

FSU BASKETBALL

OUTLOOK

1983–84 Outlook Capsule Analysis



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Assistant Coaches
Athletic Staff

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FSU FINGERTIP FACTS

Location: Tallahassee, Fla. 32306 Enrollment: 22,000 Nickname: Seminoles Colors: Garnet and Gold President: Dr. Bernard F. Sliger Athletic Director: C.W. "Hootie" Ingram Athletic Board Chairman: Dr. James P. Jones Conference: Metro Arena: Leon County Civic Center (12,500)

BASKETBALL INFORMATION

Head Coach: Joe Williams Record at FSU: 83-61 (5 seasons) Career Record: 317-209 (19 seasons) Assistant Coaches: Rex Morgan, Steve Williams, Jackie Pons

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1983-84 OUTLOOK

lorida State
head coach Joe Williams has
had a few new additions to his
family lately. Last February a new son
was added to the Williams' fold while
a few months later Florida State's basketball family grew by four after a
successful recruiting season. Williams
won't be counting on his son to help
out around the house quite yet, but he
will be counting on his four basketball
newcomers for immediate help.

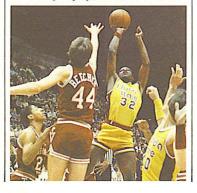
The Seminoles lost just one player to graduation following last year's 14-14 season but the four newcomers—Alton Lee Gipson (hereinafter referred to as "Big Al"), Dean Shaffer, Joe Farrar and Randy Allen—will all be playing important roles in the upcoming season. How important? "It's possible that all four could become starters," says Williams. For the first time in two years, the

For the first time in two years, the Seminoles will be without 6-4 guard Mitchell Wiggins who took his game to the NBA along with his top scoring (22.7) and rebounding (8.2) averages.

"Without Mitchell, we'll have to focus our game in another area," says Williams. "We're hoping we'll be able to depend on our inside game this year."

Nonexistent a year ago was that very inside game—the forwards and centers as a group averaged just 6.3 points and 4.2 rebounds per game—so Williams emphasized his recruiting efforts in that area. If a few "ifs" can be answered positively, it could become a comfort zone.

The Centers: The most important question involving this 1983–84 team centers around 6-10 j.c. transfer Gipson, labeled by many blue chip lists as the most dominant junior college player in the nation last year and one of the top 10 players overall. Williams



has made it perfectly clear that he intends to build his offense around Gipson. "We need Al to step in at the low post where we haven't had a dominant big man in two years," he says. "People ask me how good our team will be. It might depend on Big Al."

Bobby Miles, a 6-9 senior, is headed for backup duty here. Miles is limited physically but is a steady and dependable player. Another who could play here is freshman Allen, although he looks like a strong candidate to start at a power forward position.

If Gipson can average close to 40 minutes a game, the position is sure to be a strong one. But depth is very limited.

The Forwards: The forward wall looks solid with starters Vince Martello (13.9 ppg/5.8 rpg) and Granville Arnold (7.4ppg/2.5rpg) returning but these two positions are not locked up by any means. This could be the most competitive area on the squad.

Martello is an excellent outside shooter but his consistency and defense need to pick up while Arnold will be entering his sophomore season at FSU after being pressed into duty early in his career. The two should be helped out considerably with a big man in the middle clogging some of the traffic and crashing the boards. Foremost in challenging for a job here is Allen, a 6-8 leaper who has impressed the coaching staff. His size would give Williams great incentive to develop one of the forward slots into more of a power position. "We expect Randy to play a lot and putting him

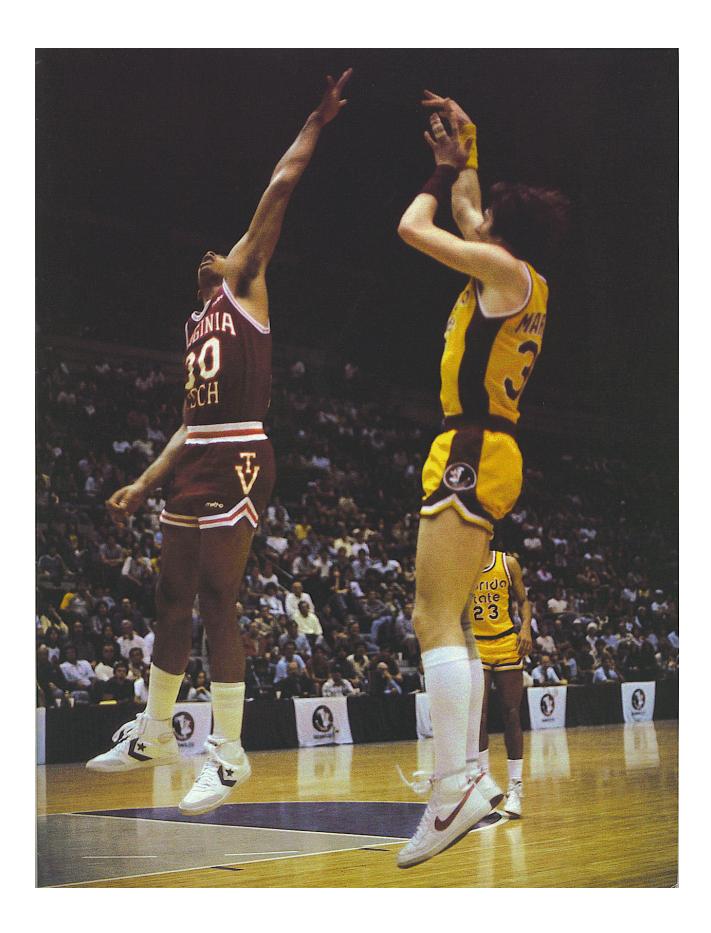
into a starting role early is not out of the question." says Williams. "We're hoping he can make a contribution

right away."

Senior Michael Johnson and junior David Speights will also be working hard for playing time. Johnson, who is an inbetween size at 6-5, has averaged just under 10 points in his two-year career at FSU and has played every position at one time or another. Speights, a 6-6 junior, is fighting to put knee surgery behind him. If need be, Miles could

"We have many options at the forward position right now," says Williams, who is beginning his sixth season as FSU's head coach. "We haven't been in this solid a position for a few years. The coaching staff is looking for a real dogfight among four or five players."

play at one of the forward positions.



OUTLOOK

The Guards: Gone is Mitchell Wiggins and as a result, the point production from this area is sure to decrease. But by no means will this area be a weakling.

Returning at point guard is twotime honorable mention All-Metro senior Tony William. William, a shooting guard by nature, seemingly has adapted to his role as the team's quarterback. Although his scoring production hasn't fallen off (13.1 ppg last year), he still led the Metro in both assists and steals. In one game, he dished out 16 of them, tieing an FSU single game mark.

The good news is that 6-2 j.c. transfer Joe Farrar is talented enough to take William's job away. Not heavily recruited, the FSU staff is hoping the junior can pay dividends as a sleeper. Like William, Farrar has long range shooting potential.

Also figuring in at the point is Ronnie Watson, a player who is limited offensively. Watson has come through in the clutch in several games in his career and generally is steady while quarterbacking the club.

At big guard, a 6-5 junior Maurice Myrick (5.5 ppg/2.7 rpg) returns after starting the last half dozen games last season as a third guard. Myrick, who can also man the point position, has developed into a fine ball handler but his biggest contribution will come on

defense where he is outstanding.

Myrick's biggest competition will come from 6-3 transfer Dean Shaffer, holder of an impressive resume. Shaffer averaged 18 a game for Merced Junior College in California last year but he has experience after playing on North Carolina's national champion-

e're geared up for a good season," says Williams. "We think we have a lot of potential to work with this year. We're just looking for a few things to fall in place."

ship team two years ago as a freshman. He could step in and take on a scoring role and he's also a deft passer. Senior Scott Wilkes should fit in somewhere behind Myrick and Shaffer and he can also play the point guard position.

"We'll need some of our guards to show early that they can take some of the offensive production on their shoulders," says Williams. "The competition we have at guard is very healthy. It will give us great depth and versatility." The Schedule: Sixteen home games highlight the upcoming schedule. It promises to be easier than the schedule that Williams and his team were faced with last year. Much improved; however, is the Metro Conference race.

"We already had a great conference and with South Carolina joining it just makes it that much more competitive," says Williams. "But I'll tell you something; we played South Carolina twice last year out of the conference. I'm glad that the rest of the conference schools have to play them now, too."

Florida State will also see more instate competition as Florida International, Central Florida and Tampa have been added to the list that already includes South Florida, Florida and Jacksonville. The Tampa series will continue after a 15-year absence during which the school had dropped its program.

One of the best games on the schedule promises to be the FSU-Florida clash Dec. 2 in Gainesville. Played Friday night before the Seminole-Gator football game, school officials expect the first sellout in the state for a major college basketball game.

"We're geared up for a good season," says Williams. "We think we have a lot of potential to work with this year. We're just looking for a few things to fall in place."

CAPSULE ANALYSIS

HEAD COACH: Joe Williams is in his sixth year as head coach at Florida State. Under Williams, the Seminoles have turned in an 83-61 report card over five seasons. His best year was his second, 1979–80, when the Tribe went 22-9 and earned an appearance in the Mideast Regional. Williams has led two other teams—Jacksonville and Furman—to the NCAA Tournament. In 1970, his Jacksonville team played in the NCAA Championship game with UCLA. In a 19-year career, Williams is 317-209.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Steve Williams and Rex Morgan serve as full-time coaches to Williams. Also on the staff is part-time assistant Jackie Pons and graduate assistant Tony Jackson.

RETURNING STARTERS: Four—6-6 senior forward Vince Martello (13.9 ppg/5.8 rpg), 6-6 sophomore forward Granville Arnold (7.4 ppg/2.6 rpg), 6-1 senior guard Tony William (13.1 ppg/1.7 rpg/5.6 apg) and 6-5 junior guard/forward Maurice Myrick (5.3 ppg/2.7 rpg).

Myrick (5.3 ppg/2.7 rpg).
OTHER RETURNEES: Four—6-9 senior center Bobby Miles (2.6 ppg/2.3 rpg), 6-5 senior forward Michael Johnson (8.5 ppg/4.4 rpg), 6-6 junior forward David Speights (3.7 ppg/2.5 rpg) and 6-0 senior guard Ronnie Watson (1.2 ppg/0.5 rpg).

KEY LOSSES: One—6-4 guard Mitchell Wiggins (22.7 ppg/8.2 rpg), now playing for the Chicago Bulls of the NBA. NEWCOMERS: Four—6-11 junior center Alton Lee Gipson (22.0 ppg/10.1 rpg), 6-8 freshman forward Randy Allen (22.3 ppg/8.5 rpg), 6-5 junior guard Dean Shaffer (17.0 ppg/6.0 rpg) and 6-2 junior guard Joe Farrar (18.5 ppg/3.0 apg). STRENGTHS: Good outside shooting team. Signing of three junior college players adds experience to a team that lost only one player to graduation. Good defensive team. Potential to be a good rebounding team.

WEAKNESSES: Lack of a proven inside game and lack of depth in the front court. Offensive punch is a question mark with the graduation of two-year leading scorer and rebounder Mitchell Wiggins.

SCHEDULE: It's a break from last year's difficult one. South Carolina joins the tough Metro race but FSU has played home-and-home with them three years now anyway. More of an instate look with new teams Tampa, Central Florida and Florida International appearing. Games with Florida, South Florida and Jacksonville continue.