



2017 NCAA® DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

First-Round · No. 3 seed Florida State vs. No. 14 seed Western Illinois
Donald L. Tucker Center · Tallahassee, Fla. - Friday, March 17, 2017

POSTGAME NOTES

No. 3 seed Florida State:

Florida State improved to 26-6 on the season and 20-15 all-time in NCAA Tournament play with the first round victory over Western Illinois. The Seminoles will face No. 6 seed Missouri in the second round on Sunday.

The Noles extended their win streak in NCAA Tournament first round games to 14 and improved to 26-2 when leading at halftime this season.

The Seminoles held commanding edges on the glass (54-23) and in points in the paint (50-16) behind White and Thomas.

Florida State's 54 rebounds set an FSU single-game NCAA Tournament record, breaking the old team single-game mark of 52 set against Samford in 2011.

Junior Chatrice White matched her season highs with 19 points and 14 rebounds, recording her sixth double-double of the season. Her 19-point effort also marked her 15th double-figure scoring game this season. White made 8-of-10 field goal attempts and also had a game-high four blocks.

Junior Shakayla Thomas tallied 23 points and 14 rebounds for her fourth double-double this season and ninth of her career. It marked her seventh 20-point game this season and 15th 20+ effort of her career. It's also her 24th double-figure scoring game this season and 75th of her career. The ACC Player of the Year had 10 points at halftime.

Thomas' 14 rebounds matched her career-high total set against Georgia Tech on Jan. 10, 2016.

Thomas and White both broke the FSU NCAA Tournament record for single-game rebounds with 14. The old mark was 13 set by several players.

Junior Imani Wright (14 points) and senior Leticia Romero (12) also reached double figures in scoring for the Noles.

The Seminoles held a slim 36-34 lead at halftime, but scored 31 points in the third quarter to take a 67-56 lead into the final quarter. The 31-point quarter is the sixth 30-point quarter this season for the Noles and the most points scored in a quarter since FSU had 32 in the second frame versus UAB in the 10th game of the season.

Thomas gave Florida State its first lead (26-24) lead with 4:16 remaining in the second quarter with back-to-back layups after she recorded steals. The Noles trailed by 8 (22-14) early in the second quarter.

Florida State's 12 first-quarter points is the fewest it has scored this season in the opening frame. FSU has trailed at the end of the first quarter in three straight games after only trailing at the end of the first in six of the season's first 31 games.

Florida State allowed an opponent to make 10+ 3s for just the third time this season, as the Leathernecks made 11 3s. Jacksonville State hit 14 3s against the Noles in the season opener, while Notre Dame made 10 3s in the regular season finale.

The Seminoles held Summit League Player of the Year Emily Clemens to just nine points – her second-fewest points this season and just the second time in 33 games she did not score in double figures.

No. 14 seed Western Illinois:

Western Illinois finished the season 26-7. The Leathernecks made their second-ever NCAA Tournament appearance and first since 1995.

The Leathernecks' 11-game win streak was snapped.

Sophomore Taylor Higginbotham scored the first nine points for Western Illinois and her 3-pointer at the 5:49 mark gave the Leathernecks a 9-4 lead in the first quarter. Higginbotham's second three at 2:54 in the first quarter pushed the Western Illinois lead to 14-8 and gave her 12 of the Leathernecks' first 14 points.

Higginbotham had 15 points at halftime and finished with 20 points – the 23rd double-figure scoring game of the season and 43rd of her career.

Western Illinois led 19-12 at the end of the first quarter, holding Florida State to its lowest first-quarter total this season.

The Leathernecks hung with the Seminoles in the first half thanks to making seven 3-pointers on 15 attempts. Western Illinois entered the game averaging 9.5 3s per game, which ranked sixth nationally and led the Summit League. Western Illinois entered the game with 303 made 3s, which ranked eighth in the nation. The Leathernecks finished with 11 3s on 24 attempts in the game (45.8 percent).

Junior Morgan Blumer was on an NCAA Tournament team in Tallahassee for the second time in her career. The transfer guard was on the FGCU team that face Florida State in the second round in 2015.