

*Carlson*

# FLORIDA STATE



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1958

BASEBALL HANDBOOK



# 1958 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL HANDBOOK

## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

LOCATION.....	Tallahassee
PRESIDENT.....	Dr. Robert M. Strozier
ENROLLMENT.....	7,500 (Coeducational)
COLORS.....	Garnet and Gold
NICKNAME.....	Seminoles
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS.....	Tom Nugent
BASEBALL COACH.....	Danny Litwhiler
ASSISTANT BASEBALL COACH.....	Ronald Melton
TRAINER.....	Don Fauls
SPORTS PUBLICITY DIRECTOR.....	Pat Hogan

## A SHORT LOOK AT THE SEASON

GAMES WON.....	20
GAMES LOST.....	5
TEAM BATTING AVERAGE.....	.296
TOTAL FSU RUNS.....	189
TOTAL OPPONENTS RUNS.....	93
NUMBER SHUTOUTS.....	2
TIMES FSU SHUTOUT.....	0
LEADING PITCHER.....	Frank Slusser (8-0)
LEADING HITTER.....	Owen McCarron (.365)

## SMOKE SIGNALS

Florida State makes an appearance in the NCAA's District 3 Playoffs for the third straight year...and this year the Seminoles are cast in the role of defending champions. Florida State swept through the 1957 Playoffs, losing only one game to gain the College World Series at Omaha, Nebr., where the Seminoles lost to Penn State and Connecticut.

Two Florida State players are ineligible this year because of the NCAA's three year eligibility rule. They are centerfielder Owen McCarron, who led the team in batting with a .365 average and set a new school record with 16 stolen bases, and pitcher Tom Garcia, holder of the FSU career strikeout mark with 161 and most wins in a career with 16.

Two other Florida State players--infielder Pfil Hunt and pitcher Dennis Midgette--were snapped up by the Los Angeles Dodgers early in the season. Hunt received a bonus reported to be about \$22,000.

At the close of the regular season, Florida State was carrying a 12-game winning streak--longest in the school's history--and had six regulars batting above .300. In addition to McCarron, they were catcher Bill Westendick (.352), outfielders Jerry Philp (.351) and Mike Copps (.337), All America shortstop Dick Howser (.325) and third baseman Dale Koch (.307). Florida State's pitchers had a combined earned run average of 2.466...Jack Bristol had the best ERA at 1.323. Frank Slusser had an 8-0 pitching record, a new individual mark at FSU, and he threw a no-hitter against the University of Miami.

Among Florida State's 20 victories were two over Southeastern Conference champion Auburn and a 3-2 triumph over Knoxville of the Class A South Atlantic League.



### COACH DANNY LITWHILER

The Collegiate Baseball Digest has described Florida State's Danny Litwhiler as one of the "most imaginative and dynamic" coaches in the country.

Litwhiler's record bears the statement out.

His Seminoles swept through a 25-game schedule this year, winning 20 and losing only five. They won their own invitational tournament for the third year in a row and closed their regular season with a 12-game winning streak, longest in the school's history.

Among their triumphs they numbered two over Southeastern Conference champion Auburn and two over 1957 College World Series entry Notre Dame.

Two of the five losses were by one run and the most impressive triumph was a 3-2 victory over Knoxville of the Class A South Atlantic League.

All sorts of FSU baseball records fell by the wayside as Litwhiler wound up the year with at least four All-America candidates.

In addition to 1957 first team All-America shortstop Dick Howser, Litwhiler thinks centerfielder Owen McCarron and pitchers Frank Slusser and Jack Bristol are of "definite All-America quality."

McCarron led the team at the plate with a .365 average and set a school record with 16 stolen bases. Slusser had a no-hitter on his 8-0 pitching record and Jack Bristol had an earned run average of 1.323 for 68 innings. His record was 5-2.

This year's won-lost total boosted Litwhiler's winning percentage to .769 for the four years he's been at Florida State. His teams have won 83 and lost 25.

The Florida State mentor has the perfect background to be a good baseball coach. He built up a vast storehouse of ideas during his major league playing days with the St. Louis Cardinals, Philadelphia Phillies, Cincinnati Reds, and the old Boston Braves.

He went down in the books for several outstanding performances before retiring as an active player in 1950. He batted safely in 21 straight games in his first major league season and belted a home run in every National League park in 1941.

## 2-Litwhiler

In 1942 Litwhiler became the first major-leaguer to play a complete errorless season. He accepted 317 chances in 151 games that year and over a period of two years set a record of playing 187 consecutive games without a miscue.

The glove Litwhiler used in that string was retired in Baseball's Hall of Fame.

In 1942 and 1943 he tied a National League record for the most years (two) leading in fielding percentage by an outfielder appearing in 100 or more games.

After retiring as an active player, Litwhiler coached Cincinnati in 1951 and has managed minor league clubs at Fargo, N. D., Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Jamestown, N. Y., and Duluth, Minn.

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### ASSISTANT COACH RONALD MELTON

A former standout catcher for the Seminoles (1949-52), Ronald Melton is thoroughly familiar with the diamond sport at Florida State. He's been guiding Seminole baseball players since 1955, when he came back to his alma mater as assistant baseball coach and assistant athletic business manager.

"Ronnie" was born in Alabama but is a long-time resident of Tallahassee.

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### TRAINER DON FAULS

Don Fauls, a native of Ithaca, N. Y., came to Florida State in 1954 and has done an outstanding job easing Seminole aches and pains. Fauls graduated from Ithaca College in 1948 with a degree in physio-therapy.

Don served as trainer of the Greensboro, N. C., Patriots of the Carolina Baseball League before joining the St. Louis Cardinals chain as a trainer at Omaha, Neb. He came to Florida State three years later.

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
1958 VARSITY BASEBALL ROSTER

<u>No.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POS.</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>HT.</u>	<u>WT.</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
20	AXON, Don	P	R	L	21	5-10	180	Jr.	Rochester, N. Y.
15	BAZZELL, Ray	2B	R	R	23	5-8	151	So.	Lynnhaven, Fla.
16	BRISTOL, Jack	P	R	L	21	6-1	185	Sr.	Sharon, Conn.
18	COPPS, Mike	RF	R	R	19	6-0	175	Jr.	Jacksonville, Fla.
23	COUCH, Jerry	OF	Sw	R	21	5-11	170	Jr.	Panama City, Fla.
11	DONNAWAY, Jerry	2B	R	R	20	5-7	144	So.	Pensacola, Fla.
17	EIGL, Rudy	P	R	R	19	5-11	180	Sr.	Kings Park, N. Y.
12	HOWSER, Dick (Capt.)	SS	R	R	20	5-8	150	Sr.	West Palm Beach, Fla.
21	KENNEY, Fred	P	R	R	20	6-3	170	Sr.	Springfield, Mass.
19	KOCH, Dale	3B	R	R	19	5-10	165	Jr.	Clearwater, Fla.
25	LANFORD, Ernie	SS	R	R	19	5-11	160	So.	Shellman, Ga.
28	MARTIN, Neil	OF	L	L	19	5-6	155	So.	St. Petersburg, Fla.
14	MCCORMICK, Gene	OF	L	R	22	5-9	150	So.	Miami, Fla.
27	NELSON, Carl	P	R	R	19	6-0	195	So.	Daytona Beach, Fla.
24	PHILP, Jerry	OF	L	L	24	5-11	180	Sr.	Royal Oak, Mich.
10	PINKERMAN, Charlie	1B	L	L	21	5-10	150	Jr.	Pompano Beach, Fla.
31	RODGERS, Charlie	1B	L	R	19	6-3	175	So.	Jacksonville, Fla.
30	SHEPPARD, John	C	R	R	25	5-9	185	Jr.	Tallahassee, Fla.
22	SLUSSER, Frank	P	R	R	21	5-10	170	Sr.	Nescopak, Pa.
26	WESTENDICK, Bill	C	R	R	20	6-0	193	So.	Tallahassee, Fla.

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COACH--DANNY LITWHILER (No. 1).

TRAINER--DON FAULS.

ASSISTANT COACH--RONALD MELTON.

MANAGER--ROGER LORENZE.

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

1958 BASEBALL STATISTICS  
(Won 20 Lost 5)

BATTING

<u>PLAYER, POS.</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>SB</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>AVG.</u>
Gene McCormick, OF	10	13	5	7	1	0	0	8	2	1	2	1	.538
Jerry Couch, OF	11	17	5	7	0	1	0	9	0	3	1	3	.412
Ernie Lanford, SS	9	10	0	4	1	0	0	5	0	0	1	7	.400
Owen McCarron, CF	23	96	24	35	1	4	1	47	16	6	12	9	.365
Tommy Garcia, P	9	14	3	5	1	0	1	9	0	1	3	1	.357
Bill Westendick, C	16	54	16	19	6	1	1	30	6	3	5	11	.352
Jerry Philp, LF-CF	23	77	23	27	3	0	3	39	6	7	5	15	.351
Mike Copps, RF	23	83	20	28	5	3	3	48	3	12	9	28	.337
Neil Martin, OF	10	9	3	3	0	0	0	3	0	2	3	2	.333
Dick Howser, SS	23	77	29	25	6	3	2	43	13	21	5	20	.325
Dale Koch, 3B	23	88	13	27	4	2	3	44	4	5	3	26	.307
Ray Bazzell, 2B	23	77	12	20	2	1	0	24	5	10	13	11	.260
Fred Kenney, P	8	13	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	2	.231
Charlie Rodgers, 1B	23	92	20	21	2	2	1	30	3	7	19	11	.228
Jack Bristol, P	11	28	4	6	1	0	0	7	0	1	10	1	.214
Johnny Sheppard, C	11	35	3	7	0	1	0	9	0	1	7	4	.200
Frank Slusser, P	10	28	1	4	1	0	0	5	1	0	7	4	.143
Charlie Pinkerman, 1B	14	14	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	5	1	0	.143
Jerry Donaway, 2B	11	7	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	.143
Buddy Cash, OF	7	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	.000
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FSU TOTALS	*24	847	186	251	34	18	15	366	60	87	115	158	.296
OPPONENTS	24	795	91	165	12	9	10	225	14	82	189	69	.208

PITCHING

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
Carl Nelson	2	0	3	1	2	0	0.000	3	5	0	0	.000
Jack Bristol	11	4	68	49	26	10	1.323	26	60	5	2	.714
Frank Slusser	10	5	67 1/3	46	16	12	1.602	16	54	8	0	1.000
Tommy Garcia	8	3	39 1/3	36	17	15	3.429	19	45	4	1	.800
Rudy Eigl	2	0	2	1	1	1	4.500	2	3	0	0	.000
Fred Kenney	8	1	29	30	23	17	5.274	13	21	2	2	.500
Jerry Hohne	2	0	2 1/3	1	5	2	7.722	3	1	0	0	.000
Al Zyla	1	0	1	1	1	1	9.000	0	0	0	0	.000
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FSU TOTALS	*24	13	212	165	91	58	2.466	82	189	19	5	.792
OPPONENTS	24	7	205	251	186	141	6.165	87	115	5	19	.208

\*-Knoxville (South Atlantic League) game not included in individual statistics.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

1958 BASEBALL STATISTICS

(Won 20 Lost 5)

<u>1958 RESULTS</u>			<u>FIELDING</u>				
			<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>PO</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
3	Auburn	4					
7	Auburn	10	Pinkerman, 1B	26	3	0	1.000
3	Knoxville (SAL)	2	Lanford, SS	3	7	0	1.000
12	Wisconsin	4	Garcia, P	2	7	0	1.000
5	Notre Dame	2	Couch, OF	8	0	0	1.000
14	West Virginia	7	McCormick, OF	2	4	0	1.000
7	Wisconsin	3	Martin, RF	4	1	0	1.000
3	Notre Dame	2	Kenney, P	0	4	0	1.000
3	Wisconsin	1	Cash, OF	4	0	0	1.000
7	Florida	8	Sheppard, C	78	8	1	.989
1	Florida	8	Westendick, C	116	7	2	.984
18	Miami (Fla.)	0	McCarron, CF	49	1	2	.962
7	Miami (Fla.)	12	Rodgers, 1B	175	12	9	.954
5	Auburn	1	Bristol, P	1	17	1	.947
4	Auburn	2	Bazzell, 2B	52	50	8	.927
5	Fla. Southern	0	Howser, SS	42	64	11	.906
11	Fla. Southern	1	Copps, RF	25	4	3	.906
4	Stetson	2	Slusser, P	6	13	2	.905
9	Stetson	1	Philp, LF-CF	17	1	2	.900
9	Miami (Fla.)	2	Koch, 3B	19	35	7	.885
6	Miami (Fla.)	1	Donnaway, 2B	1	5	1	.857
7	Rollins	1	Others	6	0	1	.857
7	Rollins	6					
15	Ga. Teachers	10	FSU TOTALS	636	243	50	.946
			OPONENTS	617	229	70	.924
<u>17</u>	<u>Ga. Teachers</u>	<u>3</u>					



MEET THE SEMINOLES (Contd)

CATCHERS

30 JOHNNY SHEPPARD....junior....25 years old....from Tallahassee, Fla.....started the season behind the plate before his hitting fell off....probably the best defensive catcher on the club....got two hits in the final game of the season and this could move him back into the starting slot.

26 BILL WESTENDICK....sophomore....20 years old....from Tallahassee, Fla.....took over the starting berth at mid-season with a strong burst at the plate....was second leading hitter among the regulars with a .352 average and hit .400 over the last 12 games....has a rifle arm and could develop into one of the finest backstops Florida State has ever had.

INFIELDERS

15 RAY BAZZELL....sophomore....23 years old....from Lynnhaven, Fla.....returned from service this year to take over the starting second-base slot....an excellent fielder and his hitting down the stretch drew considerable praise from the coaches....hit .260, drove in 11 runs....a key man defensively in the Seminole infield.

11 JERRY DONNAWAY....sophomore....20 years old....from Pensacola....part of a good second-string infield....a real fireball and though he played sparingly and hit just .143 he is counted on heavily for the future.

12 DICK HOWSER....senior....20 years old....from West Palm Beach, Fla.....the best all-round shortstop the Seminoles have ever had....was named to the first string All-America team last year and was Florida's 1957 "Amateur Athlete of the Year".... hit .325 and drove in 20 runs this year....tied for team leadership in doubles (6) ....because he draws a lot of walks (21), he led in runs (29) and will probably lead off in tournament play....Howser has a .373 career average.

19 DALE KOCH....junior....19 years old....from Clearwater....after a slow start, Koch finished like a house-a-fire, hitting .357 down the stretch and ending with a .307 average, 26 runs batted in (second on the club) and three home runs (tied for club leadership)....a good fielding third baseman, has a rifle arm....a good clutch



## MEET THE SEMINOLES (Contd)

hitter as his RBI total shows....has an eight-game hitting streak going into tournament play.

25 ERNIE LANFORD....sophomore....19 years old....from Shellman, Ga.....possibly the key man in the second-string infield....has been used extensively as a pinch-hitter also....hit .400 in limited appearances....stacks up as probably the best fielding infielder on the club....will be counted on heavily in the future.

10 CHARLIE PINKERMAN....sophomore....21 years old....from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.....No. 2 first baseman on the club, and has great possibilities for the future....a good fielding first baseman, hit .143 in sparse action.

31 CHARLIE RODGERS....sophomore....19 years old....from Jacksonville, Fla.....if he begins to hit again like he did at the start of the season, he will be a key man in the Seminole lineup....despite a good start, tailed off to a .228 average.... is a key man defensively and on the basis of a great freshman year should begin to hit soon.

### OUTFIELDERS

18 MIKE COPPS....junior....19 years old....from Jacksonville, Fla.....another Seminole who came back with a sensational finish after a slow start....led the team in runs batted in with 28, just one short of school record....finished with a .337 average and hit .396 down the stretch....good clutch hitter....has strongest arm of any outfielder on the club.

23 JERRY COUCH....junior....21 years old....from Panama City, Fla.....may move into the outfield slot vacated by McCarron....a switch hitter, and one of the top pinch-hitters on the club....hit .412 in 11 games, should be a starter next year.... can also catch if someone should get hurt.

28 NEIL MARTIN....sophomore....19 years old....from St. Petersburg, Fla.....one of best sophomore prospects on club, also battling for vacant outfield slot....hit .333

MEET THE SEMINOLES (Contd)

in 10 games, is a definite starting prospect for next year.

14 GENE McCORMICK....sophomore....23 years old....from Miami....potentially one of the best hitters on the club....posted a .538 average in 10 games, and figures as one of the starting left fielders for the tournament, with Philp moving to center....was an infielder, but in an effort to get more batting punch into the lineup, Litwhiler has moved him to the outfield.

24 JERRY PHILP....senior....24 years old....from Royal Oak, Mich.....will probably be moved from his leftfield post to the centerfield slot vacated by McCarron....hit .351, drove in 15 runs....also a former infielder, he was moved from first base to the outfield at the start of the season....a good fielder and a good clutch hitter, may bat cleanup against right-handed pitchers.



MEET THE SEMINOLES

PITCHERS

- 20 DON AXON....junior....21 years old....from Rochester, N.Y.....a smooth southpaw who hasn't pitched much in the past two years but adds left-handed depth to the staff....noted as a "junk" man....counted on as a starter next year.
- 16 JACK BRISTOL....senior....21 years old....from Sharon, Conn.....one of the staff's aces this year....chalked up a 5-2 mark and had the best earned run average on the club among the starters, a brilliant 1.32....also led in strikeouts (60) and innings pitched (68)....a southpaw, "Bris" gave up just 10 earned runs and figures heavily in Florida State tournament chances....allowed only two earned runs in the last 40 2/3 innings he pitched.
- 17 RUDY EIGL....senior....19 years old....from Kings Park, N.Y.....Eigl has yet to come into his own as a Seminole pitcher, but may get a chance as a relief hurler in tournament play.... pitched just two innings this season....
- 21 FRED KENNEY....senior....20 years old....from Springfield, Mass....used mostly as a relief hurler this year, but could be capable starter in tournament....posted a 2-2 record....went the route in his final appearance of the season, boosting his chances for a starting post.
- 27 CARL NELSON....sophomore....19 years old....from Daytona Beach, Fla.....pitched little this season, but is counted on heavily next season....struck out five men in three innings, gave up no earned runs this season.
- 22 FRANK SLUSSER....senior....21 years old....from Nescopek, Pa.....the unbeaten ace of the staff....set a new school record with an 8-0 mark this year, including the first no-hitter in school history....posted a 1.60 earned run average and walked just 16 in 67 1/3 innings....a "smart" pitcher, Slusser gave up more than two runs in a game just once this season....struck out 54.