

# Bojanovsky finding role for FSU

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Boris Bojanovsky is hard to miss. Towering at 7-3 and walking with the trademark lumbering grace that inevitably screams “basketball player”, the man draws the attention of all those around him. But on the court last season, among the varying spot minutes he received here and there, the Slavic center seemed far too easy to lose among the trees. It’s only been seven games into this young season but, so far, that seems to be changing.

In the waning moments of a first half that seemed to be slipping out of reach, Boris scored in a lightning quick quartet, posting eight straight points versus a suddenly hapless Gator defense. The touch of the jumper as well as the raw force of the massive sophomore was all put on display in a mere three-minute span.

“We played out of our system,” Bojanovsky said of his performance last Friday. “So I got a few easy layups, a dunk, put-back, I mean things were going well so I was playing with confidence, you know.”

And yet the visceral shock that came from such a performance gets to the core of the dilemma not just with Bojanovsky but with the team as a whole, how consistency has been a far too elusive adjective to describe the team.

“That’s how we should play every game, you know, it’s a good experience for us so we just got to see it through.”

Bojanovsky’s greatest strength as a player is not the raw power that defines his big man counterpart, Michael Ojo, but the finesse that belies his giant frame. He uses touch far more often than strength when it comes to both finishing at the rim and fighting for the rebound. This approach has its merits, especially in the face-up game, but there are certain limitations when the offense demands a presence in the deep post.

“I just know I gotta get bigger,” Boris said with a laugh. “Cause like, you know, it’s hard for me to post up so I just gotta get a little more muscle so I can get a little more comfortable in the box, when I play with my back to the basket.”

While that part of his game is a work-in-progress his work as a roll man off ball screens has rounded into something of a staple. So much of his value there derives from how well the ball handling guard can connect with the screening big, a connection that is being fostered collectively as the young team grows together.

“I’m trying to be like that with all our guards but I think like that with Devon [Bookert] the most. He’s my good friend too so we kind of connected, like he knows when I’m asking for a ball with the right hand and stuff. He knows the best but we’ve got a ways to go.”

Ultimately that's what it comes down to. Progress will be a familiar buzzword surrounding the team this season but it's an apt one to describe a unit that is beginning the season in all the ways last year's was not. Bojanovsky is but a singular cog in a growing machine, but he remains an important one. If his development can run corollary with the upward trajectory of the team, he may just end up carrying them to further heights.