

FLORIDA STATE

1984-85 SEMINOLE BASKETBALL MEDIA GUIDE



metro
TEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

1984-85 Seminole Basketball Schedule

Date	Site	Time (EST)
Nov. 26	TAMPA	7:30 pm
Nov. 30	FLORIDA	7:30 pm
Dec. 3	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	7:30 pm
Dec. 5	Jacksonville	7:35 pm
Dec. 18	TENNESSEE-MARTIN	7:30 pm
Dec. 21	PITTSBURGH	7:30 pm
Dec. 29	Furman	7:30 pm
Jan. 2	Cincinnati (TV)	8:00 pm
Jan. 5	North Carolina in Miami (Fla.)	3:00 pm
Jan. 7	ST. JOSEPH'S	7:30 pm
Jan. 9	SOUTH FLORIDA	7:30 pm
Jan. 12	LOUISVILLE	7:30 pm
Jan. 14	Virginia Tech	8:00 pm
Jan. 19	North Carolina State	7:30 pm
Jan. 23	MEMPHIS STATE (TV)	8:00 pm
Jan. 26	Southern Mississippi	8:30 pm
Jan. 28	Tulane	8:30 pm
Feb. 2	South Carolina	7:30 pm
Feb. 4	Florida	7:30 pm
Feb. 6	TULANE	7:30 pm
Feb. 11	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	7:30 pm
Feb. 13	JACKSONVILLE	7:30 pm
Feb. 16	Memphis State (TV)	4:00 pm
Feb. 20	Louisville (TV)	8:00 pm
Feb. 23	VIRGINIA TECH (TV)	4:00 pm
Feb. 27	CINCINNATI (TV)	8:00 pm
Mar. 2	SOUTH CAROLINA	7:30 pm
Mar. 7-9	Metro Conference Tournament	TBA

Home Games in Capitals.

All Times are Eastern Standard.

Note: Times for games on Metro TV schedule are subject to change.

FLORIDA STATE BASKETBALL

1984-85 Media Guide



FSU Fingertip Facts

LOCATION: Tallahassee, Fla. 32306
 ENROLLMENT: 22,500
 NICKNAME: Seminoles
 COLORS: Garnet and Gold
 PRESIDENT: Dr. Bernard F. Sliger
 ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: C.W. "Hootie" Ingram
 ATHLETIC BOARD CHAIRMAN: Chuck Ehrhardt
 CONFERENCE: Metro
 ARENA: Leon County Civic Center (12,500)

Basketball Information

HEAD COACH: Joe Williams (Southern Methodist '56)
 1983-84 RECORD: 20-11
 RECORD AT FSU: 103-72 (6 seasons)
 CAREER RECORD: 337-220 (20 seasons)
 ASSISTANT COACHES: Rex Morgan, Steve Williams,
 Jackie Pons
 GRADUATE ASSISTANT: Bobby Miles
 SECRETARY: Cindy Owens
 PHONE: (904) 644-1060

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The 1984-85 Florida State basketball guide was written and edited by Associate Director Lisa Morton with contributions from Sports Information Director Wayne Hogan, Assistant Donna Turner and Judy Greve. Photographers whose pictures appear within this publication include Bucky Parrish, Dale Pearson, Bradley Photography and Ross Obley. Design and layout by Goodson & Associates Advertising of Tallahassee, Fla.



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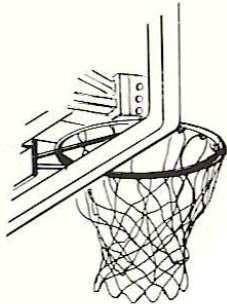
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"The Best Is Yet To Come."

Perhaps he had planned it all along, but nevertheless, Florida State head coach Joe Williams was searching for a closing remark at last spring's basketball banquet. He pointed to the many supporters in the crowd that night and said, "We've had a really great season, but I tell you, the best is yet to come."

Following a 20-11 season, a third place Metro Conference finish, the school's first ever bid to the National Invitation Tournament and a first-round upset on the home court of defending national champion N.C. State, enthusiasm runs high in the Florida State program.

"I'm excited about the season," says Williams. "Last year we had a great season but we still didn't reach the consistency we desire. We'd play well one night and come



The center of FSU plans is 6-11 Alton Lee Gipson, the Metro conference's Newcomer of the Year.

back the next night and drop one we shouldn't have. But we've got a solid group returning who all have experience; we're just looking for consistency this year."

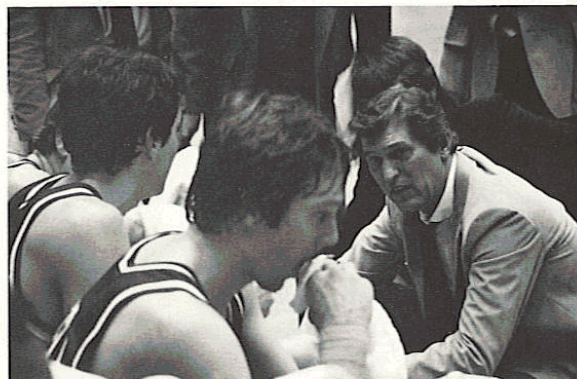
While Florida State may not have the overall proven depth it had last year—five lettermen graduated—it does have a solid starting lineup.

The center of the Florida State plans, of course, is 6-11 Alton Lee Gipson, the Metro Conference's Newcomer of the Year as well as an Associated Press honorable mention All-American choice. *Basketball Weekly* and *Basketball Times* tabloids named him their "J.C. Transfer of the Year" after he led the Conference in scoring (20.2 ppg).

Gipson is big and agile and showed he can play a power game, although he prefers a feathery jump shot. On defense, he is effective in the key area where he blocked 55 opponent shots, 12 more than the entire team had garnered the previous year. Gipson's only apparent weakness is his rebounding (6.8 per game), which seemed to improve toward season's end.



"Last year we made a breakthrough. . . . Now we're looking for some consistency to stay there."



At the forward slots are sophomore Randy Allen and junior Granville Arnold. Allen played his best games as a freshman against national powers Louisville and North Carolina State and the good news is that he'll be better in 1984-85. Though tentative as a first-year player (8.4 ppg), watch for Allen to develop this year after playing summer basketball in Europe on the NIT-Nike all-star squad. Many also feel the 6-8, 215-pounder will be one of

Florida State's best before he graduates. He will have to improve his rebounding (4.9 rpg) and shoot better from the foul line—he shot a better percentage from the floor last year than he did at the charity stripe.

Six-foot-six Arnold, a sometimes-starter in his first two seasons, is dependable. He possesses a good shooting touch from the outside and is the squad's best foul shooter with 84 percent accuracy a year ago. Since he will replace graduate Vince Martello in the starting lineup, the position will be stronger defensively.

The big guard slot returns incumbent Dean Shaffer, owner of a 9.9 scoring average and a 4.7 assist average. More impressive though, is Shaffer's scrappy play from end-line to end-line that resulted in over two steals per game for the 6-3 senior last season.

The point guard position is the question mark as far as picking a starter but it shapes up depth-wise to be the strongest position on the

squad. Whoever does start will have a hard time filling the shoes of Tony William, a seventh-round NBA draft pick who led the Metro in assists and steals and currently sits in third place on the all-time FSU career assist list.

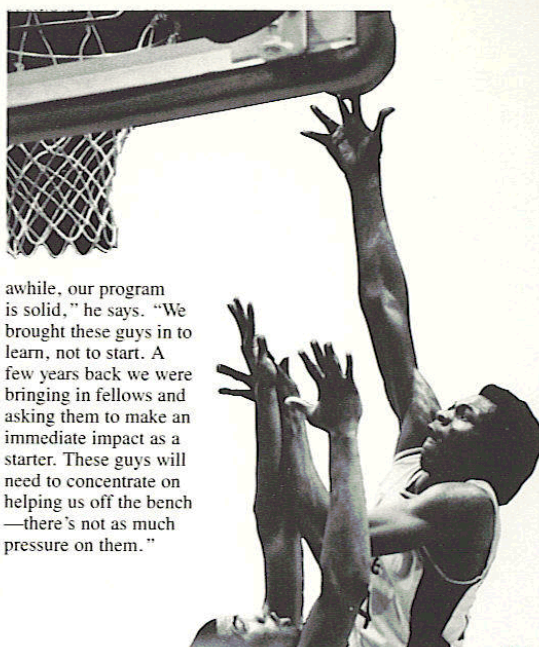
The leading candidate is 6-2 senior Joe Farrar, who has put in one year at FSU after transferring from junior college. Farrar had an up-and-down season in 1983-84 and must prove he is able to key the fast break and the defensive press—he already has his shooting down. Pushing him will be 5-11 Merced J.C. transfer Thomas Mabry, a lightening-quick junior who has the advantage of having been Shaffer's running mate at guard two years ago at Merced. Also in the thick of the battle will be local Godby High product Jeff Davis, a

youngster who led his team to the finals of the state championship last year.

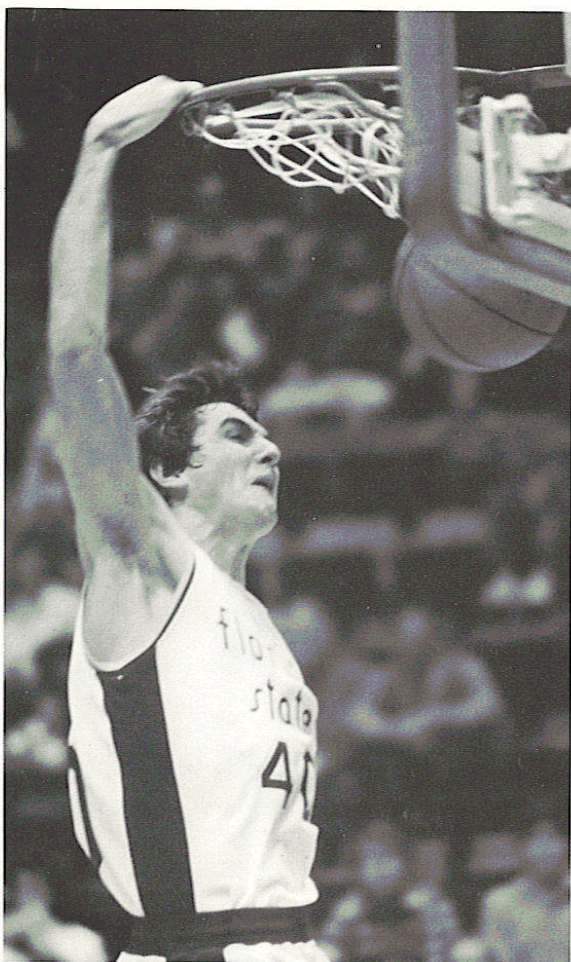
First off the bench in 1984-85 will be 6-5 senior Maurice Myrick, the most versatile athlete on the squad. He can play second guard, point guard, wing and even has been used inside. Myrick is a good bet to average just as much playing time as any of the starters.

In terms of experience, the next player Williams will look to is 6-6 senior David Speights. A super practice player, Speights was the surprise of fall workouts last year but he's been a chameleon in game situations. His asset is his three years' experience.

The best thing about the group of five newcomers is that they don't *HAVE* to play, according to Williams. "For the first time in



awhile, our program is solid," he says. "We brought these guys in to learn, not to start. A few years back we were bringing in fellows and asking them to make an immediate impact as a starter. These guys will need to concentrate on helping us off the bench—there's not as much pressure on them."



Says Williams: "I guess I am most excited because I think we have the kind of team who will put people in the Civic Center."

He's counting on 6-6 Taylor County High School graduate Jerome Fitchett to help at the forward slot behind Allen and Arnold, Pensacola's 6-4 Tony Carter to aid the second guard and wing slots and 6-10 center Terry Martin to intern behind Alton Lee Gipson.

"Right now, I'd say the key for us is point guard," says Williams, who will be in his 21st season as a head coach. "We need results there. We feel we have more overall depth throughout the rest of the squad though."

Florida State's schedule is an attractive 15-home game set-up but a tough Metro Conference race awaits once again. "No one gets any weaker in this league," says Williams. "Louisville, Memphis State and Virginia Tech will all have great ball clubs. Cincinnati had an outstanding recruiting year. Every year it's a battle."

Outside of the Metro games, Florida State's attractive two will be a home contest with Florida on November 30 preceding the Seminole-Gator football game and a January 5 "home game" in Miami's Convention Center with North Carolina.

Other strong non-conference games include Pittsburgh, N.C. State and Furman, with FSU traveling out of town for the latter two.

"We've been working hard, and we're excited," says Williams, who helped engineer FSU's first basketball season ticket drive during the offseason. "I guess I am most excited because I think we have the kind of team who will put people in the Civic Center. Last year we made a breakthrough as far as establishing a national program and now we're looking for some consistency to stay there."

Perhaps the best is yet to come.

CAPSULE ANALYSIS

- ✓ **HEAD COACH:** Joe Williams (Southern Methodist '56) is in his seventh season as the head coach of the Florida State Seminoles. Williams' 1979-80 club (22-9) participated in the NCAA Mideast Regionals while last year's squad earned the school's first-ever NIT bid with a 20-11 season. Williams is 103-72 at Florida State while he has compiled a 20-year total of 337-220. Prior to his assignment at Florida State, Williams coached at Jacksonville and Furman. Under his leadership, both schools made NCAA appearances while Jacksonville played in the NCAA Championship game in 1970.
- ✓ **ASSISTANT COACHES:** Rex Morgan (Jacksonville '70) and Steve Williams (Florida '74) serve as full-time assistants to Williams while part-time assistant Jackie Pons (Florida State '78) and graduate assistant Bobby Miles (Florida State '84) round out the staff.
- ✓ **RETURNING STARTERS:** (3) 6-11 senior center **Alton Lee Gipson** (20.2 ppg/6.7 rpg), 6-3 senior guard **Dean Shaffer** (9.9 ppg/3.4 rpg/4.7 apg), 6-8 sophomore forward **Randy Allen** (8.5 ppg/4.9 rpg).
- ✓ **KEY LOSSES:** (2) 6-1 guard Tony William (8.4 ppg/2.1 rpg/7.2 apg) (Milwaukee Bucks—7th round) and 6-6 forward Vince Martello (13.8 ppg/5.5 rpg) (Atlanta Hawks—7th round).
- ✓ **OTHER RETURNEES:** (3) 6-5 senior guard **Maurice Myrick** (3.5 ppg/2.3 rpg), 6-6 junior forward **Granville Arnold** (6.3 ppg/2.5 rpg), 6-6 senior forward **David Speights** (2.5 ppg/2.3 rpg).
- ✓ **NEWCOMERS:** (5) 5-11 junior guard **Thomas Mabry**, 6-1 freshman guard **Jeff Davis**, 6-6 freshman forward **Jerome Fitchett**, 6-4 freshman guard **Tony Carter**, 6-10 freshman center **Terry Martin**.
- ✓ **STRENGTHS:** Good experienced nucleus returning with starting lineup settled all but point guard position. Seminoles can go four-deep at that position so there are plenty of candidates for the vacancy. Good offensive game with Allen and Gipson and an outside shooting threat in Arnold. Scrappy and hustling defensively.
- ✓ **WEAKNESSES:** Experience a question mark at the quarterbacking guard slot. Rebounding also a question mark since none of the inside players have showed a strength in that area. Depth at the center position is also questionable.
- ✓ **SCHEDULE:** It's an outstanding blend of conference foes and top 20 teams with a few easier ones thrown in. Louisville, Memphis State and Virginia Tech will all be in strong competition for the Metro Conference title. Outside the conference games, FSU plays both North Carolina State on the road and North Carolina in neutral Miami. Instate games include home-and-homes with Florida and Jacksonville as well as single games with Tampa, Florida International and South Florida. The FSU-Florida tilt November 30 before the two school's football game should set an FSU attendance record. The Metro Tournament moves to Louisville this season.