

2018 Orange Bowl Basketball Classic

No. 11 Florida State 81 vs. Saint Louis 59

Saturday, December 22, 2018

BB&T Center

Sunrise, Florida

DAVID NICHOLS, FLORIDA STATE SENIOR GUARD

How would you describe your effort tonight in your big performance?

“Just going out there and taking the right shots. My teammates did a great job of setting me up: Terance Mann, Trent Forrest. Just moving the ball, racing it down the court and taking open shots when they are presented to me.”

Can you describe that last shot at the first half buzzer?

“We ran a side out-of-bounds play that Coach [Hamilton] called. We thought they were going to try and foul. They had three team fouls so we thought they’d take a quick one just to disrupt us but the defender just moved out of the way and I just took the open shot.”

What kind of confidence does that give you going into the locker room?

“It gives us a good boost of momentum. Especially playing in high-level games like this, the team with the momentum can use that to their advantage.”

When you were thinking about transferring, why was [Florida State] an attractive place to come?

“The coaching staff, the family atmosphere from the players. It was a team that went to the elite eight and was getting back the core group of guys and their style of play. They’re truly 18 strong. Everybody supports everybody and we just care about winning more than anything.”

Has it been difficult to fit in?

“No, it’s not difficult at all. The coaches and players have done a good job of being welcoming and getting me settled in the program. The coaches and teammates are like family so it was a great fit.”

The team shot a season high 55%, was it contagious out there?

“Yes. These are shots we’ve getting all season. Sometimes they fall, sometimes they don’t but we just keep playing the way we know we can play these are the shots we’re going to get all year. Everybody was moving the ball, getting to the right spots and executing.”

Terance Mann had a big performance in the first half, do you believe you fed off that in the second half?

“Yes, I think we all feed off each other. Everyone gets excited when guys are making plays so one can lead to another. It can be defensively, offensively. PJ Savoy took two offensive charges and that got everybody excited so it’s just different people making plays throughout the game. We’re all connected from the head coach to the walk-ons. We’re one team.

What’d you think of that final dunk there at the end?

“That was for the fans. Terance [Mann] knows what he’s doing. He got everybody excited and sometimes you need that. He likes to express himself on his dunks so it was fun.”