



Coaches Quotes

Florida State 103, Miami 94 (OT)

Saturday, January 27, 2018

Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement:

“Anytime you prepare for an ACC game, you try to do statistical analysis and analyze the film. Try to find a team’s strengths and weaknesses. The more and more we watched film on Miami, we realized that this would be a tremendously challenging game for us to prepare for. They have tremendous perimeter shooters. Very good ball handlers that make good decisions with the ball. Even though we tried to be aggressive defensively, we realized that this would not be the type of team that we could force turnovers with or even speed up their tempo. Never in my imagination did I think we could win a game with them making 17 threes. I knew they were a very good shooting team but I thought they just had one of those nights. I thought we did a good job defensively. I’m anxious to go back and watch the film. At the end of the first half, I think they were 2 for 13 on shots we were able to contest. They shot a much higher percentage on shots we didn’t contest. A lot of it was because they have the ability to break you down with their ball handlers and dribbling skills to get to the basket so that forces you to have some type of help there. I thought our guys were focused. We shot a high percentage because we moved the ball and made the extra pass. Our game plan all along was to get to the basket as much as possible. Our ability to get to the foul line was the greatest difference in the game.”

Florida State had one turnover in the second half and it was on a shot clock violation. What made the difference in taking care of the ball in the second half?

“Miami does a good job of making you take low percentage shots. We normally like to get into the passing lanes but we didn’t think we could do that against Miami. I thought our guys were conscious of that. They moved the ball and created space. We have shown improvement. The last three games we have shot for a high percentage because we are moving the ball and making the extra pass.”

Florida State had a halftime lead and another team battled back. Each time you have been able to get the victory. How does that kind of resilience put to bed any doubts you have had?

“Well we still made a lot of basic mistakes. We still have a lot of errors on our game that we need to improve on. I still think we can execute a little better. I think we can get the ball to our posts a little better. We could make quicker decisions. While we are growing and developing, it is good to try to keep winning. The ACC is just a different league where you can play as well as you’re capable of playing and still lose. I don’t know if I have ever been involved in a game where people shot that well from the perimeter with maybe Notre Dame last year being an exception. That’s the nature of what goes on. You just have to stick to who you are and try to be the best that you can be in relation to the talent that you have.”

How big of a challenge was it to lose Christ (Koumadje) early in the game to foul trouble?

“We are still trying to work him back into a consistent player. Before he got hurt, he was doing a very good job. He was a go to interior guy for us. I’m sure it was frustrating for him to get fouls on the free throw line. I have seen two of those in the last three years where a guy gets a foul on the free throw line. Normally, they allow a certain amount of contact but that was unusual. I didn’t really know it was a foul on him and then we allowed him on the next play to get his third foul. But I thought he really extended himself. I was really happy to see him spend a lot of energy when he went back in there in the second half. I did not see any fatigue in him.”

Do you think we saw the best of Phil Cofer tonight?

“Phil Cofer does so many things that don’t show up in the statistical column. In terms of things that we feel are important, and we have nine things that we grade every game with, Trent and Phil are always at the top. He may not be huge on the stats that you guys have but on how we grade, on close outs, contains, fighting screens, contested shots and making the extra pass and all the other things that we look for in a game, he is at the top. We are getting a lot out of him. He has improved his perimeter shooting. He is pass first type guy. As he gains more confidence in his offensive game, you are going to see him make more and more contribution. Before he got injured, he was probably our best player. He was contributing in practice as well as anybody. He is a winner. He makes a difference in every game that he plays.”

Six Seminole players finished in double figures in an ACC game. Is that your textbook definition of winning by committee?

“There is no doubt that you have seen that term being utilized right in front of your eyes. There is a different guy leading us in scoring in every game. You have different guys stepping up in critical parts of the game. I think we are growing and maturing. Hoping that we could continue to move up. We have a lot of ball to play. If you look at the standings, there are a lot of teams that have last four games. Someone is going to emerge out of that group. We need to stay in the moment and stay focused. We understand that this a league that you need to be prepared every night in order to be successful.”

On the final possession of regulation, is your primary target, Braian (Angola)?

“Yes and they did a very good job at defending him. (Lonnie) Walker is a tremendous athlete and as good as advertised. We will work on those types of situations. I think Braian could have curled better as opposed to flaring. If a guy is trailing you, you want to curl. If he is over the top, you want to flare.”