



Coaching Staff



HEAD COACH PATRICK BAKER

OTTERBEIN COLLEGE '89 • 6TH SEASON AT FSU • 16TH SEASON

Reigning Soccer America National Coach of the Year Patrick

Baker has established himself as one of the top soccer minds in the nation in his 15 years of coaching and has cemented that reputation over the last five years leading the Florida State program. He took on the job of rebuilding a young program in Tallahassee in 1999 and after one full season on the job he had Florida State in the Sweet 16 of the 2000 NCAA Tournament. Just three years later his Seminoles were at the programs first ever College Cup as part of the final four in 2003. He has totally reconstructed the FSU program to not only a force in the ACC, the nation's top soccer conference, but on the national stage as well.

Baker's coaching has elevated his players to unknown levels of success and his teams to the heights of the collegiate soccer world. His squads have been to four straight NCAA Tournaments, three Sweet 16's and a final four in the last four seasons. For the first time ever Florida State finished the 2003 campaign ranked in the top five by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), Soccer Buzz and Soccer Times with a program high No. 4 ranking from the NSCAA.

Florida State's run to the College Cup in 2003 was just another example of Baker's mastery in the NCAA Tournament. His postseason success at Florida State has been one of the major hallmarks of Baker's tenure. While 2003 was just the program's fourth ever trip to the NCAA Tournament, they have already been to the Sweet 16 three times and advanced to the College Cup under Baker's guidance. Only eight of 297 schools in America have been to three of the last four Sweet 16's and Baker's Seminoles are one of those elite eight teams. FSU is the only school of the eight that made its first NCAA Tournament appearance during that four-year span. The Tribe under Baker is one of the more remarkable postseason stories. A Baker-coached FSU team has never lost a first round NCAA match in and the team is 9-4 all-time in their four NCAA Tournament appearances for a .692 winning percentage. That is one of the best winning percentage of all-time in the tournament. In the Tribe's first four NCAA trips they have averaged two wins per tournament appearance, which is the sixth-best average of wins per appearance in NCAA Tournament history. While all of that success is impressive, it isn't even close to the most astounding number when it comes to success at the NCAA Tournament under Baker. Florida State's nine wins in its first four trips ranks third all-time for wins in a team's first four trips to the NCAA's. Only North Carolina and Notre Dame have more victories in their first four postseason appearances than FSU.

Baker's coaching prowess isn't only illustrated by what his teams have accom-

plished in the postseason but also by the way his players have flourished under his command. Junior Leah Gallegos became FSU's first-ever first team All-American and consensus All-American in 2003. Seminole players never received any type of All-American honor before Baker arrived, but Between 2000-2002 FSU players were named either All-Americans or freshman All-Americans on seven occasions. Then in 2003 Seminole players were honored with 12 more All-American awards. Of the 61 postseason honors won by Florida State players, 59 have come in Baker's five years in Tallahassee.

The overall turn-around of the program that has taken place in Tallahassee in the five years since Patrick Baker arrived is amazing. Baker's success has established his program as one of the ACC's best and the numbers prove he is one of the best in the ACC as well. Only one ACC coach (Anson Dorrance at North Carolina) can match Baker's accomplishments in the regular season, the ACC Tournament and the NCAA Tournament. Since taking over their ACC program, no coaches other than Dorrance and Baker have guided their team to more ACC Championship finals and none have been to a College Cup except for Baker and Dorrance. Baker is one of only three coaches to go four straight NCAA Tournaments and three Sweet 16's in the last four years. He is third in ACC Tournament winning percentage, second in overall wins, fourth in overall winning percentage and tied for second among all ACC coaches in ACC Tournament wins. The Tribe's winning percentage has gone from .421 in the first four years of the program's existence to .615 in Baker's tenure and only one ACC team (North Carolina) has more program wins than Florida State since 2000. Baker has changed FSU's fortunes inside the ACC by elevating the .125 lifetime ACC winning percentage to .575 in just three years.

Baker's teams haven't only been successful they have been record setting. He has coached all four of the highest scoring teams in Florida State history. His Seminole squads hold records for wins, winning percentage, best ACC winning percentage, most ACC wins, most goals scored and fewest goals allowed. Every offensive career and single season record except for one is held by a Seminole who was coached by Baker and his teams have 15 of the 17 all-time wins over ranked opponents.

On top of turning the program's fortunes around on the field, Baker also set goals to improve the program in recruiting and in attendance and he has exceeded expectations in both areas. From 2000 to 2003, only seven schools brought in four recruiting classes with a combined higher ranking than FSU. Florida State is also one of just nine schools that was able to bring in four straight top 25 classes from 2000-2003. For the second time in three years, Baker's 2003 recruiting class was ranked in the Top 10 in the nation as it set a new school record when

FSU Highs

Most Wins 17 (2003)
Best Record 17-8-1 (2003)
Best ACC Record 4-2-1 (2003)
Best ACC Finish 2nd
(2001 & 2003)
NCAA Success ... College Cup (2003),
Sweet 16 (2000 & 2002),
Round of 32 (2001)

Awards

2003 Soccer America National Coach of the Year
2003 SoccerBuzz Runner-Up National Coach of the Year
2000 SoccerBuzz Runner-Up National Coach of the Year
2000 SoccerBuzz Southeast Region Coach of the Year

US National Team

U-17 2003-04
U-19 2001-02
U-16 2000
U-21 1997-99

Olympic Development

Region III Head Coach
U-14 North Carolina
U-17 State coach Eastern PA
U-16 South region camp
U-18 South region camp
U-17 South region Asst. Coach

Soccer Buzz labeled it the nation's seventh-best group. Of Baker's four straight top 25 classes, three have been ranked amongst the nation's top 12. Four Gatorade Players of the Year have also elected to play soccer at FSU under his watch.

It is undeniable that Baker has established the Seminoles as one of the premier teams in the southeast. For the second year in a row the Tribe finished second in the region behind only North Carolina and ranked ahead of every ACC school but UNC. In Soccer Buzz's final regional rankings FSU once again finished ahead of Clemson, Auburn, Wake Forest, Florida and Duke to name just a few. FSU also finished ahead of everyone in the region except for the Heels in the final NSCAA national poll. For the second straight year only one ACC team (North Carolina) advanced farther in the NCAA's than FSU did. The Seminoles are now in a class with just UNC and Virginia in the east in terms of success on the field and in the recruiting process.

The success in recruiting has led to FSU's soaring success on the field and the Tallahassee community has responded in turn. In 2002 Florida State drew a school record 12,422 fans, which was the ninth-best total in the NCAA. Then in 2003 FSU set another new record establishing a new all-time high with an average of 865 fans per game and



finishing in the top 20 in the nation for a second consecutive year. In 2002 the largest crowd in school history turned out as 1,603 people watched the Seminoles beat the Florida Gators for the third time in four tries and overall three crowds of 1000 or more fans came out to support the Tribe. Florida State doubled that total last season as six 1,000+ crowds turned out for 10 home games. Florida State has now drawn 13 home crowds of 1,000 or more fans and 11 have come since Baker took over the program. In those 11 games, FSU is 10-1-0 and they have won six straight games in front of crowds of 1,000 or greater. Since coming to Tallahassee Baker's plan to get the community behind FSU soccer has paid off as

15 of the 20 largest all-time crowds have turned out to watch Baker-led teams and they keep coming back because the Tribe is 13-1-1 in those 15 matches.

2003

As much as head coach Patrick Baker has done in his five years at Florida State, the job he did in 2003 might be his best yet. Baker's 2003 squad was his youngest to date but loaded with talent. Although they set records for the most wins in school history and the best winning percentage ever, on opening day 2003 FSU started four first-year starters and six players with just a year or less college soccer experience. On top of that, Baker had just two

seniors on the roster. The youth of the team showed early on as the Tribe fell to four 2003 NCAA Tournament teams in the first five games of the season, three of those four teams wound up playing in the Sweet 16 at the end of the year. With a 3-1 loss to the Jayhawks at Kansas, Baker's Seminoles fell to 1-4. A season that started with a unanimous top 15 ranking was at a turning point. From that point on Baker turned his squad around and led FSU on a run that was like none other in school history as the Tribe went 16-3-1 the rest of the way leading up to the College Cup. In that stretch of 20 games, 15 came against 2003 NCAA Tournament teams, six were against teams in the Sweet 16 and two came against consensus No. 1 North Carolina.

It all started with a 6-1 win over a San Diego State squad that finished 2003 allowing an average of 1.4 goals per game versus every other team on its schedule. That victory led to a run in which the Seminoles reeled off five straight wins to tie a school-record for the longest winning streak in program history. The streak included FSU's first shutout of the year, two wins over top 25 teams and a win over an ACC opponent.

The five-game win streak took FSU to No. 4 Virginia where the Tribe faced the only ACC team they have never beat. For 85 minutes it looked like they would get that first ever win. A Cav goal with five minutes remaining tied the game and UVA then won the contest with just 23 second left in regulation. Baker picked his team up once again after a disappointment and led them to another huge run through ACC play going 5-0-1 in their next six outings with three of those games coming on the road. During that run, FSU shut out every single opponent and outscored the competition 15-0. They knocked off ACC squads Duke, Clemson and NC State and played to a scoreless draw with Wake Forest in Winston-Salem, NC. The four-game unbeaten streak in ACC play was a school record and locked up FSU's highest-ever conference finish at second place. The streak ended in a 1-0 loss versus consensus No. 1 North Carolina to end the regular season but the performance was a strong showing versus a team that had outscored its previous six ACC opponents 27-3.

The next weekend Baker and the Seminoles went to the ACC Championships with the highest national ranking in team history at No. 6 (*Soccer America*). The Tribe traveled to Cary, NC as the No. 2 seed and they proved they were every bit worthy of that high seeding. The Seminoles won two games (2-1 over Wake Forest and 1-0 over Maryland) at the ACC Tournament for the first time ever in advancing to the team's second final in three years, which moved Baker into elite company. The FSU head coach and UNC's Anson Dorrance are the only two ACC coaches to play for the title twice in the last three years. While his first ACC title eluded him again, Baker's squad played Carolina to the closest ACC final in 15 years, became the first team to score on UNC in the final since 1996, the first team to score twice since 1994 and they even lead at 1-0 and for over 23 minutes at 2-1.

One day after falling to Carolina by a goal, the Tribe gathered to watch the NCAA selection show where they were awarded a national seed (No. 11) for the first time in

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Coaching Experience

North Carolina Wesleyan (1989-1993)	45-21-4 (5 years)
University of Pennsylvania (1994-1998)	52-37-5 (5 years)
Florida State University (1999-present)	68-41-8 (5 years)
Total	165-99-17

Milestone Victories at FSU

First win	Mercer 4-1 (9/3/99)
First ACC win	Wake Forest 2-0 (10/5/00)
First NCAA win	Jacksonville 4-1 (11/8/00)
First Sweet 16 win	West Virginia 3-2 (11/23/03)
First Elite Eight win	Florida 2-1 (11/28/03)
First win over a ranked team	Florida 3-2 (8/25/00)
First ACC road win	Clemson 3-2 (9/17/01)
50 th win as FSU head coach	Ole Miss 2-0 (11/15/02)
Career victory No. 100	Stetson 4-0 (9/9/99)
Career victory No. 150	Miami 7-1 (9/19/03)

Coaching Accomplishments

- ☛ Four straight NCAA Tournaments
- ☛ Four straight Top 15 final rankings including the program's first top five ranking in 2003
- ☛ 2003 *Soccer America* National Coach of the Year
- ☛ Three Sweet 16's and a College Cup in the last four years
- ☛ A lifetime .692 NCAA Tournament winning percentage
- ☛ Of the 61 postseason honors won by FSU, 59 have come since Baker's arrival
- ☛ Two-time ACC Championship finalist
- ☛ More than 200 program first and records set since 2000
- ☛ 15 wins over ranked teams and six wins over top 10 opponents
- ☛ One of only two coaches in the ACC to play for the title in two of the last three championships
- ☛ All-time winningest coach in FSU history



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program history and named a host site for the second year in a row. The Seminoles received a lot of praise during the selection show as *Soccer America* senior editor Scott French said, "You look at Florida State. Florida State is playing wonderful soccer right now. They gave Anson (Dorrance) and North Carolina quite a bit of problems in the ACC Final. I say watch out for Florida State." He went on to predict, "I think it will come down to UNC and Notre Dame. I think North Carolina will prevail. I think UCLA and Florida State will be the other two teams in the final four." Florida State got off to a great start in fulfilling French's College Cup prediction with a 5-0 win over Ivy League Champion Dartmouth. The win was the most lopsided in FSU's NCAA Tournament history and saw the Tribe go on to break nine other records in the victory.

Florida State next met a familiar foe in the second round as the Seminoles and Auburn Tigers faced off for the third straight season in the NCAA Tournament. Just like FSU's other two second round wins, the Tribe advanced past an SEC team by the score of 2-1 but the difference this time was it took 101 minutes to do so. The victory was the first overtime win for FSU in the NCAA Tournament and the first-ever NCAA come from behind win after Auburn jumped out to a 1-0 lead.

The win sent Florida State to its third Sweet 16 in four years and once again they were shipped to a BIG EAST school in the north. This year it was sixth-seeded West Virginia. The Seminoles had never advanced into the Elite Eight and had never even scored a goal in a Sweet 16 match. It took Kelly Rowland about 14 minutes to end one of those streaks. Her goal at 13:48 staked FSU to a 1-0 lead. Katie Beal extended the Tribe lead to 2-0 at 21:30 with a penalty kick goal. The Seminoles looked to be headed to the NCAA quarterfinals before a WVU come back. The Mountaineers scored the equalizer at 87:21 and sent the game into overtime. With just 21 seconds remaining before the Tribe moved into their first ever NCAA Tournament shootout, the hero from the Auburn game struck again. Junior Katie Beal showed tremendous composure as she lofted an attempted clearance to the top of the WVU 18. Jez Ratliff settled and one touched a great ball out to Leah Gallegos. With time winding down, the super sophomore blasted a shot into the net

and sent Florida State to its first ever Elite Eight.

The Seminoles faced a familiar foe in the Elite Eight as they took the short bus ride down to Gainesville, FL to face the 3rd-seeded Florida Gators. The Seminoles had already lost to UF in their first meeting of the year (2-0) and were facing a Florida side that was unbeaten in their last 19 home games and had lost just 11 times in 105 games played in Gainesville. That didn't seem to bother Baker's Tribe though as they put together one of the most dominant performances of the year and surged out to a 2-0 lead over Florida. The Gators added an 88th minute goal but it wasn't enough to keep Baker and Florida State from its first-ever College Cup.

Florida State's journey from 1-4 to the final four was an amazing accomplishment for Baker and his players but even more amazing than rebounding from a 1-4 start was what the Seminoles had to do to make it to the final four. Baker was the only coach that led his team to the College Cup by defeating a higher seed and Baker had to do it twice with wins at West Virginia and at Florida. The Seminoles beat both higher seeds on the road — something no other College Cup team had to do in 2003. Beating West Virginia in Morgantown and Florida in Gainesville were daunting tasks considering those two teams were 36-1-2 (.949) at home before FSU knocked them off. WVU was 19-1 before the Tribe's OT win and UF was unbeaten at home since 2001 (17-0-2) and 94-11 all-time in Gainesville. There was less than a 1% chance FSU would go into both those venues and come away with wins but Baker's squad found a way to do it and in the process became the only team that made it to Cary, NC by beating the highest seeded team in its bracket.

2002

The 2002 season was another in what is becoming a long line of success stories for Baker. After the school's first trip into the Round of 16 in 2000, Baker led his Seminoles back into the third round of the NCAA tournament. The Tribe won two NCAA Tournament games at home for the first time ever downing SEC opponents Mississippi and Auburn. The 2002 squad set a record for the fewest regular season loses in team history, recorded back-to-back wins versus three ACC teams (Clemson, NC State and Maryland), won its third game in four tries versus Florida and finished the year ranked second in the southeast region for the first time ever. No team in the ACC except for North Carolina had a better NCAA Tournament run in 2002 than FSU and the Seminoles were ranked ahead of every ACC team except for UNC in the final NSCAA national poll.

For the third straight year the team set over 45 records and program firsts including the squad's first-ever ACC road win in the state of North Carolina (5-1 over NC State), back-to-back ACC seasons with a .500 or better record for the first time ever and the first ever three-game winning streak versus an ACC opponent (Maryland). When Florida State swept its two-game road trip against Maryland and George Mason, FSU not only completed an undefeated regular season road campaign but they also upset a

conference opponent on the road. The Tribe's victory in College Park over Maryland also set a new gold standard as FSU now had four all-time wins versus a conference opponent for the first time ever.

2001

The 2001 season saw Baker break through in the ACC despite being on the job for just over two years. Before 2001, Florida State had never finished higher than seventh in the ACC and was predicted to finish fifth by the ACC coaches. After Baker emphasized the importance of a better conference finish, Florida State had the most successful conference season, the most regular season ACC wins and the highest conference finish in the history of the program. The Garnet and Gold started the season by winning its first-ever conference opener at No. 7 Clemson and then burst out of the gate to a 3-0 start with wins over Duke and NC State. Considering the fact that FSU had just two ACC wins in the program's first four seasons, the team's 3-0 start in 2001 was a huge leap for the Seminoles. Florida State closed out their ACC regular season schedule by downing Maryland to lock up third place in the regular season. The team's four ACC victories were just one shy of equaling the five ACC wins the program had amassed in its previous six years combined.

Florida State's regular season ACC success paid off when it came to the 2001 conference tournament. In the four seasons before his arrival, FSU had never won a game at the ACC Tournament while being outscored 23-1. In 2000, Baker's Seminoles advanced to the semifinals and then in 2001 the program played for its first-ever ACC Championship. With its best ever seeding in program history, Baker guided his team to its first appearance in the ACC Championship final by downing No. 21 Maryland 7-2 and then advancing past No. 8 Virginia in a shootout after four over-time periods. FSU held Virginia scoreless through 150 minutes of play and keeper Ali Mims made three saves in the shootout to advance Florida State into the final against No. 1 North Carolina.

2000

Baker's transformation of the Seminole soccer program took less time than anyone could have imagined as he turned Florida State into a national power in just his second year on the job. Baker led the 2000 squad to the Round of 16 of the NCAA Tournament and *Soccer Buzz* named him the Southeast Region Coach of the Year and runner-up National Coach of the Year. He guided the Seminoles into the national rankings for the first time and his 2000 squad broke 34 team and individual records and set 25 program firsts. After just one full year of recruiting, the 2000 Seminoles recorded victories over national champion North Carolina and nationally ranked teams Texas A&M, Florida (twice) and Wake Forest on the way to their first-ever NCAA tournament.

Evidence of Baker's outstanding coaching job that season can be seen in the squad's improvement against common opponents from the 1999 to the 2000 campaigns. Florida State had a positive

Coaching Staff



turn-around against 12 of the 14 opponents they played in 1999 and 2000 and one of the two negatives, South Alabama, was still a win. The Seminoles record went from 1-9 against this group in 1999 to 8-5 in 2000 and FSU had a 46-goal turn-around against this group. Add that to first-time victories against six opponents and it is easy to see how far Baker had taken the Seminoles in just two seasons. This trend continued in 2001 as Baker's Seminoles faced 13 teams they also faced during the 2000 season. Florida State picked up five wins against teams they lost to during the 2000 season and overall the team had a six-goal turn-around against this group that included North Carolina, Clemson, Florida, Duke, Virginia, Wake Forest and Maryland.

1999

Baker took over a program in 1999 that had just one winning season in four years and had only won 15 of the previous 41 games before he was hired. He immediately improved the team from a 7-11-3 record in 1998 to 9-10-1 in 1999. Baker, only the second coach in the history of Florida State women's soccer, led the Seminoles into the southeast regional rankings for the first time since 1996. Florida State spent four weeks as the No. 10 team in the region and twice tied the record for the longest winning streak in team history (four games).

Penn & NC Wesleyan

Before taking over the Seminole program, Baker served as the women's head coach at the University of Pennsylvania for five years. During his tenure at Penn, Baker established a 42-37-5 record, won an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championship and was named the 1997 Mid-Atlantic Region Coach of the Year. He led Penn to the two-best seasons in program history in 1997 and 1998. Prior to his head coaching stint at the University of Pennsylvania, Baker achieved similar success at the Division III level where he coached North Carolina Wesleyan to three NCAA Division III tournament appearances and three Top 10 finishes. He compiled a record of 45-21-4 in his five years and was twice named the Dixie Conference Coach of the Year. In 1991, Baker was named the National Soccer Coaches of America Association's (NSCAA) Division III South Region Coach of the Year. Last year he was inducted into North Carolina Wesleyan's Hall of Fame.

US National Team & ODP

Baker is also an integral member of the US National Team program and served as the interim head coach for the U-17 National Team after assisting head coach David Smith with the newly formed team. He has also assisted U-19 National Team head coach Tracey Leone on numerous occasions at the Arco Training Center in Chula Vista, CA preparing the team for the inaugural U-19 FIFA World Championships. Baker helped the U-19 National Team prepare for a match against the Mexican National Team and for a European tour in 2001. He recently traveled to help prep the full national team for

an Olympic friendly versus the Australian National Team that Baker's squad faced three times during the summer of 2004. He served as the head coach for the Region III girl's Olympic Development Program (ODP) and was named an assistant coach for the 2000 U-16 Women's National Team.

Baker has attended the South Region ODP camps since 1990 and has a total of 16 years experience at all levels of the ODP. Prior to working with the U-16 team, he assisted head coach Lauren Gregg with the U-21 Women's National Team for three consecutive years. He served four years at the U-14 state level in North Carolina and was the 1996 U-17 ODP state coach for Eastern Pennsylvania. Baker coached the U-16 and U-18 ODP South Regional camps for eight years and was the assistant coach for the U-17 South Region team from 1991-93. Baker was also the U.S. South Region amateur coach for five years where he received the national coach of the year award in 1994.

Committees

Baker served as a member of the Division I Mid-Atlantic Rankings Committee from 1995-1998, was the ISAA/Adidas South Region Rankings Chairman in 1993 and the chairman of the ISAA/Gatorade South Region Rankings Committee from 1990-1992. Baker also served as the chair of the NCAA Division III South Region Committee in 1993 after serving two years on NCAA Division III South Region Tournament Committee in 1991 and 1992.

Personal

He received his Bachelor of Arts from Otterbein College in 1989 as a double major in Radio & Television Broadcasting and Journalism with a minor in Public Relations. He graduated with a 3.67 GPA and was a starter all four years for the men's soccer team. He was named team captain as a junior and senior. Baker was a member of the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) All-Academic Team from 1986-1989, was a first team All-Conference selection in 1989 and played on three OAC Championship squads. He played soccer for 11 years in England and Germany while his father was stationed overseas with the US Air Force.

Baker is married to Kelly Sack-Baker and the couple has two children. Emma Louise Baker is three and was born in February of 2002. The couple's newest addition is Ryan Patrick Baker who was born in February of 2003.



BAKER VS. THE OPPOSITION

OPPONENT	W-L-T	NCAA
Auburn	4-0-0	3-0-0
UCF	4-0-0	0-0-0
Clemson	3-4-0	0-2-0
UConn	0-2-0	0-2-0
Dartmouth	1-0-0	1-0-0
Duke	2-2-1	0-0-0
FAU	1-0-0	0-0-0
Florida	4-3-0	2-0-0
FIU	3-0-0	0-0-0
George Mason	2-0-0	0-0-0
Georgia	1-0-0	0-0-0
Jacksonville	6-0-0	1-0-0
Kansas	1-1-0	0-0-0
LSU	0-1-0	0-0-0
Louisville	1-0-0	0-0-0
Loyola College	1-0-0	0-0-0
Maryland	5-3-0	0-0-0
Mercer	1-0-0	0-0-0
Miami	4-1-0	0-0-0
Mississippi	2-0-0	1-0-0
Missouri	0-1-1	0-0-0
North Carolina	1-8-0	0-0-0
NC State	3-0-2	0-0-0
Ohio St	0-1-0	0-0-0
Oregon	2-0-0	0-0-0
Oregon St	1-0-1	0-0-0
Penn State	0-1-0	0-0-0
Portland	0-1-0	0-0-0
San Diego State	1-0-0	0-0-0
Santa Clara	0-1-0	0-0-0
South Alabama	2-0-0	0-0-0
USC	0-1-0	0-0-0
USF	5-0-0	0-0-0
Stetson	1-0-0	0-0-0
Texas A&M	1-1-0	0-0-0
Virginia	0-5-1	0-0-0
Virginia Tech	1-0-0	0-0-0
Wake Forest	2-3-2	0-0-0
West Virginia	1-0-0	1-0-0
Wright State	1-0-0	0-0-0



Coaching Staff



Assistant Coach **ROBIN CONFER**

NORTH CAROLINA '98 • 2ND SEASON AT FSU

When Patrick Baker announced the hiring of new assistant coach Robin Confer he hoped she would bring the program to new levels due to her experience as a National Champion during her playing days at North Carolina. The planned worked better than expected as within six months of her stepping foot on campus the Seminoles played in the program's first College Cup as they advanced to the final four of the 2003 NCAA Tournament.

Confer now enters her second season at FSU as she continues to serve as recruiting coordinator and assistant coach under Baker. Confer has also spent the last two years serving on the Region III ODP staff at Montevallo, AL.

She joined the Seminole staff after a stellar career in the ACC and successful coaching stints in both the Big 12 and SEC. The former National Player of the Year and three-time National Champion at North Carolina has seven years of collegiate coaching experience. She also returns to her home state as she grew up in Clearwater, FL and played at Central Catholic High School.

Before arriving at FSU, Confer was an assistant coach at Mississippi State for three years under head coach Neil McGuire. While with the Bulldogs, she not only coached and trained players but she served as recruiting

coordinator, which put her in position to scout and evaluate players. She also assisted in game strategies, overall team planning and arranged team travel.

Before her stint in Starkville, MS, Confer served as a second assistant at one of the top women's soccer programs in the nation at Texas A&M. While working with Aggie head coach G. Guerrieri, Confer and Texas A&M advanced to the Sweet 16 in back-to-back NCAA Tournaments. Confer's first coaching experience came at her alma mater as she served as a volunteer assistant under coaching legend Anson Dorrance at North Carolina.

A four-year starter at North Carolina from 1994-1997, Confer helped the Tar Heels to three national championships (1994, 1996-1997). During her senior season, Confer was named the National Player of the Year by both the Soccer News and SoccerBuzz. She was also a finalist for the Hermann award, which recognizes the nation's top collegiate soccer athlete and a semifinalist for the Missouri Athletic Club Sports Foundation Player of the Year award in 1998.

Confer currently ranks fourth on UNC's career scoring list behind such great names as Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and U.S. Women's National Team coach April Heinrichs. She is the fifth-best goal scorer in Tar Heel history with 77, and her 55 career assists are the third most in North Carolina

soccer history.

In North Carolina's run to the 1997 National Championship, Confer was named the Most Valuable Offensive Player of the NCAA Final Four, as well as being named a first team All-American. She is one of just 11 former North Carolina players to have had their jersey retired.

A former captain of the U-21 U.S. National team, Confer made her international debut January 18, 1996, against Ukraine and has since played with the national team on seven other occasions. She played professionally in 1998 as a member of the W-League's Raleigh Wings and collected MVP honors in the league's championship game in her rookie season.

In 2001, she was drafted in the fifth round of the WUSA's Global Draft as a member of the Boston Breakers in the league's inaugural season before a back injury cut her playing career short.

Confer was a standout forward at Clearwater (FL) Central Catholic High School where she scored a state record 227 goals, including 80 during her senior season prior to being named a Parade All-American. Her record was eventually broken by former Florida State standout Cindy Schofield who scored 238 goals at George Jenks High School just an hour away from where Confer played high school soccer. Confer received her bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science from North Carolina in 1998.



Assistant Coach **ROB THOMPSON**

LOCK HAVEN '95 • 2ND SEASON AT FSU

Rob Thompson returns for his second season at Florida State and will continue to serve as the team's goalkeeper coach. He also will have additional responsibilities when it comes to individual training and team travel.

In his first year as an FSU assistant, Thompson continued to develop goalkeeper Joy McKenzie's skills and mentored her to a record-breaking season. In her first year as a starter, McKenzie set school records for wins, consecutive shutout minutes, consecutive ACC shutouts, consecutive ACC shutouts, ACC shutouts and consecutive shutout minutes in ACC play. She also set a school record for GAA, total goals allowed and goals allowed in ACC play. Under Thompson's guidance, McKenzie went on to earn all-region honors and all-tournament honors at the ACC Championships.

The Grimsby, England native has spent the last nine years as a goalkeeper coach at all levels of collegiate and professional soc-

cer and he is now working with the US Olympic Development Program (ODP) where he is a Region III assistant.

Before arriving at Florida State, Thompson spent two seasons as the goalkeeping coach and team administrator for the New York Power of the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA). In his time with the WUSA's Power, Thompson was responsible for planning and conducting daily training sessions to aid in the progress and development of the team's goalkeepers. In 2002, Thompson worked with Power GK Saskia Webber who was second in the league in saves and in the top 10 for GAA. He also assisted head coach Tom Sermanni in all aspects of on field training and game preparation.

Prior to working with the WUSA, Thompson spent a year at the Division I level as the goalkeeper coach for the men's soccer team at Adelphi University. Thompson worked with goalkeeper Igor Yatsenko who led the conference that year with a 0.84 goals against average in 1076:04 minutes of play. Yatsenko also led the conference in

save percentage with 50 saves and 10 goals against for a .833 average. He was also the director for the Adelphi University Goalkeeper Camp.

From 1998-2001, Thompson had his first stint coaching professional soccer with the Long Island Rough Riders of the A-League. During his tenure on Long Island, the Riders went to the playoffs three times and posted a 57-46-7 record. While with the team, Thompson also served as the assistant director of the Rough Riders Soccer Camp.

Thompson's first coaching job came at Division II Lock Haven University where he was the assistant coach for the men's and women's teams. While at the Pennsylvania school, he assisted in recruiting student-athletes for both teams, planning international pre-season tours and fundraising. He was also the assistant director of the Lock Haven University Soccer Camp. Thompson received his master's degree in liberal arts in 1998 and Bachelor of Science in recreation, leisure and commercial management in 1995 from Lock Haven.



Team Manager **KRISTIN BOYCE**

1ST SEASON AT FSU

Former Seminole great Kristin Boyce is one of the players head coach Patrick Baker credits with helping turnaround the Florida State program. In her four years at FSU Boyce started 79 matches and appeared in over 80 during her stellar career. Although her final season was cut in half due to an injury, the left back still received All-ACC first team honors from conference coaches. This year she moves from the sidelines to the bench as she will serve as team manager.

Only two players in Seminole history have started more games for Florida State than Boyce and she and teammate Amber Tollefson are the only two Seminoles to be a part of four NCAA Tournament squads. When Boyce committed to Florida State, the Tribe had never been to the NCAA Tournament. Since her arrival, FSU has played in a College Cup and three Sweet 16's.

Boyce will go down in FSU history as one of the greatest defenders to ever wear

the Garnet and Gold. She is the only common link between the four best statistical defenses in team history starting as the left back from 2000-2003. She made a team-high 66 consecutive starts before her career ending-injury.

As good as Boyce was defensively, no defender in Seminole history was a more potent offensive weapon than Boyce. The Texas native still holds the career record at FSU for goals scored and points by a defender. In each of her first three years she led all FSU defenders in scoring and she has recorded some of the biggest goals in team history. As a freshman it was her game-winning goal at 113:02 that gave FSU its first and only win ever against North Carolina. As a sophomore she set the school record for goals in a single season by an FSU defender with five including a goal versus Maryland in the 2001 ACC Championships. Even in her final game as a Seminole Boyce was making an impact on the offensive end. The last play of her career was a game-winning goal versus Clemson in South Carolina.

On top of her first team All-ACC selection in 2003, Boyce has been named all-region by Soccer Buzz on two occasions and by the NSCAA in 2003. She is also a four-time member of the ACC Academic Honor Roll.

A former team captain, Boyce will graduate in December with a degree in Sport Management. She plans on pursuing her Master's Degree at FSU in Elementary Education.



SOCCER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS



From Miami to Minneapolis, and from Warsaw to Walla Walla, young men and women come to Florida State University to embrace its educational excellence, and to compete as a Seminole. Many would not have the opportunity to receive that college education without their athletic scholarship. These young people work hard, and proudly represent Florida State as a winner on the national stage, attracting the attention to our University that winners bring.

Florida State Athletics provides each of our men's and women's teams with the maximum number of scholarships allowed by the NCAA. In addition to the field competitors, scholarships are also provided to student trainers, managers and graduate assistants who are vital to an athletic program.

The last fifteen years have seen a three-fold rise in the cost of athletic scholarships at Florida State. Today, more than \$300,000 is needed to permanently endow a Florida state athletic scholarship. Most of the top public universities with whom Florida State competes and to whom we are compared, have endowed all of their athletic scholarships.

Established in 1986 under the direction of William M. Parker of Clearwater, the Seminole Boosters Endowed Scholarship Program is the final step toward perpetual funding of all scholarships for student-athletes at Florida State. Those

individuals who contribute to the endowment fund for athletic scholarships at Florida State University gain membership in the Seminole Heritage Foundation.

Thanks to the efforts of Les and Ruth Akers, Charles and Diane Morris and Hunter McIntosh an effort has now begun to ensure the endowment of the Florida State soccer program.



Charles & Diane Morris Scholarship

A 1970 West Point graduate, Colonel Charles A. Morris, Ed.D. FSU 1994, honorably served our nation over a distinguished 27-year Army career. Diane faithfully served FSU from 1990-94 as an honored academic advisor in the Department of Psychology while Chuck commanded the Army ROTC Seminole Battalion. They returned to FSU in 1997 and Chuck began work in the Department of Athletics. Chuck and Diane became fans of Florida State soccer and recognized the importance of providing scholarships for future generations of student athletes. As an expression of their loyalty, commitment, and admiration for FSU, they have endowed the outside right forward position.



Les & Ruth Akers Scholarship

Successful businessman, tireless fundraiser for Seminole Athletics, and leader in all areas of FSU alumni involvement, Les Akers and his wife Ruth, holder of a graduate degree in music, have expressed their love for the University by endowing a scholarship for soccer.



Hunter McIntosh

After playing professional tennis for several years, former FSU student-athlete Hunter McIntosh decided to endow an athletic scholarship for soccer to show his support for women's athletics here at Florida State University. Throughout his lifetime, he never lost his love or commitment to Seminole Athletics. Hunter's feeling for Florida State University can be summed up in his own words of "Once a Nole, always a Nole".