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Jameis Winston returns to FSU baseball team after completing community service obligation

Sunday Florida State baseball coach Mike Martin announced that closer Jameis Winston has been reinstated to the team.

Natalie Pierre, Tallahassee Democrat 8:23 a.m. EDT May 13, 2014



(Photo: Mike Ewen/Democrat)

Jameis Winston will be back on the road with the Florida State baseball team Tuesday.

Just four days after announcing Winston's suspension following his failure to pay for prepared food that he took from a grocery store, FSU coach Mike Martin announced that his closer is back on the team and will be available for the Seminoles' game at Stetson.

"Winston is reinstated," said Martin, following the Seminoles' 7-1 victory over Minnesota Sunday. "He finished his community service and as soon as he did he came over here (to the game), and we reinstated him."

Even though the two-sport star was not arrested for theft, Publix and the Leon County Sheriff's Office agreed to let Winston enter a pre-trial diversion program that required him to complete 20 hours of community service.

Thursday he started that process with a meeting at DISC Village, which is a non-profit agency that assists in coordinating intervention programs in Leon County. During the meeting the agency helped the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback find places to fulfill his community service obligation.

The YMCA was one of multiple organizations Winston worked with over the last few days.

"He jumped right into it," said Tim Jansen, who is Winston's attorney. "He wanted to get it out of the way and he wanted to get back to the team. It's not easy getting 20 hours done in such a short time."

Winston completed his community service Sunday and rushed over to Dick Howser Stadium for the Seminoles' afternoon game against Minnesota. Just 20 minutes into the game, he was spotted in the FSU dugout in full uniform.

With FSU up by six runs at the start of the eighth frame, Winston never saw the field. But the closer watched the majority of the game from the dugout and greeted his teammates with high-fives as they ran off the field between innings.

Following the Seminoles' three-game sweep of the Gophers, Martin was asked if he considered suspending the two-sport star beyond his community service obligation.

"When I got all the facts is when I said, 'When he's fulfilled his obligation, he will be reinstated,'" Martin said in response.

In 16 appearances on the mound, Winston has a 1-0 record, five saves and a 1.50 ERA. In 24 innings of work he has struck out 25 batters and allowed just 14 hits, four runs and four walks.

First pitch for Tuesday's game at Stetson is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Democrat staff writer Karl Eppers contributed to this report.

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