



TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN
FLORIDA STATE
 FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL CONTACT:
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3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | 15 ACC CHAMPIONSHIPS | 43 FIRST-ROUND PICKS

FINAL SCORE: FSU 27, SYRACUSE 24

TEAM NOTES

– It has been 41 seasons and 510 football games since Florida State last recorded three offensive touchdowns of 50 yards or longer in a single game; a feat they achieved in the first half against Syracuse. It last occurred on Nov. 20, 1976 - the final game in coach Bobby Bowden's first season - in a 28-21 win over Virginia Tech at Doak Campbell Stadium.

Nov. 11, 2017 vs. Syracuse

Nyqwan Murray 51-yard pass from James Blackman

Cam Akers 54-yard run

Akers 63-yard run

Nov. 20, 1976 vs. Virginia Tech

Larry Key 97-yard run

Mike Barnes 75-yard pass from Jimmy Black

Kurt Unglaub 96-pass from Jimmy Jordan

– FSU's defense came up with some timely stops against Syracuse in the second half. The Noles turned the Orange over on downs twice with a pair of fourth down stops and have now held on 7 of the last 10 fourth down plays...the Noles also forced seven punts; second only to the nine punts forced against Miami...four of those punts followed three-and-out stands by the Seminole defense...the day of timely stops began with **Derwin James'** interception on the opening drive of the game.

– The Seminoles' defense came up big on the final drive following a James Blackman fumble, which gave Syracuse the ball at its own 35 with 52 seconds remaining. **Derrick Nnadi** had a sack and a quarterback hurry. **Joshua Kaindoh** had a quarterback hurry and **Derwin James** had a third-down pass break-up.

– FSU's defense registered 9 pass break-ups, 9 tackles for loss and 3 sacks.

– Florida State's defensive effort came against a Syracuse offense that ran a season-high 95 plays against the Noles, but averaged 4.9 yards... Conversely, the Noles ran just 56 plays but averaged 6.1 yards.

– The Noles were 1-for-1 on red zone conversions and are now 19 of 21 on the season.

PLAYER NOTES

– Freshman tailback **Cam Akers** turned in a career-high performance with 199 rushing yards on 22 carries, including TD runs of 54 and 63 yards. That moved him from sixth to No. 3 on FSU's all-time rushing list for true freshmen.

- » Akers' 199-yard performance ranks No. 14 on FSU's all-time single-game list;
- » He flirted with becoming just the second FSU true freshman to eclipse 200 yards - he had 201 at one point before a 4-yard loss. Greg Allen did it twice in 1981, including his school-record 322-yard performance vs. Western Carolina and 202 vs. LSU
- » With his third 100-yard rushing performance of the season, Akers trails only Dalvin Cook's 5 by a true freshman. Travis Minor and Allen also had three.

FSU True Freshman Rushing Leaders

Player	Year	Rushes	Yards	YPC	TD
Dalvin Cook	2014	170	1008	5.9	8
Greg Allen	1981	139	888	6.4	3
Travis Minor	1997	112	623	5.6	9
Larry Key	1974	123	602	4.9	3
Devonta Freeman	2011	120	579	4.8	8

– **Ricky Aguayo's** 49-yard field goal in the third quarter was the second-longest of his career, trailing only his 51-yard field goal against Wake Forest earlier this season...Aguayo's 38-yard field goal with 6:48 remaining gave the Noles a 27-17 lead...the sophomore is 14-of-17 on the season.

– **D.J. Matthews'** 15-yard punt return in the third quarter was the longest by a Nole this season and helped set up Aguayo's 49-yard field goal for a 24-17 lead.

– **Logan Tyler** had a banner day all around, with a career-high with nine punts for a 43.1 average...he also matched a career-best with three punts over 50 yards and four inside the 20, including one inside the 10 and one inside the 5-yard line...Tyler also had a single-game high six touchbacks on kickoffs this season.

– Redshirt sophomore **Derwin James** had quite a productive day, beginning with his second career interception to halt Syracuse's opening drive of the game. James also had a career-high 4 pass break-ups, including one on third down of Syracuse's final possession, forcing Cole Muphy's, game-tying 43-yard field goal attempt, which sailed wide left as time expired...James also registered a tackle for loss, a quarterback hurry and recovered an onside kick with 2:54 remaining.

FSU LEADERS

PASSING: James Blackman
 12-19, 136 yards, 1 TD

RUSHING: Cam Akers
 22 rushes, 199 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING: Keith Gavin
 4 catches, 25 yards

TACKLES: Derrick Nnadi
 7 tackles



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HALFTIME SCORE: FSU 21, SYRACUSE 14

TEAM NOTES

- The Seminoles posted their earliest touchdown strike of the season on their opening possession of the game. James Blackman's 51-yard touchdown pass to Nyqwan Murray with 10:02 on the game clock finished off a 4-play, 53-yard drive.
- The Noles dialed long distance three times for TDs in the first half against Syracuse. In addition to Murray's 51-yard TD reception, Cam Akers broke off TD runs of 54 and 63 yards. From 1986 to present, Florida State had never recorded three offensive touchdowns of 50 or more yards in a game...the Noles last had three TDs of 50 or more yards in a single game against Idaho in 2013, with interception returns of 79 and 78 yards and a 60-yard TD run.
- Matthew Thomas' blocked field goal in the first quarter marked the third blocked kick of any kind this season for the Noles. It's the second consecutive year the Noles have blocked at least three kicks in a season, equaling a single-season high under Jimbo Fisher...it's the second consecutive year the Noles had a block against Syracuse (Brian Burns, blocked punt in '16)...Burns has two blocked punts this season for the Noles, who have blocked a punt and a field goal in the same season for the first time since 2010 (punt vs. Samford; FG vs. UNC).
- Logan Tyler's 55-yard punt in the second quarter pinned Syracuse back at its own 4-yard line. FSU's defense forced a punt and Cam Akers made the Orange pay for the field position turnaround when he broke off a 63-yard TD run...against NC State, Tyler's 54-yard punt pinned the Wolfpack back at its own 3 and the Noles cashed in with a safety.

PLAYER NOTES

- **Cam Akers'** 54-yard touchdown run with 13:38 remaining in the first half was the longest of the freshman's career..until he broke off a 63-yard TD run in the second quarter...With 159 first half rushing yards, Akers has 655 yards this season, which trails only Dalvin Cook (1,008, '14) and Greg Allen (888, '81) for most rushing yards in a season by a true freshman. Akers came into the game ranked No. 6 and has passed Devonta Freeman (579, '11), Larry Key (602, '74) and Travis Minor (623, '97).
- Freshman defensive back **Hamsah Nasirildeen** made his first career start. He joins James Blackman and Cam Akers as the third true freshman to start this season.
- **Ermon Lane** made his first start at wide receiver since the 2014 season. It was his seventh career start, the last four of which came at defensive back in 2016.
- **Matthew Thomas'** deflection of Cole Murphy's 48-yard field goal attempt in the first quarter was FSU's first blocked FG since DeMarcus Walker in 2015 at Florida.
- Freshman **James Blackman's** 50-yard touchdown pass to Nyqwan Murray was his longest TD pass this season and his second-longest completion.
- **Logan Tyler** had three first half punts of 50 or more yards, equaling his single-game high this season (3 vs. Duke).

FSU LEADERS

PASSING: James Blackman
 5-7, 57 yards, 1 TD
RUSHING: Cam Akers
 8 rushes, 159 yards, 2 TDs

RECEIVING: Nyqwan Murray
 2 catches, 52 yards, 1 TD
TACKLES: Sweat, McFadden, Nnadi
 4 tackles

CAPTAINS & COIN TOSS

CAPTAINS

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

COIN TOSS

Syracuse chooses heads and loses. FSU defers to the second half.

FSU STARTERS

OFFENSE

		2014	2015	2016	2017	Career	Consecutive
Cam Akers	RB	-	-	-	2	2	2
Josh Ball	LT	-	-	-	4	4	4
James Blackman	QB	-	-	-	7	7	7
Alec Eberle	C	-	6	13	8	27	27
Ryan Izzo	TE	-	11	12	8	31	19
Derrick Kelly	LG	-	4	2	8	14	8
Ermon Lane	WR	2	-	4*	1	7	1
Rick Leonard	RT	-	-	6	8	14	11
Cole Minshew	RG	-	-	3	8	11	11
Nyqwan Murray	WR	-	-	2	6	8	4
Mavin Saunders	TE	-	2	3	4	9	1

*Lane's 2016 starts came on defense

DEFENSE

		2014	2015	2016	2017	Career	Consecutive
Brian Burns	DE	-	-	-	8	8	8
Demarcus Christmas	DT	-	1	13	8	22	21
Derwin James	FS	-	8	2	8	18	8
Trey Marshall	STAR	-	6	12	5	23	2
Tarvarus McFadden	CB	-	-	13	8	21	21
Kyle Meyers	S	-	-	-	2	2	1
Hamsah Nasirildeen	SS	-	-	-	1	1	1
Derrick Nnadi	DT	-	13	11	8	32	16
Josh Sweat	BUCK	-	10	10	8	28	17
Levonta Taylor	CB	-	-	-	8	8	8
Matthew Thomas	LB	3	-	12	8	23	14