

2001 SEASON REVIEW

Coming off the most successful season in Florida State soccer history in 2000, the 2001 Seminoles had their work cut out for them if they wanted to improve on a magical 2000 campaign. Despite a trip to the Sweet 16 and setting 58 records and program firsts in 2000, one could argue 2001 was even more amazing. Last year's Seminoles set 76 more records and program firsts, advanced to their second straight NCAA Tournament, played for the school's first-ever ACC Title and started and finished the season ranked in every poll for the first time in team history.

For a squad that had never been ranked before the 2000 season, coming into 2001 as a consensus preseason Top 20, including a program-high ranking of No. 12 by *Soccer America*, was new territory. Bolstered by the team's second consecutive nationally ranked recruiting class, the 2001 Seminole freshman class was ranked eighth by *SoccerBuzz*, Florida State opened the year by hosting the Seminole Soccer Tournament.

With three freshmen in the starting lineup, the Tribe exploded for three goals in a 36-minute span to open the season with a win for the second consecutive year. The 3-2 victory over George Mason featured two goals in less than 15-minutes by junior Cindy Schofield which would signal the beginning of the most productive offensive campaign for a team or individual in school history. The Seminoles carried that momentum into game two of the tournament and thoroughly dominated Loyola (Md). Florida State outshot the Greyhounds 37 to three and

took 16 corners compared to zero as FSU went on to a 2-0 win.

With a 2-0 start in hand, the Seminoles traveled to the Nike/Wake Forest Invitational to face two teams that would eventually end up in the College Cup. Portland and Santa Clara were both members of the 2000 Elite Eight with Portland advancing to the College Cup. Both schools ended the 2000 campaign in the top 10 and would provide FSU with its biggest early test of the season.

Entering the tournament in Winston-Salem, FSU was sporting a program-best No. 7 ranking in the collegesoccer.com

the Garnet and Gold played right with one of the nation's top teams. The Tribe remained within a goal of the Broncos for most of the match's first 72 minutes before National Player of the Year Aly Wagner recorded two goals in the final 18 minutes to send the Seminoles to 2-2 through four games.

After the horror of the attacks on America postponed the Seminoles meeting with the Hurricanes, FSU traveled to Clemson to face its third straight top 10 opponent in the seventh-ranked Tigers. Considering the fact FSU was 1-25 in ACC road games and 0-6 in conference

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media poll. The Pilots, ranked second in the nation, couldn't shake the Seminoles as the teams were either tied or separated by just one goal for more than 78 minutes before the Pilots put the game away late in a 3-1 victory. The match was highlighted by the first career goal for All-ACC Rookie team selection Jez Ratliff.

Things didn't get any easier as Florida State faced No. 5 and eventual National Champion Santa Clara next. Once again,



Cindy Schofield



Jenny Garcia

openers, the prospect of dropping below .500 for the first time in 29 straight games was a real possibility. On top of that, Clemson had lost just one ACC game since November of 1999 coming into the match.

The Tigers jumped out to a 1-0 lead just three minutes in. The score remained 1-0 until the 30th-minute when Amber Tollefson began a dominating run in ACC play. The sophomore showed individual brilliance as she beat two Tiger defenders and 2000 All-ACC keeper Katie Carson to even the game at 1-1. Clemson fought back to move in front 2-1 at the start of the second half but freshman sensation and Oklahoma Gatorade Player of the Year Camie Bybee scored in her second



Katie Talley

consecutive game as she once again evened the match. With less than five minutes to go before overtime, Tollefson struck again. The midfielder launched a dangerous cross from the left side of the box, which was headed to a wide-open Jez Ratliff at the top of the six-yard box. Before Ratliff had a chance to bury the cross, a Clemson defender made a last gasp attempt to clear the ball but deflected it into the net giving the Tribe its first-ever win in an ACC opener.

The victory over Clemson was one of the most important in FSU program history. The Tribe handed the Tigers a loss at Riggs Field for just the 12th time in 90 matches up to that point and got a measure of revenge against the team that eliminated the Seminoles from the Sweet 16 in the 2000 NCAA Tournament. It also kept the Seminoles over .500 for the 29th straight game dating back to 2000 and began the most successful ACC campaign in program history.

Riding high after the win at Clemson, Florida State recorded another come-from-behind victory. The Seminoles scored four-unanswered goals in a 4-1 defeat of 2001 NCAA Tournament team Kansas as Camie Bybee and Cindy Schofield each recorded their third goal of the season. The victory moved FSU to 4-2 with a match against NC State and a chance to move to 2-0 in the ACC for the first-time ever looming on the horizon.

The regionally televised showdown with the Wolfpack was a coming out party for freshman Jez Ratliff. The forward scored just 2:02 in to stake the Tribe to a 1-0 lead. After the Wolfpack evened the game just before half, starting keeper and Maryland Gatorade Player of the Year Kerry York aggravated an injury suffered in warm-ups bringing fellow freshman Ali Mims off the bench. The Ponte Vedra, Fla. native, who saw action in just one game all season, came into a tie game being televised throughout her home state by the Sunshine Network. Mims responded immediately as she was tested twice in the 78th-minute but answered the call both times keeping FSU alive in the 1-1 game. The contest moved to OT where Baker had never lost since taking over the FSU program and that trend held true. Ratliff scored her second goal of the game and first golden goal of her career in the 2-1 win. The 5-2 start was the program's best since 1996 and it was the first time FSU had ever started an ACC season 2-0.

Intrastate rival Florida was up next as FSU traveled to Gainesville for the first time since downing Gators in the second round of the 2000 NCAA Tournament. The win was the second for Florida State

over UF in 2000 as the Seminoles opened the season with a 3-2 win over Florida and ended the Gators season later that year. Florida got a measure of revenge as they stunned the Seminoles with two goals in less than a two-minute span in front of 3,472 fans. The loss would be the last for FSU over the next four matches.

The Seminoles recorded comeback victory number three and ran their home record to 5-0 on the season with a 4-2 win over Louisville. Jez Ratliff and Cindy Schofield recorded their fourth goals of the year and Amber Tollefson knocked in her third to help move FSU to 6-3. Ali Mims and the Seminole defense then recorded back-to-back road shutouts as the Tribe downed South Florida 1-0 and then blasted 2001 NCAA Tournament team UCF 5-0.

With its two road wins, FSU returned home to face Duke and looked to move into first place in the ACC at the midway point of the season. After falling behind 2-0 in the first half, the Seminoles continued to show how different they were from past squads.

After already recording come-from-behind victories over Clemson, Kansas and Louisville, the team had to establish another program first if they were to move to 3-0 in the ACC. A Seminole team had never comeback from a two-goal deficit to record a win in the school's seven years but that was the task ahead of them as they came out of the locker room in the second half against the Blue Devils. Just over eight minutes into the second period, Amber Tollefson netted her third goal in ACC play and less than six minutes after that standout freshman Camie Bybee scored her fourth goal of the year to even the game at 2-2. Despite the valiant comeback, it looked as if the Seminoles would come up short when Duke was awarded a penalty kick in overtime but freshman Ali Mims saved the first PK she faced in her collegiate career breathing new life into the Seminoles. Just two minutes after the game-saving stop, Cindy Schofield knocked in her eighth goal of the season in the 102nd-minute to move Baker to 4-0-3 in his Seminole career in OT games. The win gave Florida State its most ACC victories in team history as it moved into first-place all alone in the conference at 3-0.

After dominating 4-1 and 3-1 wins at Florida International and in a make-up game over Miami, Florida State stood at 7-0 at home, 3-3 in the ACC and 11-6-0 overall. The Seminoles, who started 3-0 in conference, lost road games at North Carolina and heartbreakers at Wake Forest and Virginia but still had the

opportunity to lock up third place in the conference as they closed out the home portion of their schedule against No. 21 Maryland.

With the team's highest conference finish and first-ever undefeated home campaign on the line, two familiar faces continued their record-breaking seasons against the Terrapins. Amber Tollefson scored her fourth ACC goal of the year and Cindy Schofield tied the FSU single season record with her 14th goal in the Tribe's 2-0 win. The Seminoles' four ACC wins in 2001 were just one shy of the five the team had amassed in the previous six seasons combined and FSU locked up third place in the ACC and a perfect 8-0-0 season at the Seminole Soccer Complex.

With just one regular season game remaining, the Seminoles traveled to Jacksonville with the opportunity to establish even more records. The Dolphins broke on top of FSU in the eighth minute before the records began to fall. The Seminoles tied the game at 1-1 by setting the record for the quickest time answering an opponent's goal just 17 seconds after JU scored. Cindy Schofield then established a new single season record for goals scored as her 15th of the year was just one of four goals scored by Florida State in the second half as the Tribe cruised to a 5-1 win. The Garnet and Gold held an 18-0 edge in corner kicks and the victory pushed FSU to a program best 13-6-0 regular season record. On top of that, the team had locked up its 25th regular season win in the last two seasons, which was more than FSU had in the previous three seasons combined.



Ashlee Fontes

2001 Notes...

- ◆ IN 2001, FSU ESTABLISHED A NEW PROGRAM RECORD FOR WINS WITH 15 IN A SEASON.
- ◆ THE SEMINOLES APPEARED IN THEIR FIRST-EVER ACC CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL.
- ◆ ONE OF JUST FOUR ACC TEAMS TO FINISH 2001 RANKED IN EVERY COLLEGE SOCCER POLL.
- ◆ FSU WAS THE ONLY TEAM TO FACE EVERY COLLEGE CUP PARTICIPANT DURING THE 2001 REGULAR SEASON.
- ◆ NO TEAM IN THE NATION PLAYED MORE REGULAR SEASON GAMES VERSUS NCAA TOURNAMENT TEAMS THAN FSU'S 16. THE SEMINOLES WENT 8-7-1 IN THOSE CONTESTS INCLUDING FIVE GAMES AGAINST THE TOP SIX SEEDS.
- ◆ THIS IS THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON IN WHICH THE SEMINOLES HAVE POSTED A WINNING PERCENTAGE OF .500 OR BETTER VERSUS THE NCAA TOURNAMENT FIELD.
- ◆ THE SEMINOLES STARTED THE YOUNGEST LINE-UP IN THE ACC LAST SEASON WITH FOUR FRESHMEN AND THREE SOPHOMORES STARTING ALMOST EVERY GAME. OVERALL, FIVE FRESHMEN COMBINED TO START 76 TIMES DOWN THE CENTER OF THE PITCH IN 2001.
- ◆ FLORIDA STATE FINISHED THE SEASON SECOND IN THE ACC AND 29TH IN THE NCAA IN SCORING OFFENSE.
- ◆ THE TRIBE RECORDED THE ONLY WIN OVER CLEMSON AT HISTORIC RIGGS FIELD IN 2001 AS THE TIGERS WENT 9-1 ON THE SEASON.
- ◆ FSU STARTED AND FINISHED THE SEASON RANKED IN EVERY POLL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEAM HISTORY.
- ◆ THE GARNET AND GOLD PLAYED SEVEN GAMES AGAINST TEAMS IN THE TOP 10 OF THE FINAL NSCAA TOP 25 POLL.
- ◆ FLORIDA STATE WRAPPED UP THE FIRST PERFECT HOME SEASON IN SCHOOL HISTORY AS A WIN OVER NO. 21 MARYLAND PUSHED THEIR RECORD TO 8-0-0.
- ◆ WITH FIVE HOME WINS VERSUS NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS IN 2001, FSU EXTENDED ITS HOME WINNING-STREAK AGAINST NON-ACC TEAMS TO 17 GAMES DATING BACK TO BAKER'S ARRIVAL IN 1999.
- ◆ THE ONLY ACC TEAM TO REACH TEN WINS FASTER THAN FSU IN 2001 WAS NORTH CAROLINA.
- ◆ THE SEMINOLES RECORDED THE PROGRAM'S FIRST EVER TWO-GOAL COMEBACK IN A 3-2 OT WIN OVER DUKE.
- ◆ FLORIDA STATE'S 5-0 WIN OVER UCF WAS ITS LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY SINCE 1998. THE SEMINOLES THEN MATCHED THAT WITH A 7-2 WIN OVER MARYLAND.
- ◆ IN THREE GAMES VERSUS UCF, USF AND LOUISVILLE, FSU OUTSHOT ITS THREE OPPONENTS 66-15, HAD A 33-8 ADVANTAGE IN SHOTS ON GOAL AND A 29-3 EDGE IN CORNER KICKS.
- ◆ IN A TEN GAME STRETCH FROM SEPTEMBER 16 TO OCTOBER 16, FSU POSTED A PROGRAM BEST .800 WINNING PERCENTAGE INCLUDING VICTORIES OVER THREE CONFERENCE FOES AND THREE TEAMS THAT ENDED UP IN THE 2001 NCAA TOURNAMENT.
- ◆ THE SEMINOLES FACED SEVEN OF THE 15 FINALISTS FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS HERMANN AWARD IN 2001.
- ◆ FLORIDA STATE RECORDED OVERTIME WINS BY SCORING A "GOLDEN GOAL" AGAINST NC STATE AND DUKE IN 2001. FOUR OF THE PROGRAM'S SIX GOLDEN GOALS HAVE NOW COME AGAINST TEAMS IN THE ACC.

Heading into the ACC Championships as the No. 3 seed, Florida State traveled to Winston-Salem, NC to play its fourth game of the year at Spry Stadium and its second in less than a week versus No. 6 seed Maryland. The 21st-ranked Terps came into the Championships with one of the nation's top defenses having allowed just 12 goals in 17 games and had given up only seven goals in games versus ACC teams. Florida State equaled that mark in one afternoon as the Seminoles exploded for a 7-2 victory highlighted by multi-goal games from All-ACC first team selection Cindy Schofield and All-ACC Rookie team member Camie Bybee. The win tied FSU's record for the most

victories in a single season, broke the record for the most goals scored by an FSU team in a postseason game, helped to establish the record for the most goals and points scored by a Seminole team in a single season and were the most goals ever scored in an ACC Tournament game by a team other than North Carolina. It was also FSU's first-ever ACC Tournament win and came just a year after the Tribe advanced to the semifinals for the first time in program history after tying Wake Forest and then advancing in a shootout.

Next up for FSU was a rematch with No. 14 Virginia in the ACC Championship semifinals. The Seminoles and Cavaliers had met just a week before and FSU had a

2001 Awards & Honors

ALL-ACC

Cindy Schofield First, 2001
 Amber Tollefson Second, 2001

ALL-ACC FRESHMAN TEAM

Katie Beal 2001
 Camie Bybee 2001
 Jez Ratliff 2001

ALL-ACC TOURNAMENT TEAM

Katie Beal 2001
 Heather Dyche 2001
 Amber Tollefson 2001

ACC PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Amber Tollefson 9/24/2001
 Cindy Schofield 10/8/2001
 Cindy Schofield 11/5/2001

NSCAA ALL- REGION

Cindy Schofield Second Team (2001)
 Amber Tollefson Second Team (2001)

SOCCERBUZZ ALL-SOUTHEAST REGION

Cindy Schofield First Team (2001)
 Amber Tollefson First Team (2001)
 Katie Beal Third Team (2001)
 Kristin Boyce Third Team (2001)
 Katie Beal All-Freshman Team (2001)
 Camie Bybee All-Freshman Team (2001)

SOCCERBUZZ NATIONAL HONORS

Cindy Schofield Honorable Mention All-American (2001)
 Amber Tollefson Honorable Mention All-American (2001)
 Katie Beal First Team Freshman All-American (2001)
 Camie Bybee Second Team Freshman All-American (2001)
 Marte Vik Edvardsen Elite Team of the Week (9/5/2001)
 Camie Bybee Elite Team of the Week (9/26/2001)
 Cindy Schofield Elite Team of the Week (10/10/2001)

SOCCER AMERICA NATIONAL HONORS

Camie Bybee Team of the Week (9/26/2001)
 Amber Tollefson Team of the Week (9/26/2001)



Katie Beal

2-1 lead before UVa tied the game and then got the game-winner with less than two minutes remaining in the match. The ACC semifinal match was just as close as the teams played four overtimes with neither side finding the back of the net. After 150 minutes, the game moved to a shootout with a trip to the ACC Championship final on the line. Ali Mims capped a brilliant second half performance by saving two of the first three kicks she faced and was called on once again to keep FSU alive as the PK's moved to the final shooter tied at 2-2. Virginia sent two-time ACC

Player of the Year Lori Lindsey to the line. The midfielder, who scored 17 goals in 2001, sent a hard shot right down the middle. Mims, who was already diving to her right, stuck her foot out and kick saved the shot giving the Tribe the opportunity to advance to the finals on their last shot. Junior defender Ashlee Fontes stepped up to the line to take the first penalty kick of her career. The right back had never scored a goal in three years as a Seminole but was taking arguably the most important kick in the history of the program. Fontes stepped up to the line and sent the

game's final PK into the left side of the net beating Jodi Clugston and sending FSU into the championship match.

After never advancing out of the first round of the ACC Tournament in the program's first five seasons, head coach Patrick Baker led the Seminoles into the semifinals in 2000 and then into the championship game a year later. Florida State was unable to dethrone 12-time ACC Champion North Carolina but a trip to the program's second-ever NCAA Tournament seemed to be a lock after the impressive run through the ACC Championships.

The Tribe opened up the 2001 NCAA Tournament in Clemson, SC against first-time NCAA entrant and SEC Tournament runner-up Auburn. For the second straight year FSU began its run in the NCAA Tournament with a win as all-everything freshman Camie Bybee and fellow Oklahoman Jez Ratliff combined to net the game's only goal in the 60th-minute. It was Bybee's 10th of the season and she ended up just two goals shy of equalling the freshman record of 12.

Clemson ousted its SEC opponent Kentucky in the other opening round match as the two ACC schools met for the second consecutive season in the NCAA Tournament. In one of its most dominating performances of the year, Florida State controlled most of the match against the Tigers as they took more shots and had more corners than Clemson and shut down the Tigers in the second period. Florida State totally clamped down on the Clemson offense rarely letting the Tigers get near its third of the field. For the half, Florida State outshot Clemson nine to one, took three shots on goal compared to one for the Tigers and took two more corner kicks than did Clemson but the Tigers made their only shot of the half count. In the 76th-minute a miscommunication on the Seminole end line allowed Paige Ledford to pick up the loose ball and net the game-winner.

Despite a disappointing end, Florida State proved in 2001 that its emergence as a national soccer power the year before was no fluke. The Seminoles proved they could win in the nation's top soccer conference in 2001 with their second place finish in the conference tournament and four ACC wins. The Tribe also showed how much they believe in themselves as evidenced by four come-from-behind victories in 2001 and eight over the last two seasons compared to just three come-from-behind wins in the previous six seasons. Add to that back-to-back top 20 rankings and NCAA Tournament appearances and it is easy to see why 2001 was magical in so many ways. ⚽