

# Gladiator News

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## Gladiators can't go distance, lose to Fire

HERALD STAFF

Bradenton Gladiators coach Eddie Starling struggled to find the reasons for his team's 16-12 loss against the visiting Fort Pierce Fire on Saturday in the minor league football game at the Police Athletic League Sports Complex.

"I wish I had the answers. Fort Pierce has a good team, but in my opinion the Gladiators are a much better team than anyone I've seen in the (Southern States Football League)," Starling said. "Unfortunately, we cannot get the job done in four quarters. This game was a cookie, but we were not hungry enough for it."

The Gladiators (4-4) took a 6-2 lead midway through the second quarter on an 8-yard touchdown run by James Shelley. The Fire (4-4) responded with an 83-yard bomb from Quinton Jackson to Harold Davis 4 minutes before halftime, then staged a goal-line stand to hold on to a 9-6 lead.

Fort Pierce increased its lead to 16-6 early in the fourth quarter on a 12-yard touchdown run by Sam Stovall. The Gladiators answered with a spectacular 87-yard kickoff return by Bon Bean, but a desperation drive was halted when the Fire recovered a fumble by quarterback Edrick Sweeting with 50 seconds remaining.

Shelley rushed for 71 yards on 22 carries. Chris Peterson led the Gladiators' defense with 6.5 tackles.