

## **Florida State Preface**

### **September 29, 1995**

Welcome to Stella Interactive's College Sports Series of multimedia discs.

You're about to explore the rich history, color and tradition of Florida State football in a way you never thought possible. With just the click of a mouse, you'll be able to:

- Look up all the scores through the years,
- Check out upcoming game schedules,
- Read profiles of some of the best Florida State players and coaches,
- Investigate team and player records,
- Test your knowledge of Seminole football with our Trivia Quiz, and
- Experience some of the greatest moments in Florida State football through video, audio, text and photos.

We're sorry that we can't bring you every great moment and every interesting tale in the history of Florida State football. We simply don't have enough room on this disc for them all. In fact, the most difficult part of creating this product wasn't deciding what would go in it, rather it was deciding what we'd have to leave out.

But maybe, if enough of you Florida State fans tell Stella Interactive that you want more multimedia products featuring the Seminoles, we can give you all the good stuff we had to leave out of this disc. To fracture the phrase from Field of Dreams, "If they come, we will build it..."

We at Stella Interactive want to hear all your thoughts on this disc. You'll find our address at the end of this preface. We hope you let us know which features you like the best. Did any features leave you cold? What in the disc do you enjoy the most? Have you spotted errors, omissions or misinformation?

We've put a great deal of effort into giving you the richest, most accurate multimedia product at an affordable price. In spite of these efforts, mistakes sometimes happen. Legends grow so large that they overshadow the truth. For example, several sources told us about Bobby Renn's sensational kickoff return for a touchdown to begin the first Florida-Florida State game in 1958. Deeper research revealed Renn was tackled at the Gator 15.

Sources sometimes disagree on facts. The news services might say one thing, the university's media guide says another and the film shows yet another possibility.

In cases such as these, we tried to get independent verification. When that wasn't possible, we had to make a judgement call. Sometimes we found better information too late to get it into this program. Or we find errors that we made ourselves. You'll find the ones we found before our ultimate deadline at the end of this file.

From the beginning, we've aimed for accurate information. When we started to design this disc, our first task was to talk to people who know Florida State football

inside and out. Our team of sports journalists asked these experts many questions. Which Seminole players and coaches should we feature? Which traditions mean the most to the fans? Which memorable moments would they most want to re-experience?

The experts provided a wealth of choices. They contributed an inside view that we believe makes our product special. We worked with people such as Jerry Kutz, editor of *The Osceola*, to whom we relied on for background, feature material and references.

We were extremely fortunate to have Florida State welcome and assist us throughout development. The University's own football experts were generous with both their time and their knowledge. We received invaluable assistance from people such as Sports Information Director Rob Wilson, Archivist and former Seminole AD Vaughn Mancha and others on the staff of the Athletic Department. Gene Deckerhoff, the voice of FSU football, offered his picks for the greatest audio play-by-play calls. People at Seminole Productions, the University's video facility, were also generous in their resources and knowledge.

We used this wealth of information to create a rough outline of the material the disc would include. Then Stella's field producers packed up cases of equipment, traveled to Tallahassee and found media to match our outline. They spent weeks in dark rooms, searching for film and video of great games. Donning special protective white gloves, they sifted through dozens of dusty boxes and creaky file cabinets full of photos, scrapbooks and memorabilia. They left Florida with hundreds of minutes of film and millions of bytes of digitized photographs and images.

The editorial team reviewed the field producers' bounty. Then we made those last tough decisions about what we'd cover on the disc. We hit some unfortunate roadblocks we hadn't expected. Sometimes game film was so badly damaged that we couldn't use it. In other cases, film or tape simply didn't exist at all for memorable games that had never been broadcast. We even ran into a few instances in which the camera crews decided not to reload the camera for the final few minutes of a game.

Occasionally we couldn't find important photos, no matter how diligent our search. You won't see much from the early 1970s, nor from the early 1950s, in this product.

Despite these setbacks, the rich history of the Florida State football program still left us with more material than would fit on the disc. If you find yourself wondering why we haven't covered one of your all-time favorite great moments or memorable plays, the answer may be that we simply couldn't locate the media.

Choosing the great Seminole players to cover was easier because our criteria were less subjective. We've included any player who:

- Was named All-American by AP or UPI,
- Won a national player award, such as the Heisman or the Butkus, or
- Held one of the top three to five school records.

Every now and then we couldn't help but insert a remarkable player who didn't quite meet these criteria. Had we not done so, you'd miss a few favorites, such as Matt Frier, who — despite his large role in Seminole football history — was never named to an All-American team.

Because most of us on the editorial team are rabid football fans, we tried to get as much great stuff as possible into this product. More than 40 people — artists, designers, programmers, testers, video editors — put forth their best efforts at showcasing the history of Florida State football. Multimedia is such a new and dynamic field that every member of the team had to invest long hours to invent the tools and processes needed to create the features of this product.

But eventually the harried programmers threw up their hands and said, "That's enough, everybody. You have to stop now. The disc is full. We can't cram in one more byte."

As you click on that little helmet to start the program, remember that we at Stella loved making this product. We hope that you're going to love exploring it. We really want to hear what you think. Please send your comments to:

Stella Interactive  
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Carlsbad, CA 92008  
Attn: Team Stella Comments

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Electronic Address: [Teamstella@AOL.com](mailto:Teamstella@AOL.com)

Sincerely,  
The Stella Interactive Editorial Team

PS: We're already getting questions about the chicken. Yes, it is a strange symbol for a sports multimedia company. And yes, there really was a chicken, and her name really was Stella.

She started life in an incubator, a grade-school class project led by teacher Katie Beedon, who is married to Stella Interactive's president, Dick Beedon. Because Katie's face was the first thing it saw when it hatched, the Rhode Island Red decided that Katie was its mother. When summer vacation started, Katie had no choice but to take home her new "child." Stella lived a brief but happy life in the Beedons' yard, following "Mom" everywhere she went.

Of course, no matter how engaging the real Stella may have been, we can't help but wonder why anyone (other than Colonel Sanders) would name a company after a chicken. Dick just says, "I guess you had to be there."

## **EXPLANATIONS:**

- In 1993, Florida State staged a sensational goal-line stand against Kansas in the Kickoff Classic. The voice-over explains the Jayhawks (“aided by various penalties”) ran 11 plays inside the 10-yard-line. Time limitations didn’t permit us to explain that there were six plays with penalties, including four offsides calls on the Seminoles.
- Deion Sanders’ player card was created before he was traded from the Cincinnati Reds to the San Francisco Giants late in the 1995 baseball season and before he signed a long-term contract with the Dallas Cowboys of the NFL.
- In the Seminole Clipboard, the article entitled “Seminoles in the NFL” includes a paragraph which says that through 1994, 12 Florida State players had been selected in the first round of the NFL Draft. That’s true. But three more FSU players were selected in the first round of the 1995 draft, bringing the number to 15.
- On the Trivia Quiz in the Fan Club, there is a question which reads: “FSU’s Triumph over Florida in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2, 1995, represented Bobby Bowden’s 249th career coaching victory. Which legend did he pass to move into fifth place on the all-time list?” The answer (A) reads: Hayes is now sixth with 238 victories; Schembechler is seventh with 234. The question is worded in such a way that it appears that the Sugar Bowl victory put him past Hayes. Actually, Bowden had passed Hayes early in the 1994 season.