



Metro by T-Mobile Orange Bowl Basketball Classic
December 21, 2019
Game 1 – South Florida vs. Florida State

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening statement:

“I thought that Coach Gregory had his team ready to play. I thought that they had a great game plan. His guys were extremely competitive. I thought they outplayed us for most of the game and their effort was excellent. Their game plan of not allowing us to get to the paint and crowd the lane I thought was excellent. Anthony [Polite], Devin [Vassell] and M.J. [Walker] made a couple shots that gave us a little momentum and we were able to pull out a hard fought victory.”

On going down 17-4 early in the first half:

“We had four offensive rebounds and they stripped us on all of them. We had wide-open jump shots that just didn’t go down. We had a couple layups around the basket that we just didn’t finish. Sometimes you have those games where it just doesn’t seem like the things you are doing go right and that’s when you have to play defense and do all the other extra things.”

On what you say to your team when down early:

“I just felt that we had to stick with our game plan. That’s what we are. We normally guard the ball better than what we did today. We normally hit our open looks and don’t get stripped when you get the rebound in the lane, but that’s what makes college basketball so exciting for the fans is that anyone is capable of pulling the game out on any day.”

Florida State Guard Anthony Polite:

On the comeback win:

“I believe when we came in of the timeout that we had a plan about trapping the ball screens and we executed really well. We were able to get in the passing lanes and get a few steals to give us energy and get some easy baskets in transition. That gave us momentum.”

On being named Most Outstanding Player:

“I am happy that all my teammates always give me confidence and I was able to play well even though I missed a couple shots, my teammates kept telling me to keep shooting it.”