

WEEK TWELVE  
ALABAMA ST at FLORIDA ST

**Florida State routs Alabama St. to become bowl-eligible**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- In times of coaching uncertainty, Florida State has turned to long-time assistant Odell Haggins.

And for the second time in three years, the interim head coach has guided the Seminoles through a coaching transition.

James Blackman threw three touchdown passes and Khalan Laborn had two TD runs as Florida State defeated FCS Alabama State 49-12 on Saturday.

The Seminoles (6-5) are bowl-eligible under Haggins for the second time in three years. Haggins is 4-0 as an interim coach, first filling in at the end of the 2017 season after Jimbo Fisher left for Texas A&M and now after the dismissal of Willie Taggart on Nov. 3.

"We won't be in a New Year's Day bowl," said Haggins, who has been a Florida State assistant since 1994. "But we're going bowling. That's something we can build on as a university. And we're going to build on it."

Florida State saw its 36-year bowl streak end in 2018 when the team went 5-7. But now regardless of what happens in the regular-season finale at Florida in two weeks, the Seminoles will be back in the postseason.

Blackman tossed a 69-yard touchdown pass to Tamorrion Terry and a 39-yard touchdown pass to Tre'Shaun Harrison as the Seminoles racked up 525 yards on offense. The redshirt sophomore had 246 passing yards.

After an up and down season, Blackman has led the Seminoles to a road win over Boston College and now the victory over the Hornets (5-5) to help Florida State get to a bowl.

"It's a blessing that we are bowl-eligible right now and we just are going to keep striving," Blackman said. "We want to win out and we are going to keep going to work, working hard and putting our best foot forward and make sure we put ourselves in the best position to win out."

Laborn had 12 carries for 55 yards, filling in for injured tailback Cam Akers (hand). Backup quarterback Jordan Travis also had a 61-yard run as the Seminoles had 208 rushing yards.

KHA'Darris Davis threw for 262 yards, including a 34-yard TD pass to Jahod Booker for the Hornets (5-5). Booker had six receptions for 84 yards to lead Alabama State.

"We knew coming into the contest it was an uphill fight going against a very good football program, a Power 5," Alabama State coach Donald Hill-Eley said. "I'm just very impressed with my young men and how hard they fought for four quarters. They continued to fight even though we had things happen here and there. They have been showing resilience all year and today, if nothing else, we take away that these guys played hard for each other."

Hamsah Nasirildeen also had an 80-yard interception return for a touchdown and 11 tackles for the Seminoles.

**TAKEAWAYS**

Alabama State: The Hornets generated a touchdown and two field goals on their first seven drives but also missed two more field-goal attempts. They were able to build some long drives on a day when they were overmatched in talent.

Florida State: The Seminoles had played in 36 straight bowl games before the streak was snapped in 2018. Florida State paid Alabama State \$425,000 to play Saturday's game, and it was worth it for the program to be bowl-eligible in 2019.

**CAMPAIGN FOR HAGGINS**

Florida State players took to social media on Twitter in the week leading up to the game to thank Haggins for coaching the team but also to endorse him as a candidate for the permanent head coaching job. Administrators have not said who the candidates are, but players think Haggins is a good option.

"He's a great leader," defensive tackle Cory Durden said. "I feel like it wouldn't be as much of a coaching change. I feel like everybody has bought in, just within the two weeks that we've had him and he's been our coach. He has support from underclassmen to upperclassmen, so I feel like it's a no brainer with this coaching decision."

Final	1	2	3	4	T
ALST	3	3	6	0	12
FSU	14	7	14	14	49

**Scoring Summary -----**

	ALST	FSU
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
ALST FG 12:31 Hunter Hanson 19 Yd Field Goal		
7 plays, 49 yards, 2:29	3	0
FSU TD 12:22 Tamorrion Terry 69 Yd pass from James Blackman (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
1 play, 69 yards, 0:09	3	7
FSU TD 8:00 Khalan Laborn 4 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
8 plays, 60 yards, 2:14	3	14
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>		
FSU TD 11:55 Tre'Shaun Harrison 39 Yd pass from James Blackman (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
6 plays, 79 yards, 2:15	3	21
ALST FG 5:48 Hunter Hanson 35 Yd Field Goal		
12 plays, 47 yards, 6:07	6	21
<b>THIRD QUARTER</b>		
ALST TD 13:46 Jahod Booker 34 Yd pass from KHA'Darris Davis (Two-Point Run Conversion Failed)		
3 plays, 34 yards, 0:40	12	21
FSU TD 12:03 Khalan Laborn 1 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
4 plays, 41 yards, 1:35	12	28
FSU TD 1:02 Hamsah Nasirildeen 80 Yd Interception Return (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
8 plays, 26 yards, 4:31	12	35
<b>FOURTH QUARTER</b>		
FSU TD 9:45 D.J. Matthews 12 Yd pass from James Blackman (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
7 plays, 82 yards, 2:20	12	42
FSU TD 0:27 Deonte Sheffield 2 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
7 plays, 85 yards, 3:06	12	49

Team Stats	ALST	FSU
First Downs	21	15
Passes for First	10	8
Rushes for First	8	6
Penalties for First	3	1
Third Down Efficiency	8-20	5-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	1-1
Total Yards	350	525
Total Plays	80	56
Avg Gain Per Play	4.4	9.4
Net Yards Rushing	80	208
Rushes	36	27
Yards Per Rush	2.2	7.7
Net Yards Passing	270	317
Comp-Att	28-44	16-29
Yards Per Pass	6.1	10.9
Times Sacked	1	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-2	-10
Interceptions	2	1
Punts	5	4
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	5	7
Penalty Yards	50	65
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	40:40	19:20

**Individual Stats**

<b>RUSHING</b>							
ALABAMA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Ezra Gray	16	25	1.6	0	8		
Jacory Merritt	6	24	4.0	0	17		
Dante Norris	3	20	6.7	0	10		
Duran Bell	7	13	1.9	0	4		
KHA'Darris Davis	4	-2	-0.5	0	5		
FLORIDA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jordan Travis	4	69	17.3	0	61		
Khalan Laborn	12	55	4.6	2	16		
James Blackman	4	53	13.3	0	35		
Deonte Sheffield	7	31	4.4	1	17		
<b>PASSING</b>							
ALABAMA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
KHA'Darris Davis	27	39	262	6.7	1	1	--
Jett Even	1	5	8	1.6	0	1	--
FLORIDA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
James Blackman	13	22	246	11.2	3	1	93.9
Jordan Travis	3	7	71	10.1	0	0	89.5
<b>RECEIVING</b>							
ALABAMA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jahod Booker	6	84	14.0	1	34		
Michael Jefferson	5	67	13.4	0	18		
Duran Bell	4	35	8.8	0	20		
Ezra Gray	1	22	22.0	0	22		
Jimmy Ferrell	3	22	7.3	0	13		
Tyrek Allen	5	18	3.6	0	6		
Dante Norris	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Jacory Merritt	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Talesin Farmer	1	5	5.0	0	5		
Joshua Knight	1	3	3.0	0	3		
FLORIDA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Tre'Shaun Harrison	3	94	31.3	1	47		
Tamorrion Terry	4	90	22.5	1	69		
Gabe Nabers	2	68	34.0	0	63		
Keith Gavin	2	24	12.0	0	15		
Jordan Young	2	23	11.5	0	14		
D.J. Matthews	1	12	12.0	1	12		
Khalan Laborn	1	3	3.0	0	3		
Adarius Dent	1	3	3.0	0	3		