



Coaches Quotes

Florida State 88, Georgia Tech 77

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"The type of offensive system that Georgia Tech uses is extremely challenging for us because it has a little bit of the Princeton-type system that spreads the floor and makes it very difficult for you to make any defensive mistakes at all. And they have another system that's similar to what they call the "spread offense" that Oregon uses, and they keep rotating between the system where they move the ball and they challenge every defensive person. Back cuts, back screens, penetrations and ball reversals. And it's more of a pattern and it's very difficult to overplay. The first half I thought our guys did an exceptionally good job of getting deflections and steals. We had quite a few points at halftime off of turnovers. And you don't normally get a lot of deflections and steals on that type of system, so I thought our guys were locked in. I don't think we played as well as we are capable of playing, but I think their system had a lot to do with it. I'm very happy to pull away with a victory. This was one of those typical ACC games – We were up by 10 at halftime. I thought that Ike went into the game and plugged the middle up and changed shots the first half and we were able to extend the lead. We got a couple turnovers, got some easy baskets. I knew they weren't going to go away. I thought that when we came out the second half, they had a little bit more energy than us. We called a timeout and I thought our guys adjusted pretty well. We'll look back at the end of the season and realize this was a very important game for us, because these guys are going to beat some people along the way."

On Terance Mann being a stat-stuffer and his career day

"I made that comment when he was a freshman, that he was a stat-stuffer. And he's becoming more and more of a stat-stuffer. But he's improving in all areas. He has a high basketball IQ, he plays with a tremendous amount of effort and focus, and now he's starting to talk and communicate with his teammates a lot more. I still think his best basketball is ahead of him. He's improved his perimeter shot a lot, and he's playing to his strengths right now. He's a guy who's making decisions, moving the ball well, defending well, and rebounding well. That's what you like to see from a kid who is a diehard Seminole."

On sharing the ball and playing team basketball...

"We had eight possessions in the second half where we passed the ball more than six times, and we scored on six of them. We moved the ball, made the extra pass, and created high-percentage shots. Some we drove to the basket, and we got some uncontested shots and our guys knocked them down. "We try to make as many passes as possible – I think we made over 220 passes tonight. And when you move the ball that well, you normally shoot a high percentage from the floor. We'd like to increase that a little bit. We're a team that's still evolving."

On having a different guy step up from game to game...

"As I said at the beginning of the season, 'We will win games by committee.' The way our system is set up, we've had a lot of different guys be leading scorers because we try to move the ball and get everybody involved. And sometimes it's CJ, sometimes it's Mfiondu (Kabengele), sometimes it's somebody else. If we can continue to keep playing that way, we'll figure out how to take advantage of everybody's strengths. We just have to involve our big guys a little bit more. It didn't hurt us too much tonight because their big guys were in foul trouble as well. As we move forward, we need to have a little bit more of a balance inside and outside."

On Florida State's "go-to-guy"

"The go to guy on this team is the guy with the highest percentage shot. That's the way I like it. It's much more difficult to prepare for, and it's a little more challenging as you prepare for a team when you have a lot of guys that are shooting high percentages, and guys who move the ball and take advantage of what the defense gives them."

On the ACC and ACC play...

"Every win you get in the ACC is bigger than huge. If there's such a thing. Because this is the new ACC. You're glad and happy that you can celebrate any game you can win at all. We had a 16-point lead there for a minute. But this team was not going to go away. You see more hard-fought games; you see more teams at the top lose to the teams at the bottom – there are no more upsets. You just have to be clawing and scratching, and scratching and clawing, and try to win every game. Every team you play in the ACC will be capable of handing you your hat."