



TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN
FLORIDA STATE
FOOTBALL

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3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | 15 ACC CHAMPIONSHIPS | 43 FIRST-ROUND PICKS

FINAL SCORE: LOUISVILLE 31, FSU 28

TEAM NOTES

- Red zone success has been FSU's calling card throughout the Jimbo Fisher era and the Noles continued to excel, converting all three visits against the Cardinals. The Noles extended their consecutive conversion streak to 16 on James Blackman's game-tying 20-yard TD pass to Nyqwan Murray with 8:58 remaining. It marks the first time this season FSU has converted three red zone visit touchdowns this season.
- FSU is 18-of-20 on red zone conversions this season, and now have nine touchdowns to go with nine field goals.
- FSU's defense came up huge on fourth down with a pair of stops, including the biggest of the game with 4:38 remaining in a 28-28 tie. On 4th-and-1 at the Seminoles' 27-yard line, FSU DEs Josh Sweat and Brian Burns combined to stop Reggie Bonnafon for no gain. Entering the game opponents had converted 5-of-6 fourth down attempts.
- The Seminoles limited Louisville QB Lamar Jackson to a season-low 156 passing yards, though he rushed for a game-high 178 yards on 23 carries. Jackson finished with 334 total yards, well below his season average of 430.3.
- The Florida State running game accrued 155 yards on 38 carries (4.1 ypc.) but was unable to continue its season-long trend of improving its rushing yardage each week. Cam Akers (16-75) and Jacques Patrick (14-70) averaged 4.7 and 5.0 yards per carry, respectively, on a productive afternoon.
- For the fourth consecutive game the Noles were in position to win the game late in no small part due to their ability to control the clock. FSU held a 31:10-28:50 advantage in time of possession. It was the fourth consecutive game the Noles have won the possession battle after they did not the first two games.
- The Seminoles scored a season-high 28 points in defeat.

PLAYER NOTES

- Freshman QB **James Blackman** put together another strong fourth quarter performance as the Noles mounted a rally from a 14-point deficit. Blackman completed 5-of-10 attempts for 92 yards and a touchdown as he rallied the Noles to a 28-28 tie. He finished the game 16-of-28 for 248 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. It was his third 200-yard passing game of the season, trailing only his 278-yard performance against NC State.
- WR **Nyqwan Murray's** first touchdown of the season comes on an end zone fumble recovery with 13:21 remaining. Officially, Jacques Patrick got credit for a 6-yard run and Murray was credited with a 0-yard TD, after pouncing on the loose ball.
- Murray followed with his first receiving score of the season, hauling in a 20-yard pass from Blackman with 8:58 remaining as the Noles tied the game. It was Murray's sixth career TD reception.
- WR **Auden Tate's** streak of consecutive games with a TD reception was snapped at five, though the junior did finish with a team-high 5 receptions for 62 yards; his most productive game since suffering a shoulder injury against NC State.
- DE **Josh Sweat** registered a career-high 9 tackles, including six solo stops. He had a sack among two tackles for loss.
- **Matthew Thomas** and **Trey Marshall** led the Noles with 10 tackles each.
- **Ricky Aguayo** saw his streak of consecutive kick conversions snapped at 21 when his 43-yard field goal attempt on the opening drive of the second half was wide right. Aguayo had converted his last 11 field goal attempts and 10 PATs.

FSU LEADERS

PASSING: James Blackman
16-28, 248 yards, 2 TDs, 2 INTs
RUSHING: Cam Akers
16 rushes, 75 yards

RECEIVING: Auden Tate
5 catches, 62 yards
TACKLES: Matthew Thomas/Trey
Marshall - 10 tackles each



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HALFTIME SCORE: FSU 14, LOUISVILLE 14

TEAM NOTES

- Ryan Izzo's 7-yard TD reception from James Blackman capped a 9-play, 78-yard drive, spanning 5 minutes. It marked the second consecutive game the Seminoles have scored on their opening offensive possession...it FSU's 14th consecutive game with a TD pass.
- FSU's defense came up with its second consecutive fourth-down stop of the season when Demarcus Christmas tipped Lamar Jackson's pass at the line of scrimmage on 4th-and-5 from the Seminoles' 32-yard line... The Noles closed out last week's game at Duke with a fourth-down stop on the final play (4th-and-8).
- Senior LB Matthew Thomas' 34-yard fumble return for the go-ahead touchdown was the first defensive touchdown for the Seminoles in 30 games. The Noles' last defensive touchdown was Sept. 18, 2015 when Jalen Ramsey return a fumble 36 yards for a score at Boston College.
- Thomas' fumble recovery was FSU's fifth takeaway of the season. All five takeaways this season were career-firsts (Kyle Meyers, Jalen Wilkerson, Stanford Samuels III, Emmett Rice and Thomas).
- FSU's defense held reigning Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson to 173 total yards in the first half. The Louisville QB enters the game averaging 430.3 total yards per game. Jackson did engineer a pair of 75-yard scoring drives, capped by his 22-yard TD run and a 26-yard TD pass.
- In between Louisville's 75-yard scoring drives the Noles held the Cardinals to 60 yards on 20 plays (3.0 ypp). Louisville finished the half with 210 yards on 35 plays (6.0 ypp).
- The Noles headed to the locker room with the score tied 14-all after Blanton Creque's errant 45-yard FG attempt on the final play of the half. It's the first halftime deadlock of the season for the Noles.

PLAYER NOTES

- TE **Ryan Izzo's** first quarter, 7-yard TD reception from James Blackman was his second of the season (5th of his career) and equaled his single-season high. He also had 2 TD receptions in 2015.
- Senior LB **Matthew Thomas'** 34-yard fumble return for a touchdown with 4:08 remaining in the first half put the Noles in front, 14-7. It was Thomas' first career fumble recovery and first touchdown. Freshman DE **Joshua Kaindoh** forced fumble by Louisville QB Lamar Jackson; his first career forced fumble.
- True freshman DB **Cyrus Fagan** made his first career appearance as a member of the first quarter punt return team...fellow true freshman LB **Leonard Warner III** registered his first career tackle in the second quarter.
- Junior WR **Auden Tate** extended his streak of consecutive games with a reception to seven with his 17-yard grab in the second quarter.
- **Ricky Aguayo** has converted 21 consecutive successful kicks with a pair of first half PATs. He has 11 FG's and 10 PAT's in that stretch.
- DE **Josh Sweat** led the Noles with 6 first half tackles, including a sack. Thomas had 5 stops.

FSU LEADERS

PASSING: James Blackman
 6-11, 108 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT
RUSHING: Jacques Patrick
 7 rushes, 34 yards

RECEIVING: Ryan Izzo
 2 catches, 37 yards
TACKLES: Josh Sweat
 6 tackles

CAPTAINS & COIN TOSS

CAPTAINS

C Alec Eberle, WR Jared Jackson, DB Derwin James and DE Derrick Nnadi.

COIN TOSS

Louisville chooses tails, wins and elects to receive.

FSU STARTERS

OFFENSE

		2014	2015	2016	2017	Career	Consecutive
Josh Ball	LT	-	-	-	2	2	2
James Blackman	QB	-	-	-	5	5	5
Alec Eberle	C	-	6	13	6	25	25
Ryan Izzo	TE	-	11	12	6	29	17
Derrick Kelly	LG	-	4	2	6	12	6
Rick Leonard	RT	-	-	6	6	12	9
Cole Minshew	RG	-	-	3	6	9	9
Nyqwan Murray	WR	-	-	2	4	6	2
Jacques Patrick	RB	-	1	1	6	8	6
Mavin Saunders	TE	-	2	3	3	8	2
Auden Tate	WR	-	-	4	5	9	3

DEFENSE

		2014	2015	2016	2017	Career	Consecutive
Brian Burns	DE	-	-	-	6	6	6
Demarcus Christmas	DT	-	1	13	6	20	19
Dontavious Jackson	LB	-	-	1	2	3	1
Derwin James	FS	-	8	2	6	16	6
Tarvarus McFadden	CB	-	-	13	6	19	19
Derrick Nnadi	DT	-	13	11	6	30	14
Josh Sweat	BUCK	-	10	10	6	26	15
Levonta Taylor	CB	-	-	-	6	6	6
Adonis Thomas	LB	-	-	-	2	2	2
Matthew Thomas	LB	3	-	12	6	21	12
A.J. Westbrook	SS	-	-	8	3	11	2