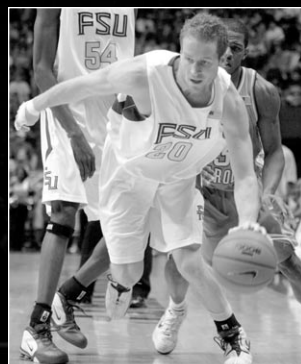


# Preview



Outlook for the 2005-2006 Season

The Seminoles have defeated six ranked teams in the last three seasons including the nation's No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 ranked teams and have placed themselves on the cusp of becoming a team deserving of national attention during the conference season and into the NCAA Tournament.



Al Thornton (#12), Andrew Wilson (#20), Alexander Johnson (#32) and Diego Romero (#25) are part of the nucleus of experienced returning players Leonard Hamilton will count on in 2005-06.





# Seminoles Ready to Play **With** Hamilton's

**FSU kicks off Leonard Hamilton's fourth stanza as head coach with a solid core of experienced seniors and a stellar class of newcomers.**

Florida State begins the fourth season of the Leonard Hamilton era looking to continue building on the solid foundation that has been put into place since the veteran coach's arrival in Tallahassee prior to the 2003 season. The Seminoles have made great strides under Hamilton's leadership and will look to combine a solid, highly recruited group of veterans with the third consecutive top-15 recruiting class to produce the next in a line of winning teams at Florida State.

The Seminoles have defeated six ranked teams in the last three seasons including the nation's No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 ranked teams and have placed themselves on the cusp of becoming a team deserving of national attention during the conference season and into the NCAA Tournament.



Diego Romero is one of the most talented players on Florida State's roster who will be a leader for the Seminoles during the 2005-06 season.



Jason Rich is one of the Seminoles' most talented players who is one of four returning starters for the Seminoles.



### EXPERIENCED SENIOR CLASS

An experienced senior class, Galloway, Romero and Wilson, has combined to play in 223 games while earning 96 starting assignments. The two most experienced players on the roster, Galloway and Wilson, played in the NIT in 2004 and have had a hand in many important wins for the Seminoles during their careers.

Galloway, a 5-11 guard from Baltimore, Md., is one of the most experienced point guards in the ACC who is on the verge of becoming one of the most prominent names in the Seminole record book. He has started 32 games during his career and with a strong season could move into the top 10 in assists and steals in school history.

"We hope that the abundance of minutes Galloway has played during his career will make him a more confident player and allow him to exercise his leadership

capabilities for our team," said Hamilton. "He has tremendous quickness and speed, and we need him to step up and be the leader we know he can be."

Wilson, 6-6 swingman, enters his sixth season as a Seminole looking to stay healthy as he did as a junior while he continues to provide maximum effort and leadership for the entire season. He will move past the century mark for games played as a senior and hopes to become one of Florida State's all-time 3-point shooting leaders. Wilson has made 69 career 3-point field goals and needs only 15 made shots from long range to move into the top 15 in school history for 3-point shots made.

When healthy, Wilson is a top player for the Seminoles. He has played in 63 of 64 games in the last two years after playing in only 36 of the first 88 games of his career.

Wilson has started 45 of the Seminoles' last 48 games and has played in double figure minutes in 49 consecutive games.

"Andrew Wilson is the elder statesman of our team," said Hamilton. "Obviously he has been around our program and unfortunately he has had a rash of injuries. I believe that as a result of the setbacks during his career, he has become a much tougher and a much wiser player."

Romero, a 6-10 forward from Argentina, has the potential to be one of the top players in the ACC. Now in his third season on the Florida State roster, Romero is excited about playing his first full, healthy season as a Seminole. Romero played in all 31 games for the Seminoles a year ago but was plagued by tendonitis in his right knee which limited him to only 14 starts and 14.2 minutes played per game. He is fully recovered after undergoing surgery in March and is one of the Seminoles' smartest and hardest working players.

In limited action a year ago, Romero averaged 3.8 points and 2.5 rebounds. He scored 18 points in his first career game and led the team in rebounding six times despite his shortened playing time.

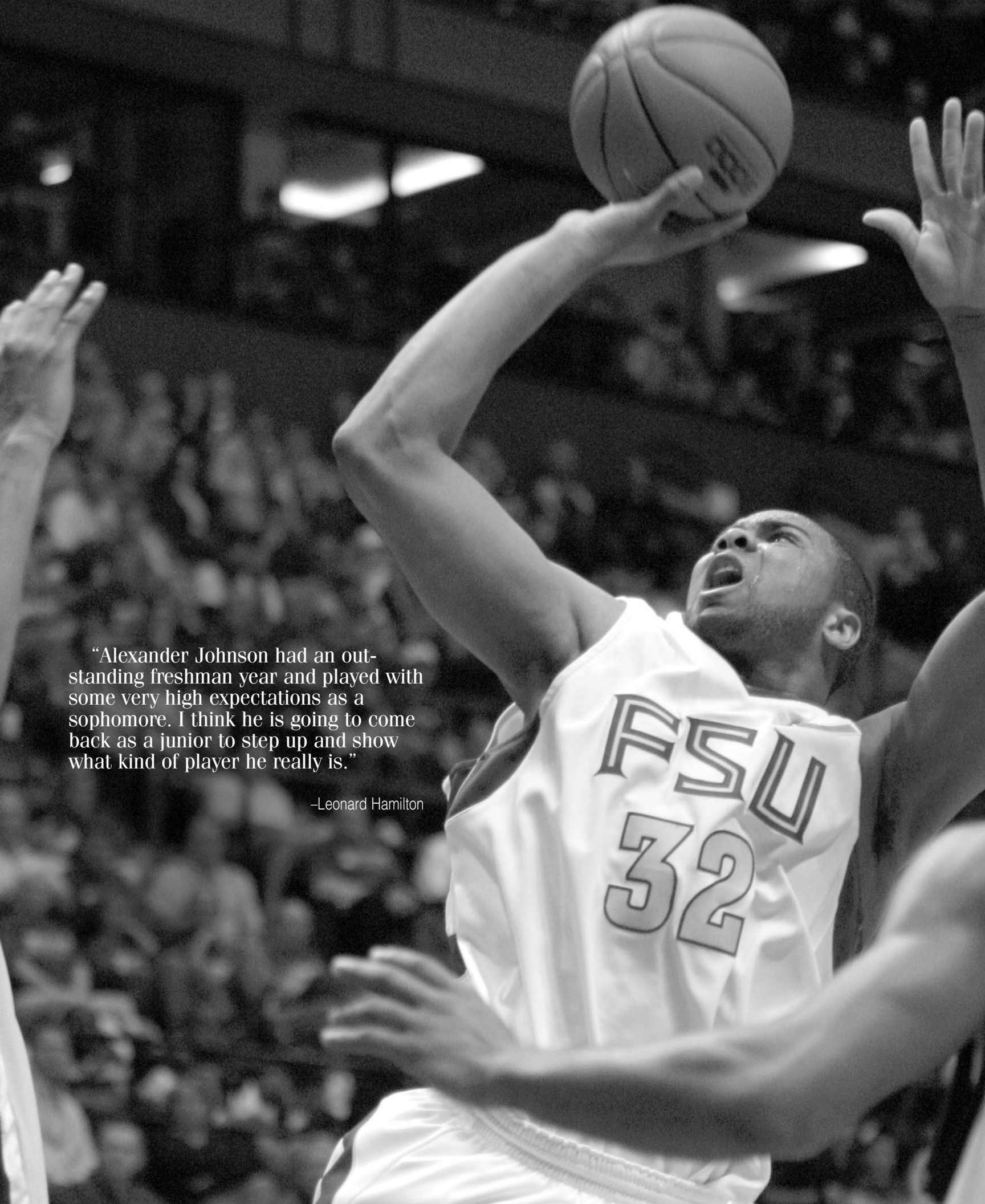
"Diego Romero had a rash of injuries and has not been able to contribute the way we know he is capable of contributing," said Hamilton. "He played through a lot of pain last season but that alone made our staff and his teammates aware that he is a very hard-nosed, tough competitor. He wants to help his team and his teammates in every way possible. We think a healthy Diego will mean an awful lot to our team."

### PRAISEWORTHY JUNIOR CLASS

Florida State's presence on the court could be defined by the players in its junior class. Returning letterwinners Alexander Johnson and Al Thornton along with junior college transfer Jerel Allen are a talented trio that will have to play well on both the interior and the perimeter for the Seminoles to be successful this season.

Florida State begins the 2005-06 season with three seniors – Todd Galloway, Diego Romero and Andrew Wilson – and six players who have earned starting assignments during their careers on its roster. The roster includes two players – Galloway and Wilson – who will reach the century mark for games played during the season.

"We do have some experience and those players with that experience have to play like they have played in that many games during their careers," said Hamilton. "We also have to get our young players onto the court and we feel, because of their talent, we can do that and they can help us."



“Alexander Johnson had an outstanding freshman year and played with some very high expectations as a sophomore. I think he is going to come back as a junior to step up and show what kind of player he really is.”

—Leonard Hamilton



Above: Jason Rich started 11 games for Florida State during the 2004-05 season and will be one of the Seminoles' leaders during his sophomore season.

Inset: Ralph Mims earned valuable playing time as a freshman and will be one of the Seminoles' top players during the 2005-06 season.



only two years, Johnson has put himself in position to become only the 15th member of the prestigious 1,000-point/500-rebound club in Seminole basketball history.

"Alexander Johnson had an outstanding freshman year and played with some very high expectations as a sophomore," said Hamilton. "I think that he is going to come back as a junior and step up and show what kind of player he really is. We feel that a healthy, well-conditioned Alexander Johnson is going to make a big difference for our team in the middle."

Al Thornton, a 6-8 forward from Perry, Ga., is the Seminoles' leading returning scorer and top honors candidate in Tallahassee beginning the 2005-06 season.

He averaged 10.1 points in the final 10 games and scored in double figures seven times in the second half of his sophomore season.

Thornton was the Seminoles' second leading scorer and second leading rebounder last season.

Thornton is one of the most accurate shooters in school history and is the Seminoles' leading returner in both blocked shots and rebounds as well as scoring. For his career, Thornton is shooting .537 from the field and enters the 2005-06 season looking to become only the 11th player in school history to lead the team in field goal percentage shooting in consecutive seasons. His 18 blocked shots led the Seminoles last season.

"Al Thornton had a tremendous year as a sophomore and showed that he has the potential to be a go-to guy in many situations for our team," said Hamilton. "He has worked very hard during the offseason in all phases of his game and we are looking for him to have a good year."

Jerel Allen, a 6-4 guard from Detroit, Mich., brings a dimension to the backcourt that will provide a spark on the offensive and defensive ends of the court for the Seminoles. Allen comes to Florida State as a junior college All-American who is a proven scorer and talented ball handler.

Allen averaged 17.2 points per game in leading Mott Community College to the district playoffs during both of his years at the junior college powerhouse. In addition to ranking among the top junior college scorers last season, Allen also displayed his all-around abilities as he averaged 4.0 rebounds and 3.7 steals while shooting .422 from the 3-point line.

"Jerel Allen is a junior college player who has entered our program after achieving a lot of success at that level," said Hamilton. "We hope that the success he has earned will give him the confidence it takes to compete at the level needed to be successful in the ACC."

**"Jason Rich came on strong last season and played very well for us as a freshman," said Hamilton. "He worked extremely hard during the offseason and has become one of our most dedicated players."**

## STANDOUT SOPHOMORE CLASS

The Seminoles' sophomore class – one of the most highly touted in school history – includes the talented backcourt trio of Ralph Mims, Jason Rich and Isaiah Swann. Each of the three players gained valuable experience during their first seasons at Florida State as they immediately became integral parts of the season-long playing rotation.

Rich stepped to the forefront of the class last season as he earned 11 starting assignments including the Seminoles' match-up against NC State in the ACC Tournament. Swann was one of five Seminoles who played in all 31 games while Mims earned significant playing time in 29 games.

Mims, a 6-3 guard from Pensacola, Fla., displayed his ability to play both the point and



Isaiah Swann was one of the Seminoles' top contributors in the backcourt during his freshman season. His increased maturity makes him a very valuable player for Florida State during the 2005-06 season.



shooting guard positions and impressed the coaching staff with his play in both spots. The coaching staff looks for him to play increased minutes at the point as the backup to Galloway this season and as a prime time player at the position in his final two seasons.

Mims finished seventh on the team in steals and had at least one steal in 11 different games as he displayed his intentions to earn increased playing time starting this season. He scored in double figures twice as a freshman and totaled seven points in eight minutes played in his first career ACC Tournament game against NC State.

"Ralph Mims earned some very important minutes at the point guard position last season," said Hamilton. "Along with Isaiah Swann, he has developed a strong ability to play both the point and shooting guard positions. We feel that Ralph has settled into a leadership role and has grown comfortable within our system."

Rich, a 6-3 guard from Pensacola, Fla., ranked fifth on the team with 11 starts and averaged 5.4 points per game as a freshman. His 11 starting assignments along with his scoring average and 2.0 rebounds per game average topped the Seminoles' talented freshman class. He averaged 6.0 points and shot .783 from the free-throw line as a starter.

Rich averaged two full points more as a starter (6.7 in 11 games) than he did as a reserve (4.7 in 29 games) and averaged 22.5 minutes per game as a starter. He scored double figures in four different games including two against ACC competition.

"Jason Rich came on strong last season and played very well for us as a freshman," said Hamilton. "He worked extremely hard during the offseason and has become one of our most dedicated players. He is anxious to be a large contributor to the success of our team this season."

Swann, a 6-2 guard from Germantown, Md., is one of the most athletic and promising players on the Seminoles' roster. He gained



Above: Ralph Mims displayed the athletic ability to play both backcourt positions as a freshman and will be a major contributor to the success of the Seminoles as a sophomore.

Inset: Todd Galloway is the Seminoles' starting point guard for the second consecutive season and is the ACC's active leader in assists entering the 2005-06 season.

valuable playing experience at both the point and shooting guard positions and proved that he could play both positions well meaning he will gain playing time at both positions again as a sophomore.

Swann finished his first collegiate season ranked second on the Seminoles with 62 assists and a 2.0 assists per game average. His 62 assists ranked as the ninth highest effort by a Seminole freshman in school history. Swann recorded at least one assist in 28 of the Seminoles' 31 games.

"As a result of the playing that Isaiah earned as a freshman in critical parts of games, I feel he will be a much more confident player as a sophomore," said Hamilton. "During our pre-season trip to Trinidad he played with a lot more confidence and seemed to have a much better understanding of how to utilize his talents within our system. We are expecting him to have a good year."

## FANTASTIC FRESHMAN CLASS

Florida State's coaching staff continues to build its program through recruiting. The Seminoles' freshman class, which includes future All-Star candidates Casaan Breeden and Uche Echefu, is a strong addition to Florida State's already solid foundation. Both Breeden and Echefu were among the most highly rated prep players in the nation and helped Florida State win recruiting battles against a number of national and ACC programs.

Breeden, a 6-8 forward from Bennettville, S.C., adds a dimension of athleticism to the lineup which will help the Seminoles climb up the ACC standings. An All-State selection and the Player of the Year in the state of South Carolina his senior season, Breeden will merit playing time from the first day of practice.

Breeden averaged a double-double of 20 points and 12 rebounds in leading his Marlboro High School to the state tournament

**"We have worked very hard to put together a very competitive schedule that will challenge our players and excite our fans."**

championship game. He averaged double figure scoring for his entire prep career and blossomed into one of the nation's most highly recruited players as a senior.

"Casaan Breeden is an incoming freshman who we feel will mature and get much better with experience and added strength," said Hamilton. "He has a tremendous attitude and we hope he realizes his potential as a freshman."

Florida State won an intense recruiting battle with North Carolina to sign Echefu who joins the roster as another of the highly sought after players wearing the garnet and gold this season. He is a well-coached player who was ranked as the No. 2 center prospect in the nation as a high school senior in 2005. Echefu's addition to the team gives the Seminoles another presence in the post and

another player on which to build its already solid foundation.

Echefu, a 6-9 forward from Lagos, Nigeria, averaged 21.2 points and nine rebounds while shooting 60 percent for national powerhouse Montrose Christian as a prep senior. He helped Montrose forge a 68-9 record for a winning percentage of nearly 90 percent during his career. Echefu is one of five current Seminoles who played in the prestigious Capital Classic as a high school star.

"Uche Echefu is a youngster who was very well coached in high school and who is an extremely hard worker," said Hamilton. "He is very determined and is a very smart player. We feel that Uche is going to be a major contributor as a freshman."

## CHALLENGING SCHEDULE

Highlighted by home games against defending national champion North Carolina and three-time NCAA champion Duke, the

Florida State men's basketball team will play seven games against NCAA Tournament teams and seven more against

NIT participants. The Seminoles will also play host to Purdue in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge, travel to play Nebraska in the Orange Bowl Classic and play their first ever game against new ACC member Boston College during their 16-game ACC schedule.

"We have worked very hard to put together a very competitive schedule that will challenge our players and excite our fans," said Hamilton. "We are playing 18 of our 27 regular season games in the state of Florida and will be able to showcase our team against some great competition in all areas of the state. The opponents on our schedule will also allow us to improve throughout the season and hopefully allow us to be playing our best basketball when we need to be at our best."



Above: Al Thornton is one of the most talented players in the ACC who is Florida State's leading returning scorer entering the 2005-06 season.

Right: Andrew Wilson is the most experienced player in the ACC and will play his sixth season as a Seminole during the 2005-06 season.

