



#### **Coaches Quotes**

**Florida State 88, North Alabama 71**

**Saturday, December 28, 2019**

**Donald L. Tucker Center**

**Tallahassee, Florida**

**North Alabama Head Coach Tony Pujol**

#### **Opening Statement**

"First of all I want to say that I am very thankful for coach Hamilton and his staff and his program for the competition that we participated in today; a lot of respect for his program and what he's done, and I have a long standing history with coach. When I was a high-school coach in south Florida he was the head coach of the university of Miami, so a lot of the times I would spend time with Ham and (Associate Head Coach) Stan Jones and talk about building a program. You guys definitely have a guy that has throughout his career brings winning to the table. I grew up in Miami and Miami was a program that had been shut down for a while and he brought it back, took the team to the Sweet Sixteen, won the Big East, then followed him with the Washington Wizards and now he's here and what he's been able to do with your program is fantastic. My hats off to the administration here, to the athletic administration for hiring a guy like him because he is a really good basketball coach, but he is a maker of men and I just want you guys to know that."

#### **As your transitioning your program to Division 1 has that been something you have looked at?**

"There is no question about it, I have a lot of folks that I have taken ideas from and he is definitely on the guys, him and coach jones, again that's a 30-year relationship there. Coach Frank Martin from South Carolina same thing, and coach Anthony Graham, these are guys that I want to pick and choose things that I know have been successful for them and fit what we are trying to do here, as far as the body of work for us, we're constantly talking about getting better right, so every game we play, our focus is to get better, to be better, and I thought today, the challenges that Florida State brings really helps us develop as a team, so what I am going to do now with my team is that now we have played 13 non-conference games and we finished 5-8. We are going to show them the body of work, obviously we are going to be showing film on these guys, what they did and how the affected us, and we will also show some things that I thought were good, and then now get ready for league play."

#### **Your team outscored Florida State 45-41 in the second half, what were some points of emphasis in halftime that you told your team**

"Our thing again is about getting better. They forced us into 13 turnovers in the first half, our guys will tell you that their defense made that happen, our emphasis was rebound the ball and defend and lets value the ball better than we did in the first half, and to be honest with you I thought our guys responded, I think we only had five turnovers in the second half, but again I give credit to coach and to his program because they stifled us at times, our guys had a hard time running offense, our guys had a hard time trying to drive it downhill. I just love the way our guys continue to compete. I hope I answered your question, I think in the second half our guys just stayed the course and continued to compete."

#### **How rare is it for a school like this (Florida State) to have no one take more than eight or nine shots?**

"No question, I mean I go back to what I said earlier about him as a coach. He is really good at basketball okay, that's evident, Oklahoma State, back at his days at Kentucky, Miami, and now at Florida State. What has doing it making these guys understand that this is a game that isn't played by yourself, this isn't singles tennis, they are playing with five guys on the floor and sharing the ball and valuing the ball you can see is an emphasis with him. Let me tell you

when I was at Miami watching his guys play, under his leadership, if you defended and rebounded, you were playing in the game. The only thing he asked offensively was play it the right way, share the ball, help each other and that's been a staple of his wherever he has been, and to his credit, he's building men, he is showing them what it's like to be a part of a team so my hats off to him."

**Sophomore Guard Jamari Blackmon**

**What worked for your team in the second half being able to match them with baskets and outscore the Seminoles?**

"We had 13 turnovers in the first half, so I felt like we could've let that get too us, but coach kept our head and we just came out in the second half and stayed aggressive and shared the ball and that's when we are at our best."

**"The 3-Point point shooting, you guys look like you have a couple guys who are pretty proficient in that area.**

"Most definitely, seeing James Anderson with that streak and it defiantly got us hyped, seeing Aleksa Matic make some big threes."