



Florida State 83, Troy 67  
Monday, December 3, 2018  
Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.  
Coaches Quotes

### **Head Coach Leonard Hamilton Quotes**

#### *Opening Statement:*

"I thought Troy did a very good job of playing extremely hard and executing their system as well as any team that we've played. It was very difficult and challenging for us to kind of get away from them. I think we got a spark there at the end. I thought we did some nice things, but I still think we're a work in progress. I still think we've shown that we have potential to be a pretty good team, but we still have a lot of room for improvement. Not to take anything away from Troy, because I think they had a good season last year and their coach is doing a great job. We have to learn to adjust to being a highly ranked team and getting everybody's best effort. That's a new place for this team. We're trying to get to a place that we have never been, so sometimes trying to get there when you've never been there before is challenging. I thought that not only did Troy play exceptionally well, I thought they played very, very well because of the reputation of being nationally ranked brings to a team. I think our guys probably got to learn how to adjust to that. Even though we played fairly well, we've got to play better than what we normally would be playing. That's just kind of part of what that journey brings. That's positive and that can be an acquisition. As a head coach, I still keep saying I just hope we continue to keep winning while we develop. We had some good execution points, but when you turn the ball over 11 times in one half, I didn't think their defense had that much to do with it. I think that we were careless and made poor decisions with the ball. We played pretty good defense and moved the ball offensively, but when you give the ball back to the opponents 11 times, you can't do that against the type of people that we're going to be playing against once we get into conference play. I'm pleased where we are, I'm going to keep staying grounded. We've still got a lot of room for improvement, but that's what we're going to keep talking about in getting better while we're developing."

#### ***On if he was more pleased with the execution in the second half***

"We had some moments in the second half where I thought we got stops from deflections, steals, got out in transition, created some offense from our defense. I thought from the offensive end, I'd like to see us do a better job getting balls inside to our big guys. I'd like to see us doing a better job of attacking the basket and getting to the foul line. Those are the areas where we have done a pretty good job, we just were not on point tonight. I also think that our inexperienced players got some opportunities to go in the game and I thought they made some pretty good contributions. I liked the development of Nichols. I thought he gave us pretty good leadership, I thought his defense was excellent. [Devin] Vassell maybe didn't have a lot of statistics, but I thought he and [Anthony] Polite held their own. I thought that Ray [Raiquan Gray] gave us some pretty good contributions. Obviously Mfiondu [Kabengele] continues to keep playing like he's a starter. We have a sixth man starter, I guess I'm trying to say, and he's contributed a lot. I still think we got a lot of areas where we've got to continue. A lot of it was because we had four guys who didn't practice the last couple of days. Trent [Forrest] had a stubbed toe, he didn't get a chance to practice at all. I didn't know if Polite was going to play, he turned his ankle and missed practice the last couple days. Ray [Raiquan] had pink eye, so he was in quarantine and Mfiondu sprained his ankle as well. So, when we when into the game,

the guys who played who have not worked a lot in practice, I thought we showed some signs of not being quite in sync.”

***On guys passing up open shots***

“That’s part of developing the confidence and the sureness that ‘I’m making a good play’. Now that’s good because I think we’re playing unselfish, not wanting to force any shots, but that’s part of what I’m saying where we have to continue to keep growing and developing. That ‘I’m not really certain that this is the right shot’. We talk about moving the ball and making normal passes, and now we’ve got to be able to adjust to that and still continue to have the level of confidence and not worry about things that we’ve just got to play through. That’s exactly some of the points that I’m trying to make. We’ve been doing the same thing on offense and we’ve been doing the same thing on defense. Defensively, ‘Do I stay with my man or do I rotate and give them opportunities to throw the ball?’ There’s just a lot of indecision that’s going on that I think that’s in their head, they’re just not quite sure they’re making the right decision.”

***On PJ Savoy’s three after Troy cut the lead to two***

“That’s another great point. I think P.J. [Savoy] misses Phil [Cofer] because Phil stretches the floor and he has a guy that opens up the passing lanes for people to penetrate and kick it to him. Now what people are doing is kind of backing off a little bit. Some of our guys are tightening up on M.J. [Walker] and P.J. and that’s causing him not to get as many good looks as he had been accustomed to if you remember. A lot of times, when a guy is shooting the ball that well, why he seems to be always open. Well now you haven’t seen him get a whole lot of good looks as of late. Tonight he got some pretty good looks maybe because they weren’t quite as familiar, but most of them came out of transition or penetration and getting people into corners. That’s what I’m saying is that we’ve still got to get back in sync. I think Phil hopefully before too long he’ll be back and we can start regrouping and putting that together.”

***On Florida State’s aggressiveness at the offensive glass***

“I thought we had pretty good effort and I thought we showed signs of being aggressive on the glass, we’re just not consistent for the whole game. There were a couple of times where I thought Fi [Mfiondu] was the only guy going for the ball. We wore that out in the huddle from time to time, but we like this team. They have good potential, we’ve just got to keep working and getting better because when you look at what we’re facing in the ACC, we’ve got a whole lot of teams doing the same things we’re doing.”