



2023  
**FLORIDA STATE**  
 FOOTBALL



## FINAL: #5 FSU 24, FLORIDA 15

» With a 24-15 win Saturday night at Florida, No. 5 Florida State improved to 12-0 and completed its 7th perfect regular season in program history. This is the 4th time FSU has been 12-0 and the 11th time FSU was perfect on the road.

» The win gave Florida State its 16th state championship and its second straight season sweeping both in-state rivals. It is the 12th time since 1993 Florida State has swept the other "Big 3" Florida schools in the same season. In that span, Miami has four state sweeps and Florida has two.

» Florida State is now 29-3 all-time when ranked No. 5 in the AP poll, including 11-1 on the road and 2-0 this season. FSU is 156-29 all-time when ranked in the top 5 (11-0 in 2023) and is 106-6 all-time against unranked opponents when ranked in the top 5, with 26 consecutive wins.

» The Seminoles' two wins against the SEC in 2023 and four combined in the past two seasons (2 each vs. LSU and Florida) are the most for any non-SEC team. FSU is the third different non-SEC program to earn at least four wins over SEC teams in a two-year span over the last 20 years (Clemson, 2015-19 and Georgia Tech, 2008-09).

» Florida State has won 9 of the last 13 matchups in the series and 5 of the last 7 in Gainesville.

» FSU's 18-game win streak is the longest in the ACC and 3rd-longest active streak, trailing Georgia and Washington. The 18-game winning streak is the 2nd-longest in FSU history and 3rd-longest in ACC history. During its current win streak, Florida State has outscored its opponents 718-310.

» FSU did not allow 30 points in the regular season for the first time since 2015. At 12 games, FSU has the 3rd-longest active streak in the country not allowing 30 points. For the season, FSU lowered its scoring defense to 16.75, best in the ACC.

» FSU trailed 12-0 in the second quarter before outscoring the Gators 24-3 the rest of the way. FSU and Appalachian State are tied for the national lead with four wins after trailing by 10+ points this season. It was FSU's 7th win under Mike Norvell when trailing by double-digits.

» The Noles have a +17 scoring run in every game this season.

» Redshirt junior **Tate Rodemaker** made his second career start - first since 2020 - and became the 3rd quarterback in FSU history to make his first or second collegiate start at Florida (Billy Prescott made his only career start in a 49-0 loss in 1973; Eddie Feely made his second career start in a 3-0 loss in 1960).

» Rodemaker averaged 11.2 yards per completion and did not have a turnover. FSU was turnover-free in eight games this year and has the fewest turnovers in the country, with five.

» Running back **Trey Benson** scored three rushing touchdowns Saturday, tying a career high. Benson also scored three rushing touchdowns against the Gators in 2022.

» Benson scored a 1-yard touchdown before halftime to get FSU on the board; a 36-yard run to begin the second half and a game-clinching 26-yard run with 2:48 remaining. His 14 rushing touchdowns this year are tied for 7th on FSU's single-season list and his 23 career touchdowns on the ground are tied for 11th in FSU history.

» With 1,828 career rushing yards, Benson ranks 18th in FSU history.

» Benson's first touchdown capped a 90-yard drive, FSU's second of 90+ this season.

» **Johnny Wilson** led FSU with six catches for 64 yards. He has led FSU in receiving a team-high six times this season. His six catches give him 100 for his career.

» The Seminoles tied season highs with six sacks and 11 tackles for loss.

» FSU held Florida to 86 passing yards, the 4th time this year FSU held an opponent under 100 passing yards and 6th time holding an opponent without a passing touchdown.

» The defense allowed three points after halftime. FSU has allowed just 72 points after halftime (6.0 per game) and the defense has surrendered just 4.8 points/game after halftime.

» **Jared Verse** set a career-high with 2.5 sacks and had a season-high 3.0 tackles for loss. His 7.0 sacks lead FSU, and his 3.0 TFL are tied for the FSU high this year.

» **Patrick Payton** tied a career-high with 2.0 sacks. It was the second time this season - at Wake Forest - that Verse and Payton both had 2.0+ sacks.

» **Braden Fiske** split a pair of sacks in the first half to match his season high 1.0 sacks. His 3.0 sacks on the season have come over FSU's last four games.

» **Keon Coleman** returned a punt 34 yards in the fourth quarter, his third of the season over 30 yards and his only return of the day. He began Saturday 11th nationally with 11.2 yards per punt return this season.

» Right guard **Keiondre Jones** made his first start of the season. **D'Mitri Emmanuel** started at left guard for the first time this season after starting the first 11 games at right guard.

» Linebacker **Kalen DeLoach** iced the game with his second career interception. Both of his interceptions have come at Florida (2021). Florida entered Saturday 4th in the country in fewest interceptions with four and had thrown a touchdown in every game this year.

» Safety **Akeem Dent** forced a fumble and is now tied for the team lead with two this season and two in his career. His first was October 7 vs. Virginia Tech.

» Kicker **Ryan Fitzgerald** scored six points Saturday to cross the 100-point mark for the first time in his career. Fitzgerald is 57-57 on extra points and 15-of-16 on field goals this year, and his 57 PAT are tied for 4th in a season at FSU. He is the first kicker at FSU with 57 made PAT in multiple seasons (was 57-58 in 2022).

## CAPTS & COIN TOSS

### CAPTAINS

0 Fabien Lovett  
 4 Keon Coleman  
 5 Jared Verse  
 14 Johnny Wilson

### COIN TOSS

Florida State won the toss and deferred.

## FSU STARTERS

### OFFENSE

Player	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	Strk	Ttl
QB Tate Rodemaker	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
RB Trey Benson	-	-	-	6	10	3	16
WR Johnny Wilson <sup>1</sup>	-	1	2	13	9	3	25
WR Keon Coleman <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	12	11	3	23
TE Jaheim Bell <sup>3</sup>	-	-	5	6	9	3	20
TE Kyle Morlock <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	2	9	2	11
LT Darius Washington	3	5	12	7	8	4	35
LG D'Mitri Emmanuel <sup>5</sup>	12	6	7	13	12	25	50
C Maurice Smith	2	7	8	12	10	9	39
RG Keiondre Jones <sup>6</sup>	-	7	13	2	1	1	23
RT Jeremiah Byers <sup>7</sup>	2	3	13	12	12	38	42

<sup>1</sup> at Arizona State, 2020-21

<sup>5</sup> at Charlotte, 2019-21

<sup>2</sup> at Michigan State, 2022

<sup>6</sup> at Auburn, 2020-22

<sup>3</sup> at South Carolina, 2021-22

<sup>7</sup> at UTEP, 2019-22

<sup>4</sup> at Shorter, 2022

### DEFENSE

Player	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23	Strk	Ttl
DE Jared Verse <sup>1</sup>	-	1	11	9	12	17	33
DT Braden Fiske <sup>2</sup>	-	6	12	12	12	36	42
DT Joshua Farmer	-	-	-	-	12	12	12
DE Patrick Payton	-	-	-	-	12	12	12
LB Kalen DeLoach	-	1	11	13	11	1	36
LB Tatum Bethune <sup>3</sup>	-	5	12	11	9	6	37
NK Jarrian Jones <sup>4</sup>	1	3	6	10	8	3	28
CB Fentrell Cypress II <sup>5</sup>	-	-	6	9	12	17	27
BK Shyheim Brown	-	-	-	2	12	12	14
FS Akeem Dent	5	5	8	12	10	7	39
CB Renardo Green	-	5	2	12	12	19	31

<sup>1</sup> at Albany, 2020-21

<sup>4</sup> at Mississippi State, 2019

<sup>2</sup> at W. Michigan, 2020-22

<sup>5</sup> at Virginia, 2021-22

<sup>3</sup> at UCF, 2020-22

» The 2023 team ranks 8th in program history with 465 points scored.

» Miscellaneous: Head coach **Mike Norvell** is 24-5 in November as a head coach, including 13-2 on the road...FSU completed its second straight perfect November and is 8-0 in the month over the last two years...running back **Lawrance Toafili** has 2,011 all-purpose yards in his career after rushing for 23 Saturday...**Ja'Khi Douglas** caught a crucial 4th-down pass for 10 yards and now has 1,003 career all-purpose yards...Florida was 4th in the country in 4th-down defense (.250); FSU was 1-1 on the day...Florida fell to 5-1 this season when leading at halftime.