

HEAD COACH



NEIL HARPER

Head Coach
10th Year
Louisiana State, 1990



THREE-TIME ACC COACH OF THE YEAR (2004, 2006, 2007)

BIO

Entering his 10th season as head coach of the Seminoles, Neil Harper has proven he knows how to build one of the elite programs in the ACC and emerging programs in the country. His 110 wins rank him third and .815 winning percentage ranks him second in ACC history on the women's side. With 76 ACC Champions and 42 NCAA All-American honors and one National Champion in that time span, Harper's Florida State squads are continually at the top of the ACC standings and in the running at the NCAA Championships.

Perhaps the 2008 season was one of Harper's finest coaching jobs at FSU. Harper's women broke the school record for wins in a single season with 17 while the men reach double-digits in victories for the first time since 2005. Leading a pair of inexperienced teams into the ACC Championships the Seminoles were expected to finish in the middle of the pack, yet under the tutelage of Harper and his staff, both programs took home third place finishes. For the ninth consecutive season FSU had an ACC Champion on the men's and women's teams' and for the eighth straight season a Seminole earned All-American honors at the NCAA Championships on the women's side, and for the third straight year on the men's side.

Harper followed up his 2006 ACC Women's Coach of the Year award in 2007 with another Coach of the Year nod, this time on the men's side. After four consecutive second place finishes, the FSU men finally broke through in 2007 with their first men's ACC Championship. The men were lead by meet MVP Kyle Young and Jarryd Botha who won two events apiece. At the 2007 NCAA Championships, the men captured 17th place, including four All-American honors led by National Champion diver Terry Horner. On the women's side, the Seminoles followed up their 2006 ACC Championship with a second place finish including eight event victories. FSU went on to finish 17th at the NCAA Championships which included an All-American performance from senior backstroker Romy Altmann. The women finished seventh in the CSCAA poll, their highest finish ever.

Florida State athletes are a regular sight on top of the medal stand at the ACC Championships under Harper's tutelage. Over the last seven years, the women's team has won 45 individual and relay titles while the men have amassed 31. The 16 combined championships in 2007 were the most during Harper's tenure. Only Florida State and Virginia have produced an individual men's champion in each of the last seven years and the Seminoles are the only ones with at least one gold medal winner since 1992. FSU, UVA and North Carolina are the only teams that have produced one or more women's champions in the last seven seasons.

As to be expected, the Tribe has been rewriting the school's record books. Twenty-one of the women's 24 school marks have fallen during Harper's time at FSU, including 18 marks that were reset or broken in the last three years. On the men's side, 22 records have fallen during Harper's watch.

Not only are more of the Florida State records held by Harper's student-athletes, but the all-time top ten contains more of his athletes than any other coach in the program's history. Within the women's lists, 106 of the 130 best times in Seminole lore have been set during Harper's nine years, including either the number one or two spots in all but one event. The men's team has put its name down 95 times since Harper's arrival in 1999.

Over the last six seasons, Florida State has built itself into one of the best dual meet teams in the country. The women's team has finished the year ranked in the final CSCAA Top 25 poll in seven of Harper's nine seasons while the men have ended the season in the rankings in six out of nine years. Harper's 77-31 (.713) mark on the men's side is second in school history and his winning percentage is first among active ACC coaches. Since the 2001-02 season, the women have won at least nine meets and have only one loss outside the Top 25. The men have produced at least nine wins per season in all but one season during that same time frame with five losses beyond the Top 25. Florida State swimmers and divers excel in the classroom just as well as they do in the pool. Since 2000, the Seminoles have had at least 20 student-athletes on the ACC Honor Roll each year, including a program-high 40 in 2007.



HEAD COACH



HARPER'S COACHING RESUME

1999-present:	Head Coach, Florida State University
1997-99:	Head Women's Coach, Ohio State University
1994-97:	Assistant Coach, Florida State University
1988-94:	Assistant Coach, Louisiana State University

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

2004:	Swaziland Olympic Games Team (Athens, Greece)
2003:	Swaziland FINA World Championship Team (Barcelona, Spain)
2002:	Commonwealth Games (Manchester, England)
2001:	Swaziland FINA World Championships Team (Fukuoka, Japan)
2000:	South African Olympic Games Team (Sydney, Australia)

A 1990 graduate of Louisiana State University, Harper served as an assistant at his alma mater following graduation up until his first appointment with the Seminoles. During his six years in Baton Rouge, LA, he helped Tiger swimmers earn 21 NCAA All-America honors and seven Southeastern Conference titles. During the 1991 season, both the men and women posted one of their best finishes at the NCAA meet as both came away with a 14th-place showing.

As a competitor, Harper is one of the top swimmers in LSU history. He first made his name in the SEC when he won the 100-yard backstroke at the 1986 meet. Throughout his career, Harper collected four SEC titles while earning seven NCAA All-America awards. During his final year, LSU won its only SEC Team Championship and finished sixth at the NCAA championships, the highest finish in school history. He still ranks on the Tigers' all-time top ten in four different categories.

The London native represented Great Britain in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics in the 100 and 200-meter backstroke as well as a member of the 400-meter medley relay with sixth and fourth-place finishes respectively.

The 43-year-old Harper is married to the former Paige Busch, who was also an All-American and SEC champion in the 100-yard breaststroke at LSU. The couple has two daughters, Katherine (14) and Kelly (12).



Harper's acumen in the pool extends internationally as he has coached at the biggest international competitions in the last six years. During the summer of 2004, he was on deck for his fourth Olympic Games as he traveled to Athens, Greece, to coach Wickus Nienaber as the head man for the Swaziland contingency. Nienaber was just one of five of Harper's pupils competing in the Olympics as Chris Vythoukas swam for the Bahamas, Golda Marcus carried the El Salvador flag and Julio Santos represented Ecuador.

The biggest thrill for Harper at the 2004 Olympics was watching one of his former pupils on the medal stand. Stephen Parry – a stand out for the Seminoles while Harper was an assistant – brought home the bronze medal in the 200-meter butterfly after posting the fastest time during the semifinals. In 2000, Harper was a member of the South African Olympic coaching staff in Sydney, Australia. The following year he traveled to Fukuoka, Japan to coach Nienaber in the FINA World Championships. During the summer of 2002, he mentored Nienaber at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, where he was joined by former Seminole All-Americans Stephen Parry and Brett Petersen, as well as Vythoukas. During the summer of 2003, he returned to the FINA World Championships in Barcelona, Spain with Nienaber.

In May of 1999, Harper returned for his second stint in Tallahassee after two years as the women's head coach at Ohio State. In two seasons with the Buckeyes, Harper's team posted a 15-12 mark while qualifying six athletes for the NCAA Championships. In the classroom, Ohio State excelled just as well as both of his teams received NCAA All-Academic selections. Within the conference, the Buckeyes received more than 20 Academic All-Big Ten Conference honors during his two seasons.

From 1994-97, Harper served as the top assistant at Florida State under Don Gibb. One of his main duties was to coordinate the Seminoles' recruiting efforts. His work with the recruiting speaks for itself as during that time Florida State produced numerous All-Americans, including FSU's first NCAA champion, Parry, in the 200 butterfly. As a top aide, Harper was also in charge of the team's strength and conditioning, while working with the stroke and individual medley swimmers. His work in the pool produced the school's first female All-Americans in six years as former assistant coach Anne Blachford (200 IM), Helen Jepson (200 fly) and Samantha White (100 breast) all enjoyed NCAA success.



ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH



ANDY ROBINS

Associate Head Coach
14th Year
William & Mary, 1983



BIO

Florida State has solidified itself at the top of the ACC and one of the main reasons is the presence of associate head coach Andy Robins, in his 14th season with the Seminoles.

Robins was awarded the Associate Head Coach position in 2003 and is responsible for organizing team workouts, performance data, team travel and home meet management.

Robins' has worked with the Seminole sprinters under head coach Neil Harper and in 2008 added a new chapter to FSU's illustrious sprinting history. Under the coaching of Robins' junior Scott Baker had a career year culminating with All-America honors in the 50 free at the NCAA Championships. Baker swam a personal best 19.49 to earn a seventh-place finish. Baker's time is now second only to Seminole legend Brendon Dedekind. Robins' also helped lead senior Lauren Sparg to her first career individual honorable mention All-America honors with her 11th place finish in the 100 fly. Sparg was also the ACC Champion in the 100 fly and now owns the school record in both the 100 and 200 fly events.

Five Seminoles qualified for the 2007 NCAA Championships in sprint events. Florida State sprinters have earned ten All-Americans honors during Robins' tenure. Most recently, Christy Cech won back-to-back (2001-02) All-America awards in the 50 freestyle. The Seminoles have also brought home 15 All-America certificates in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

FSU has been even more successful at the conference level with Robins. The Seminoles brought home four gold medals at the 2007 ACC Championships in sprint events. Under Robins, FSU sprinters have now won 17 ACC titles in the 50 and 100 freestyle events and 20 gold medals in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. All told, 28 sprinters have collected All-ACC honors during the last ten years.



ROBIN'S COACHING RESUME

2002-present:	Associate Head Coach, Florida State
1995-2001:	Assistant Coach, Florida State
1993-97:	Head Coach, Area of Tallahassee Aquatic Club
1990-91:	Head Coach, Florida All-Stars
1989:	Assistant Coach, Florida All-Stars
1986-91:	Head Coach, Leon High School
1985-92:	Assistant Coach, Area of Tallahassee Aquatic Club

Prior to Coach Harper's return, Robins worked primarily with the stroke disciplines and individual medley specialists. He most notably worked with Stephan Parry, a NCAA Finalist, as well as a 2004 Olympic bronze medalist. During that time Robins also coached Seminole All-Americans, Anne Blachford, Keam Ang and Nelson Mora.

Florida State's team results during his tenure speak for themselves. The men's squad has scored points at the NCAA Championships in eight of his 12 years, including three of the past four, with the highest finish in school history, a ninth-place showing in 1997. The women's 16th-place finish in 2006 was their best ever and part of ten trips to the NCAA Championships since 1995.

Robins has helped take the Seminoles from the middle of the ACC pack to the team to beat in the conference. FSU won their first men's ACC swimming and diving championship in 2007 and have not finished outside the top two since 2003. The women followed-up their first ACC Championship in 2006 with a second place finish in 2007. They have now finished in the top three in five out of the last six years. With Robins on the staff, FSU has dominated its dual-meet schedule. Since 1995, the Seminoles have had just one sub .500 season and have a combined 175 dual-meet victories.

Even prior to his graduation from college, Robins had been actively involved in coaching and his involvement with local swimming and diving dates back more than 20 years. His association with swimming in the Big Bend began in 1985 when he took a position with the Area of Tallahassee Aquatic Club. Robins took over the head coaching duties for ATAC in 1993 and led the squad to a top ten finish at the 1996 Junior National Championships.

In conjunction with his work with ATAC, Robins served as the head coach at Leon High School in Tallahassee from 1986-91. After only his second year on the job he was named High School Coach of the Year by the Tallahassee Democrat.

He also served as head coach for the Florida All-Star Team in 1990 and 1991 after spending the previous two seasons as an assistant coach. Away from the pool Robins served on the Florida Swimming Board of Directors, the House of Delegates and the Technical Planning Committee from 1987-98.

A 1983 graduate of The College of William & Mary with a bachelor's in psychology, he earned his master's in science education from Florida State in 1987. While in college, Robins swam both the backstroke and distance freestyle events. His swimming accomplishments at William & Mary include setting the school record in the 1650 freestyle while also serving as co-captain.

The 48-year-old Robins and his wife Karen have four children, Beth (30), Kurt (29), Jenna (23) and Annemarie (12).

DIVING COACH



PATRICK JEFFREY

Diving Coach
10th Year
Ohio State, 1988
Ohio State Hall of Fame, 2005



BIO

To mold a championship diver, it takes a true champion, and Florida State's Patrick Jeffrey certainly fits that bill. A three-time NCAA Champion and two-time Olympian, Jeffrey was inducted into the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005. Entering his 10th year in Tallahassee, his experience has helped Florida State divers re-write the ACC and Seminole record books.

The 2008 season was business as usual for Florida State divers with three All-American performances, four All-ACC results and two ACC Championships. On the men's side Jeffrey's four divers earned 10 top eight finishes at the ACC Championships led by a pair of victories by Terry Horner (1m, 3m) and a pair of second place finishes by Dan Frebel (3m, Platform). The women also held their own at ACC's with the team's four divers earning points in 11 out of 12 opportunities. At the NCAA meet, Horner once again earned All-American honors with a third-place finish on the 1m and Honorable Mention All-American honors on the 3m. Aleia Monden also earned her first career Honorable Mention All-American honor on the platform. Jeffrey's divers now have a total of 15 All-America certificates during his time at FSU.

Jeffrey's divers made a significant statement heading into the new season at the United States Championships where Horner captured the National Title on the one-meter and third-place honors on the three-meter. Dan Frebel was a Finalist on Platform with a seventh place finish. Scott Derner and Dan Frebel took home fourth-place in the men's three-meter synchronized competition solidifying the men's team third-place finish at Nationals. On the women's side Aleia Monden placed third with her partner in the platform synchro competition.

A NCAA Division I Champion himself, Jeffrey can now say he's coached one with Terry Horner's victory in 2007 on the one-meter board. Horner doubled up his all American status quickly with an eighth-place finish on three-meter the next day.

Since Jeffrey's arrival in 1999, he's not only put Florida State diving on the map, he's set the standard for diving in the entire conference. Seminole divers have captured 18 of the 36 ACC championships on the boards during Jeffrey's tenure. Within that stretch, eight different Seminoles have claimed conference titles with eleven divers named All-ACC. In that time span, Florida State divers have also claimed four Women's ACC Divers of the Meet awards, three Men's ACC Diver of the Meet honors as well as Women's ACC Swimming & Diving Rookie of the Year.

Jeffrey's coaching accolades also stretch internationally. On the world stage Jeffrey was a member of the 2007 United States World University Games staff where he coached two of his own pupils, Horner and Dan Frebel. He was on the 2000 US Olympic team coaching staff along with the 1997 and 1999 US Senior World Cup Staffs. He also coached the 2001 US World Championship team in Fukuoka, Japan. He has served as a Senior National team

coach from 1997-2000 with a one year stint (1998) with the Junior National Team. Under Jeffrey's tutelage, divers have won five US Senior National titles, three Junior National championships, and a pair of third place finishes for the Senior Men's team in US national competition.

Five out of the nine years that Jeffrey has been with Florida State, the school has claimed at least one conference title on the men's side. FSU's four-straight championships on the one-meter and three more in the three-meter have not been equaled in nearly 20 years.

Eight of the ten FSU diving records have been broken in the past four years, including new marks by Terry Horner (one-meter, 3 meter) and Dan Frebel (platform) last season. The only records not owned by Jeffrey's divers are from All-Americans Paul Spray and Wendy Fuller which will stand forever because of event format changes.

Jeffrey's wealth of diving knowledge is a direct result of his own career. A seven-time All-American, he highlighted his tenure at Ohio State with a tremendous senior season in 1988. He became the first and only diver in NCAA history to sweep all three diving events with championships on the one-meter, three-meter and platform, earning him 1988 NCAA Diver

of the Year. Leading up to those NCAA Championships, he swept the Big Ten Conference meet as well and was honored with 1988 Big Ten Diver of the Year.

On the international scene, Jeffrey was a finalist on the ten-meter platform at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Ga. He is a five-time U.S. National Diving Champion splitting those championships between disciplines with three in the ten-meter platform event while holding a pair of titles in the three-meter springboard event. He was also the US Olympic trials Champion on platform in 1996. In addition, he won bronze medals at the 1991 and 1995 Pan-Am games. He competed as a member of the US's 1989 and 1995 World Cup teams as well as at the 1993 Goodwill Games Team.

Most importantly, Jeffrey has drawn from all this experience to structure a program that is designed to develop up and coming athletes into national and world level contenders. He takes from the knowledge that he obtained in his twenty years as an athlete and the subsequent twelve as a coach in the trenches at the world and national levels.

"I have had the unique opportunity to observe and study the world's best programs and diving ideologies in action and have applied the common denominators to our program. I still always have the opportunity to consult with mentors in diving. Seminole divers use resistance and plyometrics training, dry land spotting and exercises, ballet, pilates, nutrition, competition strategy sessions, film analysis (team and world level footage) and basic and advanced water workouts blended into an individualized peaking progression to fuel their success."

"I am confident that our program is absolutely unique because of the amount of resources and experiences that are available to me. My experiences in diving span from day one all the way to the world level both as an athlete and as a coach, both on springboard and platform and that is hard to find. Every diver who comes through my program leaves with a comprehensive understanding of the sport of diving to the highest levels. I am also confident that there are very few experiences that one of my athletes could have that I wouldn't be able to advise them on or relate to both personally and professionally after 32 years of diving exposure. At FSU we have the highest quality resources and support to draw from to create a healthy, positive and productive experience. I feel most importantly that I am fully aware that the well being of my athletes is of utmost importance. We nurture and guard our team culture constantly. All of the opportunities in the world will be wasted if the athlete isn't in a proper environment to take advantage of them. Finally, I always keep in mind that life is waiting for these young men and women after diving is over and I am committed to prepare them for that by providing them experiences in sport to draw from in life."

JEFFREY'S COACHING RESUME

2007:	World Student Games Team
2001:	U.S. World Championship Team
2000:	U.S. Olympic Team
1999	U.S. World Cup Team
1999-present:	Diving Coach, Florida State
1998:	Junior National Team
1997:	US World Cup Team
1996-present:	U.S. Senior National Team
1996-99:	Diving Coach, Florida Atlantic

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

1988 United States Olympic team
1996 United States Olympic team
1996 US Olympic trials Champion
5x US National Champion
3x NCAA Division I Champion
2x Pan Am Bronze Medalist
2x U.S. World Cup Team Member
U.S. Good Will Games Team Member
Many Time International Champion/Medalist

ASSISTANT COACHES



KATY PETERSON

Assistant Coach
1st Year
Virginia Tech, 2005



BIO

Katy Peterson brings a history of success both as a coach and a swimmer to the Seminole coaching staff. Before coming to Florida State Peterson spent three years as an assistant coach with Richmond beginning in August 2005 and helped lead the team to an Atlantic 10 conference championship in all three seasons on staff. While at Richmond she was responsible for both coaching and recruiting duties and helped bring in the No. 23-ranked recruiting class in the nation for the 2009 season. She has coached three Olympic trial qualifiers and three NCAA qualifiers including a honorable mention All-American. Under the direction of Peterson, 21 school records were broken during the last three seasons as well as six Atlantic 10 conference records.

The Philadelphia, Pa., native graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise, after a record-setting four-year career for the Hokies.

While in Blacksburg, Va., the backstroker qualified for the Big East and Atlantic Coast Conference finals four-straight years in the 100 and 200 distances. Peterson also was successful on the national level qualifying for the Senior Nationals in the 100 and 200 back from 2000-2005.

She was the individual record-holder at Virginia Tech in the 100 and 200 back, and was part of the record-holding 400 medley relay. Two Hokie pool records belong to Peterson, in both the 100 and 200 back events.



GARY TAYLOR

Assistant Coach
1st Year
Minnesota, 2001



BIO

First year assistant coach Gary Taylor will bring enthusiasm and a wealth of knowledge to Florida State in 2008-09. He will be counted on to use his experience at the club and Big 10 level to help take the Seminoles to the top of the ACC.

Taylor joined Dynamo Swim Club in Atlanta, Ga. during the fall of 2005. During that time he was responsible for the Age Group 1 and SR2 groups at the Alpharetta location. Taylor switched to Alpharetta after spending two years coaching at Chamblee. Prior to the Dynamo, Taylor spent six years of coaching with the Twin Cities swim team as the lead site coach in Minnetonka, Minn. During this time, he gained valuable experience working with beginners, age groupers, seniors and masters swimmers. Taylor has a proven track record of developing champions. He has had the opportunity to coach USA and Minnesota high school state champions, USA and Minnesota high school state record holders, Junior National qualifiers, high school All-Americans, Minnesota Masters record holders and Masters National top 10 performers. Under Taylor's guidance the Twin Cities-Minnetonka team grew steadily doubling in size to 160 registered swimmers, while the new Masters program successfully grew to more than 30 swimmers in only two years.



Taylor graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2001 while earning his B.S. in Sport Management. While at Minnesota, he was a member of the Golden Gopher swim team including the Big Ten championship teams in 1998 and 2001. Taylor has also earned his ASCA Level 3 rating and continues to gain knowledge in the sport of swimming through coaching and education.

SUPPORT STAFF



ALEX KENNON

1st Season
Florida State, 2007

BIO

One of Florida State's most decorated athletes returns to Florida State as a graduate assistant. Alex Kennon was a two-time NCAA All-American, four-time ACC Champion and five-time All-ACC performer in the pool for the Seminoles. As captain of the 2006-07 squad, he helped guide FSU to its first men's ACC Championship with victories in the 50 free and 400 medley relay. Kennon also ranks fourth in three events on FSU's all-time top 10 list. While his performances in the pool were impressive, Kennon was even better in the classroom, earning NCAA All-Academic honors while also garnering ACC All-Academic Team honors twice and ACC Honor Roll status all four years in college. Kennon's prowess in the classroom earned him a NCAA postgraduate scholarship. The Winter Haven, Fla. native graduated in 2007 with a degree in biological sciences and will continue his education at Florida State's medical school beginning this fall.



IAN POWELL

1st Season
Florida State, 2008

BIO

Only months after receiving his diploma, former Seminole swimmer Ian Powell is back with Florida State, in a different capacity. Powell enters his first year as a graduate assistant at FSU after finishing a tremendous career in the pool for the Seminoles. The Guernsey, England native is a former ACC Champion and two-time All-ACC performer. He finished his collegiate career with a third-place finish at the ACC Championships with a personal best time in the 200 fly. Powell ranks in FSU's top 10 in three events including the second best time in school history in the 200 fly. Powell was part of the ACC Champion 200 medley relay team in 2007 that helped lead the Florida State men to their first-ever ACC Championship. He qualified and competed in the 2008 Great Britain Olympic Trials and finished fourth in the 200 fly and sixth in the 100 fly. Powell graduated with a degree in marketing and is currently pursuing a master's degree in sport management.

COACHING STAFF



2008-09 Seminole Coaching and Support Staff