FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 1999

FLORIDA STATE VOLLEYBALL TOPS AUBURN

The Lady Seminoles take a 5-game win over the Tigers in season-opener

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- With a team-high 19 kills and nine blocks, senior Aisha Thornton led the Florida State volleyball team to a 3-2 victory over Auburn in the 1999 season-opener this evening at Tully Gymnasium. The hard-fought match, which went nearly three hours (2:43), had scores of 7-15, 17-15, 15-11, 6-15, 15-12.

Florida State got off to a slow start with four freshman on the floor to open the match. In game one, FSU fell behind 12-1 before rallying back to cut the lead in half, but Auburn prevailed with a 15-7 victory. The second game saw eight ties before FSU took the 17-15 victory. The Lady Seminoles took the advantage in the match in game three with a 15-11 decision but were held to .103 hitting in game four in a 6-15 losing effort. Auburn took an early lead in game five but Florida State rallied for the 15-12 victory to take the match.

"Our team played like I hoped they would," Head Coach Cecile Reynaud said. "It took them a bit to get adjusted, but this team is very adaptable and that is good. Jamie (Hibbard) stepped in at setter and really gave us a boost."

Hibbard led the team with 46 assists and 17 digs. In addition to Thornton, also recording double-digit kills were junior Jennifer Werrick with 16, and freshmen Erica Bunch with 13 and Dawn Hough with 12. Bunch also recorded 16 digs for her first career double-double.

"I think you can see that this team is made up of tough fighters who are very competitive," Reynaud said. "I couldn't be any more proud of a young group of kids."

Florida State will have one more day to prepare for the 1999 Tallahassee Democrat Florida State Classic which will be played Friday and Saturday at Tully Gymnasium. Florida International and Indiana will square off at 4:30 on Friday, followed by FSU and South Carolina at 7 p.m. Saturday's schedule is as follows: 10 a.m., Indiana vs. South Carolina; 12:00 p.m., FSU vs. FIU; 4:30 p.m., FIU vs. South Carolina; 7 p.m., FSU vs. Indiana.

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.103 .185 Auburn University vs. Florida State University

DATE: Sep 1, 1999 ATTENDANCE: 562 LOM: 2:43 REFEREES: Crystal Lewis, Jim Keesling