

FSU VOLLEYBALL HISTORY

Since its beginning in 1968 with a group of physical education students and a volunteer coach, Florida State volleyball, which is considered FSU's first women's intercollegiate sport, shed its club team roots to become one of the nation's premiere programs.

In its infancy, it was not uncommon for the group of aspiring athletes and teachers to pay their own way to tournaments and share warm-up suits with the other women's club teams. The club struggled to become established in those early years as team members were faced with having to find a new volunteer head coach each of the program's first five years.

After Florida State made its first ever appearance at the AIAW National Tournament in 1971, Dr. Billie Jones assumed the coaching duties on a permanent basis for the next six seasons. Under Jones' direction, the Seminoles amassed a record of 107-22, and volleyball at Florida State became a mainstay.

Success continued for the program as it returned to the AIAW National Tournament in 1973, '74 and '75, while competing for state and regional championships along the way. Popularity for the sport began to grow. In just a few short years, Florida State volleyball became recognized as one of the sport's up-and-coming programs.

Former head coach Dr. Cecile Reynaud, who served as head coach from 1976-2001, continued to build on the foundation laid by her predecessors. Under Reynaud's guidance, FSU qualified for the AIAW National Tournament three more times. After its AIAW appearance in 1981, Florida State joined the NCAA and began competing as a member of the Metro Conference in 1982.

Before FSU joined the Atlantic Coast Conference in 1992, the Seminoles dominated the Metro Conference, capturing six league titles. Florida State seized its first ACC Championship in 1998. Overall, in 13 years of ACC play, Florida State has an ACC regular season co-championship to its credit and has played in five ACC Tournament title matches.

Since Florida State became an NCAA volleyball member in 1982, the Seminoles have qualified for the National Championship Tournament 12 times, including five times in the '90's.

Several of FSU's volleyball alumni have gone on to play professionally. Whether it be in Europe or the sandy shores of California, Florida State's top athletes often choose to continue playing the game they love. In recent years, three former FSU volleyball players have been on tour with the professional beach circuit.

Perhaps the most famous of the FSU volleyball alumni is world-class model Gabrielle Reece. After enjoying a standout career at Florida State, Reece went on to captain Team Nike on the pro beach circuit. She has had a fitness column in ELLE Magazine and appeared on MTV Sports. Reece co-authored her first book *Big Girl in the Middle* and has been featured on Lifetime Television's *Intimate Portrait*.

In the 36 years since its inception, Florida State volleyball has prided itself in giving athletes the opportunity to reach their full potential both on the court and in the classroom. Pride, tradition and success are all part of what is known as Seminole volleyball.



Dr. Linda Warren, Dr. Judy Blucher, Dr. Billie Jones, Martha Pat Moore, Dr. Cecile Reynaud.



1968, FSU's first volleyball team



1998 ACC Champions



Jennifer Anderson becomes FSU's all-time leader in career assists on Senior Day 2003.

