

## How The Florida State Seminoles Finally Reached Their Ultimate Goal

By Graham Hays | Dec 7, 2014  
espnW.com

BOCA RATON, Fla. -- Florida State waited a long time for one goal. On Sunday, the Seminoles waited through 83 minutes of soccer for a goal. They waited more than four hours across three appearances in the championship game for a goal. They waited through seven College Cup appearances in a decade under coach Mark Krikorian for this goal.

But Virginia -- and arguably the best player college soccer has seen in some time -- is still waiting for any goal after three games against Florida State. Which means college soccer's newest champion gave itself all the time it needed.

The third game of the season between Florida State and Virginia ended with the same result as the first two, but instead of a leg up in the ACC regular-season race or the ACC tournament title, this 1-0 win earned the Seminoles their first national championship. Not only did a Jamia Fields goal in the 83rd minute enable the Seminoles to become the 10th program to win a championship, but it also made them the first ACC team other than North Carolina to win it all.

Florida State became the first team since North Carolina in 2003 to go through all six rounds of the NCAA tournament without allowing a goal.

Speaking of one of the greatest dynasties in college sports, Florida State became the first team since North Carolina in 2003 to go through all six rounds of the NCAA tournament without allowing a goal.

"Actually seeing the team come together and how well we learned each other and how close we got in such a short amount of time, I knew that this was a special year," said Florida State's Cheyna Williams, voted the College Cup's most outstanding offensive player.

One miscue and one moment of brilliance decided the championship.

With a little more than seven minutes to play, Virginia goalkeeper Morgan Stearns didn't catch a goal kick cleanly, with the ball coming out low and settling into a mix of players on her own side of midfield. Florida State gained possession and pushed forward. Fields eluded one defender on the edge of the 18-yard box and moved to her left. She skipped left again, around a second defender closing from behind her, and took one more touch left toward the middle of the box.

Her left-footed shot back to the near post proved the first thing all day to disturb the netting in either goal.

As in most of the soccer these two teams played this season, the first 82 minutes were a tense, tactical battle short on quality scoring opportunities at either end. But unlike the regular season meeting, in which Dagny Brynjarsdottir scored the game's only goal in the ninth minute, or the ACC tournament final, in which Carson Pickett scored the only goal in the 17th minute, Florida State didn't have the luxury of an early lead to entrust to its defense.

No matter. Florida State managed to play like it was defending a 0-0 lead.

"I think they're very committed to it from front to back," Virginia coach Steve Swanson said. "Even their forwards are good defenders. I think they press a lot more than they did maybe in previous years. And they do that quite well; it's together, it's coordinated, it's trying to minimize the field. And they've got a very strong back line, as well. I don't think their back line and their goalkeeper get enough credit. They've got a good system, and they've got good players. And the other part of it is they're good with the ball. They can keep it when they win it."

Virginia came tantalizingly close to leveling the score and sending the game to overtime, with Morgan Reuther's rocket from just beyond the 18-yard box sailing inches over the crossbar in the 89th minute. But the Cavaliers, the nation's highest scoring team and a juggernaut in the first five rounds of the NCAA tournament, finished without a shot on goal. They had a total of five in 270 minutes of soccer against the Seminoles this season. No goals.

Florida State forced Virginia to react to its defense. The best offense in the nation, led by reigning Hermann Trophy winner and United States international Morgan Brian, had to change its normal look, even if only slightly, to try and solve the puzzle by dropping players into the midfield and leaving forward Makenzy Doniak on her own up top.

Even Virginia couldn't just go out and play its game against Florida State.

That's the ultimate testament to how the Seminoles defend -- complete and unrelenting.

Swanson went on to single out Florida State defender Megan Campbell's long throw as another component that makes it so difficult for opponents to gain a foothold. Not only does the distance Campbell generates make the throw dangerous when she hurls it to the doorstep of the opponent's goal, he noted, but it also gets the Seminoles out of trouble in a hurry when opponents do finally get the ball to the other side of midfield. For opponents such as Virginia, watching the ball sail back toward their own end of the field is like getting the "go to jail" card in Monopoly. Do not pass "Go."

It's the back line and a set piece weapon unlike any other in the college game, except that it's also the holding midfielder. And the forwards. And the wingers. And the keeper. Throughout his stay in Boca Raton, Krikorian repeated a line when asked about past College Cups: His team would win when it was good enough to win.

Well, the Seminoles won. So why, pray tell, was this the team that was good enough?

"I told you also that I thought this was the most complete team that we had," Krikorian said.

He went on to run through the lineup position by position. He talked about Cassie Miller taking over for Kelsey Wys in goal this season. He talked about having a wider variety of attacking options, the speed of Vanderbilt transfer Williams, who scored both goals in the semifinal win against Stanford and assisted on the winner Sunday, and the finishing touch of Berglind Thorvaldsdottir, who platooned with Williams. More from [espnW.com](http://espnW.com)

He moved on to Carson Pickett's ability to deliver service from the flank and how the work of holding midfielders Isabella Schmid and Michaela Hahn went unappreciated by too many people. He talked, of course, about the back line quartet that so frustrated opponents.

Most times when coaches do that, it's a way to make sure nobody gets left out. Not in this case.

"I just think we had so many different attacking options, defending options, the play of the players off the bench," Krikorian said. "And I think that our group was as prepared -- more prepared -- than we've ever been for this moment."

He mentioned Fields, too, of course. The senior earned a lasting place in Florida State lore and a memory that will last a lifetime, with a finish worthy of the talent and intensity arrayed on the field Sunday. With all four of her goals this season coming in the ACC or NCAA tournaments, she has a knack for that.

But Fields helped the Seminoles win long before she put the ball in the back of the net. She was one of those players pressing the Cavaliers high up the field, breaking up their rhythm and earning those throw-ins for Campbell.

Like an iceberg, the goal is just what shows up in the box score. The bulk of her work came beneath the surface.

"Obviously, it's a goal for everyone to try to get a goal," Fields said. "But I just try to play the game, play and make my teammates better, get crosses in. And when chances come and opportunities come, I'll put the ball in the goal, but otherwise, I'm just honestly playing for my team."

Just about the only player Krikorian didn't specifically mention by name was Dagny Brynjarsdottir. He instead called her the "big Icelander," which for most might be a convenient way of avoiding all those consonants but for the poker-faced coach seems close to a mark of affection.

An All-American and Hermann Trophy semifinalist who, if there is any justice, will be one of the finalists for the award this year, Brynjarsdottir didn't get the goal that won the program's first championship (she's probably just fine with it going to one of her best friends on the team). But from the goals and assists she produced all season to the work ethic she established in practice and even the bit of multimedia bonding she produced this past week with photos of all the players now and as babies, she led.

From a town with a triple-digit population in Iceland to the Florida panhandle sight unseen (she expected something like New York when she first arrived in Tallahassee), she became just the second of the many, many international players who have played for the Seminoles to earn the captain's armband.

Championships don't define great college players. Most of the national team Brian now rejoins, unless they went to North Carolina, completed their time in college without lifting the trophy. It doesn't mark her time in Charlottesville a failure to leave without one. But for a Florida State program so long defined by both its professional demeanor and the talent it attracts from abroad, it does mean something for Brynjarsdottir to go out with the trophy.

"She came in as a kid with a great deal of potential, and she's leaving as maybe the most decorated player that we've had," Krikorian said. "Certainly, she's been among the best players in college soccer this year, and she's helped lead us to this stage -- that's for sure. I thought when we lost Amanda

DaCosta four years ago that I would be heartbroken and not be able to find someone to be able to replace her. And then, of course, Dagny shows up and develops and develops and develops.

"I'll leave it for you all to decide what her legacy is going to be, but I know that from my feeling, her, Jamia and all of these seniors -- they broke through a new boundary."

Because in the end, nobody could break through them. Not when they played as one. Not even Virginia.

Florida State beats Virginia for title

Dec 7, 2014

Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. -- Florida State coach Mark Krikorian commented all weekend long at the Women's College Cup that his team would win a national championship when it was ready.

The Seminoles (24-1-1) did just that, picking up its first soccer title ever with a 1-0 win over Virginia (23-3-0) on Sunday.

Florida State had reached the final three times, including last year when it lost to UCLA 1-0 in overtime. This was Virginia's first trip to the final.

"I think this is the most complete team that we've had," said Krikorian, the head coach since 2005. "I think we have so many different attacking options and defending options than ever before. I think our group was as prepared, or better prepared, than we've ever been for this moment."

Florida State is the third school in NCAA history to win a national title without conceding a goal throughout the tournament.

Seminole goal keeper Cassie Miller, 24-1-1 for the season, had little work to do. She never faced a shot on goal from Virginia.

"There weren't many shots," Miller said. "Our defense is great and they're the ones who make me look good."

"That's what makes my job easy."

The Seminoles increased their winning margin over fellow ACC foe, Virginia, to 3-0 this season. They were the only three losses the Cavaliers suffered this year. In all three meetings, the Seminoles blanked Virginia 1-0.

Florida State became the first team since North Carolina in 2003 to go through all six rounds of the NCAA tournament without allowing a goal.

"It was a tough game for us," Virginia coach Steve Swanson said. "There was not much separating us. We played them three times and they were all one-goal games."

"You have to give them credit because we couldn't get a goal against them. We put ourselves in position to win today, but we just didn't have enough at the end."

Virginia's been shut out five times in its last 87 games -- all at the hands of Florida State.

All-time, Virginia leads Florida State 18-6-4 in meetings, but the Seminoles have won both times the teams met in the NCAA tournament.

Jamia Fields scored the winning goal at 82:50 in the match. All four of her goals this season came in the postseason, which has led Krikorian to give her a seasonal nickname.

"We knew coming into the game it would be a one-goal game," Krikorian said. "Fortunately for us, we had Ms. November-Ms. December with us."

Fields, a right flank midfielder, scored the winning goal with her left foot from the outside top of the box into the inside of the right post.

"I'm in that position a lot that the ball is by my left foot when I cut inside," Fields said. "I just took a chance at making the shot. I think at this level in college, you should be comfortable taking a goal with both feet."

Shayna Williams was credited with an assist, her sixth of the season.

The first shot on goal in the match came just a minute before Fields' goal on a penalty kick by the Seminoles' Megan Campbell that Morgan Stearns saved.

The final was a physical and action-packed battle primarily fought in the midfield. In total, Florida State narrowly outshot Virginia, 8-7.

Florida State joins an elite group of 10 schools to win the coveted national championship title: Florida, George Mason, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Portland, Santa Clara, Stanford, UCLA, and USC.

DECEMBER 8, 2014

| WOMEN'S SOCCER |



Senior Jamia Fields hits a late goal to give FSU a 1-0 victory over Virginia in the Women's College Cup final.

# GOLDEN GOAL

Fields' late goal delivers national championship for Florida State soccer

By **Jordan Culver**  
Democrat staff writer  
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**BOCATON**—There's a reason why senior midfielder Jamia Fields is called "Miss November and December" by her coach and teammates.

Fields' left-footed blast inside the right post in the 83rd minute of Florida State's championship match against Virginia delivered a 1-0 victory — and a first-ever national title in women's soccer — for the Seminoles.

It was Fields' fourth goal this year, all of which were scored during the postseason.

"I like the pressure in big games," Fields said.

"I mean, I play hard in small games too. But I just think every college soccer player lives for these moments. We're fortunate enough to play for a national championship so I just play hard. We try and perform as a team."

Florida State marched through the NCAA tournament without allowing a goal, outscoring opponents 17-0. FSU is the first team since Notre Dame in 2003 win the championship without allowing a goal throughout the tournament.

"Well, I mean, there weren't many shots, either," FSU goalkeeper Cassie Miller said with a laugh.

"Our defense is great. They're the ones that make me look good. I don't even know how many shots they



JEFF ROMANCE/FSU ATHLETICS

The Seminoles celebrate after senior Jamia Fields hit a late goal to give FSU a 1-0 victory over Virginia in the National Championship.

See **SOCCER** » 6D





JEFF ROMANCE/FSU ATHLETICS

The Florida State Seminoles are the 2014 Women's College Cup champions.

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

allowed today. They've been great the whole tournament. Our defense is great and that's what makes my job easy."

The Seminoles outshot Virginia 8-7.

Fields' goal was the only score in an otherwise aggressive match between two conference rivals. Most of the match played out at midfield and neither team managed a shot on goal until Virginia junior forward Makenzy Doniak tried a shot in the 65th minute that went wide.

The two teams combined for 15 fouls. Virginia senior mid-fielder Morgan Brian said the Cavaliers knew Florida State would be aggressive at midfield coming into the game.

"In this game, when (FSU doesn't) score for 80-something minutes and you're going into the last 10 minutes of the game, it's really anybody's game," she said. "For us, it was a great shot from them and we had seven shots to their eight. I think that's a pretty close game."

This was the third straight 1-0 match between Florida State and Virginia.

"They're very, very



JEFF ROMANCE/FSU ATHLETICS

*"Every year we fought for this. This year the senior class was special. The team was special. We weren't going to leave here without a win. We fought for each other and we got the win."*

**JAMIA FIELDS**

FSU soccer

well-coached," said FSU head coach Mark Krikorian about Virginia.

"They're as well-coached as any team in the country and they're loaded with talent. So you put the formula together and you have a great team. They have great players all over the place and they're very organized, very difficult to break down."

Junior forward Chey-  
na Williams, the tournament's Most Valuable Offensive Player, assisted on Fields' goal. Williams - who transferred to FSU from Vanderbilt at the start of the season - said this year's title was a team effort.

"All of this couldn't have happened without

the players I'm surrounded by," Williams said. "Every day in practice it's competitive. You should see our training staff and the playing plans when we're all working to get to points like this. My teammates are the reason why I'm able to be successful."

Fields, who is in her final season with Florida State, said this win was special, especially after losing in last year's final match against UCLA.

"It means everything," Fields said.

"Every year we fought for this. This year the senior class was special. The team was special. We weren't going to leave here without a win. We fought for each other and we got the win."

MVP: Most Valuable Parents

By D'Arcy Maine | Dec 7, 2014

espnW.com

Jamia Fields

Courtesy of Josetti Fields

After helping Florida State knock off South Carolina and advance to the College Cup, Jamia Fields, second from left, was joined by her No. 1 fans -- father Arby, mother Josetti and brother Arby II.

Ever wonder what it's like to have a child playing a Division I sport? What about having two children playing three Division I sports?

Most people likely haven't considered the second scenario. But most people aren't Josetti and Arby Fields. The couple are the proud parents of Florida State senior soccer star Jamia Fields and former LSU baseball standout and current outfielder in the Seattle Mariners farm system Arby Fields II, who previously played for the Northwestern baseball and football teams before transferring. Got all that?

If you think it's complicated reading all those sports and team names, just imagine living it. And the Fields parents don't just politely cheer from the sideline. They have been heavily involved in their children's athletic dreams since an early age, starting with tirelessly training both kids in the park by their Alta Loma, California, home during their elementary school days to the present in which they regularly fly across the country to show support on game day.

Josetti, who participated in soccer and track during her youth, and Arby, a former college football player, were both in Boca Raton, Florida, to watch Jamia play in the Women's College Cup. We caught up with them as they eagerly await Sunday's national championship game against Virginia.

Parents of aspiring athletes, you might want to take some notes.

espnW: How did your children get started in sports? How old were they?

Josetti: We'll start here with Jamia because her story is easier. Her brother played sports -- karate, baseball and football. But she did dance when she was little. When she was around 6, she decided she wanted to play on a team from watching her brother. Being that I played soccer, I thought that would work. So at 6 she started playing soccer. By 8, clubs were already knocking on our door, even though she couldn't play until she was 9. She played tennis too until high school, but soccer was her first love.

Arby: I was always involved with sports, football and baseball, mostly. My youngest brother Scott played in the NFL and at USC. He was the first one I really had a lot of time to work with. I started working with him when he was in the eighth grade. He became a Parade All-American. So a long time went by, and then I had my son. I developed a plan in my mind to guide him in the way I knew it had to be done, right from the womb. I worked with him every day. Every morning, we went to the park across the street and worked on something. I mean, like before he even started walking. I was the park director, so when he was 4, I put him out on the football field with the 8-year-olds. We were just always working, every day -- focusing on different skills of whatever the sport of the season was. Jamia started training with us along the way.

espnW: At what point did you realize you had two talented athletes in the family?

Arby: I knew my son was good right away. My daughter, I figured it out by the things she did around the house at a young age. One day when Arby and I were at the park running hills, she was about 8 and came and got upset. She didn't want to run hills. So I sent her home. A couple of weeks later, she was upset that she couldn't train with us anymore. We let her back in with us, and from then on, she tried to beat her brother at everything. She never cried again. By the way she ran around with her brother, I just knew she had it.

espnW: Were they competitive with each other growing up?

Josetti: They still are! They even train together now when they're home. When Arby would go hit, Jamia would go too, and everybody thought she played softball. She never did, but she could hit just because she was always going with him.

espnW: You live in California, so how did both Jamia and Arby end up at schools so far away in the southeast?

Arby: They could have stayed local. Jamia had something like 17 offers, including local schools, but then Florida State came. Everything there is first class. It's a great program. They came in and just sold us. I wasn't going to stop my daughter from going far away just because of the distance.

espnW: How many Florida State games have you been able to attend during Jamia's four years at the school?

Josetti: Between the two of us, most of the time we're there. He likes to go to the away games, and I like to go to the ones that are close so I can stay the whole weekend and go to two games. We plan it out in advance, as soon as we get the schedule.

Arby: I've missed maybe eight games in four years. I would love to have a convertible Porsche, but I can't do it. I do this instead. It's all about sacrifice.

espnW: What's it like being here to watch your daughter play in the national championship game?

Josetti: It's amazing. When you're at this level, you're the best. It's just one of those once-in-a-lifetime things. It's a blessing and amazing to see. We were there last year, but we didn't realize then until we got there just how big it was. And then you get back home, or even on the plane, and you realize just how big it is. When you hear people say, "Oh, that No. 4!" and you're like, "That's my daughter!"

espnW: Are you nervous?

Josetti: Yes! It feels like I'm running track. It's like having butterflies in your stomach at the starting line when you're waiting for them to start the gun. That's how I feel.

Arby: I know Virginia is good. I was there both times they played this year. But do I get nervous? No. Not now. Because I'm absolutely sure this is our time and I know how hard those girls work. I know they're ready. I'm not nervous at all. It's about to happen for us.

espnW: What will you say to Jamia before the game?

Arby: I'm not sure if it's appropriate to say, but yesterday [ahead of the semifinal matchup with Stanford] I told her to go out there and cut their throats. She'll always tell me not to say things like that. My daughter is a Christian, but when she gets out on the field, she has to do what she has to do. It's war out there. I'll say something like that.

Josetti: And then I say, "Go out there, say a prayer and just go out there and do what you do. You know who you are and what you do. There is no reason not to play your game."

espnW: Where does this rank among your proudest moments as parents?

Arby: Watching my son at Northwestern scoring touchdowns in front of 100,000 and watching him hit home runs, this is right there.

Josetti: I think this is the top. Even her brother says how special this is. Especially for her, she's always been like Arby's shadow, and now this is her moment. He even says to her, "You're bigger than I am," and tells her just to play her game. He was with us last weekend but couldn't make it this week. It was our first Thanksgiving all together in years.

espnW: What advice would you give to other parents who are raising young athletes?

Josetti: I would say, just always encourage your kids. It's going to get tough, because life gets tough. But you just can't quit. It's going to be hard or there might be someone on the team or a coach that your child doesn't like, but they have to learn how to deal with those things. It's teaching them how to react and deal with situations that happen and endure. You need to keep things positive. It can get negative, especially when they get older, so we just tried to stay encouraging.

Arby: You can't be afraid to go for it. You can't be afraid to say "I want to go pro" or "I want to start on the varsity team as a freshman." You can't be afraid to set goals because you can do it. If you, or your kids, really want to be a big-time athlete, you really just need to focus on that. You're going to have some time for some fun and some other things, but it's not going to be all that much. If you want to truly prepare for it and go for it, don't be afraid to do it.

# FSU, UVA are familiar foes in NCAA final

| NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE CUP |



JEFF ROMANCE/FSU  
ATHLETICS

FSU players  
celebrate the  
first of two

Cheyna  
Williams' goals  
in Friday's  
College Cup  
semifinal.

Seminoles have two  
shutouts this season  
vs. their ACC rival

By **Jordan Culver**

Democrat staff writer  
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**BOCA RATON** — At this point, it's safe to say Florida State knows Virginia's style of play reasonably well.

The Seminoles (23-1-1) have played Virginia twice so far this season. Both times resulted in

Williams scored both of FSU's goals in Friday's semifinal against Stanford.

"I know coming off the Stanford game we're feeling pretty confident," she said. "I think we're all pretty prepared to play. It kind of helps that we're familiar with them. We definitely don't take that lightly. We don't take it lightly at all."

Florida State's last victory over Virginia in the ACC Tournament championship match started a streak of six straight shutouts for the Seminoles.

"Certainly that feels good," Krikorian said. "I think I've said for a long time our defending has been really solid. We've minimized chances our opponents get at us. At the end of the day, if we give up a goal, that's not going to kill us. We're going to go and continue to compete and find a way to come back and continue to search for the result."

"Florida State is really good defensively, I think everyone has seen that," Brian said. "They haven't given away many goals. For us, it's going to be about being patient and switching the field and keeping the ball better."

She added, "Especially since both teams played against good teams on Friday night, I don't think (the match) will be everyone going at each other, back and forth all game. It's going to be very patient."

Virginia advanced to the title game by beating Texas A&M in the semifinals, but also had to take down UCLA — last year's champion — to advance to the College Cup. Virginia's losses to Florida State are the team's only losses this season.

"I'm pretty indifferent about it," said junior forward Cheyna Williams said about playing a team the Seminoles have already beaten twice.

## Soccer

Continued » 1C

vantage to knowing them or not knowing them."

This is the fourth time — and first time since 2002 — that two teams from the same conference have met in the final. UVA coach Steve Swanson said the familiarity is a challenge for both teams.

"For us, we have a lot of respect for one another," he said.

"I think both programs have a lot of respect for one another. I think the last two games in particular have been very competitive. I think our rivalry in the last 10 years, all of those games have been very competitive. Hopefully it'll fuel us that we didn't win the last two games."

UVA also has a member of the U.S. Women's National Team — senior midfielder Morgan Brian.

Mark Krikorian said today's NCAA Women's College Cup final here on the campus of Florida Atlantic will test the Seminoles. Going into the game thinking of past success would be a mistake, he said.

"They know us as well as we know them," Krikorian said.

"I think I think we have two very good teams that are going to go out on to the big stage tomorrow and we're going to test ourselves to see how good we are. I'm not sure there's an ad-

See **SOCCER** » 3C

### FSU VS. VIRGINIA

» When: 1 p.m., today  
» Where: FAU Stadium, Boca Raton  
» Watch: ESPN

1-0 victories for the Seminoles. Both times FSU limited the Cavaliers to four or fewer shots on goal. And both times Florida State scored early, then stifled UVA on defense.

The past two games were similar, but FSU head coach

## Why Midfield Play Could Be The Difference In College Cup Title Game

By Graham Hays | Dec 6, 2014  
espnW.com

BOCA RATON, Fla. -- Even the name almost makes you want to stifle a yawn: Holding midfielder. Other players on the field get to be attacking midfielders or strikers. Even wingers and fullbacks are position names that hint at adventure and flair.

Football, the other one, has holding penalties. Airline travel has interminable holding patterns that guarantee missed connections. Want some customer support on the phone? Be ready to listen to some scratchy music while you are, you guessed it, holding.

Previously a goal scorer, Florida State's Michaela Hahn learned how to defend after moving to midfield.

You take the bull by the horns, but you hold on for dear life.

Yet come Sunday afternoon, players from either Florida State or Virginia will be holding aloft the championship trophy. They will jump, dance, scream and cradle the biggest prize in college soccer for the first time in either program's history.

One way or another, those holding midfielders are going to help decide which team gets to celebrate.

In fact, though the teams approach the position in different manners and with different numbers of players, the more you watch Virginia's Danielle Colaprico and Florida State's Michaela Hahn and Isabella Schmid, the more you realize these two teams might not be in Sunday's national championship game but for them.

"It's kind of like we connect the attack and the defense," Schmid said of the often overlooked position. "We're just kind of the center point. I would say the midfield is hugely important because we're responsible for the rhythm of the game and calm things down and all that stuff."

If Florida State is college soccer's model of international cooperation, with players from seven countries on a typically worldly roster, the holding midfield partnership of Hahn, a junior from the other side of the state near Orlando and Schmid, a junior from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean in Germany, is the microcosm of the model.

Mark Krikorian's 4-2-3-1 formation calls for two holding midfielders, an arrangement by which Hahn and Schmid, if they do their jobs well, effectively give the Seminoles the flexibility of an extra defender or attacker at any given moment.

The two players Krikorian called the most underrated on his team usually do their jobs quite well, if also quietly well.

"They're like coaches," Krikorian said. "They both read the play very, very well. Their technique is very good. They have fantastic soccer brains. They're intercepting passes, stepping into passing lanes and so on. Their quality with the ball is really good, but probably the best thing is they make the players around them better. They clearly understand the quality of the opponent's pressure. They'll put the ball in a

place where their teammate can handle the ball away from pressure so that they have a little bit more time to handle the ball."

Neither grew up playing the position at which they now collectively excel. A forward and a defender at various times in her life (including not inconsiderable time at outside back with the Seminoles), Schmid said she felt like she needed an extra set of eyes when she was first dropped in the midfield. Instead of having the bulk of the game in front of her as a defender or behind her as forward, everything was whirling around her in the midfield.

For Hahn, the switch meant learning how to defend -- work she was largely able to avoid as a goal scorer earlier in life.

"Even though I do like scoring, and I haven't scored and I'm a little sad [about that]," Hahn said, "I like distributing the ball and making those passes because people do notice it. Also, I wasn't the best at defending when I came in, and now I'm a really good defender, cutting out the balls and stuff, and it just makes me happy that people actually see it and it's not all about scoring."

Schmid initially only wanted to come to the United States for one year, as an exchange year to experience something new before returning to Germany, where she has been part of the European power's youth national team system. What she found in Tallahassee -- where she will graduate from Florida State in three years with plans to pursue a master's degree -- convinced her to stick around for the duration. As it turned out, doing so also meant finding those extra eyes she wanted, not in the back of her head but alongside her.

In their third season together, Schmid and Hahn operate as one unit, with the typically defensive-minded Hahn freeing Schmid to push forward into the attack.

"I always know Michaela is going to be there, otherwise I wouldn't be able to go forward," Schmid said. "By her doing so, it gives me confidence, and I know I don't have to make a sprint back because I know she's going to be there. And it's the same with her: As soon as she is going forward, she knows I'm going to stay back. We just trust each other, and we communicate well."

Florida State is the defensive powerhouse that it is both because it plays well when it doesn't have the ball and also because it usually has the ball more than the other team. It's why the Seminoles are the only team to stop the Cavaliers this season, having beaten them twice by matching 1-0 scores.

Florida State's back line gets and earns a lot of credit for the stinginess. The forward lines apply their share of pressure. But it's so hard to go through Florida State and so hard to get the ball from the Seminoles because of those two players in front of the back line.

Which makes the midfield the center of attention in Sunday's match.

"I mean it when I say it: I think they have one of the best midfields in the country," Schmid said of the Cavaliers. "They have very talented players, but the thing is, I'm actually more excited to play against them than I am about any other team, just because I know they're very good and I like playing against good players. You know they play soccer. They try to combine, they try to connect the passes, and that's the style of soccer I like, so I'm very excited to play against them."

"I think the challenge is just that we need to break their rhythm because that's their strength. They're very good, and as soon as they start combining, it's very hard for us to defend. So we just need to break that rhythm and start being physical and interrupt their play."

That starts with interrupting Colaprico and Morgan Brian, who form the spine of Virginia's midfield. Both Hermann Trophy semifinalists, the seniors have combined for 33 assists in 3,235 minutes this season (for reference, that is six fewer assists than the entire North Carolina team accumulated in 18,826 combined minutes, and that was a team good enough to split the ACC regular season title with Florida State and earn a No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament).

For much of the season, including parts of the first game against Florida State in late September, Virginia played with a more prototypical holding midfielder in Campbell Millar, a player coach Steve Swanson lauded as someone who improved as much during her four seasons as any player he ever coached. But for the most part, since Brian returned from World Cup qualifying with the U.S. national team, Colaprico has played in the holding role between the back line and Brian.

It's not inconceivable that Swanson, who hinted at some strategic twists for Sunday's game, would shift the versatile Colaprico elsewhere on the pitch for the final, but stacking his two playmakers has worked well so far for an offensive juggernaut. Nor does Swanson sacrifice anything defensively, as evidenced by the way the 5-foot-3 Colaprico held her own on the ground and in the air against bigger opponents, such as UCLA's Sam Mewis and Texas A&M's Annie Kunz, the past two games.

"The thing about where we have her now is she's such a good two-way player," Swanson said of Colaprico. "She's not only a strong player with the ball, and she can get forward, but she also defends really well. I think to have the combination of those two in the midfield, who play really well together and look for each other, has been really helpful for us as we've entered postseason play. Sometimes you want to have Dani a little bit further up the field because of her attacking abilities, but I think the most important thing is you try to get her in positions where she's touching the ball a lot during games."

It doesn't hurt that Colaprico played the attacking role Brian occupies when the latter was away for an extended period of time with the national team this fall, or that Brian trained in the holding role during that time with the United States. Each has run a mile in the other's shoes -- literally in distance, if thankfully only metaphorically in footwear.

"She has a huge role on this team," Brian said. "She plays a lot of different positions, and for us that is really good for her to be so versatile. Last week, she played the holding mid position. And that is exactly what we need her to do -- play the role given -- just like everyone else on the team. For her, she is very good on the ball. She calms the team down. I love playing with her. I think that we play really well together."

Both Swanson and Krikorian, whose familiarity dates back decades, to when the former coached at Dartmouth and the latter at nearby Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire, will get the opportunity to outmaneuver each other Sunday, but much of their work was done long ago in finding the pieces now in place.

For Hahn and Schmid, that meant identifying positional potential. For Colaprico, it required some patience in the recruiting process.



"I didn't really have much of a feel of whether Steve wanted me at first," Colaprico said.

It didn't help that the prep All-American from New Jersey didn't play to her plaudits when a Virginia assistant came to watch her.

"I just played awful, and it was like the most devastating thing of my life," Colaprico said. "I was like 'I just ruined it. I'm never going to UVA.' I wanted to go there from the start and from the beginning, so I kind of just kept in touch with him all the time, and then finally at the end ... he reached out to me and kind of persuaded me to come to UVA."

It's safe to say she held up her end of the bargain.

Although other positions typically offer greater glory, Sunday should offer a spotlight for those who make the pass that allows the pass that leads to the goal or stop the run the other way that could unravel a defense.

Colaprico, Hahn and Schmid? They hold the key to a national championship.

# Williams' goals lift 'Noles

FSU advances to 2nd straight title match

**By Jordan Culver**

Democrat staff writer  
@JordanCulver on Twitter

## FSU VS. VIRGINIA

Florida State vs. Virginia

- » When: 1 p.m. Sunday
- » Where: FAU Stadium, Boca Raton
- » Watch: ESPN

**BOCA RATON** — They were Florida State's only two goals in three games against Stanford, but they were the only goals the Seminoles needed to advance to a second straight NCAA Women's College Cup Championship

half, to power the Seminoles to a 2-0 victory over Stanford in the second semifinal match Friday at Florida Atlantic University's Schnellenberger Field.

Williams' first shot was one of seven the Seminoles had in an aggressive first half, compared to just two from the Cardinal. FSU outshot Stanford 11-7 for the game.

"This definitely couldn't have happened without my teammates," Williams said.

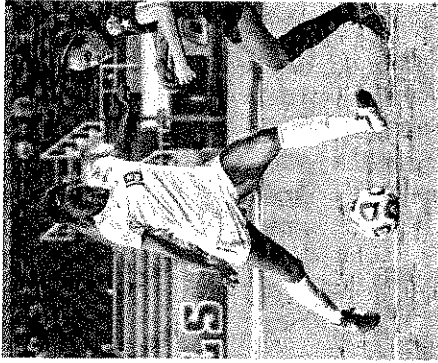
The Seminoles will play Vir-

ginia in the title game at 1 p.m. Sunday. The Seminoles (23-1-1) beat Virginia (23-2) twice this season, once in the regular season and again in the ACC tournament. Both games were 1-0 wins.

"This is the first time since 2002 two conference opponents will face each other in the championship match.

"Obviously we're confident in knowing we can beat them," head coach Mark Krikorian

See **SOCCER** » 3D



JEFF ROMANCE/FSU ATHLETICS  
Cheyna Williams scored both of FSU's goals Friday.

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

said. "We also know their quality. We know that if we're not sharp and if we don't bring the A game then they're certainly capable of beating us. I can assure you there will be no feeling of arrogance in our preparation. We're going to go about our preparation for them just as we have for everyone else."

Williams' goal in the first half was the Seminoles' first goal against Stanford after two shutout losses. The last time the Seminoles played the Car-

dinal—in 2011 in the semifinals of the Women's College Cup in Kennesaw, Ga.—FSU lost 3-0.

This time, the Seminoles kept the pressure on Stanford, out-shooting the Cardinal 11-7. Williams added her second goal in the 87th minute, assisted by senior Jamia Fields, and put the game completely out of reach.

The Cardinal had a solid opportunity to draw things even in the second half. A shot in the 50th minute by Stanford forward Chioma Ubogagu made it past FSU goalkeeper Cassie Miller, but redshirt-sophomore midfielder Kirsten Crowley managed to save the goal.

at the very last second, keeping Stanford off the board.

"The ball came to me," Crowley said. "It could have come to anybody. We all want it so bad. The margin between winning and losing takes special moments like that."

Almost as scary for the Seminoles was a free kick by Lo'eau LaBonta in the 83rd minute after a penalty on Kristen Grubka. LaBonta's shot was saved by Miller, and the Cardinal didn't threaten again.

Stanford's first chance came early in the game. Less than three minutes in Stanford mid-fielder Lo'eau LaBonta took a shot that sailed wide right.

Stanford's second shot, this time by mid-fielder Alex Doll, went over the goal and into the stands.

### 3 players named to All-American teams

For the sixth time in school history, at least three Seminoles were named to All-American women's soccer teams.

Dagny Brynjarsdottir and Kristin Grubka earned first team honors, while Cheyna Williams was named to the third team. This is the second time since 2009 two Seminoles were named to the first team.

Brynjarsdottir and Grubka were also recog-

nized as semifinalists for the 2014 Missouri Athletic Club's (MAC) Hermann Trophy on Tuesday. The MAC Hermann Trophy is the highest individual award in collegiate soccer.

### Kacy Scarpa named Elite 89 award recipient

Florida State senior mid-fielder Kacy Scarpa received the NCAA's Elite 89 Award during the Women's College Cup National Championship Banquet on Thursday. The award is presented to the student with the highest grade point average competing at the finals site for any of

the NCAA's 89 championshipships. Scarpa, an exercise science student from Lakeland, has a 3.948 GPA.

"As I was sitting at the table (during Thursday's banquet), I was actually studying for a little bit on my phone," said Scarpa. "I am so honored, it's something I obviously have to work hard for; it doesn't come easy. Just to see that my hard work has paid off is a nice feeling."

**ANNEX OPEN**  
**Garnet & Gold**  
**Governor's Square**  
**Upper Level**  
**Next to Dillard's**

## How Florida State's Megan Campbell Throws Opponents For A Loop

By Graham Hays | Dec 5, 2014  
espnW.com

In the right hands, pairs of which come along only rarely, a simple mechanism meant to restart a sport played with feet becomes a tool capable of deciding games.

Which is why people seem to remember the first time they see Florida State's Megan Campbell throw the ball back into play.

Calling it a throw-in, lumping it in with what other players do when they pick up the ball on the sideline, doesn't do it justice. As Florida goes, it belongs not in Tallahassee or Boca Raton, site of this weekend's College Cup, but in Cape Canaveral.

"It was maybe something you can't print," Duke coach Robbie Church recalled of his reaction to a first encounter with the throw. "It was probably 'Damn, look at that thing.' It was definitely a 'Wow, look at that; what a weapon that is.'"

"I think her long throw is as dangerous as anybody's that I've ever seen."

Seminoles All-American Dagny Brynjarsdottir experienced her own moment of marvel a season ago when she first saw her new teammate launch the ball like a souvenir out of a T-shirt cannon. Brynjarsdottir, too, may have uttered some oaths in whatever passes for unprintable Icelandic during those preseason moments. Even with the experience of a player who had competed in not just the biggest college games the ACC and NCAA tournament have to offer, but also major senior-level international tournaments, she hadn't seen anything quite like it.

"I've never seen even a guy who could throw it to the far post," Brynjarsdottir said.

But what still stands out most clearly in her mind from that day aren't the throws so much as the look she saw on Seminoles coach Mark Krikorian's face. No coach in college soccer has a more consistent poker face than Krikorian. Few have seen more players, either, than the man known for traveling the globe to build a college superpower in the Florida panhandle. Yet Brynjarsdottir still chuckled when she recalled a look of surprise that suggested he hadn't seen what arrived with Campbell from Ireland.

"To be honest with you, I had seen Megan's on video and so on, but to see it in person the first time, it was very impressive," Krikorian said of a player who arrived with junior eligibility. "We thought that we had the kid previously with probably the best throw-in in the country with Jessica Price. She graduated, and we thought we were going to have a kid coming in with a decent throw-in. But it's a whole lot more than decent."

Fans seeing the throw for the first time when Florida State takes on Stanford in the second of Friday's two national semifinals (ESPNU, 7:30 p.m. ET) may have a similar reaction to those described. But if Campbell's long throw is no longer really a secret weapon, its uniqueness may be the means by which a program with more NCAA tournament wins than any without a national championship moves itself off that list and claims that elusive first title.

This is not a story about a specialist. If Campbell never took a throw in Friday's game, she would still merit mention, an aggressive, vocal left back who is part of a back line and overall defensive effort that has yet to concede a goal in the NCAA tournament and has a total of 17 clean sheets this season. She is dangerous on set pieces with her feet, too, able to drive long free kicks. She has 12 assists this season and 25 in her two seasons in Tallahassee.

"She is a very good soccer player," Church said. "The long throw is just one dimension of her game. She's a very good attacking back, she's very smart. If you really look at her on tape, she has great angle play offensively. She has great service from the left-hand side. She connects a lot of passes with good range on her passing ability -- she can drive longer balls, she can drive shorter balls to the midfielders in their possession game. And then this year, with another dimension up front with the speed they have with [Cheyna] Williams, she can drive longer balls to her."

But if not a specialist, Campbell is never more special than when the ball rolls out of bounds.

Sort of like pulling a sword from a stone, or perhaps more like propelling a sword into a stone from some distance, the long throw was a talent Campbell didn't know she had until she tried it. As a child in Louth, not far from the border with Northern Ireland, there wasn't much call for throw-ins, long or short, on the small fields used by the youth teams on which she played with girls. But when she reached the under-12 level or thereabouts, the opportunities for girls dried up. There weren't teams for girls that played full-field, 11-a-side soccer, so she joined a boys' team instead.

And they soon discovered they only wished they could throw like a girl.

"They were in shock," Campbell said of her teammates and coaches. "Then when I did it a few times, they wanted to use it more and more to get goals. As kids, that's all you want to do is score goals, so the more goals we could score the better -- and a lot of goals came from the throw-ins."

Campbell wasn't then and isn't now particularly big or imposing. And while she goes as hard into tackles with as much venom as just about any defender out there and plays with the intensity of a seasoned international, which she is for Ireland, it's not as if her frame suggests a future in weightlifting.

To borrow a slightly out-of-date American sporting comparison, she is more Pedro Martinez than Randy Johnson. And just as it's difficult to explain how certain arms in baseball just seem to have more power than others, it's difficult to explain the secret of Campbell's heaves. The form is good, the six- or seven-step run-up she needs to generate ideal distance (the more space a sideline affords her for a run-up, the farther she can throw it), the arch of her back and the drive off her front foot. Yet she might find some disappointed customers if she put out an instructional video. Some things in sports can't be taught or added like bonus features; they just come factory installed.

"The throw-in has just been natural the whole way through my life, so I don't feel like I need to practice it," Campbell said. "I feel like if I do practice it I make more of a conscious effort then, so maybe sometimes then I'll mess up. But if I just leave it to the game and whatever happens happens, it seems to always work."

The result is that Florida State can set up a set piece that is the equivalent of corner kick any time the ball goes out of bounds within 25 or 30 yards of the end line in the attacking third. Except that the throw is in some ways even better than a corner kick. Church said he actually preferred his teams concede

corners in the same general area against her. Coming from the opposite perspective, Brynjarsdottir agreed that the throws were preferable. The logic in both cases is that Campbell cannot only aim her throws with far greater precision than a corner kick can be directed but can deliver her throws with a low, hard trajectory that freezes goalkeepers unused to dealing with those balls.

Both the consistency of aim and the low trajectory are also areas where Campbell's conventional long throw appears to have an advantage on the more acrobatic flip throw-in still in use, where a player effectively does a handspring over the ball to generate power for the throw.

"I think the lower and faster I throw the ball, the harder it is to defend," Campbell said. "For a defender, I'd rather it come in as a looping ball. If I was the defender, I would rather it come in like that because then it's similar to a corner and you can set yourself and get ready. But if I fire the ball in low and hard, then it's obviously harder to defend. And if it touches off anybody's head or skims off anybody, then it's likely to go in the back of the net or in the area where our players are."

That's exactly what happened on two of her most memorable throws, both of which came in the same game when Ireland took on traditional European power Germany. Less than two minutes into the game, a Campbell throw allowed a teammate to flick it with the slightest of touches to the back post and past the keeper. With only minutes remaining and Ireland behind 2-1, another of her throws this time sailed over the crowd around the apparent target and fell to the foot of an Irish player making a run behind the scrum, who finished past a flat-footed keeper.

Substitute Florida State's Kristin Grubka for the target player and Brynjarsdottir for the back-post runner, two of the best aerial players in college soccer, and you have the description of many Florida State goals, too (four of Campbell's assists this season are directly off throws).

But another of Campbell's personal favorites came nowhere near the attacking third. In a College Cup semifinal a season ago, she launched a ball more than 40 yards from her own half that put Brynjarsdottir into space down the flank and allowed her to square the ball back to Jamia Fields for a goal. What in any other game would have been a harmless turnover became a transition goal in a matter of seconds. It's that ability to create chances not just in the attacking third but by quickly restarting play from her own half as a left back that make Campbell's throws doubly dangerous.

"She can pick it up and throw it very quickly," Church said. "Throw it over your right back's head into dangerous space where they run a player into that space and then go from the outside in. Or, of course, the traditional way is when [the throw-in comes] in the final third, she comes up and is very, very dangerous from either side."

The pressure her throws puts on opponents doesn't just come when the ball goes out of play. Opposing outside backs can't push quite as far forward as they otherwise would when the ball is on her side in Florida State's defensive half, lest they get caught watching what Church described. And defenders used to booting the ball out of play when under pressure from Florida State in their own half instead find that relief valve closed off. The Seminoles want you to play the ball out of bounds, as intent on forcing that outcome as actually stealing away the ball when they pressure.

"I remember distinctly when their center backs or when their fullbacks would get on the ball and be under pressure," Campbell said of last year's championship game against UCLA. "You could hear from

the sidelines saying, 'Don't kick it out of bounds.' Because obviously they didn't want me to run up and throw the ball in as a set-piece weapon.

"They obviously did quite well when they ended up beating us, unfortunately."

But for the fourth year in a row and the seventh time under Krikorian, Florida State is again part of the season's final weekend. And thanks in part to a long throw, it is anything but a long shot to lift the trophy.

## From the Hilltop to the Top of the Hill: Krikorian '83 Wins DI National Title

Posted: Dec 09, 2014 [Tweet](#)

**MANCHESTER, N.H.** – One would probably forgive head coach Mark Krikorian if he took the day off or arrived a little late the morning after guiding the Florida State University women's soccer team to its first ever NCAA National Championship. But the 1983 Saint Anselm graduate was in his office bright and early Monday morning, just hours after leading the second-ranked Seminoles to a 1-0 victory against the fourth-ranked University of Virginia in the Division I title game Sunday afternoon.



That kind of work ethic and drive to succeed can be traced back to Krikorian's time on the Hilltop as a four-year men's soccer student-athlete, as well as growing up in the Granite State.

"Being from New Hampshire is essential to who I am today," Krikorian said. "I learned an awful lot from my high school coaches, John Mitchell and John Wallace, and of course, Coach [Ed] Cannon. The work ethic was a big one. A lot of the success we've had [at Florida State] is tied to the direct roots in New Hampshire. Competing with my brothers day-in and day-out was also influential."

While Krikorian handed out lots of praise to many different people from the place he still considers home, it was Cannon, the man who spent 30 years as the Saint Anselm men's soccer head coach and stepped down in 2004 as the program's winningest bench boss, that Krikorian really credits with a lot of his success.

"My time at Saint Anselm was vital," Krikorian said. "As everyone is aware, those years are so important in your development. To have a role model like Coach Cannon – he's a great coach and an even better person. He certainly taught me a lot on the field, but even more off it."

Krikorian began putting together the makings of a serious soccer career less than 20 miles from Saint Anselm, growing up in Derry, N.H. Krikorian was a standout soccer star at Pinkerton Academy and set himself up to play the game he loved at the next level. Cannon recruited the young Krikorian to play at Saint Anselm, but he wound up choosing the University of New Hampshire.

Krikorian sat on the bench for that 1978 season, including during an Oct. 11 matchup with Saint Anselm in which the Hawks pulled out a 2-1 victory against the Wildcats. Krikorian contacted Cannon after the season and transferred to Saint Anselm prior to the 1979 campaign.

Cannon could see some of the things that now make Krikorian a great coach, back when he was a young player.

"He was a special kid and had a true passion for the game," Cannon said. "He also had a great sense of the game and was a real quarterback on the field for us. He was quick, strong and had a wonderful touch on the ball, which not many kids did in that era. And what a great understanding of the game he had coming out of high school – I hadn't seen a kid like that."

Krikorian, who was inducted into the Anselmian Athletic Club Hall of Fame in 2005, registered eight goals and eight assists for 24 career points while in a Saint Anselm uniform. The two-time captain and team MVP was an All-New England First Team selection as he helped guide the Hawks to a share of the Northeast-8 Regular Season Championship his senior year.

"I learned so much about life and the game from guys on the team," Krikorian said. "All I knew was what I had seen. I thought soccer in Derry, N.H., was the kingpin and then so many good players like Chris Ayers and Mark Murray came in and opened my eyes to a new level of athletics and tactics that allowed me to grow as a person and as a player. I really enjoyed competing with them and representing Saint Anselm and being out on the training field every day, getting better with guys that were both great guys and great students."

After graduating, Krikorian wanted to coach and spent some time in high schools before applying for the women's soccer head coach position at then-Franklin Pierce College. Cannon made a call to Franklin Pierce AD Bruce Kirsh to offer up his approval of the hire.

"It's a pretty simple recommendation when you know in your heart the young man is special," Cannon said.

Krikorian, wanting to break into college coaching, asked Cannon if he thought it would be possible to cross back over and coach men after first coaching women. Cannon answered Krikorian's question with a question of his own: Why would you want to do that?

Krikorian accepted the job and the rest, as they say, is history. He quickly made the Ravens relevant and won back-to-back National Championships in undefeated seasons in both 1994 and 1995.

Krikorian became a Hawk again when he moved on to the University of Hartford following the '95 season. He quickly turned that program around, as well, as he reached an Elite Eight and made two Sweet 16 appearances during his four consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Cannon, already knowing how special a player Krikorian was, caught a glimpse of how good a coach he thought Krikorian could be early on in his Hartford tenure.

In his second year at Hartford, he beat the University of Florida, 1-0, in the NCAA Tournament, at Florida," Cannon said. "Florida was good; Hartford had no history in the tournament. It was just an indication of what he could do early on."

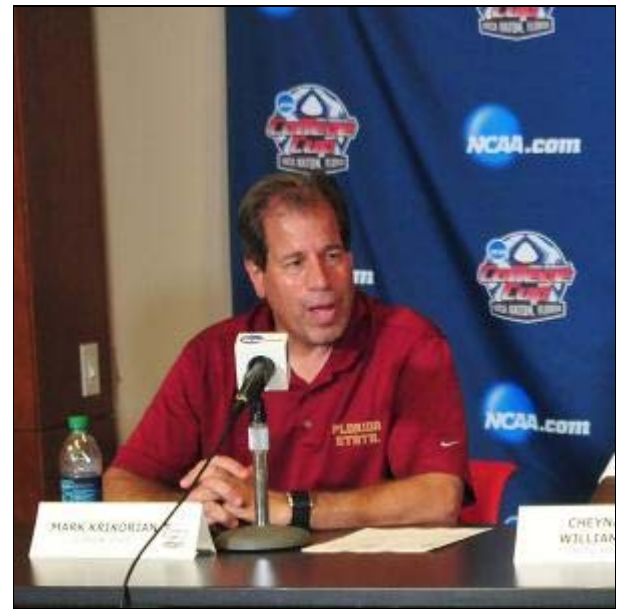
Following stints in the WUSA and with USA Soccer, Krikorian was named the head coach at Florida State, where he continued his winning ways. Krikorian reached the national title game with the 'Noles in 2007 and again last season, but came up short each time.

It was different Sunday, however, when the Saint Anselm grad from little Derry, N.H., reached the pinnacle of college soccer with his third National Championship, but first at the game's highest level.

"I didn't grow up with the idea of being a Division I soccer coach," said Krikorian, who has won 75 percent of the 400-plus college matches he has coached in during his career. "But a lot of different stops along the way and times of learning and growth led me to where I am today. I had some great mentors that I learned a lot from, worked with some very good coaches and, most importantly in this field, I had some very good players. You put all those things together and it's a formula for success."

No mentor had a bigger impact than his former coach at Saint Anselm, Ed Cannon.

"One of my first calls following the [National Championship] win was to Coach Cannon," Krikorian said. "I wanted to thank him for his leadership and guidance while at Saint Anselm and thereafter. I recognize that a lot of lessons I've learned that have contributed to my success, I learned at Saint Anselm; things I talk with my team about today, such as humility and respect. My hope has always been that my players would be like I am with Coach Cannon – I have the ultimate admiration and respect for him."



Cannon, of course, deflects any praise back to Krikorian, who he saw something in more than 35 years ago.

"He schooled himself well," Cannon said. "He sought out the best and brightest minds. He didn't just love and understand the game, but asked what he could do to become a better coach – and he did that. He always believed in himself and what type of soccer he wanted to coach and he stuck with it. He's a great recruiter and he gets great players because he's relentless."

"He is certainly a special coach and is as good a coach as anyone in this country. He has been one of the best coaches in the country at any level."

Krikorian proved that by winning a championship on the biggest stage Sunday. Then he showed everyone else his key to success – that Granite State, Anselmian work ethic – by showing up for work early Monday.



## FIELDS LIFTS FSU PAST VIRGINIA FOR FIRST NATIONAL TITLE

THE EQUALIZER STAFF

DECEMBER 7, 2014

124

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Florida State won its first national championship in women's soccer on Sunday, beating Virginia 1-0 behind an 83rd minute goal by Jamia Fields.

The Seminoles failed to win the title in seven previous trips to the College Cup, including two appearances in the final under coach Mark Krikorian in 2007 and 2013. Florida State lost last year's final to UCLA, 1-0 in overtime.

Fields scored the game-winning goal on a low, left-footed shot from 20 yards out that zipped past Virginia goalkeeper Morgan Stearns. The goal came a minute after Megan Campbell forced Stearns into a big save on one of several late Florida State set pieces.

"I like the pressure of big games. I think every college soccer player lives for this moments and we're fortunate enough to play in the national championship game so we tried to perform today as a team," Fields said.

Virginia had the better of the first-half chances in an otherwise quiet opening half on Sunday at FAU Stadium, but the Cavaliers produced few dangergous chances in front of net. Defender Emily Sonnett gave FSU a scare in the 27th minute, but FSU goalkeeper Cassie Miller smothered the ball.

**[BRUNO: Florida State's success once again built on international players]**

Florida State won the midfield battle, ultimately helping the Seminoles win the game.

"I think it is tough when you play their midfield against ours," Makenzy Doniak said. "It is hard to build. It has been hard to build against them and so you have a choice of playing really direct, which isn't our style. It hasn't been our style.



Jamia Fields scored the game-winning goal for FSU in the final minutes to beat Virginia. (Photo Copyright Steve Bruno for The Equalizer)



Florida State won its first NCAA championship on Sunday. (Photo Copyright Steve Bruno for The Equalizer)

Michaela Hahn had the best opportunity to score for Florida State from the run of play — until Fields' late goal — when Hahn sliced a half-volley over the crossbar. Dagny Brynjarsdottir had headed down the ball back into the path of Hahn as part of a corner kick.

Morgan Reuther nearly scored a dramatic equalizer for Virginia with a minute to play, but her cracking volley went just wide of the post.

Florida State is the 10th different university to win a national title. North Carolina has won 21 NCAA championships.

in the final minutes to beat Virginia. (Photo Copyright  
Steve Bruno for The Equalizer)

Florida State is the 10th different university to win a national title. North Carolina has won 21 NCAA championships.

Virginia lost all three meetings to Florida State this season and was shut out each time. They were Virginia's only losses of the season. Virginia was the only team in the country to have three players — Morgan Brian, Danielle Colaprico and Doniak — **named to the MAC Hermann Trophy semifinal list**. Brian is the reigning winner as college player of the year.

"I think (Brian and Colaprico) are the best that have played at Virginia," Virginia coach Steve Swanson said. "They are just great people to be around."

The Seminoles did not allow a goal in five games in the tournament.

"There weren't many shots either," Miller said. "Our defense is great, they're the ones who make me look good. I don't know how many shots (Virginia) had today, but (our defense) was great the entire tournament. That's what makes my job easy."

# Florida State tops Virginia to earn first NCAA title in women's soccer

COMMENTS 1

7:56 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014 | Filed in: Sports



Members of the Florida State women's soccer team celebrate with the national championship trophy after defeating Virginia 1-0 to win the Women's NCAA soccer College Cup final in Boca Raton, Fla., Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014. (AP Photo/Joel Auerbach)

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EXPLORE

In a game full of Hermann Trophy candidates, it was a low-scoring winger who brought the Florida State women's soccer team its first national title.

In an all-ACC Women's College Cup Final, midfielder Jamia Fields scored in the 83rd minute to give the Seminoles (24-1-1) a 1-0 win over Virginia (23-3-0) at FAU Stadium on Sunday.

It was the teams' third meeting of 2014, all hard-fought 1-0 wins for



Florida State's Jamia Fields (4) brings the ball past Virginia's Tina Iordanou (15) during the first half of the women's NCAA soccer College Cup final in Boca Raton, Fla., Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014. (AP Photo/Joel Auerbach)

Florida State. Those three matches were the Cavaliers' only losses of the season.

With just over seven minutes left in the second half, Fields received the pass from teammate Cheyna Williams at the top of the Virginia penalty area, shimmied past two defenders and ripped a low, left-footed laser past goalkeeper Morgan Stearns.

"I'm in that position at lot," Fields said after the game. "The ball was on my left foot when I cut inside. I took the chance

Photo/Joel Auerbach)

after the game. "The ball was on my left foot when I cut inside. I took the chance and shot it and it went in."

It was Fields' fourth goal of the campaign — and all four have come in the postseason. Eight of the senior's 14 career goals have come in the ACC and NCAA tournaments.

That postseason prowess has earned Fields, one of six Seminoles on the All-Tournament team, the nickname of Ms. November. Now, she can go by Ms. December.

"I like the pressure of big games," Fields said. "I think every college soccer player lives for those moments."

This was veteran coach Mark Krikorian and FSU's fourth straight final four and the eighth in school history, but it was the school's first NCAA title.

He said on Friday that the Seminoles would win a national title when they were ready. And, apparently, Sunday they were.

"I thought this was the most complete team we've had," Krikorian said afterward. "We had so many different attacking options and defending options. I think our group was more prepared than we've ever been for this moment.

"I wouldn't say that it was our most attractive game, but at the end of the day, we did what we had to do to find a result."

Virginia's midfield controlled much of the possession in the first half, with U.S. national teamer Morgan Brian directing traffic and distributing the ball with patience and precision.

But neither she nor striker Makenzy Doniak could break through the steadfast defense of FSU, which became the third school not to allow a goal in the NCAA Tournament. With Sunday's shutout, Krikorian's back line hasn't allowed a goal since Nov. 7, a span of over 630 minutes of game play.

"We played them three times and [they were] one-goal games each time," said Virginia coach Steve Swanson. "You have to give them credit. We couldn't get a goal against them in three times. I think that says it all right there.

"They are very committed to [defending] from front to back," he continued. "Even their forwards are good defenders. It is together. It is coordinated. I don't think their back line and goalkeeper get enough credit. They have a good system and they have good players."

Williams, a junior transfer from Vanderbilt who scored both goals in FSU's semifinal win over Stanford and was named the tourney's offensive MVP, played a big role in the finale. She put pressure on the Virginia defenders, regularly muscling them off the ball, and her eagerness created what few chances existed for the game's first 80-plus minutes.

"It took me maybe a week of being at Florida State to realize that we really could make a run at it," Williams continued. "Seeing the team come together and how well we learned [to play with] each other and how close we got in a short amount of time, I knew that this was a special year."

# FSU wins women's soccer national title

Times wires

Sunday, December 7, 2014 8:35pm

BOCA RATON — Florida State coach Mark Krikorian commented all weekend long at the Women's College Cup that his team would win a national championship when it was ready.

The Seminoles did just that, picking up the school's first soccer national title with a 1-0 win over Virginia on Sunday.

Jamia Fields scored the winner at 82:50. All four of her goals this season came in the postseason, which has led Krikorian to give her a seasonal nickname.

"We knew coming into the game it would be a one-goal game," Krikorian said. "Fortunately for us, we had Ms. November-Ms. December with us."

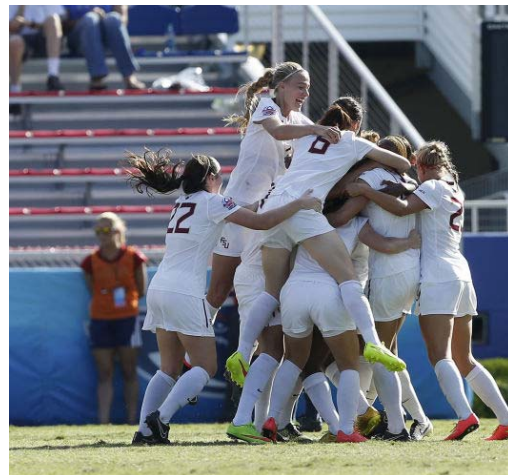
FSU (24-1-1) had reached the final three times, including last year when it lost to UCLA 1-0 in overtime. This was the first trip to the final for Virginia (23-3-0).

Florida State is the third school in NCAA history to win a national title without conceding a goal throughout the tournament.

Seminoles goalkeeper Cassie Miller had little work to do. She never faced a shot on goal from UVA. "There weren't many shots," she said. "Our defense is great, and they're the ones who make me look good."

FSU increased its winning margin over fellow ACC foe Virginia to 3-0 this season, the only three losses for the Cavaliers. In all three meetings, the Seminoles blanked Virginia 1-0.

"There was not much separating us," UVA coach Steve Swanson said. "We played them three times, and they were all one-goal games."



Associated Press

*FSU's Jamia Fields, not shown, is mobbed by teammates after scoring the eventual winner in the second half.*

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# FSU edges Virginia 1-0 to win first title

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)  
Published: December 7, 2014

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BOCA RATON, Florida — In their two previous meetings this season, [Virginia](#) and [Florida State](#) already showed that little separated them.

Nothing changed in the third encounter with a national championship at stake.

One moment, one goal, was all Florida State needed to make its title breakthrough, defeating the Cavaliers 1-0 for the third time in 2014.

The winner came in the 83rd minute. [Cheyna Williams](#) drifted into space after collecting a poorly-struck goal kick, and found teammate [Jamia Fields](#) on the right side outside the Virginia box. Fields cut back on to her left foot, and slotted a low drive that beat goalkeeper [Morgan Stearns](#) and stood up as the game winner.



Jamia Fields

"We site here proud and pleased we were able to find the result against a great team, great program," Florida State head coach Mark Krikorian said after the game. "They made it very difficult for us to break down. I wouldn't say it was our most attractive game but at the end of the day, we did what we had to do to find the result. I'm proud of the effort, proud of the kids and happy to have the result in our favor."

Scoring opportunities were scarce for long stretches, with the first shot on target registered in the 82nd minute of the game. Play was bogged down in a back-and-forth midfield battle for significant chunks of the day.

"They have great players all over the place and are very difficult to break down," Krikorian said. "We knew coming into the game it'll probably be a one goal game, and fortunately for us we have Miss November/December [[Jamia Fields](#)] down there."

Half chances were all either side came across until the final flurry of action. [Alexis Shaffer](#), inserted into the [Virginia](#) starting lineup as part of a tactical shift, volleyed a shot over the bar in the sixth minute from the top of the box. The Cavaliers forced a series of early corner kicks, but little came of them, aside from a [Morgan Brian](#) header that was well over the bar.

As the half wore on, [Florida State](#) forced its way into the game, harassing [Virginia](#) in possession and forcing turnovers close to goal. [Megan Campbell](#)'s long throw was the team's most consistent threat to the Cavaliers back line, but neither side registered a shot on goal in the opening stanza.

Little changed after the break. A weak clearance bounced to Florida State midfielder [Michaela Hahn](#) at the top of the Virginia box in the 55th minute, but her first-time effort was well wide. [Virginia](#) forward [Makenzy Doniak](#) had a sniff at goal in the 66th minute through a nice bit of individual skill, controlling a [Danielle Colaprico](#) chip over a defender to create space, only to fire wide of the goal.

On the whole, Virginia struggled to fashion the same dangerous looks close to goal they created in Friday's semifinal against Texas A&M, as the Seminole defense continued its tremendous form.

"I think they're very committed to [defending] from front to back," Virginia head coach Steve Swanson said. "I think even their forwards are good defenders. They press a lot more than they did maybe in previous

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## PLAYER RANKINGS

	Club (B)	Club (G)	College (M)	College (W)
	Freshmen		National	
	<a href="#">Morgan Brian</a> Midfielder Senior St. Simons Island, GA <a href="#">Virginia</a>			
			<b>CLASS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
2	<a href="#">Abby Dahlkemper</a>		SR	D
3	<a href="#">Sarah Killion</a>		SR	MF
4	<a href="#">Dagny Brynjarsdottir</a>		SR	MF
5	<a href="#">Kadeisha Buchanan</a>		SO	D
6	<a href="#">Samewis</a>		SR	MF
7	<a href="#">Shea Groom</a>		SR	MF
8	<a href="#">Makenzy Doniak</a>		JR	F
9	<a href="#">Savannah Jordan</a>		SO	F
10	<a href="#">Jaelene Hinkle</a>		SR	D

[View complete list >>](#)

years, they do that quite well. It's together, it's coordinated, it's trying to minimize the field."

As the minutes ticked off the clock, the pressure slowly built. Set pieces and long throws remained the only dangerous moments, although the Seminoles started to garner opportunities close to the Virginia frame.

**MORE:** [Three thoughts from Florida](#) | [Williams a hit for FSU](#) | [Colaprico's versatility key](#)

Isabella Schmid fired a long free kick way over the goal in the 76th minute. Stearns was called into action for the first time in the 82nd minute, turning a low, well-struck Campbell free kick around her post.

But after the ensuing corner kick was knocked out off an FSU attacker, Stearns' poor goal kick conceded possession right back to Williams, triggering the sequence which led to Fields' winner a minute later.

"I feel like I'm in that position a lot," Fields said about her winner. "The ball's on my left foot when I cut inside and I just took the chance, shot it, and it went in."

Time was running out on the Cavaliers, and Virginia pressed forward in search of an equalizer. They had a couple of half chances, none better than a rasping volley from [Morgan Reuther](#) in the 88th minute that went inches high of providing an equalizer.

"It was a tough game for us, not much separating us," Swanson said. "We played them three times, and one goal games each time. I think you have to give them credit, we couldn't get a goal against them in three times, I think that says it all right there."

*Image credit: Jeff Romance, FSU Athletics*

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## College Cup: Three thoughts on FSU's win

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)

Published: December 7, 2014

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BOCA RATON, Florida — The fourth time proved to be the charm for [Florida State](#).**MORE:** [Florida State edges Virginia 1-0](#) | [Williams a hit for FSU](#) | [Colaprico's versatility key](#)Competing for a national title in its home state, [Florida State](#) rode its stout defense to another shutout win, beating [Virginia](#) 1-0 at FAU Stadium.

Below are three thoughts from the championship game.

### 1. Florida State a more than deserving champ

The rampant sports cliché that defense wins championships couldn't be more fitting than it is for the title-winning Seminoles. When FSU lost defensive stalwarts Kassey Kallman and goalkeeper Kelsey Wys at the end of the 2013 campaign, it was difficult to imagine that they'd be this good at the back at the conclusion of 2014.

Redshirt freshman [Cassie Miller](#) showed that she's more than able to handle duties between the posts, and while [Kirsten Crowley](#) wasn't a recognized All-American performer in 2014, she's a very, very good defender.

With those two slotting in, Florida State put together an incredible defensive run in the second half of the season, conceding no goals in the NCAA tournament, and three in the final 18 games of the season. That's a phenomenal statistic that laid the platform down for FSU's triumph, as they knew that one goal would sometimes be all they needed.

### 2. Virginia thrown off its game just enough

During the first two meetings between Virginia and Florida State this season, the Seminoles bagged goals in the ninth and 17th minute respectively.

So to see the Cavaliers keep it tight at the back for 80 minutes kept them in position to get the winner late, something that didn't happen in the earlier two meetings. Perhaps it gave Virginia a glimmer of hope as the game wore on.

But aside from bout the first 20 minutes of the game, Virginia never really threatened the Seminole goal. Known for its sweeping and entertaining possession style, the second half featured more bunkering than head coach Steve Swanson probably would've liked. Thrown off their game enough by the high press of Florida State and its swarming defense, it wasn't until the Seminoles opened the scoring with just seven minutes late that the Cavaliers were able to take it up a notch, coming within a few inches of equalizing.

### 3. Format always leave a little to desire

Two teams playing two games at such a high in the span of just three days is never the recipe for attractive soccer. And while both teams had to compete in the same conditions, and each side admirably battle through them – [Morgan Brian](#) looked like a box-to-box and sideline-to-sideline midfielder for stretches of the first half – the format at College Cup leaves something to be desired.

It's understandable given the conditions and nature of the sport, but soccer games being played in such a short window, at such a high level, even with a generous substitution rule, isn't the same as if Florida State and Virginia had a bit more time between games to prepare and recover. It didn't necessarily detract from the spectacle, but it makes you wonder how the game would've been different.


Image credit: Matt Riley, UVA Athletics

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7	<a href="#">Shea Groom</a>		SR	MF
8	<a href="#">Makenzy Doniak</a>		JR	F
9	<a href="#">Savannah Jordan</a>		SO	F
10	<a href="#">Jaelene Hinkle</a>		SR	D

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## Florida State shuts down UVa for first women's title

December 8th, 2014 3:52AM

In its eighth appearance at the Women's College Cup, Florida State won a national championship. **Jamia Fields'** goal in the 83rd minute gave the Seminoles a 1-0 win over Virginia in Sunday's final. Florida State was able to hold the nation's best-scoring team without a goal to finish the NCAA Women's Tournament with six shutouts in six games.

**Cheyne Williams** found Fields, who dribbled across the 18-yard box before sending a low-lining left-footed shot from just outside the box past a diving **Morgan Stearns** for the game's only goal. Williams, who was credited with an assist on the play, was named the College Cup's Most Outstanding Player on Offense. The junior finished FSU's postseason run with 13 points on six goals and one assist. She had both goals in a 2-0 win over Stanford in the semifinals.

All three of Virginia's losses on the year came at the hands of the Seminoles and all three times by identical 1-0 scores. This time, the Cavs could not even put a shot on frame as FSU joined the 2003 North Carolina team as the only two schools to go through six games of the NCAA Tournament without allowing a goal.

The win for Florida State gives the Seminoles their first national championship in their third trip to the finals. Coach **Mark Krikorian** made history on Sunday as he became just the second coach to win a national title at two different divisions as the 10-year head coach previously won back-to-back Division II championships with Franklin Pierce in 1994 and 1995. He joins Brian McManus who led UC San Diego to national titles at both the Division II and Division III levels. Krikorian becomes the first coach to perform the feat at two different schools.

Florida State ended the 2014 season with 10 straight wins and a school-record 21-game (20-0-1) unbeaten streak. The Cavaliers, who had beaten Texas A&M, 3-1, on goals by **Makenzy Doniak**, **Emily Sonnett** and **Alexis Shaffer** -- all underclassmen -- in the semifinals, fell in their first appearance in the NCAA final

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# Florida State Wins National Title!



Last Updated on Monday, 08 December 2014 13:07

Rush Nation was well represented Sunday in the NCAA Women's Soccer National Championship game where Florida State University won their first National Title. Congratulations to Asst. Coach Wes Hart (Rush Alum, Former DOC for CO Rush), Morgan Kennedy (Rush Alum), Kacy Scarpa (Rush W-League), and Carson Pickett (Rush W-League) on this fantastic accomplishment.

Kennedy, in her final season of college soccer, reflected on a career complete with 2 transfers, getting over a torn ACL and going out as a winner. "It's crazy to think that a year ago I was four months post ACL surgery. When I tore my ACL the summer before what was supposed to be my senior year, everyone kept telling me that everything happens for a reason. Well I guess they were right -- my journey hasn't been easy, but it has been worth it. I can't think of any better way to end my college soccer career than this -- a National Championship!"



Carson and Morgan with the National Championship Trophy!

## Two Brevard women help FSU to soccer title

Sandra Harwitt, Associated Press

3:34 p.m. EST December 8, 2014



BOCA RATON – Florida State won its first national championship Sunday with a 1-0 win over Virginia in the Women's College Cup final.

Florida State is the third school to win a national title without conceding a goal throughout the tournament. The Seminoles were in their third championship game and 15th consecutive appearance in the NCAA tournament.

(Photo: Robert Mayer-USA TODAY)



[FLORIDATODAY](#)

[Mel-Hi grad Grubka leaves mark with FSU soccer](#)

Jamia Fields scored the goal in the 83rd minute. All four of her goals this season came in the postseason.

Shayna Williams was credited with an assist, her sixth of the season.

Former Brevard high school stars defender Kristin Grubka (Melbourne High) and midfielder Michaela Hahn (Titusville High) played the full 90 minutes for the Seminoles. Hahn was credited with a pair of shots.

The first shot on goal in the match came just a minute before Fields' goal when a penalty kick by the Seminoles' Megan Campbell was saved by Morgan Stearns.

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# Players, coach still processing title

Tourney MVP: 'Words can't describe this feeling'

By **Jordan Culver**  
Democrat staff writer  
@JordanCulver on Twitter

Mark Krikorian, the head coach of the national champion Florida State women's soccer team, is already reaping the benefits of winning Sunday's title game.

Krikorian said Monday a recruit he and his assistants had been eyeing prior to Sunday's championship game

against Virginia officially said yes to Florida State.

Such is life when four straight trips to Women's College Cup and the 2014 National Championship are on your program's resume.

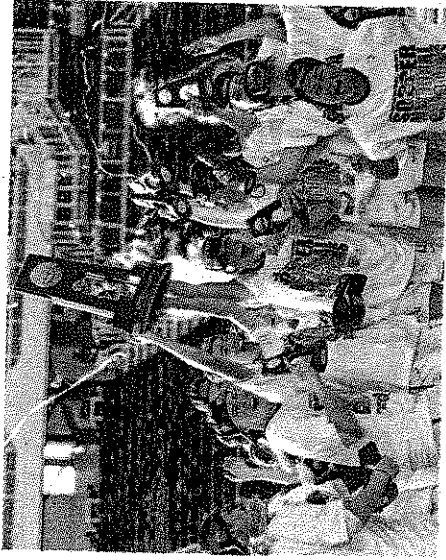
"I think we've established enough quality over the course of time that the Florida State name in the world of soccer — much like it is in virtually every other sport — is very well-known name," Krikorian said.

"Our brand is a very popular one at this point.

"Our playing style, coupled with the quality of the conference and the schedule we play and the facility we have and the technology we have — it's a very attractive place for kids to come. We're fortunate to be able to get some good kids, both domestically and abroad."

Players were still speechless

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AP  
Members of the Florida State women's soccer team celebrate with the national championship trophy after defeating Virginia 1-0 to win the women's soccer College Cup final on Sunday in Boca Raton.

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

during a Tuesday press conference, and even Cheyna Williams, the Women's College Cup's Most Valuable Offensive Player, had trouble putting into words exactly how much winning a title meant to her.

Williams transferred to Florida State this season from Vanderbilt. She assisted on senior Jamia Fields' championship-winning goal against Virginia. She also had both of Florida State's goals during the team's 2-0 victory in the semifinals against

match.

Grubka added it was fitting an outgoing senior hit the goal that sealed the match.

"I always saw seniors going out on top of other sports and I just never thought I'd be a senior going out on top," she said. "It feels pretty good, though."

Six Seminoles named to All-Tournament team Williams, Fields, Grubka, senior mid-fielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir, redshirt-freshman goalkeeper Miller and senior mid-fielder Isabella Schmid were all named to the Women's College Cup's All-Tournament team.

Grubka and Brynjarsdottir are also semifinalists for the Missouri Athletic Club's (MAC) Hermann Trophy, the highest award in college soccer.

"I've said it all along. I think this this is the most complete team we've had," Krikorian said.

"We have so many different weapons in the attack. We were able to score in so many different ways this year. This year we're able to score in almost any situation. The quality of the depth this year is better than it has been. We can beat your with our athletic quality, we can beat you with our tactics, there are so many ways we could do it."

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## Seniors leave championship legacy at FSU

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)  
Published: December 9, 2014

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BOCA RATON, Florida — Four times the senior class at [Florida State](#) had qualified for the College Cup. The first three ended in disappointment.

On Sunday, largely on the back of the team's seniors, Florida State re-wrote the ending.

Behind significant contributions of the program's seven seniors, FSU finally won a national championship with the 1-0 win against [Virginia](#).

"It means everything, every year we fought for this, but this year, I just feel like this senior class was special and this team was special," [Jamia Fields](#) said after scoring the championship-winning goal. "We weren't going to leave without the win and we fought for each other and got the win."

**MORE: [Florida State edges Virginia 1-0](#) | [Williams a hit for FSU](#) | [Colaprico's versatility key](#)**

Along with [Fields](#), senior starters on this year's team included [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#), one of the greatest Europeans to ever play women's college soccer, Irish left back [Megan Campbell](#) and defensive stalwart [Kristin Grubka](#), the heart and anchor of the team's incredible defense. Two others, [Hikaru Murakami](#) and [Marta Bakowska-Mathews](#), provided valuable depth from the bench.

Even without a championship on Sunday, the group's accomplishments were impressive. A record of 85-14-5 (including Sunday's win) and 32-8-3 in the ACC, the four College Cup appearances, three ACC tournament titles (2011, 2013, 2014) two ACC regular season crowns (2012 and 2014) and the two title game appearances were on the seniors' resume.

Head coach Mark Krikorian noted that this particular group made sure that the team's level never dropped. There was intensity and effort that became contagious as the seniors embraced a leadership role in 2014.

"The biggest thing that I've seen this year is that they brought it every day," he said. "They didn't take days off, they didn't take sessions off. Every player came with the idea 'I'm going to get better today.' That's different from what it's been in the past...these seniors wouldn't allow the level to drop."

Speaking of improving and getting better, there's little question that [Brynjarsdottir](#) has turned into an elite player during her time in Tallahassee. The potential Hermann Trophy winner and a full member of Iceland's national team, she has competed and grown into one of the nation's best — something she aspired to do from day one at FSU.

"She'll be a professional player soon, either domestically or abroad," Krikorian said. "She's as hard working as any player we've had. She wants to be the best. She told me when she came to Florida State: she wants to be the best midfielder in the world. That's a pretty tall statement, but she's the one that out there all the time working on her game to get better and develop. I'm thrilled that she's had the season and career that she's had."

Her exploits off the field and embracing of her captain's role have also been significant. Before the College Cup, she put together a video with a clip or two of everyone on the team, including a baby picture and motivational quotes to help the team prepare for its trip to Boca Raton.

"She has taken the responsibility of being a captain to the ultimate level," Krikorian said. "It has been a while since I have had an international player be the captain of our team. You know our team. We only have one captain. That is the voice of the team and the leadership of the team. I think she has done a very good job. She also leads by example. She is the one that is out on the field before training, staying after training, most apt to spend time on her body to make sure that it is properly recovered and so on."

On the field, the midfielder hasn't been the only player to make an impact, either this year or in previous seasons. [Megan Campbell](#), a solid option at left back, yields a fearsome long throw capable of putting opposing teams on their heels in a split second. [Jamia Fields](#) earned the nickname Miss November/December for her ability to save her goal scoring antics for NCAA or ACC tournament action. [Kristin Grubka](#) stepped up from her center back spot, leading a defense that didn't concede a goal at all in the NCAA tournament.

**MORE COLLEGE CUP: [Three thoughts from Sunday's final](#) | [For Brian, one ending is only the beginning](#)**

So as Florida State prepares to lose this sterling crop of seniors, Krikorian already hinted at searching for the next leadership core that will ensure the high standards remain in place.

"That's the biggest thing for next year," Krikorian said. "Who else is going to have this level of accountability? [Defender [Kirsten](#)] [Crowley](#) said the other day 'it all started on January 6th' that's absolutely true. We all said 'if we all improve 1%, including our staff, the result could be different.' All the sacrifice they went through, they were rewarded for today."

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### PLAYER RANKINGS

Club (B) Club (G) College (M) College (W)

Freshmen		National	
	CLASS		POSITION
	Morgan Brian Midfielder Senior St. Simons Island, GA Virginia		
2	Abby Dahkemper	SR	D
3	Sarah Killen	SR	MF
4	Dagny Brynjarsdottir	SR	MF
5	Kadeisha Buchanan	SO	D
6	Sam Mewis	SR	MF
7	Shei Groom	SR	MF
8	Makenzy Doniak	JR	F
9	Savannah Jordan	SO	F
10	Jaekene Hinkle	SR	D

[View complete list >>](#)



## FSU's run to national soccer title fueled by 2013 loss

By JASON SHOOT | Assistant Sports Editor | Twitter: @PCNHJasonShoot  
Published: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 17:23 PM.

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State's run to its first national title did not begin with its opening game of the season in late August or the preseason practices that preceded it.

Rather, it began with a loss in last year's national championship game, where the Seminoles were upended 1-0 by UCLA in overtime.

"I think it motivated us like crazy," said FSU defender Kirsten Crowley, formerly a standout at Arnold. "Being that close, getting so close to it, it gave us confidence that we were capable of achieving that. It may take more work, but it's time to get down to the grind and make it possible."

The Seminoles capped their historic season in dominant fashion, shutting out all six of their opponents in the NCAA national tournament. FSU squeaked past Virginia 1-0 in the championship game Sunday in Boca Raton to become the second team ever to post a shutout in all six tournament games.

FSU, which finished the season 24-1-1, didn't allow a single goal in the team's final 630 minutes of the season. The Seminoles set school records for wins, shutouts (19) and goals against average (0.34).

"I think our defense was so successful because it was a collective team effort," Crowley said. "Everyone had a role, which made defending a lot easier and caused us to be very successful. It started with the forwards and the midfielders, and by the time it got back to the back line it was predictable and we were on the same page."

Aside from goalkeeper Cassie Miller, Crowley was the only Seminole player to remain on the field for every second of every game this season, a total of 2,375 minutes. She recalled the effort put in by the players and others associated with the program to help the Seminoles reach the pinnacle of their sport.

"The staff put in so much effort, the academic staff, the sports medicine staff," she said. "It really does take an army and for everyone to be fully committed to make everything possible. All that effort in schoolwork, building relationships with professors — it's the small details that gave us the opportunity to be successful in the end."

FSU's showdown with Virginia, an Atlantic Coast Conference rival, was the teams' third matchup of the year. The Seminoles, who had beaten Virginia 1-0 in the previous two meetings, broke a scoreless tie in the 83rd minute with Jamia Fields'



goal off her left foot from 25 yards.

"We figured they would not just go out and do the same thing," Crowley said. "We had to expect some sort of change in the way they played. Adjusting to that on the field was pivotal for us. ... We went into the game not arrogant. We know Virginia is a very strong team. We watched a little bit of their first half against Texas A&M (a 3-1 semifinal win) and they were as dangerous as ever and very capable.

"We knew it would take everyone's A Game and a collective effort again. We knew they were going to possess the ball a little bit because they're a possession team, but we didn't get down on ourselves."

Before Fields scored the gamewinner, Crowley admitted she was thinking the game might be headed to overtime.

"(The Cavaliers) were not pressing, and they were kind of sitting back a little," she said. "I did think about the possibility of going to overtime, but I was confident because we're a persistent team, and we're not going to give up."

After turning back the Cavaliers' best effort to knot the score, Crowley said she began "feeling really jittery" when the crowd began to count down the game's final seconds.

"They cracked two dangerous shots in the last two minutes, and there's the realization that the game is not over until it's over," Crowley said. "You have to stay in it all the way and manage the risk and do what you can do to get the ball away from the back line and the defensive half."

FSU's football team is the defending national champion in its sport and has faced several formidable challenges this year as the Seminoles strive for a second consecutive title. Crowley said the women's soccer team, which has advanced at least as far as the national semifinals in each of the past four years, already is viewed as the team to beat by opponents.

"I think because we have been so successful as a program the last couple of years, we have experienced where teams have given us their best shot," Crowley said.

"We just have to maintain a level of excellence and prepare for everything and the challenges ahead.

"We'll stay as hungry for a national championship. It's not like our expectations will drop by the least bit."

This is Google's cache of <http://www.henryherald.com/news/2014/dec/11/chey-na-williams-helps-flordia-state-win-national/>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on Dec 12, 2014 00:42:21 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)

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## Cheyna Williams helps Florida State win national soccer title

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Thursday, December 11, 2014

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By [Derrick Mahone](#)

[dmahone@news-daily.com](mailto:dmahone@news-daily.com)



Former Lovejoy High graduate Cheyana Williams, left, and Florida State teammate Jamia Fields celebrate helping the Seminoles win the school's first soccer national title. (Special Photo: Kathy Hitchcock, FSU Athletics)

One of the first teammates Cheyana Williams befriended when she transferred to Florida State earlier this year was Jamia Fields.

The chemistry created between the two off the field proved to be valuable for the Seminoles women's soccer program.

Williams passed the ball to teammate Jamia Fields with over seven minutes left in the second half of the NCAA Div. I all-ACC Women's College Cup Final at FAU Stadium in Florida.

Fields, a midfielder, scored in the 83rd minute to give the Seminoles 1-0 win over Virginia to avenge two previous one-point losses to their ACC foe.

"It felt great to see all our hard work pay off with a national title," said Williams, who is a former standout at Lovejoy High. "It is just a surreal feeling."

Williams, a junior transfer from Vanderbilt who scored both goals in FSU's semifinal win over Stanford and was named the tourney's offensive MVP, played a big role in the finale.

Aside from her assist, Williams was credited with putting pressure on the Virginia defenders as a scoring threat.

"I'm just happy that I was able to contribute to our team," Williams said. "I'm just so honored and blessed to be on the team with so many high level player."





Cheyne Williams, a Lovejoy High graduate, had the game-winning assist as Florida State clinched the national championship on Sunday. (Special Photo: Larry Novey, FSU Athletics)

It didn't take Williams long to adjust to her new surroundings, teammates and somewhat higher level of play when she transferred from Vanderbilt earlier this year.

Williams knew FSU defender/midfielder Carson Pickett since both had traveled with a Olympic Development team. When she arrived in Tallahassee, she was quickly befriended by Fields.

In fact, the two spent last summer together in Fields' hometown in California.

"We have become best friends," Williams said. "As soon as I got to FSU, everybody on the team was very welcoming. I thought I fit in well with everybody on the team."

She started 24 of the team's 26 matches this season and played 1,443 minutes while scoring 14 goals and contributing six assist.

Since moving from Vanderbilt, Williams has played a pivotal role in the Seminoles push to the national title. She was an All-SEC performer during her first two seasons in Nashville.

During her time at Vanderbilt, she made 35 appearances in two seasons with the Commodores making 33 starts. She tallied 55 points in two years at Vanderbilt on 22 goals and 11 assists – led the Commodores in scoring in back-to-back seasons.

Williams perform this season hasn't been a surprise.

"Cheyenne is an exceptional athlete that happens to be an exceptional player," FSU head coach Mark Krikorian told topdrawersoccer.com. "Some people get fooled into thinking that she's just a fast player up front, there's so many more dimensions to the game than that. She's become very, very good at holding the ball, connecting to her teammates, slipping balls through to her teammates. She's become dangerous on different types of set pieces as well."

While her first season at FSU has been a success, Williams said she is ready to get back to work to make a run for a repeat title.

"I'm going to rest and enjoy this for a short time," Williams said. "A month is about long enough. There is still more work to be done. You either get better or you get worst. We want to return next season to defend our title."

# FSU women's soccer wins NCAA title

- Thursday, December 11, 2014 - 06:00
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SJCDS alum Clay County's first female NCAA title holder

By Randy Lefko

Sports Editor

MIAMI – Fueled by a goal with seven minutes left to play, the Florida State University Lady Seminoles soccer team won the 2014 Women's College Cup title, the NCAA Division I championship, 1-0 over the University of Virginia Dec. 7 in Miami. Both teams featured former players from Clay County with both players graduating from St. Johns Country Day School.

For the Lady Seminoles, with a 24-11 season record and an unscored upon five playoff game streak for the tournament, forward Carson Pickett, a junior, has been a team leader in assists while, for the Cavaliers of Virginia, junior Kaili Torres has been a strong defender for her 23 win, three loss teammates. Pickett scored

the gamewinning goal for a 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference championship win over Virginia prior to the College Cup tournament. Ironically, all three losses for Virginia have been to FSU all by 1-0 scores. Pickett finished the season with 13 assists in 25 games while Torres had four goals and seven assists for 2014.

"We knew coming in that beating the same team three times was going to be tough and it was," said St. Johns Country Day School soccer coach Mike Pickett, who traveled to Miami with wife Treasure, the Orange Park High School principal, to watch the matchup. "We rooted for Carson and her teammates but kept a keen eye on Kaili. It was interesting and more nervewracking watching a game of this magnitude rather than being a coach on the sideline."

Carson Pickett becomes the first female NCAA Division I champion athlete out of Clay County with former Clay High from page 35

wrestler Cy Wainwright winning an NCAA Division II wrestling national title while at Newberry College. Wainwright is now head wrestling coach at Coker College.

"I'm proud of her team and their resilience to come back a year later and finish the job," said Pickett. "It's a tough chore to lose in a title game then work to not just get back to it, but to win it."

Florida State lost 1-0 to UCLA in the 2013 championship game with the game winner coming at the 97th minute.

For Mike Pickett, the legacy of his Spartans' soccer teams included numerous other former players also playing in college championship tournaments with defender Annie Bobbitt at University of Florida and goalie Sarah Voigt playing with Notre Dame. Both Florida (14-4-1) and Notre Dame (12-5-2) made the College Cup tournament.

In NCAA Division II, Rollins College lost to Grand Valley State in their championship with Rollins freshman Kendall Perkins, a former goalie for Pickett at St. Johns. Two other former players are Megan Rogers at the U.S. Naval Academy and Ellen Crist at Florida International.

TOP: Florida State University's women's soccer team celebrate their 1-0 championship win over the University of Virginia in the 2014 Women's College Cup, the NCAA Division I championships, played Sunday in Miami. In center of photo is former St. Johns Country Day School standout Carson Pickett, daughter of Mike and Treasure Pickett, of Fleming Island.

FAR LEFT: FSU midfielder Carson Pickett moves ball past Virginia defender in Sunday's championship game. Pickett was top assist player for Lady Seminoles for 2014 season.

LEFT: Former St. Johns soccer player Kaili Torres, center, celebrates a play in title game.

Championship smooch

Former St. Johns Country Day School soccer standout Carson Pickett gives a smooch to the NCAA Division I national championship trophy, the Women's College Cup, after her Florida State Seminoles beat Virginia 1-0 for the title Sunday in Miami.

Last modified on Thursday, December 11, 2014 - 06:00

## College Sports: Former Wayne Hills soccer star a key member of newly-minted national champions

DECEMBER 10, 2014 LAST UPDATED: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014, 9:44 AM

BY NICK GANTAIFIS  
SPORTS EDITOR | WAYNE TODAY

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Former Wayne Hills girls' soccer star Nickolette Driesse is a member of the Florida State University (24-1-1) women's soccer team that captured the Div. I National Championship title last weekend over conference rivals Virginia, 1-0 for the program's first-ever national crown.

Driesse, a sophomore midfielder, averaged 35 minutes per game this season and had 1 goal and 1 assist in 20 games played.

As a freshman, Driesse made 28 appearances with 27 starts in her first season at Florida State and was the only freshman to play in all 28 games and one of seven players overall. She recorded an impressive 2,099 minutes on the field which was seventh most minutes on the team and one of eight players to play over 2,000 minutes for the 2013 season. Driesse finished her freshman campaign with seven points - all coming on assists as her seven assists tied for the third most on the team.

Driesse was named to the all ACC Freshman Team and earned Soccer America All-Freshman First Team honors.

Wayne resident and former Wayne Hills High School standout Christina Fabiano is a member of The College of New Jersey field hockey team that recently captured the 2014 NCAA Division III National Championship title. The Lions posted a 2-0 victory over Bowdoin College on Sunday, November 23 in Lexington, VA to claim the 11th national crown in program history.

TCNJ (23-1) scored twice in the opening half and then relied on its stellar defense to protect that lead and secure the title. They defeated Middlebury College 2-0 in the national semifinal to earn a berth in the championship game.

The Lions finished the year on a 15-game winning streak and did not allow a single goal during their NCAA tournament run. They outscored their opponents 9-0 in the four NCAA victories.

Earlier last month, TCNJ won the New Jersey Athletic Conference championship and received the automatic qualifying bid to the national tournament.

TCNJ's other NCAA titles came in 1981, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1996, 1999 and 2011. This was the ninth field hockey championship for Head Coach Sharon Pfluger. It also marks the 40th national title in TCNJ athletics program history.

DePaul graduate and Wayne resident Elizabeth Monsen helped guide Springfield College to its third-straight New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Championship with a 2-1 victory over Wheaton College last month.

For her efforts, Monsen, a sophomore defender, was named the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament after scoring goals in both the 2-0 semifinal win over Babson College and in the 2-1 championship game win over Wheaton.

For the fifth-straight season, the Springfield College women's soccer team qualified for the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament.

Monsen started all 21 games for Springfield this season and recorded 2 goals and 1 assist. For her career, Monsen has played in a total of 41 games with 33 starts.

Bjonda Ademi, a sophomore goalkeeper for the Felician College women's soccer team and former Wayne Hills High School standout, was a key contributor for the Golden Falcons this past season.

Ademi played in four games for Felician College, where she recorded 11 saves and surrendered three goals in 160 minutes of action. The Golden Falcons had a lot of success throughout the 2014 season, as the NCAA Div. II school reached the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) semifinals.

Totowa native and former Passaic Valley High School field hockey standout Danielle Coiro helped guide Ithaca College to an 8-8 record this past season.

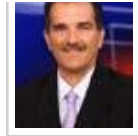
Coiro, a team captain and senior forward, started all 16 games for the Bombers this past fall and was named to the All-Empire 8 First Team, and was also a NFHCA All-North Atlantic Region Second Team selection. Coiro finished the year with seven goals and two assists, totaling 16 points. She ranked second on the team in total points and in goals scored.

Coiro, a computer science major in the School of Humanities and Sciences, recorded 43 shots on the year and was one of 59 field hockey athletes chosen to participate in the 2014 National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III Senior Game.



Driesse

## FSU Honors Its National Championship Soccer Squad



Updated: Thu 6:36 PM, Dec 11, 2014

By: Scott Rossman - Email

Tallahassee, FL---Call it a much deserved celebration for the Florida State [women's](#) soccer team. That team coming off its first NCAA National Championship, the 1-0 win over Virginia nailing it down in Sunday's title match.

The [University](#) Wednesday hosting an event to honor the team, the coaching staff and the players, who ran through the NCAA tourney with a combined score of 17-0 in 6 matches!

Among the champions, our area's own Kirsten Crowley who says it was nice to see the fans show up, not just for the fans to honor the team, but the players to honor those fans as well.

"I mean it just adds to the home field advantage to see all of them out there" says Crowley "so it's just nice that we get to come out and say thank you to all of them and that we really do appreciate all of their support and their attendance at all of our [games](#). I feel like if we didn't have finals this week it would have sunk in a lot more. But it is every day, you look through the pictures and you're like wow, I cannot believe it was us. We deserved it and really thankful for all the opportunities."

And we can look forward to seeing Crowley at Arnold's annual alumni [game](#) Saturday at Gavlak.



## National champion soccer coach credits Pinkerton and St. A's roots

By Eric Coplin Special to The Eagle-Tribune | Posted: Friday, December 12, 2014 3:14 am

MANCHESTER, N.H. — One would probably forgive head coach Mark Krikorian if he arrived a little late the morning after guiding the Florida State University women's soccer team to its first ever national championship.

But the Pinkerton Academy and Saint Anselm graduate (Class of '83) was in his office bright and early Monday morning, just hours after leading the second-ranked Seminoles to a 1-0 victory against the fourth-ranked University of Virginia Sunday afternoon.

That kind of work ethic and drive to succeed can be traced back to Krikorian's time on the Hilltop as a soccer player at St. Anselm, as well as growing up in the Granite State.

"Being from New Hampshire is essential to who I am today," said Krikorian, who co-captained the 1977 Astros. "I learned an awful lot from my high school coaches John Mitchell and John Wallace, and of course, Coach (Ed)

Cannon. The work ethic was a big one. A lot of the success we've had (at Florida State) is tied to the direct roots in New Hampshire. Competing with my brothers day-in and day-out was also influential."

Saint Anselm holds a special place in his heart.

"My time at Saint Anselm was vital," Krikorian said. "To have a role model like Coach Cannon — he's a great coach and an even better person. He certainly taught me a lot on the field, but even more off it."

Growing up in Derry, Krikorian was a standout at Pinkerton. Cannon recruited him, but he wound up choosing UNH.

Krikorian sat on the bench for that 1978 season. Krikorian contacted Cannon after the season and transferred to Saint Anselm prior to the 1979 campaign.

Cannon could see some of the things that now make Krikorian a great coach.

"He was a special kid and had a true passion for the game," Cannon said. "He also had a great sense of the game and was a real quarterback on the field for us. He was quick, strong and had a wonderful touch on the ball, which not many kids did in that era. And what a great understanding of the game he had



National champion soccer coach credits Pinkerton and St. A's roots

Florida State photo. Pinkerton Academy graduate Mark Krikorian celebrates Florida State's first-ever women's soccer national championship on Sunday. He's been the Seminoles' head coach since 2005.

coming out of high school — I hadn't seen a kid like that.”

Krikorian, who was inducted into the Anselmian Athletic Club Hall of Fame in 2005, was a two-time captain and team MVP was an All-New England first-team selection. He helped guide the Hawks to a share of the Northeast-8 championship his senior year.

“I learned so much about life and the game from guys on the team,” Krikorian said. “All I knew was what I had seen. I thought soccer in Derry, N.H., was the kingpin and then so many good players like Chris Ayers and Mark Murray came in and opened my eyes to a new level of athletics and tactics that allowed me to grow as a person and as a player.”

After graduating, Krikorian wanted to coach and spent some time in high schools before applying for the women's soccer head coach position at Franklin Pierce. Cannon made a call to AD Bruce Kirsh.

“It's a pretty simple recommendation when you know in your heart the young man is special,” Cannon said.

Krikorian asked Cannon if he thought it would be possible to cross back over and coach men. Cannon answered with a question of his own: Why would you want to do that?

Krikorian accepted the job and the rest, as they say, is history. He quickly made the Ravens relevant and won national championships in both 1994 and 1995 with a 39-0 overall record.

Krikorian became a Hawk again when he moved on to the University of Hartford following the '95 season. He quickly turned that program around, as well, as he reached an Elite Eight and made two Sweet 16 appearances.

Following stints in the WUSA (2001-03 as head coach of the Philadelphia Charge) and with USA Soccer, Krikorian was named the head coach at Florida State, where he continued his winning ways. Krikorian reached the national title game in 2007 and again last season, but came up short each time.

“I didn't grow up with the idea of being a Division I soccer coach,” said Krikorian, who boasts a college record of 361-91-24 (.784).

“But a lot of different stops along the way and times of learning and growth led me to where I am today. I had some great mentors that I learned a lot from, worked with some very good coaches and, most importantly in this field, I had some very good players. You put all those things together and it's a formula for success.”

Cannon said, “He is certainly a special coach and is as good a coach as anyone in this country. He has been one of the best coaches in the country at any level.”

Krikorian proved that by winning a championship on the biggest stage Sunday. Then he showed everyone else his key to success — that Pinkerton, Anselmian work ethic — by showing up for work early Monday.

Editor's Note: Eric Coplin, a 2003 graduate of Timberlane Regional, is the sports information director at

Saint Anselm College.



## FSU soccer hosts celebration tonight



JEFF ROMANCE/FSU ATHLETICS

FSU won the 2014 national championship on Sunday afternoon.

Democrat Staff Reports

Join Florida State University and the Seminole Boosters as they honor the women's soccer team on its national championship with a celebration today at 5:30 p.m.

The event is open to all fans, family and friends and is free of charge.

The celebration will begin on Langford Green with a

torch lighting ceremony at the Unconquered statue followed by a meet and greet with the players and coaches inside the third room ballroom of the University Center Club.

Fans will have a chance to speak with the team, and take a picture with the national championship trophy.

Light food and beverages will be served at the event in the ballroom.

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## College Cup: Williams a hit for FSU

Article Written by *Travis Clark*

Published: December 6, 2014

[COMMENT](#)


BOCA RATON, Florida — The success of transfers in collegiate soccer can sometimes be as hit or miss as recruiting at the club level.

Players must adjust to new surroundings, teammates and sometimes a higher level of play. For [Florida State](#) forward [Cheyna Williams](#) however, the move from the SEC to the ACC has been a runaway success.

Williams, a dynamic goal-scorer for two seasons at Vanderbilt and a 2013 First Team All SEC performer, joined the Seminoles in January 2014. Twenty-five games and 14 goals later, she's an integral part of another banner year in Tallahassee, and is preparing for her first national title game.

"I'm just so honored and blessed to be on the team with so many high level players," Williams said. "Dagny [Brynjarsdottir] and [Kristin Grubka] are obviously exceptional, but I have players like Bella [Schmid] that I can't even picture someone better on the ball than her. Other players like [Kirsten Crowley](#) who saves a ball off the line [against Stanford]. I just feel like as a team, it's great to be around exceptional players."

In the Seminoles' 4-2-3-1 formation, Williams has 23 starts mostly as the lone forward up front. It's a position that requires a diversity of talent, from holding up the ball, combining with teammates, and not to mention scoring goals.

That part of her game started with a trickle in 2014, as Williams scored three goals in her first eight games of the regular season. But in the NCAA tournament, with more reps both in practices and in games under her belt, Williams has improved her understanding with the rest of her team and played a pivotal role in the push to Sunday's title game.

With two goals against Stanford in Friday's semifinal, Williams has six goals in five NCAA tournament games, including the last four tallies FSU has scored.

"Cheyna is an exceptional athlete that happens to be an exceptional player," FSU head coach Mark Krikorian said. "Some people get fooled into thinking that she's just a fast player up front, there's so many more dimensions to the game than that. She's become very, very good at holding the ball, connecting to her teammates, slipping balls through to her teammates. She's become dangerous on different types of set pieces as well."

One of the keys to Williams' transition to Florida State was captain [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#), who lines up just behind her in the attacking midfield spot. The Icelandic international's leadership and initiative helped Williams with her adjustment.

"On and off the field she's been a huge influence on me," Williams said. "Coming in and talking to Mark about what I was looking for in a program and things like that, and for him to talk so highly on the level of professionalism that the team had and to have a captain like Dagny to look up and see that he really was serious when he said this is how things are happening, it's just really awesome to play beside her, for her to teach me different things on and off the field."

**MORE:** [Colaprico's versatility key](#) | [Virginia tops Texas A&M](#) | [FSU bests Stanford](#) | [Final preview](#)

Moving from a program like Vanderbilt, a mid-tier team in the SEC, to one such as Florida State that is chasing national titles on a regular basis was a challenge Williams embraced. Krikorian was up front to her about the high standards and expectations of FSU Soccer.


On the eve of her first appearance in a national title game, Williams is just going with the flow and following the lead of her teammates who've been there before.

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### PLAYER RANKINGS

	Club (B)	Club (G)	College (M)	College (W)
	Freshmen		National	
	<b>Morgan Brian</b> Midfielder Senior St. Simons Island, GA <a href="#">Virginia</a>			
		<b>CLASS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	
2	<a href="#">Abby Dahlkemper</a>	SR	D	
3	<a href="#">Sarah Killion</a>	SR	MF	
4	<a href="#">Dagny Brynjarsdottir</a>	SR	MF	
5	<a href="#">Kadeisha Buchanan</a>	SO	D	
6	<a href="#">Samewis</a>	SR	MF	
7	<a href="#">Shea Groom</a>	SR	MF	
8	<a href="#">Makenzy Doniak</a>	JR	F	
9	<a href="#">Savannah Jordan</a>	SO	F	
10	<a href="#">Jaelene Hinkle</a>	SR	D	

[View complete list >>](#)

"It helps having a lot of experienced girls and having been to the College Cup, having played in a final, so it takes a little of the edge off," she said. "[I] just follow the crowd and go off their momentum."

Krikorian hopes to see an electric conclusion on Sunday afternoon to what has been an extremely successful switch for player and program alike.

"There's a lot of different dimensions to her game, and she showed that [on Friday] and I'm hoping she'll be able to do that [Sunday]," he said.

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## College Cup: UVA, FSU set for title decider

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)

Published: December 6, 2014

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BOCA RATON, Florida — In the truncated nature of Division I soccer, it's a rare sight to see two powerhouse programs square off three times in one season.

But that scenario will come to pass on Sunday in the 2014 College Cup national championship, as [Virginia](#) is set to take on [Florida State](#) for the third time this year (1 p.m., ESPN).

The first two meetings, once in the regular season and once in the ACC title game, both ended with 1-0 wins for the Seminoles, as there was little to separate the two.

The expectations are similar heading into Sunday's final.

"I imagine that [Sunday's] game will be competitive, hopefully it'll fuel us that we didn't win the last two games," Virginia head coach Steven Swanson said. "That'll help us in terms of our mentality, the things we have to do and how sharp we have to be."

Added [Florida State](#) head coach Mark Krikorian: "I think we have two very good teams that are going to go out on the big stage tomorrow and test ourselves to see how good we are."

It's a game ripe with story lines. [Virginia's](#) top-ranked attack, which has scored 88 goals in 25 games, stacked against a [Florida State](#) back line that hasn't conceded a goal in all five NCAA tournament games, and just nine on the entire season. Virginia's only two losses all season were at the hands of the Seminoles, while Krikorian and Swanson will matchup against one another at these programs for the 16th time.

Both teams are also chasing their first-ever NCAA national title, and returned to the College Cup after an appearance in 2013, although the Seminoles are on their fourth consecutive trip to the national semifinals.

The Seminoles aren't feeling any pressure to achieve a breakthrough after getting back to the title game for the second straight year.

"The fact that we've been to a College Cup final before makes us more excited than feel pressure, and I think we want it even more now because we know what it feels like to lose," FSU midfielder [Isabella Schmid](#) said. "I think every single person is ready to fight and give it everything in order to win this Cup."

The midfield battle could end up dictating Sunday's winner. [Virginia's Morgan Brian](#) and [Danielle Colaprico](#) will go head to head with [Michaela Hahn](#), [Isabella Schmid](#) and [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#) in the center of the park.

"It's important that we move the ball quickly," Colaprico said. "We're familiar with them, we've played them twice, so I think that's good for us. Me and Morgan can handle pressure in the midfield very well and we move the ball quickly so I think that's going to be key against them."

Said Schmid: "We just all have to be very disciplined. They are very organized and very talented, especially in the midfield and we can't give them any space and time because they can make something great out of it. So we just need to keep our concentration high, we need to be disciplined, we need to be physical with them."

**MORE:** [Colaprico's versatility key](#) | [Virginia tops Texas A&M](#) | [FSU bests Stanford](#)

Swanson said that in the first couple of matchups, Virginia had their chances but didn't take them. Even with the offense whirring at this stage of the season, scoring 23 goals in five tournament games, he knows that Sunday's matchup won't be any easier.

"They're organized, they have quality players in every position and they understand their roles from a

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### PLAYER RANKINGS

	Club (B)	Club (G)	College (M)	College (W)
	Freshmen		National	
	<b>Morgan Brian</b> Midfielder Senior St. Simons Island, GA <a href="#">Virginia</a>			
		<b>CLASS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	
2	<a href="#">Abby Dahlkemper</a>	SR	D	
3	<a href="#">Sarah Killion</a>	SR	MF	
4	<a href="#">Dagny Brynjarsdottir</a>	SR	MF	
5	<a href="#">Kadeisha Buchanan</a>	SO	D	
6	<a href="#">Samewis</a>	SR	MF	
7	<a href="#">Shea Groom</a>	SR	MF	
8	<a href="#">Makenzy Doniak</a>	JR	F	
9	<a href="#">Savannah Jordan</a>	SO	F	
10	<a href="#">Jaelene Hinkle</a>	SR	D	

[View complete list >>](#)

defensive standpoint," he said. "I think that's what's made them successful, and they take pride in that. It's a strong challenge for us."

Florida State forward [Cheyna Williams](#) could be a critical factor too. The transfer from Vanderbilt was a handful against Stanford on Friday night, using her pace, power and ability to score both goals for the Seminoles. She knows a pair of Virginia defenders well, including a former Vandy teammate Tina Iordanu who starts at left back for UVA, and center back [Emily Sonnett](#), a rival during their club days in Georgia.

Brynjarsdottir and Brian are both full internationals as well for their respective national teams. Could either be the player who tips the scales in their team's favor?

Krikorian had nothing but high praise for Brian, who no matter what happens will play her last game for the Cavaliers.

"Anyone's that paying attention to women's soccer in this country is familiar with Morgan," Krikorian said. "She's an exceptional talent, her ideas about the game are at an elite level, her quality on the ball is exceptional, I don't know how many more adjectives I can come up with, maybe someone smarter than I am can help me with this. She's a kid that's had a great career and her future is very bright."

With the caliber of both programs and elite talent on display, a fitting finale is set for Sunday. Each side can hope that the third time truly is the charm.

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## 'Noles look to stop Stanford in College Cup semifinal



Carson Pickett brings the ball upfield against UConn in a game earlier this season. The Florida State junior, who was born without a left arm, doesn't see it as a disability and is a key member of the Seminoles team. (Larry Novey, FSU Athletics)

**By Gary Curreri,**  
Correspondent

DECEMBER 4, 2014, 5:13 PM | BOCA RATON

**C**arson Pickett doesn't believe she has ever had to prove anyone wrong on the soccer field.

The Florida State junior, who plays both outside midfield and defender for the second-ranked Seminoles, was born without a left arm. But she doesn't see it as a disability and refuses to wear a prosthesis on or off the field.

Pickett and her teammates will face Stanford in the NCAA Women's College Cup championship semifinal tonight at 7:30 at FAU Stadium. Texas A&M will play Virginia in the 5 p.m. semifinal.

"I don't think I had to prove anything to anyone," said Pickett, 21. "I think people adjust to different situations and I don't feel sorry for myself and no one else should."

Sporting the tattoo "*Imperfection is beauty*" on her right wrist, Pickett hopes she is an inspiration to others.

"I like to tell everyone who has the same disability as me that everything is going to be fine and it is going to work out," Pickett, a Fleming Island native, said. "You need to work hard and the rest will come with it."

On the pitch, Pickett puts that belief to the test. The sports management major has two goals and a team-leading 13 assists in 24 games this season. Pickett also says the Seminoles' experience in reaching four consecutive Final Fours

will help even more.

"The Final Four is almost a requirement for us and I love that," said Pickett. "People are happy just being there, and that isn't enough. We won't be satisfied until we win it."

The Seminoles (22-1-1) are playing their best soccer, carrying a 19-match unbeaten streak and eight-match winning streak. FSU advanced to its fourth consecutive College Cup with a 5-0 rout of South Carolina and hasn't allowed a goal in nearly a month dating back to a 3-1 win over Notre Dame on Nov. 3.

Florida State will have its hands full with Stanford (20-1-3), which has played the 'Noles twice in the final four and defeated them by a combined score of 8-0, last winning 3-0 in the 2011 College Cup match.

Seminoles coach Mark Krikorian said this is the most complete team he has had in his 10-year tenure.

"I think we have more different types of players and more different qualities, which have enabled us to be a little more consistent," said Krikorian, whose team last year lost in the semifinals to UCLA. "We are going to have to play our best and have a little bit of Lady Luck on our side."

Virginia (22-2-0), which upset top-ranked and reigning national champ UCLA 2-1 in the quarterfinals, will face Texas A&M in the early semifinal. The Cavaliers, led by reigning MAC Hermann Trophy winner Morgan Brian, ended the Bruins' 44-game unbeaten streak and their run of 27 home wins in the process.

Texas A&M (22-2-0), making its first-ever College Cup appearance, is riding a 14-game unbeaten string since a 1-0 loss to Florida on Oct. 3.

This is the first time the College Cup has been held in Florida since it was played in Orlando in 1983, and it will be the first time the NCAA has crowned a Division I champion in **Palm Beach County**.

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my Friday, December 5, 2014

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## 'Game on' for one-armed midfielder Pickett as FSU chases NCAA title

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Posted: 7:21 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014

By [Brian Biggane](#) - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

**BOCA RATON** – Florida State midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir got confused a couple of weeks ago when she was asked about the one-armed player on her team.

“I said, ‘We don’t have a girl with one arm,’” she said Thursday, “and they said, ‘Yes, you do.’ And I was like ‘Oh. She’s so much like a normal person for us.’”



Carson Pickett, who was born without a left arm, will start at left midfield with the Lady Seminoles tonight at 7:30 ... [Read More](#)

Junior Carson Pickett, who was born without a left arm, will start at left midfield with the Lady Seminoles tonight at 7:30 when they face No. 1-ranked Stanford in a semifinal of the College Cup at FAU Stadium. Texas A&M and Virginia will meet in the other semifinal at

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5. The winners play for the title Sunday at 1 p.m.

Most of the Lady Seminoles, who will be playing in their fourth straight College Cup but have yet to win an NCAA Championship, have the same attitude when it comes to Pickett, and that's just fine with her.

"I don't want to have to feel I have to prove anything to anyone," Pickett said. "I just want to prove my soccer ability on the field."

Born to athletic parents Mike and Treasure Pickett – Mike played soccer and Treasure basketball in college. Carson tried many sports growing up, including swimming, tennis and basketball. She still credits her swimming background for giving her the leg strength to excel in soccer.

"It was awesome for me," she said. "It's another thing people didn't think I could do but I did do, so I like that a lot."

Steered by her father toward soccer because of his love for the game, she recalls facing off against current teammate Cheyna Williams when the two were in high school.

"She was saying she didn't know if she could go hard and tackle me, and then she said the second the game started I put her on her butt," Pickett recalled. "So it was game on from there. It's stories like that that make it worth the time."

Coach Mark Krikorian, whom Pickett credits as a major reason she chose FSU, said how Pickett is perceived depends on one's perspective.

"People on the outside look at that differently than those of us who are involved with her every day," Krikorian said. "We look at Carson as being Carson. Obviously she has a little bit of a difference (from) the rest of the kids, but she's not standing pat, she's working very hard."

"She's a lovely young woman and she's the hope that we have – certainly that I have for my own children – that they're going to get everything out of what they have."

A starter for the past two years, Pickett contributed two goals and 13 assists this season, registering two of those assists in the 5-0 Elite Eight victory over South Carolina that propelled FSU to its eighth appearance in the Final Four.

"She adds so much to the team with her play," defensive midfielder Kirsten Crowley said. "She's also a good friend to be around."

Pickett said while opponents would approach her after games to talk

Carlos Gracida

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when she was a freshman and sophomore, “it’s something everyone knows about now. You play in the ACC and people get used to seeing you and forget about it.”

A sports management major, she’d love to play professionally after graduating, first in the U.S. and later overseas. After that she has her sights set on a broadcasting career with ESPN.

But first comes this weekend and the goal she and her teammates have set: To win one for Krikorian.

“He’s an awesome coach and the reason we’ve gotten so far,” she said. “Also for our seniors. This is a close-knit group, so we want to work hard for each other and hopefully win it.”



### NCAA WOMEN’S COLLEGE CUP

The final four of women’s college soccer will be at FAU Stadium in Boca Raton this weekend. All matches on ESPNU; tickets available at gate and Ticketmaster.com.

#### Today’s semifinals

**5 p.m.:** Texas A&M (22-2-2) vs. Virginia (22-2-0)

**7:30 p.m.:** FSU (22-1-1) vs. Stanford 20-1-3

#### Sunday’s final

**1 p.m.:** Teams TBD

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UVa, FSU advance in soccer

Dec 6, 2014

ESPN.com news services

BOCA RATON, Fla. -- Virginia reached its first Women's College Cup final with a 3-1 semifinal victory over Texas A&M on Friday.

The Cavaliers will play Florida State, which beat Stanford, 2-0.

"It's great to be able to move on," Virginia coach Steve Swanson said. "For us to move on means we're hitting our goals. ... We wanted an opportunity to be here and now we have that opportunity."

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HaysWe know the ACC is going to capture a College Cup championship for the first time since UNC's reign of 21 titles. What we can't anticipate is whether Virginia's attack offense or Florida State's indomitable defense will win out. Hays

Makenzy Doniak scored her 20th goal of the season in the 12th minute to give the Cavaliers the lead. Doniak scored with a header off a pass from Morgan Brian, her 14th assist of the year.

"Morgan put it right on her head," Swanson said. "She's scored some good header goals for us this year."

The Aggies tied it when Kelley Monogue got her 18th of the year in the 31st minute, beating Virginia goalkeeper Morgan Stearns.

Emily Sonnett scored the winner, her fifth goal of the year, in the 43rd minute. It came off a corner kick, with an assist going to Danielle Colaprico.

Colaprico leads the ACC with a school-record 19 assists this season.

Alexis Shaffer, who was not in the starting lineup, got the final goal for Virginia in the 83rd, her seventh goal of the season.

"I think tonight our team put in a great effort against a great opponent and we stuck to our game plan," Sonnett said. "Scoring three goals will give us momentum in the final."

Swanson thought Sonnett's goal was the key for Virginia.

"I think the way the game was going in the first half, we would've been disappointed going into the locker room at 1-1," he said. "They scored a really nice goal, but for the most part we were in control of that half.

"That gave us a lot of confidence coming back in the second half."

Stearns and Aggies goalkeeper Jordan Day both made five saves.

Texas A&M coach G Guerrieri acknowledged his team was outplayed by Virginia.

"They had three really, really well taken goals," Guerrieri said. "We knew coming in we'd have our hands full.

"I thought that we fought hard and well."

Virginia is making its third Final Four appearance. Texas A&M was making its debut in the Final Four.

The Cavaliers have allowed 15 goals and posted 12 shutouts this season. They've allowed multiple goals only once this year, a 6-3 win over Boston College on Oct. 9.

In the second game, Cheyna Williams scored two goals for Florida State, which has never won the championship despite two previous appearances in the title game. The Seminoles were in the Final Four for the fourth straight year and seventh time overall. They lost the 2007 final to USC and last year's final to UCLA.

Williams, who has six goals in the postseason, had her second consecutive multi-goal game.

Information from the Associated Press was used in this report.

## Virginia's Offense To Square Off Against Florida State's Defense For College Cup

By Graham Hays | Dec 5, 2014  
espnW.com

BOCA RATON, Fla. -- Their season settled not by a defeat but by a draw one year ago after a semifinal penalty shootout against UCLA, Virginia returned to the team hotel in Cary, North Carolina, and tried to make sense of its fate. Players gathered one final time as that particular amalgamation.

"We talked as a team and said we kind of had to go forward from here," Emily Sonnett said.

As it turns out, forward they can do just fine.

Substitute Virginia into the story and the biblical lesson of Lot's wife would be shorter and noticeably less compelling. She was turned to a pillar of salt after she disobeyed a divine command not to look back. Virginia coach Steve Swanson rarely needs to mess with any fire or brimstone -- or salt -- to convince his players to go forward on the field.

Inarguably the nation's highest-scoring team, and arguably the practitioners of its most eye-pleasing soccer, Virginia lived up to both reputations in a 3-1 win against Texas A&M. A week after it did what no other team did this season by scoring two goals against UCLA to beat the tournament's overall top seed, Virginia struck again against a No. 1 seed.

"We just ran into a heck of a good team tonight," Texas A&M coach G Guerrieri said.

Now, another No. 1 seed awaits, the one defense that Virginia hasn't been able to solve and the one defense that hasn't given up a goal in the NCAA tournament. Sunday's national championship game will be a rematch twice over, the third game this season between Virginia's unstoppable attack and Florida State's immovable defense. The first two games went to the latter by matching 1-0 scores.

Not all goals are created equal, but they all count the same, which left the first semifinal tied as halftime approached in the opener.

Virginia scored the first goal in typically tiki-taka style in the 13th minute. Playing the same sort of deep-sitting midfield role Lauren Holiday occupies for the national team (for which Swanson is an assistant), Danielle Colaprico played a ball to Brittany Ratcliffe on the left flank that drew the latter toward the middle of the field. Ratcliffe took one quick touch and directed the ball to Morgan Brian a few feet away, whereupon the reigning Hermann Trophy winner lofted a perfect arching pass toward the far post that Makenzy Doniak headed into the net.

Pass, pass, brilliant pass, goal. It's what the nation's most prolific offense does so very well.

And while the Cavaliers didn't exactly play the Aggies off the field in the first half, they did have the edge in play, as they usually do.

"In the first half I just felt like the back line was under pressure for the good part of it," Texas A&M defender Meghan Streight said. "We knew coming into it that was the kind of team they are. They're a

very possession-based team, so we just told ourselves that we needed to be OK with the fact that they were going to have the ball and just kind of wait our time out."

But on what seemed an innocuous free kick from Streight just inside the halfway line in the 32nd minute, a Virginia player headed the ball away from goal but into the path of Texas A&M's Kelly Minogue. Not wasting the opportunity, Minogue drove the ball past Virginia keeper Morgan Stearns toward the far post. Just like a year ago in the semifinal, Virginia saw a lead evaporate. All its possession mattered not on the scoreboard. So, naturally, the Cavaliers went forward.

UCLA scored 11 tournament goals en route to the national championship in 2013. Virginia matched that before the Sweet 16. The last champion to score as many as 20 goals in a tournament was North Carolina in 2006. Virginia matched that before it got to Boca Raton, Florida, for the College Cup. With two goals and a win Sunday, Virginia could become the highest-scoring champion since North Carolina totaled 32 goals to complete a 27-0-0 season in 2003.

Swanson was nonetheless far from giddy after the game. That might have been the strategic countenance selected by a coach who hasn't won an NCAA championship yet but did lead the United States to a title in the 2012 FIFA Under-20 World Cup against an archrival that had already beaten his team, in that case Germany. In recent rounds, Virginia played opponents that were breaking new ground by being at that stage, first Kentucky in the Sweet 16 and then Texas A&M in the College Cup, and didn't shy away from relishing the accomplishment. Sunday will be Virginia's first national championship game, but its coach didn't seem eager Friday night to offer any hint that was a big deal.

His modest praise for his team's play may also have been the sincere assessment of someone with high standards.

Virginia has become the gold standard of passing and possession in recent seasons. But Friday wasn't perfect.

Merely pretty darn good.

"I think soccer is such an attractive sport," Swanson said. "It is the beautiful game, and it was meant to be played on the grounds, I think, of fundamentals. I believe in handling the ball well. I think that for us, I think I like the fluid part about the game, where you get a lot of people involved, you get a lot of mobility going, you emphasize the skills and there is a real team aspect to the game. The reason I got into athletics in general, especially team sports, is I like the relationships, I like the interactions. It's different than an individual sport.

"The philosophy that we have is built on that. It's built on sharing the ball, moving the ball, getting a lot of mobility between the lines, difficult to defend. You try to get players who can play in that system, that value that system."

Players like Sonnett. Another eye-catching series of passes between Brian, Colaprico and Doniak led to the corner kick Virginia took with the game tied in the 44th minute, but it was Sonnett who headed home the goal after fellow defender Tina Iordanou's initial header was deflected by Texas A&M keeper Jordan Day.

That Sonnett had pushed forward for the corner kick is no different than center backs across the country, but it's not unfamiliar territory for her during the run of play, either. A converted forward, Sonnett charges out of the back line at a moment's notice. She is the cornerstone of that young back line and spent much of Friday trying to deal with the challenge of 6-foot Texas A&M forward Annie Kunz. But her heart is in taking the ball, faking a couple of step-overs as she did on this night and racing into open space.

"Players have to perform their roles, whatever those roles are," Swanson said. "Emily's role is just something you don't see as much, the value of her leadership, the value of the way she communicates on the field, the value of how she organizes the team in front of her, the value of how she organizes our team. You just don't see that."

If Sonnett racing forward embodied her team's soul, so did Florida State defender Kirsten Crowley racing the ball toward her own goal early in the second half of her team's 2-0 win against fellow No. 1 seed Stanford.

Like Sonnett, Crowley is a formerly prolific high school goal scorer who transitioned to the back line. Unlike Sonnett, she rarely crosses into the opponent's half of the field but for set pieces. And after a couple of rare miscues allowed Stanford's Taylor Uhl to gain possession of the ball and play a terrific pass to Chioma Ubogagu -- the last person any opponent wants to see in alone on goal -- Crowley was needed in her own end.

Ubogagu's shot appeared destined to erase the lead Florida State took on Cheyna Williams' first-half strike, until Crowley slid in and deftly cleared the ball away before it could cross the goal line.

"I knew Cassie [Miller] had the front post covered," Crowley said somewhat diplomatically, given that Ubogagu had the keeper dead to rights at the far post. "And I didn't have anybody to man-mark in the box, so I decided to back her up. The ball came to me. It could have come to anybody I feel like because we all want to win so badly and the margin between winning and losing takes special moments like that."

Florida State played the season's first three weeks with an unsettled back line. Outside backs Megan Campbell and Emma Koivisto were away on international duty with Ireland and Finland, respectively. Not coincidentally, the team allowed four goals in its first five games, including a 2-1 setback against rival Florida that remains its lone loss. They have conceded just five goals since and none in the first five games of the NCAA tournament.

Just as Virginia is chasing the ghost of the 2003 North Carolina team at the other end of the field, Florida State can become the first team since those Tar Heels to win a title without allowing a goal in the NCAA tournament.

Florida State can score, especially with the way Williams, who put the game on ice with a second goal in the closing minutes, has emerged in her first season after transferring from Vanderbilt -- as a championship-caliber finishing presence ahead of All-American attacking midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir.

But it will play Sunday because of how well the Seminoles defend, reliably, if typically less dramatically, than Crowley's slide.

"Certainly, tonight was pretty good," Florida State coach Mark Krikorian said when asked what he considered his team's best defensive performance this season. "But I think we've had a lot of games where we've played against very good competition. Obviously, when you're playing against groups like Virginia and [North] Carolina and so many of the top teams, and Florida as well -- teams out of the conference that are so good -- then you're going to be tested and you're going to be taxed. And the hope is that if, and when, you can get to this stage of the season that you've played against enough good teams so that when that moment comes, you're prepared for it."

The winner Sunday will become the first ACC team other than North Carolina to win a national championship. That matters for a conference that has been the best in the country for quite some time but has always leaned on the team from Chapel Hill for the hardware to prove it. But these teams are good enough to escape that considerable shadow.

We aren't likely to see a better offense square off against a better defense anytime soon.

Twice, that duel has gone the way of the defense this season. So, once again, all Virginia can do is go forward.



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## College Cup: FSU holds off Cardinal 2-0

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)  
Published: December 5, 2014

[COMMENT](#)

BOCA RATON, Florida — With two stout defenses clashing in Friday's second semifinal between [Florida State](#) and [Stanford](#), it was always going to come down to the little moments in the run of play that would separate the two sides.

**MORE:** [Three thoughts from Friday's semifinals](#) | [Virginia tops Texas A&M 3-1](#)

And it was forward [Cheyna Williams](#) who stood up and delivered, not once, but twice. The forward scored a goal in each half to send [Florida State](#) to a second straight College Cup title game on the back of a 2-0 win, as Florida State continued its defensive dominance in the NCAA tournament.

"Our kids came in battled hard, fought hard competed all over the field which we knew we needed to do in order to compete in this game," Florida State head coach Mark Krikorian told reporters after the game. "We're thrilled that we're going to be able to play on Sunday and we'll go from a very unfamiliar group in Stanford to a pretty familiar group in Virginia."



Cheyna Williams

Early pressure from the Seminoles nearly paid dividends in the sixth minute. Attacking midfielder [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#), so good in the air, found herself in space on a corner kick, only to have Cardinal defender [Kendall Romine](#) clear her goal-bound shot off the line.

Williams would open up the scoring in the 13th minute through a fantastic individual effort. Outside back Emma Kovisto found the feet of Williams near the top of the box, and she did the rest, curling a right-footed shot past Stanford goalkeeper [Jane Campbell](#).

"Emma played a great ball to my feet, it's one of the things we've worked on this year, finding my feet and letting me be able to turn," Williams said. "She played a great ball in, I saw the defender kind of overcommitting to my left foot, so I took the cut and shot it."

Two minutes later [Jamia Fields](#) nearly had a second for the Seminoles, when her long, loopy cross appeared to trouble Campbell, who punched the ball onto the crossbar.

One of [Stanford](#)'s best chances came in the 51st minute, when [Chioma Ubogagu](#) slipped behind the back line. FSU goalkeeper [Cassie Miller](#) came charging off her line, Ubogagu beat the 'keeper, but defender [Kirsten Crowley](#) scrambled the goal-bound shot off the line.

"I knew Cassie had the front post covered and I knew that I didn't have anyone to man mark in the box so I decided to back her up," Crowley said. "The ball came to me, it could've come to anybody I feel like because we all want it so bad and the margin between winning and losing are special moments like that."

The search for an equalizer continued for the Cardinal, as Ubogagu, [Taylor Uhl](#) and Lo'eau Labonta passed and probed for openings in the Florida State defense. But the Seminoles yielded little, with wide midfielders Jamie Fields and [Carson Pickett](#) tracking back to swarm and close down the Cardinal attackers.


Florida State's high pressure forced the Cardinal to make uncharacteristic errors, and Brynjarsdottir almost turned a giveaway in the box into the second goal of the game, only to see Campbell make a smart save in the 52nd minute.

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### PLAYER RANKINGS

	Club (B)	Club (G)	College (M)	College (W)
	Freshmen		National	
	<b>Morgan Brian</b> Midfielder Senior St. Simons Island, GA Virginia			
			<b>CLASS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
2	<a href="#">Abby Dahlkemper</a>		SR	D
3	<a href="#">Sarah Killion</a>		SR	MF
4	<a href="#">Dagny Brynjarsdottir</a>		SR	MF
5	<a href="#">Kadeisha Buchanan</a>		SO	D
6	<a href="#">Samewis</a>		SR	MF
7	<a href="#">Shea Groom</a>		SR	MF
8	<a href="#">Makenzy Doniak</a>		JR	F
9	<a href="#">Savannah Jordan</a>		SO	F
10	<a href="#">Jaelene Hinkle</a>		SR	D

[View complete list >>](#)

A late free kick chance for Stanford came in the 83rd minute. LaBonta's curling effort beat the wall but was easy work for Miller to scoop up in front of the FSU goal.

In the end the Seminole back line proved impenetrable, harrying and harassing the Cardinal's offense which failed to truly trouble Miller again. When Ubogagu or Uhl thought they had space Crowley or fellow center back [Kristin Grubka](#) were there to put out the fires in the penalty area.

"We've done a very good job throughout the course of the season at minimizing chances at our goal and I think that's why we've been stingy giving up goals and opportunities at our net," Krikorian said. "Make no mistake, those kids from Stanford they're good. They're really good, and it's a credit to our kids for being as disciplined in the defending as they were and their persistence of working together and staying compact, following the script, I thought we were very good."

With Stanford chasing the game in the dying minutes, Williams put it out of reach in the 87th minute. It came from a simple [Jamia Fields](#) long ball over the Cardinal back line as they flooded forward. Williams raced onto it, rounded Campbell and slotted home to put the game out of reach.

"It's been an amazing run this year," [Stanford](#) head coach Paul Ratcliffe said. "We wanted more and the game I felt kind of slipped away from us. We had times where we started to get our rhythm but really didn't play to what we are capable of."

*Image credit: Jeff Romance, FSU Athletics*

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**2014 NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW:  
COLLEGE CUP**

\*\*\*\*\*  
5pm ET, ESPN

**Breaking Down the Cavaliers' Journey to Boca Raton  
Virginia's win against Top-Seeded UCLA.  
What happened?**

Here's what happened — the two best teams in women's college soccer faced off in a tight quarterfinal match, and Virginia ended a number of UCLA's ongoing streaks. The Bruins' unbeaten streak? Ended at 44 games. Their home unbeaten streak? Ended at 27 games. Their shutout streak? Ended at 969 minutes by junior **Emily Sonnett's** cleanup run in the 33rd minute of the match. The game-winning goal was scored by **Morgan Brian** in the 70th minute, and although the Bruins were able to pull one back a few minutes later, they were unable to find the equalizer. UCLA had not given up multiple goals in a match since November 23, 2012, in a 2-1 quarterfinal loss to Stanford.

Given the substitution rules in the college game and the way in which Virginia usually utilizes its bench, it's noteworthy that the Cavaliers fielded only two substitutes. Eight of the starting XI played the full 90 in the winning effort.

**What got the Cavaliers to their second consecutive College Cup?**

I don't focus on individual performances for successful teams, but for Virginia, I'll make an exception. The growth and maturity of 2013 MAC Hermann Trophy winner Morgan Brian over the past couple seasons has been a major factor in the Cavaliers' appearances in the College Cup. The way the 2012 season ended proved this, as the following year showed a clear change in attitude and play by the talented midfielder. Now a senior, Brian has earned a place on the U.S. Women's National Team and is again a semifinalist for the MAC Hermann.

Two other Cavaliers — senior midfielder **Danielle Colaprico** and junior forward **Makenzy Doniak** — join her on the recently announced shortlist. This trio accounts for the bulk of Virginia's offense, as Doniak leads the team with 19 goals and Colaprico leads with 18 assists. Brian takes second in both categories with 10 goals and 13 assists despite playing only 16 games this season. **Brittany Ratcliffe** matches Brian with 10 goals, and supersub **Morgan Reuther** isn't far behind with 8. Overall, 16 Cavaliers have recorded points this season and Virginia has outscored opponents 85-14. The foundation under the stats is a style of possession play that few teams in the college

game have been able to match in 2013 or 2014.

#### **What gives Virginia an edge in their College Cup Semifinal Match against Texas A&M?**

If the above isn't enough to give Virginia the edge, let's take a broader look. Virginia is the only two seed in the Final Four, and it took defeating the defending national champion *and* a one-seed to get here. To keep beating a dead horse, Virginia is a battle-tested ACC team. The only team to defeat the Cavaliers this season is Florida State, which sits on the opposite side of the bracket in the other semifinal — clearly one of the top teams of 2014. As much as it took, in Coach Steve Swanson's words, a "monumental effort" by Virginia to defeat UCLA, that's what it's going to take for Texas A&M to beat a team that has outscored opponents 20-1 in the NCAA tournament. This Virginia squad is both experienced and deep, and if the team stays focused, no one this side of the final stands a chance.

- by Ruth Moore

#### **How the Aggies' Made It to Boca Raton**

##### **Texas A&M's win against Penn State. Go.**

What an excellent game of soccer. Coming into this game I think there was an expectation for A&M to run up and down the flanks continuously, with Penn State's organized defense holding out and using its clinical strikers to grab an upset. Instead we got a back and forth match, with both sides creating excellent chances on the break. While it's hard to beat **Jane Campbell's** performance in Stanford's quarterfinal, **Jordan Day** had a huge game in the net for the Aggies. Day shut down two 1-v-1 breakaways for Penn State, and the one goal she did allow was an absolute rocket she really couldn't have done anything about.

Even with the win, Texas A&M should be wary, as its passing was lacking and the Aggies never really created anything through the run of play in the middle of the field. That being said, **Allie Bailey** harassed Penn State's back line all game long, using sheer willpower and hustle to create two goals for her team. Although she assisted on Bailey's second goal, **Bianca Brinson** was surprisingly quiet during the match, playing only 63 minutes and notching one shot. The offense has been a staple for the Aggies all season, but a big-time performance by Day and a defensive back four that didn't make many mistakes put them into the College Cup for the first time in program history.

#### **What got the Aggies to their first College Cup in program history?**

As I've mentioned several times, Jordan Day was immense for Texas A&M in the quarterfinals, and the **Meghan Streight**-lead defense was able to hold on long enough, but the main factor that's propelled the Aggies is what I'm going to call the core five. That includes midfielders **Shea Groom** and **Kelley Monogue**, and the triple threat striker team of Bianca Brinson, **Annie Kunz**, and Allie Bailey. Four of the five are double-digit goal scorers this season, and are responsible for 85 percent of the Aggies' goals this year.

Groom and Monogue. The midfield duo controls matches for Texas A&M. They can create chances for themselves or others, notably one of their strikers on goal. When Groom and Monogue aren't on, the responsibility to create falls to the front three. Bailey fought hard for both of her goalmouth strikes, while Kunz did pressure Penn State's back line into a few mistakes. I mentioned earlier that Brinson had a quiet game, but I don't suspect that will happen again. Groom and Monogue will have their hands full against Virginia, a team with perhaps the strongest midfield Texas A&M has seen all year. This means Brinson, Kunz, and Bailey will have to play at their best.

#### **What gives Texas A&M an edge against Virginia?**

This entire tournament, the Aggies' speed and athleticism has been their calling card. I don't think this is something that will totally ruin Virginia or Virginia's game plan. I think the edge comes from how well defensive midfielder

**Janae Cousineau** plays. Cousineau has been plagued by injury issues since the beginning of the season, and freshman **Mikaela Harvey** has been excellent when called upon to fill in, but if the senior can help hold down the midfield I think that makes it a much closer match with Virginia. Whichever team can control the midfield wins this game, and it's absolutely necessary for the Aggies as they won't be getting any real breakaway chances on the counter. They need to control the center of the park and use the strengths of Groom and Monogue to create chances for the forwards. Simply put, if Virginia dominates possession, the A&M defense won't hold for long. It comes down to holding serve against a talented Cavaliers' midfield, and Cousineau will be key in shutting down their offensive chances and playing as a bit of a protector for the Aggies' back four.

- by Rachael Caldwell

#### Semifinal #2

Stanford vs. Florida State  
7:30pm ET, ESPN

#### Breaking Down the Cardinal's Journey to Boca Raton Stanford won in penalties against Florida. Thoughts?

The quarterfinal in Palo Alto proved to be a battle between two sides that were fairly even position by position. And there wasn't much that separated Stanford and Florida throughout the 90 minutes. Whenever one team went ahead, the other responded in short order. Since the beginning of this tournament, the Cardinal have had to respond to a different challenge in every round. Just as the previous three rounds, they were able to rise up and meet the challenge and they were solid in penalties. I was surprised that **Savannah Jordan** didn't take a penalty for Florida but even more surprised that goalkeeper Jane Campbell looked so cool, calm, and collected taking the final spot kick for Stanford. A keeper taking a spot kick isn't unheard of but taking the final kick of the five is very strange. Nonetheless, she was able to bury it and Stanford moves on to the College Cup for the sixth time in seven years.

#### What got the Cardinal back to the College Cup after missing out in 2013?

Putting together the whole package was the difference for Stanford. The Cardinal lost several players to graduation after the 2012 season, lost Emily Oliver to injuries, saw home match winning streaks end, and had to integrate young players into the lineup. While the lineup had a lot of potential in 2013, it actually reached that potential this year. They have a great back four of **Laura Liedle**, **Maddie Bauer**, **Hannah Farr**, and **Kendall Romine** who have allowed just 12 goals in 24 games, plus an experienced Campbell in net. **Andi Sullivan** has looked nothing like a freshman in the midfield but more like a seasoned veteran and the Cardinal have a three-headed goal scoring monster between **Lo'eau LaBonta**, **Chioma Ubogagu**, and **Taylor Uhl**, who have combined for 33 of the team's 56 goals. All things are looking right for Head Coach Paul Ratcliffe's side heading to Boca Raton.

#### What gives Stanford an edge against Florida State?

Stanford is facing one of the most consistent women's college soccer teams in the nation on Friday. Stanford isn't a massive underdog by any means but they're facing a Florida State team that has won 18 of its last 19 with the one blemish coming in a 1-1 draw against North Carolina and are equally as stout defensively, only allowing nine goals in 24 matches. What gives Stanford an edge is its ability to create goal-scoring opportunities for the front three of LaBonta, Ubogagu, and Uhl. If Stanford can spread the field and create space for those three run on to balls or a couple of decent crosses, the Cardinal could be in business as the defense should be able to limit Florida State's chances.

- by JJ Duke

#### **Breaking Down the Seminoles' Journey to Boca Raton Florida State's one-sided quarterfinal result against South Carolina. Go.**

With the experience of entering its 10th consecutive Elite Eight, the longest active streak among NCAA programs, Florida State cruised into its home match against debutante South Carolina with alacrity and assurance. The result was the largest margin of victory in a quarterfinal in Seminole history. Florida State earned a school record 10 corners in the first half and three goals during a six-minute span after the interval, including two by **Cheyne Williams**, to put the final line at 5-0 in the 61st minute.

The collective effort on the defensive side meant a 17th shutout for **Cassie Miller** — she has not permitted a goal in 720 minutes. Consequently, the 'Noles secured a fourth straight College Cup, the seventh program in NCAA history to reach the national semifinals four successive years. Do you know the other six? If you get all six without looking, you can consider yourself a women's soccer fanatic. The answer is at the bottom of my prediction.

#### **What got the Seminoles to their fourth consecutive College Cup?**

For the second time in the last three weeks, Florida State Head Coach Mark Krikorian called his side the most complete team he has fielded in Tallahassee. The combination of experience, maturity, athleticism, technical and soccer brain are qualities that have led to this achievement.

#### **What gives Florida State an edge against Stanford?**

You could argue that these two teams are mirror images of each other. Both set school records for consecutive shutout minutes while almost always snatching the timely finish on the attacking side to advance. The apparent edge for Florida State could simply be the venue — Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, Florida hosts for the first time. Stanford has to fly across the country and adjust to Eastern Standard Time at a juncture when fatigue could set in at inopportune moments.

— by *Glenn Crooks*

#### **Predictions**

With the College Cup matchups now set, it's time for the OGM College Staff to boldly (or not) predict which team wins its semifinal match and which team will hoist the NCAA Championship trophy on Sunday afternoon. It's been a long and exciting 2014 season with many twists and turns along the way but it's time for this group to put all the cards out on the table and pick the winners.

#### **Ruth Moore**

I'll go with not-so-bold on this one because I get really superstitious about the College Cup.

Not to write off Texas A&M's successes to this point, but Virginia is on a roll. This two seed just as easily could have been a one seed. For all the reasons detailed above, I expect Virginia to advance to the final. And I hope the Aggies hold the Cavaliers to a reasonably close scoreline.



(<http://www.ourgamemag.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Virginia-100x100.png>)

The Florida State-Stanford semifinal will definitely be the one to watch. While on paper I think Florida State has the edge, I would love to see Stanford scrap its way out of this one. In fact, it could very well go down this way, with FSU creating a lead that will force Stanford to tap into the best of its team character to get another come-from-behind win this postseason.

This is Virginia's year to win it all. It would be equally fitting for the Cavaliers to finally beat

the Seminoles (who beat them twice) this year, or to take down another Pac-12 power enroute to the title.

#### Rachael Caldwell

Florida State versus Stanford will be a fun match no doubt, but my eyes are glued to Texas A&M versus Virginia. I think the winner of this match will go on to win the College Cup. It's all about the midfield in this one.

Morgan Brian versus Shea Groom. Colaprico versus Monogue.

Whoever can control the midfield and distribute to their excellent forwards, which both team's have, will be the winner.

If Jordan Day turns in another near perfect performance, I think the Aggies could pull what would most certainly be considered an upset, despite their higher seed. However, the Cavaliers are far too clinical to lose this match. They're one of the only teams that won't be blown away by the pure speed and athleticism of the Aggies on the wings, and this isn't their first College Cup experience.

I've got Virginia marked down as the College Cup champs.



<http://www.ourgamemag.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Virginia-100x100.png> Now I do realize that Virginia's match with A&M is a semi-final, so who do they beat in the final? I think it's Stanford. The Cardinal were challenged a bit more than expected in its run to Boca Raton, and really had to grind out several wins. Florida State never really saw its tournament lives flash before their eyes, and I don't think they've really had to fight for a win so far. Stanford is the tougher squad, and in a game where offense could be at a premium I put my money on the Cardinal, which sets up a Stanford-Virginia final.

The Cavaliers take home the hardware. Morgan Brian scores one and assists two as they win it 3-0.

#### JJ Duke

In one of the more consistently high-scoring NCAA tournaments in recent memory, this weekend will change pace as we should be in for three defensive struggles with only the strongest left standing on Sunday afternoon.

Florida State's prowess at both ends of the field should outlast the stingy Stanford back line and the Seminoles will move onto Championship Sunday. The more intriguing of the two semi-finals will be the first match as Texas A&M walks into the unknown against Virginia, who is still stinging from its defeat at this stage last year against UCLA in penalty kicks. The Virginia se-



nior class has climbed <http://www.ourgamemag.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Virginia-100x100.png> every hurdle throughout its four years minus winning a national championship and will get to the final to face an ACC rival but will need extra time to finish off the Aggies.

Mark Krikorian's team has had Steve Swanson's team's number in 2014, defeating the Cavaliers in the regular season and in the ACC Conference Championship game. However, the trend breaks in South Florida as Morgan Brian and Co. will defeat the 'Noles and will give the midfielder the perfect ending to her collegiate career.

#### Glenn Crooks

This should be fun, if not for sheer talent alone. Seven of the 16 MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalists will be on display in Boca Ration for the Final Four. Three of the No. 1 seeds have advanced with No. 2 Virginia ousting No. 1 UCLA, 2-1, to become the only team this season to put more than one behind the defending national champs. Junior Emily Sonnett's rebound goal ended a 969-minute scoreless streak for the Bruins, the seventh longest in NCAA history. Virginia will next face College Cup neophytes, Texas A&M.

The Aggies eliminated Virginia in the third round eight years ago and the two sides haven't met since. I had a sideline seat when Shea Groom tore my Rutgers team apart with her powerful movements to goal early in her freshman season. Now, a MAC Hermann semifinalist and one of eight senior starters, Groom (16 goals) along with Kelly Montague (17 goals, 10 assists) lead the Aggies after defeating Penn State in front of the Twelfth Man — 3,161 spectators — during Thanksgiving break! Virginia features three MAC Hermann candidates, Morgan Brian (10 goals, 13 assists), Danielle Colaprico (6 goals, 18 assists), and MaKenzy Doniak (19 goals, 11 assists). Virginia has the soccer acumen and ability to score in bunches against even the most elite programs, as well as the experience of its second straight College Cup and will defeat the Aggies, 3-1.

In contrast to the single Final Four display for Virginia-A&M, the Florida State-Stanford semifinal is notable with two programs that have a combined 15 journeys to the College Cup. These two schools share a similar philosophy — intelligent movement off the ball while reading the prime options in the attack on the ball. Both have lethal attacking choices. Florida State put up a 5-spot in the quarterfinal while Stanford responded to a 2-0 deficit in the opening round versus Fullerton, receiving five goals combined from Chioma Obogagu and Taylor Uhl to advance. MAC Hermann aspirant Lo'eau LaBonta (13 goals, 5 assists) is the focal point of the attack leading the Cardinal to their sixth College Cup in the past seven years. Florida State has a pair of MAC Hermann nominees in **Dagny Brynjarsdóttir** (16 goals, 6 assists) and **Kristin Grubka** (3 goals, 5 assists). Florida State scores first, Stanford rallies to equalize and the 'Noles, with savvy and composure, tally late to move onto the final, 2-1.



<http://www.ourgamemag.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/FloridaState-100x100.png> I'm

not one to subscribe to the theory, "it's difficult to beat the same team three times in a season." However, that will be the predicament for Florida State in the all-ACC final. The Seminoles defeated the Cavaliers by identical scores of 1-0, the most recent coming in the conference championship trial. It appeared that the Florida State coaching staff created adjustments between the regular game in late September and the ACC final less than a month ago. Virginia's opportunities were limited and the Seminole's numerous attacking weapons were more threatening. Florida State has the most potent blend of soccer qualities among this prodigious quartet of teams this weekend. And for the third time in 2014, will upend the Cavaliers, 1-0, to earn its first national championship.

*(Trivia Answer: UNC, UMass, Stanford, UCLA, Santa Clara, Notre Dame)*

#### Contributors

**Rachael Caldwell** will be graduating from the University of Arkansas in 2015 with a degree in Broadcast Journalism and minors in Spanish and Business Management. Rachael played soccer from when she was three until her senior year of high school, where she was the captain of her state championship winning team.



Rachael looks forward to writing more for *Our Game Magazine* and also writes about women's soccer on her blog, [rachaelc.wordpress.com](http://rachaelc.wordpress.com/) (<http://rachaelc.wordpress.com/>).


**Glenn Crooks** is the former Head Women's Soccer Coach at Rutgers University. Crooks is currently a soccer commentator for the Big Ten Network, FIOS, and Sky Blue FC of the National Women's Soccer League. He is also head coach of the Players Development Academy, NJ. Olympic Development Program, and a staff coach at U.S. Soccer National Training Centers, as well as a coach advisor for Polar USA. Follow Crooks on twitter at [@GlennCrooks](https://twitter.com/glenncrooks) (<https://twitter.com/glenncrooks>).

**JJ Duke** graduated from Rider University in New Jersey with a degree in Digital Media Studies. Although his playing days may have ended back in high school, he still prides himself on being a decent shot-stopper and an all-around fanatic of the beautiful game (fervent supporter of Manchester United and the founder of a Rider supporters group, the 206 Ultras).


**Ruth Moore** serves *Our Game Magazine* as a College Editor and the magazine's Design Editor. She holds a degree in Professional Writing from Kutztown University, freelances in communication design, and loves coffee.

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
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## Women's College Cup Preview: The battle of Boca

by [Paul Kennedy](#), December 4th, 2014 8:57PM

By Paul Kennedy

([@pkedit](https://twitter.com/pkedit) [<https://twitter.com/pkedit>] )

Last year, in its ninth Women's College Cup appearance, UCLA won its first national title. This year, Florida State, which lost to the Bruins in last year's title game, hopes to finally win its first championship in eight trips to the College Cup. The Seminoles' 1-0 win over Virginia in the ACC final make them slight favorites, but the Cavaliers have been awfully impressive in the NCAA Women's Tournament. We make the case for each of the four semifinalists in Boca Raton, Florida, for this year's College Cup.

**FLORIDA STATE-STANFORD (Friday, 7:30 p.m. ET, ESPNU, WatchESPN).** Both teams are regulars at the Women's College Cup. This is the Seminoles' fourth appearance in a row. Stanford missed out on the final four in 2013 for the first time in six years.

After losses in the semifinals to Stanford in 2011 and Penn State in 2012 and last year in the final to UCLA, Florida State coach Mark Krikorian thinks this year could be different. "We're good enough that we can win," he said at Thursday's pre-game press conference. "In the past, we weren't good enough."

### In Florida State's favor:

-- **Air-tight defense.** Florida State didn't allow a goal in the first four games of the NCAA Tournament. In 12 games against ACC teams, the Seminoles allowed only three goals.

-- **Big-time international.** In her fourth and final season, **Dagny Brynjarsdottir** leads the Seminoles with 16 goals despite missing three games while on national team duty with Iceland.

-- **Home-state advantage.** It's almost 400 miles from Tallahassee to Boca Raton, site of this year's finals at Florida Atlantic University, but the Seminoles are counting on support from lots of FSU fans in South Florida.

### In Stanford's favor:

-- **Championship experience.** Stanford is the only team to have won the women's national championship. Three players who played in the 2011 final are still with the Cardinal: **Kendall Romine**, **Chioma Ubogagu** and **Alex Doll**.

-- **Hot goalkeeper.** At 17, **Jane Campbell** was called into the senior national team but later took a backseat to **Katelyn Rowland** from rival UCLA on the U.S. U-20s. This fall, Campbell has been commanding for the Cardinal. She even scored the winning goal in the quarterfinal shootout win over Florida.

-- **Multiple options.** Trailing 2-0 in its first-round match against Cal State Fullerton, Stanford got five goals from **Taylor Uhl** and Ubogagu in the last half hour to run away from the Big West champs. In the next two rounds, fellow senior **Lo'eau LaBonta** won both games on goals in penalty-kick situations.

**VIRGINIA-TEXAS A&M (Friday, 5 p.m. ET, ESPNU, WatchESPN).** The Cavaliers return to the College Cup after falling to UCLA in a shootout in last year's semifinals. They got revenge with a 2-1 win over the No. 1 seed Bruins in last week's quarterfinals. This is Texas A&M's 20th consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament but first to the College Cup.

Virginia will be heavily favored, but the Aggies have no fear. "The team is very excited about the

opportunity in front of us to take the next step in this tournament," said Texas A&M coach G Guerrieri. "This has been a really special team for us."

#### In Virginia's favor:

-- **Morgan Brian.** You'll get an argument out of Westwood about Sam Mewis and a few of the other UCLA stars, but let's close the discussion now. Morgan Brian is the nation's best college player. The 2013 Soccer America Player of the Year has been on a roll the last three weeks with four goals and eight assists in four NCAA Tournament games. She will be on the flight with the USA to next year's Women's World Cup in Canada.

-- **Confidence and focus.** The win over UCLA gives the Cavs loads of confidence heading to Boca, but Virginia coach Steve Swanson says his players are ready to put that game behind them. "I think we've prepared well for this one as well," he said on Thursday.

-- **Excellent supporting cast.** UVa, the nation's leader with an average of 3.5 goals a game, isn't a one-player team. Danielle Colaprico beat out Brian for ACC Midfielder of the Year honors and U.S. U-20 forward Makenzy Doniak is the highest scorer in the College Cup with 19 goals and 11 assists.

#### In Texas A&M's favor:

**Deep senior class.** Guerrieri started eight seniors against Penn State: Allie Bailey, Bianca Brinson, Jordan Day, Leigh Edwards, Shea Groom, Annie Kunz, Kelley Monogue and Meghan Streight. Over the last four years, they've accounted for almost 78 percent of all A&M goals.

**Battle-hardened team.** The Aggies beat some good teams -- Notre Dame in the third round and Penn State in the quarterfinals -- to make it all the way to Boca Raton. They justified their No. 1 regional seed with 16 wins over Top 100 teams in the RPI index during the regular season. (No other team had more than 13 wins.)

**Shootout success.** If it comes down to penalty kicks, Texas A&M will be ready. The Aggies have won their last nine shootouts, including six in the NCAA Tournament. In 2002, they beat UCLA in the round of 16 despite failing to get off a shot in regulation and overtime.

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## AS USUAL, INTERNATIONALS CARRY FSU INTO COLLEGE CUP

STEVE BRUNO

DECEMBER 4, 2014

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© Steve Bruno (EqualizerSoccer.com)

Florida State coach Mark Krikorian has another crop of talented international players in the College Cup yet again. (Photo Copyright Steve Bruno for The Equalizer)

The popular "Great American Melting Pot" metaphor tells of the opportunities awaiting people of all nationalities in the United States while enhancing the country's rich cultural tapestry.

In the landscape of collegiate soccer, the claim is just as valid today as it was in that century-old propaganda, and both the players and the sport are benefitting tremendously. Programs such as Ohio State, Michigan and even Memphis have tapped the rich Canadian pipeline for talent with great success, but nowhere in women's soccer is a more diverse selection on display than at Florida State University.

In his 10th year as head coach at Florida State, Mark Krikorian's Seminoles currently feature seven delegates from six different countries. With a quarter-century's experience under his belt as a college coach, Krikorian's revolving door of foreign talent is far beyond the experimental stage. Instead, it has become a tried-and-true blueprint for his success. It's an approach that precedes his time in Tallahassee, stretching back to his formative coaching days in the early 90's.

"I was coaching a Division II school a long time ago called Franklin Pierce and it became real clear to me that I couldn't find the most elite level players in the country," Krikorian said. "They weren't going to come to that Division II school in rural New Hampshire, but I thought, you know, it's a big world, it's the world game, maybe there are some kids from other parts of the world who would like to improve their English and have an opportunity for a university degree, so I got on a plane one day and went to Sweden and had the great pleasure of meeting at that time Pia Sundhage and made the nice connection with her, and that's probably where it all started about 20 years ago."

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Krikorian had great success at Franklin Pierce, winning consecutive D-II national championships in 1994 and 1995, before moving up to Division I with the University of Hartford in the late 90's. There he continued to recruit from across the Atlantic, bringing in players from the Netherlands, Norway and Germany to help lead his Hawks squad to three straight conference championships and an NCAA Elite Eight appearance in 1999.

With the dawning of a new era for women's soccer in the U.S., Krikorian left Hartford in 2001 to manage the Philadelphia Charge of the WUSA and its unprecedented quality of both domestic and international players. In addition to gathering a bounty of players from abroad – including German captain Doris Fitschen, dazzling French forward Marinette Pichon, former college player of the year Anne Mäkinen from Finland and English legend Kelly Smith – Krikorian also strengthened his relationship with Sundhage, taking the Swede under his wing as an assistant coach.

Following the collapse of the inaugural pro league, Krikorian returned to the college ranks in 2005 with Florida State and immediately set out to find the right players to fit his vision of a sophisticated, attractive style of possession soccer. With a huge turnover from the outgoing squad, Krikorian had plenty of opportunities to implement his successful international strategy, taking over a team that lost nearly all of its starters.

Making an immediate stamp on the program's persona, Krikorian added six international players to the Seminole roster – including German star Viola Odebrecht, a player who already had years of professional experience in the Frauen-Bundesliga as well as a World Cup gold medal on her resumé – and a freshman forward from Japan named Mami Yamaguchi. In his first season with the team, Florida State returned to the College Cup and finished the year ranked fourth in the nation despite entering the season unranked in the preseason polls.

In 2007, Yamaguchi led the country in points on her way to a MAC Hermann-winning season in which the Japanese international also set single-season records for points, goals and assists. Those hauls still stand in the Seminole record book. That same year, Finnish import Sanna Talonen won the Soccer America Freshman of the Year award and the Seminoles made their first appearance in the NCAA national championship game, losing to USC.

The Seminoles returned to the College Cup Final again in 2013, losing to UCLA in overtime, but the team is again on the precipice of another appearance in the final as FSU head into their fourth consecutive College Cup this weekend. On his current roster, Krikorian has Dagny Brynjarsdottir and Berglind Thorvaldsdottir from Iceland, Irish national team starter Megan Campbell, Germany's Isabella Schmid, super-sub Marta Bakowska-Mathews representing England, Hikaru Murakami from Japan and Finnish freshman Emma Koivisto.

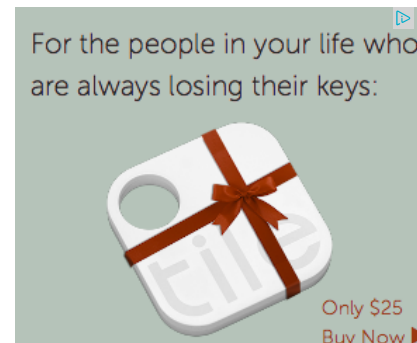
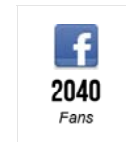
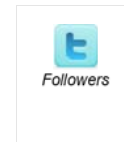
Four of those players, Brynjarsdottir, Campbell, Schmid and Koivisto, are locks in the starting lineup while Thorvaldsdottir and Bakowska-Mathews have made tremendous contributions from the bench. Look down FSU's scoring stats and it is clear that much of their offense is driven by the large international contingent, accounting for six out of the top 10 points leaders. An unstoppable force in her attacking midfield position, Brynjarsdottir leads the team in points (38) and goals (16) and looks like a worthy MAC Hermann finalist. Tenacious left back Megan Campbell's 12 assists are second-best for FSU while she and Koivisto also bookend the nation's third-best defense. Thorvaldsdottir and Bakowska-Mathews are third and fourth in points, respectively, despite their limited starts.

While the Seminoles' foreign athletes bring a ton of offensive firepower, these same players work equally hard in the classroom, with Brynjarsdottir, Campbell, Bakowska-Mathews and holding midfielder Schmid all earning ACC Academic Honor Roll recognition in past seasons. Bakowska-Mathews maintains the program's high scholastic standards despite her difficult major in Physics.

"I wouldn't recommend it," the soft-spoken Englisher said of her intense major, only partly joking.

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Irish defender Megan Campbell is a key part of Florida State's defense.  
(Photo Copyright Steve Bruno for The Equalizer)

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"We're fortunate in the world of women's soccer in that most folks out there do value a university education," Krikorian says when speaking of his foreign students' excellent academic record, "and the international players in particular recognize that being fluent in English can help them in the future. We have a very good team GPA, the chemistry in the team is a business-like attitude, mentality. They understand that they have responsibilities and that one of their responsibilities is to be the best student that they can. We've been very fortunate. We've had a number of students that are Academic All-Americans and I think most of them have been international players. It's a combination of maturity, academic discipline and drive and desire."

**[MORE: [Sixteen MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalists named](#)]**

Krikorian says after his initial contact in Sweden allowed him to gain a foothold in Europe, he was able to expand his network from there:

"It's no different than recruiting domestically. If you get into some of these different clubs here in the US and the kids come and they have a good experience and they feel as though they're developing then it's a positive situation, then those coaches and those federations are feeling positive about the work that's going on with their kids."

He says his former players also help spread the word and can be ambassadors for the program:

"Twenty years ago it was much more challenging, now it's much easier," he said. "The reason it's easier is we have a lot of kids that I've had the pleasure of working with and coaching that play with a lot of these kids on different national teams. Berglind was trying to decide if coming to the US was the right move, she could call her countryman, Dagny. When Emma Koivisto from Finland decided to come here as a freshman, she had the opportunity to speak with some others that have been here before from Finland.... Many of these kids, their national team coaches are happy with the progress they're making. They look and they see that their kids are getting better. Women's soccer in the U.S. is pretty good. These kids come in and they can play in highly competitive games and play with and against good players all the time."

For many of the international players, especially the ones from non-English-speaking countries, the decision to move to another side of the world can be an unsettling prospect. Brynjarsdottir originally came from the small town of Hella, Iceland, with a population of around 700. She said she grew up playing against boys until the age of 13. By 16, she was playing with Iceland's U-17 team and knew she would have to elevate her environment if she was going to continue to progress:

"I knew I had to move somewhere to be with a real women's team, I couldn't be with guys anymore," she said. "I moved to the capital with my uncle and there... I played with the best women's team at the time (Valur). We have two women's leagues, like a first and second division, and I was champions with them in 2007, -8, -9 and -10 and I played in the Champions League with them."

Brynjarsdottir also worked her way up Iceland's youth national teams, eventually landing on spot on the full squad. At the time, she says, the women's team was more popular than the men's as they had better success on the international stage. Near the end of her senior season in high school, Brynjarsdottir says U.S. schools began contacting her to come play in America.

"I got a few emails from coaches, but I ignored them," Brynjarsdottir said. "I wouldn't even respond because I was not going to go to college. I had a really good season with Iceland in 2010 when I started playing with the national team. After that season, my team won the Icelandic league and the Icelandic Cup and I was chosen the best younger player in the league and I was just like, 'Oh, I'm going to play pro' and I didn't even think about college."

Unbeknownst to coach Krikorian, a bit of good fortune and the quirky hand of fate got him in the door when other coaches couldn't get an audience with the single-minded Icelander. "I don't know, something happened and I think Mark just contacted me. It was just perfect timing. It was about two weeks before graduation — I graduated early so I graduated in December. All the other schools that contacted me, I didn't even look at the school, but this time... I think it was because, my high school where I went for two years back home before I moved, it was spelled 'F-S-U' so when I got the email, I was like 'Why are they emailing me in English?' so I had to open it and look over it."

That bit of serendipity led Brynjarsdottir to finally consider higher education. She looked into the program and opened a line of communication with Krikorian in which they emailed and Skyped back and forth. Brynjarsdottir says she was ultimately influenced by the U.S. women's national team and the fact that so many players from the No. 1 team in the world had come through the NCAA. Now Brynjarsdottir says she always tries to encourage other European players considering the U.S. collegiate system to not be afraid to

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take that big step overseas, with many players contacting her for advice, even ones she doesn't know.

"Before I came here, I thought 'I am so ready to go pro,'" she says of the preparedness college has given her and can give others. "But when I came here, I found out, I would not be ready at all, but now I would be ready."

Brynjarsdottir said the Sunshine State wasn't much of a tough sell for her, being a sun-worshipper, and that her family enjoyed the vacations when they came to see her. The language, however, was a problem.

"I hated English in high school and my English was terrible, especially my first semester."

To help soften the impact, Krikorian said that upon arriving, his international players are paired with a team mentor, an American upperclassman teammate who can show them around as well as put them in a situation in which they will be using English through most of their day. The team also has a mentorship program which exposes them to other successful women in the local community. There is also a strong emphasis on giving back to that community, which the coach says runs



Senior Icelandic forward Dagny Brynjarsdottir leads FSU in points and goals. (Photo Copyright Steve Bruno for The Equalizer)

throughout the entire athletic department and helps integrate the international players:

"It's part of the Florida State culture," Krikorian said. "I look at the entire school and the athletic department, it's so proactive in making sure that we're trying to help those that may need a little extra assistance. Whether it is breast cancer awareness or collecting slightly-used shoes and giving those to folks that may not have things or going into schools and reading and sharing time with kids and trying to be positive role models."

"If you look at any one of them, you think 'okay, it's a small thing,' but when you put them all together, it brings the group closer together."

Although Krikorian's legacy with overseas students has developed strong relationships in the international community – especially in the European community from which he primarily draws – the coach says the continent can often present its own difficulties for recruiting.

"Certainly in Europe it's more challenging because they develop these players from a young age on and they don't want them just leaving to go to college, for the most part, but, if they feel as though we can help make the player a better player and give them a great experience, a great education, then they're more open to it oftentimes."

Despite the diversity of styles and languages on the pitch, Krikorian says managing such a wide array of talent isn't as difficult as one might think.

"In terms of managing the team and managing the players, I've dealt with so many international players over the last 25 years, that's not an issue," the 54-year-old coach said. "The bigger challenges, of course, are national team call-ups and respecting that and understanding that we're going to go into games during our season that matter and we're going to be missing some pretty talented kids. So from my point of view in managing the team, that's a little bit challenging because you want to get all the pieces fitting together."

Many FSU players have bright futures in the sport beyond the collegiate level. Krikorian has already sent 24 former Seminoles off to professional soccer careers either in the U.S. or overseas. Yamaguchi stayed in America as a pro with the Atlanta Beat in WPS before returning home to Japan in 2011.

Brynjarsdottir is undoubtedly one of the hottest prospects in the nation heading into 2015, and while the Icelandic play says playing in the U.S. could still be an option, she seems to be leaning back toward Europe.

"I want to try to play for the best women's league in the world and for the best team," she said. "I haven't

decided yet. When I played for my club... I played in the Champions League and I really liked that... My dream is to one day play in the Champions League again and play in the final... I don't really know who's going to contact me after I'm done, so I guess I'll just have to wait and see."

Unfortunately for American fans, most international FSU players do head back across the Atlantic, whether to Germany, France or England, as they plan the next stage of their careers. Fellow Seminole seniors Campbell and Bakowska-Mathews also said they're planning to return to Europe and hope to continue playing as professionals after graduation. Although the NWSL's severe restrictions on foreign players limits the opportunities for many to become professionals in the U.S., Krikorian says he doesn't have a problem with the new league's policy as opposed to the WUSA's world showcase.

"I think the most important thing for the league is sustainability. When I was in the WUSA and then when the WPS came, the business model didn't work. It was clear that that wasn't working. In the WUSA days, we had the best players in the world: We had the best Germans, we had the best Chinese players, we had the best Norwegian players, we had the best players from everywhere, but the league lasted three years, went bankrupt and it ended. So I think sustainability is the best thing right now in the hope that, through growth and through increased attendance and increased sponsorship, corporate involvement and so on, that maybe it can get back to encouraging these top notch kids throughout the world to come back and pay.

"There are some very good international players that are playing here now. Kim Little is an outstanding player, (Jess) Fishlock is an outstanding player, Kerstine Garefrekes was here and she's a very good player, but there isn't the same depth of talent and the most elite-level players here now as there were back in the day. Right now, in my mind, it's about the U.S. and U.S. players and giving them a chance to develop because, before the WUSA came, there was a lost generation: A number of kids who, after college ended, weren't quite ready for the national team. They played in the W-League for a few months and then probably go into the workforce and not be heard of. The timing of the WUSA for players like (Abby) Wambach and (Heather) Mitts and some of these others was perfect because, had the WUSA not come along, who knows what would've happened with players like that 'cause they were not inside the pool of the national team and they may have been players that didn't make it and were never heard of again. Just think about U.S. Soccer without Abby Wambach."

A scary thought. But Krikorian's mind is on beating Stanford in Friday's College Cup semifinal – and finally winning that elusive NCAA title with another strong crop of international talent.

**TAGS** » College Cup, Dagny Brynjarsdottir, Featured, Florida State

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*About the author:* Steve Bruno

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# Confidence fuels Seminoles in College Cup

FSU women's soccer team ready for semifinal against Stanford. Photos provided by FSU Athletics. Jordan Culver/Democrat



**Jordan Culver, Tallahassee Democrat** 10:37 a.m. EST December 5, 2014



(Photo: Larry Novey/FSU Athletics)

BOCA RATON – Three straight trips to the Women's College Cup have ended without the Florida State Seminoles winning a title.

But this trip is different in a way that gives FSU coach Mark Krikorian reason to believe this will be the year the Florida State women's soccer team caps an all-star regular season with its first championship.

For starters, the Cup is here on the campus of Florida Atlantic University, a six-hour drive from what Florida State's players call an extremely loyal soccer fan base in Tallahassee.

Krikorian said he hopes the fans are out in full force for the team's 7:30 p.m. Friday date with the Stanford Cardinal.

"I think we're thrilled to be playing here," Krikorian said during a Thursday press conference.

"We know that there is an awful lot of Seminoles here and every time we've had a previous opportunity to play in the final four, we've been visitors wherever it was. Up in Carolina, both Virginia teams certainly had more people there. I'm hoping that all our Seminole fans will come out and support us."

And of course, this year's team is different.

Krikorian said Tuesday this year's team is the most "complete" team he's had as head coach, and on paper, he's right. The group has two finalists for the MAC Hermann trophy, the highest honor in collegiate soccer.

"We look forward to a great game against a very, very good team in Stanford and I think we've had a good season. We're hoping to have a good game on Friday night and see where it goes from there," he said.

Florida State has ridden a potent offense (2.79 goals per game) combined with a dominant defense (four straight shutouts in the NCAA tournament) to a semifinal date with the Cardinal.

Krikorian said he'll continue to look to the Seminoles' dominant defense — led by ACC Defensive Player of the Year and MAC Hermann trophy finalist Kristin Grubka — to get FSU into Sunday's championship match.

Virginia faces Texas A&M in Friday's opening semifinal at 5 p.m.

"Earlier in the season, I think we were giving up too many chances and giving up more goals than we wanted to, but as the season has gone on, I think the continuity of the defenders, starting with our front players, through the midfield and backline, right to the goalkeeper has been very good," Krikorian said.

He continued, "Up to this point, we've limited opponents' chances at our goal and I think, at the end of the day, that's important for us tomorrow and going forward."

Junior Cheyna Williams, who transferred to FSU this year from Vanderbilt, said bringing down Stanford will definitely be a team effort.

"I think we just have to do what we've been doing pretty much all season," she said.

"Of course, paying attention to small details. Really if we all come and do pretty much what we've been assigned to do all season then — if everyone is rolling — I feel like we'll come out with a victory, no problem."

For Stanford, beating FSU starts with containing ACC Offensive Player of the Year and MAC Hermann Trophy finalist Dagny Brynjarsdottir.

"I think back to when Dagny first came in. She has developed into an elite level player. She'll be a professional player soon, either domestically or abroad. She's as hard working as any player we've had. She wants to be the best."

Brynjarsdottir, a senior who came to FSU from Hella, Iceland, said Florida State is like a "second family" for her.

"The style of soccer is different. I grew up playing with guys so when I started playing with girls, I was one of the best ones, but when I came here, I was like 'Oh my god, there are so many good girls' and that was different for me. The soccer here is faster, people are stronger and (higher) quality."

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# Confidence fueling Seminoles

FSU soccer team hopes to win it all

**By Jordan Culver**  
Democrat staff writer  
@JordanCulver on Twitter

**BOCA RATON** — Three straight trips to the Women's College Cup have ended without the Florida State Seminoles winning a title.

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And of course, this year's team is different.

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LARRY NOVEY/  
FSU ATHLETICS  
Junior Michaela Hahn has started in 22 of FSU's 24 games this season.

## Soccer

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Krikorian said Tuesday this year's team is the most "complete" on paper, he's had as head coach, and two finalists for the MAC Hermann trophy, the highest honor in collegiate soccer.

"We look forward to a great game against a very, very good team in Stanford and I think we've had a good season. We're hoping to have a good game on Friday night and see where it goes from there," he said.

Florida State has ridden a potent offense (2.79 goals per game) combined with a dominant defense (four straight shutouts in the NCAA tournament) to a semifinal date with the Cardinal.

Krikorian said he'll continue to look to the Seminoles' dominant defense — led by ACC Defensive

Player of the Year and MAC Hermann trophy finalist Kristin Grubka — to get FSU into Sunday's championship match.

Virginia faces Texas A&M in today's opening semifinal at 5 p.m.

"Earlier in the season, I think we were giving up too many chances and giving up more goals than we wanted to, but as the season has gone on, I think the continuity of the defenders, starting with our front players, through the midfield and backline, right to the goalkeeper has been very good," Krikorian said.

He continued, "Up to this point, we've limited opponents' chances at our goal and I think, at the end of the day, that's important for us tomorrow and going forward."

Junior Cheyna Williams, who transferred to FSU this year from Vanderbilt, said bringing down Stanford will definitely be a team effort.

"I think we just have to do what we've been doing pretty much all

season," she said.

"Of course, paying attention to small details. Really if we all come and do pretty much what we've been assigned to do all season then — if everyone is rolling — I feel like we'll come out with a victory, no problem."

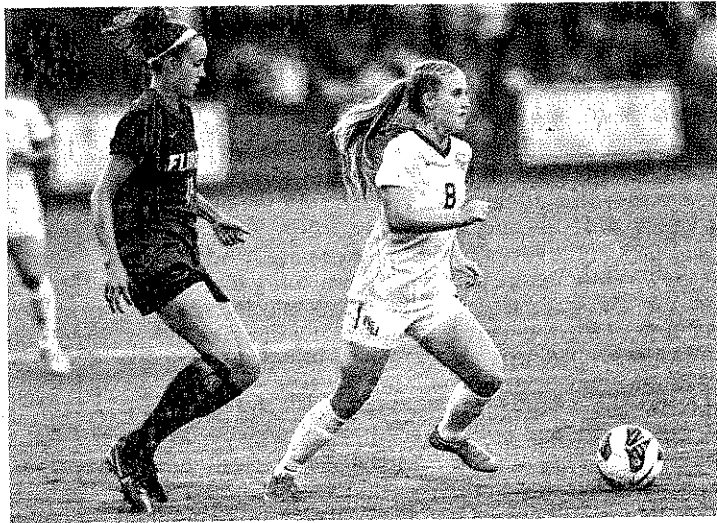
For Stanford, beating FSU starts with containing ACC Offensive Player of the Year and MAC Hermann Trophy finalist Dagny Brynjarsdottir.

"I think back to when Dagny first came in. She has developed into an elite level player. She'll be a professional player soon, either domestically or abroad. She's as hard working as any player we've had. She wants to be the best."

Brynjarsdottir, a senior who came to FSU from Hella, Iceland, said Florida State is like a "second family" for her.

"The style of soccer is different. ... The soccer here is faster, people are stronger and (higher) quality."

| FSU WOMEN'S SOCCER |



LARRY NOVEY/FSU ATHLETICS

Florida State's Michaela Hahn and the Seminoles reached the College Cup final last season.

# FSU vs. Stanford in semifinal

Seminoles seek title after 3 near misses

By Jordan Culver  
Democrat staff writer  
@JordanCulver on Twitter

Jamia Fields is ready to bring home some championship hardware after coming within a goal of winning an NCAA women's soccer title last year.

Three straight years have ended with Florida State's women's soccer team finishing just shy of the national crown. Last year the season ended with a 1-0 loss in over-

**COLLEGE CUP**

**FSU VS. STANFORD**

- » **When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday
- » **Where:** FAU Stadium, Boca Raton.
- » **Watch:** ESPNU

time to UCLA in the championship game. The year before that it was an overtime loss to Penn State in the semifinals.

The first trip in the women's four-year run ended in Kennesaw, Ga., against Stan-

See **SOCCER** » 2D

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

ford in the semifinals in 2011 — and the Cardinal went on to defeat Duke 1-0 in the championship game.

Fields — who has been with FSU for every year of this run — and the Seminoles will have a chance to avenge that loss Friday in Boca Raton. FSU (22-1-1, 9-0-1 ACC) will take on Stanford (20-1-3) in a 7:30 p.m. match in the semifinals of

the Women's College Cup. "Of course (this trip) means a little more because it's my last one," Fields said.

"I don't think we're satisfied just getting to the Final Four. We actually want to win it this year. I think we're all excited. For me, we just want to get further and win it all this year. Winning would be amazing. Words can't describe it. We've gotten so close and we haven't had it."

FSU head coach and ACC Coach of the Year Mark Krikorian said this

the right time. For us it has at this point. We're hoping it'll carry through for one more weekend."

Krikorian said Friday's match will be between "two heavyweights." "They're a great program," he said about Stanford. "They have quality players throughout their roster. They have National Team players at virtually every position. We know it's going to be a battle. We're playing against a very good opponent and we're looking forward to it."

the winner of the FSU/Stanford game will face the winner of the Texas A&M/Virginia semifinal in Sunday's National Championship match. The match is set for 1 p.m.

I've seen," she said. "Coming from the SEC, where you get a pretty good amount of fans, to here and seeing just how passionate the fans are — the stands are filled pretty much every game."

**Note:** Florida State's Dagny Brynjarsdottir and Kristin Grubka were recognized as semifinalists for the 2014 Missouri Athletic Club's (MAC) Hermann Trophy on Tuesday. The MAC Hermann Trophy is the highest individual award in collegiate soccer.

It's unlike anything

provide the team.

| FSU WOMEN'S SOCCER |

# FSU set to face No. 1 Stanford in College Cup

By Jordan Culver

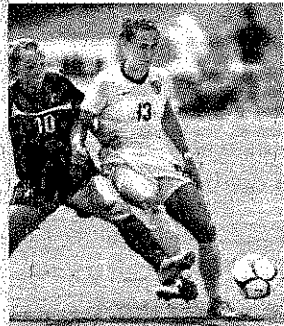
Democrat staff writer

@JordanCulver on Twitter

For the fourth straight year, Florida State's women's soccer team will compete in the NCAA Women's College Cup.

FSU (22-1-1, 9-0-1 ACC) will take on the Stanford Cardinal (20-1-3) at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the semifinals at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. The Seminoles — who also won the ACC title this year — earned a berth in the College Cup by defeating South Carolina 5-0 in the NCAA quarterfinals.

"I thought, from the beginning of the game all the way through, our kids played with great focus and concentration," FSU coach — and ACC Coach of the Year — Mark Krikorian said in a previous interview with the Tallahassee Democrat. "Obviously, it's fantastic to continue on and have a chance to go back to the College Cup."



MIKE EWEN/DEMOCRAT

The Seminoles have the ACC's Defensive Player of the Year in senior Kristin Grubka (right).

## COLLEGE CUP

### FSU VS. STANFORD

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday

**Where:** FAU Stadium, Boca Raton.

**Watch:** ESPNU

Senior Dagny Brynjarsdottir, the ACC's Offensive Player of the Year, leads the Seminoles with 16 goals and six assists in 21 games this season. The Seminoles also have the ACC's Defensive Player

See SOCCER » 6D

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

of the Year in senior Kristin Grubka.

Florida State brings the nation's No. 7 scoring offense (2.79 goals per game) into a matchup against Stanford's No. 6 scoring defense (.44 goals allowed per game).

The Seminoles have shut out every team they've played against so far in the tournament, winning games over South Alabama (5-0), Northeastern (3-0), UCF

(1-0) and South Carolina. The Cardinal had a much tougher time in the quarterfinal against Florida, and needed a 4-3 win on penalty kicks to advance.

The winner of the FSU/Stanford game will go on to face the winner of the Texas A&M/Virginia semifinal in Sunday's National Championship match. The match is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Virginia is the only team in the Women's College Cup that finished the regular season ranked outside the top four. The Cavaliers (22-2) ended the regular season ranked

No. 7 in the nation and upset UCLA, a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, with a 2-1 victory in the quarterfinals.

The Seminoles defeated Virginia twice this season, once in the regular season and again in the ACC tournament. Both games were 1-0 wins.

Texas A&M (22-2-2) finished the regular season ranked No. 3 and beat Penn State 2-1 in the quarterfinals. This is the Aggies' first trip to the Women's College Cup, despite making to the NCAA tournament every year since 1995.

## Four Things You Need To Know For The Women's College Cup

By Graham Hays | Dec 1, 2014  
espnW.com

We almost have our answer. After more than three months and thousands of games, we are one weekend away from knowing the identity of this season's best team. We'll come one step closer Friday when No. 1 Texas A&M plays No. 2 Virginia (ESPNU, 5 p.m. ET) and No. 1 Florida State plays No. 1 Stanford (ESPNU, 7:30 p.m ET).

But until the list of contenders is trimmed to two, what questions remain for the four semifinalists?

### 1. Will Florida State's first championship come by way of Iceland?

Florida State has plenty of homegrown standouts who need cross only county borders to reach campus. Floridian defenders Kristin Grubka and Kirsten Crowley and holding midfielder Michaela Hahn anchor a defense that has allowed fewer goals than any team in the College Cup. Fellow in-stater Carson Pickett's 13 assists this season need no translation in speaking to her value as a crosser of the ball. Local can be good. But this is Mark Krikorian team, and that means an array of passports unlike any other elite college program, seven countries in all represented this season.

Such global reach has been the case for the Seminoles since Krikorian arrived, as it was for the University of Hartford in his previous college coaching stop. So it will be only fitting if one of those international imports leads Florida State to its first national championship. It also will be Dagny Brynjarsdottir's way to stamp herself the best of the bunch.

Florida State's international contributions run deep this season. Outside backs Megan Campbell and Emma Koivisto missed time early because of national team commitments, but it's no coincidence that the team has been essentially impenetrable, three goals conceded in the past 16 games, since they lined up alongside Grubka and Crowley on a full-time basis. Not to mention that Campbell's long throws (you'll know them when you see them on ESPNU) give the team a tool no opponent can match. Isabella Schmid pairs perfectly with Hahn in the back of the midfield. Marta Bakowska-Mathews and Berglind Thorvaldsdottir have scored 21 goals between them, mostly in reserve roles.

But as her fourth and final season winds to a close, the team takes its shape around Brynjarsdottir.

At its best, Florida State operates with a professional quality, both in precision of play and a detachment that smooths out the emotional highs and lows of any game. Brynjarsdottir is front and center on both counts, silky smooth with the ball at her feet in tight spaces and an Icelandic Abby Wambach in the air, but also calm, cool and collected on the big stages. Whether directly by a pass to the forward playing in front of her, indirectly by a run that opens space or simply the attention she draws from opponents, she is the fulcrum of the attack.

More from [espnW.com](http://espnW.com)

Everything about her suggests a higher level of soccer. And for good reason. In terms of women's soccer, someone with 48 caps for Iceland really has been there and done that.

A little more than a year ago, before even Virginia's Morgan Brian ever played a game for the United States senior national team, Brynjarsdottir lined up for Iceland opposite iconic names a decade or more her senior, such as Norway's Solveig Gulbrandsen and Germany's Nadine Angerer in the European Women's Championship.

"Before the first game, I've never been as nervous in my life," Brynjarsdottir said. "The night before, I could barely sleep, I could barely eat. I've never been as nervous. After the game I remember walking off the field thinking it was only a soccer game, I didn't have to be that nervous. So now, after that game and the other games after in the European Championship, I wasn't nervous at all. Now I'm never nervous anymore."

She won't have the opportunity to play in next summer's World Cup after Iceland failed to qualify, but she does have an opportunity to leave North America with a championship and a permanent home in Tallahassee soccer lore.

# Mel-Hi grad Grubka leaves mark with FSU soccer

Lyn Dowling, For FLORIDA TODAY 10:54 p.m. EST December 3, 2014



(Photo: For FLORIDA TODAY)

Kristin Grubka's soccer career at Florida State University is coming to a close.

So recently she has been assiduous in remembering all the little details: each time she uses FSU's facilities, her last home match, her last games against traditional opponents.

But the Melbourne High School graduate's last match as a collegian will be where it has been the last four years: in the NCAA College Cup tournament, which will take place starting Friday in Boca Raton, where FSU will start with Stanford. She has played no small part in getting the Seminoles there.



**Kristin Grubka is finishing her senior season as one of FSU's top soccer players. Grubka is a graduate of Melbourne High School.** (Photo: For FLORIDA TODAY)

Grubka, who has made more appearances for the Noles than any other player - 102 - put FSU into the NCAA Elite Eight on Nov. 23 with the sole goal of a match against UCF.

This season she led FSU defenders to first place in the ACC in shutouts (17), shutouts per game (0.71), fewest goals allowed and goals against average (0.37). She also also has contributed three goals and five assists.

Not bad for a defender/midfielder whose all-regional exploits have been outstanding enough to have made her a semifinalist for the Missouri Athletic Club's (MAC) Hermann Trophy, college soccer's version of the Heisman Trophy. That effectively declares her one of the top five players in women's college soccer.

[Vote for Kristin Grubka here \(http://lockerdom.com/machermann trophy/7197466298813761\)](http://lockerdom.com/machermann trophy/7197466298813761)

[/7197473815006488?SPSID=917036&SPID=157114&DB\\_OEM\\_ID=32900](http://www.floridatoday.com/story/7197473815006488?SPSID=917036&SPID=157114&DB_OEM_ID=32900)

"We screwed her up," FSU Coach Mark Krikorian said with a laugh. "She was a goal scorer (at Melbourne High and in the Brevard Youth Soccer League) and we screwed her up by putting her in midfield. Then we screwed her up by putting her on the back line. Works for us."

The Atlantic Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year, who helped lead Mel-Hi to two state championships, chuckled.

"What's going on? Just same-old-same-old," she said about end-of-season preparations for the finals and her role. "It was a little hectic last home game ... We're making travel preparations and I'm enjoying it ... I do what I can."

So does friend and admirer Michaela Hahn, a Titusville High School product who has done her bit for FSU's success, creating some of the goals that sent it to Boca Raton.



**Michaela Hahn of Titusville is a teammate of Kristin Grubka, and the two grew up playing soccer together.** (Photo: For FLORIDA TODAY)

"I grew up knowing her and I played club soccer with her (at Space Coast United)," the junior midfielder said. "Her parents went to school with my parents, but although I've always known her, I never knew her as well as I do now. It's just been a really great experience ... we're really close now and I can joke around with her."

Grubka is, she added, "a leader; a leader all the way ... She is someone you can learn from."

Krikorian echoes those comments.

"Kristin continues to grow on and off the field and she really has outstanding leadership qualities," he said. "She's a presence."

"Grubs" shrugs off compliments like opposing strikers, preferring to talk about the Noles' brand of association football and its team, rather than individual style. They will play in the final four as they have throughout her time in Tallahassee, she expects.



"Our style definitely is possession soccer; we've always strived for that," she said. "We've always done a good job defending and we're more physical. We commit ourselves to tackle."

That ever in mind, she is savoring every moment of soccer and everything else – at FSU before she graduates – she has been an ACC Academic All-American for three years – and probably joins the ranks of the pros.

"I enjoy every game, every practice, every road trip, everything about it," she said. "Before a game I will think: 'This is my 71st home game,' or 'This is the last time I will play against this team' or 'This is my last night game,' all those things. I think about everything that has made my time here so great. It definitely gives you a sense of perspective."

Krikorian, who has called Grubka, "an anchor and a tower of strength for us in the backline" said: "Her will to win, her determination and fight are second to none.

"I'm happy for her," he said. "She deserves everything good that comes to her. She has been such a good player for us."

Lyn Dowling has been a freelance journalist for FLORIDA TODAY since 1988.

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Dec. 3, 2014, 11:22 p.m.

# Seniors hope to add to super legacy

By Brian Miller  
Democrat correspondent

From Iceland to Japan, from California to England and back to the state of Florida, this second-ranked Florida State soccer team's senior class has come from all over the world.

It is also arguably the most prolific senior group to spend four years on the FSU campus, guiding it to three Atlantic Coast Conference championships and three consecutive College Cup appearances.

Today at 2 p.m., the Seminoles (21-1-1) will host No. 18 South Carolina (16-5-3) in the Elite Eight with a chance to win and make it four straight, and in the process further strengthen the legacy that started inauspiciously when they were freshmen.

"I never crossed my

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

also transformed, though when she left Iceland, she had some national team exposure. She emailed Krikorian four years ago to start the process of coming to America, and now it's her second home.

"It's gone by so fast and it's crazy to think it's almost over," Brynjarsdottir said. "I have to start emailing again to find where I'm going to start playing professionally."

"When I recruited Dagny, she wouldn't talk at all, but her sister said once she feels comfortable around you, she won't shut up," Krikorian remem-

bered.

"That's so true. She's talking all the time and we're 'OK, Dags, we get it.' But her commitment to her personal development as a soccer player is fantastic. She may be as committed as any kid we've ever had."

Fellow seniors Jamia Fields, Hikaru Murakami, Marta Bakowska-Mathews and Megan Campbell (Ireland) have played significant roles over many years, while helping the Seminoles rewrite the record books and add to the trophy case.

Another win will send Grubka down to Boca Raton for the four-team finale, in a swan song in front of her nearby family and friends.

"Our seniors, the majority of



PTIFPHOTO

From left, Kristin Grubka, Marta Bakowska-Mathews, Jamia Fields, Hikaru Murakami, Morgan Kennedy and Dagny Brynjarsdottir make up FSU's outstanding senior class.

mind in this tournament little unreal."

Grubka, from Melbourne, didn't even think she wanted to play college soccer. It took playing one club season to change her mind, and then it escalated into a full-fledged list of recruiting visits, and

eventually collegiate ac-

us have been together since we were freshmen, so it's been nice to do all these accomplishments and set all these records with them," Grubka said.

"Looking at past College Cups going to Georgia, San Diego, Cary (N.C.), to end it all down in Florida would be icing on the cake."

Make no mistake, after last season's near miss in the national championship game, this senior class has one goal on its mind that would provide the ultimate statement for its legacy.

"It would be great to go to the College Cup for the fourth time, but that's not our goal. We want to go there and win this time," Brynjarsdottir said.

"This group has so much experience. We're not stressing

## NCAA QUARTERFINAL

FSU (21-1-1) vs. South Carolina (14-5-5)

When/Where: Today, 2 p.m., Seminole Soccer Complex  
Tickets: \$7 or \$1 for ages 5-18, students and ages 50 and older. Free to first 100 FSU students with ID.

colades.

"Grubs is interesting because when she came in, she was shy as could be, she was afraid of her own shadow, she wouldn't speak to me hardly at all," FSU coach Mark Krikorian said.

"Now she walks around like she owns the place. To see the growth and development she's had as a person is fantastic."

ACC Offensive Player of the Year Dagny Brynjarsdottir's career has

See SOCCER » 2D



MIKE EWEN/DEMOCRAT

Kristin Grubka (right), the ACC Defensive Player of the Year, will be sad to see this season end.

"Their leadership quality and personal development has been fantastic. When we look at results, it's just a small part."

# Seminoles returning to College Cup

FSU knocks off South Carolina 5-0 in Elite Eight matchup

By **Dustin Tackett**  
Democrat correspondent

It's a senior class that can look back and feel undoubtedly accomplished, and it is not even done yet. The FSU women's soccer team advanced to the NCAA College Cup for the fourth consecutive year — a streak tied for sixth all-time — after defeating visiting South Carolina 5-0

plethora opportunities. "I thought, from the beginning of the game all the way through, our kids played with great focus and concentration," FSU coach Mark Krikorian said. "Obviously, it's fantastic to continue on and have a chance to go back to the College Cup."

Jamia Fields led the way for the senior class with only the second multiple-goal game of her career, finishing a long cross from Isabella Schmid in the 43rd minute and then knocking the leather off

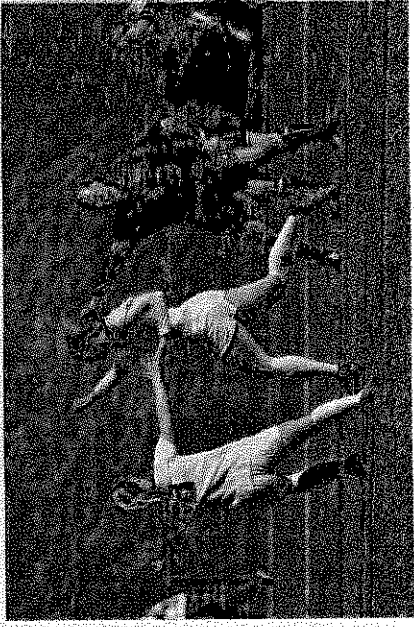
the ball from 25 yards out — just outside of the box — and burying it in the upper left corner in the 55th.

"There are many teams in the country that would like the opportunity to go to the Final Four once, let alone four years in a row," Fields said.

"So I feel blessed to be able to go back with my team, and I think we're playing our best soccer right now, so we're in a good spot."

In a game that never

See **SOCCER** » 2D



LARRY NOVEY / FSU ATHLETICS  
The Florida State Seminoles are headed to their fourth consecutive College Cup and eighth overall.

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

really seemed competitive, it was senior Kristin Grubka who, theoretically, passed the torch, assisting redshirt sophomore Berglind Thorvaldsdottir in the 32nd minute to

would like to say she knew this senior group would be super successful when they came onboard, but that would make it seem like it's pretty easy to do."

She added, "The thing that I'm most pleased about is how they've matured as players and as people. I've said it for weeks and weeks what a

mature group we have. In training every day, they're there to get better and I think you see that in their play."

The Seminoles head to Boca Raton, Fla., where they'll make their eighth NCAA semifinal appearance — tied for fifth all-time — to face the winner of Stanford-Florida.

## Seminoles return to College Cup for fourth year in a row

November 29th, 2014 1:50AM

Second-ranked Florida State is headed back to the Women's College Cup for the fourth year in a row after defeating South Carolina, 5-0, Friday afternoon in Tallahassee with all five goals in a span of 30 minutes.

Berglind Thorvaldsdottir broke a scoreless match in the 32nd minute, while **Jamia Fields** and **Cheyne Williams** each added two goals. The Seminole defense posted its fourth consecutive postseason shutout and 17th shutout of the season to tie a school record.

The five goals scored were the most allowed by South Carolina in a decade. The Gamecocks, who were making their first appearance in the quarterfinals, came into the game not allowing a goal in their first three postseason games.

**Nov 28 in Tallahassee, Fla.**

**Florida State 5 South Carolina 0.** Goals: Thorvaldsdottir (Grubka) 32, Fields (Schmid) 43, Fields (Pickett) 55, Williams (Brynjarsdottir) 60, Williams (Brynjarsdottir) 61.

**South Carolina** -- Crider, Gray, Neary, Romness, Leach, Drennan, Johnson, Groff, Parker, Lane, McCaskill. Subs: Kurtz, Ray, Babbitt, Griffin, Daniel, D'Angelo, Bendell.

**Florida State** -- Miller, Grubka, Crowley, Koivisto, Campbell, Fields, M.Hahn, Schmid, Pickett, Brynjarsdottir, Williams. Subs: Grant, Driesse, Scarpa, Hudson, Thorvaldsdottir, Kennedy, Murakami, Bakowska-Mathews, D.Hahn.

**Att.:** 1,758.

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## 5 Things You Need To Know For The NCAA Women's Soccer Quarterfinals

By Graham Hays | Nov 24, 2014  
espnW.com

Along with leftovers and holiday shopping, four NCAA tournament quarterfinals await this weekend. How did we get here and what's ahead? Glad you asked.

### 1. How is South Carolina the last Carolina standing?

With about 15 minutes remaining in Sunday's Sweet 16 game against No. 1 seed North Carolina and her team in possession of a 1-0 lead, South Carolina goalkeeper Abbey Crider charged full speed out of her 18-yard box. When the ball that drew her so far from safety tumbled out of the sky and took a big hop, clearly bigger than Crider anticipated, the freshman who was making her second start was left with a rapidly dwindling list of options. Unable to use her hands and with North Carolina's Amber Munerlyn closing in on her, Crider awkwardly tried to clear the ball with her head, managing to move it in much the same way a weekend golfer chips a ball from one part of a sand trap to another.

A scramble ensued and North Carolina's eventual attempt to lob the ball over the retreating keeper drifted wide.

"There's nothing you can do at that point," South Carolina coach Shelley Smith recalled of seeing the near-calamity unfold. "I saw her commit herself, and she knew what she needed to do at that point. ... At least she didn't get caught where she was hesitating and all of a sudden stops. Credit to her to stick with her decision, even though it might not have been the right one at the time. That's what you have to do as a goalkeeper. You make a decision, you go with it."

Not quite 15 minutes later, as the final minute of the game ticked off the clock, Crider made a point-blank save on a blast off the foot of Joanna Boyles to preserve the 1-0 win and South Carolina's first-ever trip to the quarterfinals.

It wasn't the biggest upset in tournament history by any stretch, but it might have been the unlikeliest.

South Carolina scored one goal in its first three NCAA tournament games, twice advancing in penalty shootouts, and kicked off against the Tar Heels having played more than five hours since it had last put the ball in the back of the net.

It played second- and third-round games without All-American senior goalkeeper Sabrina D'Angelo, whose return is unlikely this postseason because of an arm injury sustained in practice following the opening round. It played its third-round game -- and part of the second-round game -- without all-conference defender and team captain Taylor Leach, who received an automatic one-game suspension after accumulating two yellow cards in Friday's game against Seattle.

And of more consequence than frustration, injuries or suspensions, players took the field only a few days after the death of Kendra Ogletree-Cusaac, a professor who worked closely with the team as a sports psychologist.

All of it, the small and the large, shouldn't add up to a game against Florida State, another No. 1 seed, in Tallahassee. But there South Carolina will be Friday afternoon, a first-time quarterfinalist and now the only team in NCAA history with a winning all-time record against North Carolina.

The Gamecocks didn't steal the game from the Tar Heels. They didn't snatch a goal on the counter and sit back in a bunker. Despite their goal-scoring woes -- and they scored more than two goals in a game just three times all season -- they are a possession team. And for much of Sunday's game, they were better with the ball than the top seed. They pressed the game.

It was suggested here last week that South Carolina didn't need goals to win as long as it had D'Angelo. It turns out it only needed one to win without her, Raina Johnson's first-half strike from distance doing the job.

"We just beat all odds, that's for sure," Smith said. "It was an amazing performance by the entire team. They just stepped up, and they put together one of their best performances of the year at such a crucial time. They believed in themselves, and that's such a huge factor in teams performing."

Even when everything around you, like that ball bouncing high over Crider's head, tests that belief.

## **2. Who were the other stars of the weekend?**

Maddie Bauer and Kendall Romine, Stanford: Sorry, you can't separate the partners in the middle of Stanford's back line. Stanford's personality reverted again, as the team that had scored 15 goals in its preceding three games beat Arkansas and Washington by matching 1-0 scores to reach the quarterfinals. Those represented the seventh and eighth wins by that score this season. Along with Hannah Farr and Laura Liedle on their flanks, Andi Sullivan in the midfield and Jane Campbell in goal, Bauer and Romine made the Cardinal impenetrable.

Makenzy Doniak, Virginia: Yes, Morgan Brian is one for the ages, but she's also the third-best Hermann Trophy candidate on her own team this season. Doniak and teammate Danielle Colaprico both deserve strong consideration for the award, and the former may have edged ahead after the second and third rounds. With three goals and two assists in the rout of Kentucky in the third round, Doniak not only set the program's single-game points record (8) but also its single-season points record (48). All of that on top of a goal in the second-round win against Rutgers.

NCAA women's soccer -- Makenzy Doniak

Matt Riley/UVa Athletics

Morgan Brian gets all the attention, but it's Makenzy Doniak who has been on a scoring binge for Virginia.

**Kristin Grubka, Florida State:** Only UCLA is working on a longer shutout streak than Florida State, which made it three in a row with clean sheets against Northeastern and UCF and hasn't allowed a goal in four consecutive games (it would be seven but for a meaningless 90th-minute goal by Notre Dame in the ACC tournament). Barring an odd development in whatever is left of the season, the Seminoles will shatter the program record for fewest goals allowed in a season. Grubka is the cornerstone of that effort, but she also scored the second-half winner against UCF.

Savannah Jordan, Florida: It tells you what you need to know about how much Jordan means to Florida that unlike just about any other forward in the tournament, she never came off the field during wins against California and Texas Tech. Florida isn't a one-woman team, but it is a team made much more dangerous by one woman. Jordan had a goal and an assist in each win and now has four goals in the tournament. But more than the tallies themselves (her goal against Cal, for instance, was of the icing-on-the-cake variety in the final minute), her presence carried the day.

Kelley Monogue, Texas A&M: Talk about different ways to score a game-winning goal. Monogue's second goal in Friday's second-round game against Arizona put Texas A&M ahead 3-0 in the 20th minute of what proved to be a rout. But because Arizona eventually pulled back a couple of goals in its 7-2 defeat, Monogue technically scored the winner. There was no technicality needed Sunday, when her second goal against Notre Dame, this time in the 82nd minute, proved to be the difference in a 2-1 win that sent the Aggies to the quarterfinals for the first time since 2008.

### **3. Which team is playing the best soccer?**

UCLA and Florida State didn't allow any goals in the first three rounds but had to put up with some anxious moments waiting for second-half goals in their third-round wins against Pepperdine and UCF, respectively.

Texas A&M produced one of the highest-scoring second-round efforts of all time in a 7-2 win against Arizona, a team it drew with earlier in the season, but Sunday it also found itself on pins and needles late in the game against Notre Dame.

Florida and Penn State got the job done and lived up to their No. 2 seeds, but neither had much use for cruise control.

As for Virginia? Friday's second-round game against Rutgers was scoreless at halftime. Does that count as drama?

With blowout wins against High Point (8-0), Rutgers (3-0) and Kentucky (7-0), Virginia is in a class of its own to this point.

Kentucky coach Jon Lipsitz came up with a wonderful phrase to describe the challenge of playing Virginia, lamenting that his team struggled to match the "speed of thought" they encountered. For while Virginia has good athletes, it has better soccer players. Brian Colaprico and Emily Sonnett aren't going to wow with measurable traits -- they aren't bigger, stronger or even necessarily faster than other elite competition. But those standouts and their teammates play the game at a different pace than almost anyone else. It's no coincidence that the teams that have successfully slowed down the Cavaliers most recently, UCLA in the College Cup a season ago and Florida State on two occasions this season, are teams that are not just athletically but also technically comparable.

Sit back against the Cavaliers, as most opponents do, and they will eventually and relentlessly pick you apart, as Rutgers became the most recent team to learn during a second-half barrage of goals. Be bold and try and play them end line to end line, as Kentucky did to its credit, and the margin of defeat can reach historic proportions.

"Ever since I've been here, we've really tried to have a very high level and a fast speed of play," Virginia coach Steve Swanson said. "That's something we work on daily. I think we've gotten better at it as the season's gone on. And I think if we can move the ball fast, we can get in situations where maybe we're numbers up and we're forcing them to make decisions from a defensive standpoint."

#### **4. Could this be an all-time quarterfinal in Los Angeles?**

College teams with abundant talent will often cause people to ask a lot of generally silly questions about playing up a level. Could Alabama beat the Jacksonville Jaguars on the gridiron? Could Kentucky beat the Philadelphia 76ers in basketball? Well, one way to look at the quarterfinal awaiting No. 1 UCLA and No. 2 Virginia in Los Angeles is that assuming the United States lent Brian back to the Cavaliers for the competition, both of these teams probably could have qualified for the Women's World Cup by way of the recent CONCACAF Women's Championship.

Wisdom of the Coach

But only one of them is going to make it back to the College Cup for the second season in a row.

Brian and UCLA's Samantha Mewis have already played for the senior national team. Both have teammates who could follow them. Doniak and UCLA goalkeeper Katelyn Rowland were teammates for the United States in this past summer's Under-20 World Cup. Brian, Mewis and UCLA stalwart midfielder Sarah Killion were teammates on the U.S. entry that won that event with Swanson as coach in 2010. Brian won the Hermann Trophy a season ago as the nation's most outstanding college player; UCLA defender Abby Dahlkemper won the Honda Award as the same. And the number of future NWSL players on the field in Westwood should reach comfortably into double digits.

So could this be the most talent-rich quarterfinal ever? You could pick any North Carolina team and any quarterfinal opponent from a long stretch of years and come up with a contender, but if we narrow the focus to just the past decade, what awaits in Los Angeles doesn't seem out of place among quarterfinal encounters memorable for their accumulated star power.

Portland vs. Notre Dame (2005): Anytime you start the list with Christine Sinclair and a healthy Megan Rapinoe, you're well on your way. But Portland also had Angie Woznuk (now Kerr) and Stephanie Lopez (now Cox), both of whom remain NWSL presences. Notre Dame countered with the only season in which Kerri Hanks and Katie Thorlakson played together, as well as Brittany Bock, Jen Buczkowski, Candace Chapman and Carrie Dew.

**North Carolina vs. Florida State (2005):** It was a good year for quarterfinals. Perhaps the best North Carolina team not to make the College Cup included current or future United States internationals Yael Averbuch, Lori Chalupny, Kendall Fletcher, Heather O'Reilly and Lindsay Tarpley. Florida State, which advanced in a penalty shootout, didn't have that kind of star power, but it did have future Hermann winner Mami Yamaguchi and Australian Sel Kuralay.

Stanford vs. Portland (2008): Sinclair was gone, but the Pilots still had a healthy Rapinoe alongside Sophie Schmidt and Danielle Foxhoven, while Stanford countered with Christen Press, Kelley O'Hara, Ali Riley and Teresa Noyola. It's likely that at least four of those players, and possibly more, will start for various sides in next year's World Cup.



UCLA vs. North Carolina (2013): Basically the same UCLA team, albeit a year less experienced, went to Chapel Hill to take on a North Carolina team that included NWSL first-rounders Crystal Dunn and Kealia Ohai, as well as several other pros and the core of the team that shared the ACC regular-season title this season.

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## NCAA Tournament: Quarterfinal Preview

Article Written by **Travis Clark**  
 Published: November 27, 2014

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As most college students head home for Thanksgiving break, some of the best women's soccer players are right where they want to be: battling it out for a spot at the College Cup next week in Boca Raton, Florida.

**MORE:** [Eight key players for the quarterfinals](#) | [Full DI Bracket](#)

Preview all four matchups below.

**South Carolina (14-5-5) at Florida State (21-1-1), Friday, Nov. 28, 2 p.m.**

The only matchup of the quarterfinals that isn't a 1 vs. 2 seed, the Gamecocks march into Tallahassee after scoring one goal in three tournament games. A 1-0 win against [North Carolina](#) is certain to have the team brimming with confidence ahead of a tough, tough matchup against [Florida State](#). Center back [Taylor Leach](#) will return to the starting lineup after missing the third round meeting with North Carolina due to a red card suspension, though All American goalkeeper Sabrina D'Angelo is expected to miss this game again, leaving the door open once again for freshman netminder [Abbey Crider](#). To have a chance in this one, the Gamecocks need a big game from someone in the final third, whether it's [Raina Johnson](#), [Sophie Groff](#), [Savannah McCaskill](#) or anyone else.

Of course, scoring on the Seminoles is no easy task. With only nine goals allowed on the season, the defense hasn't missed a beat with [Kristin Grubka](#) guiding the back line and redshirt freshman [Cassie Miller](#) between the posts. Head coach Mark Krikorian's possession approach continues to pay off in the knockout rounds, as it not only helps generate that defensive success, but it also opens up opportunities to a slew of attacking options. [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#) has a legit shot at a Hermann Trophy with her 16 goals topping the team's scoring charts. But what makes the Seminoles so dangerous offensively is the vast array of players who can pop up and score goals, from the inconsistent yet threatening [Cheyna Williams](#) or bench sparks [Berglind Thorvaldsdottir](#) and Marta Bakowska-Mathews. Add in the long throw capabilities of [Megan Campbell](#), and it's no wonder the program is on the cusp of a fourth straight College Cup appearance.

Prediction: Florida State 2, South Carolina 0

**Virginia (21-2-0) at UCLA (21-0-2), Friday, Nov. 28, 8 p.m. – Live Stream**

The unstoppable force meets the immovable object, as [Virginia's](#) top-ranked offense tries to do what so many teams have failed to do this season: score a goal against UCLA. It's been a record-shattering campaign for the Pac-12 champs, as goalkeeper [Katelyn Rowland](#) has set season marks with 19 shutouts, and also a new record for career shutouts to boot. There are few weaknesses up and down the UCLA roster, as the spine of [Sam Mewis](#), [Sarah Killion](#) and [Abby Dahlkemper](#) makes it nearly impossible to breakdown. A lack of a premier forward hasn't been an issue as [Kylee McCarthy](#) emerged down the stretch as a starting option, while [Taylor Smith](#), [Rosie White](#) or [Darlan Jenkins](#) can make game-changing plays up front. Mewis has enjoyed her best season to date and is arguably the Hermann Trophy favorite.

Speaking of Hermann Trophy candidates, UCLA matches up against a Virginia side that has not one but three sensational players. [Morgan Brian](#), [Danielle Colaprico](#) and [Makenzy Doniak](#) have led a scintillating tournament run thus far, a dominating offensive effort that has outscored the opposition 18-0 in three tourney games, an output that has seen UVA overtake last year's phenomenal side in total goals with 83 on the season. The one knock on this team is the lack of a tough enough schedule that's resulted in this quarterfinal matchup. The Cavaliers' toughest games, outside of a pair of losses to [Florida State](#), came against a North Carolina side they were able to brush aside in the ACC semifinals. On the flip side of it, there's an argument that UCLA hasn't faced a team as good offensively as this Virginia side is, one that is more than capable of punishing mistakes at the back – not that the Bruins are prone to that of course. Regardless, this game should prove to be a classic encounter, and one that will live on in college soccer lore, similar to the epic 2013 College Cup encounter.

Prediction: UCLA 1, Virginia 0

**Florida (17-4-1) at Stanford (20-1-2), Friday, Nov. 28, 10 p.m. – Live Stream**

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### PLAYER RANKINGS

	Club (B)	Club (G)	College (M)	College (W)
	Freshmen		National	
	Morgan Brian Midfielder Senior St. Simons Island, GA <a href="#">Virginia</a>			
		<b>CLASS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	
2	<a href="#">Abby Dahlkemper</a>	SR	D	
3	<a href="#">Sarah Killion</a>	SR	MF	
4	<a href="#">Dagny Brynjarsdottir</a>	SR	MF	
5	<a href="#">Kadeisha Buchanan</a>	SO	D	
6	<a href="#">Sam Mewis</a>	SR	MF	
7	<a href="#">Shea Groom</a>	SR	MF	
8	<a href="#">Makenzy Doniak</a>	JR	F	
9	<a href="#">Savannah Jordan</a>	SO	F	
10	<a href="#">Jaelene Hinkle</a>	SR	D	

[View complete list >>](#)

The lone quarterfinal meeting that's a rematch of a 2014 clash, [Florida](#) makes its second trip to Palo Alto looking for a first College Cup appearance since 2001. The road ahead is going to be difficult against a Cardinal side that is back on the national radar, and then some, after a somewhat down 2013 campaign. Stanford has gotten this far because they can win in just about any way. They have the offensive punch that can carry a team to victory behind the likes of Lo'ea LaBonta, [Taylor Uhl](#) and [Chioma Ubogagu](#), or they can beat you 1-0 like they did in the second and third round, as center back [Laura Liedle](#) and [Maddie Bauer](#), with freshman standout [Andi Sullivan](#) shielding the defense from her holding midfield spot. That's without mentioning U.S. youth standout goalkeeper [Jane Campbell](#) excelling between the posts as well. LaBonta only played 14 minutes in the previous encounter, so perhaps that can help to be the difference this time around.

The similarities between the two teams are fairly straightforward. Both like to possess the ball and work it through the midfield, and for [Florida](#), forward [Savannah Jordan](#) and midfielder Havana Saloun must be able to find time and space in order to have a chance at this one. [Christen Westphal](#) should be able to help the team cope with Stanford's offense, while [Tessa Andujar](#) can make plays from the flank. Jordan must be on her game for the Gators to advance, as they'll get at least a chance or two in front of Campbell's goal – but they must make it count, because there won't be many.

Prediction: Stanford 2, Florida 1

**[Penn State \(20-3-0\) at Texas A&M \(21-2-2\), Saturday, Nov. 29, 8 p.m.](#)**

Rounding out the quarterfinal field is another top, top matchup between two of the best teams this year. Head coach G Guerrieri has the chance to make the College Cup for the first time in program history, and he has the team that can make it happen. Senior leadership is key at this stage of the season, and A&M has that in spades, all over the field: from goalkeeper [Jordan Day](#), defenders [Meghan Streight](#) and [Leigh Edwards](#), to offensive weapons like [Shea Groom](#), [Annie Kunz](#), [Kelley Monogue](#) and [Bianca Brinson](#). Monogue and Groom in particular have been excellent, combining for 33 goals and 17 assists between the two of them this season. They'll need goals to advance as well, as the Aggies have conceded the most goals (23) of the eight teams currently alive, but that's something they've done all year, scoring 68 in 2014.

The Nittany Lions are going to fancy their chances, even on the road in College Station. A sensational recruiting class has helped Penn State to this point, with four freshmen – [Frannie Crouse](#), [Emily Ogle](#), [Elizabeth Ball](#) and [Maddie Elliston](#) – playing very significant roles this season, playing more than 1200 minutes each and appearing in every game. But head coach Erica Walsh also has some serious upperclassmen leadership as well, with [Mallory Weber](#), [Raquel Rodriguez](#), [Whitney Church](#) and [Kori Chapic](#) looking to book a return trip to the College Cup after missing last year's edition. Unlike other teams in the field, Penn State lacks a big-time goal scorer, but makes up with that by spreading it around, as 13 different players have all tallied this season. Expect to see plenty of goals in this one.

Prediction: Penn State 3, Texas A&M 2

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# 'Noles adjust to rain, win 1-0

Shutout gets spot in NCAA quarterfinals

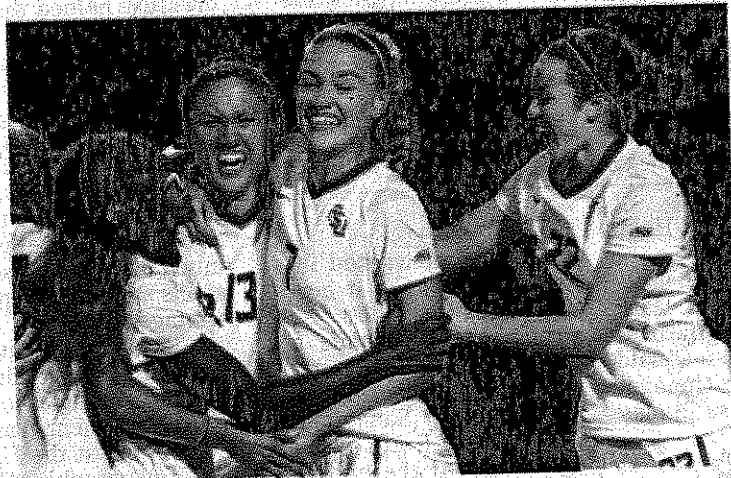
By Brian Miller  
Democrat Correspondent

FSU midfielder Carson Pickett set up to take the second-half free kick, just 28 yards away from goal.

Then, right-footed Michaela Hahn ran over and stuck a hand in the air. Hahn fed a ball right of Central Florida's wall and Isabella Schmid reached it on the right end line, turning and crossing into the six-yard box.

In a tight amount of space, Seminoles defender Kristin Grubka squeaked a ball inside the near post, providing the game-winning goal in the 60th minute as second-ranked FSU survived its Sweet 16 game, 1-0, against No. 21 UCF on a wet Sunday night at the Seminole Soccer Complex.

"Michaela gave me a per-



ROSS OBLEY PHOTO

Florida State players celebrate a goal by Kristin Grubka (13) goal in Sunday's victory over UCF.

fect ball and I saw Grubka in the box, and as soon as you see Grubka in the box, she's going to put her whole body in there," Schmid said. "I had faith in her that she would make the goal."

The Seminoles (21-1-1) ad-

vance to host No. 18 South Carolina, which topped North Carolina, 1-0, in its third-round game. The game is scheduled for this Friday at 2 p.m.

"I thought I was too wide of

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## Soccer

Continued » 1D

the front post to actually get anything out of it, but I tried and luckily it went between the keeper and the post and hit the back of the net," said Grubka.

The game was originally slated for 1 p.m., but torrential rain pushed the start time to 6:30 p.m., which was then subsequently delayed another 30 minutes from lightning in the area. A crew of six people pushed water off the Seminoles' midfield logo, including FSU senior associate athletic director Monk Bonasorte.

Both FSU and UCF (18-5) created opportunities in the first half to score. Knights forward Kayla Darden hit a shot off the post, as did the Seminoles forward Berglind Thorvaldsdottir. FSU goalie Cassie Miller

was in position to make two saves off combo plays and came up huge again early in the second half.

Errant play in the midfield allowed UCF to counter, leaving Miller in a one-on-one spot with Darden rushing into the left box. Miller narrowed the window and Darden opted to feed across the face of an empty goal, instead of shoot, but no help from her team came.

"That was obviously a transition moment," Seminoles head coach Mark Krikorian said. "Central Florida has some athletic kids, they got behind us and Cassie came out with a good angle and minimized the (size of) goal. She made it hard for her to finish."

Over the next 19 minutes, FSU upped its midfield intensity and owned possession until finally it had the repeat setup of a previous free kick. Only this time Pickett stood by

and watched as Hahn eyed her target.

"We drew it up in practice (recently) and Mark chose me to make the pass and had faith in me," said Hahn, details also being it was an unsuccessful play in practice.

"With a set piece in practice, there's not a whole lot of adrenaline when you're going through them," Krikorian added. "You try to script it out and know that during the game when the adrenaline is flowing the quality and timing will be better. I think those three executed perfectly."

FSU out-shot UCF, 13-7, and the Seminoles held the Knights to just one shot in the second half, though UCF's best opportunity came without a shot when Tatiana Coleman slipped a pass past FSU midfielder Jamia Fields, changing a 2-on-1 into the aforementioned forward vs. keeper situa-

tion.

"Part of me wanted Tatiana to just keep it herself because she's so strong, but she made a good choice," said second-year Knights coach Tiffany Roberts Sahaydak, who was an All-American for UNC. "At the end of the day, I think Darden just needs to be confident and put that away. I'm proud because we hung on defensively, but we also still created some scary moments for them."

The Seminoles are now in the Elite Eight for the 10th consecutive season, which is the longest active streak in the nation.

"It's definitely exciting," Grubka said. "The first thing I said was, 'We get to spend Thanksgiving together.' I always like that. I always tell people I don't like going home for Thanksgiving, because it means we're moving on in the tournament."

| FSU WOMEN'S SOCCER |

# 'Noles primed for NCAA push

Williams becoming a force for FSU

By Brian Miller  
Democrat correspondent

When Florida State junior Cheyna Williams transferred from Vanderbilt, it was with anticipation for something greater than the talented forward could do on her own.

As the second-ranked Seminoles soccer team prepares for another weekend of postseason play, Williams has been one of four big goal scorers this season, and she kicked off her first NCAA Tournament game ever with a goal in last week's 5-0 win over South Alabama.

Now, Williams is ready for

more. FSU will be the host as No. 9 Wisconsin (19-2-2) plays No. 21 Central Florida (17-4) at 2:30 p.m. today before the Seminoles (19-1-1) conclude the festivities with a 5:30 match against Northeastern (15-4-3). The winners will play at 1 p.m. Sunday.

"There's definitely a sense of surrealism, just because the beginning of the season you're adapting to the playing style and my team is trying to find ways to utilize me," said Williams, whose nine goals is tied for third on the team with Marta Bakowska-Mathews. Dagny Brynjarsdottir leads with 15 and Berglind Thorvaldsdottir has 11. "It's been great to see

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## Soccer

Continued » 1D

the progression, especially getting a first goal in the postseason and breaking the ice to have momentum going into the rest of the postseason."

Word on the street can be FSU is talented but constrained by Seminoles head coach Mark Krikorian's system of building up an attack from the back to the front, as opposed to what people think they see when a player goes one-on-one and scores a highlight-reel goal.

"I feel like I'm smarter as a player," said Williams, who provided plenty of sexy scoring for Vanderbilt. The Commodores also won just nine games in two years, even while she compiled 22 goals.

"I see different things in the games now. Even watching professional games now, I see things my coaches or people like Dagny have shown me or told me. Being able to apply it to the game now is

great."

Williams can also provide an example of what happens when shooting is ill-advised, such as the case on a corner kick against South Alabama, when a turnover at the top of the box allowed the Jaguars to quickly counter and create their own offensive chance.

Sexy is in the eye of the beholder, especially when a preventable turnover can lead to an opponent's goal.

"When we have players that have special qualities, we try to accentuate those," Krikorian said.

"If they're lacking, we want to minimize their exposure. In a team game, it's what's in the best interest of the team. Sometimes a player has the ability to run and carve up a player or two on the other team, but we're playing against good teams. If we're selfish in the way we play, we're going to lose."

Led by Mackenzie Dowd's seven goals, Northeastern has scored 37 goals this season. UCF has 42 goals this year, and

its leading goal scorer, Taliana Coleman, has 12. Wisconsin has 44 team goals, 14 from Cara Walls.

FSU has 58 goals this season, 44 of which have come from its top four. The Seminoles have recorded 14 shutouts and allowed just nine goals in 21 games. And five midfield players have not only been registering plenty of assists lately, but they also have been finding extra room to shoot as a result of teamwide production.

"Cheyna's pace is ridiculous and we use that to the most we can," said midfielder Megan Campbell, who is coming off a school record-tying three assist game.

"A ball down line, she has a 99 percent chance of winning that over the center defender. That's a great tactic for us to pull people apart. Then I can get it back off Cheyna and they're out of position."

Fans don't get to witness the finer nuances of daily practice, or the film study, or the game-planning. Krikorian does, and he likes what he sees as his

FSU team eyes two weekend wins on its quest for a return to the national championship game, and, ideally, a game-winning goal.

"We have a lot of different weapons and we can score a lot of different ways," Krikorian said.

"We're good in run of play, we're good on set pieces, we're good on counter attack, we can possess in the other team's half. I don't know that we've had all those dimensions in the past. We feel our attack is as good or better than it's ever been, but a lot of that is spacing and small subtle things leading to better individual performance."

| FSU WOMEN'S SOCCER |

# FSU registers shutout to roll into Sweet 16

## Faces Central Florida in Sweet 16 matchup

By **Dustin Tackett**  
Democrat correspondent

The Florida State women's soccer team rolled visiting Northeastern, 3-0, Friday night in the second round of the NCAA Tournament and captured its 10th consecutive trip to the Sweet 16, where it will face UCF.

The match between state rivals is scheduled for Sunday at

1 p.m.

It was constant pressure – somewhat of a post-season theme for the Seminoles – that propelled them past the Huskies. FSU was precise in the box, suffocating on defense and unwilling to give an inch.

Cheyna Williams was the first one to break the ice, when in the 18th minute, her craftiness into and across the box helped her find the back of the net, collecting her 10th goal of the sea-

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## Soccer

Continued » 1D

son.

"Cheyna was a handful tonight and she's really been coming on strong as the season continued," FSU head coach Mark Krikorian said. "Fortunately, when she turned the corner she hit the ball good and solid and it was a quality finish. It takes a little bit of the pressure off."

Even after the goal by Williams, FSU continued to find chances in the box throughout the first half, but most of them came up empty. The Huskies tightened up on defense, but the Seminoles were in their comfort zone, settling in for the long haul.

"It helps us to settle in a little," Williams said.

"We talk a lot about patience in their half of the field. So, once we break the pressure, it's nice for us to be able to settle down and not feel so much pressure to

score but still enough put them under a lot of pressure."

FSU settled in, went into the half with a 1-0 lead and then went on an early second half fury to break things wide open.

Kirsten Crowley, off a Megan Campbell free kick in the 54th minute, sent one strong into the net for her first goal of the season to give the Seminoles a 2-0 lead. With that assist, Campbell recorded her team high fourth assist of the NCAA Tournament.

Only a minute and twenty one seconds later, Dagny Brynjarsdottir came sliding in to clean up a ball in the box and got a foot on it to make it 3-0 FSU.

"Every game I'm motivated to score," Crowley said.

"Ever since I was put on the goal keeper for the set pieces I've been getting hungrier for a goal. I was a little too eager against South Alabama, so I wanted to do my job and not get so antsy and just do my job."

| FSU SOCCER |

# 'Noles begin trip to return to NCAA final

## Top-ranked FSU faces S. Alabama

By Brian Miller  
Democrat correspondent

The first two of three self-divided segments are complete for the second-ranked Florida State soccer team.

The Seminoles navigated the non-conference schedule with only a 2-1 loss to then-No. 8 Florida on Sept. 5. It would become the only blemish for FSU (18-1-1; 11-0-1 ACC) as it rolled through its conference slate, ending in a tie for the regular season title and then winning the ACC Tournament for the second straight year.

Phase III starts tonight at 7 as the top-seeded 'Noles kick off the NCAA Tournament by welcoming in South Alabama (19-2-1), winners of the Sun Belt Conference and a team FSU defeated 5-0 in the first round last year.

"There's a lot of factors that go into winning in the NCAA Tournament, particularly at different stages," FSU coach Mark Krikorian said.

"There's an element of being prepared, and we hope we are. We hope we're talented enough, because if you're not you'll get found out. We hope we're athletic enough. And we need to have Lady Luck on our side."

After impressive

know when we play a ball if the person is fast and athletic we can play it in front of them, or if they're good with their feet we play it to their feet. The second we look up, we know exactly what to do without having to think about it."

From Vanderbilt transfer Cheyna Williams (eight goals, five assists) up top, to midfielder and ACC Offensive Player of the Year Dagny Brynjarsdottir (14 goals) behind her, to ACC Defensive Player of the Year Kristin Grubka defending in front of freshman goalie Cassie Miller, cohesion has developed over the course of the season.

FSU isn't the same team that lost to UCLA, 1-0 in overtime, in last year's national title game. It believes it is better.

"We all learned from it, we all put more in this year," junior midfielder Isabella Schmid said.

"I think we're more mature and even more self-confident this year. It makes a huge difference. We know what it felt like to lose and we want it even more this year. It motivates us more."

The Seminoles are 6-0 all-time against South Alabama, which enters with an 18-game unbeaten streak. Jaguars leading scorer Charde Hannah has 20 goals and seven assists in 22 games, including seven game-winning goals.

wins over highly ranked Notre Dame and Virginia this past weekend, FSU enters as confident as it could be. Its bracket lines up well to reach the Elite 8, where it could duel second-seeded North Carolina to reach the College Cup. The two teams tied 1-1 during the regular season.

Yet that is looking ahead, something the Seminoles refuse to do. Instead, they calmly go about their business and have been getting their desired results in the process. With the obvious goal being the school's first national championship, Florida State can see this being the year where everything comes together.

"Recently, our team has just been clicking," FSU junior midfielder Carson Pickett said.

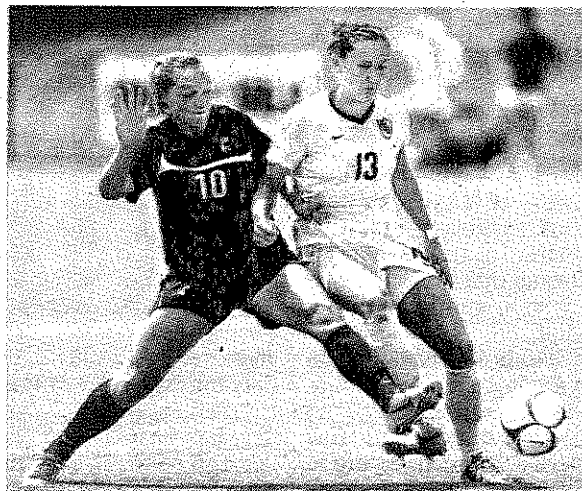
"That can sound cliché, but I couldn't say that other years. This year, our groups are so close on and off the field. It helps to be close off the field because you don't get in silly fights.

"Then on the field, we

So, while the 'Noles may have scored three goals in the first 21 minutes last year, Krikorian won't ever guarantee victory. He's too respectful of opponents and the game of soccer to do so. Yet he's also aware of the "it" factor his 2014 team has.

And still, FSU may be a No. 1 seed for the fourth straight year and have made three straight College Cup appearances, but the past doesn't matter. The Seminoles must live in the moment to make new history.

"When I look at it, we're as complete a team as we've ever had here," Krikorian said. "We have more dimensions we've ever had and I'm saying that having lost two All-Americans from last year. But we addressed some of those things that prevented us from winning a national championship last year and we're more veteran in some areas than we were last year. Now we have to go out and perform every day."



DEMOCRAT FILES

FSU's Kristin Grubka, right, and the Seminoles open NCAA play against visiting South Alabama.

| NCAA WOMEN'S SOCCER |

# Late surge lifts FSU over S. Alabama

Seminoles held 1-0 lead at half

By **Dustin Jackett**  
Democrat correspondent

Florida State's women's soccer team proved why it earned a top seed, defeating visiting South Alabama, 5-0, in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament Friday night inside the Seminole Soccer Complex.

Although the final score was identical to last year's opening-round matchup between the two teams, much of the first half — one packed full of

constant pressure from FSU — provided a different story. This year, South Alabama came prepared to play.

Amid a tactical Seminole attack, the Jaguars played inspiring defense, pestering a Florida State offense that seemed on the brink of breaking through. And in the 45th minute, that's just what the Seminole did. Megan Campbell sailed a throw-in that was defended back out before Dagny Brynjarsdottir's head directed the ball through tons of traffic and into the net with 38 seconds left in the first half.

"It's always nice to get

that first goal, especially just before halftime," Brynjarsdottir said. "Then you can kind of calm down, just keep the ball more and be more calm in front of the goal when you get other chances."

After Brynjarsdottir broke the ice to end the first half, the flood gates opened and the Seminole never really took their foot off the gas. They were technical in their approach, working from the outside in, creating opportunities in the box. Four of FSU's five goals Thursday night began with a cross, taking advantage of those

opportunities.

FSU buried two goals in the net within the first 20 minutes of the second half. Cheyna Williams' and Carson Pickett's headers in the 53rd and 63rd minutes, respectively, were due to a cross provided by Emma Koivisto. Koivisto finished with three assists on the night.

"We know that this team is built with a lot of options," FSU head coach Mark Krikorian said. "So, sooner or later, we feel like we're going to take advantage of a situation. A couple of early goals there in the second half helped loosen the game up a little

bit."

It was a possession game for Florida State down the stretch, and it began to wear on South Alabama, as fatigue clearly became an issue for the Jaguars.

Berglind Thorvaldsdottir again opened things up for FSU in the second half when she crashed in on goal, cleaning up a header and finishing in the back of the net off the side of her foot in the 73rd minute. Nickolette Driesse wasn't far behind when, in the 79th minute, she recorded her first career goal from 18 yards out on a laser beam that found its

way under the crossbar.

"Possession's a big thing for us because we know that defenses are going to come out and they're gonna play strong against us," Megan Campbell said. "We have to have patience on the ball and know that we have the ability to keep the ball in play from left to right and then the seams will open up."

With their win against South Alabama, the Seminole will advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the 15th consecutive year.

Times and dates are not yet set for second round play.



## Crowley makes mark at FSU

By JASON SHOOT | Assistant Sports Editor | @PCNHJasonShoot  
Published: Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 21:39 PM.

TALLAHASSEE — Kirsten Crowley two years ago was fighting for a roster spot at Florida State.

Now she rates among the most indispensable Seminoles on the soccer field.

Crowley, a former star at Arnold, has played every minute of every game for FSU this season, the only Seminole to do so. A redshirt sophomore, Crowley has been a steady and omnipresent fixture in the middle of the Seminoles' defensive back row.



FSU (18-1-1) plays South Alabama (19-2-1) tonight at 6 p.m. CST at the Seminole Soccer Complex in the first round of the NCAA national tournament. The same two teams met in the first round last year, and the Seminoles emerged with a 5-0 victory.

Crowley has started all 20 games and been on the field for 1,835 minutes. Her senior teammate, Kristin Grubka, is second on the team with 1,805 minutes played, and she lines up next to Crowley in the middle of the back row.

"The center backs — me and Grubka — we have to communicate," said Crowley, 20. "That's what we focused on in the preseason was our vocal presence on the field. We're helping the midfielders and positioning them. Sometimes when the game is getting frantic, the back line and the center mids have to control the tempo of the game.

"We also have to notice when teams change their style of play, when they change formation, and what to do when there are two forwards or three forwards on the field."

Crowley has started 46 games over the past two seasons after redshirting her first year, and her game experience has hastened her development in the mental side of the sport.

"Playing that many minutes, I've learned a lot," Crowley said. "I've been on the field so much, getting that in-game experience is going to help improve my career as a soccer player. ... We're all doing as much as we can to take care of our bodies, and we take measures to prevent (injuries). I'm being smart about how I play."

Crowley said she still feels like she is in the midst of her transition from an untested freshman to an integral part of a Seminole defense that has allowed only nine goals this season.

"I'm not a quiet freshman anymore, and I need to step up and be a leader on the team," Crowley said. "Coach (Mark Krikorian) made it important to me, that I need to step up and take that leadership role on the team, especially these next two years. Each year I keep progressing."

UCLA defeated the Seminoles 1-0 in last year's national championship game, and Crowley said that defeat never lingers far from thought.

"Our minds are on the last minute of that last game and finishing it and doing what we wish we could have done last season. It's always on your mind," Crowley said. "I think we've got a real special team. We're so experienced. We have six, seven seniors up there who are hungry for this win and for this title.

"I think our chances are pretty good. UCLA is good, Stanford is good, Virginia is always up there. But we've got a special team, and this could definitely be the year."

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# NCAA – 2014 NCAA Tournament First Round Preview – (1) Florida State vs South Alabama

**Friday, 7:00 PM**

(1) Florida State (18-1-1; 1st – ACC; WTSR – 1.65, 1st – ACC)

vs

South Alabama (19-2-1; 1st – Sun Belt; WTSR – 1.22, 3rd – Sun Belt)

## **So, Is This Going To Go Any Better for South Alabama Than Last Year?**

I'm going to guess "no". These two sides met at the same stage in last year's NCAA Tournament, an easy 5-0 win for the Noles in which they led 3-0 after a little more than twenty minutes. While South Alabama has seemingly gotten better this year, so has Florida State in the eyes of most.

## **Give South Alabama Their Fifteen Minutes of Fame.**

If you like to see mid-majors beat up small clubs, South Alabama was your team this season. They hardly pushed themselves in non-conference play en route to bludgeoning almost everyone in their path. To be fair, the Sun Belt wasn't much tougher. The club dropped points just once, in a 4-4 draw to Louisiana-Lafayette. Rookie Charde Hannah scored twenty goals, while the club's defense benefitted from league Defensive Player of the Year Nini Rabsatt-Smith and defensive partner Steffi Hardy. You probably could make a case that this USA deserved better than facing one of the top few teams in the tournament.

## **But They're Going To Lose Badly, Right?**

Yeah. USA didn't play a single non-conference foe that finished in the RPI Top 100 and played more than one SWAC team. The Sun Belt isn't exactly replete with sides close to FSU's calibre either. The shock of facing such a jump in talent on Friday will likely be severe.

## **This FSU Side Can Go All The Way, Can't It?**

Oh yeah. It's hard to pinpoint a true weakness on the Noles. Though the defense was a bit wobbly early, once all the pieces returned from international duty, it was smooth sailing, to the point that the club gave up just two goals in ACC play, four less than the second best club, Notre Dame. Cassie Miller has held her on in goal, while Kirsten Crowley has been a pleasant surprise as Kristin Grubka's partner in central defense. Add in the talents of Megan Campbell and Emma Koivisto on the flanks

and Michaela Hahn and Isabella Schmid as central midfielders, and you've got a good blend of power, pace, and technical skill that is brutally difficult to play through for opposing offenses.

### **So The Offense Isn't Just Dagny Brynjarsdottir Any More?**

No, and that should be terrifying to opponents. Brynjarsdottir is still playing at an All-American level with seven goals in ACC play, while Cheyna Williams has seemingly grown more comfortable in the offense as the season's gone on after some teething problems early in the year. The really frightening thing is that FSU drowns opponents with waves of offense, with Marta Bakowska-Mathews and Berglind Thorvaldsdottir netting nine combined goals off the bench. It's death by a thousand cuts. Or a thousand goals, if you were.

### **Weaknesses?**

Not any glaring ones. If you're being picky, Mark Krikorian doesn't delve too deeply into his bench, usually running with Thorvaldsdottir, Bakowska-Mathews, and Hikaru Murakami in the biggest games. That's not going to be a problem in early round games, but you wonder if it could wear them down later in the tournament. Additionally, Cassie Miller is still a rookie, albeit a talented one, in goal. First-year starting netminders don't often lead their club to the promised land.

### **How Far Does FSU Go?**

I would be surprised if they didn't make it to the last four at least, though North Carolina in the Elite Eight is never an easy opponent. Old nemesis Stanford may loom in the Final Four though, and the Noles have never had an easy time with the Pac-12 side but will at least fancy their chances of getting another crack at a national title given how dominant they've looked thus far in 2014.

# 'Noles brace for new ACC Tourney format

FSU faces No. 14 Notre Dame today

By Brian Miller  
Democrat correspondent

After last season's national championship loss to UCLA in overtime, Florida State soccer coach Mark Krikorian knew something had to escalate to win the program's first national title.

Enter the offseason and what amounted to individual decisions by players to get better and do the little things necessary to improve the greater whole.

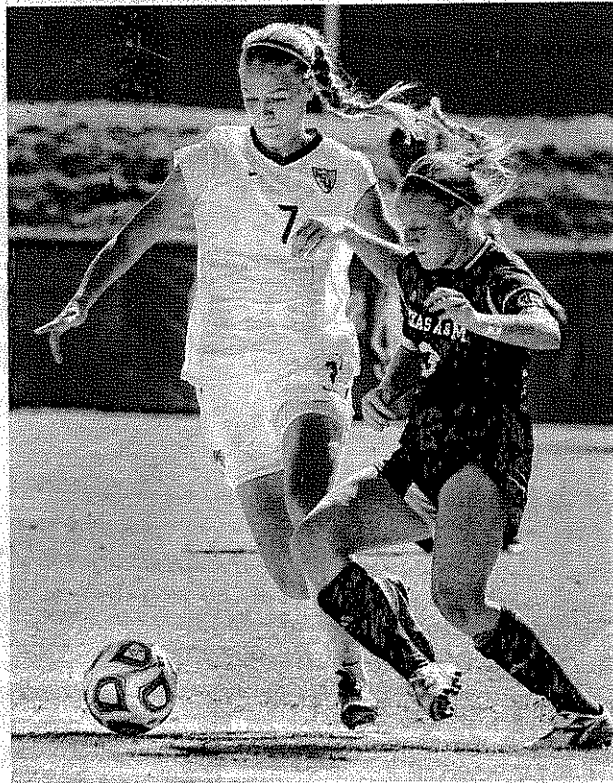
Now as second-ranked FSU (16-1-1, 9-0-1) prepares for this evening's game against No. 14 Notre Dame (12-4-2, 7-2-1) in the new four-team Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament format, it does so on the heels of the Seminoles' third ACC regular season title in five years, in which it went unbeaten in league play for the first time in school history.

Thursday, FSU was rewarded heavily for its performance, as midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir was named the 2014 ACC Offensive Player of the Year, defender Kristin Grubka became the ACC Defensive Player of the Year, and Krikorian earned ACC Coach of the Year honors for the fourth time.

The buzzword among the team for the unquantifiable category the Seminoles have gained is "confidence," which was acquired in different ways.

"In the summer, I worked on getting more fit, getting faster, being more physical, because I knew that was one of the weaknesses I had last year," said junior midfielder Michaela Hahn.

"I have way more confidence now than I had two years ago and even last year. I feel like I'm more of an important role on the



LOGAN STANFORD/SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

Dagny Brynjarsdottir (left), named the ACC's Offensive Player of the Year, and Florida State open the ACC Tourney today against Notre Dame.

team this year and can make things happen."

The other dynamic ACC Tournament semifinal in Greensboro, N.C., pits second-seeded and No. 5 North Carolina (12-2-2, 9-0-1) against third-seeded and No. 3 Virginia (17-1, 9-1). The winners of the two Friday matches will play Sunday.

"We've been playing at such a high level since the beginning of the season and week after week we've still been getting better," said senior Jamia Fields, who, while she has yet to score a goal, has 10 assists in running to the right end line and feeding crosses into the box.

"We're more confident than in other years. I feel like I've had my best season, regardless of the stats. And I feel like others are having great seasons, but it's everyone doing little parts on their own."

The Seminoles are looking to become the first repeat tournament winner since North Carolina won five consecutive from 2005-09. Fields earned second-team All-ACC honors along with freshman goalie Cassie Miller.

"Our goals along the way to winning a national title was winning the ACC regular season title and then winning the ACC Tournament title again," Grubka said. "We haven't played Notre Dame this year and going up against a tough, new team will be good for us."

And that confidence thing? How will that manifest on a big stage?

"We've all grown into our roles really well," Grubka added. "There have been some extremely big shoes to fill. We're clicking and peaking at the right time. Everyone is on the same page."

# Pickett's goal leads FSU to title

## Seminoles capture second straight ACC Championship

By Jason Leturmy

Florida State Sports Information

**GREENSBORO, N.C.**—A first-half goal by Carson Pickett was all second-ranked Florida State (18-1-1) needed Sunday afternoon as the Seminoles defeated fourth-ranked Virginia (18-2-0) 1-0 in the final of the 2014 ACC Women's Soccer Championship inside the UNCG Soccer Stadium.

The Seminoles captured the league title for the second straight year and third time in the last four years as Florida State becomes the first repeat champion in the ACC since North Carolina won five straight titles from 2005-



LYNN HEY  
Florida State's Carson Pickett, right, celebrates with Dagny Brynjarsdottir after Pickett scored a first-half goal Sunday.



LYNN HEY

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

"This is why you want to go out and play," Florida State coach Mark Krikorian said.

"You want to go out and play against the top competition in the country. Virginia is a fabulous team, and they are going to do a great job in the NCAA Tournament. We know that it isn't easy to win this championship. All of the teams that play in this tournament are top 10 teams in the country."

The only goal of the match came in the 17th minute when a cross from Cheyna Williams traveled to the far post where Pickett was waiting with a header that snuck inside the left post for her first goal of the season.

Williams did a fantas-

tic job keeping possession of the ball down near the end line with a swarm of Cavalier defenders around her. After a cut back toward the top of the box, Williams had enough space to send a beautiful cross to Pickett, who finished the play off with the eventual game-winner.

"I saw Cheyna just carving people up on the outside and she just crossed it," said Pickett. "I saw a girl jump and she missed the ball. I just tried to get there as quickly as I could and saw it go into the back of the net."

Florida State outshot Virginia 12-8 for the match as Dagny Brynjarsdottir led all players with five shots, including three shots on goal in 90 minutes of action. Brynjarsdottir, who scored a goal against Notre Dame in the semifinals, took home ACC Tournament

MVP honors. "Winning our third title in four years has been great," said Brynjarsdottir. "The team spirit has been great, and we defended really well as a team. This is my last year here, and it is great to go out as an ACC Champion. Now, we will look ahead to the NCAAs."

The Seminole defense did an outstanding job of limiting the Cavaliers' chances on goal especially in the second half. Britany Ratcliffe had both of UVa's shots on goal but Cassie Miller was there both times with the save.

Florida State earns the automatic bid out of the ACC following Sunday's victory. The Seminoles will now await their fate to see who and where they will play in the upcoming NCAA Tournament. The NCAA Tournament Women's Soccer selection show is today at 4:30 p.m.

# Ætlar að fá sér umboðsmann sem fyrst

FÓTBOLTI | 09:45 | 21. NÓVEMBER 2014

Líkar þetta 4



Dagný fagnar sigrinum í Atlantahafsdeildinni á dögnum.

KOLBEINN TUMI DADASON SKRIFAR:

Dagný Brynjarsdóttir, landsliðskona Íslands í knattspyrnu, hefur hug á því að spila sem atvinnumaður í Evrópu þegar skólagöngu hennar við Florida State University lýkur í desember. Dagný er á fjórða ári sínu í skólanum en skólalið hennar þykir til alls líklegt í úrslitakeppni NCAA keppinnar..

Dagný segist í samtali við Vísir ekki ætla að fara í „draft-ið“ í Bandaríkjunum að loknu tímabili. Hugurinn leiti til Evrópu og fyrstu löndin sem komi upp í kollinn séu Svíþjóð og Þýskaland. Ekkert sé hins vegar í hendi enda hún ekki með umboðsmann og þjálfarar hennar hjá skólaliðinu deili ekki með henni fyrirspurnum erlendra félaga að svo stöddu.

„Þeir vilja ekki að það truflí mig. Það þírrar mig svolítið,“ segir Dagný á léttum nótum. Hún er algjör lykilmáður í liði Seminoles sem mætir



Dagný (til hægri) og Berglind Björg fagna sigri Seminoles í Atlantshafsdeildinni á dögnum.



Dagný með nokkra af verðlaunagripum sínum eftir magnað tímabil. Hún getur enn landað þeim stóra, sigri í NCAA, en Seminoles hefur aldrei unnið þann titil.

Northeastern University í 32-liða úrslitum NCAA í kvöld. Auk Dagnýjar leikur Eyjamærin Berglind Björg Þorvaldsdóttir með liðinu sem fór alla leið í úrslitaleik NCAA í fyrra þar sem liðið tapaði með minnsta mun.

Dagný, sem er 23 ára, hefur verið lykilmaður í íslenska landsliðinu undanfarin ár þrátt fyrir ungan aldur. Hún skoraði meðal annars sigurmark Íslands gegn Úkraínu í umspili um sæti í lokakeppni EM 2013. Þá tryggði hún Íslandi sömuleiðis sæti í átta liða úrslitum lokakeppninnar í Svíþjóð með skallamarki í 1-0 sigri á Hollandi. Hún hefur áður lýst því yfir að hún ætli langt í fótboltanum.

Leikmenn í háskólaboltanum mega hvorki þiggja laun né vera með umboðsmenn á sínum snærum. Þegar tímabilinu og prófunum lýkur í desember og hávaxni miðjumaðurinn frá Hellu útskrifast segir hún að það verði líklega sitt fyrsta verk að finna sér umboðsmann. Aðspurð segist hún ætla að vanda valið í þeim efnum.

#### **Viðurkenningar Dagnýjar á tímabilinu:**

Í sigurliði Seminoles í Atlantshafsdeildinni (ACC)

Í sigurliði Seminoles í úrslitakeppni ACC (keppni fjögurra efstu liða)

Sóknarmaður ársins í ACC

Valin í úrvalslið ACC

Valin í úrvalslið úrslitakeppninnar í ACC

Besti leikmaður úrslitakeppninnar í ACC

Þá var Dagný verðlaunuð fyrir námsárangur sinn.

#### **TENGDA GREINAR**



**Vöknuðu við skilaboðin: „Dangerous Situation“**



## Florida State takes third tournament title in four years

November 9th, 2014 4:16PM

**[ACC: Women]** No. 2 Florida State won its third ACC women's title in the last four years with a 1-0 win over No. 4 Virginia on **Carson Pickett's** first goal of the season, a header off a cross from **Cheyne Williams** in the 17th minute.

The Seminoles (18-1-1) are all but assured of one of the four regional top seeds in the NCAA Women's Tournament, the draw for which will be held on Monday.

"This is why you want to go out and play," Florida State head coach **Mark Krikorian** said. "You want to go out and play against the top competition in the country. Virginia is a fabulous team, and they are going to do a great job in the NCAA Tournament. We know that it isn't easy to win this championship. All of the teams that play in this tournament are top 10 teams in the country."

The Cavaliers (18-2-0) are likely on the bubble for the fourth No. 1 seed. They came into the week ranked only eighth in the **RPI Index**.

UCLA and Stanford, ranked No. 1 and No. 3 by Soccer America and No. 1 and No. 1 in the RPI Index, from the Pac-12 are the other likely top seeds.

Overall, Florida State outshot Virginia 12-8, marking the first time this season that the Cavaliers were outshot. **Morgan Stearns** made a career-high seven saves in goal for Virginia, while **Casey Miller** only made two at the other end for Florida State, but one of them was huge. She stopped **Brittany Ratcliffe** on a breakaway in the sixth minute.

The loss was Virginia had its eight-game win streak snapped. Its only other defeat was a 1-0 loss to FSU in Tallahassee on Sept. 28.

## Carolina shares title with Florida State

November 3rd, 2014 2:21AM

**[ACC: Women]** Paige Nielsen scored her fourth game-winning goal of the season and Summer Green had a goal and an assist to give No. 5 North Carolina a 2-1 overtime victory at Syracuse on Sunday and a share of the ACC regular-season championship with No. 2 Florida State. Both teams finished 9-0-1 in the standings.

### ACC SCHEDULE, Semifinals:

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Virginia vs. North Carolina

Florida State vs. Notre Dame

Since starting the season 1-2-1, Carolina has gone 11-0-1 in its last 12 games with only a tie against Florida State marring a perfect slate in that stretch. This marks the Tar Heels' first ACC regular-season title since 2010 when they won it outright and the 21st time in history that they has won or tied for first place.

Carolina will play No. 4 Virginia and Florida State will face No. 7 Notre Dame in the semifinals of the ACC Women's Tournament Friday at the UNCG Soccer Stadium in Greensboro, N.C. Both games Friday will be telecast on ESPN3. Sunday's championship game will be telecast on ESPNU.

Florida State beat Duke, 2-0, Friday night at the Seminole Soccer Complex, limiting the Blue Devils to just three shots and one shot on goal in 90 minutes of action. Seniors Marta Bakowska-Mathews and Dagny Brynjarsdottir provided all the scoring.

The loss left Duke with an 8-9-1 record and eliminated it from the NCAA Tournament after a 11-year run. Wake Forest's string of 18 straight NCAA Tournament appearances also ended. The Demon Deacons (5-9-3) will miss the NCAA Tournament for the first time in head coach Tony da Luz's 18-year tenure.

## 5 D1 Women's Soccer Athletes Vying for Player of Year

Posted by: Alex Schaffer | November 2, 2014 | 0 Comments | 18 Views



The 2014 season has seen many talented soccer players show their skills in matches across the country. Over the last several months, teams have battled for supremacy during regular season play. November signals the final stages of the regular season before conference tournaments and the College Cup, which will pit the best teams in the nation against each other. Although many players have delivered performances worthy of mention, these five have produced outstanding performances throughout the 2014 campaign.



### DAGNY BRYNJARSDOTTIR, FORWARD, FLORIDA STATE

In her senior season, Dagny Brynjarsdottir has once again proven why she is worthy of mention on the Hermann Trophy watch list. Brynjarsdottir has scored 13 goals for the Seminoles during her senior campaign and has helped her team climb to their current 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked position. She is one of the reasons, the Seminoles have only a single loss this season and have not been shut out once in 2014. Brynjarsdottir was also involved in the Icelandic National Team that attempted to qualify for the 2015 Women's World Cup.



### SAM MEWIS, MIDFIELDER, UCLA

Sam Mewis has had a very busy 2014. In March, she followed in her sister's footsteps by earning her first cap with the United States Women's National Team. Her 2014 season with the UCLA Bruins has been nothing short of spectacular, with Mewis racking up 13 goals and 9 assists in only 18 matches. She has scored the deciding goal in six contests this season, helping the Bruins to an undefeated regular season record entering the season's final weeks.



### SAVANNAH JORDAN, FORWARD, FLORIDA

With 15 goals and 5 assists during her sophomore season, Savannah Jordan is making a major case for being considered the top player in the country. Last season, she burst onto the scene with 22 goals, which earned her All-American Second Team honors. She has led the Gators to their rightful place in the Bennett Rank Top 10, and has scored in each of the team's last three matches. Jordan will be a crucial factor in the Gators post-season success and will continue her development as one of college soccer's emerging stars.



### MAKENZY DONIAK, FORWARD, VIRGINIA

Makenzy Doniak has continued her family tradition in college soccer, but has taken her game to another level this season for the Virginia Cavaliers. Doniak has managed to accumulate 13 goals and 8 assists during the 2014 campaign, which will likely be enough for her to earn another semi-finalist nomination for the Hermann Trophy. Earlier this year, she was called up to the U-20 Women's National Team for the FIFA U-20 World Cup. Doniak has the Cavaliers challenging for the ACC regular season title, with their only loss on the season coming against Florida State.



### KELLEY MONOGUE, FORWARD, TEXAS A&M

Kelley Monogue is an attacking midfielder that has found success both scoring and assisting goals during her senior season with Texas A&M. As a senior leader on the Aggies, Monogue has started all but one of their 19 matches this season, scoring 11 goals and tallying 8 assists. The Aggies are currently sitting in the Bennett Rank Top 10 thanks in large part to Monogue's efforts, including two game winning goals. Her transition from forward to an attacking midfield role has been a vital element in Texas A&M's success this season.

## 4. The best arm at Florida State belongs to ...

All right, settle down Tallahassee. Football quarterback Jameis Winston, last season's Heisman Trophy winner, and softball pitching ace Lacey Waldrop, the reigning USA Softball Player of the Year, have something to say about the above title, but Megan Campbell is more effective with her arms than her peers are with their feet. The Irish international with the best long throw in college soccer did it again Sunday, launching a throw into the 6-yard box in the 87th minute that Dagny Brynjarsdottir headed home to secure a wild 2-1 win for No. 2 Florida State against No. 9 Virginia Tech.

When not busy throwing the ball into low orbit, Campbell is part of a Florida State back line that entered Sunday's top-10 showdown with an active shutout streak of more than 500 minutes -- not coincidentally matching the time since Campbell and fellow outside back Emma Koivisto, a Finnish international, completed stints with their respective national teams and rejoined Florida State center backs Kristin Grubka and Kirsten Crowley on a full-time basis. But after 81 additional scoreless minutes Sunday, the Seminoles conceded a goal on a free kick just 32 seconds after they went in front against the Hokies. That left Campbell to find another way to ensure victory with her assist on Brynjarsdottir's winner minutes later.

The win showed why opponents unthinkingly put the ball out of play at their peril against the Seminoles. It also showed resilience from a team that hasn't trailed often this season but has nonetheless rallied three times from a deficit in the 60th minute or later to win. Perhaps most important, with a road trip to North Carolina the only daunting test remaining in the regular season, Florida State strengthened its claim for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament and a chance to spend the entire postseason in the state of Florida.

## Brynjarsdottir is difference for Seminoles

September 29th, 2014 1:05AM

**[FLORIDA STATE-VIRGINIA: Women]** An early blast by Icelandic international **Dagny Brynjarsdottir**, her seventh goal of the season, proved to be enough to give No. 6 Florida State a 1-0 win over No. 2 Virginia, handing the Cavaliers their first loss of the season. The defeat also snapped Virginia's 17-game ACC regular-season win streak.

The goal came in the ninth minute of play as Brynjarsdottir hit a left-footed shot from 20 yards out into the lower right corner of the goal.

"Dagny had a heck of a strike for a goal and it was the difference," Florida State head coach **Mark Krikorian** said. "It was huge. It was a big game against two very good teams. And you certainly want to be the team scoring the goal. Dagny is a big part of what we are doing and I thought she had another very good game."

UVa had scored a goal in 44 consecutive games before Sunday's match, a streak dating back to a 1-0 overtime loss to the Seminoles in Tallahassee in 2012. The Seminole defense limited the Cavaliers to just four shots on goal, shutting down U.S. international **Morgan Brian**. Redshirt freshman **Cassie Miller** played all 90 minutes to pick up her seventh shutout of the season. The keeper finished the match with three saves.

"It was a great battle between two top ranked teams," added Krikorian. "I thought our fight, our competitive spirit was excellent. It certainly wasn't a work of art but sometimes in the game you have to adjust to your opponent and the conditions of the game. Obviously, we adjusted our game plan a little bit to take in consideration Virginia's quality and I thought for the most part we defended quite well."

Virginia's best chance came in the 24th minute as a clearance of a corner kick came right to **Alexis Shaffer**, who hit a shot that was headed inside the far post but was saved off the line by Florida State's **Michaela Hahn**.

"It was a very even match and one strike was the difference in the game," said UVa coach **Steve Swanson**. "I thought we created enough chances to get back into the match, but we couldn't convert. They are a tough team to break down. I thought we did some good things in the second half, but we didn't have a good start. We can learn a lot from this game and we will be better team because of it. I was happy with the effort and the approach to the game. We just didn't impose our style of play on the game and that was the difference today. Give Florida State credit, they finished their chance and we didn't finish our chances."

# COLLEGE SOCCER STARS TRANSITION FROM SCORING GOALS TO STOPPING THEM

By | Sep 26, 2014  
espnW.com

Like anyone who wants to excel at her craft, Kristin Grubka believes in versatility. In the case of Florida State's pranking savant, that means working with the resources available to her.

If a teammate's phone happens to fall into her hands and she happens to crack the code to unlock it, the operating language might happen to be switched to German. But also like anyone whose skills beget a reputation, she has her trademark move. Or lack thereof. If the payoff is the satisfaction of scaring a teammate or coach half to death, she will wait.

And wait.

"I'll hide for a long period of time," Grubka admitted.

Instant gratification is not a must in her world. For someone who traded the adrenaline rush of scoring goals by the hundreds in high school for the unending work of keeping the ball out of the net as one of college soccer's best defenders, that's kind of a prerequisite.

It is difficult to make the absence of something sound glorious.

People don't tell stories about the buzzer-beater in basketball that never made it into the air because a defender kept the ball out of the would-be shooter's hands. You won't find many YouTube soccer clips of dazzling runs through the midfield and around a befuddled back line that never happened because of a well-timed tackle or measured marking.

Preventing the unforgettable is almost by definition forgettable.

Put another way, attacking players gain global adulation by scoring goals. Defenders do so when they go out .

Yet for soccer programs like Florida State and Virginia, among many more, championship aspirations often rise and fall on the willingness and ability of prolific high school goal

Yet for soccer programs like Florida State and Virginia, among many more, championship aspirations often rise and fall on the willingness and ability of prolific high school goal scorers to literally take a step back from the spotlight -- quite a few steps back, in fact -- and swap a desire to score goals for a passion about preventing them.

"A lot of times the players that are becoming successful defenders were once attacking players," Florida State coach Mark Krikorian said. "And once you start to receive notoriety and the fame and fortune of being a goal scorer or a pretty good attacking player, some kids struggle with losing that identity and not being willing to make that sacrifice."

Others thrive.

If this past week's overtime thriller between North Carolina and Notre Dame was an appetizer, the first of the season's main course of ACC games takes place Sunday, when Virginia visits Florida State (ESPNU, 4 p.m. ET). The latter two schools, along with Virginia Tech and North Carolina, occupy four of the top nine spots in the NSCAA Top 25 and are a combined 31-3-1 on the season. All but North Carolina reached the College Cup a season ago, and the Tar Heels missed out on defending their title only after an overtime quarterfinal loss against eventual national champion UCLA.

Both teams in Sunday's game feature world-class attacking talent. Virginia's Morgan Brian has already earned double-digit caps for the United States, while Florida State's Dagny Brynjarsdottir is an established starter for Iceland's national team. Both are surrounded by attacking talent too good to be labeled as merely complementary. But both Krikorian's Seminoles and Steve Swanson's Cavaliers are now perennial contenders, and two of the only teams ever to unseat North Carolina in the ACC, because they also share a propensity for disciplined, athletic defenses.

"You have to be the core almost of the team," Grubka said. "You can keep the team together and help the midfielders out. And you're just the wall to stop goals."

The heart of back lines that have allowed a combined nine goals in more than 1,600 minutes this season, Florida State center backs Grubka and Kirsten Crowley and Virginia counterpart Emily Sonnett know what waits on the other side of that wall. Between them, the three scored 341 goals as high schoolers.

A first-team all-ACC pick a season ago as a sophomore, Sonnett plays second fiddle to no one, be it UCLA's Abby Dahlkemper, Florida State's Grubka, Notre Dame's Katie Naughton, Florida's Christen Westphal or seemingly Stanford's entire back line, in any discussion of the nation's top defenders. Yet she came to college as a midfielder who'd totaled 113

goals and 41 assists in four high school seasons and was Georgia's prep player of the year.

Sonnett stepped in when injuries left the back line depleted during her freshman season, and she hasn't budged since. Her 51 career starts for the Cavaliers have produced just four goals and six assists of her own. But trace the team's prolific output back to its roots, and you'll often find a pass or a probing run from Sonnett that started a goal-bound sequence. And in those same 51 games, Virginia has conceded just 30 goals, kept 29 clean sheets and captured ACC regular-season and tournament titles.

"In looking at her as a defender, we thought she had the ability to reinvent the center back position in college soccer by giving her the freedom to get forward as much as possible," Swanson said. "Emily has adapted extremely well to her role as a defender, but she also deserves a great deal of credit for taking the skills that she possesses as a midfielder and adapting them to meet the needs of her position within our system."

The story isn't much different at Florida State for Grubka, a special talent who needed to be on the field somewhere. Versatile enough that she split time between forward and goalkeeper in youth soccer, she began in Tallahassee as a reserve forward, moved to a defensive midfield position and finally settled in as a center back. Her skill on set pieces means she still gets the glory from time to time -- the 14th goal of her college career came this past Thursday and completed a comeback in a 3-2 win at Connecticut.

But it's the crunching tackles -- legal ones, she hastens to add -- that now provide the adrenaline rush.

"When you meet Grubka, she's physically very gifted," Krikorian said. "She's a big, strong, powerful, athletic kid. We knew that her best days were ahead of her, as far as the soccer. We also knew she was a multisport athlete and very successful at everything she did. She wasn't really much of a gamble. The biggest question with her was going to be what position is it that she will best thrive in and be successful in."

It is undeniably easier for a player to move from front to back on the field than the other way around. The ball skills, spatial awareness and creative instincts of an attacking player such as Brian or Brynjarsdottir are not necessarily things that can be learned in whole, no matter the athleticism of the pupil. But easier isn't the same thing as easy. With almost the whole field in front of you, the perspective is different on the back line. The stance and reactions required are different. And as much as anything else, United States captain and central defender Christie Rampone noted, the prospect of getting beat -- of literally defending rather than attacking -- is a foreign language for those used to playing at the other end.



A prolific college goal scorer at Monmouth, Rampone might as well be the patron saint of converted defenders. She made the same transition once she reached the national team that Grubka, Crowley and Sonnett made in college (as did former Virginia All-American Becky Sauerbrunn, Rampone's partner in the middle of the United States back line).

"At the end of the day, you learn through your mistakes and you capitalize on those and realize you have to get into the mentality of a forward, as a defender, because you were there," Rampone said. "You have to overthink it a little bit by saying, 'OK, what would I have done in this situation?' And kind of get into the forward's mindset as a defender."

That was almost precisely the process Grubka described, at first a conscious effort to put herself in her opponent's cleats -- like a mental cheat sheet -- but then something that gradually becomes intuitive.

Grubka and Sonnett, who played together this summer for the United States under-23 national team, had too much talent to keep off the field. But for others, moving back is simply a way to stay on the field. Crowley could have chased goals as an attacking player for many of the more than 300 schools playing Division I soccer, but she wanted to go to Florida State and believed she was a quick enough learner to do whatever was asked. She redshirted her first year and so impressed Krikorian during that time that she started at outside back in her first season on the field and moved into the middle of the back line this season to replace All-American Kasey Kallman. It helped that she had some experience as a defender in youth soccer, but mostly, she just wanted to be on the field.

"She won't give up," Grubka said. "And I think she'll fight until she can't fight anymore."

Since the start of last season, only Grubka and midfielder Michaela Hahn have played more minutes for the Seminoles. That's not a bad trade for a kid from the Florida panhandle who scored 116 times in high school but didn't bring the kind of recruiting accolades and youth national team experience often associated with the top programs.

"I don't miss it at all," Crowley said. "It's the kind of thing like where a higher calling was made and you don't even look back. I'm a defender now, and I like being a defender."

Hence her reaction when she scored her first, and to this point only, goal for the Seminoles on a poke off a fumbled rebound in the sixth minute of overtime to beat UCF on a 90-degree, late-summer day in Tallahassee a season ago.

"Good thing we can stop running now," Crowley recalled. "I really did think that."

Which is not to say every defender forgets what it feels like to be on the receiving end of the celebration after a goal, as opposed to the one arriving to the party just in time to turn

around and jog back the other way. As much as Sonnett is encouraged to keep her attacking instinct sharp, Swanson joked that some of his gray hair is nonetheless attributable to her penchant for adventure.

Old habits sometimes die hard.

"Yeah, I do miss scoring goals," Sonnett admitted. "But playing in the back ... that's where I'm going to be playing at the next level, so it's something you kind of have to embrace, being in the back and letting other people do the scoring-the-goal part while you're on the other side."

All in the interest of being on the winning side.

| FSU WOMEN'S SOCCER |

# Seminoles stop Cavs' ACC win streak

By Brian Miller  
Democrat correspondent

The streak of Atlantic Coast Conference wins had run itself to 17 games for the second-ranked Virginia soccer team heading into Sunday afternoon's game with No. 5 Florida State.

The last team to defeat the Cavaliers? The Seminoles, two years ago in Tallahassee.

Consider that streak over after FSU midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir pounded a 20-yard left-footed shot into Virginia's goal in the 10th minute. The Seminoles' 1-0 win moves them to 10-1 overall

*"It certainly wasn't a work of art, but sometimes in a game you have to adjust to the opponent, adjust to different conditions in the game."*

**MARK KRIKORIAN**

FSU coach on his team's 1-0 win over Virginia

and 3-0 in the ACC, while the Cavaliers (10-1, 2-1) dropped from the ranks of the unbeaten.

"It certainly wasn't a work of art, but sometimes in a game you have to adjust to the opponent, adjust to different conditions in the game," FSU coach Mark Krikorian said. "We obviously took into account Virginia's quality. I thought for the

most part we defended quite well. Dagny had a heck of a strike for a goal, and it was the difference."

It didn't take long for Brynjarsdottir to make her mark in yet another big game. FSU forward Cheyna Williams made a pass to Brynjarsdottir, which was misplayed by a Virginia defender, leading to space for the senior from Iceland. Gathering

herself just outside the box on the left side, she bent the ball inside the right post, past diving Cavaliers keeper Morgan Stearns.

"(Williams) played me through, we were playing high pressure, and I was able to beat their defender and get a shot off," Brynjarsdottir said. "It was important to get a goal early and settle down a little bit."

Brynjarsdottir's seventh goal of the season came off a stretch of organized play that quickly devolved into a frenetic free-for-all, as both

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## Soccer

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schools angled to be the more physically dominant team on the pitch.

Each went through waves of attack with FSU closely eyeing dangerous Virginia midfielder Morgan Brian, last year's Hermann Trophy winner. Brian was constantly marked by Seminoles midfielder Isabella Schmid or another teammate.

"We think that Bella is probably the most versatile player we have, and we can use her in a lot of different ways to showcase her ability," said Krikorian, whose team limited Brian to three off-goal shots, though Virginia out-shot FSU,

13-8, on the day and took five more corner kicks.

"We just made sure we knew where Morgan was at all times and made sure she couldn't turn or get anywhere," Seminoles midfielder Michaela Hahn said.

Virginia's most dangerous attempt came in the 24th minute off a set piece, where Hahn hung tight to the left post and footed clear a low shot by the Cavs' Alexis Shaffer.

"Thank you, Michaela, for saving that goal for me," said FSU freshman keeper Cassie Miller, who made three saves in nabbing her seventh shutout this season. "Our whole team helps out with everything. Our whole team keeps that shutout."

Brynjarsdottir nearly headed home a second

goal in the 65th minute, while FSU defender Kirsten Crowley blocked a quality Cavaliers' shot attempt in the box shortly thereafter.

After defeating a yearly nemesis, the Seminoles head to Miami next week on good standing in the conference a third of the way into the ACC schedule. And now the 'Noles have a signature win.

"You have to do your roles all the time," Hahn said. "If you shut off for one minute, they could score. Then we're not winning. Then it's not a 1-0 win. Everyone contributed. We tried to stay organized, make sure we were spot on and man-marking. We couldn't shut down at any moment. That was our focus and it paid off."

## Women's weekend preview: Sept. 26-28

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)  
Published: September 26, 2014

[COMMENT](#)

With conference action ramping up across the nation, there are a number of tremendous matchups in women's college soccer.

**MORE:** [Women's Top 100](#) | [Women's Scoreboard](#) | [Flaws named PotW](#)

Below are the five matches to keep an eye on starting Friday.

### No. 4 [Stanford](#) (8-0-1) at [Utah](#) (7-0-2), Friday, Sept. 26, 5 p.m. (Pac-12 Networks)

Two undefeated Pac-12 foes open up their conference slate in Salt Lake City, as the Cardinal put their shutout streak on the line against a team that has conceded just three goals on the season. Utah goalkeeper [Lindsey Luke](#) is one of the primary catalysts for that strong defensive mark, while [Katie Taylor](#) (3 goals, 4 assists) is the main offensive threat Stanford must lock down. For the Cardinal, the defensive output has been impressive up to this point, as the likes of [Stephanie Amack](#) and [Maddie Bauer](#) have been lights out along the back line. [Ryan Walker-Hartshorn](#) and [Chioma Ubogagu](#) have injected enough into the attack to make Stanford legit title contenders, and they'll look to take a step in the right direction with this opening trip.

### No. 21 [Georgia](#) (6-1-1) at No. 9 [Florida](#) (6-2-0), Friday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m. (SEC Network+)

A slew of new recruits have helped the Bulldogs to six wins out of their first eight games, including an SEC opening victory against Vanderbilt last Sunday. Friday night's test against the Gators is their biggest challenge to date, and an opportunity to show which direction things are heading. Sophomore [Gabrielle Seiler](#) (5 goals, 7 assists) continues to excel, while fellow sophomore [Marion Crowder](#) provides a nice offensive compliment. The question for [Georgia](#) (and challenge) is whether or not they can slow down the Gator offense. While [Savannah Jordan](#) hasn't been quite as prolific this season, five goals is still a good haul from the first eight games and she'll look to help Florida win a second straight SEC game.



Franni Crouse

### [Michigan State](#) (6-3-1) at [Michigan](#) (7-3-0), Saturday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m.

Pretty much any Michigan-Michigan State matchup has potential to deliver entertainment, and it's no different as the Spartans and Wolverines prepare for what is a crucial clash for both sides. The conference schedule has once again provided difficult for Michigan State after a promising non-conference start to the season, as they've gone 0-3-1 in their first four Big Ten games, scoring just once during that stretch. Freshman Jamie Cheslik looked like the team's answer up front, but has slowed of late, while senior defender Mary-Kate Fiebert is a lockdown option at the back. On the other side, the hosts [Michigan](#) can continue and solidify their position in the top half of the conference standings after losing its first-ever conference meeting against Rutgers last Sunday. The young and promising crop of Wolverines still look like a team capable of exceeding expectations, as [Ani Sarkisian](#), [Nicky Waldeck](#) and [Megan Hinz](#) continue to prove their worth.

### No. 23 [Illinois](#) (8-2-0) at No. 8 [Penn State](#) (8-1-0), Sunday, Sept. 28, 1 p.m. (Big Ten Network)

Illinois star [Jannelle Flaws](#) is peaking at just the right time for the Illini ahead of a huge matchup against the Nittany Lions on Sunday. Her five-goal outburst earned her a slew of weekly awards and shows that she can score at the same rate as she did in 2013. It's going to be no easy task for the Illini in State College against a Penn State squad clicking on all cylinders under head coach Erica Walsh. Freshman [Frannie Crouse](#) leads the team in goals with six so far, while [Mallory Weber](#) is doing her part with five tallies. That's just the tip of iceberg, as [Whitney Church](#) provides stability at the back and [Raquel Rodriguez](#) can nick a goal here or there as well. With that many weapons, it's going to take quite the team effort for the Illini to shutdown the [Penn State](#) offense.

### No. 2 [Virginia](#) (10-0-0) at No. 5 [Florida State](#) (9-1-0), Sunday, Sept. 28, 4 p.m. (ESPNU)

Perhaps the biggest ACC clash of the season – to this point, of course – takes place as Virginia and Florida State tussle in Tallahassee on Sunday. The nationally televised affair should prove to be worth tuning in for, as both teams have recovered well from significant losses from last year's squad. While Virginia boasts the perfect record, a case could be made that the home side is the favorite. [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#) is looking bright once again spearheading the FSU attack, while [Kristin Grubka](#) provides a shutdown presence at the back. Virginia will have [Morgan Brian](#) to pull the strings and help win the midfield battle, and she'll need to have a good game in order to pull off the road win.

| FSU SOCCER |

# Tests await for No. 5 FSU soccer

Seminoles set to host Louisville and No. 2 Virginia

By Brian Miller  
Democrat correspondent

If there was one image to take away from this past weekend's pair of wins for the fifth-ranked Florida State soccer team, it was defender Kristin Grubka scoring arguably the lowest header in history.

It's only arguable if you factor in a silly detail like sea level since Grubka's game-winning goal in a 3-2 victory over Connecticut came with her and the ball lying flat on the ground.

"I don't think you could get much lower," said Grubka. "That (ranks) pretty high up there. I've definitely never scored like that. It was interesting. Once I saw the video, I looked at every little thing, from the ball stopping, to the girl coming in, to the goalie hitting it, my reaction... The ball stopped dead on the line.

"I tried to swing my feet around so it would be like a more normal goal, but I only needed two more inches."

Down two goals to the Huskies, FSU (8-1) battled back to win, then went on to shut out previously ranked Boston College, 2-0. Now at the halfway point of the season, Louisville (4-4) visits tonight at 7, followed by a

know what will happen because they're such a good team."

Virginia leans on 2013 Hermann Trophy winner Morgan Brian, of two other national player of the year awards and 46 points last season, to lead the Cavaliers' attack. Krikorian knows he needs numbers to surround Brian, just as his defense did against dynamic Boston College goal scorer Stephanie McCaffrey this past weekend.

"I have a lot of friends on Virginia, so I definitely don't want to give them anything to rag me about," Grubka said. "I want to come out and be a physical presence and shut down their forwards. We have to be perfect back there to be successful all around. It will be a challenge, but we'll be ready for that challenge."

The Seminole have been breaking in freshman goalkeeper Cassie Miller this season, and in limited chances, she's secured five shutouts in nine games. There's a high likelihood of her save number rising this weekend.

"We haven't given up any soft goals," Krikorian said. "Cassie's kicking game and distribution has been quite good. And she's calm, affecting the team much like Kelsey (Wys) did in similar mannerism and demeanor. That's comforting to have a goaltender that's not a panicked type."

top-five showdown with No. 2 Virginia (9-0) on Sunday at 4.

"We need to focus and concentrate on Louisville, because they're a good team," Seminole coach Mark Krikorian said. "But our kids are pretty focused group. We haven't had a game or training where the kids are just going through the motions. They want to get better and work hard."

Make no mistake, FSU's players know what Virginia, a national semifinalist last year, brings. The Cavaliers are 6-2-3 against Krikorian's team in his tenure, while the last four regular season games have gone to overtime.

"We love when ACC play comes because every team is good and we can't take one team lightly," Seminole midfielder Jamie Fields said.

"The Virginia game is my favorite to play all season because their style is so similar to ours. In my opinion, I think we're the better team, but walking in, I just don't

The Seminole were manufacturing goals in the early part of the season via long throw-ins from Megan Campbell or on set pieces. FSU's possession style is now starting to build attack and score goals off well-timed, sophisticated run-ins in the box, which is fortunate as the schedule toughens.

"Now, Berglund (Thorvaldsdottir) and Cheyna (Williams) are creating a lot of chances and starting to finish some pretty good goals," Krikorian said.

"It's an area where we've improved the last few games. Scoring three goals against UConn and two versus Boston College is a good sign."

All in all, Krikorian sees this as just another quality opponent on the road to what he hopes will be a long postseason run.

Players see it a little differently, knowing they'll be tested to the max.

"I know it will be a battle," said Fields, "but I enjoy playing games like this."

| FSU WOMEN'S SOCCER |

# Five-goal half helps 'Noles topple Cards

Williams ignites FSU in ACC showdown

By **Brian Miller**  
Democrat correspondent

In a span of one minute and 20 seconds, Florida State forward Cheyna Williams made her scoring presence known to visiting Louisville.

Williams scored her first goal just 52 seconds into the second half and added another 80 seconds later, leading fifth-ranked FSU to a five-goal second half and a 6-0 victory over Louisville on Tuesday night.

"In the locker room at half-

time, we talked about coming out with the same kind of momentum we had at the beginning of the game," Williams said. "It was important to put some (goals) in early, just to make sure we kept the momentum going."

Megan Campbell's 20-yard skidder through the box in the 17th minute was the only goal of the first half for the Seminoles (9-1), though they outshot the Cardinals (4-5), 10-0.

"Before the corner (kick), I said, 'I'm on the other side of the box if you need me,'" Campbell said. "It came right to me and I drove it hard. I was quite fortunate that (Kristin) Grubka and Dagny (Brynjarsdottir) both

jumped over the ball. I was thankful to them after it went in."

The first nine minutes after the break changed everything as FSU connected on its first three shot attempts. Williams ran on to finish Jamia Field's pass into the mid box, then she ran on and put a leg on Carson Pickett's left-footed cross to expand the lead.

"(FSU coach) Mark (Krikorian) has been adamant on the forwards, Berg(lind Thorvaldsdottir) and I, getting in the box and making sure we're there to finish the balls instead of doing the

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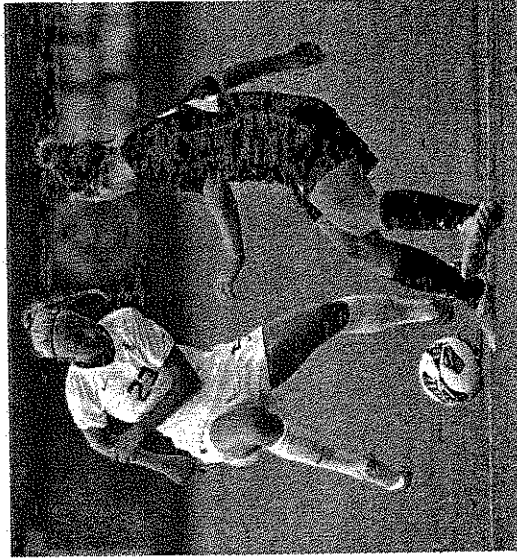


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSS OBLEY.  
FSU's Emma Koivisto (left) maneuvers with the ball in Thursday's home win over Louisville.

*"In the locker room at halftime, we talked about coming out with the same kind of momentum we had at the beginning of the game. It was important to put some (goals) in early, just to make sure we kept the momentum going."*

— CHEYNA WILLIAMS, FSU forward

## Soccer

Continued » 1D

work to get there," Williams said. "Jamia did a great job getting to the endline and connecting a great pass to me."

Marta Bakowska-Mathews headed in a goal in the 54th minute, turning an errant clearance attempt by Louisville into a no-doubter Atlantic Coast Conference win. Thorvaldsdottir scored

for the fourth straight game, knocking in her seventh of the season in the 86th minute, while Ari Hudson scored her first career goal with 1:07 left in the game.

Now the Seminoles' attention shifts to Sunday's huge 4 p.m. matchup with No. 2 Virginia (10-0).

"We can attack and we're good at keeping the ball," Williams said.

"It puts (teams) in a position where they're not sure how to defend. And that's always trouble."

# Seminoles open ACC play

FSU coming off a comeback victory against UConn

By Brian Miller  
Democrat correspondent

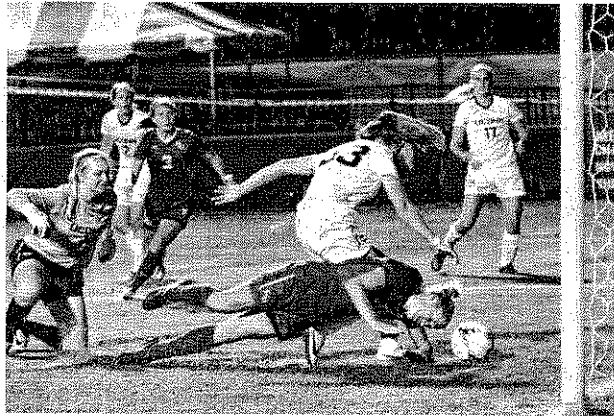
Yes, soccer is a game in which many games are decided by just a goal.

But the frequency of one playing another opponent in one-goal games over the course of a decade shows a pattern.

It's a trend the fifth-ranked Florida State soccer team (7-1) hopes to avoid or at least continue to stay on the winning side of as it visits No. 13 Boston College (7-2) tomorrow, following Thursday night's dramatic 3-2 win at Connecticut.

While the Huskies presented an interesting direct-ball approach to conquer first, the Eagles are a perennial challenge with their dynamic, gritty offense. The last eight regular season games between the Seminole and Eagles have been decided by a goal or less with FSU winning seven. Surrounding 'Noles coach Mark Krikorian's arrival 10 years ago, the Atlantic Coast Conference foes played in two scoreless ties.

"My sense is our kids understand what we're going into and what the environment will be, the quality of the opponent, the physical and mental strength needed," said Krikorian, not unfamiliar with northeast soccer having grown up playing



STEVE MUSCO

FSU's Kristin Grubka's diving header lifted the Seminole past the Huskies.

and coaching in New England. "It comes down to a special player making a special play to change the outcome of a game. Whether that's on our side or our opponent's side, that's how it often ends up."

With just three games in series history being won by more than a goal and FSU claiming wins in all, Boston College might seem a pushover. But the Eagles took the last game in Chestnut Hill, Mass., by jumping out to a 3-1 lead. FSU won 4-0 in a rematch in the 2012 ACC Tournament.

"The ACC is very intense. We can't take any game lightly," said Marta Bakowska-Mathews, who compiled a three-goal game last Sunday against Stetson which earned her national and ACC Player of the Week honors. "It brings a new intensity compared to schools in other conferences."

Last year, Bakowska-

Mathews pounded home a penalty kick in the 82nd minute and Florida State came back from a 2-0 half-time deficit to win its home game, 4-3. It later ousted Boston College from the NCAA Tournament with a 4-0 home win, and in the process advanced to the College Cup.

"It's essential that with every chance we get we score or come very close to scoring," Bakowska-Mathews said. "If we do come close to scoring, we may get the confidence to score on another chance. That affects them, because we are down their throats trying to beat them."

Dagny Brynjarsdottir has scored twice in matches against the Eagles, while Kristin Grubka and Carson Pickett also have goals. One thing Bakowska-Mathews pointed out is that in these contests, especially on the road, it's important that FSU be the aggressor. Af-

ter all, it is the premier soccer school, not necessarily the other way around, at least in the Seminole minds.

"We keep our style the same and we make sure we can dominate with ours before they can dominate with theirs," Bakowska-Mathews said. "It's important we know what the other team has in their bag of tricks, but we also have to execute our best features on the field. We have some many weapons from the back to the front, we use that to our advantage."

Berglind Thorvaldsdottir scored twice, and Grubka recorded the game winner with an on-the-ground header in a comeback against the Huskies. Between Connecticut and Boston College, which chooses to be aggressive and plays to feet, this is an ideal weekend of preparation for FSU.

"Boston College has great forwards, and if their kids can turn and face you, it's very dangerous," Krikorian said. "It will be a chess match. We have to stay tight to their front kids and not let them turn and face."

"This is really good for us. Just like our trip to Oklahoma, two different playing styles, or playing Florida. Now getting into ACC play, we will have seen a lot of different things. Seeing all these different styles will only help us as the season goes on if we learn the right lessons."

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## Women's weekend preview: Sept. 19-21

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)  
Published: September 19, 2014

[COMMENT](#)

Critical conference matchups begin this weekend, as ACC play kicks off across the Eastern seaboard.

And while a decent chunk of the premier games this weekend reside there, other big games are on the docket as well. Below is a look at five matches to watch.

### No. 23 Michigan (6-2-0) at Maryland (3-2-1), Friday, Sept. 19, 4 p.m. (BTN Plus)

Seeing Maryland in the Big Ten is still a new and somewhat weird experience, no matter the collegiate sport. And after an opening weekend win against Rutgers (another new Big Ten team) last week the Terps welcome the Michigan sides to town this weekend, starting with this matchup against the Wolverines. Jonathan Morgan's side has a chance to make a statement to the rest of the conference if they were to pick up the full array of points.

The Terps are flying under the radar a bit after opening the season with losses to UCLA and Pepperdine, two teams that are among the best in the country. Eight different players have found the back of the net, and goalkeeper [Rachelle Beanlands](#) has conceded only two goals in the last four games. Michigan travels on the road for the second time this season. The first trip to the west coast didn't go so well. They lost twice in San Diego at the end of August and were outscored 8-0. Freshman goalkeeper [Megan Hinz](#) has seized control of the starting spot in goal, and they are fresh off the momentum of beating Wisconsin last weekend.



Murielle Tiernan

### No. 19 Clemson (7-0-1) at No. 3 Virginia Tech (9-0-0), Friday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m. (ESPN3.com/WatchESPN)

Is this the year Clemson takes a step forward in the ACC? The Tigers are unbeaten through eight non-conference games but face their most difficult test of the season with a trip to Blacksburg.

The Hokies have been a dominant force this season, outscoring opposition 36-3 so far in nine games, as 14 different players have notched a goal. Sophomore forward [Murielle Tiernan](#)'s seven strikes lead the way, but [Shannon Mayrose](#) and freshman forward [Alani Johnson](#) have also emerged as weapons. Clemson netminder [Kailen Sheridan](#) is sure to be busy in an attempt to keep the Tigers in the game, though the Tigers offense has been fairly strong this season behind outbursts from the likes of [Tori Andreski](#) and [Catrina Atanda](#). It's hard to see Clemson keeping up with the Hokies if this becomes a high-scoring affair, so they'll aim to keep it close.

### No. 10 North Carolina (3-2-1) at No. 15 Notre Dame (5-2-1), Saturday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m. (ESPN3.com/WatchESPN)

The ACC opener is big for both of these sides, as each continues to forge an identity in 2014. North Carolina's attack has sputtered at times, as head coach Anson Dorrance tries to unlock the right combination in the final third. He certainly has plenty of weapons to call upon, including YNT stalwarts like [Amber Munerlyn](#), [Summer Green](#), [Megan Buckingham](#) and [Emily Bruder](#).

Defensively, things have been pretty sound, with the team conceding just three goals in six games so far. It should be a tricky trip to South Bend for them, as the Irish have the same, if not more talent to send out on the field. [Cari Roccaro](#), [Morgan Andrews](#) and [Katie Naughton](#) form a stout spine capable of dominating the center of the field, while [Lauren Bohaboy](#) has three goals on the season. Andrews star continues to shine as she leads the team with three goals and three assists, and she'll look to make an impression against a UNC midfield that will look to press her and limit her time on the ball.

### No. 5 Florida State (7-1-0) at No. 17 Boston College (7-2-0), Sunday, Sept. 21, 1 p.m.

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#### PLAYER RANKINGS

Club (B) Club (G) College (M) College (W)  
Freshmen National



[Morgan Brian](#)  
Midfielder  
Senior  
St. Simons Island, GA  
[Virginia](#)

		CLASS	POSITION
2	<a href="#">Abby Dahkemper</a>	SR	D
3	<a href="#">Sarah Killion</a>	SR	MF
4	<a href="#">Dagny Brynjarsdottir</a>	SR	MF
5	<a href="#">Kadeisha Buchanan</a>	SO	D
6	<a href="#">Daphne Corboz</a>	SR	MF
7	<a href="#">Sabrina D'Angelo</a>	SR	GK
8	<a href="#">Makenzy Doniak</a>	JR	F
9	<a href="#">Jaelene Hinkle</a>	SR	D
10	<a href="#">Savannah Jordan</a>	SO	F

[View complete list >>](#)





The loss of [Casey Morrison](#) and [McKenzie Meehan](#) could've spelled doom for the Eagles' 2014 campaign. And while it is sure to sting now that the ACC schedule is here, BC's strong start has certainly helped build momentum to this point in the season. Defense has been the key strength as well, conceding just one goal in its last six games before a Thursday night loss, while Haley Dowd and [Stephanie McCaffrey](#) have combined for 12 goals and eight assists so far. Can they shackle the Seminole attack? Both teams will enter Sunday's encounter having played Friday night, so depth will be a factor, something that is sure to slightly favor FSU. Icelandic midfielder [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#) has stepped up her goal-scoring game this season with six from five games so far, and is going to be the focus of the ever-improving BC defense.

**No. 12 Pepperdine (6-1-1) at No. 18 USC (5-0-2), Sunday Sept. 21, 3:30 p.m. (Pac-12 Network)**

Head coach Keidane McAlpine's start at the helm of USC has featured seven games without a loss, including a win over Notre Dame in South Bend. The next biggest test comes this weekend against Pepperdine, which has quickly shot up most national polls thanks to a hot start of its own. A balanced offensive effort has helped the winning start, as six players have scored at least two goals or more, including Alex Quincey with five and [Jamie Fink](#) with four.

Only two shutouts over the first seven games have to be at least of some concern to McAlpine, whose team will need to be better at the back in order to shackle [Lynn Williams](#). The senior, who has already come through in the clutch on more than one occasion for the Waves, has five goals on the year, three of which won games. [Hannah Seabert](#)'s strong play in goal has helped, as she's conceded just five goals on the year and notched four shutouts.

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## Soccer America Women's Top 25 Scoreboard

September 18th, 2014 11:42PM

**[ROUNDUP: Midweek]** No. 6 Florida State overcame a 2-0 deficit on U.S. U-20 Rachel Hill's 10th and 11th goals of the season to beat Connecticut, 3-2.

Carson Pickett had assists on all three Seminole goals, the first two by Berglind Thorvaldsdottir and the winner by Kristin Grubka on a diving header (photo).



Photo by Steven Musco/Florida State University

-- **Shea Groom** notched the second hat trick of her career to lead the No. 13 Texas A&M to a 3-0 win over Tennessee in the SEC opener for both squads.

-- **Abby Reed** scored twice after intermission to lead No. 18 DePaul to a 3-1 win Cincinnati that set a program record. The 8-0-1 record is the longest undefeated streak in DePaul history, eclipsing the eight-game streak from last season.

### Women's Top 25, Results:

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

Connecticut 2 #6 Florida State 3

#13 Texas A&M 3 Tennessee 0

#18 DePaul vs. Cincinnati

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# Bakowska-Mathews nets first career hat trick in No. 5 FSU win against Stetson

Florida State Athletics  
 Last Updated - Sep 14, 2014 17:32 EDT  
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**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Fifth-ranked Florida State (6-1-0) received a hat trick from Marta Bakowska-Mathews and the Seminoles posted their fourth shutout of the season as FSU rolled to a 7-0 victory against Stetson (1-6-1) on Sunday afternoon inside the Seminole Soccer Complex.

"We had to come out and have good concentration from start to finish," Florida State head coach Mark Krikorian said. "And I thought for the most part we did that today."

"Stetson came in here and battled very hard; credit to them, they gave a very good effort. Our kids did what they had to do, scoring a couple goals reasonably early and then playing good, solid defense through the course of the match."

Bakowska-Mathews scored the first two goals of the game in the seventh and 15th minute before completing the hat trick with her third goal of the afternoon in 56th minute to give the Seminoles a 4-0 advantage. The senior midfielder set career-highs for points (6) and goals (3) in the game and became the first Seminole to register a hat trick since Tiffany McCarty scored three times at Clemson on September 22, 2011.

"It feels very good, it's my first-ever hat trick," added Bakowska-Mathews. "I'm just glad that I could do that for my team this afternoon. The crosses that came in were good balls and it was my job to finish them."

"I was happy for Marta," added Krikorian. "We know that Marta has very good quality with the ball and in and around the goal. She can score a lot of goals in a lot of different ways and she proved that today."

Jamia Fields and Kacy Scarpa finished with two assists apiece, while Cheyna Williams recorded her first multi-point game as a Seminole with a goal and an assist in the win. For Fields, it marked her fifth career two-assist game and first in 2014. The assists for Scarpa were the first of her career and first points as a Seminole.

Berglind Thorvaldsdottir scored a pair of goals, one in each half, for her third career multi-goal performance.

The seven goals by Florida State were the most in a game since matching that total in a 7-0 victory over Clemson at home on October 4, 2012.

FSU outshot Stetson 28-2 in the match as the Hatters were held without a shot until the 77th minute when Brianne Boldrin put a shot on frame but it was easily handled by Seminole keeper Cassie Miller, who picked up her fourth shutout of the year.

Dating back to the first half of Monday's night match against St. John's, the Seminole defense went a span of 160:09 without allowing a shot from their opponent.

"Defending starts with the highest player on the field and goes right through the goal keeper," said Krikorian. "We have done a good job defending and when we minimize opportunities at our goal, we will be successful. Overall, we are very pleased with our team defending."



**FSU Soccer**  
@FSU\_Soccer

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Final 7-0 Seminoles over Stetson  
 Marta Bakowska-Mathe with the hat-trick!  
 Shots 28-2  
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3:00 PM - 14 Sep 2014 Tallahassee Central, FL, United States

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| FLORIDA STATE WOMEN'S SOCCER |

# Seminoles welcome in new players

FSU on the road  
to Oklahoma

**By Brian Miller**

Democrat correspondent

The road traveled to Tallahassee, ready to play for the second-ranked Florida State soccer team, is a different stretch of pavement for all.

Seminoles junior forward Cheyna Williams arrived on campus in January, a transfer from Vanderbilt looking for better professional development and a winning culture. It wasn't a slight on the Commodores, rather a patient, contemplative look at her positioning for the future.

"I needed to surround myself with the best players I could be around in order to become the best," said Williams, who scored her first goal as a Seminole this past weekend in a win over Minnesota.

Williams was a first-team Southeastern Conference performer as a sophomore, scoring 16 goals for a team that won just four games in 2013. But it was during her freshman season that the Atlanta native began thinking of leaving Nashville for an academic program with a focus on English and media. Additionally, there was the allure of playing in the soccer-rich Atlantic Coast Conference.

"Once we were all on the same page of knowing what the ultimate goal is, nothing else mat-

tered and no one cared that I was at Vanderbilt," Williams said. "Once you step on the field, if you're doing well, you get respect. It doesn't take long if you do what you're supposed to do and are contributing."

It's an interesting piece of the puzzle for FSU coach Mark Krikorian, who needed a strong, dynamic forward to play up top. He's also started freshman Emma Koivisto, a defender and midfielder from Finland who plays on her country's full national team and has been competing internationally since she was 15.

Krikorian woke one morning to an inquiring email from Williams. Koivisto was part of the many recruiting trips he took overseas this summer. Of course, it helps when the internationally-laced Florida State program is known around the world, and Koivisto had to look no further than former Seminole star Sanna Talonen for an example of Finnish-to-American success.

Krikorian likened it to striking gold. The 'Noles (2-0) take their new parts on their first road trip of the year to the nation's heartland, playing Oklahoma State (0-2) today and Oklahoma (1-0-1) Sunday.

"They bring positive elements into our game, obviously Cheyna with her speed up top or Emma being good with the ball," senior defender Kristin Grubka said.

LOCAL BRIEFS

# Koivisto lifts Seminoles over Cowboys

Democrat staff report

Freshman Emma Koivisto found a great time to score her first career goal as the Finnish native one-timed a long throw-in by Megan Campbell in the second overtime as second-ranked Florida State (3-0-0) came from behind to defeat Oklahoma State (0-3-0) 2-1 Friday evening inside the Cowgirl Soccer Complex.

Trailing 1-0 after the 33rd minute, the Seminoles finally found the equalizer in the 81st minute on a goal by senior captain Dagny Brynjarsdottir. The Icelandic na-

tive one-timed a rebound off a deflected shot by Kristin Grubka inside the left post to tie the match at 1-1.

The Seminoles almost capped off the comeback from behind victory in regulation when a header by Brynjarsdottir was saved off the line by Cowgirl defender Lauren Reyes to force overtime between the two schools for the second straight year.

Neither team could muster much offense in the second overtime until Campbell and Koivisto connected on the golden goal in the 105th minute.

Campbell heaved a long throw just inside the six-yard box that Koivisto ran in on and one-timed the shot into the back of the net for her first goal as a Seminole.

Florida State finished the match out shooting Oklahoma State 38-5 including 21-1 in the second half and 6-2 in overtime. The Seminoles took 10 corners to just three by the Cowgirls.

OSU keeper Rosa Medina finished with a career-high 13 saves, while Cassie Miller finished with one save in 105 minutes.

The Seminoles return

to action on Sunday when they travel to Norman to face Oklahoma at 2 p.m.

## FSU cross country

Utilizing its season-opening meet to get a glimpse at the Atlantic Coast Conference Championships course, the nationally-ranked Florida State men's and women's cross country teams accomplished that portion of the mission and picked up some victories to boot.

With its top runners working together in a pack at less than all-out pace, the third-ranked Florida State women

were able to post a 4-1 record against the field at the UVa Duals on the testy Panorama Farms course.

Veterans Linden Hall, Colleen Quigley, Pippa Woolven and Georgia Peel claimed finishing spots 5-8, in that order, as the crossed the line at the end of the non-traditional 4000-meter course within a second of one another, between 14:29 and 14:30.

Freshman Chelsea Jarvis was 13th overall (14:50), followed by red-shirt freshman Bridget Blake in 15th (14:54).

FSU men's coach Bob Braman chose a similar tactic with his team,

which did not include a single runner who competed at last year's NCAA South Region meet for the Seminoles, who are ranked No. 24 nationally.

Tyler Udland (12:43), Glen Yarham (12:43), Otaniel Teixeira (12:44), Anthony Taylor (12:46), Stanley Linton (12:46) and Bryce Kelley (12:54) streamed across the finish in positions 6-11, leading the Seminoles to a 3-1 record.

Virginia handed FSU its lone loss by a narrow 26-29 margin, while the 'Noles topped Duke (25-30), Norfolk State (15-30) and Liberty (15-30).

| LOCAL BRIEFS |

# Seminoles edge past Sooners, 1-0

Democrat staff reports

Second-ranked Florida State received a first half-goal from Dagny Brynjarsdottir as the Seminoles blanked Oklahoma (2-1-1) 1-0 Sunday afternoon inside the OU Soccer Complex in Norman, Okla.

The Seminoles completed the weekend sweep of Oklahoma State and Oklahoma to remain undefeated on the year as FSU improved to 4-0-0.

Brynjarsdottir gave the Seminoles the early

lead finding the back of the net in the 23rd minute for her third goal of the season.

The goal came off a long throw-in from Megan Campbell as the Irish native heaved the ball inside the six-yard box that skipped over a line of players and right to a wide open Brynjarsdottir who finished the play with an easy header into the back of the net.

The Seminoles return to action on Friday as they welcome state rival Florida at 7 p.m.

## FSU volleyball

The 13th-ranked Florida State indoor volleyball team (2-0) picked up its second win in the AVCA Showcase as it swept Iowa State (0-2) on Sunday, 3-0 at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames.

Once again, junior outside hitter Nicole Walch spearheaded the Seminole attack with 18 kills, hitting for .469 percent.

The Seminoles were big on the net with 14 total team blocks. Sophomore middle blocker Sarah

Burrington tallied eight block assists, while Walch earned three in addition to one solo. Junior Kiara Wright registered a solo block on top of her four block assists.

Sophomore outside hitter Katie Horton helped with four block assists and nine kills while red-shirt junior Mercedes Vaughn was there for three block assists and four kills.

The Seminoles return to Tully Gym on Thursday to play No. 10 Florida at 6 p.m.

## Seminoles win on blast with one second to spare

August 23rd, 2014 4:42AM

**[FLORIDA STATE-PORTLAND: Women]** The clock at Seminole Soccer Complex showed one second remaining in regulation when a 30-yard shot by Icelandic **Berglind Thorvaldsdottir** gave No. 2 Florida State a 1-0 win over No. 18 Portland to conclude a hot and humid night in Tallahassee.

### Florida State 1 Portland 0:

FSU: B.Thorvaldsdottir (Morgan Kennedy) 45

Att.: 1,624.

"We won the ball and I saw the goalkeeper was real ahead of the line," said Thorvaldsdottir. "I thought, Hey, I'm going to go for it. And I did and it scored."

The Seminoles finished the game with a 23-8 edge in shots, but a strong game by keeper **Hanna De Haan** and the UP defense kept the game scoreless until Thorvaldsdottir's goal.

"I give an awful lot of credit to Portland, coming in here, playing in the heat and humidity, and battling and making it very difficult for us," Florida State head coach **Mark Krikorian** said. "We started off a little slow, a little bit sluggish and then as we started to play a little bit we started to get better rhythm in the run of play. But we will have to be a bit better in the penalty box and in and around the goal as we move on this season."

August 21, 2014

FLORIDA STATE ATHLETICS |

# Seminoles blank No. 11 Pilots in opener

FSU home unbeaten streak at 36 games

FSU Sports Information

One goal and just one second on the clock was all Florida State needed Friday night as the second-ranked Seminoles opened the 2014 season with a 1-0 victory over No. 11 Portland 1,624 inside the Seminole Soccer Complex.

"I give an awful lot of credit to Portland, coming in here, playing in the heat and humid-

ity, and battling and making it very difficult for us," Florida State head coach Mark Krikorian said. "We started off a little slow, a little bit sluggish and then as we started to play a little bit we started to get better rhythm in the run of play."

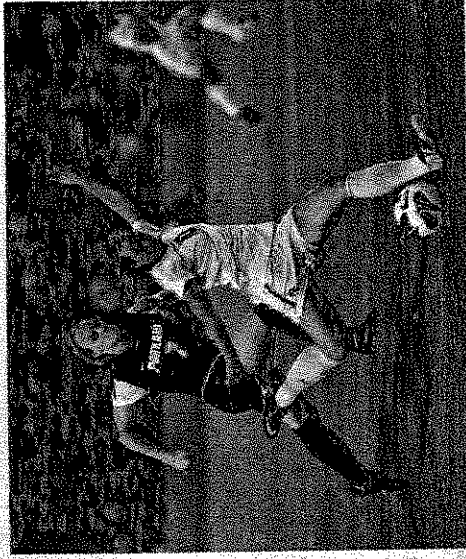
With the clock winding down late in the first half, Berglind Thorvaldsdottir took a pass from Morgan Kennedy and fired a long shot from about 30 yards out that beat Portland keeper Hanna De Haan for what would be the only goal of the game. The ball crossed the plain of the goal just under the

crossbar with one second left in the half to give the Noles the lead heading into the locker room.

"We won the ball and I saw the goalkeeper was real ahead of the line," said Thorvaldsdottir. "I thought, hey I'm going to go for it. And I did and it scored."

The goal would hold up as the Seminoles extended their school-record home unbeaten streak to 36 games (35-0-1) following Friday night's victory. Florida State also improved to

See **SOCCER** » 5D



LARRY NOVEY/SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT  
Florida State sophomore Berglind Thorvaldsdottir (10) scored the lone goal of the Seminoles' season opener.

» This morning: Watch video from Florida State's annual Kickoff Luncheon.

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14-5-1 all-time on opening day including a mark of 9-1-1 when opening at home.

"It felt great," added redshirt sophomore defender Kirsten Crowley on playing in front of the home crowd. "I mean, the crowd was awesome and it was a great atmosphere. It was easy to get motivated tonight."

Florida State has now played in 17 one-goal games dating back to the start of last year with the Seminoles claiming 15 victories including eight by a 1-0 decision.

The Seminoles finished the game out shooting the Pilots 23-8 including 16-4 in the second half. Florida State also held the edge in corner kicks at 8-3.

Florida State looked to add more in the second half but was denied by De Haan and a pair of clutch team saves by Portland's defense.

In the 52nd minute, Kristin Grubka found a streaking Cheyna Williams down the middle of the field. The junior transfer beat the keeper to the ball as her touch carried her to the end line. Williams recovered in time to put a shot on goal but a Pilot defender was there to keep the ball out of the back of the net.

Twenty minutes later another team save by Portland kept the Seminole lead at 1-0. This time it was Nickolette Driesse that beat De Haan with a

low liner toward the far post but Ellie Boon came out of nowhere to make a tremendous save before the ball crossed the line.

Less than six minutes later, a header by Grubka off a corner kick from Isabella Schmid was saved off the far post by De Haan.

On the other side of the net, Cassie Miller earned her first collegiate victory and shutout as the redshirt freshman keeper made to two saves in 90 minutes of action against the Pilots.

The Seminole defense, led by Grubka, Crowley, Emma Koivisto, Schmid and Carson Pickett, was stellar on Friday night limiting the Pilots to just two shots on goal.

"I think we played really well tonight," said Crowley. "We had a bunch of chances and I think when we go back and watch the film, we will tweak a couple things."

Florida State is back in action on Sunday, August 24 as the Seminoles host Minnesota at 1 p.m.

## FSU Volleyball

Before the 13th-ranked Florida State indoor volleyball team heads to Lincoln, Neb., for its season opener against No. 7 Nebraska, the Seminoles will divide into two squads for the annual Garnet versus Gold scrimmage today at 1 p.m. in Tully Gym.

Following the scrimmage, players will be autographing posters in the Tully Gym lobby.

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## Women's weekend preview: Top 5 matches

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)  
Published: August 22, 2014

[COMMENT](#)

The women's college soccer season is back.

After another offseason full of restocking, retooling and rebuilding rosters, the 2014 women's Division I soccer campaign hits the ground running with some high-quality encounters over the coming weekend.

Below is a preview of the action:

*Top 5 Matches to Watch (All times EST)*

### No. 17 Notre Dame at Illinois, Friday, Aug. 22, 1 p.m.

A new era in South Bend kicks off in Illinois, as head coach Theresa Romagnolo coaches her first regular season game with the Fighting Irish. There's no question that she has the talent at her disposal to go far, with the likes of [Morgan Andrews](#), [Katie Naughton](#) and [Cari Roccaro](#) at her disposal against an Illini side that will be hungry to open up with a win at home. What senior forward [Jannelle Flaws](#) can do for an encore after her 23-goal campaign in 2013, especially against what should be a stout Irish defense, makes this a game worth watching.

### No. 7 Stanford at No. 8 North Carolina, Friday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m. (ESPN3.com)

What better way for head coach Paul Ratcliffe to test his young but talented team that traveling to Chapel Hill for a matchup with the Tar Heels? The Cardinal opens the season in tough fashion, and will look to secure a positive result against a Carolina team that is going to look a lot different. Kealia Ohai and Crystal Dunn are the big pieces that moved on, but so did center back Megan Brigman and goalkeeper Anna Sieloff, who were both significant contributors last year.

### No. 13 Portland at No. 2 Florida State, Friday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.

Road tests between perennial programs are a recurring theme this weekends, and the Pilots are amongst those facing stiff tests away from home. Portland will hope sophomore scorers [Allison Wetherington](#) and [Danica Evans](#) can get going against a Seminole side introducing [Cheyna Williams](#) to the front line, while midfield maestro [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#) can make an early statement in the Hermann race.

### No. 10 West Virginia at No. 11 Penn State, Friday, Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Looking to return to the summit of the Big Ten, the Nittany Lions open up the season at home against a gritty and tough Mountaineers squad. Penn State added the No. 2 ranked recruiting crop, but have plenty of experience and talent to rely on in [Emily Hurd](#), [Whitney Church](#), [Raquel Rodriguez](#) and [Mallory Weber](#). West Virginia boast Canadian talents [Kadeisha Buchanan](#) and [Ashley Lawrence](#) who can help out in different pockets of the field, while [Kate Schwindel](#) bolsters the offense in her senior season.

### California at No. 14 Santa Clara, Sunday, Aug. 24, 4 p.m.

A matchup closer to home for these programs, both lost significant seniors and will look for a big win to build momentum early in the season. [Sofia Huerta](#) remains as the Broncos most dangerous attacker, while California gets to trot out its strong recruiting class that includes [Indigo Gibson](#) and Norwegian midfielder [Guro Bergsvand](#).

#### Player to Watch

With Dunn and Ohai gone, who guides the offense for North Carolina? Contenders include 2013 contributors [Amber Munerlyn](#) and [Summer Green](#), both who should prove to be dangerous weapons for Anson Dorrance's team this fall. But sophomore [Jo Boyles](#) is the one to keep an eye on this weekend against Stanford and Ohio State, as she could be another star in the making at Chapel Hill.

#### Team of the Weekend

Look no further than the aforementioned Cardinal, which opens the season with a very difficult trip out east for games against North Carolina and Duke. It'll be an early measuring stick for Stanford, which lost a

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### PLAYER RANKINGS

	Club (B)	Club (G)	College (M)	College (W)
	Freshmen		National	
		Morgan Brian	Midfielder	Senior
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8	Makenzy Doniak	JR	F	
9	Jaelene Hinkle	SR	D	
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couple of pieces but added the consensus No. 1 recruiting class and can make a statement with a strong pair of outings in North Carolina.

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xavierparent — Will Walker and Eric Osswald at Xavier are both Crew Soccer Academy alumni. Osswald was named ...

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Coach — Agree - not much work done on power rankings

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brian — Unfortunately for the UCSB-UCLA fixture, summer classes at SB ended over a week ago, and fall quarter move in is ...

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john — There wasn't any mention of #3 CSA U15G going to Florida and losing 3-1 to West Florida Flames. That was a ...

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## Florida State heads deep conference field

by **Paul Kennedy**, August 22nd, 2014 2:26AM

**[PREVIEW: ACC Women]** There was little doubt in the minds of NCAA Tournament selectors which was the best women's conference in 2013 as all four No. 1 regional seeds went to ACC schools and eight ACC teams were included in the 64-team field, the most of any conference. That dominance should continue as ACC teams hold down the 2-5 spots in the Soccer America Preseason Top 25: Florida State, Virginia, North Carolina and Virginia Tech.

Of the four No. 1 regional seeds in 2013, only Carolina, a loser to eventual champion UCLA, didn't reach the College Cup. But six of the eight quarterfinalists were ACC teams. Besides Florida State, the runner-up to UCLA, and Virginia and Virginia Tech, College Cup semifinalists, North Carolina, Boston College and Duke made the final eight. And all eight ACC teams made it to the third round.

How tough was it to beat an ACC team? Besides UCLA, which defeated Carolina, Virginia and FSU en route to its first title, only one team, Michigan, managed to oust an ACC team as the Wolverines earned a 1-0 win over Notre Dame in the round of 16.

This year, Florida State has been chosen to repeat as the ACC women's champion in a vote by the league's 14 head coaches. The Seminoles received eight first-place votes, followed by Virginia with five and North Carolina with one.

FSU, which will face No. 18 Portland in the season opener on Friday, returns nine starters and all seven players who registered double-digit points a season ago, including Icelandic international **Dagny Brynjarsdottir**, who led the team in goals with 14, and Irish international **Megan Campbell**, who had a team-leading 13 assists.

Virginia will be led by 2013 Soccer America Player of the Year **Morgan Brian**, who played for the USA in Wednesday's 4-1 win over Switzerland. She isn't the only standout back from the Cavs' 24-1-1 season, though. **Danielle Colaprico**, **Makenzy Doniak**, **Brittany Ratcliffe** combined with Brian for 53 goals and 36 assists last season.

Heavy graduation losses are left their mark on UNC, which had the top two players selected in the NWSL college draft: **Crystal Dunn** and **Kealia Ohai**. Adding to the Tar Heel concerns are injuries. **Alexa Newfield** and **Hanna Gardner** are currently sidelined with knee ailments, and **Caitlin Ball** retired because of repeated concussions. Missing from preseason were **Summer Green** and **Katie Bowen**, who represented the USA and New Zealand, respectively, at the Under-20 Women's World Cup.

Virginia Tech, Duke, Notre Dame, Wake Forest and Boston College came in at 4-8 in the ACC preseason poll. The rest of the conference poll consisted of Clemson, newcomer Louisville, Syracuse, Miami, Fla., N.C. State and Pitt. (Maryland has left the ACC for the Big Ten.)

Other players to watch in the ACC will be Duke defender **Christina Gibbons** and Notre Dame midfielder **Cari Roccaro** -- both members of the U.S. U-20 Women's World Cup team -- as well as Boston College's **Stephanie McCaffrey**, Virginia Tech's **Ashley Meier** and Clemson's **Kailen Sheridan**, all singled out on the Preseason All-ACC Team.

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## 2014 ACC women's soccer preview

Article Written by [Travis Clark](#)  
Published: August 19, 2014

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### Atlantic Coast

*Brief Conference Bio (2013 honors):*

**Conference Tournament Champions:** [Florida State](#)  
**Offensive Player of the Year:** Crystal Dunn, [North Carolina](#)  
**Defensive Player of the Year:** Kasey Kallman, [Florida State](#)  
**Freshman of the Year:** [Morgan Andrews](#), [Notre Dame](#)  
**Coach of the Year:** Steve Swanson, [Virginia](#)

*Teams (2013 overall, conference record):*

#### Virginia (24-1-1, 13-0-0)

The Cavaliers had a record-setting season in 2013 with 78 goals and a goal differential of +62 overall. A loss in the NCAA semifinals and being bounced from the ACC tournament left UVA without postseason hardware. Midfield maestro and reigning Hermann Trophy winner [Morgan Brian](#) is back for her fourth year, though if she's involved with the full U.S. Women's National Team her availability might be slightly limited. Speedster [Makenzy Doniak](#) is also back after her 20 goal campaign, as are defender [Emily Sonnett](#) and goalkeeper [Morgan Stearns](#). Head coach Steven Swanson does have his work cut out to come close to the heights of 2013 after losing eight players from last season to graduation.

#### Florida State (23-2-3, 10-1-2)

A third straight College Cup appearance didn't yield a national title, so head coach Mark Krikorian is ready for another run at postseason success. If there was one thing the Seminoles lacked last year it was a big-time forward to handle the scoring load. They have one now in Vanderbilt transfer [Cheyna Williams](#), who must show she can beat ACC defenders. While goalkeeper Kelsey Wys and defender Kasey Kallman are gone, there is plenty of quality back.

Midfielder [Dagny Brynjarsdottir](#) is a Hermann Trophy contender and an elegant and classy attacking mid who can score and set up teammates. Outside back [Megan Campbell](#) is a lockdown option on her side of the field, U.S. U20 mid [Nickolette Driesse](#) offers substantial depth and center back [Kristin Grubka](#) is poised to be the team's defensive leader.

#### North Carolina (20-5-0, 10-3-0)

Some big name departures from last season's team create a few issues the Tar Heels must address. Offensively, Kealia Ohai and Crystal Dunn and their 25 goals from last year are gone, while defensive contributors Anna Sieloff and Megan Brigman graduated. There is offense waiting in the wings, of course, given the level of past recruiting classes. It's a big opportunity for U.S. youth standout [Summer Green](#), in her junior season, to shine, while other young, promising attackers like [Emily Bruder](#), [Joanna Boyles](#), [Amber Munerlyn](#) and [Megan Buckingham](#) have plenty of talent and can pick up some of the scoring slack.

#### Virginia Tech (19-5-3, 9-3-1)

Last season was a special one for head coach Chugger Adair and his charges, making it all the way to the College Cup, only losing at the hands of ACC foes Florida State. Some big pieces from that team are gone, including explosive forward Jazmine Reeves and steady goalkeeper Dayle Colpitts. Quality remains that is capable of keeping the Hokies close to the ACC summit, including midfielders [Katie Jensen](#), [Ashley Meier](#), defender [Jordan Coburn](#) and rising sophomore standout [Murielle Tieman](#).



Dagny Brynjarsdottir

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10	<a href="#">Savannah Jordan</a>	SO	F	

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**Notre Dame (13-8-1, 7-5-1)**

Randy Waldrum's departure at the beginning of the calendar year was a shocking development, as he left to take over the head coaching role with NWSL side Houston Dash. Theresa Romagnolo landed the coveted role, coming over from the Ivy League looking to take a talented team close to the top of the ACC standings. Romagnolo inherits a stocked roster, which includes U.S. U20 WNT standouts [Katie Naughton](#) and [Cari Roccaro](#), who could reprise their role in central defense that they play for the USA.

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Midfielder [Morgan Andrews](#) is coming off a Freshman of the Year campaign and was named to the All-ACC Second Team, and is sure to be primed after being snubbed from the U20 World Cup roster. Also returning to help fire the offense is [Lauren Bohaboy](#), who tied Andrews for team lead with seven goals. Romagnolo has added the No. 6 ranked recruiting class, and there's no doubting that the roster has the required players to be in the mix in the rigorous ACC in 2014.

**Boston College (13-10-1, 6-6-1)**

A [freak injury](#) to rising junior forward [McKenzie Meehan](#) hangs over the 2014 season after it knocked her out of the U20 Women's World Cup. Forward [Stephanie McCaffrey](#) does return for her senior season, meaning there would be someone left to fill the void that Meehan's possible absence would leave. Sophomore forward [Hayley Dowd](#) is a candidate to help pick up Meehan's slack, should she miss a significant amount of time, while senior defender [Casey Morrison](#) is another key returning player.

**Duke (9-9-6, 5-5-3)**

Despite boasting an extremely deep and experienced team, the Blue Devils' 2013 campaign was slightly disappointing, finishing with a .500 record and battling some substantial injuries. However, they did come one loss shy of making the College Cup, and welcome in the No. 3 ranked recruiting class. This season will be determined by how the young stars step up to the plate, including sophomore Antoinette Payne, [Christina Gibbons](#) and [Rebecca Quinn](#). Newcomers like Imani Dorsey and Casey Martinez need to have a big impact offensively in order for [Duke](#) to contend in what is an always talented ACC.

**Wake Forest (12-7-2, 5-6-2)**

Like many of their peers, the Demon Deacons must replace a pair of All-American performers, as the graduations of Katie Stengel and Aubrey Bledsoe are big losses. Head coach Tony da Luz has been here before however, and welcomes in a solid freshmen class that should be able to plug holes. He also gets back midfielders [Sarah Teegarden](#), who is only a sophomore, and [Riley Ridgik](#), who is one of the team's most experienced and important players.

**Clemson (7-8-4, 4-7-2)**

Slowly but surely, head coach Eddie Radwanski has the Clemson Tigers climbing the standings in the ACC. After a couple of strong recruiting crops, is this the year the program takes another step forward? Bolstered in goal by sophomore netminder [Kailen Sheridan](#), and at the back by [Claire Wagner](#), the team conceded just 18 goals in 19 games. Scoring was troublesome, however, as the Tigers bagged half their season output of 28 in one game (a 14-0 win against Alabama A&M) and they were blanked seven times the rest of the season. Midfielder [Catrina Atanda](#) scored in both preseason games, perhaps a sign of things to come.

**Miami (FL) (9-8-1, 4-8-1)**

Heading into her second season in charge of the Hurricanes, Mary-Frances Monroe continues to put her stamp on the ACC program. Getting a big season out of senior forward [Ashley Flinn](#), who scored ten goals a year ago, is one of the keys to closing in on an NCAA tournament spot. An eight player recruiting class offers up a number of new faces, including English forward [Grace Rapp](#) and Canadian [Ronnie Johnson](#).

**Syracuse (7-11-1, 3-9-1)**

One of two newcomers to the conference in 2013, the Orange are another team looking to make a move in what will always be a crowded league. It's still a relatively young group featuring mostly freshmen and sophomores, but they bring back returning contributors [Erin Simon](#) and [Stephanie Skilton](#) who both should make a significant impact once again. Provided they can adjust and win a few more games in conference, [Syracuse](#) could be a surprise package in 2014.

**NC State (7-12-0, 2-11-0)**

Another program looking to jump-start a turnaround, head coach Tim Santoro's Wolfpack managed just a pair of wins in the ACC last season. The squad enters 2014 looking to improve behind the strength of a young but talented roster receiving an injection of newcomers like German youth national teamer Franziska Jaser, not to mention the return of sophomore [Jackie Stengel](#).

**Pittsburgh (4-14-1, 0-13-0)**

Second-year head coach Greg Miller rounds out the teams aiming for a rebuild, and he'll look to move a Pitt squad forward after a winless first season in the ACC. Improving both offensively and defensively is crucial after the team scored 13 goals and conceded 41 in 19 games last year. Twelve freshmen are on the roster, including four from north of the border in Canada. Will that move the needle?

**Louisville (12-5-2, 7-1-0)\***

Morgan Andrews

The addition of the Cardinals to the ACC should prove to be beneficial. Karen Ferguson-Dayes has done a good job in her tenure to help the program punch well above the .500 mark on a regular basis. The challenge of this move comes at an inopportune time with the graduation of 2014's top scorers Charlyn Corral and Christine Exeter. That leaves two big holes to fill, and the loss of 22 of the team's 48 goals from a year ago will also hurt. Midfielder [Erin Yenney](#) returns, and the addition of 12 newcomers will play a big role in this team's ability to compete with its new conference foes.

\*=*conference newcomer*

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CaliNiner — Lobos are going down Friday!

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Matadors Fan — I have to agree. I saw the CSUN/ Lobos game and the difference was the Lobo defense led by Nick Miele. He ...

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justsayin — Good for him and good luck!

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