



Duke Postgame Quotes

Duke vs. Florida State



December 30, 2017 // Cameron Indoor Stadium // Durham, N.C.

Florida State head coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement:

"Obviously this was a very hard-fought game by both teams. Anytime you play against a Duke team you know they're going to be well prepared, you know they're going to give a tremendous effort and you know they're always going to execute. There's always certain characteristics of a team you feel like you need to focus on in order to be successful against them. I thought our kids were connected. We just didn't have an answer for keeping [Marvin] Bagley [III] and [Wendell] Carter [Jr.] off the glass. Most of the time when you put your body on a person - and we've been bigger and stronger in the past - it's difficult. But they are such good athletes and have such great hands and timing and strength that it was very difficult for us. And I thought that made the difference in the game. When you have two guys like that, they make up for mistakes, they make up for misses. I thought our guys gave a valiant effort and contested shots and made them work. But when you have guys that can either block shots or guys that can command a presence on the glass like that, that makes a huge difference in a game. We just had a very difficult time competing with them on the glass and I thought it made the difference in the game. Our team is still growing, still learning. We still have a lot of areas of our game that I feel like we can improve in. I didn't feel like we executed as well during certain periods. But I was proud of our kids' effort. They were connected. Their attitudes were good. And I think we're going to continue to get better as we keep playing. Hopefully we'll be able to bounce back. That's one thing about the ACC - you can't have a pity party. You have to move on to the next game because there's going to be another great team right around the corner that you have to prepare for. Thank goodness we have another big game come Wednesday night."

On [Phil] Cofer's development:

"Phil started for us as a freshman and he did a great job for us as a freshman. He has tremendous character. His father started as a linebacker in the NFL for 11 straight years. His mother played basketball for the University of Tennessee. So he's an athlete. He has a competitive spirit in his blood. For him to overcome the type of injuries that he's had, they've been nagging injuries. He never complains, he comes back with a great attitude. Not only does he give it to you physically, he gives it to you emotionally, he gives it to you verbally. He's constantly demanding excellence of his teammates. He leads by example, on and off the court. He's going to graduate in the spring and hopefully we might have him for another year."

On missing Christ Koumadje, especially on the glass:

"Obviously anytime during the course of the year you're going to have guys who have a toothache, a virus, a turned ankle. This is kind of our turn. There's no doubt that Koumadje is a centerpiece of our program and our team. He's athletic and extremely competitive. But I'm not going to use that as an excuse. We're not going to be the only ones that lose a player somewhere along the line. We'd like to have him back but this is a game, we lost to a team today that had a little more firepower than what we had."

On how much he was impressed both with his team and Duke:

"There's no doubt that both teams are extremely competitive. I thought they executed their system a little better than we did. I thought that our guys are growing with their understanding of exactly how to execute within our system. We still have a lot of players that are not quite sure of themselves yet. But I can't fault our guys' effort and focus. Duke's a great basketball team. We lost to a team that played a little better than us today. The game could have gone either way down the stretch. What can you say about the referees - they were put in a very tough spot. One referee goes down and they've got to go out and officiate a game when you've got two teams battling like that. They can't get it all right. I've got to take my hat off to them for the type of effort they displayed out there tonight. The interesting thing about the ACC - you've got to give Duke credit for being who they are. We've got to go back and regroup and see who we think we want to become."