

2005 SEASON OUTLOOK

GENERAL OUTLOOK FOR 2005

Notes:

- ⊕ Florida State is returning just four of 11 starters and 43% of last season's letter winners from the 2004 team. The last time there was this much turnover on a FSU roster was in 1999 when 11 of 24 players from the 1998 squad did not return the next season.
- ⊕ Florida State returns just two seniors in 2005. The last time FSU had such a small senior class was 2003 when Amber Tollefson and Kristin Boyce led FSU to the College Cup.
- ⊕ Mark Krikorian is in his first season with FSU soccer. It is his third head coaching job at the collegiate level and he is the third head coach of the women's soccer team at Florida State.

According To Krikorian: "There are a lot of unknowns as we enter the 2005 season. Graduation hit us pretty hard and the roster certainly looks a lot different than it did when the season ended in the NCAA Tournament. It is going to be a much different team than the ones from the past. There will be a significant number of new players coming in who will have an opportunity to earn playing time. The biggest challenge will be molding this team. It will be up to us to utilize so many different pieces that haven't been together before. That will be a challenge for us as a staff. We will have very good players and we will play attractive soccer giving ourselves a chance to be successful."

BURNING QUESTION: With all the change that took place between the 2004 and 2005 seasons, how is the team handling life with a new coach and so many new faces?

"There is a lot of excitement surrounding the program right now. There are so many new elements that everyone is on their toes and ready for just about anything. With so many new faces on the team it has made for a really great environment. All the returners are very positive and fully embracing coach Krikorian, his staff and all the new players. Change can be a good thing if you approach it with a positive attitude. I think we are doing that and we will all benefit."

—Colette Swensen

EXPECTATIONS IN 2005

Notes:

- ⊕ Florida State will start the 2005 season unranked for the first time since 2000. The Seminoles have been in the top 15 of the Soccer Buzz preseason national poll for four straight years coming into the 2005 season.
- ⊕ The Seminoles were picked to finish sixth this season in the ACC Preseason Coaches' poll. Nine of the 11 ACC soccer teams made the NCAA Tournament in 2005.

According To Krikorian: "It is hard for me to address the expectations surrounding this team until I see all of the players on the field. I have some ideas in my head of what this team will look like come opening weekend in Los Angeles but the preseason is going to tell us an awful lot. Kids are going to come in and they are going to earn an opportunity to play once we get practicing. The expectation is certainly to be competitive every game and put Florida State in position to get into the NCAA Tournament. Then you never know what happens once you get in."

BURNING QUESTION: The expectations surrounding the 2005 team are different than those surrounding the 2004 squad that was a pre-season top five pick. How is this group handling the lowered expectations from the national media?

"It is obviously a lot different because nobody knows what to expect of this team not even the players. There is a new staff and so many new faces. We are going to use that unknown element to our advantage. When nobody knows much about you and expects even less of you, you have the opportunity to catch some people off guard. We will surprise some people this year. This program has come so far in the last five years so it bothers us a little that nobody expects anything from us this season. We will use that as motivation to prove everybody wrong and show we are still Florida State."

—Teresa Rivera

ATTACKING IN 2005

Notes:

- ⊕ The Seminoles produced only 29 goals last season. That was the lowest goal total ever for an FSU

squad.

- ⊕ Of the 29 goals the FSU offense produced in 2004, 20 of those goals were scored by players not on the 2005 roster.
- ⊕ Florida State returns just 40% of its point producers from the 2004 squad.

According To Krikorian: "We are going to look for our attack to come from every position on the field. It isn't just going to be the responsibility of our front players. We are going to be looking for outside backs and outside midfield players to get forward and be involved in our attack and create opportunities for us. We will play a short passing game for the most part. There will be a lot of movement off the ball and it will be attractive to watch."

BURNING QUESTION: Florida State lost a lot of its attacking presence from 2004 to 2005. How will this team put pressure on opposing defenses?

"We have a new energy up front this year. We have added some very creative offensive players. There is a great combination of talent returning and dynamic newcomers. Coach Krikorian doesn't believe the attack comes solely from the forwards so a new scheme combined with dynamic new talent should really bolster the players we do have back from last year."

—Alli Ferreri

THE MIDFIELD

Notes:

- ⊕ This will be the first time since 2000 that Florida State will open a season without Camie Bybee and Jez Ratliff starting in the midfield.
- ⊕ There are six players on the 2005 roster that made at least one start in the Seminole midfield last season. Overall, those six players combined to make 48 starts making the midfield the most experienced position on this year's squad.
- ⊕ Midfielder India Trotter is one of just 11 players in ACC history to go from an All-ACC freshman team selection to the All-ACC first team the following year.

According To Krikorian: "The midfield could be a big strength for us. It has the potential to be a very

secure area of this team with an opportunity to be very successful in controlling the tempo of the game. India Trotter's presence really adds a lot to what we want to do in that area of the field. We have a lot of options in the midfield and return much of our experience in that area."

BURNING QUESTION: This is the first time in two years you will begin a season without Camie Bybee in front of you and Jez Ratliff out wide. This is an experienced group of returners though. Can they fill the shoes of those departed stars?

"I think this is going to be a great midfield. We haven't seen the entire group on the field together yet but I think the pieces are here. I think we have a chance to be amazing. A lot is made of the changes we have gone through but there is change every year. A team is never the same from one year to the next so it isn't as big a deal as some may think."

—India Trotter

THE DEFENSE

Notes:

- ⚽ Despite the graduation of Katie Beal and Marion Cagle, who combined to start 40 games in 2004 and 118 in their careers, the Seminole backline returns two starters who played almost every game in 2005 at the same position. Kelly Rowland started 19 games in the center of the FSU defense while Teresa Rivera started 15 on the left side.
- ⚽ Florida State has set school records for the fewest goals allowed in back-to-back seasons. After allowing a program-low 21 goals last year, the team has reduced its goals allowed for three straight years.
- ⚽ Libby Gianeskis and Melissa Samokishyn combined to make 10 starts in the back for FSU last season.

According To Krikorian: "From an experience point of view in the sense of returning players, the backline is probably the most experienced. Obviously we have Kelly (Rowland) and Teresa (Rivera) and they are both long time starters in the back. Melissa (Samokishyn) and Libby (Gianeskis) got a lot of playing time in the back four last season as freshmen. Right now of all the positions, that area is the most experienced. That experience will be a big benefit to us."

BURNING QUESTION: The Seminole defense has set records for fewest goals allowed in each of the last three years. Is it fair to expect that to continue in 2005?

"It will be interesting to see if we can keep that trend going. We return a lot of experience but we also lost Katie Beal who was one of the all-time greats in the back line. Add in the loss of Marion Cagle and those are two important pieces we have lost from last season's record setting defense. With Melissa (Samokishyn) and Libby (Gianeskis) there is some experienced depth. Hopefully they are ready to step in. I am excited about what we can accomplish. We take a lot of pride in setting records by keeping our opponents from scoring. That wins us games and we will continue to chase that goal."

—Kelly Rowland

GOALKEEPING

Notes:

- ⚽ Florida State's three goalkeepers have combined to make 11 career starts in college and have appeared in just 21 matches.
- ⚽ Ali Mims is back competing for a starting job after an almost three-year layoff spent rehabbing a fractured left leg. The redshirt junior appeared in just three games since 2002.
- ⚽ Despite her injury, Mims still holds numerous FSU goalkeeping records including the third-best career GAA in program history (1.43).

According To Krikorian: "Ali Mims has fought so hard to come back and unfortunately had another surgery over the summer. Despite the surgery, we are hopeful her mobility will return and she can get back to the form she showed as a freshman. We also are bringing in Minna (Pyykko) who has experience playing on the international stage. Add to that Jess Vaccaro who spent a season learning behind All-ACC first team keeper Joy McKenzie and we feel this will be a competitive position through preseason."

BURNING QUESTION: After more than 20 surgical procedures and three years of rehab, are you back and ready to fight for a starting spot?

"All I have wanted these last three years was to get back to the point where I could compete to be the starting keeper for Florida State once again. This is beyond words."

Exciting doesn't even describe it. I have been looking forward to this for so long. I love the challenge. I love the atmosphere and I am ready for this new era of FSU soccer. I am probably at 95% of where I was before the injury. I lack a little bit of strength but I feel good. I know it is an open competition and it is there for anyone to grab. If I get the call, I am looking forward to stepping up and returning to the net. This is a good group so I know it will be tough."

—Ali Mims

NEWCOMERS

Notes:

- ⚽ Florida State's 2005 newcomers are from six different countries. The nine newcomers have traveled almost 37,000 miles to get to Tallahassee and play for Florida State.
- ⚽ This is FSU's biggest class of first year players since 1999. That year new head coach Patrick Baker brought 12 newcomers to campus to begin his first year running the program.

According To Krikorian: "I think that some of our younger players made a great deal of progress in the spring. They put themselves in position to come in and compete for positions but it is going to be very important for some of these new players to walk right in and help us. With a class of nine new faces, these players will make up almost half our 2005 roster, so they will be asked to step up and contribute. Some have already had collegiate experience and others have played internationally. Then Sarah (Wagenfuhr) and Paige (Murray) have both played at very high levels of ODP, club and high school soccer here in the US."

BURNING QUESTION: How difficult is it going to be for this new class to adjust to the collegiate game on and off the field?

"I thought it was a pretty difficult adjustment as a freshman last year. I felt so far from home and I was just from Colorado. So I am sure our international players will feel even more isolated from home. All first-year players struggle with getting to know the campus and finding where everything is. That will be a challenge as well but with so many freshman back from last season I think we will be here to make the transition as easy as possible for them since we know what it was like to go through that."

"I think the adjustment on the field is going to be easier. We are so early into the process and it is already going very well. This season seems a lot easier when it comes to the whole team meshing right off the bat."

—Melissa Samokishyn

THE 2005 SCHEDULE

Notes:

- ⚽ The Seminoles' 2005 schedule features 12 teams that made it to the 2005 NCAA Tournament. That means two-thirds of FSU's games this season will be played versus NCAA Tournament competition.
- ⚽ Florida State will open the 2005 season on the road for the first time since Patrick Baker took over the program in 1999.
- ⚽ When FSU opens its 2005 season in Los Angeles versus USC, it will mark the first time in program history that the Seminoles have played a regular season game in the state of California.

According To Krikorian: "It is going to be a very trying schedule starting off with flying out to Los Angeles to face USC and Loyola Marymount. Those will be two difficult games so it will be critical for us all to be on the same page. With as many new faces as we have, it will be difficult to do that this early into the season. It will eventually benefit us as we get into ACC competition. It could be challenging at first but it will benefit us in the long-term."

BURNING QUESTION: **This season you will play 67% of your games against teams that competed in the 2004 NCAA Tournament. What will be the challenges in facing such a difficult schedule?**

"We are excited about this year's schedule. It is very competitive and that is what we want. It will be great for this particular group to be tested week in and week out. There is a lot of new talent on this team and we need to see how we do against the best teams in America. Opening the season on the road will be tough especially against two teams as good as USC and Loyola Marymount."

—Toby Ranck

THE NEW ACC

Notes:

- ⚽ With the addition of Boston College, nine of the ACC's 11 women's soccer teams played in the 2004 NCAA Tournament.
- ⚽ This is the third time in the last decade that the ACC landscape has changed for women's soccer. In 1995 Florida State joined and then last season Miami and Virginia Tech each made their ACC debuts.

According To Krikorian: "Boston College's addition completes our conference after the additions of Miami and Virginia Tech last year. BC had a great season in 2004 and they make this conference even better than it was in 2004 when eight of the 10 teams made the NCAA Tournament. They are a very good team and coach Foley and her group have done a tremendous job at Boston College. I think it is only going to enhance the image of the ACC and I think it is just great for all of us to have 11 strong teams."

BURNING QUESTION: **Your family has been around ACC women's soccer for a long time. What is it like seeing the conference expand in each of the last two seasons?**

"I think the biggest change is the most obvious and that is the amount of games you have to play in conference each season. The ACC is just getting stronger with the additions and it is the best women's soccer conference in the country. Every team is so tough and BC just adds to that. Every game is such a challenge and with the conference expanding further north and into the south, we are seeing so many different styles of play. That is great for our conference."

—Rachel McDowell

A VERY YOUNG TEAM

Notes:

- ⚽ Fifteen players on Florida State's 2005 roster are either freshmen, sophomores or newcomers.
- ⚽ Almost 63% of the players on the 2005 Florida State squad have a year or less of collegiate soccer experience.
- ⚽ This is the second time in the last three years the FSU will enter a season with just two seniors on the roster.

According To Krikorian: "In some ways that (the squad's inexperience) will be a little challenging. You always

like to have veteran leadership. There just aren't that many experienced players returning to this team. On the other side, it is nice to be able to set a foundation to build upon and we have the opportunity to do that this year. We can build for the future with this group but that doesn't minimize my expectations for this year. Those expectations are for this group to come in and battle and fight putting ourselves in position to get wins. Initially part of the leadership we look for may have to be taken on by the staff but I do think there are some personalities on this team that can prove to be very good leaders for us."

BURNING QUESTION: **Last year you were part of a pretty big class of newcomers. This year's class is just as large. How will the youth and inexperience affect this year's team?**

"It doesn't really feel like a young team and many of the newcomers are veterans of international soccer so they don't feel young either. There is already a really good camaraderie developing. I don't think this team is going to be at a disadvantage because of our lack of collegiate experience."

—Libby Gianeskis

WHO CAN LEAD?

Notes:

- ⚽ Kelly Rowland will serve as the team's lone captain in 2005.

According To Krikorian: "You don't have to be a star to be a leader on this team. It can be a player on the bench who doesn't see much time on the field. Leadership qualities and character are not reflected in your playing ability. Certainly there are kids who may not be in the first 11 who can do their part by keeping team spirits up and encouraging others. That is leadership and it can come from anywhere."

BURNING QUESTION: **With so many new faces and young players how important is leadership from the juniors and seniors this season?**

"We are going to have a big influence on the younger players and it is up to us to make sure that influence is positive. We want to be teachers and friends to this new class. When we leave this program we want to make sure that the tradition of success so many of us worked so hard to establish is still here after we graduate."

—Sarah Rosseau