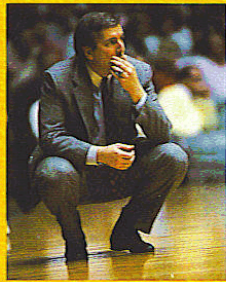


Kennedy's Fourth Season

FLORIDA STATE

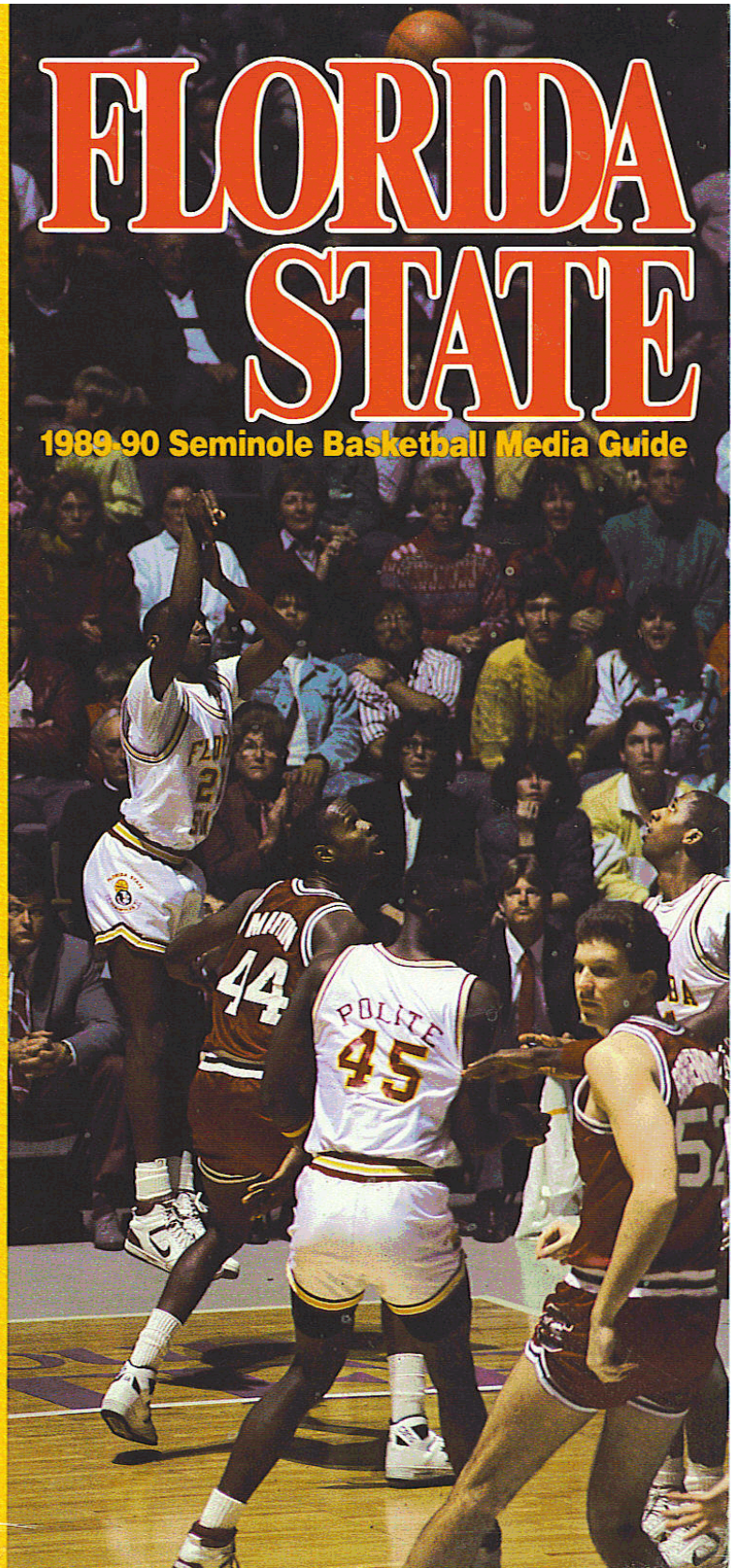
1989-90 Seminole Basketball Media Guide



"You're starting your fourth year at FSU. Have you been able to make the changes you wanted to make when you came?"

"Oh, yeah. And we've made a lot of them. When I first came to FSU, I thought it had the potential to be a national contender. I haven't seen anything since then to change my mind."

"A lot of the changes we've made in the program have been designed to bring that about..."



FSU SEMINOLE

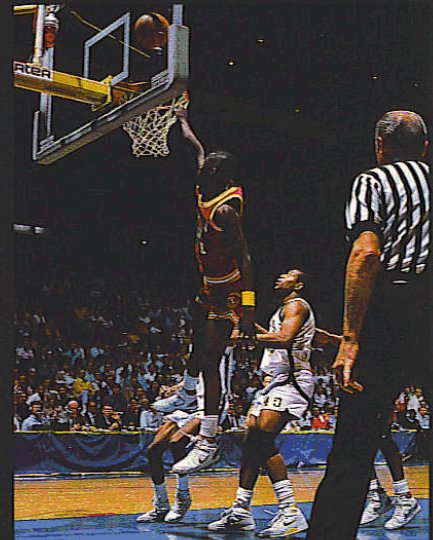
1989-90 FLORIDA STATE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
NOV.			
10	EXHIBITION GAME (TBA)	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
14	FLORIDA STARS AAU	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
24	Great Alaska Shootout	Anchorage, AK	TBA
DEC.			
1	Florida	Gainesville, FL	7:30
3	AUBURN	Tallahassee, FL	2:00
9	NEW ORLEANS	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
16	South Florida	Tampa, FL	7:30
19	SAMFORD	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
22	STETSON	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
27	ECAC Holiday Festival	New York, NY	TBA
JAN.			
2	South Alabama	Mobile, AL	8:30
4	TULANE	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
6	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	Tallahassee, FL	1:00
8	JACKSONVILLE	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
11	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, OH	8:00
14	LOUISVILLE	Tallahassee, FL	3:00
18	Miami	Miami, FL	7:30
20	SOUTH CAROLINA	Tallahassee, FL	3:00
25	MEMPHIS STATE	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
27	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, VA	1:00
31	Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg, MS	7:00
FEB.			
3	Syracuse	Orlando, FL	TBA
6	Louisville	Louisville, KY	7:30
8	CINCINNATI	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
13	Memphis State	Memphis, TN	8:00
17	MIAMI	Tallahassee, FL	7:00
20	Tulane	New Orleans, LA	TBA
24	VIRGINIA TECH	Tallahassee, FL	1:00
MAR.			
3	South Carolina	Columbia, SC	4:00
8-10	Metro Tournament	Biloxi, MS	TBA

INSIDE:

1989-90 OUTLOOK:

The emphasis will be on speed. Look for more scoring off the transition game, lots of fast-break action and pressure defense.



1989-90 SEMINOLES:

Seniors Tharon Mayes and Irving Thomas – the Seminoles' "2 Lethal Weapons."



1988-89 REVIEW: The Seminoles spend the entire season in the top twenty and make another visit to the NCAA tournament.



BASKETBALL 1989-90

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The 1989-90
FSU BASKETBALL GUIDE

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MEDIA INFORMATION

Florida State University's 1989-90 Basketball Guide has been designed for use by the news media and Seminole fans. Any questions not covered in this brochure can be directed to the Florida State Sports Information Office.

All requests for working press, radio, television, photographers or scouting credentials should be made to Assistant Sports Information Director Rob Wilson at least one week prior to the playing day.

Working media: Working media will be admitted to the Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center and will be permitted to take their seats at courtside. Press credentials may be picked up prior to the game, or held at the Will Call window.

Requests will be evaluated and credentials issued according to the following criteria.

- a. Local metropolitan press; wire services, national publications; opposing metropolitan press; student newspaper.
- b. Other daily newspapers.
- c. Radio and television personnel not actually broadcasting.
- d. Non-daily newspapers.
- e. Scouts.

Parking: To the east of the Center and surrounding areas. Press parking will be issued on a first-come first-served basis.

Photographers: Accredited photographers, upon presenting a photo pass, will be allowed to shoot in designated areas on the arena floor.

Television: Facilities are available for both local and network broadcasts. Please have requests prepared several weeks prior to the expected broadcast.

Radio: Sections are reserved for both Florida State and opposing radio on press row. FSU grants broadcast rights to the official radio outlet of the visiting team on a reciprocal basis.

Phones: Telephone service should be secured directly through Centel Telephone Company of Tallahassee. Call 904/681-6600. Have them contact the Sports Information Office for location.

Telecopiers/FAX: A FAX machine is available in the press room.

Services: Half-time stats plus a running play-by-play will be provided to the media. Final stats and a final running will also be available following the conclusion of the game.

Interview policies: Florida State players may be reached through the Sports Information Office. A media card will be filled out and given to the player who will return the call collect. No interviews will be granted on game days prior to the game. Following completion of the game, Florida State players will be available to the media after a cooling-off period. Head Coach Pat Kennedy will be taken to the press room where he will conduct a question and answer session with the media.

Press meals: A light buffet is available in the Seminole Spirit Room to all members of the media. See Assistant Sports Information Director Rob Wilson at the game for buffet tickets.

A relaxed and affable style in front of the microphone has made FSU Head Coach Pat Kennedy one of the most sought-after speakers on the athletic staff.

With an ability to speak intelligently about sports and other matters, Kennedy is right at home in front of civic groups, athletes or the press.



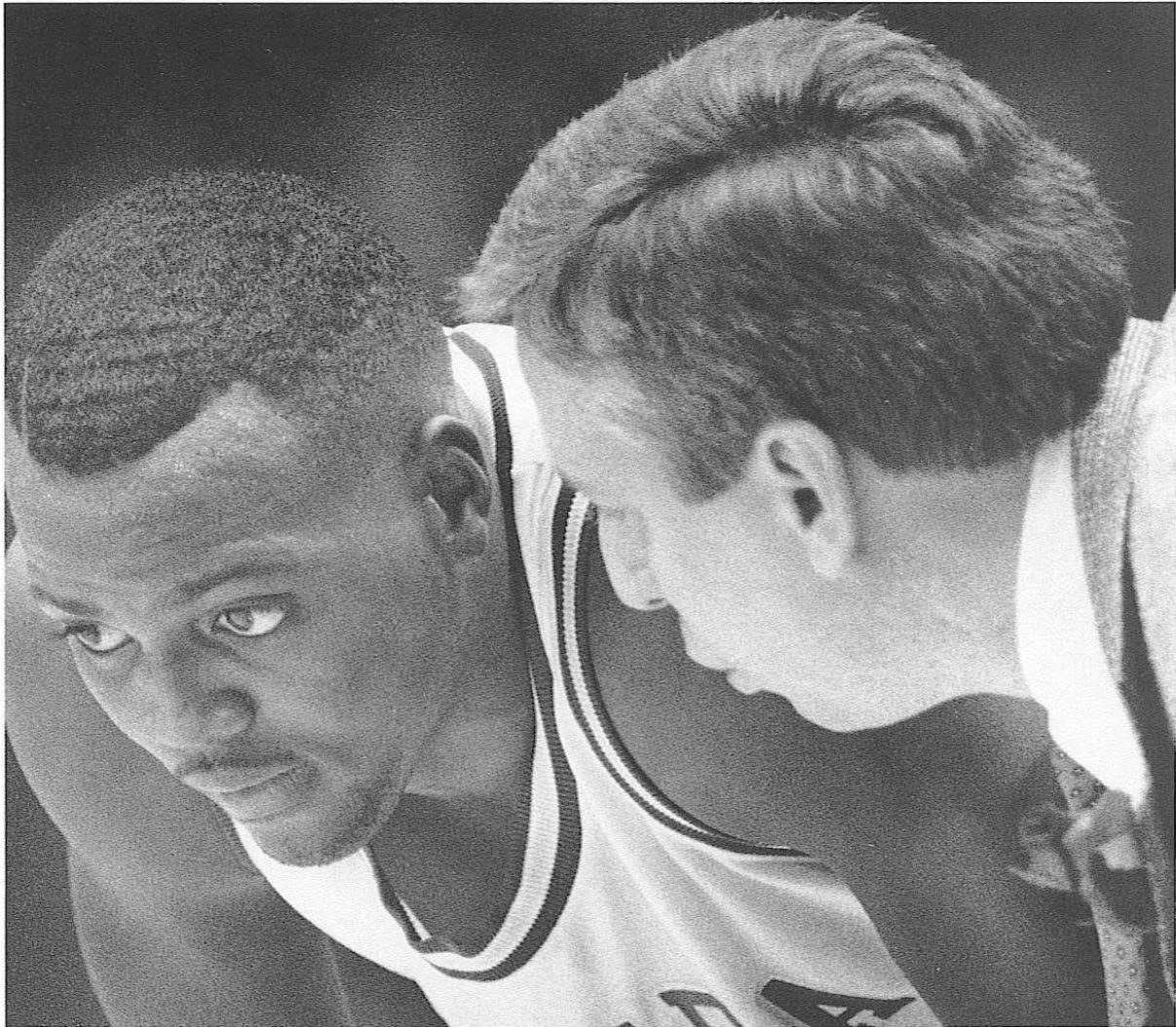
Kennedy's Fourth Season
Three Years of Changes

"When you first arrived at Florida State, you spoke often about the need for player discipline."

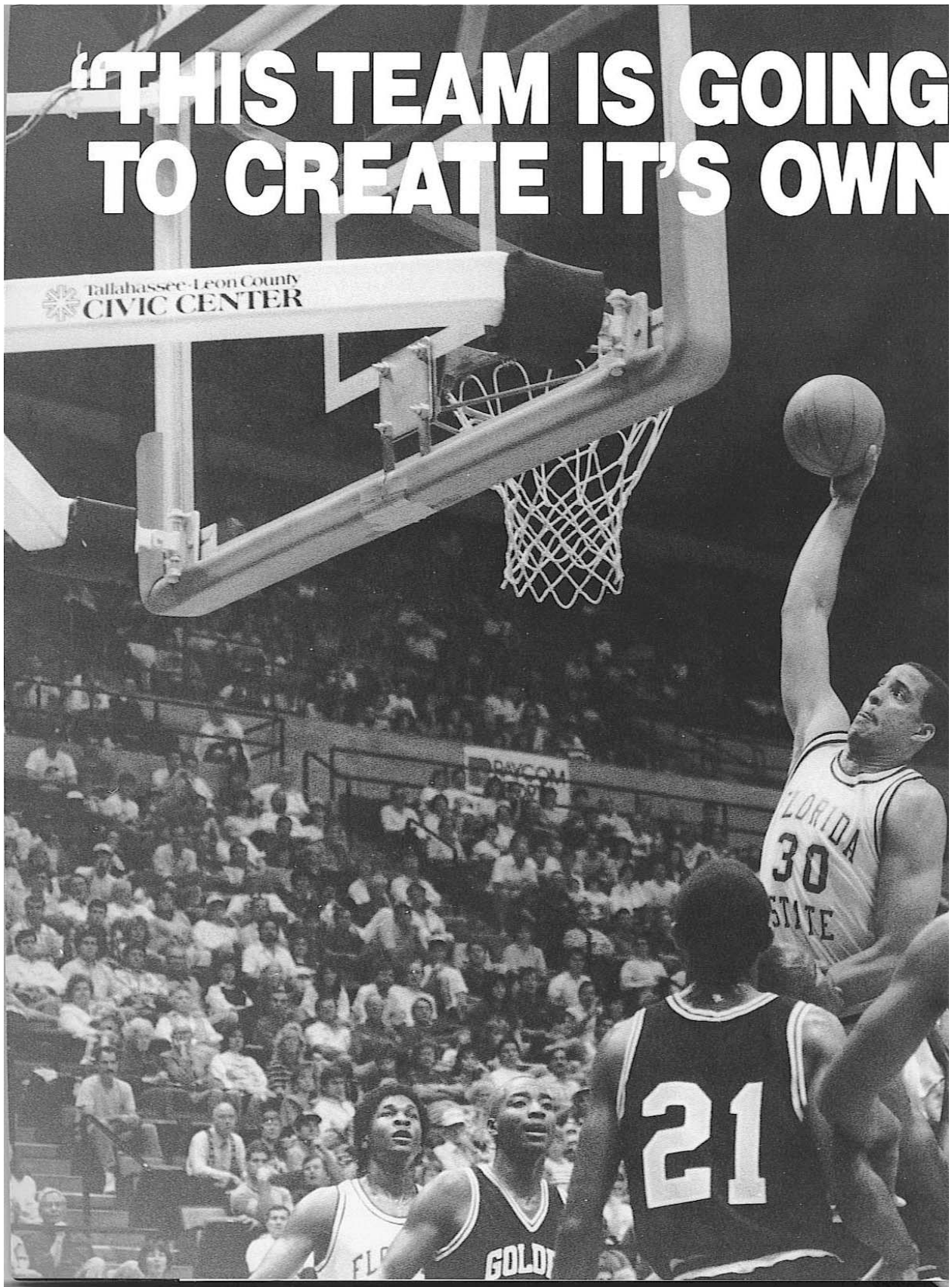
"As coaches, we are responsible for insuring that our players take every advantage of the educational experience available to them at Florida State. We feel it is important for us to give our players as much discipline and structure in their studies as we do in their basketball."

George McCloud was a seldom-used, overweight forward when Pat Kennedy came to Tallahassee. In just three years, he molded McCloud into an NBA first-round draft pick and a student concerned about completing his college education.

Outlook



**“THIS TEAM IS GOING
TO CREATE IT’S OWN**



TO HAVE IDENTITY."

The untested Seminole squad enters the season as an unknown commodity, and changes are in the works for the FSU attack. More speed, more pressure all over the floor ... Will it work? Stay tuned.



1989-90 FSU Seminole Basketball Guide

1989-90 OUTLOOK

The outlook for the 1989-90 Florida State basketball season involves more questions than answers. But as Pat Kennedy begins his fourth season, the Tribe has a couple of solid returning starters with All-Conference potential, and plenty of young players with impressive skills to carry them through a difficult schedule.

The pre-season questions are not unlike the ones Kennedy faced during his second season at Florida State. Prior to the 1987-88 season, Metro Conference sportswriters and broadcasters picked FSU to finish next to last in the conference race. The Tribe proved the experts wrong turning in a 19-11 campaign that saw FSU finish as runners-up for the Metro crown. FSU gained respect on the national level as well as earning a bid to the NCAA Tournament. Kennedy will look for this year's club to have that same over-achieving attitude.

The perfect play results in an easy bucket and if the Seminoles are successful in getting Irving Thomas in this kind of position in 1989-90, they could again find themselves talked about along with the nation's top teams.

The Tribe meets 9 NCAA tournament participants and could see national champion runner-up Seton Hall in the ECAC Holiday Festival.

Irving Thomas seems to have settled into Kennedy's system at Florida State and should be primed for a run at All-Metro status as a senior. His 17 rebounds in the win at Louisville last year gives an indication of just how this young man can dominate a basketball game.

Without question, the biggest task for the Seminoles will be replacing the nearly 45 points a game that graduates George McCloud and Tony Dawson contributed. McCloud, the Metro Conference Player of the Year last year and the first-round draft pick of the NBA's Indiana Pacers, and Dawson fueled an FSU offense that proved to be one of the nation's best. The team set a new Metro Conference record averaging better than 91 points per game, and eclipsed the school record for most 100 point games in a season with 11. Tallahassee, or the Metro, has rarely seen a more dangerous offensive club.

"I see this year as a bridge between the players and style of game when we came here, and what our future holds at FSU," said Kennedy who has posted a 60-30 record in his first three seasons. "We are going to play a different style basketball game. One that is more suited to our personnel. But the thing that excites me about this team is that they have such a winning attitude."

"When I came here, I emphasized that recruiting was one of, if not, the most important element for us to get back into the national picture. We've had great success in that respect and the kids we are bringing to school at Florida State already expect a lot of themselves."

A great deal of the burden of easing this new squad into the mold of recent teams that have gone to back-to-back NCAA Tournaments will rest in the capable hands of returning starters Tharon Mayes and Irving Thomas.

Mayes, a senior guard, could be the scorer the Seminoles need. While he has not been in the position of being the primary offensive weapon, coaches are confident in his abilities. Using a smooth outside shot and slashing drives, Mayes' offensive skills are big time and many feel

he will emerge as one of the conference's best players. He averaged 13.3 points per game last year and hit an impressive 55 percent of his shots from the field. Mayes' play becomes even more important if Coach Kennedy moves his offense into the more traditional two-guard system. An exceptional defensive player, Mayes is always a threat to steal in the open court.

Expected to join Mayes in the backcourt will be Aubry Boyd and Lorenzo Hands. Among the most versatile athletes at Florida State, Boyd can play on the inside or outside and has a flare for the dramatic pass. A knee injury hit Boyd as he was beginning to play his best last year and forced him to miss the last six games. Still, the rising junior averaged 5.1 points per game and dished 29 assists, and, even more important, showed the ability to lead this team.

Providing FSU with what should prove to be the equivalent of a third starting guard is Hands. Coaches had planned to use Hands a great deal more last year but sub-

“

When I came here, I emphasized that recruiting was one of, if not the most important element for us to get back into the national picture. We've had great success in that respect and the kids we bring to school at Florida State already expect a lot of themselves.

”

stitution patterns never seemed to fit him. A strong player with excellent penetrating skills, he is effective at either backcourt position. Kennedy expects Hands to excel in his sophomore year hinting that a more relaxed playing style should suit him.

Backing-up the guards will be a pair of talented freshmen. Chuck Graham, the player of the year in the state of Georgia last year, was a scoring machine in high school averaging 27 points and eight rebounds a game. His physical strength and aggressive game are similar to Boyd's. Chad Copeland, a highly-touted freshman, is a pure point guard with great ball handling skills. His command of the role of a guard and his excellent basketball knowledge may assure him of playing time early. These two are familiar with each other as they starred for their respective states last year in the Tennessee/Georgia all-star game.

Also available at either guard spot are a pair of experienced players. Joey Barnes is in his third year with the Kennedy system and knows the assignments inside and out, while Ron Miller, who started for Mercer College two years ago, sat out last year. Coaches are very pleased with Miller's progress and hope that he will provide scoring from three-point range.

A perfect match for Mayes' outside scoring will be the inside muscle of Irving Thomas. At times last year, Thomas looked like a world-beater. And this season, with the absence of 20-plus scorer Dawson and leading rebounder Tat Hunter, Thomas will have to be the consummate player on the block. Dick Vitale has tabbed Thomas the defensive player of the year in the Metro Conference. Great defensive skills and an aggressive attitude make him an all-star candidate.





Tharon Mayes is best known for his combination of a sweet outside jumper and slashing drives to the bucket. Never one to back-down in the lane, Mayes takes it up against the best big men in the country. In this case, he went all the way under and back up for two in Felton Spencer's space.

This year's look promises to be exciting: More emphasis on speed, the transition game and pressure on both ends of the floor.

Right: The biggest question about junior Aubrey Boyd is whether he will end up at one of the guard spots or out on the wing.

Below: David White's leaping ability, illustrated by this rim-rattler last year, enables him to intimidate on the inside although he's only 6-6.

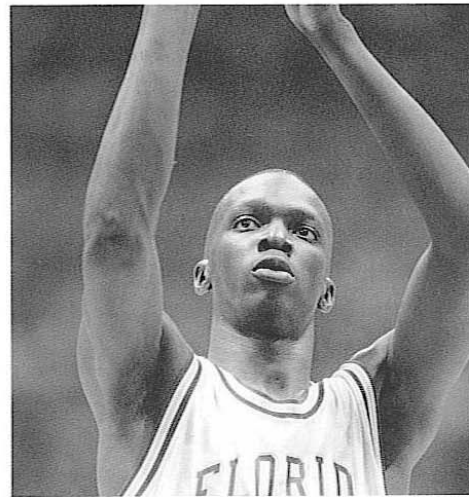


Rodney Dobard, one of FSU's finest freshmen ever, will see playing time at both center and forward. A defensive specialist, Dobard is capable of scoring down low and has the basics needed for good inside play. His average of 26 points and 17 rebounds per game as a high school senior earned him second place in the balloting for the state's "Mr. Basketball" title. Byron Wells will also see time as a back-up center. The tallest player for the Tribe at 6'9", Wells will play several different positions during his sophomore year.

David White enters his junior year with great potential at forward. An excellent defender with outstanding rebounding technique, White seems poised for a big year. If his offensive game continues to improve, he could be a big surprise to Metro foes.

Also slated for playing time at forward are Boyd and sophomore Blake Miles. Another Seminole who can play several different positions, Miles has come a long way since his freshman year and appears ready for playing time.

Back in the lineup after missing all but six games last year is Michael Polite. Perhaps the best all-around athlete on the squad, Polite has regained the 30 pounds he lost battling Guillain-Barre syndrome and will compete for the starting role at the other forward spot. Recruiting prize Dobard, and the multi-talented Wells, will provide bench strength at this spot, also.



"I'm very excited about this year," said Kennedy. "We're going to be a different team. We are going to do three things that are probably more noticeable than ever before. We plan to use our speed and athleticism by pressing the whole game. We are going to run a real transition game, a real fastbreak offense. And we are going to try and apply more pressure at both ends of the floor than we have in the past couple of years."

"Our goal remains the same - we want to earn a third bid to the NCAA tournament. The key to achieving that will be consistent improvement throughout the year. This

“
This team is going to have to create its own identity. They've set their own goals and have a mission, and I think they're going to surprise a lot of people.
 ”

team has tasted the success of the past two years and there is no doubt in my mind that they have the desire to work hard enough to make dreams come true."

FSU will have little time to adjust once the season begins as the Tribe faces the most challenging schedule of Kennedy's tenure. The 1989-90 lineup includes Metro Conference rivals Louisville, Memphis State and South Carolina, all of which played in last year's NCAA tournament, along with six other NCAA tournament participants. National heavyweights Syracuse and Auburn will take on the Tribe in its home state and a match-up with national champion runner-up Seton Hall could occur in the ECAC Holiday Festival.

"This team is going to have to create its own identity," said Kennedy. "They're going to have to bridge the gap. But without a lot of hullabaloo, they've set their own goals and have a mission, and I think they're going to surprise a lot of people."