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25	Peter Miller
25	Seth Miller
26	Taed Moses
26	Connor Nolan
26	Sean O'Brien
26	Adam Simmons
26	Mack Waugh

## IN MEMORIAM

*The 2011 Florida State Baseball Almanac is dedicated in memory of Drew Hankin, whose contributions to the program exceeded his standing as the Seminoles' most ardent baseball fan. For a quarter century the Tallahassee native was a fixture at Dick Howser Stadium, ascending to his position as Zookeeper of the renowned "Animals of Section B" – arguably college baseball's most famous fans. Whether he was leading the Animals' fifth-inning salute of "Oh, Canada" or serving as the unofficial ambassador of Seminole Baseball, Hankin went about it with gusto. His SectionB.com website and weekly, in-season recaps were staples among FSU fans. Drew will be missed by many and remembered for enriching the FSU baseball experience.*



## COACHES

27-30	Head Coach Mike Martin
31	Jamey Shouppe
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33	Chip Baker
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## 2011 ALMANAC CREDITS

The 2011 Florida State Baseball Almanac is a publication of the Florida State University Sports Information Office.

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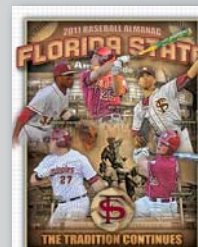
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# QUICK FACTS

## UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location	Tallahassee, FL
Symbol	Seminoles
Colors	Garnet and Gold
Enrollment	40,255
President	Dr. Eric J. Barron
Athletic Director	Randy Spetman
Director of Student Services/Baseball Oversight	Dr. John Lata
Conference	Atlantic Coast Conference
National Affiliation (Division)	Division I

## BASEBALL INFORMATION

Head Coach	Mike Martin
Alma Mater	Florida State (1966)
Record at Florida State	1627-558-4 (32nd Season)
Career Coaching Record	1627-558-4 (32nd Season)
Associate Head Coach	Jamey Shouppe (21st Season)
Assistant Coach	Mike Martin, Jr. (14th Season)
Volunteer Coach	Matt Matulia (1st Season)
Baseball Office Phone Number	(850) 644-1073
Ticket Office Phone Number	(850) 644-1830
Home Field/Capacity	Dick Howser Stadium/6,700
Surface/Dimensions	Natural Grass/LF-340, CF-400, RF-320

## TEAM INFORMATION

2010 Overall Record	48-20
Home Record	28-9
Away/Neutral Record	20-11
2010 Conference Record/Finish	18-12/ACC Champions
Home Record	9-6
Away Record	9-6
2010 ACC Tournament	2-2 - Champions

Lost to Miami 9-3  
 Defeated Virginia 11-4  
 Defeated BC 12-2

Defeated NC State 8-3 (Championship Game)

2010 NCAA Tournament	College World Series
Connecticut Regional - Defeated Central Conn. St 11-3	
Defeated Oregon 6-4	
Defeated Oregon 5-3	
Tallahassee Super Regional - Defeated Vanderbilt 9-8, 2-6, 7-6	
College World Series - Lost to TCU 8-1	
Defeated Florida 8-5	
Lost to TCU 11-7	

Letterwinners Returning/Lost	22/9
Position Starters Returning/Lost	7/2
Pitchers Returning/Lost	12/3
All-Time School Record (Yrs)	2527-949-10 (.726)
All-Time ACC Record (Yrs)	342-138-0 (19)
All-Time NCAA Record (Yrs)	163-109-0 (48)
Years in NCAA Regional (Last)	48 (2010, 33 Consecutive)
All-Time College World Series Record (Yrs)	26-40-0 (20)
Years in College World Series (Last)	20 (2010)

## SID INFORMATION

Baseball SID	Bob Thomas
Phone Number	(850) 644-0615
Fax Number	(850) 644-3820
Cell Phone	(850) 694-1768
Press Box Number	(850) 644-1553
Email Address	bthomas2@fsu.edu
Mailing Address	Florida State University 403 Stadium Drive West, Room D0107 Tallahassee, FL 32306
Athletic Website	www.seminoles.com
Conference Baseball SID	Steve Phillips
Conference Website	www.theacc.com

## MEDIA INFORMATION

Radio Station	100.7 FM, WFLA-AM 1270 - Tallahassee
Radio Contact	Matt Millar
Phone	850-422-3107
Play-by-Play Announcers	Tom Block & Eric Luallen

## 2010 ACC TEAM STATS

Batting	.300 (7th)
Pitching	4.39 (5th)
Fielding Percentage	.969 (6th)

## 2010 FINAL RANKINGS

Baseball America	6
USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll	6
Collegiate Baseball	6
NCBWA	6

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

Batting Average	Sherman Johnson (.337)
Hits	Sherman Johnson (84)
Runs Scored	Mike McGee (61)
Doubles	Three tied (15)
Triples	James Ramsey (6)
Home Runs	Mike McGee (17)
RBI	Mike McGee (73)
Stolen Bases	James Ramsey (11)
ERA (10 + innings pitched)	Daniel Bennett (3.51)
Innings Pitched	Sean Gilmartin (111.2)
Wins	Sean Gilmartin (9)
Strikeouts	Sean Gilmartin (108)
Saves	Mike McGee (13)



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# 2011 ROSTER

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos	B-T	Ht	Wt	Class	Hometown (Previous School)
1	Taiwan Easterling	OF	R/R	6-0	195	r-JR	Hattiesburg, MS/Oak Grove HS
2	Taed Moses	UTL	R/R	6-1	175	JR	Valrico, FL/Durant HS/South Florida CC
3	Sean Gilmartin	P/OF	L/L	6-2	192	JR	Moorpark, CA/Crespi Carmelite HS
5	Jack Posey	P/INF	R/R	6-2	220	r-JR	Leesburg, GA/Lee County HS
6	Sean O'Brien	INF	R/R	6-2	190	FR	Clearwater, FL/Clearwater HS
7	Parker Brunelle	C	S/R	6-3	220	SR	Snellville, GA/Wesleyan School
8	Devon Travis	INF	R/R	5-9	183	SO	Wellington, FL/Palm Beach Central HS
9	Stephen McGee	C	R/R	6-2	205	SO	Port St. Lucie, FL/Port St. Lucie HS
10	Justin Gonzalez	INF	R/R	6-2	190	SO	Miami, FL/Columbus HS
13	Eric Arce	1B/OF	L/R	5-11	205	FR	Lakeland, FL/Brandon HS
14	Tye Buckley	P	L/L	6-0	175	SR	Tallahassee, FL/Lincoln HS/Seminole CC
15	Evan Geist	P	R/L	6-3	190	FR	Roswell, GA/Marist HS
16	Jayce Boyd	INF	R/R	6-3	185	SO	Cantonment, FL/Tate HS
17	Robby Stahl	OF	R/R	6-1	186	r-SR	St. Petersburg Beach, FL/ St. Petersburg Catholic/Tallahassee CC
18	Seth Miller	OF	L/L	6-2	205	SO	Southport, FL/Mosley HS/ NW Florida State College
19	Gage Smith	P	R/R	6-0	185	r-FR	Tallahassee, FL/North Florida Christian
20	Daniel Bennett	P	S/R	6-4	220	SR	Tallahassee, FL/Leon HS/Tallahassee CC
22	Robert Benincasa	P	R/R	6-2	195	SO	Tampa, FL/Armwood HS
23	James Ramsey	OF	L/R	6-0	195	JR	Alpharetta, GA/Wesleyan HS
24	Brian Busch	P	L/L	6-2	237	JR	Boca Raton, FL/ West Boca Raton Community HS
25	Mike McGee	OF/P	R/R	6-0	188	SR	Port St. Lucie, FL/Port St. Lucie HS
26	Scott Sitz	P	R/R	5-10	210	SO	Jacksonville Beach, FL/Fletcher HS
27	Stuart Tapley	UTL	R/R	5-10	204	SR	Orlando, FL/Boone HS
28	Tyler Everett	P	L/R	6-2	205	SR	Tallahassee, FL/Lincoln HS
29	Rafael Lopez	C	L/R	5-9	185	r-SR	Wellington, FL/Summit Christian/ Indian River State College
30	Hunter Scantling	P	R/R	6-8	270	JR	Jacksonville, FL/Episcopal HS
31	Gary Merians	P	R/R	6-3	210	JR	Ocala, FL/Forest HS/Santa Fe College
32	Sherman Johnson	INF	L/R	5-10	178	JR	Tampa, FL/Alonso HS
33	Connor Nolan	P	L/L	6-4	196	r-JR	Salem, NH/Salem HS/St. Johns River CC
35	David Trexler	P	R/R	6-3	175	r-FR	Lynn Haven, FL/Mosley HS
36	Robby Scott	P	S/L	6-3	205	SR	Miami, FL/St. Thomas Aquinas/Broward CC
37	Wil Breton	1B/OF	L/R	6-2	205	r-SR	Keystone Heights, FL/Keystone Heights HS/ St. Johns River CC
38	Adam Simmons	P	R/R	6-0	195	JR	Sebring, FL/Sebring HS/South Florida CC
40	Peter Miller	P	R/R	6-1	195	FR	Lutz, FL/Cambridge Christian
44	Mack Waugh	P	R/R	6-1	180	r-JR	Naples, FL/Barron Collier HS/Tallahassee CC
51	Brandon Johnson	P	L/L	6-2	200	FR	Tampa, FL/Alonso HS

## COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Mike Martin (32nd Season) Florida State (1966)

Associate Head Coach: Jamey Shouppe (21st Season) Florida State (1982)

Assistant Coach: Mike Martin, Jr. (14th Season) Florida State (1995)

Volunteer Coach: Matt Matulia (1st Season) The Citadel (2006)

## ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

13	Eric Arce	1B/OF
22	Robert Benincasa	P
20	Daniel Bennett	P
16	Jayce Boyd	INF
37	Wil Breton	1B/OF
7	Parker Brunelle	C
14	Tye Buckley	P
24	Brian Busch	P
1	Taiwan Easterling	OF
28	Tyler Everett	P
15	Evan Geist	P
3	Sean Gilmartin	P/OF
10	Justin Gonzalez	INF
51	Brandon Johnson	P
32	Sherman Johnson	INF
29	Rafael Lopez	C
25	Mike McGee	OF/P
9	Stephen McGee	C
31	Gary Merians	P
40	Peter Miller	P
18	Seth Miller	OF
2	Taed Moses	UTL
33	Connor Nolan	P
6	Sean O'Brien	INF
5	Jack Posey	P/INF
23	James Ramsey	OF
30	Hunter Scantling	P
36	Robby Scott	P
26	Scott Sitz	P
19	Gage Smith	P
17	Robby Stahl	OF
27	Stuart Tapley	UTL
8	Devon Travis	INF
35	David Trexler	P
38	Adam Simmons	P
44	Mack Waugh	P

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

13	Eric Arce	R-C
22	Robert Benincasa	Ben-in-casa
16	Jayce Boyd	Jace
37	Wil Breton	Bret-ahn
7	Parker Brunelle	Brew-nel
1	Taiwan Easterling	Tie-whan
15	Evan Geist	GIst
31	Gary Merians	Merryns
26	Scott Sitz	Sights
17	Robby Stahl	Stall



# 2011 PHOTO ROSTER

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**1**  
Taiwan Easterling  
OF, R/R, 6-0, 195  
JR, Hattiesburg, MS



**2**  
Taed Moses  
UT, R/R, 6-1, 175  
JR, Valrico, FL



**3**  
Sean Gilmartin  
P/O/F, L/L, 6-2, 192  
JR, Moorpark, CA



**5**  
Jack Posey  
INF/P, R/R, 6-2, 220  
JR, Leesburg, GA



**7**  
Parker Brunelle  
C, S/R, 6-3, 220  
SR, Snellville, GA



**8**  
Devon Travis  
INF, R/R, 5-9, 183  
SO, Wellington, FL



**9**  
Stephen McGee  
C, R/R, 6-2, 205  
SO, Port St. Lucie, FL



**10**  
Justin Gonzalez  
SS, R/R, 6-2, 195  
SO, Miami, FL



**13**  
Eric Arce  
1B/O/F, L/R, 5-11, 205  
FR, Lakeland, FL



**14**  
Tye Buckley  
P, L/L, 6-0, 175  
SR, Tallahassee, FL



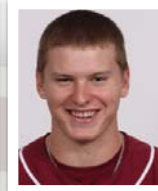
**15**  
Evan Geist  
P, R/L, 6-3, 190  
FR, Roswell, GA



**16**  
Jayce Boyd  
INF, R/R, 6-3, 185  
SO, Cantonment, FL



**17**  
Robby Stahl  
OF, R/R, 6-1, 186  
SR, St. Petersburg Beach, FL



**18**  
Seth Miller  
OF, L/L, 6-2, 205  
SO, Southport, FL



**19**  
Gage Smith  
P, R/R, 6-0, 185  
FR, Tallahassee, FL



**20**  
Daniel Bennett  
P, S/R, 6-4, 220  
SR, Tallahassee, FL



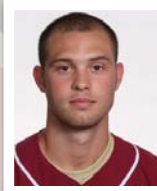
**22**  
Robert Benincasa  
P, R/R, 6-2, 195  
SO, Tampa, FL



**23**  
James Ramsey  
OF, L/R, 6-0, 195  
JR, Alpharetta, GA



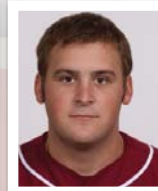
**24**  
Brian Busch  
P, L/L, 6-2, 237  
JR, Boca Raton, FL



**25**  
Mike McGee  
P/O/F, R/R, 6-0, 188  
SR, Port St. Lucie, FL



**26**  
Scott Sitz  
P, R/R, 5-10, 210  
SO, Jacksonville Beach, FL



**27**  
Stuart Tapley  
UTL, 5-10, 204  
SR, Orlando, FL



**28**  
Tyler Everett  
P, L/R, 6-2, 205  
SR, Tallahassee, FL



**29**  
Rafael Lopez  
C, L/R, 5-9, 197  
R-JR, Wellington, FL



**30**  
Hunter Scantling  
P, R/R, 6-8, 270  
JR, Jacksonville, FL



**31**  
Gary Merians  
P, R/R, 6-3, 210  
JR, Ocala, FL



**32**  
Sherman Johnson  
INF, L/R, 5-10, 178  
JR, Tampa, FL



**33**  
Connor Nolan  
P, L/L, 6-4, 196  
JR, Salem, NH



**35**  
David Trexler  
P, R/R, 6-3, 175  
FR, Lynn Haven, FL



**36**  
Robby Scott  
P, S/L, 6-3, 205  
SR, Miami, FL



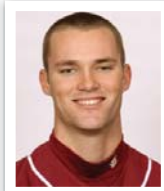
**37**  
Wil Breton  
OF/1B, L/R, 6-2, 205  
SR, Keystone Heights, FL



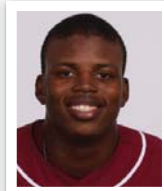
**38**  
Adam Simmons  
P, R/R, 6-0, 195  
JR, Sebring, FL



**40**  
Peter Miller  
P/INF, R/R, 6-1, 195  
FR, Lutz, FL



**44**  
Mack Waugh  
P, R/R, 6-1, 180  
JR, Naples, FL



**51**  
Brandon Johnson  
P, L/L, 6-2, 200  
FR, Tampa, FL



**11**  
Mike Martin  
Head Coach



**12**  
Jamey Shouppe  
Associate Head Coach



**4**  
Mike Martin, Jr.  
Assistant Coach



**46**  
Matt Matulia  
Assistant Coach



# 2011 OUTLOOK

## GENERAL OUTLOOK

- For the second consecutive season Florida State returns seven of nine position starters, though the two losses – centerfielder Tyler Holt and shortstop Stephen Cardullo – leave significant gaps which must be filled. On the mound the Seminoles return their two most productive performers in No. 1 starter Sean Gilmartin (21 wins over the past two seasons) and Mike McGee, whose 13 saves – and stellar offensive production as the left field starter – led him to the inaugural John Olerud Two-Way Player of the Year Award. In all, 11 of 13 pitchers with eight or more appearances last season return to the fold. FSU welcomes back 22 of 29 letter winners from last season's 48-20 team, which advanced to the College World Series for the 20th time in school history.
- The Seminoles return 77 percent of their run production from a year ago, led by McGee, who drove in a team-leading 73 runs and also topped the club with 17 homers. James Ramsey (63 RBI) and Sherman Johnson (58) follow close behind, while Jayce Boyd and Stuart Tapley knocked in 39 and 38, respectively.
- Four of the top six hitters from a club that batted .300 on the season are back, led by Johnson (.337), McGee (.328) and Boyd (.326). The departure of Holt and his .471 on base percentage and 30 stolen bases, will place a premium on uncovering a new leadoff hitter. Not coincidentally, Cardullo drove in 53 runs batting behind Holt much of the year, where he also contributed 21 stolen bases.
- Florida State's 2011 roster includes 12 newcomers, seven of whom bring junior college experience to the table. Sophomore Seth Miller (Northwest Florida State College) will compete for Holt's vacated outfield spot, while Gary Merians (Santa Fe College), Adam Simmons (South Florida Community College) and Connor Nolan (St. Johns River Community College) are seasoned veterans who will figure into the pitching plans. Among the heralded freshmen newcomers, pitchers Peter Miller, Brandon Johnson and Evan Geist bring impressive credentials to the program, as well as slugger Eric Arce.
- FSU will compete for its fifth consecutive ACC Atlantic Division title, having averaged 21 league wins over the past four seasons. The Seminoles went on to win their fifth Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament championship, which formally secured the program's 33rd consecutive NCAA Regional appearance in 2010. That is the second longest active streak in the nation.

- No team in college baseball has won more games in the new millennium than Florida State. The Seminoles' 552 victories since the start of the 2000 season (50.2 per year) are 18 clear of their closest competitor. FSU's .740 winning percentage in that span ranks second only to Rice by .003.
- Mike Martin enters his 32nd season at the helm of the Seminoles as the nation's active leader among Division I programs in winning percentage (.744). He has compiled a record of 1,627-558-4 and ranks third all-time in wins at college baseball's top level. Martin has led the Seminoles to the postseason in each of his first 31 seasons. He is largely responsible for FSU's nation-leading marking of 209 NCAA Tournament games and its 137 victories, which is tied for the most by any Division I team. The Seminoles' 20th all-time College World Series appearance in 2010 was the 14th on Martin's watch.
- Florida State will begin the year ranked among the top 13 teams nationally in all four major preseason polls, including: No. 10 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA); No. 11 USA Today/ESPN Coaches; No. 12 Baseball America and No. 13 Collegiate Baseball. The Seminoles closed the 2010 season ranked sixth nationally in the aforementioned polls. Mike McGee, a first-team All-American in 2010, has received multiple preseason All-American honors entering his senior season.

### Mike Martin shares his thoughts heading into the 2011 season:

*What excites you most about this year's team?*

"Attitude. The attitude of the club is excellent. Everyone understands what it takes to get to Omaha. Now it's up to us to go out and compete."

*Is there a danger as a veteran team that there is potential for complacency?*

"We got to be sure that we have the understanding that, just because we have a lot of these guys back, we've still got a lot to prove."

*Is there the same kind of desire to be in Omaha when the CWS debuts at the new TD Ameritrade Park in June as there was being a part of the final one at Rosenblatt Stadium?*

"There's no doubt. I'm totally convinced that getting to Omaha and the new stadium will be extra special, because there's only eight teams that have a chance to close one down and open another one up. We want to be one of those eight."



Stuart Tapley

## PITCHING

- Although the Seminoles enter the season without a settled rotation, there is no shortage of options behind a pair of junior left-handers who have significant experience in the weekend lineup. Sean Gilmartin has spent the better part of two seasons as FSU's No. 1 and that's not likely to change. The California native has added muscle to his lean frame and brings back significant innings with Team USA from the past summer. With 21 career wins to his credit, Gilmartin is a durable, proven commodity, despite a 9-8 campaign last season which saw his ERA jump to 5.24. Brian Busch has finished each of his first two seasons in the starting rotation, and is 12-4 with a 3.95 career ERA, even though he's been saddled with 12 no decisions in 23 career starts. Three of his career wins have come in NCAA postseason play.
- Martin and veteran pitching coach Jamey Shoupe will explore a number of possibilities as they complete the rotation. The most experienced candidates are sophomore right-handers Scott Sitz and Robert Benincasa, who bring a combined 10 starts back for their second seasons. Sitz (5-0, 3.76) made six starts early in the season and came out of the bullpen late. He did not allow a single run in his last five appearances, including four in the postseason. Benincasa (2-0, 5.32) made four starts early and finished as a reliever. Junior right-hander Hunter Scantling (3-2, 4.47) is the only other returnee with any significant starting experience.
- Senior right-hander Mike McGee provides the Seminoles with a luxury of sorts. Used almost exclusively as a closer in 2010, he ranked second in the ACC with 13 saves, converting on 15 opportunities and finished 4-1 with a 2.96 ERA. McGee also has 23 career starts to his credit and boasts a 17-4 all-time record, which includes a six-inning, no-hit effort at Jacksonville in his lone start last season. Not surprisingly, the 'Noles were 37-1 in games when they led after eight innings.



# 2011 OUTLOOK

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Brian Busch

- Senior right-hander Daniel Bennett played an integral role as the Seminoles' side-arming, set-up man in 2010. He led the team last season with 35 appearances and went 5-1 with a 3.51 ERA, including three saves. Capable of working extended innings, Bennett was at his best in the postseason, registering 15 strikeouts in 13.2 innings over six appearances with a pair of wins to his credit. Hard-throwing senior right-hander Tyler Everett (3-1, 3.77 in 23 appearances) had a solid season interrupted by a back injury, but has the ability to dominate. Senior left-hander Tye Buckley (0-0, 2.70 in 19 appearances) could be used again primarily to match up with left-handed hitters. Junior right-hander Jack Posey missed all of 2010 while recovering from Tommy John surgery, but made 15 appearances in '09 and possesses some of the best movement of anyone on the staff.
- A cast of new arms will also play a role in the staff's evolution. Right-hander Gary Merians was a workhorse and a winner in two seasons at Santa Fe College, where he led the nation in innings pitched in 2010. Junior right-hander Adam Simmons (South Florida CC) has logged significant innings as well, as has left-hander Connor Nolan (St. Johns River CC), who should be ready to go early in the season as he completes his recovery from shoulder surgery.
- Three incoming freshmen – left-handers Evan Geist and Brandon Johnson, and right-hander Peter Miller – will also have a chance to leave an impression. All three hail from winning high school programs and bring impressive prep credentials into the equation.

## Martin on pitching:

*Is there a comfort level with the number of experienced pitchers at your disposal?*

"With the return of Gilmartin, Busch, McGee, Bennett, Stitz, Benincasa, Tyler Everett and Jack Posey ... you feel comfortable, but yet an injury or two and you have real problems. That is where the newcomers that displayed talent in the fall come into view, guys like Gary Merians, Peter Miller and Adam Simmons."

*What are you hoping to find from the group heading into the season?*

"We do have strength in numbers. Do we have a replacement for a Johnny Gast and a Geoff Parker, who did such a good job for us? ...

"We're looking at four or five guys to compete for the third, fourth and fifth starters. Those guys are Sitz, Benincasa, Simmons, Merians. We'll start the season with McGee as our closer and Bennett as the set-up guy. I like Posey, also."

## DEFENSE

- The Seminoles return three quarters of their 2010 starting infield, which provided more than steady work. FSU's .969 fielding percentage ranks tied for third in school history and is the second-best season since 1994. The glove of third baseman Sherman Johnson, second baseman Devon Travis and first baseman Jayce Boyd played no small role. All three were first-year starters last season and performed at a level of efficiency which defied their lack of experience.
- Sophomore Justin Gonzalez steps into the starting role at shortstop, replacing Cardullo. Gonzalez, who made 18 of his 21 starts last season at second base, returns to his natural position where he brings improved range and a strong arm.
- McGee and James Ramsey were solid defensively as last season's starters in left and right field, respectively. Replacing Holt, one of the most outstanding defensive centerfielders in school history, will be difficult. The Seminoles entered the preseason with junior Taiwan Easterling and sophomore transfer Seth Miller battling to win the spot. McGee, however, is an option in center after working there in the fall. Seniors Robby Stahl and Stuart Tapley, who has been getting work in left as well as third base, provide depth. So does Gilmartin, who is a capable hitter but lacks significant outfield experience.
- FSU is set behind the plate with a pair of seniors, led by Rafael Lopez, who is a preseason candidate for the Johnny Bench Award in just his second season of full-time catching duties. Lopez had just six errors in 46 starts behind the dish. Brunelle made 22 starts, in addition to some late-

inning appearances, and was charged with just one error. Opponents converted only 40 percent of their stolen base attempts against the Seminoles last season.

- Depth could be an issue defensively. The 'Noles have no shortage of corner infield options, including Tapley at third. While FSU added newcomers Will Breton and Arce as potential first base options, both Posey and Gilmartin have game experience there as well. JUCO transfer Taed Moses is an option as a utility player up the middle.

## Martin on the Seminoles' defense:

*What do you see as the strengths of the team?*

"Where we're looking very comfortable is the fact that we have so many returning (infield) starters, with Lopez and Boyd, Travis and Sherman. Then you've got Justin Gonzalez, who started [21] games last year, returning to his normal position of shortstop. Then you've got James Ramsey and Mike McGee in the outfield."

*Are there any major concerns heading into the season?*

"I think that the key to this club is we've got to stay healthy. There's not a lot of depth. ... We have depth behind the plate, but with what we've lost, we just have to stay healthy."

*What position(s) remain unsettled as preseason practice gets underway?*

"The only position that is not settled is centerfield and that is between Seth Miller and Taiwan Easterling, and both could end up playing big roles on an everyday basis. With Mike McGee as the closer, one of them is available to play left field."



Sherman Johnson





# 2011 OUTLOOK

## OFFENSE

- Florida State was not a prolific offensive team in 2010, but it was a timely bunch, which bodes well with the return of 10 of last season's top 12 hitters based on average. Collectively the Seminoles batted just .300, yet still averaged nearly eight runs a game, making the most of opportunities. FSU boasted a .411 team on-base percentage, drawing 402 walks and getting aboard via hit batters 61 times. Martin's team also put together a combined 80 sacrifices and were successful on 97 of 115 stolen base attempts.
- Though the 'Noles did not slug for a high percentage (.496) last season, they return more than ample firepower to the lineup, with the players producing 72 percent of the team's extra base hits (184 of 255) back in 2010. Broken down, returnees produced 61 of 86 homers, 105 of 147 doubles and 18 of 22 triples.
- Again, the timeliness of FSU's production a year ago should not go unnoticed given the number of returnees. Of the team's 485 RBI in '10, 373 belong to players who are back a year later. McGee (73 RBI), Ramsey (63), Johnson (58), Boyd (39) and Tapley (38) were each run-producing threats. McGee, Tapley and Ramsey figure to be in the middle of the order again this season.
- McGee is a rarity in the college ranks; a player who has led the team in homers and RBI for consecutive seasons, returning for his senior season for a shot at pulling off that double three years in a row.
- Unearthing a productive leadoff batter from the mix will be essential in filling the void created by Tyler Holt's absence. Holt merely reached base 47 percent of the time by hitting a team-best .355 and drawing more walks (59) than anyone else on the squad. He also led the Seminoles with 30 stolen bases. Devon Travis and Sherman Johnson could be options to bat first.
- As for bats off the bench, either as a DH or in pinch-hitting roles, Tapley will likely retain the job he held throughout much of last season as the designated hitter. Seth Miller, Eric Arce and Sean Gilmartin could be left-handed hitting options, while Stephen McGee remains a right-handed alternative along with Robby Stahl and perhaps Taiwan Easterling.
- With the NCAA mandating the move to composite bats in an effort to improve safety, the popular theory is that home run and scoring production will be reduced. That could lead to more "small ball" play around the country and the limiting of the big inning, courtesy the long ball.

### Martin on the FSU offense:

#### *What concerns you the most offensively heading into the season?*

"What people don't look at is how big were Tyler Holt and Stephen Cardullo (to the team). When you look at the leadoff guy and the guy who hit second the majority of the year, you've looking at two guys that started for three years - two All-Americans. One of which (Holt), for three years, got on base an average of twice a game. That's mind-boggling to think."

#### *You have a number of proven commodities. Who could emerge as this year's surprise player offensively?*

"Jayce Boyd is our first baseman. I'm very, very proud of this young man. I see this young man blossoming into one that will leave a legacy here at Florida State. This kid is fun. I would love to see him become a middle of the order guy that we look at to be a big run producer."

## SCHEDULE AND TANGIBLES

- The Seminoles face no shortage of challenges in terms of opposition in 2011. They will face in-state rival Florida - which is ranked No. 1 in at least one preseason poll - four times, including two neutral site games. An early, three-game road series at Georgia will provide a formidable challenge, as will a late three-game home slate with UCF, which is expected to challenge for a title in Conference USA.
- Florida State's Feb. 24 exhibition game against the Philadelphia Phillies won't count in the standings, but it is always a highly-anticipated event for the players, coaches and fans. The game at Bright House Networks Field in Clearwater will be the first of spring training and provide the 'Noles with a peek at the best starting rotation in Major League Baseball.
- Most are expecting another hotly-contested season in the Atlantic Coast Conference. To that end, the Seminoles drew a mixed bag when it comes to home and road dates. FSU must travel to Coastal Division favorite Virginia, annual nemesis Miami and ACC Tournament runner-up NC State. The home slate in league play includes visits from Boston College, Wake Forest, North Carolina and Duke. It culminates with a visit from Atlantic Division favorite Clemson in the final regular season homestand.
- An uncharacteristically large senior class totaling nine Seminoles, including fourth-year veterans Stuart Tapley, Mike McGee, Parker Brunelle and Tyler Everett, will once again be called on to show the way.



Mike McGee

### Final thoughts from Martin:

#### *Which players do you expect to be leaders in the clubhouse and on the field?*

"Stuart Tapley is a tremendous leader. ... He has the Buster Posey persona on this club. People look at Tapley and how he does things. Tapley, along with other seniors that are playing - Mike McGee and Rafael Lopez - are so important to this ballclub. Ramsey, as a junior, is another guy who carries himself so well."

#### *With so many returnees from a team that just found ways to win and was at its best under duress last season, what do you know about the core of this team?*

"There's just so much about this game that requires mental toughness. That's what our guys have. That's what our guys displayed (last season). You're going to have ups and downs in this game. Who can control their destiny? That's what makes this game so intriguing."

"We lost four in a row at the end of the year. We lost four in a row. Then, just miraculously, we got into the ACC finals. Things had to happen. Then we win it. ... Who would have thought we were going to get to Omaha after losing three straight at Clemson, then getting blown out by Miami in the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament? We finished fifth in the league [based on record]. Baseball is so different than any sport out there. The best team doesn't always win the game."