

FLORIDA™

MEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 5/5 **Florida 66** (5-2) vs. **Florida State 83** (7-0)
Dec. 4, 2017 | Game 7 | Gainesville, Fla.

Postgame Quotes

Florida Head Coach Mike White

On his assessment of the game overall:

"I'll give my best shot at it, I look forward to watching it on film. We spent the last 24 hours talking about throwing the first punch, being the aggressor, being proactive against a team that's gotten the better of us the last few years. Come out playing with a ton of emotion, then you've got to calm down and it becomes about basketball and [FSU] threw the first four punches and continued throwing most of them and connecting on most of them until the final buzzer. Very disappointing effort in transition defense, on the defensive glass, valuing the basketball, making sound decisions, those were the four biggest keys to the game for us, we failed in all four categories. Got a little bit better in ball screen defense tonight. Deaundrae Ballard gave us a little bit of positivity there; he really battled, competed. The rest of our team from a competitive standpoint was very much subpar. Hats off to Florida State, they played harder than us, they were tougher than us for 40 minutes. Obviously much more physical than us, 23 offensive rebounds. When you know it's the key to the game and you harp on it and harp on it and harp on it for the last 72 hours, not the effort that we needed. What's really disappointing is you guys have heard me use the word 'soft' with this team and we use it with our team every day and it reared its ugly head tonight. Tonight was the epitome of soft and how soft we would've played in those other categories may have been much different if the ball went in for us and that's not how you play. We've talked about it and talked about it in here and talked about it in practice. They defended us at a high level and the ball wasn't going in for us and our characteristics that aren't so pretty showed up."

NEXT OPPONENT

Who: Loyola Chicago
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TV: ESPN2

On how he explained the turnovers:

"I think it was both [FSU's defense and Florida players' decisions]. We were pressing from the jump. It was 'how quickly can I get a shot up,' putting our head down against a team that does a good job swarming to the basketball and taking charges. We knew it was coming, we talked about it, we drilled it, we showed it on film, yet we charged and we jumped up in the air three or four times without a plan. Uncharacteristic. Our guys to this point have been really good with their decisions playing off of two feet, coming to jump stops. Some of it was careless, some of it was just trying to be overaggressive, and when they got off to the great start. The one thing I will say in my guys' defense, trying to play catch up the whole game probably led to some of the urgency offensively, you have too much urgency offensively, we certainly had that. We played harder on offense than we did on defense and it needs to be vice versa."

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Florida Players

Junior Guard Jalen Hudson

On what the Gators learned from this loss:

"It was super humbling. We're definitely not as good as we think we are. We have to get back to work. I don't think we had the greatest week this week. We were too celebratory on our wins in the PK80. We did some good things out there and we have to bounce back."

Graduate Student Guard Egor Koulechov

On overconfidence coming into tonight:

"It's a reality check. I think maybe we felt too good about ourselves coming back from Portland. I think this is where we need to get back together as a team, and not get back to the basics, but work harder and get mentally tougher and find other ways to win because we're not going to be hitting 15 three's every game."

On moving forward to Wednesday's game:

"It's honestly a good thing that we play on Wednesday. You'll forget about (tonight's game) quicker. It's going to suck tomorrow but we have to come back in and lock in. We have to do what we do before a game. It's tip off again Wednesday. We just have to learn from that; watch a lot of film tomorrow and see what we could have done better. I think it was a lot of mental, less physical."

On missed shots affecting defense:

"We score a lot of points. I think we're used to making a lot of shots, it gets us going. We have been talking a lot about (not making shots) and the coaching staff has really addressed it throughout the year, and we just saw it firsthand. When shots don't fall for us our body language is terrible. Again, this is a good learning experience for us. This is why you have those non-conference games. It sucks that it was a big rivalry, but it's a good thing it's happening now because that's when you figure it out as a team."

Freshman Guard Deaundrae Ballard

On how to learn from this game and move forward:

"Basically we'll have to look at the stats and film, and just learn from it and grow. Practice is the number one thing. We have to practice hard in order for us to get better."

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