

SEMINOLE TRADITION



COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S WINNINGEST COACH

With 351 career victories, Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden has more wins than any other coach in major college football history. Bowden, in his 30th year at FSU in 2005, passed Penn State's Joe Paterno on the list with a 48-24 victory over Wake Forest in 2003. In addition, Bowden became the all-time leader in terms of

bowl winning percentage after defeating West Virginia in the 2005 Gator Bowl. He owns a bowl record of 19-8-1 (.696).



DUNN NAMED NO. 1 GOOD GUY IN PRO SPORTS AND NFL MAN OF THE YEAR

Former Seminole tailback Warrick Dunn of the Atlanta Falcons was named the 2005 No. 1 Good Guy in pro sports by *The Sporting News* on June 27. It's the second such award Dunn has received as in February he was recognized by the NFL with the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award for his

efforts to help those less fortunate. Dunn started a foundation to help single mothers soon after he entered the NFL. Through his "Homes for the Holidays" program, the Warrick Dunn Foundation has secured new homes for more than 50 single mothers in Dunn's hometown of Baton Rouge, La., as well as Tampa Bay and Atlanta, the two cities in which he has played professional football. The FSU Hall of Fame member now joins former Seminole Derrick Brooks, who was No. 1 on the *The Sporting News*' 2000 Good Guy Award's list. The award was created seven years ago by Paul Attner, a senior writer for the magazine.



THORPE THANKS SEMINOLE FANS

Wide receiver Craphonso Thorpe thanked Seminole fans for their support with a billboard in Tallahassee that read "Thanks FSU & The Seminole Nation For All The Great Memories!" Thorpe, who attended Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, is now with the Kansas City Chiefs after being selected in the fourth round of the 2005 NFL Draft.



McMANUS GOES OVER 50,000 YARDS

Former Seminole quarterback Danny McManus became just the third player in Canadian Football League History to throw for 50,000 career yards on October 21, 2004. The 15-year CFL veteran completed an 88-yard touchdown pass to Craig Yeast to go over the 50,000-yard mark in the second quarter of Hamilton's game against Toronto. Action was stopped after the play and CFL commissioner Tom Wright honored McManus as a video tribute was shown. Toronto's Damon Allen

and Hamilton's Ron Lancaster are the only other two CFL players to reach the milestone.



HE HAS WON AWARDS AND NOW HE IS AN AWARD

A new national award, named after Florida State football coach Bobby Bowden was initiated by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization in 2003. Named after the legendary FSU football coach, the National Bobby Bowden Award will highlight the collegiate football player who best epitomizes the term student-athlete. The person selected will be one of character, classroom excellence, athletic achievement and community involvement. This award combines

the role modeling of the NFL Player of the Year Award, the Heisman for best collegiate player performance on the field and the CoSiDA Academic Award for classroom excellence. The award will be presented annually during the week of the BCS Championship game. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will compile the nominees each year. Oklahoma State's Billy Bajema won the award in 2004.



FSU'S HELMET RATED AMONG NATION'S BEST

Florida State's helmet was ranked No. 6 in the country in a top 10 list released by CNNLS.com in November of 2004. Texas, Air Force, Wyoming, Clemson, Arkansas, SMU, Iowa, USC and Arizona State joined FSU in the website's top 10.



SIX SEMINOLES AMONG COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S TOP 150

Despite playing football for just over 50 years, Florida State placed six players among a list of the top 150 players all-time according to CollegeFootballNews.com. Deion Sanders (No. 8), Charlie Ward (No. 70), Terrell Buckley (No. 96), Fred Biletnikoff (No. 111), Peter Warrick (No. 124) and Chris Weinke (No. 139) represented Florida State on the list.



MEINROD EARNS STRONGEST SEMINOLE DISTINCTION

Senior Matt Meinrod was the strongest player on the FSU roster for the second straight year. Strength and conditioning coach Jon Jost uses the combination of most weight lifted in the clean, bench and squat. Meinrod's total of 1,565 pounds (430 clean, 505 bench, 630 squat) led the team.

He increased his 2004 total by 110 pounds by adding 25 pounds to his clean and 85 pounds to his squat. Meinrod lists entering a world's strongest man competition as one of his goals once he completes his football career.



REID BREAKS DEION'S PUNT RETURN RECORD

Wide receiver Willie Reid put his name in the Florida State record books last season when he broke Deion Sanders' record for punt return yards in a season. Reid brought back 38 punts for 522 yards, an average of 13.7 yards per return. The 522-yard total ranks second in ACC history. Sanders held the FSU record for 15 years as he totaled 503 punt return yards in 1988. Reid will open the 2005 season as a first-year starter at wide receiver.



DEFENSIVE DOMINANCE

Florida State's 2004 defense ranked among the top seven national in three major categories. The Seminoles were third in rushing defense (83.1), fourth in scoring defense (14.1) and seventh in total defense (283.8). FSU's defense allowed just 13 touchdowns last season (five rushing and eight passing) and would have actually allowed just 10.6 points per game if opponents' non-offensive touchdowns were excluded. Clemson returned two kickoffs for scores, Wake Forest scored on an interception return and a fumble return, NC State found the endzone on a punt return and two more points were scored on a safety.



"UNCONQUERED"

Dedicated October 10, 2003 Fritz White's bronze statue "Unconquered" was designed to capture the indomitable spirit of the Seminole people and those who have adopted that spirit as a symbol for their university. The massive structure including its granite-covered pedestal base stands approximately 31 feet in the air and depicts a spear-brandishing Seminole astride a rearing horse. At sunset the night before each home game, the spear is ignited and burns until sunrise on the next morning after the game. George Langford endorsement of the project for up to \$1 million helped make the statue a reality. Fifty one artists were then considered before White eventually saw the statue dedicated 10 years after the concept was inspired by attorney and FSU graduate Stephen Reilly's trip to South Bend, IN for an FSU football game.



BOWDEN IN BRONZE

Head coach Bobby Bowden is bigger than life in front of the Moore Athletics Center at Florida State as a bronze statue of his likeness on the field was unveiled in a ceremony on Sept. 24, 2004. The statue is one and a half life-size of Coach Bowden. The statue was sculpted by Tallahassee artist Stanley Proctor. The artist has also created a smaller piece of artwork, measuring just over 12

inches high, featuring Bowden and Doak Campbell Stadium.



FSU PRESIDENT WAS A FOOTBALL STAR

Florida State president Dr. T.K. Wetherell starred on the football field from 1965-67. Wetherell was coached by Bobby Bowden as a wide receiver in his first two years. The president was part of two of the longest kickoff returns in school history. In 1965, Wetherell took a lateral from Bill Moreman and raced 100 yards for a touchdown against Kentucky. The two pulled off another touchdown of 94 yards in a 23-20 victory over Miami on Sept. 24, 1966. He is still tied for the school

record for the longest kickoff return.



THE SYMBOL: SEMINOLES

Florida State would play two games in 1947 before students demanded the school acquire a symbol. While details conflict, most believe the account of a poll of the student body is accurate. The Florida Flambeau reported that Seminoles had won by 110 votes over Statesmen. The rest of the top contenders (in order) were Rebels, Tarpons, Fighting Warriors and Crackers.

In the 1950s, a pair of students dressed in Native American costumes and joined the cheerleaders on the field which eventually evolved into the majestic symbol of Osceola and Renegade that FSU now enjoys. Today, the Seminole Indian Tribe participates in many campus activities.

Florida State University is proud of its longstanding cooperative relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Seminole people have suffered many hardships and injustices, but they have remained brave, dignified and proud. The Seminoles are unconquered. They symbolize what we hope will be the traits of all of our graduates, including our student-athletes.



FSU TO GRADUATION TO THE NFL

In a long-overdue study, the NFL Players Association recently compiled data, which indicated that nearly 50% of NFL players now have college degrees. Of the schools with the most "degreed" NFL players, Florida State was among the best. FSU ranked fifth out of the 117 schools in Division I with 18 NFL players who have a college degree. The ACC was the only conference in America to have two schools in the top five as the University of Miami placed fourth with 19 degreed players. Four of the top 15 schools (Miami, Florida

State, North Carolina and Boston College) are current or future members of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Only one other conference (Big 10) had four schools among the top 15 and not a single other conference had more than two schools in the top 15 of this list. Not only are FSU football players getting their degrees but they are getting to the NFL as well. Did you know that from 1990-2001 the likelihood of a high school player that signed with FSU and stayed at Florida State throughout his career would eventually play at least one year in the NFL was 52.2%? Of the 111 players that fit that description, 58 of those players played at least a year in the NFL or are still playing.



TAILBACK TANDEM

Leon Washington and Lorenzo Booker rushed for a combined 1,838 yards last season and both averaged better than five yards per carry. Washington ran for 951 yards and led the ACC in rushing yards per game while Booker added 887 yards. That total was the most for a pair of Seminole tailbacks since Sammie Smith (1,230 yards) and Dexter Carter (679 yards) combined for 1,909 yards in 1987. Washington and Booker will attempt to become the first pair of backs in school history to each rush for 1,000 yards and total 2,000 yards this season.



NO NEW HOME FOR BOWDEN

Bobby and Ann Bowden live in the same home that they bought when he took the FSU head coaching job in 1976, although they have made some additions. They have even had the same phone number for the past 28 years. Bowden still maintains a grueling off-season schedule that includes a 24-stop Seminole Booster speaking and golfing tour. Bowden is an early riser generally waking before 4:30 a.m. He reads and often watches film before coming into the office. He plays golf nearly every day from the end of spring family vacation in July then does not touch the clubs

practice until after the again until the next spring.



100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

When you think of the greatest college football players of the last 100 years names like Roger Staubach, Red Grange, Doak Walker and Jim Brown probably come to mind. When *The Sporting News* published its All-Century college football team those four players were on the list but so were a couple of players more familiar to Florida State fans. Former Seminoles Peter Boulware and Deion Sanders were each named to the magazine's All-Century team at their respective positions. Only Notre Dame placed more defensive players on the All-

Century team than did Florida State as the Fighting Irish had three former Golden Domers selected. It wasn't surprising to see a legendary program like Notre Dame leading the way considering they have played college football for 85 years. On the other hand, it was somewhat of a surprise to see Florida State just behind the Fighting Irish for All-Century defensive team selections considering how young the FSU program is in comparison.



FSU AND THE ACC'S PICCOLO AWARD

Senior offensive guard Matt Meinrod, who missed the final 11 games of the 2004 season when he suffered a knee injury at Miami, will be full speed when the Seminoles return to practice. FSU history would suggest he should be optimistic as the FSU medical staff has overseen the rehabilitation of five FSU football players (WR Anquan Boldin, QB Chris Weinke, DT Corey Simon, LB Sam Cowart and DT Dan Footman) who have gone on to win the ACC's Piccolo

Award given annually to the most courageous player in the conference. Four of them are still playing in the NFL, while Dan Footman retired after six seasons in the league.



DOAK CAMPBELL NOW SEATS 82,300

New structures in the north endzone have raised the seating capacity in Doak Campbell Stadium once again with the home of the Seminoles now holding 82,300. A second deck of the Varsity Club opened last year in the northwest corner of the stadium just above the existing structure. A mirror image of that has been built in the northeast

corner of the stadium, but contains skyboxes leased through the Seminole Boosters. The new additions brought the total to 94 private boxes within the stadium. The football home for the Seminoles since 1950, the stadium was named after the popular Florida State president who was instrumental in the development of intercollegiate athletics at the new university. In order to help finance the stadium, a five-year season ticket was offered for \$50.00 and FSU players helped paint the stadium at \$1 per hour. The stadium was built at a cost of \$250,000 in 1950.



SIX FEET UNDER

Florida State's sod cemetery holds chunks of the field from great Seminole road wins. See the complete list on page 203.

SEMINOLE TRADITION



BROOKS ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Derrick Brooks established himself as one of the greatest players in school history during his career at Florida State. He also made a name for himself academically as a First-Team Academic All-American in 1994 and the winner of an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship. He has also established himself as one of the finest players in the

NFL and led his Tampa Bay Buccaneers to the World Championship in 2002. Now he is the boss — sort of. Brooks is in his third year as a member of Florida State's Board of Trustees having been named to the board in 2003.



FLORIDA STATE IS TOP TITLE TEAM

Florida State has won 11 ACC championships (nine outright and two shared) and is the national leader in conference championships since joining the ACC in 1992.

ACC Florida State (11)
Big 12/Big 8 Nebraska (6)
SEC Florida (6)



GOAL POSTS SALUTE PETERSON

The Bill Peterson era as head football coach at FSU was a time of great offensive innovation and of many firsts for the upstart Seminole program, including the first Seminole coach to beat the Gators at Florida Field, coaching the program's first All-American in Fred Biletnikoff and recruiting James Thomas, the first black player to

ever play football at FSU. A tradition of the Peterson era was to enter the field through the goal posts. As a tribute to the players and coaches of the Peterson era and their many firsts, "H" style goal posts were added to the field at Doak Campbell Stadium prior to the 2002 season and will forever more be referred to as "Pete's Posts." It is believed that FSU joins LSU as the only two Division IA schools currently using H posts.



SPORTSMANSHIP STATUE

Between Gates B and C of Doak Campbell Stadium stands the one ton, 15' tall Sportsmanship statue given in honor of Pappy Strum by his daughter Margaret Strum Allesee, who is an FSU graduate and former Seminole cheerleader. The enduring symbol of the most important aspect of athletic competition was sculpted by FSU alumnus and accomplished artist Edward Jonas.



SEALED LOCKERS

The retirement (or permanent sealing) of lockers in the Florida State locker room began after Deion Sanders, senior season in 1988. The criterion for locker retirement allows only the dressing area of a two-time consensus All-American and/or Heisman Trophy winners to be retired. Ron Simmons (1979-80), Deion Sanders (1987-88), Marvin Jones (1991-92), Derrick Brooks (1993-

94), Sebastian Janikowski (1998-99), Peter Warrick (1998-99) and Alex Barron (2003-04) have had their lockers sealed as two-time consensus All-Americans while Heisman Trophy winners Charlie Ward (1993) and Chris Weinke (2000) have had their lockers retired. The lockers are encased in glass with the player's final home uniform and gear intact right down to the sweat bands.



A LOOK AT THE RETURNING STARTERS

With 11 starters returning to the field in 2005, the Seminoles have their fewest returning starters since they began the 2002 season with just 10. Here's a look at the returning starters since 1987. The list accounts for 24 starters including a punter and a placekicker. It also includes how the Seminoles finished each season.

| Year | Starters Returning (Off, Def, P/K) | Record/AP Final Rank |
|------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1987 | 16 (8,7,1) | 11-1/#2 |
| 1988 | 13 (7,6,0) | 11-1/#3 |
| 1989 | 10 (4,5,1) | 10-2/#4 |
| 1990 | 15 (4,4,1) | 10-2/#4 |
| 1991 | 18 (8,9,1) | 11-2/#4 |
| 1992 | 11 (6,5,0) | 11-1/#2 |
| 1993 | 15 (9,5,1) | 12-1/#1 |
| 1994 | 13 (5,6,2) | 10-1-1/4# |
| 1995 | 14 (7,5,2) | 10-2/#4 |
| 1996 | 17 (7,8,2) | 11-1/#3 |
| 1997 | 13 (6,5,2) | 11-1/#3 |
| 1998 | 16 (7,5,4) | 11-2/#3 |
| 1999 | 16 (7,9,2) | 12-0/#1 |
| 2000 | 14 (6,7,1) | 11-2/#5 |
| 2001 | 14 (5,4,1) | 8-4/#15 |
| 2002 | 10 (7,8,2) | 9-5/#21 |
| 2003 | 17 (4,10,1) | 10-3/#11 |
| 2004 | 15 (9,4,1) | 9-3/#15 |
| 2005 | 14 (5,5,1) | |



JEFFERSON-EPPES TROPHY

Thomas Jefferson, former U.S. President and founder of the University of Virginia, was the grandfather of Francis Eppes, VII. Eppes, a three-term mayor of Tallahassee, was also a long-time president of the Board of Education of the Seminary West of the Suwannee, the institutional forerunner of what is today known as Florida State University. To commemorate this bond between the two schools, the Seminoles and Cavaliers play each season for the Jefferson-Eppes Trophy. Inaugurated in 1995, the Trophy has resided

in Tallahassee for nine consecutive years. The trophy comprises a silver pitcher, presented to Eppes in 1842, set atop a wooden base crafted from the remains of UVa, massive McGuffey Ash.



COULD HAVE HAD BOWDEN IN 1970

Bobby Bowden signed his first contract as head coach at FSU on January 12, 1976. The four-year deal called for a salary of \$37,500 per year. Many did not know, however, that Bowden actually interviewed for the FSU job in 1970. It went to Tennessee assistant Larry Jones who was 15-19 over three seasons before he was succeeded by

Darrell Mudra in 1974.



FSU FIGHT SONG

While the war chant has become familiar at FSU games, the Florida State fight song still remains the definitive sound of Seminole sports. FSU's band became the Marching Chiefs in 1950 and with that came the fight song. Tommy Wright, a member of the faculty in the School of Music, was perturbed that the Seminoles had been using "On Wisconsin" and the "Notre Dame Victory March"

so he introduced the song in the Sewanee game, setting to music a poem by FSU Alumni Doug Alley.



OSCEOLA & RENEGADE

Perhaps the most spectacular tradition in all of college football occurs in Doak Campbell Stadium when Osceola charges down the field riding an Appaloosa horse named Renegade and plants a flaming spear at midfield to begin every home game. The tradition was born on September 16, 1978 against Oklahoma State when a student led the team from the tunnel riding a horse. Since the beginning of the FSU tradition, three different horses and 10 different riders have actually appeared at a game. However, there have been a total

of 16 horses trained in the Renegade program. The original Osceola and Renegade were Jim Kidder and Reo. In 2003, local businessman Bill Durham, who had trained the riders and horses for 20 years, passed the honor and

responsibility to his son Allen, who was a former rider in the 90s. The clothing and rigging that Osceola and Renegade use were designed and approved by the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida.



SCHOLARSHIPS IN '51

It was not until 1951 that Florida State began to grant athletic scholarships. The move put added pressure on the program to win. FSU left the Dixie Conference and petitioned for membership in the ACC and the Southeastern Conference but were rebuffed. Interestingly, it was the University of Florida that sponsored FSU for admission to the SEC.



BOWDEN'S "AVERAGE" STARTING OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

| | | |
|------|---------|-----|
| 1976 | 6-4 | 246 |
| 1981 | 6-4 | 255 |
| 1986 | 6-3 | 267 |
| 1991 | 6-3 | 270 |
| 1996 | 6-4 | 295 |
| 2001 | 6-4 | 301 |
| 2002 | 6-4 1/2 | 309 |
| 2003 | 6-5 | 307 |
| 2004 | 6-4 1/2 | 306 |
| 2005 | 6-4 | 302 |



HISTORY OF SCHOOL COLORS

Florida State's school colors of garnet and gold date back to the Florida State College championship football teams of 1904 and 1905. In those championship seasons, FSC donned purple and gold uniforms. When Florida State College became Florida Female College in 1905, the football team was forced to attend the University of Florida. The following year the FFC student body selected crimson as the official school color of 1905. The administration in 1905 took crimson and combined it with the recognizable purple of the

championship football teams to achieve the color garnet. The now-famous garnet and gold colors were first used on an FSU uniform in a 14-6 loss to Stetson on October 18, 1947.



TOMAHAWKS CAN BE WON AND LOST

Florida State's coaching staff and academic staff award tomahawks to individual players for great plays or contributions on the field and in the classroom. Players may get a tomahawk for a crucial play, a score, a touchdown, saving tackle or various other achievements on the field. In 1997, the Seminoles began receiving tomahawks for outstanding academic achievements as well. The tomahawks look identical except the word academics runs down the handle of the tomahawk.

What many fans don't know is that Florida State players can lose tomahawks as well. Poor performance on the field or in the classroom can cause a player to be stripped of the coveted decals.



WAR CHANT

Florida State's "war chant" appears to have begun with a random occurrence that took place during a 1984 game against Auburn, but in the 1960s, the Marching Chiefs band would chant the melody of a popular FSU cheer. In a sense that chant was the long version of FSU's current "war chant." During a thrilling game with Auburn in 1984, the Marching Chiefs began to perform the dormant melody. Some students behind the band joined in and continued the "war chant" portion after the band had ceased. Most agree the chant

came from the fraternity section, but many spirited Seminole fans added the hand motion to symbolize the brandishing of a tomahawk. The chant continued among the student body during the 1985 season, and by the 1986 season, it was a stadium-wide phenomenon. Of course, the Marching Chiefs refined the chant, plus put their own special brand of accompaniment to the "war chant," for the sound we hear today.

Atlanta Braves fans took up their version of the song and chant when former FSU star Deion Sanders came to the plate as an outfielder. The Kansas City Chiefs first heard it when the Northwest Missouri State band, directed by 1969 FSU graduate Al Sergel, performed the chant while the players were warming up for a game against San Diego.



FOOTBALL SINCE 1902 ACTUALLY

Florida State College did play football during the 1902-1904 school years and played well indeed. The first game in 1902 was a 5-0 win over South Georgia Military on November 21 when touchdowns were worth five points. The NCAA nor the governing body at the time recognizes the early games for FSC, although the school won the state championship in '04. The 1904 season included a 23-0 win over Florida in Lake City. The school then became the Florida State College for Women and would remain one of the nation's top all-female institutions until the large number of returning veterans from World War II triggered the state system to open Florida State University to men in 1946. The school resumed football in 1947, taking on Stetson in its first game.



SEMINOLES FIRST TO SCORE TWO

The late Vic Prinzi, who is a member of the Florida State Hall of Fame and was the color commentator for the radio network until his death in 1997, was the first college player ever to score a two-point conversion. In 1958, the Seminoles took the season-opening drive of the Tennessee Tech game on September 13th in for a touchdown and Prinzi, playing quarterback, ran in the two-point conversion to beat the other national games by just minutes.



NUGENT AND THE I

Florida State's football program has had a wonderful list of great coaches including Dr. Don Veller, Bill Peterson, and Bobby Bowden. The program first gained a reputation for innovation under its third head coach, Tom Nugent, who took over in 1953 and coached until 1958. Among Nugent's many "unconventional" strategies was the I-Formation (which he started at FSU) and the

typewriter huddle which is still used by many teams today.



11 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Florida State's women's programs were brought to national prominence in the early 1980s when the Seminoles earned five national championships in four sports within a four-year period. The golf program earned the AIAW championship in 1981 while the softball team had back-to-back AIAW titles in 1981 and 1982. The women's track and field program ran away with the 1984 NCAA Outdoor and 1985 NCAA Indoor championships. Florida State's other national titles include men's gymnastics in 1950-51 and again in 1951-52. The men's volleyball team won the national championship in 1955 and 1957, while football claimed a No. 1 ranking in 1993 and 1999.



FSU'S HEISMAN HISTORY

The Heisman Trophy room has a distinct Florida State flair with portraits of Chris Weinke and Charlie Ward on display as the two winners from FSU and the ACC. FSU has a strong history with the trophy. Here's where FSU players have finished in the Heisman balloting.

| Year | Player, Pos. | Place |
|------|---------------------|-------|
| 1967 | Kim Hammond, QB | 5th |
| 1968 | Ron Sellers, WR | 10th |
| 1972 | Gary Huff, QB | 10th |
| 1979 | Ron Simmons, NG | 9th |
| 1984 | Greg Allen, RB | T7th |
| 1988 | Deion Sanders, DB | 8th |
| 1991 | Terrell Buckley, DB | 8th |
| 1991 | Casey Weldon, QB | 2nd |
| 1992 | Charlie Ward, QB | 6th |
| 1992 | Marvin Jones, LB | 4th |
| 1993 | Charlie Ward, QB | 1st |
| 1995 | Warrick Dunn, RB | 9th |
| 1996 | Warrick Dunn, RB | 5th |
| 1999 | Peter Warrick, WR | 6th |
| 2000 | Chris Weinke, QB | 1st |

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FLORIDA STATE FOOTBALL...

- **1851:** Florida State University actually began in 1851 when a legislative act established the Seminary West of the Suwannee. The first students enrolled in 1857 and the Florida State College was co-educational until 1905 when the Buckman Bill sent all the female students to the "new" Florida State College for Women. The huge numbers of male college students wishing to enter school on the G.I. Bill after World War II forced the legislature to make FSU co-educational in 1946.
- **1902-04:** 33 years after Princeton and Rutgers kicked off American college football, the Florida State College played three seasons of football in Tallahassee. From 1902-1904, FSC played wearing the colors purple and gold. The 1904 squad was crowned state champions after defeating the University of Florida at Lake City and Stetson.
- **1946:** Florida State University became a co-educational institution in 1946 when the first male students were enrolled, most of who were coming back from World War II. The transition from FSCW, which was regarded as one of the nation's top colleges, to the new institution was remarkably quick and the development of an athletics program was almost as rapid.
- **1947:** Florida State University fielded a football team in 1947 coached by Ed Williamson. On October 18, 1947, Stetson kicked off to the FSU 3. Don Grant returned the kickoff to the FSU 32 and 7,165 fans at Centennial Field celebrated the first football game. The team finished 0-5 on the season.
- **1948:** Don Veller became FSU's second football coach in 1948 and would coach the team until 1952. An outstanding player at Indiana University, Veller inherited 20 lettermen from the first year, but only 12 would letter in 1948. Veller would lose just two games over his first three years, including an undefeated 8-0 campaign in 1950. His attention to detail and high standard for himself and his program were instrumental in FSU getting such a solid start.
- **1950:** Florida State played its first football game in Doak S. Campbell Stadium on October 7, 1950 against Randolph Macon. 9,676 fans watched the Seminoles win 40-7, but the new home field was a story in itself. It was built on a former cow pasture and was completed in just five months. Tallahasseean Rainey Cawthon was instrumental in selling over 1,000 season tickets at \$50.00 each to fund the stadium and won a wheelbarrow ride down Monroe Street from contractor Red Coleman, who missed the completion date by two days. FSU players painted the stadium over the next summer for \$1 per hour.
- **1953:** Tom Nugent became FSU's third head coach in 1953 and would coach the Seminoles until leaving to become Maryland's head coach in 1958. An innovator on a national level, Nugent developed the I-formation and the typewriter huddle used by most teams today. Among the players he coached were FSU greats Bobby Renn and Lee Corso as well as a talented tailback named Burt Reynolds whose career was cut short by injury.
- **1959:** Perry Moss lasted just one season as FSU head coach in 1959. He was hired at a salary of \$14,000 and left at the end of the year for triple that figure to coach the Montreal Alouettes. His staff that year included future head coaches Don James (Washington and Kent State), John Coatta (Wisconsin and Mankato State), Vince Gibson (Louisville, Kansas St. and Tulane), and Ken Shipp (NY Jets). His FSU team posted a 4-6-0 record.
- **1960-70:** Florida State's arrival on the national map occurred during Bill Peterson's 11 seasons as head coach. He came in 1960 when free substitution was still five years away in the game. He moved FSU boldly into the forefront of the passing game and led the Tribe to its biggest win yet when they topped No. 5 Kentucky 48-6 in 1964. He would post a 62-42-11 record in Tallahassee. Among a host of other things, Peterson developed the concept of the "hot receiver" in 1964 that remains in most offenses today.
- **1964:** Fred Biletnikoff became FSU's first consensus All-American as a senior in 1964. He ranked fourth nationally with 57 receptions for 11 touchdowns which did not include his four touchdowns in the Gator Bowl win over Oklahoma. Biletnikoff put FSU on the map and he was married under the goalposts at Doak Campbell in 1965. He would go on to have a Hall of Fame career with the Oakland Raiders. The national award given to the top college receiver in the country is named after him.
- **1966:** Ron Sellar's began a career at Florida State that would prove one of the most prolific in college history. He gained an unheard of 3,979 yards over his career. His statistics were so impressive that most lasted as national records all the way until 1987. He caught passes in 30 consecutive games and averaged 119.9 yards per game. He is a member of the college football Hall of Fame.
- **1970:** While integration of schools throughout the country came painfully slow, Florida State's first African-American player took the field in 1970. J.T. Thomas was a starter from the first game he played at FSU and he backed a sterling college career with three Super Bowl rings earned as a member of the
- **1971:** Larry Jones coached the Seminoles from 1971-1973. An 0-11 campaign in his last year spelled the end for the coach. Among notable players during his era were outstanding wide receiver Barry Smith, quarterback Gary Huff and Alabama transfer Billy Sexton.
- **1974-75:** Darryl Mudra coached the Seminoles for two seasons and did his work from the pressbox on game day. Perhaps the biggest accomplishment of Mudra's brief tenure, that included the NCAA mandated scholarship limits for the first time, was the signing of an unheralded running back named Larry Key. Key would prove to be one of the finest running backs in Seminole history.
- **1976:** FSU president Stanley Marshall and athletic director John Bridgers set up a dinner meeting at an airport hotel in Tampa where West Virginia head coach Bobby Bowden was coaching an all-star game known as the American Bowl. They offered him a four-year contract worth \$37,500 and he became the Seminoles' eighth head coach on January 12. Bowden was interviewed for the job six years earlier when it went to Larry Jones, but FSU officials felt he lacked the experience.
- **1979-80:** Florida State got its first taste of the real big-time in 1979 and 1980 going to back-to-back Orange Bowls against Oklahoma. FSU went undefeated (11-0) over the regular season in 1979, but lost 24-7 to the Sooners and finished sixth in the final AP poll. The Tribe took a 10-1 record into the Orange Bowl showdown the next year before losing a heartbreaker 18-17.
- **1980:** If one game can be singled out as the most important in the recent run of unprecedented success at Florida State, it would be the contest at Nebraska on September 7, 1980. FSU won in Lincoln by a 18-14 score that opened the eyes of the entire country. Nebraska fans shook of a mixture of shock and confusion to stand and give Bobby Bowden and his Seminoles a standing ovation as they left the field.
- **1981:** FSU takes on the following schools in order all on the road: Nebraska, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, and LSU. FSU won at Ohio State, Notre Dame and LSU, but, more importantly, won fans coast to coast for its undaunted spirit.
- **1981:** In 1981 a freshman tailback named Greg Allen was given the football in the middle of legendary Death Valley with a sea of LSU fans around him. He finished the day with a remarkable school record 202 yards that signaled the arrival of a superstar for the Seminoles. Later that year, he would rip Western Carolina for 322 rushing yards, which still stands as the best rushing game ever for a Seminole.
- **1986:** Deion Sanders spent a quiet first two years at Florida State before exploding on the national scene in a preseason press conference. He would become one of the most popular players ever in college football and one of the greatest athletes in FSU history. Florida State and college football would never be the same after Sanders' career.
- **1992:** On July 1, 1991, the Atlantic Coast Conference accepted Florida State University, as its ninth member and the first addition to the league since Georgia Tech joined in 1978. FSU had competed in the Metro Conference for all sports other than football, which had been an independent. FSU's first ACC football game was a 48-21 win over Duke on September 7, 1992.
- **1993:** The Seminoles won their first national championship behind Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward in 1993. FSU played Nebraska in the national title game at the Orange Bowl and used freshman Scott Bentley's late field goal to win 18-16.
- **1995:** A 31-26 come-from-behind win in the fourth quarter of the Orange Bowl against Notre Dame was FSU's 11th consecutive bowl win. The streak set an NCAA record as was FSU's 14-game unbeaten streak in bowls that was spoiled only by a 17-17 tie with Georgia in the 1984 Citrus Bowl.
- **1999:** Bobby Bowden used to keep an empty picture frame in his office, which was reserved for his first perfect season. He filled the frame with a 1999 team photo. The Seminoles finished the year 12-0 and topped off the record run with a 46-29 win over Virginia Tech for the national championship in the Sugar Bowl.
- **2000:** Chris Weinke literally rewrote the FSU record book over his senior season and took home the second Heisman Trophy for a Seminole player when he won the award in December of 2000. He would finish his career with a record of 32-3 as a starter.
- **2001:** Bobby Bowden extended his NCAA leading bowl winning percentage with a 30-17 win over Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl. The Gator Bowl bid also extended FSU's streak to 20 consecutive appearances in a postseason bowl game.
- **2002:** Bobby Bowden passed Bear Bryant into second place on the all-time coaching wins list.
- **2003:** Bobby Bowden defeats Wake Forest to become all-time winningest major college coach. The Seminoles won the ACC and earned the BCS bid.
- **2004:** Bobby Bowden Field at Doak S. Campbell Stadium was dedicated on November 20, 2004 prior to the Florida game.