FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION

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FLORIDA STATE SOCCER GEARS UP FOR SEASON-OPENER

SEPTEMBER 1, 1995

TALLAHASSEE, FL --Florida State soccer coach Heather Kerby and the Seminole soccer team head to Gainesville tomorrow to face the Florida Lady Gators in the first-ever match for both schools. Kickoff is slated for 2 p.m.

"We are really coming together as a team," Kerby said. "We've had good practices this week and worked on the areas we needed to, based on our performance last weekend. We feel the players now have a much better understanding of what we want from them, both offensively and defensively."

Last weekend, the young Seminoles got their first taste of competition in preseason matches vs. Florida Atlantic and Barry University. The squad split, shutting out FAU, 3-0, on Saturday and falling, 3-1, to Barry on Sunday.

"What we accomplished last weekend was critical," Kerby said. "It was an opportunity for the team to get rid of some of their nervousness and also to learn about each other and what each others strengths and weaknesses are."

With a strong core of players on both teams being from the state of Florida, many of the players will know each other, having either played with or against each other in various club and ODP competitions.

"Some of the players will know each other well and it will probably be very emotional for them," Kerby said. "But we also have a lot of unknowns going into tomorrow's game. What I mean is that we have some very talented athletes that they (Florida) will know nothing about, because of the fact that they weren't active with ODP, or like in Janine's case, from Canada. But our top players will be as good as their top players."

Although women's soccer is a new program for both schools, Kerby feels her Seminoles will be the underdog in tomorrow's competition, especially since the contest will be played in Gainesville.

"We're ready," Kerby said, "but I feel we are the underdogs, which is a situation that I am happy with. But to come out of there with a win is a brilliant opportunity for us."

And as far as that Florida State-Florida rivalry?
"Our kids are getting a pretty good idea mainly from the things they are hearing from other FSU teams and coaches," Kerby said with a smile. "I think they have been given a good sense of what's going to happen when we take the field in front of the Florida fans tomorrow."



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FLORIDA STATE SOCCER FALLS TO FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 2, 1995

GAINESVILLE, FL -- The Florida State Seminole soccer team fell 4-0 to the Florida Lady Gators in front of 4,442 fans at Percy Beard Stadium, Saturday afternoon. It was the first-ever regular-season match for both programs.

Florida opened the scoring early with an unassisted shot from the left from freshman Aimee Wagstaff just 4:48 into the match. Wagstaff would once again put the Gators on the board in the first half, this time from the right side at the 15:43 mark. Freshman Sarah Currie was credited with the assist. Sophomore Emily Oswalt and freshman Melissa Pini each scored second-half goals, allowing the UF shutout.

Despite the loss, FSU coach Heather Kerby was pleased with her young squad's effort.

"We battled really well out there today," Kerby said. "We didn't give up any cheap goals. The difference between our two squad's right now is the time we had to recruit. Our top athletes are as good as theirs are, but Florida has much greater depth"

The 'Noles were outshot 37-6, but a bright spot in the match was the performance of FSU goalkeeper Melissa Juhl. The freshman was credited with 16 saves for the afternoon.

"Today showed what we have to still work on," Juhl "It's our first game and we are going to get better with each one. We'll just turn the page and move on."

With a crowd over four thousand, there was definite pressure for FSU, but according to Kerby, that's what it's all about.

"The crowd was great," Kerby said. "Every elite athlete wants to play in front of a crowd like this."

Florida State will have an opportunity to put the pressure on its next opponent when the Tribe hosts West Florida on Thursday, Sept. 7 in FSU's home-opener.

"Florida State is very enthusiastic about women's soccer right now," Kerby said. "Tallahassee is a strong soccer community and Florida is a soccer state. We're looking forward to playing in front of our fans on Thursday."

Thursday's home-opener will kickoff at 4 p.m. at the Intramural Field across from Tully Gymnasium. Admission is free.

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