



#### **Coaches Quotes**

**Florida State 88, Georgia Tech 77**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2018**

**Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.**

#### **Georgia Tech Head Coach Josh Pastner**

##### **Opening Statement**

"I give Florida State credit. I think they played really well and they've got a really good team and a lot of good players who are well coached. Regarding our team, besides two games last year and one game this year, we've always battled even when it looks like things are getting out of hand. We've always found a way to fight and get ourselves back in striking range. There's some times we haven't been able to get over the hump. But this is year two in major rebuild and as I've told everyone, year two is going to be the hardest of them all. We just have to keep grinding and stay the course and keep getting better. We've got to stop turning the ball over. The way to win in the ACC when you're at that point in the major rebuild where you just don't turn the ball over and make free throws. And turnovers have been our Achilles heel. Moving forward, we're just going to have to do it no matter what the situation is. Any turnover, you just got to come right out in the first half automatically. Unless it's obviously a shot clock violation or a team turnover otherwise. That's what we were trying to do today a little bit but we've just got to be even more direct about that moving forward. But because that's our biggest Achilles heel now, it's just these turnovers are killing us. They have 17 points off of our turnovers in the first half. 24 in the game. But those first two turnovers in the first half, they had 17 points off those. That's the difference right there. 16 turnovers and you just can't do that. But we're a young team, we're trying to build and this is part of the process of our rebuild job."

##### **On Terrance Mann**

"He was terrific tonight. He didn't come in scoring like that. He had 21 in the first half; he was just kicking our butt and a lot of it was straight line drives. He's a high-level player so you have to give him credit and he was on. With that being said, we could have withstood all that, just like we could've withstood many games this year. Some of these deficiencies and you look here, if you don't turn the ball over. I'm just telling you to win in the ACC, don't turn the ball over and you make free throws. Versus Notre Dame, our first loss, we didn't turn the ball over but we were 7-18 on the free throw line. Versus Virginia, 18 turnovers. 15 turnovers versus North Carolina. We could survive Mann having 30 if we didn't turn the ball over."

##### **On his team**

"We have one point guard who we're relying to play basically 40 minutes and that's not an easy thing to do in the ACC. We're relying on that and it's a rebuild and it's going to take us a little time to get multiple recruiting classes in. but our next phase of that is you turn it over in the first half, automatically out. You just got to come out. And we'll just have to have musical chairs and try to see if that works."

##### **On defense**

"I was really disappointed in our defense tonight, in the first half especially. We've spent the last two and half days just guarding, focusing on defense. We were an elite defensive team last year and that's part of the reason we beat Florida State last year – it was all through our defense. And we were becoming a pretty good defensive team, but tonight we weren't really good and part of that's in turnovers. Because they were getting a lane on straight lane drives, and lot of it is just those turnovers. You don't allow your defense to get set and this is part of the maturation process of our youth and our freshmen and they get down. We've got to move on to the next play and this is just

part of him growing and learning. They hurt us on a lot of straight line drives. There was one where Brandon Allen came in and drove a straight line on Tadic Jackson and you just can't have that. Mann straight line drove Josh Okogie – we just can't have that. 25 (Mfiondu Kabengele) straight line drove Ben Lammers. You talk about five guys have to guard the basketball. It can't be one guy. We've got to have the floor shrunk and compact and the opponent has to see bodies. Tonight, we were leaving guys on an island and that's just bad defense. Of all our games this year, this is the one game where we were very individualized defensively. I felt we didn't shrink the floor, five guys weren't guarding the basketball and that's what happens. We're not in a position where we can be that extended. We got extended and we weren't playing team defense, we were playing individualized defense and that's a recipe for disaster.

**On Jose Alvarado**

"To begin, he's our point guard. So that's what we're going with. There's going to be some mistakes with him on his shot selection and it drives you up the wall. But that's part of his maturation. It's part of our rebuild as we try the rebuild of our program. You're going to have to live with some things with him because we're investing in him for the long haul. He's a tough hardnosed kid, you know, young man, and so he takes some bad ones but he's going to make some. It's just part of the maturation process. He's playing basically 40 minutes in the ACC and we don't have a back-up; it's just him."

**On the late 3-point shot by Braian Angola**

"That was big. That was the nail on the coffin, that corner three."