



#### **Coaches Quotes**

**Florida State 103, Miami 94**

**Saturday, January 27, 2018**

**Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.**

#### **Miami Head Coach Jim Larrañaga**

##### **On the atmosphere of the game:**

“I thought the fans provided a great, exciting, entertaining basketball game today. I thought Florida State played great, they shot 60% from the field, 47% were three, they out-rebounded us, and they had 16 assists and only seven turnovers. We had 17 assists and only seven turnovers, and we shot 17-34 for three, probably the most threes we’ve taken since I’ve been at Miami. We were making them, DJ [Vasiljevic] had a great game off the bench and in overtime we had a chance. We had the last possession of regulation and we weren’t able to come up with that bucket right there and then they had a chance with five seconds but they were not able to score. So, it was a very entertaining game and I thought both teams played well.”

##### **How talented is this league?**

“I could tell you, our last four games when we played Duke and Clemson, every time its been incredibly competitive at the end of the game. We lost to Clemson, I thought they played great, and we had Duke on the ropes but couldn’t finish and they finished strong with Gary Trent, Jr., who is phenomenal. We went on the road and played great at NC State, we won in overtime on Wednesday, and now lose in overtime on Saturday. The league has so many talented, gifted players, and we’ve got a bunch, but so does everybody else.”

##### **Were you trying to organize offense so that you could shoot more threes?**

“Yeah, I would say, “go with the defense”. In the game, when the game started, their defense was so pressure-packed, they were closing out so fast that I would say in the first three timeouts, I just kept emphasizing for our guys to shot-fake; just keep shot faking, because they’ll jump and then we can get a better shot. When a team is as long and as athletic as Florida State, even if they close out, its hard to make it because the next guy is coming. But once we started making them, and I stuck with the guys who were making the shots, DJ was six for 10, Lonnie Walker four for eight, Anthony Lawrence four for six, Ja’Quan Newton one for one, and Sam Waardenburg one for one, so we shot the ball really well and it kept us in it. But we couldn’t stop them, they shot the ball really well and they have a lot of weapons. We look at their scoring and six guys in double figures; the lowest guy had thirteen, sometimes that’s your leading scorer.”

##### **On the final possession:**

“Actually, I was getting ready to call a timeout but the players waved me off, they felt like they had a good option in what they were thinking, but I trust them. We got the ball to Lonnie in the last game, who made some critical shots at the end to help us get to overtime, and he got a great shot but it was a little bit short, but I felt good when it left his hands.”

##### **Did you anticipate that [Braian] Angola was going to be the guy they were trying to give the ball to?**

“They have so many options, but yes we think Angola is one of the primary ones, and with five seconds left, I thought we defended it pretty darn well. Lonnie stuck with his man and got the shot blocked because he was in such great defensive position for that whole five seconds. And five seconds, it didn’t seem like a lot of time, but for a player like Angola, he can shake loose, and Lonnie didn’t let him do that.”

**Have you ever been a part of a game where 17 three-pointers were made and you still lost?**

“I’ve coached a lot of games, but I don’t really know what the record is. That does seem like a lot, doesn’t it? I mean, they made nine and I thought that was a lot. They had six at halftime, and we really tried to emphasize that they wanted another six or seven, but what Coach [Leonard] Hamilton did is early in the second half he switched to his zone, and [Christ] Koumadje just hangs around the basket so its really hard to get an interior basket, so we tried to create some three-point looks and I thought 17 assists and only seven turnovers shows we got a lot of good looks.”

**On Florida State’s defense**

“They are really good. I don’t think our guys did a bad job, I thought we gave a great effort. We were very good offensively, we could guard them and we made shots, and they had a hard time stopping us.”