

Seconds later, Crystal Dunn made a long run and was forced to the outside by Short which led to a tough shot from down near the end line. Dunn tried to hook the ball inside the far post but Wys made an outstanding leap, snaring the ball out of the air while maintaining possession as she crashed to the ground for the save.

"It was a great effort by Crystal Dunn," Krikorian said. "She made a nice run and hooked the ball and Kelsey was there to grab it. Again another solid performance by her in goal. Whenever you play against any ACC team and you are ahead by a goal, you know a chance is going to come sooner or later. Everyone is too good for there not to be a couple of chances especially when we are trying to protect the game, but Kelsey has done a great job and she was there when we needed her."

"The back line did a good job of pushing her wide and she had a tough angle to get a shot off," said Wys. "We work on those kinds of shots in practice all the time and work on making the goal look small. I was able to get to the ball and hold on to it."

With the shutout, Florida State ran its consecutive shutout streak to over 528 minutes – the second longest streak in school history. FSU has now allowed just three goals in 10 games this year including one goal in the last nine matches.

"Our back line did a great job of cutting off passes and long balls and just getting up and being hard and physical," McCarty said. "Kelsey made some great saves in the end to keep us in the game. As a defensive block, we did pretty well tonight."

The win Thursday also set the school record for the longest win streak at 10 in a row eclipsing the previous record of nine straight victories set in 2005.

FSU has now won two consecutive over North Carolina for the first time in the series, while Thursday night's game was the first time FSU defeated the Tar Heels in regulation. The three previous victories all came in double overtime.

"They have a great tradition, great program and any time you get to beat UNC it's a great accomplishment," McCarty said. "Credit to them, they played well but tonight we were able to finish our chances."

It took until the 20th minute for the first real scoring chance to occur as North Carolina's Kealia Ohai ran behind the Seminole defense to get to a loose ball just outside the 18-yard box. Ohai one-timed a shot on goal, but Wys was charging out of the box and made a nice sliding save with her right foot to keep the game scoreless.

Brynjarsdottir recorded the first Florida State shot of the game in the 25th minute as she pushed the ball wide of the right post.

Short ripped a left footed shot from the left side from about 22 yards but the ball was grabbed outside the post by Tar Heel keeper Adelaide Gay.

North Carolina went into the locker room with the edge in shots at 6-2, while Florida State registered the only corner in the first half. Wys posted three saves.

The Tar Heels recorded the first shot in the second half as Ohai worked her way through a line of Seminole defenders toward the middle of the field before finding enough room to rip a shot on goal. Wys made a diving save to her right to keep the game scoreless.

North Carolina earned a corner kick in the 74th minute as Ranee Premji sent the ball to the far post. The ball was played to the top of the box to Bianca Gray, who one-timed a shot high over the crossbar.

Florida State soccer proving their worth their rank against UNC

No. 1 Seminoles defeat the no. 9 Tar Heels to assert their ACC dominance
4:34 PM, Sep. 29, 2012 |

FSU Soccer once again proved deserving of its No. 1 ranking on Thursday night as they shut down No. 9 UNC in Chapel Hill.

The University of North Carolina soccer team has been to women's soccer for the last two decades what the SEC currently is to college football: dominant. Though UNC has not won a soccer championship since 2009, the program has won 20 out of 30 national championships in the sport. But the Tar Heels were no match for a Seminoles squad that has rolled over all of its competition this season.

The 'Noles (10-0-0) beat the Tar Heels (5-3-2) 1-0 to stay perfect on the season and to keep their unblemished 3-0 record in conference play. The victory marked the second consecutive win over the Tar Heels in Chapel Hill and the 10 game win streak is the longest in school history.

"Carolina is hard to play against," coach Mark Krikorian said. "They are so fast and strong. It's a credit to our kids that we could come in and win a game that's not really our style, but we stayed, we battled hard, we fought hard and created a heck of a nice goal."

The game's only goal came off the foot of Dagny Brynjarsdottir in the 61st minute. Jamia Fields stole the ball away from North Carolina at midfield and sent it toward Tiffany McCarty in UNC territory. McCarty then shot it to Brynjarsdottir, who fired it into the goal. McCarty and Fields were credited with assists.

"It was fantastic," Krikorian said about the goal. "(McCarty) driving down toward the end line; a nice pull back to Dagny running on to it and a quality finish. That's really what you play for."

The Seminoles were outshot in the match 14-5, but their defense, led by goalkeeper Kelsey Wys and backline Casey Short, Kristin Grubka, Kasey Kallman and Ines Jaurena, stepped up yet again and kept the Tar Heels scoreless.

"I thought our back line and goalkeeping was outstanding, our collective defending from front to back was quite good," Krikorian said. "There weren't a whole lot of chance either way in the course of the game but even going up a goal I thought we stood strong and did a pretty good job."

The Seminoles have allowed just three goals in 10 games this season and just one goal in the last nine games.

Wys saved all of the Tar Heels' seven shots on goal and made the play of the night on leaping save that would have otherwise been a sure goal.

The play was featured as No. 5 on ESPN's Sports Center Top 10 plays and prompted tweets from her teammates that expressed sentiments such as "our keeper is number one."

Wys posted her seventh shutout of the season and did indeed keep the 'Noles rolling at No. 1.

Florida State continues to impress

Oct 3, 2012 2:33 PM ET | By Graham Hays

It shapes up as a quiet weekend for the top of the table. Among the top five teams in this week's power rankings, only Texas A&M faces an opponent ranked in the NSCAA Top 25 when Florida comes to College Station for the first edition of the SEC's new marquee rivalry. But a number of games between teams chasing Florida State in the ACC, plus a West Coast Conference showdown between BYU and Santa Clara means this week could thin the herd.

1. Florida State (11-0-0)

The Seminoles remained unbeaten and impenetrable in shutout wins at North Carolina -- which included a save-of-the-year candidate by keeper Kelsey Wys -- and NC State last week. Florida State played eight games in September and allowed a single goal, including clean sheets against Duke, Wake Forest and North Carolina, the last the program's first win against the Tar Heels that didn't require overtime. Dagny Brynjarsdottir scored the winner in each game last week.

2. UCLA (9-0-2)

Senior Zakiya Bywaters scored twice in a 2-1 win at Arizona and once in a 4-1 win at Arizona State last week to push her team-leading season total to nine goals, one better than her first three seasons combined. Another road swing to the Oregon schools awaits this week. Oregon State was an occasionally tricky stop for UCLA under former coach Jill Ellis, including a 3-0 loss to the Beavers in her final visit in 2010.

3. Stanford (9-1-1)

The Cardinal finally conceded, ending a streak of five consecutive shutouts, but that's the only quibble with the defending champions after wins at home against Oregon State (5-1) and Oregon (2-1). Sophomore Chioma Ubogagu scored against Oregon State, her first since returning from the U-20 World Cup. This week brings the first Pac-12 road swing through Utah and Colorado. Six of Stanford's final eight games in the regular season are on the road.

4. Penn State (10-2-0)

Make it seven goals in five games for Maya Hayes, who kept up her torrid scoring pace since returning from the U-20 World Cup with three goals in wins on the road at Ohio State and at home against Minnesota. She added two more in a victory Tuesday night over Bucknell. Since the beginning of October last season, Hayes has scored 25 goals in 19 games for Penn State. Conference strength and recent postseason stumbles will always raise questions about the Nittany Lions, but the results are there.

5. Texas A&M (11-1-0)

If a scoreless streak had to come to an end, it might as well be in a game like Texas A&M's 2-2 draw at Kentucky. It marked the first dropped points in SEC play and the first goal allowed in eight games, but it was an entertaining display and a game in which the Aggies twice rallied from a goal down to salvage points. Now comes the biggest weekend of the year: a potential trap game against Alabama followed by Sunday's visit from Florida (ESPN, 1:30 p.m. ET).

6. Duke (8-3-1)

It was a tough-luck loss in an evenly played match in which Duke didn't have forward Kelly Cobb, but a 1-0 loss at Virginia on a goal in the closing minutes still represents dropped points for the Blue Devils. They have yet to take maximum points out of a week since conference play began, something they did repeatedly last season. This week, traveling to Virginia Tech and hosting Boston College, is a big test, with anything from no points to six points possible.

7. Maryland (8-3-2)

In four games against Duke, North Carolina, Virginia and Wake Forest, Maryland has taken 10 of a possible 12 points. That's all that needs to be said to justify moving up to No. 7 despite Sunday's 1-0 loss at Virginia Tech. Taking care of business as favorites in this week's trip to NC State (ESPN3, Sunday, 1 p.m. ET), the lone game of the week for the Terrapins, could be key in eventually securing a home quarterfinal in the ACC tournament.

8. Virginia (10-2-1)

This is life in the ACC. For about 177 minutes of soccer, Virginia appeared headed for a disappointing week. Then a late goal from Makenzy Doniak rescued a 1-0 win against Duke on Sunday and largely erased the sting of a 3-1 loss at Maryland days earlier in which the Terrapins scored all three of their goals between the 74th and 87th minutes. Friday's meeting with Wake Forest is one of the games of the week in the ACC.

9. BYU (11-1-0)

There is no doubt that BYU belongs in this company when it plays at home. Last week's win against Utah Valley was a formality, but the Cougars have already knocked off Penn State, Washington, Texas and Long Beach State, among others, in Provo. Thursday's WCC showdown against Santa Clara won't give the Cougars a road test, but it will give an all-senior back line that has conceded just four goals in the past 11 games another challenge.

10. North Carolina (6-3-2)

North Carolina played the No. 1 team on even footing and might have headed to overtime if not for Wys' tremendous save on Crystal Dunn's shot. A 6-1 win against Miami two days later answered any questions about a hangover. Now, thanks to the surprising group-stage exit by the United States in the Under-17 World Cup, Anson Dorrance will soon be able to put Summer Green, Dunn, Kealia Ohai and Amber Brooks on the field together for the first time this season.

Free kicks

- Georgetown (11-1-0) is knocking at the door of the power rankings and has two prime opportunities to validate its record in the coming days, first at Louisville on Sunday and five days later at home against Notre Dame. But it's safe to say sophomore Daphne Corboz has the nation's attention after scoring five goals in last week's 8-0 win against Pittsburgh. Corboz is now first in the nation in goals and goals per game among players from major conferences. She added an assist for good measure, breaking the Big East record in the process with 11 points in the game.
- Corboz put on a show, but she wasn't the only one piling up big numbers last week. Dayton All-American Colleen Williams totaled four goals and four assists during her team's two-game swing to Rhode Island and Massachusetts. That leaves her tied for most goals in Dayton history (she already owns

the assists record). The Flyers are tied atop the Atlantic 10 early in conference play and are second in the nation in scoring at 3.36 goals per game.

- Fresh off a loss against Pepperdine in a quasi-home game (the teams played in Cambridge, Mass., on Saturday because of a football game on campus), Boston College faces the biggest week of its season with games Thursday at North Carolina (ESPN3, 7 p.m. ET) and Sunday at Duke. Also available on ESPN3 this weekend: LSU at Florida (Friday, 7:30 p.m.), Tennessee at Auburn (Sunday, 2 p.m.) and Vanderbilt at LSU (Sunday, 2 p.m.)

Women's College Recap: Going streaking

Article Written by [Travis Clark, ESPN](#)
Published: October 3, 2012

The longest winning streak in Division 1 women's college soccer continued over the past weekend, as [Navy](#) reached 13 consecutive victories with two more wins on the season.

Entering Patriot League play for the very first time, [Navy](#) barely scraped past [American](#), winning by a 1-0 score line Friday night. That was a taste of things to come as the Midshipmen put the winning streak on the line in conference play – every rival will want to put an end to that streak.

After safely picking up the win against [American](#), [Navy](#) had little trouble on a non-conference visit to Mount St. Mary's(w), as five different players found the back of the net in a 5-0 win.

"We were pretty sharp today," head coach Carin Gabbara said in a press release. "We generated a lot of good scoring chances and put a high percentage of them away. It was also good to see the balance in scoring. We are not relying on any one person to carry the load offensively and on any given day we can get contributions from any player."

With six games left, all against Patriot League competition, maintaining the win streak is going to be far from easy – but so far, the Midshipmen have proved to be able to hang with every team in front of them.



Notre Dame's [Lauren Bohaboy](#) (left)

Who can stop #1 Florida State?

The only reason the Seminoles aren't challenging [Navy's](#) win streak is simply due to playing fewer games at this stage of the season.

[Florida State](#) has yet to lose in 2012, rattling off 11 straight wins, and fewer weeks were more impressive than this past one, as the Seminoles traveled to North Carolina and won two more ACC games.

After narrowly defeating [North Carolina](#) on Thursday evening by a 1-0 score line, the Seminoles paid a visit to North Carolina State(w), and kept the wins rolling in with a 2-0 victory.

"Anytime you go on the road in the ACC and come away with a win or in this case two wins this week, is a very good road trip," head coach Mark Krikorian said in a press release. "Overall, I thought our performance was solid today. Pretty good defending for the most part, a lot of different ways of attacking; it was nice to score a couple of goals and nice to get another shutout."

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the current run is the performance of Florida State(w)'s defense. The team has conceded only three goals all season, none in ACC play so far, and is currently riding a shutout streak of 618 minutes. It's hard to see who will stop them at this rate.

Irish maintain momentum

Despite two tricky Big East road matchups, #9 [Notre Dame](#) kept pace after a slow start out of the gates, extending its own winning streak to six games.

Road games are far from easy in the college game, and the Irish were able to open up the two-game swing to the Northeast

The second game against [Connecticut](#) was also close for the first half, as neither side could break the deadlock for the game's first 40 minutes. But after [Lauren Bohaboy](#) scored a 43rd minute goal to take the lead, the Irish scored three times in the second half to put the game out of reach and win 4-0.

"For whatever reason, we didn't come out strong at all today and Connecticut had us under a lot of pressure for most of the first half, but Sarah (Voigt) played really well for us and kept us going until we could get that first goal," head coach Randy Waldrum said in a release. "Then, we made some adjustments at halftime and changed our shape a bit, and our offense began to click in the second half. It's another good sign for this team, the way we came back from a poor start, kept our poise and then took advantage of our opportunities to get a key conference road win."

Corboz powers Georgetown to another Big East rout

Facing a well-rested Georgetown side didn't bode well for [Pittsburgh](#).

And behind the goal scoring exploits of sophomore midfielder [Daphne Corboz](#) and her five goals on the day, the Hoyas won their fifth game in a row thanks to a huge 8-0 away win.

"It was hard for Pittsburgh since they played on Friday, had a tough loss and we didn't," [Georgetown](#) head coach Dave Nolan said in a release. "They've had some tough weekends and us coming in fresh didn't make their job any easier. They're a decent team but we got out on them quickly and once you do that against a team that's tired, it's deflating.

"Our kids were buzzing, but once we got up 2-0, we started to play really well. The first two goals were great goals. Daphne had a great finish on the first and Kaitlin (Brenn) scored a great reaction goal off a corner and that got us going."

During [Georgetown's](#) winning streak – all wins against Big East foes – the team has outscored opponents 22-0. This coming weekend, visits to [Cincinnati](#) and [Louisville](#) will provide another difficult pair of tests.

FSU makes most of limited chances

Written by Brian Miller Democrat writer

Oct. 03

tallahassee.com



Tiffany McCarty and the Seminoles' offense expect to be tested at North Carolina State Sunday. / Mike Ewen/Democrat

FSU at n. Carolina State

- When/Where: Sunday, 1 p.m.; Raleigh, N.C.
- TV: ESPN3

Sure, going on the road to face the nationally-renowned North Carolina women's soccer team is always a tough challenge.

Only, top-ranked Florida State and its shutout-inducing defense had to endure a stylistically different team Thursday night than any it had faced to this point in its undefeated season.

"Carolina plays 3-4-3, high pressure and it's a lot about running and chasing and disrupting the game," Seminoles coach Mark Krikorian

said Friday.

"They are looking to try to force opponents into making mistakes in their own half of the field. We knew it would be a bit of a territorial battle, and we knew when we had it in their half of the field that's when we were going to try to string some passes together."

It wasn't just the Tar Heels' pressure but the coupling with high-athletic quality that initially disrupted FSU (10-0, 3-0 ACC) and yielded practically no offensive chances in a scoreless first half.

Yet through it all, the Seminoles' defense held and goalie Kelsey Wys was rock steady.

"Territorially, they certainly have an advantage, but in terms of breaking down our backline, it's easier to prepare for because it's direct and it's possible to get numbers behind the ball and stay organized," Krikorian said.

"If we don't make mistakes as the ball is being launched in at us, then we can deal with it OK. But if we're not precise in clearing the ball or heading or passing the ball, then that's an advantage to them."

While senior forward Tiffany McCarty started on the left side and Jessica Price played up top— roles reversed through every previous game— FSU reverted to its usual assignments in the second half.

Krikorian was just tinkering, trying to see what worked and what didn't work, with as much a mind to future games as the current one.

Still, McCarty returned to familiarity, and it was her run off a beautiful through ball by Jamia Fields, that led to a pass mid box and Dagny Brynjarsdottir's run and game-winning goal in the 61st minute.

"It went according to plan, I guess," Krikorian said. "We were hoping to defend well and create a couple chances, and then when we had the chances, take advantage of the opportunity."

It was a good feeling for Brynjarsdottir, too, having been thrown back into the fire in the midfield after three

games away with her Icelandic national team. It wasn't an easy adjustment, especially in the first half.

"The flow of the game is challenging for technical players because it is so helter-skelter, it is so fast and there are so many long balls being launched all over the place on both sides," Krikorian said.

"We kind of fell into it as well. A player like Dagny, who wants the ball more at her feet and passes and moves without the ball, it's hard to get a rhythm in a game like that."

The persistence paid off as Brynjarsdottir worked from box to box, defense to offense, finally seeing her movement without the ball pay off.

"A situation happened where Jamia turned on our throw-in, threaded a ball through that Tiffany ran on to and pulled it back perfectly into Dagny's path," Krikorian said. "I thought the quality of the finish was quite good."

Relieved and encouraged by the pressure-packed win, the Seminoles turn their collective eyes to Sunday's matchup with N.C. State (5-7, 0-3), a team they've dominated over the years but can't afford to overlook.

"N.C. State is a good team as well," McCarty said.

"They're not going to just lay down and give us a win. They're going to come out and work hard on their home field. Anything can happen if you let your opponent in the game."

Currently, FSU has a 528-minute scoreless streak running and have shut out eight of 10 opponents.

The Seminoles also have trailed just once this season, and the offense knows the value it provides when scoring earlier and allowing the backline to play its game, which will further make sure the team heads back home happy.

"(Coach) always says if you win a big game and you lose the game after that, then it really doesn't mean anything that you just won that game," McCarty said.

"We came here to get the full four (points) out of the weekend and if we do that it will be a successful weekend for us."

FSU soccer team to 'paint it pink' again

Written by Brian Miller Democrat writer

Oct. 03

tallahassee.com

The predominant color scheme covering the Seminole Soccer Complex tonight will not be garnet and gold, and it definitely won't be purple and orange.

With Clemson (5-6, 0-5 ACC) on hand to take on top-ranked Florida State (11-0, 4-0), the Seminoles will don pink jerseys as part of their annual "Paint It Pink" game for breast cancer awareness.

"Tuning in to Monday Night Football, you really get perspective watching these big, ferocious men playing competitive as can be, and to see these manly men wearing pink, supporting this cause, it's wonderful," FSU soccer coach Mark Krikorian said. "We've done this (event) since I got here, and I think our players recognize it's the right thing to do and they're excited to help in a positive fashion for a most worthwhile cause."

The Seminoles players' jerseys will be auctioned online Saturday, and all proceeds will go to support the Sharon Ewing Walker Breast Health Center at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Attendance to the match is free.

"To be able to wear the pink jersey and remind people like me who don't have affected family members that we need to support it and bring awareness for people that do have moms, grandmothers that are being affected, I think it's great," FSU sophomore forward Jamia Fields said. "It's such a major thing."

The Tigers come in struggling behind shutout defeats from Duke and Wake Forest, teams which FSU has already defeated by 1-0 scores this season. The Seminoles only hope to avoid derailing the defensive train they're riding, having shut out nine of 11 opponents this year, on the way to leading the nation in goals against average, shutout percentage and save percentage.

Overall, FSU is 8-0-1 under Krikorian against Clemson.

"They're competitive," Krikorian said. "They're fighting hard. They're trying hard to find ways to get results. Their (second-year) coach (Eddie Radwanski) is new and there is transition that always happens with a new coach, but he's a smart guy and doing a very good job with his team. Like all of these games, we need to be prepared. There's no easy game in the ACC."

Seminoles goalie Kelsey Wys and midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir were recognized as ACC Players of the Week, respectively, for their play in leading shutouts of ranked North Carolina (1-0) and N.C. State (2-0) this past week. Clemson, meanwhile, will be facing its sixth straight opponent in the Top 25.

So barring a sudden reversal of play by both, tonight's game will have more significance for the cause it is supporting off the field.

"All of us at some point are touched by cancer on some level," said Krikorian, who took part in a press conference with other coaches Monday and met many cancer survivors. "It could be my mother, it could be my wife, it could be someone very near and dear to all of us. I think the cause is one we can all feel very good about supporting."

Pink Powers FSU Past Tigers

No. 1 FSU soccer team cruises, 7-0

11:57 PM, Oct 4, 2012 |

Comments

Written by

Jim Lamar

Democrat associate editor

Dria Hampton knew the night was about so much more than the lump in the back of her throat – or the emotional tug on her heart.

Hampton understood the message that was sent and the significance of it being delivered by the players on the nation's top-ranked women's soccer team, each dressed in pink jerseys with pink socks and any other pink flair they could wear Thursday night.

Florida State's fifth annual "Paint it Pink" soccer match, featuring a showdown between the No. 1 Seminoles and ACC rival Clemson, opened the university's month-long campaign to raise awareness for breast cancer and to remind women of all ages the importance of regular medical check-ups.

It was also the nightcap of a special day in the Tallahassee community that started with the printing of an all-pink edition of the Tallahassee Democrat and continued with pink-related activities throughout the day.

And Hampton, whose own grandmother won one battle with breast cancer but lost a second, tugged on her pink jersey as she briefly shared why the soccer game meant so much to her.

"A lot of people come out and watch us and I think it's really important that people see us in this setting," said Hampton, a senior from Piedmont, Okla. "Maybe someday it will save someone else's life. I know my grandmother, that's exactly what she would say – that something like this could save someone else's life so they didn't have to go through what she went through."

Hampton found a special way to pay tribute to her grandmother by scoring just her second goal of the season.

That goal, which gave FSU a 2-0 lead, ignited a scoring flurry that saw the Seminoles put three goals on the board in the span of five minutes. When it was over, FSU held a 4-0 lead and was in no danger of having its undefeated season spoiled by the Tigers.

The Seminoles (12-0, 5-0 in ACC) dominated on both ends of the field in earning a 7-0 victory. Seven players scored goals for FSU: Ines Jaurena, Hampton, Dagny Brynjarsdottir, Tiffany McCarty, Kasey Kallman, Carson Pickett and Rylee Hart.

Clemson (5-7-2, 0-6) managed just one shot on goal.

But the play on the field was overshadowed by the message of the night, which was witnessed by 1,436 fans – many of them dressed in various combinations of pink attire.

“Our kids are very, very bright,” FSU coach Mark Krikorian said. “They are outstanding students and human beings as well. They know there is a greater good. Tonight is an opportunity for all of us to give back a little bit and support a very worthwhile cause.”

FSU’s athletic teams now in season month will each take part in pink-related events this month, something Krikorian said added more meaning to his team’s participation Thursday night.

“I’m looking forward to the other sports doing the same and celebrating women and women’s health,” Krikorian said.

Hampton, a former All-Big 12 midfielder at Oklahoma who transferred to FSU for her final season, knows firsthand what the “Paint it Pink” message represents.

She said “not a day goes by” that she doesn’t think of her grandmother who died when Hampton was in high school.

“I just hope that one day that something can get cured so that a lot of people don’t have to go through what I saw her go through,” Hampton said.

“You even see on TV where professional teams support it,” Hampton added. “It’s nice because college athletes and professional athletes, a lot of people watch. So it’s nice that they see how important it is to us and maybe it can lead to an effect on one person.”

FSU: not just No. 1 in the land

Staunch defense ready for Virginia Tech
6:57 PM, Oct. 10, 2012 |

After a quick breather against Clemson, the No. 1 Florida State women's soccer team returns to competitive action against No. 15 Virginia Tech this Thursday at home.

The 'Noles (12-0) have enjoyed a bit of comfort in this series, having never lost a game to the Hokies, holding a 9-0 all-time record against them.

Last year's matchup was a 2-0 victory, with goals coming from former senior Tori Huster and current redshirt senior Tiffany McCarty. Current senior Jessica Price also contributed an assist.

McCarty racked up a goal last week in the 7-0 victory against Clemson, her sixth of the season.

A highlight of the game is sure to be the relentless Florida State defense, who has dominated opponents in just about every game. They only allowed one shot from Clemson last week, and have a shutout streak that extends all the way back to Sept. 7.

The statistics back up the results, with FSU ranked No. 1 in every team defensive category tracked by the NCAA. Redshirt Kelsey Wys herself ranks No. 3 and No. 4 in goals-against average and save percentage respectively, only allowing .299 goals per game and saving 91.7 percent of shots on goal.

Virginia Tech comes into this game averaging 2 goals a game, and ranks No. 8 in shutout percentage, a category in which Florida State obviously tops.

Looking at common opponents, the Hokies dropped games against No. 18 North Carolina and No. 9 Duke 1-3 and 2-3 (OT) respectively. Against those teams, the 'Noles beat both the Tar Heels and Blue Devils by the same score, 1-0.

It will be another test for the undefeated Seminoles, the unanimous and uncontested No. 1 team in the nation, and all the keys and pieces are in place for this team to show why it's the most dominant athletic team on this campus.

The Seminoles take on the No. 15 Virginia Tech Hokies Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Seminole Soccer Complex. The game will be broadcast live on FS South, Sun Sports, Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic, NESN, and ESPN3. Loyalty points will not be given for those who attend.

FSU soccer has foreign flavor

12:29 AM, Oct 11, 2012 |

Comments

Written by

Brian Miller

Democrat writer

Fish found along Florida's Gulf Coast aren't quite fresh enough for Florida State soccer midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir.

The sophomore from Iceland longs for halibut and haddock from the icy North Atlantic Ocean. There's also a noticeable absence here of foal, as in baby horse, her favorite food.

Don't judge Brynjarsdottir or redshirt freshman teammate Berglind Thorvaldsdottir for missing foundations of their culture. They are, in fact, just two of the program-record eight international players found on the Seminoles' roster.

The group has ventured thousands of miles away from home to play soccer for the top-ranked college team in their new country.

"The thought is a simple one — we want the best student-athletes we can find, regardless of whether they are from Tallahassee or Japan," FSU head coach Mark Krikorian said.

"It doesn't make any difference to me what their ethnic background is. If they're a good player, a good student, a good citizen, we're very open about adding anyone to the team."

In Krikorian's first year in 2005, he brought in six international players, up from zero the year before, and he has carried an average of four a year in his eight years on the job.

Seminoles great Mami Yamaguchi is likely the one people remember the most — for her goal scoring and her Japanese flamboyance.

But Krikorian has also collected players from Finland, Germany, Holland and Canada. This year, in addition to the two Icelandic players, his team boasts talent from France (Ines Jaurena, Nora Kervroedan), Germany (Isabella Schmid), Japan (Hikaru Murakami), Australia (Kahlia Hogg) and England (Marta Bakowska-Mathews).

When the rest of the Top 25 combines for 27 international players and 15 of those come from Canada — including Penn State grad student Erin McNulty, first a three-year goalie for FSU under Krikorian — it's safe to wonder how Krikorian generates such a far-reaching recruiting touch, because it's definitely not easy.

"Not only when you fish domestically for recruits do you lose out to other schools, but there are other reasons why international kids don't come," Krikorian said.

Murakami's first goal sends FSU to another shutout win

FSU scoreless streak stretches to 8 games

11:44 PM, Oct 11, 2012 |

Written by

Brian Miller

Democrat correspondent

Diminutive doesn't begin to describe 5-foot-2-inch Hikaru Murakami effectively.

Think of the Florida State sophomore midfielder more as a pint-sized powder keg, igniting the Seminoles' home crowd as a fan favorite.

Murakami's 25-yard, left-footed blast in the 27th minute Thursday night proved the game-winning goal at the Seminole Soccer Complex, lifting top-ranked FSU to a 1-0 victory over No. 19 Virginia Tech.

"All throughout the season, Hikaru's given us a spark off the bench," FSU forward Tiffany McCarty said. "It was nice to see her time to shine. It was a great finish by a great player. As far as what she can do, we see it all the time in practice. She plays the way she practices."

A native of Japan, Murakami's first career goal moved the Seminoles to 13-0 on the season and 6-0 in the ACC. Goalie Kelsey Wys recorded another shutout, which is FSU's 11th and extends its scoreless streak to eight consecutive games and 798 minutes.

Florida State, now unbeaten in 12 meetings against the Hokies (11-3, 2-4), will close the regular season Sunday against No. 9 Virginia.

"The defending was once again quite good, limiting their chances at goal," FSU coach Mark Krikorian said. "We had some pretty good chances at goal and Hikaru's goal was quite nice."

Overall, the Seminoles dominated possession and out-shot Virginia Tech 18-3, though it was really only Murakami's rocket that landed on frame.

"We did have a few other chances we should have finished," said Krikorian, whose team only had four shots on goal, two by Murakami. "If we finish them, the game comes a little easier for us. But overall, against another top 20 program, I thought it was a solid performance."

With McCarty passing right to Jamia Fields on the buildup and the ball squirting away from two defenders, Murakami found herself in the clear with time.

With no hesitation, she nailed it off the underside of the crossbar, bouncing down to the goal line and inside the net.

And then she got mobbed, disappearing in a sea of taller players.

"I was so happy," Murakami said. "I didn't know it was a goal, but when I turned everyone came to hug me, and I was like 'Oh, it's a goal!' "

Women's preview: Perfect season?

Article Written by [J.R. Eskilson, ESNN](#)

Published: October 11, 2012

Putting perspective on [Florida State's](#) season is difficult. The Seminoles have been so dominant lately that any form of hyperbole would not do their accomplishments justice.

Simply saying the facts, for instance that Florida State (12-0-0) has only let in one goal in its last 11 games, almost seems too bland to explain how difficult that is in the most daunting conference (the ACC) in the nation.

For the Seminoles, the exaggeration and historical records are white noise. The stars of the Sunshine State just keep churning out results.

"I thought it was a solid performance," head coach Mark Krikorian said last week after a 7-0 win over [Clemson](#).

Next up for the top team in the land is #21 [Virginia Tech](#) (11-3-0) on Thursday and then #12 Virginia (10-3-1) on Sunday. Does either team have a shot at slowing down these Seminoles?

The Other Top Five in Action:

The #2 [Stanford](#) Cardinal (11-1-1) heads to the desert for a clash against Arizona (4-6-3) on Thursday. Despite the sub .500 record, the Wildcats have played some good teams close this season including a 1-2 loss to UCLA only a couple of weeks ago. The game in Tucson could be closer than many expect.

The other bully of the Pac-12, #3 [UCLA](#) (11-0-2), heads up to the beautiful Pacific Northwest for a game against #33 [Washington](#) (9-3-2) on Friday. The Huskies are undefeated at home with a 4-0-1 record. The game in Seattle wraps up UCLA's road contests for the year with the rest of the slate at Drake Stadium.

[Penn State](#) (12-2-0) continues to hold the distinction as the top offense in the nation with a 3.29 goals per game average. [Christine Nairn](#) and [Maya Hayes](#) lead the way for the Nittany Lions with a combined 20 goals between the two of them.

This weekend presents an important conference road swing for #4 [Penn State](#) with games against [Nebraska](#) (6-7-1) and #32 Iowa (11-1-3). There is little room for error though with [Michigan](#) (11-2-1) only two points back.

In ACC action, #5 [Wake Forest](#) (10-3-2) travels to #11 [Duke](#) (10-3-1) on Sunday. The Blue Devils are actually one spot ahead of the Deacons in the conference standings due to playing an extra game, so Wake could skip into third with a win.

Team of the Week:

Middle Tennessee

The Blue Raiders are tied for the top spot in goals per game this season with [Penn State](#). The high output, not surprisingly, has helped Middle Tennessee (11-3) to a perfect 6-0 record in Sun Belt play. The Blue Raiders take on Troy(w) (6-8-1) and South [Alabama](#) (7-6-2) this weekend.

Game of the Week:

#11 [Georgetown](#) vs. #6 [Notre Dame](#), Friday, 3:00 P.M. (ET)

The Hoyas and Irish are tied for the top spot in the National Division of the Big East with only three games remaining. Both teams have already clinched a spot in the conference tournament, but Friday's showdown will go a long way in determining the league champion.

The Hoyas are undefeated in their last seven games while the Irish are undefeated in their last eight.



Arizona's [Jazmin Ponce](#)

I can't believe it's already Senior Day

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Ryals Lee It will be Senior Day and parents' weekend

Sunday, a special time for these Florida State seniors.

Aug. 1, 2009 marked the first day of meetings for the FSU soccer team that year. I shared the experience with two current teammates, Ines Jaurena and Kelsey Wys.

Sitting in the classroom, setting expectations for the coming season, seems like it was just a couple of months ago, not 3 1/2 years. Now, here we sit, about to play in our last two regular-season ACC home games with Senior Day set for Sunday afternoon.

The emotions and memories that have filled these last four years are immeasurable. Walking on campus freshman year, all the seniors told us to take advantage of every opportunity because it would be over before we knew it.

As a freshman, time can't go by fast enough. You are always looking forward to something new, counting down to some event or hoping class time goes by fast. Either way, you're wishing away your time instead of cherishing it.

It's amazing to see how quickly and rapidly we grow and change from when we arrived on campus. I came to FSU as an exercise science major and a year later changed to psychology. Then last Saturday, I took the LSAT so I can apply to law school sometime after I graduate, taking one step closer to entering the real world, as so many individuals like to say.

Our Senior Day game is against the University of Virginia, a team we had not been able to beat until last year in the ACC tournament. We defeated them 2-1 in Cary, N.C., to advance to the league championship game against Wake Forest, adding to the list of the many memorable wins last season.

Little did we know we would face Virginia for a third time just a few weeks later -- this time a day after Thanksgiving in Tallahassee with a berth to the College Cup on the line. We found a good time to come away with our first victory over the Cavaliers at home, defeating them 3-0.

We hope to continue that good fortune this year as we play in front of our great fans. Because it's Senior Day, I will be able to play in front of my fans and my parents.

This will be the first time my dad will see me play since I've been at FSU. My parents will not be the only parents in the stands. There are six other seniors on the team, and their parents will also be cheering our team on Sunday afternoon.

Coincidentally, it is also parents' weekend at FSU as our football team returns home to face Boston College. Campus should be filled with parents all weekend attending luncheons and sporting events.

But overall, it should be an exciting weekend, one I still can't believe has already arrived. It seems like just yesterday I was putting on that FSU jersey for the very first time.

When I put that uniform on once again Sunday, I will be sure to remember that moment for as long as I can!

Overtime penalty kick lifts FSU past Virginia

12:19 AM, Oct 15, 2012 |

Written by

Brian Miller

Democrat correspondent

There was no shaking, no stress for Florida State senior defender Ines Jaurena as she envisioned where she wanted to place the penalty kick she was about to take.

Jaurena had been in this position against Virginia just last season, knocking in her attempt to the right side of goal.

"They knew where I kicked it last year, so I wasn't sure if I needed to kick the other way," Jaurena said. "I just stayed with one way."

Jaurena's elevated ball beat diving Cavaliers goalie Danielle DeLisle to the spot and the top-ranked FSU soccer team scored a 1-0 win five minutes into overtime to defeat No. 13 Virginia on Sunday afternoon at the Seminole Soccer Complex on Senior Day.

"After beating Virginia at home and scoring on a penalty kick, if I don't have a smile on my face I shouldn't be on the team," said a beaming Jaurena, who lifted FSU (14-0, 7-0 ACC) to its ninth consecutive shutout victory and 12th of the season.

"That was a real hard fought game for us," Seminoles coach Mark Krikorian said. "Virginia gave us all we could handle. They pushed us to the limit. Fortunately, at the end, we did enough to create a chance, get the penalty and Ines buried it."

With Krikorian substituting liberally to keep his players rested on a hot day, FSU began to wear down Virginia (11-4-1, 4-3-1) toward the end of regulation, evening up a first-half shot discrepancy.

In overtime, Seminoles midfielder Hikaru Murakami gathered a ball at the top of the box and flicked a pass to forward Jamia Fields, who was tripped up as she appeared ready to fire on frame.

"If not a shot, then (a pass) right across the goal," Fields said. "I was so close to goal. If anything, we would have got something."

Florida State goalie Kelsey Wys (13-0) recorded the shutout, making four saves that included a hard shot by Cavaliers' leading scorer Caroline Miller with just minutes left in regulation.

The Seminoles also set a school record for consecutive minutes holding opponents scoreless at 893.

"Of course it's fun to be able to set records, but I can't take credit for all that," Wys said. "I think everyone on the team from the top to the bottom has contributed to the record.

"I think it's an honor it's in my name, but it's most of the team helping with it."

Virginia had not lost to FSU in the regular season entering the game and held a 16-2-4 edge in the series, but the Seminoles have now won the last three meetings.

Its home schedule completed until NCAA postseason play, Florida State will face No. 23 Boston College and No. 8 Maryland this week on the road.

"We want two wins," Jaurena said. "It's like we're used to wins now and we just want to keep having that feeling. The more we win, the more we want to win, and the more we have that expectation."

Soccer wins in overtime

12:48 AM, Oct. 15, 2012 |

FSU soccer experienced something relatively new to them on Sunday afternoon against Virginia: a nail-biter to the end.

The Seminoles have shutout their opponents for the last nine games, but on Sunday they too were shutout during regulation as the game went scoreless for 90 minutes.

The Seminoles' defense remained on target and while Virginia got off 12 shots, the Cavaliers were not able to capitalize. Florida State's offense seemed to warm-up as the game went on and looked fresher than the Cavaliers as time expired.

Jamia Fields was fouled five minutes into the overtime period and drew a penalty kick. Ines Jaurena lined up for the kick and shot it into the right side of the net. Virginia's goal keeper dove, but couldn't get there and the 'Noles took the match 1-0. Jaurena was mobbed at midfield by the still-undefeated Seminoles.

The 'Noles have completed their regular season home schedule and will travel to No. 23 Boston College on Thursday.

Soccer America Women's Team of the Week

October 17th, 2012 11:22PM

[AWARDS: Week 9] Canadian Olympic bronze-medalist **Jonelle Filigno** is the Soccer America Women's Player of the Week for games played through Oct. 14 after leading Rutgers to a pair of Big East wins with two goals in both games. For the Soccer America Team of the Week ...

Goalkeeper

Kayla King (Kentucky), Jr.

Recorded back-to-back shutouts on the road at Tennessee and Georgia (both 1-0 wins), where she had a career-high 10 saves.

Defenders

Natasha Anasi (Duke), Jr.

Led defensive unit that was solid in 3-0 win over N.C. State and 1-1 tie with Wake Forest.

Alexa St. Martin (Georgetown), Jr.

Helped Hoyas secure pair of shutouts with 2-0 victory over Notre Dame and 1-0 overtime win over DePaul.

Midfielders

Jo Dragotta (Florida), Sr.

Had game-winning goals in both Gator matches, scoring in 85th minute in 2-1 win over ranked Missouri and two late goals in 4-1 victory over Mississippi State.

Hikaru Murakami (Florida State), Soph.

Scored first collegiate goal in 1-0 victory over Virginia Tech and played key role on play that led to penalty kick that won game against Virginia in overtime.

Hannah O'Donnell (Northeastern), Soph.

Scored three goals, including two game-winners, in CAA victories over Towson (2-1) and George Mason (2-0).

Forwards

Rena Cuellar (Oklahoma), Sr.

Posted two game-winning goals with lone goal in win over Kansas (1-0) and goal in 3-1 win over TCU.

Jonelle Filigno (Rutgers), Jr.

Had two goals and assist in 3-0 win against Louisville and two goals in a 5-0 win against Cincinnati.

Lauren Granberg (Ohio State), Sr.

Posted first career hat trick in 4-1 win over Iowa and had assist in 4-0 win over Nebraska.

Lauren Hughes (Rice), Fr.

Scored game-winning goal in nationally televised game against Memphis (2-0) and had goal in fourth minute at UAB (3-2).



Megan Jurado (San Diego State), Sr.

Had game-winner from penalty spot and assist in 2-1 victory at UNLV and scored first two goals before assisting on third in 3-1 win at Fresno State.

Taylor Uhl (Minnesota), Soph.

Had two goals and assist against Illinois (3-0) and scored game-winning goal against Northwestern (1-0).

Comment

 Email  Print



No comments yet.

Women's weekend preview: Winding down

Article Written by [Travis Clark, ESPN](#)
Published: October 18, 2012

Top Five in Action:

It's perhaps the biggest test of the season for **#1 Florida State** after what has been a dominant run this far. With three ACC games remaining, the Seminoles travel north over the next few days. Thursday features a stop to take on **#25 Boston College**, followed by a stop in College Park, Md. for a matchup against **#13 Maryland**. Riding a 14-game winning streak at the moment, it's hard to know if either of these ranked foes can slow down the Seminoles.

Home cooking has been favorable so far for **#2 Stanford**, and the defending champions wrap up the regular season slate in Palo Alto this weekend with a pair of Pac 12 matchups. **Washington State** pays a visit on Thursday, while the **#31 Washington Huskies** present an even bigger challenge on Sunday.

Hoping to keep pace with the Cardinal before the two sides meet during the final weekend of October is **#3 UCLA**. A team that jumped out to a quick start this season and has yet to let up – or lose, for that matter – will begin four-game home stand this weekend as **Colorado** and **Utah** pay a visit to the Los Angeles area.

This coming weekend is set to dictate the Big Ten conference regular season winner, as **#4 Penn State** looks to make yet another emphatic statement at home. **Michigan State** and **#20 Michigan** arrive in State College, with the latter having an outside chance at the Big Ten regular season crown. That Sunday matchup is set to particularly compelling because of the statistical trends of the two sides: **Penn State** leads the nation in goals scored per game, while **Michigan's** defense ranks fourth overall in goals allowed per game. Something's got to give, and it likely will.



ETSU's Ramey Kerns

Because of the Big East tournament about to start, **#5 Georgetown** wraps up its regular season schedule on Friday with a road trip to the Philadelphia area to take on **Villanova**. There isn't much at stake for the Hoyas on this journey, as the team has already sewn up the top seed in the National Division thanks to the results from over the weekend, but needless to say the team is looking to finish strong.

Game of the Week:

#15 North Carolina (8-3-2) at #11 Duke (11-3-2), Oct. 18, 7:00 PM EST

In any sport in the ACC, a **Duke-North Carolina** game is always circled on the calendar. And it's no different as the two teams line up to face each other in Durham on Thursday evening – plus there's the added stakes of ACC standings. Carolina trails the Blue Devils in the standings by four points, and **Duke** has played two more conference games during that stretch. If the Tar Heels can come away with full points on the road, it would be a big step up the ladder.

Team of the Week:

It's a huge, huge weekend for **Michigan**. As previously mentioned, the Wolverines take on the Nittany Lions on Sunday. But that meeting might not carry the same stakes if the visitors can't take care of business on the road prior, as they'll make a pit stop at **Ohio State** on Thursday evening. Two huge games for a program that has already surprised this season.

Story lines to Watch:

As the season winds down – and it is far from over, of course – the chase for the top scorer in the nation truly heats up. Right now, three players are tied for the lead with 16 goals, **Daphne Corboz (Georgetown)**, **Stephanie DeVita (Furman)** and **Taylor Uhl (Minnesota)** will continue the chase for that honor while also taking care of business from a results perspective. A few players sit one behind on 15 tallies: **Jen Hoy (Princeton)**, **Ramey Kerns (East Tennessee State)** and **Laura Weinberg (Duke)** are all well in the mix.

Along with the **Duke-North Carolina** meeting, the ACC has plenty of other intriguing games as well. Among those is an important tilt of **Virginia vs. Virginia Tech** provides not only a rivalry game, but also an opportunity for both to climb the conference ladder.

 **[PRINT]** **espnW.com:**



Thursday, October 18, 2012

We're ready for the challenges at BC

By Ines Jaurena

This past Sunday was a beautiful sunny day in Tallahassee, absolutely perfect for Senior Day. I am a senior, graduating this December. My parents had to make the choice of either flying in from France for Senior Day or for graduation. They opted for graduation, but my FSU family made sure I felt as loved as if my parents were there.

The day could only be considered a true success after our important win against Virginia. A penalty kick in our favor in the first overtime period ended a really tight game. Both teams only gave up few scoring chances, and in that kind of game, set pieces seem to be the deciding factor between a win and a loss. We knew the Cavaliers very well, since we played them three times last season, and the fact that they are a good team was no mystery. To be honest, I am not the least bit surprised the winner was decided on a set piece, but I never thought it would be a penalty kick.

This wasn't our finest performance of the year. We didn't look as sharp as we have been. But what am I saying? A win against UVA always should be satisfying. Shutouts in nine straight games, 14 wins in a row and an undefeated season thus far have all the makings of a satisfying season, but we want more. Our expectations continue to grow every time we step on the field. We expect to be better, faster and sharper than the last time we played. The more we win, the more we want to win.

We are striving to be better Thursday night when we visit Boston College. The environment is going to be different. BC has a turf field, and the temperature is going to be, let's say, slightly different (for the coming trip, our coach strictly forbade us from mentioning the word "cold"). To get ready, we'll have to adjust quickly to all these factors, but it's part of the game and we are more than ready for the challenge.

Because soccer is not the only thing in life, I need to take a moment to talk about how excited I am to visit Boston. In an earlier blog, I already mentioned my attraction to traveling. Discovering different cities and landscapes makes the soccer season even more special for me.

I remember our trip to Boston my sophomore year. We got to spend an afternoon in the city, and I loved it. At the time of our last visit two years ago, it was the middle of autumn, which we don't really get down in Tallahassee. The colorful leaves that had just left the trees and were covering the ground made the city look stunning. It was definitely one of the best bonding experiences I have had. I remember everybody being extremely happy to be around each other.

I hope this trip will be as full of enthusiasm as that one and our record will stay free from upsets. Boston and Maryland, here we come!

Krikorian: 'The better team won'

by [Paul Kennedy](#), October 19th, 2012 4:26AM

[BOSTON COLLEGE-FLORIDA STATE] No. 1 Florida State lost for the first time this season when it dropped a 3-2 decision to Boston College, conceding three unanswered goals to **Kate McCarthy**, **Stephanie McCaffrey** and **Kristen Mewis** that matched the total number of goals the Seminoles had allowed in their first 14 games.

"I thought the better team won tonight," said FSU coach **Mark Krikorian**. "Boston College was better than we were; they competed harder than we did and I don't think that we were as good passing and receiving the ball and keeping the ball as we needed to be. It's quite simple, you need to go out and you need to compete to show that you are prepared to battle in games of this magnitude and when you have the ball, you need to value the ball."

Florida State got on the board first in the 37th minute on a goal by **Kristin Grubka** off a corner kick, but BC found the equalizer just before the half as McCarthy one-timed a low liner inside the left post.

Victoria DiMartino and McCaffrey helped set up the goal, which snapped FSU's consecutive scoreless minute streak at over 934 minutes.

FSU was unlucky not to go ahead in the 58th minute when a header by **Tiffany McCarty** caromed off the left post.

McCaffrey gave the Eagles their first lead of the match in the 67th minute as she one-timed a cross from DiMartino for her ninth goal of the season.

Boston College upped its lead to 3-1 in the 80th minute on an outstanding effort from Mewis on a shot just underneath the crossbar from 25 yards out.

Jessica Price made it 3-2 in the 83rd minute

Oct. 18 in Newton, Mass.

Boston College 3 Florida State 2. Goals: McCarthy (McCaffrey) 41, McCaffrey (DiMartino) 67, Price 83; Grubka (Pickett) 37, Price 83.

Boston College -- Gaul, Morrison, Bernard, Lombard, Davitt, Jeffrey, Vettori, Mewis, McCarthy, Meehan, McCaffrey. Subs: DiMartino, Wagner.

Florida State -- Wys, Jaurena, Short, Grubka, Brockway, Kallman, Fields, Hampton, Schmid, Price, McCarty. Subs: Hahn, Pickett, Murakami, Kervroedan.



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Friday, October 19, 2012

BC hands Florida State first loss

By Graham Hays

NEWTON, Mass. -- There will be no perfection in women's college soccer this season, but persistence is alive and well as the regular season winds to a close.

No. 1 Florida State, the nation's only unbeaten and untied team entering Thursday, saw its bid to become the first such national champion since North Carolina in 2003 end in a 3-2 loss at No. 24 Boston College. The loss dropped the Seminoles to 14-1-0 and ended several remarkable streaks.

For the first time after a shutout streak of a little more than 934 minutes, Florida State conceded a goal.

For the first time all season, Florida State conceded a goal in the second half (in this case, two goals).

For the first time since the opening hour of its opening game at Minnesota, Florida State trailed an opponent.

"I thought the better team won tonight," Florida State coach Mark Krikorian said. "I thought Boston College was better than we were, they competed harder than we did. I don't think we were as good passing, receiving the ball, keeping the ball as we need to be. I think it's quite simple: You need to go out and you need to compete and show that you're prepared to battle in games of this magnitude."

Boston College (10-5-2) put Florida State under pressure early -- unfamiliar territory for the visitors, who are used to winning the possession battle. Time and again, Eagles sophomore forward Stephanie McCaffrey got behind Florida State on the left side and found space to cut back and bring the ball toward the middle of the 18-yard box. Her forays initially fizzled there, one touch too many taken or a shot saved by Kelsey Wys. And a familiar script seemed at hand when the Seminoles opened the scoring on Kristin Grubka's header off a Carson Pickett corner kick in the 37th minute.

But McCaffrey and the Eagles kept coming. Four minutes later, her cross from the left side fell perfectly to Kate McCarthy, whose shot from 10 yards beat Wys. And midway through the second half, McCaffrey found herself in the right place at the right time to finish Victoria DiMartino's second assist of the night.

Boston College has one player in Kristen Mewis who isn't out of place in any women's soccer game anywhere in the world. To reach its potential, and regain the top-five ranking it held earlier this season, it needs another presence alongside her, as it had when it made it to the College Cup in 2010.

With nine goals and six assists this season and nights like this on her résumé, McCaffrey looks tantalizingly close to being that player. Boston College coach Alison Foley spotted a potential weak spot for the Seminoles in outside back Ines Jaurena's tendency to push deep into the attack. In McCaffrey, she had a player who could probe that vulnerability.

"This year she's definitely using her speed and her skill better than I've ever seen her use it before in my

entire life," Mewis said of her friend and fellow Massachusetts native. "She can just speed by defenders, she can place balls perfectly, like she did to Kate McCarthy. When she plays with confidence and when she plays with heart and works so hard, she's one of the best players on the field all the time."

All of which set up Mewis to do what stars are supposed to do in such games. With the clock ticking down toward 10 minutes remaining, and Florida State showing signs of pushing on for an equalizer, the senior All-American settled a ball from well beyond the edge of the box and blasted a left-footed shot that gave Wys no chance at all to make a save.

"I just saw my opportunity," Mewis said of a world-class finish. "I had a little bit of space in front of me, and I had to beat one player, and then I just knew if I could get a good shot with my left foot that hopefully it would go in."

Florida State will be fine. As close to scoreboard perfection as it came during the shutout streak, it also found itself in too many one-goal games. That doesn't mean it isn't still the best. It also will regain the services of midfield force Dagny Brynjarsdottir, who missed the game because of international duty for Iceland. And Maryland's loss to Miami on Thursday means the Seminoles still have control of the conference championship race.

One loss in the ACC, especially on the road, doesn't ruin a season. One win, on the other hand, may be enough to change a season. Boston College -- losers of five of six games before last weekend's 6-2 rout of NC State -- is back.

"These past couple of games we've struggled a little bit, and we kind of got down on ourselves," Mewis said. "But we knew that today had to be different in order to change our season.

"And I think that's exactly what we did tonight. We changed our season."

Florida State makes statement with regular-season title

October 22nd, 2012 4:37AM

[ACC] **Tiffany McCarty**'s goal in the 86th minute proved to be the difference Sunday afternoon as No. 1 Florida State defeated No. 5 Maryland, 1-0, at Ludwig Field and clinched the 2012 ACC regular-season title.

Frenchwoman **Ines Jaurena** sent a beautiful cross into the box that McCarty one-timed into the back of the net for the goal.

"We have shown to be consistent over my eight years which is really important for us," said FSU coach **Mark Krikorian** on the Seminoles clinching the regular-season title. "We don't want to be a one-year wonder and we have proven that with a conference tournament championship last year, a regular-season championship in 2009 and now again this year. I think that is a fairly strong statement about the health of our program. We are going to continue to fight and hopefully get better after every game."

-- No. 12 Wake Forest moved into second place in the ACC with a 2-1 win over No. 7 North Carolina, the Demon Deacons' first win over Carolina since 2000. Goals by **Katie Stengel** in the 25th minute and **Annick McBryar** in the 48th minute proved enough for the Demon Deacons to hold off a late charge by the Tar Heels.

-- No. 11 Virginia clinched a spot in the ACC Tournament in emphatic fashion, downing Virginia Tech 5-0 on Sunday night at Thompson Field. Senior forward **Caroline Miller** led the Cavaliers with three goals and an assist, tying the school record for points in a game with seven. The loss left the Hokies in ninth place in the ACC with one game to play. Only the top eight teams make the playoffs.

ACC Standings:

PTS TEAM W-L-T

24 Florida State (8-1-0)

19 Wake Forest (6-2-1)

19 Maryland (6-3-1)

17 Duke (5-3-2)

16 Virginia (5-3-1)

16 North Carolina (5-3-1)

13 Boston College (4-4-1)



11 Miami (Fla.) 3-4-2

10 Virginia Tech 3-5-1

3 Clemson 1-9-0

0 N.C. State 0-9-0

Comment

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 No comments yet.

Women's recap: Conference shakeout

Article Written by [Travis Clark, ESPN](#)

Published: October 24, 2012

Despite losing for the very first time, **#3 Florida State** locked up the top seed in the ACC tournament and a regular season title over the weekend.

After losing 3-2 on the road to [Boston College](#) last Thursday, the Seminoles bounced back and edged an undermanned [Maryland](#) side 1-0 in College Park. That win secured enough of a gap in the standings for the Seminoles to officially clinch the regular season title.

"We have shown to be consistent over my eight years which is really important for us," FSU head coach Mark Krikorian said in a release on clinching the league regular season title.

"We don't want to be a one-year wonder and we have proven that with a conference tournament championship last year, a regular season championship in 2009 and now again this year. I think that is a fairly strong statement about the health of our program. We are going to continue to fight and hopefully get better after every game."

The accomplishment means that FSU starts next week's ACC tournament as the No. 1 seed, and marks just the second time ever the program has won the ACC regular season (the last time coming in 2009).

A few more games are on slate this week in the ACC before the conference tournament begins, so the field isn't quite set. But for now, [Florida State](#) can bask in the success of another impressive accomplishment.



Penn State wins Big Ten title

Penn State wins 15th straight Big Ten title

[Michigan](#) gave **#5 Penn State** a bit of a run for their money in the conference race, but in the end, the Nittany Lions did enough to win yet another Big Ten title under head coach Erica Walsh.

"I am so proud of this group," Walsh said in a press release. "I am so proud of where they are today and where they came from. There is a lot of emotion surrounding Senior Day. This is just a fantastic group of young women that are prepared to go out and succeed in their chosen field, but not yet because we still have a little more work to do."

While the Wolverines and Nittany Lions tied 1-1 on Sunday, [Michigan's](#) loss to [Ohio State](#) on Thursday combined with PSU's 5-1 win over [Michigan State](#) on Friday paved the way for the Nittany Lions to clinch.

That doesn't diminish what has been a very good season for [Michigan](#), currently ranked #21 in the [TopDrawerSoccer.com Top 64](#). They'll look for a measure of revenge when the Big Ten tournament begins.

Big East teams wrap up regular season

One of the other premier conferences in the season wrapped things up over the weekend, as the Big East conference tournament field is now set.

Some teams finished stronger than others. On Friday, **#9 Georgetown** dropped its first game of the season, 1-0 on the road to [Villanova](#). However, the top seed in the National Division was already sewn up at that point, so the Hoyas held on despite **#8 Notre Dame** picking up a win in its game.

On the other side of the conference, **#7 Marquette** finished extremely strong with a 4-0 defeat of [South Florida](#). The Golden Eagles hold the other top seed after topping the American Division.

Princeton continues to lead the way in the Ivy League

It's been quite the bounce back season for **#38 Princeton**, and their Ivy League dominance continued over the weekend with a 3-1 win over [Harvard](#). Forward [Jen Hoy](#) maintained her prolific scoring rate, bagging her 16th goal of the season in the process.

Trailing [Princeton](#) in the standings are [Penn](#) and [Dartmouth](#), both three points off the top, ahead of [USF](#), [Syracuse](#) and [Connecticut](#).

Patriot League title in sight for Navy

Their astounding win streak may have ended, but **#45 Navy** took their recent tie in stride and continue to roll. Away wins over [Army](#) (1-0) and [Holy Cross](#) has the Midshipmen in first place in the Patriot League, and poised for a conference regular season title.

Navy's season wraps on Saturday against [Bucknell](#), and a win would secure first place and a chance to host the upcoming conference tournament.

FSU women setting standard

12:15 AM, Oct 29, 2012 |

Comments

Written by

Henry column sig

Payback occurs in women's sports, too.

Just ask the Florida State women's soccer team. The Seminoles can spell revenge, retribution and reprisal. They understand the importance of making a statement, especially this time of season when teams will soon run out of second chances.

Such was the case Sunday afternoon at the Seminole Soccer Complex. No. 3 FSU roasted Boston College, 4-0, under chilly, windy conditions.

This Atlantic Coast Conference quarterfinal match was over before fans had a chance to layer jackets with blankets. It was like dropping a Royal Flush on your first hand at the poker table.

FSU scored two goals in the opening five minutes. The Eagles, who somehow pinned the Seminoles with their first defeat of the season 10 days earlier, did not have an answer to challenge an elite opponent that is chasing history.

That's right. The Seminoles have the goods, from skill to scheme to spirit, to capture the program's first national title.

"I think they can," Boston College senior forward Vicki DiMartino said.

"They like to possess (the ball). They are not like other college teams that play direct and kick it around. They pass it around, play to feet, and move up the field.

"It's good soccer."

It can be great soccer, too.

Let's face it, and we can say this with the utmost respect, professionalism and political correctness: FSU women's fall teams are smokin' hot.

Across the parking lot at Tully Gymnasium on Sunday, the 12th-ranked Seminoles' indoor volleyball team swept Virginia Tech and remains tied atop the conference standings.

FSU, playing its third match in five days, is on a 15-match win streak. The Seminoles have won 23-consecutive home matches, punctuated by their first victory over rival Florida in 18 years on Wednesday before an energized, sold-out crowd.

On Saturday in Blacksburg, Va., top-ranked FSU captured its fifth consecutive ACC women's cross country championship.

Co-captain Violah Lagat won the 6K race in a course-record time of 20:00.1, with several of her teammates in close pursuit. The Seminoles are expected to contend for the program's first national title after it placed fourth last year.

That's how Seminole gals are rolling these days.

"I guess I am biased — I am a woman — and I think it's great for any athletic team at FSU to be doing well, but it's amazing to have our fellow athletes who are females doing as well as they are," said FSU senior midfielder Tiana Brockway, who had one of the four goals against the Eagles.

Brockway, like many of her teammates, supports all Seminole teams. Many student-athletes are in classes together, friends and respect each others skill set.

Brockway is in a baseball class and says she has learned valuable lessons regarding mindset and preparation from the fellas that she can utilize in soccer. An athletic program is a unique fraternity. Or would that be sorority?

Actually, it really doesn't matter.

It's about winning. And the women's teams are helping to paint an impressive Garnet and Gold standard this fall.

The soccer Seminoles, who had dropped two of their previous three matches, found their mojo against the Eagles. It was an unrelenting, unforgiving display of grace and power, complete with a smile.

DiMartino said her Eagles were caught napping in the first five minutes of the match. So sorry, because it was over by the sixth minute. Top-seeded FSU advances to Friday's semifinal in Cary, N.C., where it will face fourth-seeded Virginia.

The march to soccer's summit continues.

"This was really important for us, especially after having a couple not-so-good performances," FSU senior forward Jessica Price said.

"We needed to come out and set the tone, be physical and make sure we kept the ball. Since we lost to them earlier in the season, we wanted to pay them back for that."

Consider it paid in full.

FSU soccer gets revenge against Boston College in ACC tournament win

2:04 AM, Oct. 29, 2012 |

Comments

Written by

Alexis Schulman

Staff Writer

No. 1 FSU Soccer beat down No. 21 Boston College 4-0 in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament on a chilly Sunday afternoon in Tallahassee, proving that revenge is a dish best served cold. And within the first five minutes of Sunday afternoon's blustery rematch with a Boston College team that bested the 'Noles in Boston 10 days ago, the Seminoles dished it out in the way of two quick goals.

The Eagles handed the Seminoles their first defeat of the season a week and half ago, and one minute and five seconds into regulation on Sunday, the Seminoles pushed the ball into Boston College territory. After a well-placed corner kick and some goal line action, the Eagles' keeper Alexa Gaul punched the ball away from the goal, but it took a bounce off the crossbar toward Kristin Grubka, who booted it to Dagny Brynjarsdottir. Brynjarsdottir headed it in to the net and was mobbed to the right of the goal by the celebrating Seminoles. The goal was the quickest Florida State goal in ACC Tournament history.

Less than four minutes later, keeper Kelsey Wys launched the ball to Brynjarsdottir, who fed it to Tiffany McCarty. McCarty broke away from her defenders and sailed the ball into the back of the net for the Seminoles' second score of the game.

"I'm really glad with the response we had based on our earlier loss with them this season," midfielder Tiana Brockway said. "I think we had a lot to prove as a team and as individuals because we didn't have a very good outing the first time we played them."

The Seminoles' defense held the Eagles scoreless and was dominant throughout the game, but especially in the first half, which saw the Eagles register just one shot, while the 'Noles notched seven shots. Florida State registered 12 shots in the game.

"We created some different goals in different ways and that's obviously what we're hoping for," head coach Mark Krikorian said. "It's nice at this time of the year to put together a good performance against a good team."

Florida State came out of halftime quickly and at the 36-minute mark scored a goal off a Tiana Brockway free kick, putting the Seminoles up 3-0. But, Florida State wasn't done yet and with 20 minutes to go, Jessica Price and Brynjarsdottir combined to feed the ball to McCarty, who fired in her second goal of the game. The game was McCarty's second multi-goal game of the year for the senior and with five career goals in the ACC Tournament, she holds the record for most goals scored in the Tournament.

"We didn't concede goals, we put our chances in the back of the net like you're supposed to," Brockway said about the Seminoles play this time around against Boston College. "We held most of the possession, which was one of the big goals coming in to it and we settled the game down and played our style of play."

Florida State's four goals mark the most the Seminoles have ever scored against Boston College. The 'Noles will advance to the semifinal round of ACC Tournament play on Friday in Cary, N.C. and will face the Virginia Cavaliers in a rematch of last year's semifinals.

Brynjarsdottir lifts 'Noles

FSU advances to ACC Tourney semifinal versus Virginia on Friday

12:13 AM, Oct 29, 2012 |

Written by

Brian Miller

Democrat writer

Welcome back, Dagny Brynjarsdottir.

It didn't take long for Florida State's starting midfielder from Iceland to make an impact after missing the last three games due to her second in-season national team commitment.

Brynjarsdottir hammered home a header inside the right post a minute into Sunday's ACC Tournament quarterfinal against No. 21 Boston College, then assisted on a goal to Tiffany McCarty four minutes later and No. 3 FSU returned to its winning ways with a sterling 4-0 victory.

"It felt good," said Brynjarsdottir. "I felt like I had to do my thing because they lost two games while I was away. I felt bad about it so I just tried my best."

Top-seeded FSU (16-2) advances to Friday's semifinal, where it will face fourth-seeded Virginia, a 1-0 winner over North Carolina.

The Seminoles defeated the Cavaliers, 1-0, Oct. 14 on Ines Jaurena's penalty kick in overtime. It will also be a rematch of last year's ACC semifinal, won by FSU on its way to its first tournament title.

"I love playing against Virginia," Seminoles head coach Mark Krikorian said. "It's a tactical battle. They make it a beautiful game of soccer. Some of the games we play, it's just about competing and kicking the ball, air balls and everything. It's a chess match with those guys."

Krikorian also loves having back Brynjarsdottir, especially when she comes back and scores goals, as she did in a 1-0 win over UNC in September and again yesterday.

"We know that Dagny is a strength for us," Krikorian said. "She's kind of a tower in the midfield. She's very good at competing for 50-50 balls. The other thing she's quite good at is picking up second balls. It's a situation where she has a lot of skills and her skill set complements the other players in the midfield and it all fits together nicely. When you take a piece out, well, it doesn't work quite as nicely."

Krikorian described their first loss, to Boston College (10-7-3), as "ugly," but the Seminoles put together a quick five minutes of beautiful soccer to jump on top.

Seminoles midfielder Tiana Brockway launched a corner kick close to the crossbar that Eagles' goalie Alexa Gaul punched but off the crossbar and to the head of 'Noles defender Kristin Grubka.

Grubka headed across goal and Brynjarsdottir quickly put FSU ahead on the scoreboard.

Shortly after, 'Noles keeper Kelsey Wys punted down the field and Brynjarsdottir easily flicked-on a header that McCarty took alone and was able to pop over Gaul.

"She wins a lot of air balls for us," McCarty said. "She can play slip balls through. She can do everything for us and we're really glad she's back."

Brockway added a second-half goal off a long free kick that redirected off the back of a Boston College defender and past Gaul.

And then in the 70th minute, forward Jessica Price played a through ball to the left box that Brynjarsdottir knocked across the face of goal to McCarty's waiting foot.

"She's so dynamic," Brockway said about her fellow midfielder. "She's huge with winning balls in the air. Just her runs off the ball either opens up space for herself— you saw her get in behind a few times— and if she doesn't get it, it opens up space for one of the other midfielders. She helps all over the field."

Brynjarsdottir set a new career high for points in the match, while McCarty pushed past former 'Nole Kelly Rowland into the top spot for ACC Tournament scoring with five goals.

Krikorian was pleased with the quick start, the possession-brand of soccer exhibited, the defensive effort and, of course, the display of character following a tough road trip.

"I know our kids were excited to come out and compete," Krikorian said. "I think all of us had been disappointed in the last 10 days and how those games have gone. But we have our group back together now and this is hopefully more of what we'll be, how we'll play and the results we'll get."

The New York Times



October 30, 2012

A.C.C. Is Deep Enough to Fill Final Four Itself

By **VIV BERNSTEIN**

DURHAM, N.C. — With 25 appearances in the final four and 21 N.C.A.A. Division I national championships, North Carolina has been the premier women's college soccer program for decades. Yet it was hardly a surprise last season when the Atlantic Coast Conference became the first league with three teams in the College Cup — as the sport's final four is now known — and the Tar Heels were not one of them.

The days of North Carolina's stockpiling the majority of the most talented players in the country are over. There are simply too many elite players to go around. North Carolina still attracts its share — enough to be [ranked 11th](#) in the country. But many stars are now drawn to other programs in the A.C.C., which has emerged as the sport's most dominant conference.

“From top to bottom across the board, we do probably have more talent than most of the other conferences do,” said Florida State Coach Mark Krikorian, whose Seminoles were ranked No. 1 for much of the season but are currently fifth.

The Pacific-12 boasts No. 1 Stanford, the defending national champion, and No. 2 U.C.L.A. But the A.C.C. has four teams in the top 10 of the coaches poll — Florida State, No. 7 Virginia, No. 8 Wake Forest and No. 9 Maryland — and seven in the top 25, with No. 11 North Carolina, No. 16 Duke and No. 24 [Virginia Tech](#) also in the rankings as of Tuesday. The A.C.C. also accounts for six of the top 25 teams in the more weighty N.C.A.A. Ratings Percentage Index.

It is that depth of quality teams that sets the A.C.C. apart. [Last year](#), the A.C.C. had eight teams reach the Round of 16 of the N.C.A.A. tournament. Three — Florida State, Duke and Wake Forest — made the College Cup, with Stanford.

The A.C.C. could replicate the feat this season, with the same three teams or three different ones. Or it could do better.

"I honestly think four out of four is a possibility," Duke goalkeeper [Tara Campbell](#) said.

Campbell was one of many girls who watched the United States win the 1999 Women's World Cup final over China and became inspired. For many college stars, that game served as a touchstone, a moment when their desire to succeed in the sport crystallized.

"I just think that because of the success of the women's national team, it made soccer more aware in this country, and maybe it was our hope and dream that when kids would come out to watch us play, they would, too, want to play," said [Carla Overbeck](#), the captain of that United States team and now an assistant at Duke.

Eight former North Carolina players were on that World Cup team, including [Mia Hamm](#), who became a fan favorite.

[Kristen Mewis](#), who was 8 in 1999, was one of the girls who revered Hamm and her teammates.

"I specifically remember watching that game," said [Mewis](#), a senior midfielder for [Boston College](#). "I just remember saying, 'I want to play for that team one day.'"

When Mewis was in high school deciding where she wanted to play in college, she chose the Eagles in part because they play in the A.C.C. Campbell was drawn to Duke's academics, but also said the conference was a factor in her decision.

"When I was coming down to deciding between different schools, the fact that Duke was in the A.C.C. was big in the pro column when I was breaking it down pros and cons," Campbell said. "Just because you know that once conference starts, you're playing a national-level game every time. It's an N.C.A.A.-tournament-quality game every game in the A.C.C."

Of course, there are a lot of reasons players are drawn to the conference, from academics to geography, even the weather.

"I think, first of all, the conference fits the recruiting demographic," the longtime North Carolina coach [Anson Dorrance](#) said. "Our recruiting demographic is an upper-middle-class athlete whose parents value high-level education opportunities. Obviously, the conference is filled with elite universities. Also, we've got an excellent East Coast footprint, which is attractive to any athlete from Maine to Florida and all the way across.

"We'll attract some outstanding players as a result of being the kind of schools these athletes love to attend. And I think because of our reputation as a great conference, we're even able to recruit out West."

Alison Foley knows what it is like to recruit inside and outside the A.C.C. She has been Boston College's coach for 16 years, competing in the Big East until joining the A.C.C. in 2005.

"We got a lot of top-caliber players, a lot of national-pool-type players, national team players, to come for a visit and they would love Boston College, but one of the things it would come down to: 'But I've always dreamed of playing in the A.C.C.,' " Foley said of recruiting before her team joined the league. "I couldn't fault them for that."

But because so many other teams are stronger, North Carolina is no longer able to dominate. That is a reason the Tar Heels have missed the College Cup the past two seasons.

No Tar Heels team has gone three years without a final four appearance since the tournament began in 1982. Dorrance says he is not using that as motivation, certain that there is enough inherent pressure that goes with playing in the program, even if others in the A.C.C. have caught up.

"Yeah, well, obviously, we need to admit that to ourselves," Dorrance said. "The way we look at it is, we've just got to do a better job in recruiting. We've just got to do a better job with training and developing our kids.

"We're killing ourselves to make some corrections to see if we can get back there, for sure."

Women's conference: ACC, Big East semis set

Article Written by [Travis Clark, ESPN](#)

Published: October 31, 2012

Quality and talent is something that the ACC has in spades, and over the weekend the opening round of action in the conference tournament reflected that notion with scintillating action all around.

[Maryland](#), [Florida State](#), [Wake Forest](#) and [Virginia](#) all advanced to make it to the semifinals with wins on Sunday. Aside from the Seminoles strolling past [Boston College](#) 4-0, all of the other three games were decided by one goal.

[Virginia](#) was the only program to go on the road and win, defeating [North Carolina](#) 1-0. As she has done all season for the Cavaliers, [Caroline Miller](#) came through in a big game, scoring in the 11th minute, as UVA made the early lead stand up.

In the battle of the Carolina programs, it was a tense and tight affair throughout the matchup of [Duke](#) and [Wake Forest](#). [Marisa Park](#) provided the game-winning goal for the Demon Deacons just 52 seconds into overtime, setting up a meeting with [Maryland](#), which defeated [Miami \(FL\)](#) 2-1 in overtime.

Of course, [Florida State](#), in the midst of a fantastic season, is the defending tournament champions and is the team everyone wants to beat at this point – but that will be far from easy.

Favorites advance in Big East tournament:

It was easier for some programs, but every high seed survived the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament.

[Marquette](#) by far produced the most dominant score line, winning 4-1 over [Connecticut](#) (who will actually be the host of the conference semifinal and final next weekend. The Golden Eagles next take on [Notre Dame](#), who battled through a 1-0 win against [Syracuse](#) in South Bend.

"It certainly wasn't our best performance by any means, but some of the credit for that has to go to [the Syracuse] defense," head coach Randy Waldrum said in a press release. "We also had some chances in the first half to get the lead, and I think it would have been a different margin had we been able to pull them out of that defensive style earlier on. We did a better job of pressuring them in the second half and eventually it paid off, with Cari [Roccaro] making a very composed play to get around their keeper and the defender and then not rush her shot into the empty net. There's a lot we can learn from a game like this, but we're happy to be moving on and looking forward to the conference semifinals next weekend."

[Maegan Kelly](#) was perhaps the best player of the quarterfinal round, scoring a goal and chipping in an assist in the win for [Marquette](#).

The other side of the bracket saw [Georgetown](#) and South [Florida](#) progress, with the Hoyas sneaking by [DePaul](#) 1-0 and USF needing penalty kicks to get past [Louisville](#) and into the semifinals.

Princeton closes in on Ivy League title:

With each passing weekend, [Princeton](#) draws closer and closer to securing the Ivy League title in impressive fashion. The Tigers latest victim in conference was [Cornell](#), who they easily defeated 5-1 on Saturday. This despite leading scorer [Jen Hoy](#) getting only an assist, with the goal scoring coming from [Lauren Lazo](#) and [Jessica Haley](#).

The Tigers hold a three-point lead over [Penn](#) and [Dartmouth](#), both who kept pace with the Ivy League leaders. The Quakers needed overtime to pick up all three points against [Brown](#) (a 1-0 win) while the Big Green won their sixth straight game, a 2-0 defeat of Harvard.

[Penn](#) and [Princeton](#) play each other next weekend, and a Quakers win would open the possibility of a three-way tie for first, assuming [Dartmouth](#) continue their winning ways against [Cornell](#).

Top seed in Atlantic 10 tourney goes to La Salle:

By virtue of another unbeaten weekend in Atlantic 10 play, the [La Salle](#) Explorers grabbed the top seed in the conference tournament. A win on the road against Saint Joseph's(w) and a draw versus [Temple](#) secured enough points to eclipse [Dayton](#).

The Flyers had a five game winning streak snapped at home by [VCU](#), tying the Rams 1-1, and keeping them from a shot at the top spot in the A10. The championships get under way this week, with the semifinals and final in Rhode Island.

CAA Tournament features a pair of penalty shootouts:

While the top two seeds had the weekend off, the CAA tourney began in dramatic fashion, with penalty kicks required to settle both quarterfinal matchups.

[UNC Wilmington](#) and [Delaware](#) drew 1-1, with the Seahawks advancing on spot kicks after overtime. On the other side of the bracket, [Northeastern](#) tied [Hofstra](#) 2-2, with the latter advancing in the penalty kick shootout.



Cari Roccaro

FSU soccer heads to ACC semifinals vs. UVA

After defeating BC at home, Seminoles continue championship quest

7:51 PM, Oct. 31, 2012 |

Written by

Perry Kostidakis

After beating eighth-seeded Boston College in the ACC quarterfinals, the top-seeded Florida State soccer team (16-2) will head to Cary, N.C. to play the fifth-seeded Virginia Cavaliers (14-4-1) in a semifinal matchup.

The Cavaliers are the last obstacle in the way of the Seminoles making a repeat appearance in the ACC Championship game, where they'll have a chance to defend their conference title.

Florida State, who spent the majority of the season ranked No. 1 in the country, slipped to No. 5 after dropping two of their final three regular season games, and then beat Boston College 4-0 last week, the Eagles being the first team to defeat the 'Noles this season.

Virginia and FSU already met once this season, a 1-0 overtime victory for the Noles.

"Virginia is one of the teams that plays closest to our style, so I think that one of our goals before the game was to come in and show them that we can play the style of soccer that they play and to match their intensity," said redshirt junior goalkeeper Kelsey Wys after that game. "The defense did a good job once again of limiting their chances."

Defense will be a key factor in the upcoming matchup, as Florida State still ranks amazingly statistically, ranked No. 1 nationally in both goals-against average (.388) and shutout percentage (77.8 percent) and third in save percentage (88.7 percent).

They're led by Wys, who's No. 5 and No. 11 respectively in goals-against average and save percentage.

The vaunted defense will have the task of stopping the No. 11 scoring offense of Virginia, who's putting up 2.47 goals per game behind the attacking of senior forward Carolina Miller, who has 14 goals on the season.

As for the Seminole offense, they'll look to redshirt senior forward Tiffany McCarty (9 goals) and sophomore midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir (6 assists).

Brynjarsdottir recently just returned from Iceland where she played for the Icelandic national team in the UEFA European Women's Championship qualifying. She returned to play against Boston College, where she tallied a goal and two assists.

Florida State takes on Virginia at 5:00 p.m. in Cary, N.C. The game will be broadcast on ESPN3.

Virginia women's soccer gears for No. 1 FSU

Riding high after 1-0 victory against archrival North Carolina, women prepare for ACC semifinal

Fresh off a dramatic 1-0 victory against rival No. 8 North Carolina, the No. 10 Virginia women's soccer team heads to Cary, N.C. for the ACC semifinals and a rematch with top seed and national No. 1 Florida State.

Sunday's win against the Tar Heels was Virginia's (14-4-1, 6-3-1 ACC) second win ever against its bitter rivals and the first in postseason play. The Cavaliers scored an 11th-minute goal from senior forward Caroline Miller and employed stifling defense the rest of the way to preserve the lead.

"It was like *déjà vu*," said Miller, who also scored the lone goal in Virginia's first victory against North Carolina last year. "It was incredible. I think it was just as good as last time, especially since this time it's in the ACC tournament."

The Cavaliers held the Tar Heels to four shots on goal. The squad hopes to maintain that level of defensive pressure for the rest of the postseason.

"We did a good job of solving their pressure, which is always one of the keys to the game," coach Steve Swanson said. "They have a lot of very good athletes, and they come at you. I thought we did overall as good a job as we have [this year] in terms of controlling the game, keeping possession, and playing our strengths."

Sticking to their style of play will be key for the Cavaliers as they collide with Florida State (16-2-0, 8-2-0 ACC), who dealt the squad one of its toughest losses of the season two weeks ago in Tallahassee. The Seminoles won 1-0 on a penalty kick in overtime. The Virginia players now look for revenge against a team that squeaked past them Oct. 14 and eliminated them 2-1 in the ACC semifinals last year.

"I think everyone is pumped up, especially since we lost to them in the ACC tournament last year," Miller said. "I think that's enough to fuel the fire, and everyone has been working really hard in practice getting ready for this game."

Florida State seemed to be invincible early in the season, winning 14 games in a row and yielding an absurdly low three goals before dropping two of its last three regular season games to Boston College and Miami. The Seminoles came back, however, dropping Boston College 4-0 in the first round of the ACC tournament.

The loss against Florida State was the only time the Cavaliers have been shut out this season. Virginia mustered a season-low four shots on goal in the contest, much lower than the team's 18 shots-per-game average, which ranks second in the conference.

"We had a very good game with them the first time, but it'll be a challenging game, just like any game is in the ACC," Swanson said. "They have a good defense, and we've got to do a better job of creating more quality chances than in the first time we played them."

Since the Florida State loss, the team has been on an offensive tear, scoring 11 goals in just three games. Swanson said he hopes that momentum will be enough to push the Cavaliers closer to their second ACC title in team history.

“We’re learning every game, and we’re being more consistent, which is good,” Swanson said. “We’re going to have to be as consistent as possible in all 90 minutes of the game.”

A win in the semifinal would mean an ACC title matchup Sunday against either Wake Forest or Maryland, the teams responsible for Virginia’s other two conference losses this season. Swanson, despite the hype already building around the game, is keeping his message simple.

“Our motivation is to get better, and to win an ACC Championship,” he said.

The game against Florida State will be broadcast on ESPN3 5 p.m. Friday. The ACC title tilt will air on ESPNU 1 p.m. Sunday.

[winnetka](#)

Catchings earns WNBA title, honor

BY NICK BULLOCK | Contributor | @Pioneer_Press

Last Modified: Nov 1, 2012 07:34PM

Former Stevenson High School standout Tamika Catchings was named WNBA Finals MVP after she led her Indiana Fever to the championship with an 87-78 Game 4 victory against the Minnesota Lynx on Oct. 21 in Indianapolis. She averaged 22.3 points, six rebounds and 3.5 assists in the finals.

Although this was her first WNBA title, Catchings has tasted plenty of success in her career.

Now an 11-year WNBA veteran, Catchings spent the first two years of her high school career at Stevenson. She led Stevenson to a Class AA state title in her sophomore season and was later named the 1995 Ms. Basketball of Illinois, the first sophomore ever to win the award.

Catchings also won an NCAA championship at Tennessee in 1998 and went on to win three Olympic gold medals.

Libertyville graduate Jessica Price has been a big contributor to the Florida State women's soccer team's season-long success. The senior forward scored her second goal of the season against Boston College on Oct. 18 and sits at fourth on the team in scoring with 10 points. On Oct. 25, Price's Seminoles earned the top seed in the ACC Women's Soccer Championship.

The Illinois Wesleyan men's soccer team fell to Wheaton College on Oct. 21 in Bloomington, Ill., but Wesleyan senior Kyle Gorgol tallied his eighth goal of the season for the Titans. The Hinsdale South graduate finished the game with two shots and one shot on goal. Through 15 games, Gorgol leads the Titans in points (19), shots (41) and shots on goal (25). He also has two game-winning goals and two penalty kicks.

Several local high school graduates were recently recognized for their superb play for the Oakton Community College men's and women's soccer teams.

From Niles North, freshmen Berina Gradjan and Angela Jones earned women's first team all-region and first team all-conference honors, while sophomore Caitlin Nikitow earned second team all-conference honors.

From Niles West, freshman Jacqueline Cardenas earned women's first team all-conference honors, while sophomore Daniel Niedzielski earned men's first team all-region and first team all-conference honors.

Sophomore Jasmina Markovic, a Maine East alumna, earned women's first team all-region and first team all-conference honors.

Freshman Jamal Banton, an Evanston alumnus, earned men's first team all-region and first team all-conference honors.

And sophomore Arnolando Reyes, a Leyden alumnus, also earned men's first team all-conference honors.

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www.baltimoresun.com/explore/howard/publications/laurel-leader/ph-ll-florida-state-soccer-star-1101-20121102,0,460824.story

baltimoresun.com

Laurel resident winds up career seeking national title

By David Driver, davidsdriver@aol.com

11:56 AM EDT, November 2, 2012

Tiffany McCarty, who grew up in Laurel, has played soccer in Spain, Germany, Argentina and Guatemala as a member of the U.S. national program during the past few years.

But the world has also come to know McCarty during a standout career at Division I Florida State University.

This season the Seminoles' roster includes two players each from France and Iceland and one from Germany, England, Japan and Australia.

"I think it is a big cultural experience," said redshirt senior forward McCarty, an All-American at Florida State who was a standout at St. John's in Washington, D.C.

"A lot of us have learned a few words of different languages. It does give you a different perspective."

The 5-foot-4 McCarty, who attended Eisenhower Middle School, has been a roommate on road trips with one of her French teammates.

So it is hard to mesh different styles of play?

"It just adds a different element to the team. I would not say it is difficult," she said. "We have some Japanese flavor, some French flavor."

Those flavors have added up to a winning recipe this season for Florida State, which has been ranked No. 1 in the country for much of the campaign.

The Seminoles were the No. 1 seed for the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament (Maryland was No. 2) and defeated Boston College, 4-1.

McCarty had two goals in the win over the Eagles.

The semifinals and finals of the ACC tourney will be held Nov. 2 and 4 in Cary, N.C.

Florida State was 15-2 in regular-season games.

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"We were fortunate to get the No. 1 seed," said McCarty, who had the game-winning goal when Florida State won at Maryland, 1-0, in late October. "It is one and done (in the tourney). We have to prepare for every team."

"Every team that is or was No. 1 at some point, everyone wants to knock you off," she added.

And that happened Oct. 25 as the Seminoles ended regular-season play with a 1-0 loss at ACC rival Miami in a night game.

"We have to forget about it and move on," she said. "We know what kind of team we are and what kind of team we bring to the table."

McCarty, whose team is a lock for the NCAA tourney later in November, is winding down a stellar career at Florida State.

She was the ACC Freshman of the Year in 2008, the ACC Offensive Player of the Year in 2009 and was a semifinalist for the MAC Hermann Trophy in 2009 and 2011 in honor of the best player in the country.

She scored 11 goals as a freshman in 2008, 17 as a sophomore in 2009 and then scored 18 goals with six assists last year after she missed the 2010 season due to health reasons.

McCarty graduated last year with a degree in psychology and is now taking graduate school classes at FSU in sports management.

"Tiffany has been as important of a player we have had at Florida State," said Mark Krikorian, the head coach since 2005. "She is among the best we have ever had. She came in as a scorer but has added a lot of things to her play. She has had a fantastic career. She is a great, silent leader. We are going to miss her."

McCarty played club soccer for the Freestate Shooters and was part of a national title team with them in 2007.

At St. John's she had 191 goals and 74 assists and led the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference in scoring four years in a row as the Cadets won three league titles.

She has been part of a program that is ranked nationally on an annual basis. Does she have any favorite memories?

"The one that stands out the most is when we beat North Carolina my sophomore year. That was a pretty big game for us. I remember being pretty excited," she said.

Last year the team advanced to the Final Four before losing in the semifinals to Stanford 3-0.

"The thing I am most proud of is going to the Final Four," she said of the 2011 season. "It was a good experience for us even though we lost."

McCarty is interested in being a social worker and working with children but also has her eyes on a professional soccer career.

She has former college teammates playing in Australia, Sweden and Belgium but would prefer to play in

a North American league if possible. "I hope I can continue to play the sport," she said.

But first she hopes to get back to the Final Four. "When you get older your role kind of changes," she said. "When I first got here I was a 17-year-old freshman just trying to get on the team. Now I am a fifth-year senior with a lot of experience."

Krikorian pleased with top seed

12:12 AM, Nov 6, 2012 |

Written by

Jim Lamar

Democrat associate editor

It's not just the No. 1 national seed that the Florida State soccer team earned in the NCAA Tournament that had Seminoles coach Mark Krikorian excited Monday afternoon.

The chance to play at home, where FSU is 23-1 all-time in the postseason, revved Krikorian's motor even higher as he talked about the bracket that was announced Monday.

FSU (16-3) plays host to Mississippi Valley State on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Seminole Soccer Complex.

"We're very excited about it," Krikorian said. "I think, since I've been here, the selection committee has been very fair to us.

"I mean, really, how can you complain about being a No. 1 national seed?"

The Seminoles (16-3) spent much of the season ranked No. 1 nationally and defeated eight teams that qualified for the tournament. (FSU also held a commanding 3-0 lead over Marquette in a match that was canceled because of lightning with 41 minutes remaining.)

So it's not like a top national seed was a complete shock for the Seminoles. Still, the confirmation of earning one of those four coveted No. 1 spots -- and the chance to potentially play four post-season matches at home -- charged the FSU program with a little extra excitement Monday.

"Obviously, the folks here are as supportive as it gets to our program," Krikorian said. "And we're a pretty good team when we play at home. We are excited being back home. It feels like we we've been on the road so much the last three or four weeks."

Krikorian said his team is at mostly full strength heading into Friday's match.

SJCDS' Pickett impacting FSU soccer world

- Written by By Danny Brown
- Thursday, November 08, 2012 - 06:00
- [print](#)
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Rating: 5 (based on 1 votes)

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FSU Sports Correspondent

TALLAHASSEE – Carson Pickett, a Florida State University freshman soccer defender, has spent the fall surrounded by all things new.

The Fleming Island native, who attended St. Johns Country Day School, was like any other typical incoming first-year college player. She was adjusting to a new school, a new city, new academic standards, all while learning a new position on a new team.

Luckily, she said, "I had a great high school and club team so the pace was already set at a higher tempo than the average, but still college doesn't compare."

That great high school team won state championships three times during her tenure. At FSU, she's running onto the field as the Seminoles' top substitute for a team that was ranked No. 1 in the country after winning its first 13 matches. Over the next five games, however, FSU dropped two matches – 1-0 at Miami and 3-2 at Boston College – and finished the season ranked No. 4.

At 16-2 overall, FSU took first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference. On Oct. 28, FSU pulled off a 4-0 revenge win over Boston College in the ACC Tournament. Pickett logged 42 minutes in that match.

Pickett set multiple records as an attacker in her high school days, among a lengthy list of high honors and achievements. At FSU, she's playing defense. "The transition wasn't too bad," says Pickett, "because in high school, I still had [the] responsibility to defend or I wasn't doing my job."

It has come as no surprise, she said, that the team has performed so well. "It's been a blessing. We have been working hard all year to get where we are and were prepared for any challenge to come."

At FSU, Pickett has logged more minutes than any other substitute player on the team. She says, "I really read the game and I pay attention to every detail so that when my time comes I am ready to go in and keep the high tempo... I am more technical than aggressive so [it] pays off to have a good touch."

She's scored twice this season, assisting on three others.

What happens on the field isn't her only concern in her first year away from home – classes, travel, practices, not to mention team matches. "We definitely don't have a lot of time to hang out with friends or go to the football games. Realistically, my best friends are on the soccer team, so I am lucky.

"We are gone a lot," she says, "but the biggest thing is to try my best to stay ahead so that when it is time to leave I already have my priorities straight and I am prepared to speak to my teachers and figure out my schedule with them."

Born without her left forearm, Pickett seems notoriously upbeat and self-sufficient, but it's not easy for opponents to ignore her missing arm.

"I think that they are more confused and concerned than they are worried about how physical I am," she said. "It definitely comes as a surprise to most players, but it only takes them a couple plays with the ball at my feet to realize that I am just a normal player – just missing one arm."

Opponents and observers might find it interesting that Pickett doesn't take advantage of possible surprise by an opponent. "I don't actually take advantage of my [missing] arm at all," she said.

Referees might find it difficult to blow a whistle against a player for pushing when it might seem impossible, missing an arm and all. She said, "But it is nice to give [opposing players] a little push that I know they don't expect."

At 16-2, in the mix with Stanford, UCLA, Penn State, and Brigham Young among other top-ranked teams in the nation, the Seminoles seem to be forging straight ahead. There seems to quite an outlook for success at FSU this season.

Ranked No. 1 earlier this season, the 'Noles were picked by conference coaches to finish third in the ACC this season behind Duke and Wake Forest. Head coach Mark Krikorian seemed to have different ideas.

Pickett has been on the field when FSU has knocked out No. 22 Florida, No. 2 Duke, No. 14 Wake Forest, No. 13 Virginia, No. 19 Virginia Tech, No. 9 North Carolina and No. 9 Univ. Central Florida, among other major sides this season. Since most of those matches were low-scoring, 1-0, outcomes, Pickett was often in the midst of the action.

She scored and assisted in a 7-0 win over Maryland on Oct. 4. In a 5-0 win over Jackson State on Sept. 21, Pickett netted another goal in 71 minutes.

A future in soccer?

"I would love to play pro soccer one day," she said, "but for now I am focusing on Florida State Soccer and how to get better from day to day."

Note: No. 1-seed FSU lost 4-2 to No. 5-seed Virginia in the ACC tournament semifinals on Nov. 2.

Virginia has former St. Johns Country Day School star Kaili Torres and also Florida SOL team member Morgan Brian, who scored two of Virginia's goals against the Seminoles. FSU secured the NCAA tournament's No. 1 seed and will start championship play Friday, Nov. 10 in Tallahassee against Mississippi Valley State, winners of the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

PHOTO BY LARRY NOVEY FSU ATHLETICS

Former St. Johns Country Day School soccer star Carson Pickett, right, is a big part of the Lady Seminoles number one ranking for the upcoming NCAA Tournament.

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