

FLORIDA STATE

Sam and Doug run. Foes run slower. 'Noles win.

By Jeff McKinley
Staff Writer

See Sam run. Sam led the Florida State Seminoles in scoring last year. Run, Sam, run.

See Doug run. Doug could become an All-American. Run, Doug, run.

See Pat sit. Pat doesn't run. Pat's the coach. Pat likes to see Sam and Doug run, but Pat just sits. Sometimes Pat stomps his feet. That means Pat's mad. Pat probably won't need to stomp much this year.

While Florida State head coach Pat Kennedy likes to see his team run, the other ACC coaches may want to run away before they face the Seminoles.

Florida State returns all five starters, including second-team All-ACC performers Sam Cassell and Doug Edwards, from last year's 22-10 team that ran its way to a second-place ACC finish. Not bad for its initial season in the league.

In fact, FSU recorded more road victories (six) than any other first-year team in ACC history. And Pat Kennedy notched more conference wins (11) than any other first-year coach in league history.

After losing just one reserve after last

season, the fans in Tallahassee expect even more this year. Have these high expectations created too much preseason pressure?

Cassell, a senior, doesn't think so. "You feel any pressure?" Cassell said, looking at fellow Seminole senior Chuck Graham. "I don't feel no pressure."

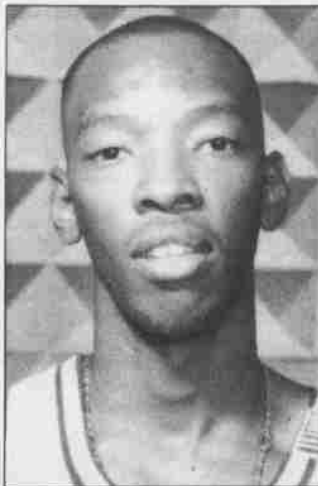
Looking at the Florida State roster, it's easy to see why Cassell seems unfazed by the hype.

Cassell, a 6-foot-3 guard, topped the FSU scoring list with 18.4 points per game last season — and he wasn't really familiar with this team yet. Cassell transferred to FSU from San Jacinto Junior College last year.

Perhaps Cassell best exemplifies FSU's style. Good quickness. Good shooter. Excellent athletic ability.

Don't accuse Cassell of being a one-dimensional player, though. He also dished out 119 assists last year. Defensively, Cassell's 56 steals ranked second on the team. After earning second-team All-ACC honors last year, Cassell could jump to first-team this year and has All-America potential.

But FSU's best prospect for All-America honors is senior Edwards, a 6-9 forward who also achieved second-



Sam Cassell

team All-ACC status last year.

Edwards averaged 17.1 ppg in 1991 and grabbed 9.0 rebounds per game, second in the league. Flashing his own all-around ability, Edwards managed 80 assists in addition to his scoring and rebounding numbers.

Rodney Dobard, a 6-9 senior, joins Edwards on the front line. Dobard rejected 46 shots last year to lead the Seminoles. After coming on strong in the second half of the season, he averaged 11 ppg and 6.7 rebounds per contest in 1991-92. In one home game against Maryland, Dobard flexed his muscle for 28 points and 12 rebounds.

As a result of excellent speed and a lack of experienced height, Kennedy employed a three-guard offense last season.

The Seminoles sport several guards to accompany Cassell in the backcourt.

Cassell can play the point, but he thrives at shooting guard. But Cassell will probably see plenty of action at the point until the Seminoles' playmaker returns to the team in January. That's when 6-1 junior Charlie Ward will trade in his shoulder pads for a pair of high tops.

"He's probably the first true quarterback-type we've had at Florida State," Kennedy said and then realized the unintentional humor of that statement. "Not meaning to make a play on words here."

You see, when Ward's not feeding the ball to FSU hoopsters for baskets, he plays quarterback for the football team, tossing spirals to Seminole receivers for touchdowns.

Another of FSU's guards also moonlights in a different sport when he's not on the basketball court. Gra-

ham has baseball scouts interested in his talents on the diamond, but Kennedy just hopes Graham continues his strong play on the hardwood.

Graham contributed 13 ppg last season. In shooting 81 percent from the free-throw line, Graham showed why he can be a major factor in the final minutes of a close game.

Florida State may become famous for all its two-sport athletes. Aside from Ward and Graham, Florida State was home of one of the most acclaimed two-sport professionals, Deion Sanders.

"We are becoming the cradle of the two-sport athlete," Kennedy said. "We're trying to find every two-sport athlete in the world."

Depth at guard shouldn't be a problem in Tallahassee this year. Swingman Bob Sura, a 6-5 sophomore, tallied 12.3 ppg and 3.5 rebounds last year en route to ACC Rookie-of-the-Year honors.

"Right now," Kennedy said, "Bobby Sura is playing as good as any player we've ever had at Florida State."

One of the team's top defensive players, appropriately named Lorenzo Hands (6-3 senior guard), returns to the team this year after a medical redshirt last year. Finally, 5-11 freshman Scott Shepherd may get a shot to run the point until Ward's football season ends.

The Seminoles won't be quite as limited to a small lineup this season as they were last year. Andre Reid, a 7-0 junior center, improved in the off-season. Reid



Bob Sura

possesses all the tools needed to become a dominating center and could be just what Florida State needs to win the conference championship.

Other likely contributors for FSU in 1992 include senior forward Byron Wells and freshman forward Derrick Carroll. Wells can come off the bench to provide extra outside scoring. Carroll, a first-team All-American in high school, seems to fit the multi-dimensional Seminole mold.

With all of this depth and athleticism, the Seminoles tend to wear down the competition. Does all of the running ever tire FSU, though?

"Nah," Cassell said. "If we're tired, we know the other team's tired. If we're huffin' and puffin', we say to each other, 'What do you think their guys are doing at the other end of the court?'"

Cassell sounds pretty confident, and he said that this confidence (some have called it cockiness) had helped this team. "I don't see us as cocky — we're just confident," he said.

Kennedy stressed that the team would need this confidence again this season.

"We tried to make the kids understand that, yes, we had lived a Cinderella beginning, but the second season will be much tougher because the teams will be better prepared," Kennedy said.

But Cassell said he was sure that this team had the capability to have a great season.

So what's it going to be, Sam? ACC champs? Final Four? National champions? "We're gonna do something," Cassell said. "I don't know what it's gonna be — but we're gonna do something."



Forward Doug Edwards led Florida State in scoring from game one through the NCAAAs

Florida State Seminoles

Head Coach: Pat Kennedy (Kings College, 1975).
Kennedy's Record: 243-126 in 12 years.
Kennedy at FSU: 119-66 in six years.

PLAYER ROSTER				
No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt. Cl.
21	Derrick Carroll	F	6-6	215 Fr.
10	Sam Cassell	G	6-3	195 Sr.
34	Rodney Dobard	F	6-9	210 Sr.
5	Ray Donald	G	6-8	205 So.
32	Doug Edwards	F	6-9	220 Sr.
4	Chuck Graham	G	6-3	190 Sr.
11	Lorenzo Hands	G	6-3	195 Sr.
54	Jonathan Kerner	C	6-11	230 Fr.
44	Andre Reid	C	7-0	250 Jr.
45	M. Robinson	F	6-6	235 Fr.
2	Scott Shepherd	G	5-11	180 Fr.
3	Bob Sura	F	6-5	200 So.
12	Charlie Ward	G	6-1	190 Jr.
33	Byron Wells	F	6-10	235 Sr.

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