

THIS IS...

# FLORIDA STATE

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL



### THE NATION'S NEWEST SPORT

- The NCAA added Beach Volleyball to its list of championship sports in 2016. It became the 90<sup>th</sup> and newest national championship sport recognized by the NCAA.
- The Seminoles reached the finals at the inaugural NCAA Championship in Gulf Shores, Ala., in May 2016, finishing with a school-record 32 wins as the national runner-ups.
- Florida State introduced what was then called sand volleyball as its 20<sup>th</sup> varsity sport in the spring of 2012 and competed as an emerging NCAA sport for four seasons.
- The sport changed names from sand to beach volleyball as it is known as the latter at all other levels of play throughout the world.
- Beach volleyball is the fastest-growing NCAA sport with 64 colleges and universities sponsoring the sport as of January 2017.

### AN ELITE PROGRAM

- Since the inception of the program in 2012, Florida State advanced to the AVCA Championships in each of its first five seasons and the first two NCAA Championships in 2016 and 2017.
- The Seminoles finished as the national runner-up in 2014, falling to Pepperdine, 3-2, in the finals. FSU registered a pair of top-3 finishes at the AVCA Championships in 2012 and 2013.
- Florida State is one of just two beach volleyball programs (along with Pepperdine) to have played in every AVCA/NCAA Championships (2012-17).
- Since 2012, FSU has been recognized with 11 AVCA

Beach All-America honors from eight different players. The Seminoles' eight All-Americans are tied for the third most nationally.

- Through its first six seasons, Florida State boasts an all-time mark of 126-27 (.824 winning percentage), including a program record 32 dual match victories in 2016.
- FSU has recorded 39 wins against ranked opponents dating back to the 2013 campaign, including 22 earned in the 2017 season.
- One of those ranked wins came against then-No. 2 Southern Cal in Los Angeles, as the Seminoles snapped the Women of Troy's 19-match home win streak.
- The Noles took down No. 2 Pepperdine for the first time in school history, 3-2, in Tallahassee during the 2017 season.
- FSU earned the No. 1 overall seed at the 2016 NCAA Beach Volleyball Championship after claiming the Coastal Collegiate Sports Association (CCSA) conference title.
- The Seminoles gathered their second consecutive CCSA Conference title in 2017 as they took down No. 10 FIU.

### NOLES IN CCSA

- Florida State became a charter member of the Coastal Collegiate Sports Association for beach volleyball only for prior to the start of the 2016 season.
- The Coastal Collegiate Sports Association expanded to 10 members in 2017, welcoming College of Charleston and UNC Wilmington to a league that also includes Florida State, UAB, Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Georgia State, LSU, South Carolina and Tulane.
- Florida State is the only school to sponsor beach volleyball in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

### ATTRACTING TOP TALENT

- Third-year head coach Brooke Niles earned third team All-America honors in indoor volleyball at UC Santa Barbara before moving on to a successful professional beach volleyball career. She was named 2009 AVP Beach Defensive Player of the Year and spent four seasons as a member of the USA Beach National Team.
- Niles was named the 2016 AVCA Coach of the Year as she piloted the Seminoles to a school-record 32 dual-match victories, the CCSA league championship and a No. 1 seed in the inaugural NCAA Beach Volleyball Championship.
- Assistant coach Raul Papaleo has a wealth of experience both internationally and domestically as an indoor and beach volleyball coach. As head coach, he led American University in Bayamon, Puerto Rico to a runner up finish in the Puerto Rican National Championship. During his first season as an assistant at FSU he helped lead the Noles to 29 wins and their second straight CCSA title.
- FSU Beach Volleyball has historically attracted some of the nation's best players to the program. Among those include 2016 AVCA All-American Sarah Putt, who transferred to FSU and will begin play in the 2017-18 campaign and 2016 CCSA Freshman of the year Francesca Goncalves.
- New to the team in 2018 is volunteer assistant coach Nick Lucena. As one of the top-ranked professional beach players in the country, Lucena brings a plethora of talent and experience to FSU's expert coaching staff.

**2012**  
AVCA National Championship  
Semifinalist

**2013**  
AVCA National Championship  
Semifinalist

**2014**  
ACVA National Championship  
Runner-Up

**2015**  
AVCA Tournament  
Finished Seventh

**2016**  
NCAA National Championship  
Runner-Up

**2017**  
NCAA Tournament  
Finished Fourth

**6**

Appearances at the NCAA and AVCA National Championships (2012-17) including runner-up finishes in 2014 and 2016

**26**

FSU has posted a 26-1 record at home since the program started in 2012.

**.817**

The Seminoles' all-time dual match winning percentage dating back to 2012.

**11**

The number of AVCA Beach All-American certificates Florida State has captured from from eight different players.

### AVCA ALL-AMERICANS

**Aurora Davis** 2012, 2014

**Jekaterina Stepanova** 2012

**Brittany Tiegs** 2012

**Sarah Wickstrom** 2013

**Jace Pardon** 2013, 2014, 2016

**Julie Brown** 2016

**Leigh Andrew** 2017

**Brooke Kuhlman** 2017



# FLORIDA STATE

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Through its first six seasons, Florida State boasts an all-time mark of 125-28 (.817 winning percentage), including a program record 32 dual match victories in 2016.

Florida State advanced to the AVCA Championships in each of its first five seasons and the NCAA Championship in 2016 and 2017.

FSU is just one of two beach volleyball programs (along with Pepperdine) to have played in the first four AVCA Championships (2012-15).

Since 2012, FSU has been recognized with 11 AVCA Beach All-America Honors from eight different players. The Seminoles' eight All-Americans are tied for the most all-time).

Niles was named the 2016 AVCA Coach of the Year as she piloted the Seminoles to a CCSA Championship, the top seed in the NCAA Beach Volleyball Championship and a school-record 32 dual match victories.