

Coaches' Quotes

Florida State 83, Miami 73 (OT)

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Watsco Center, Coral Gables, Fla

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"I thought Jim (Larranaga) had a tremendous game plan for us. Miami was up the whole first half. We had a hard time finding any driving lanes. The execution of the defense was almost perfect. We kept changing schemes and found it very difficult to get good looks. Offensively, they were extremely patient. They took the ball away out Lykes' hands, for the most part. They gave him the opportunity to do what he does best, to score. That was somewhat challenging. We had very little options with him because he seems to be scoring at will. He's a very, very good player. I thought the team executed the offensive game plan to the point where they led for 28 minutes. I was extremely proud of our players because we maintained our poise. We got into foul trouble in the first half. Obviously, it was evident that we missed MJ (Walker); he had 19 points in the second half (and overtime) and didn't score at all in the first half. It negated the quality of our depth with having three of our top players playing limited minutes in the first half. Guys came in, gave us some minutes, lucky to be up one in halftime. Second half, I thought it was nip and tuck. Then, towards the end, we had more challenges in the second half stopping them from a defensive standpoint, until the last few minutes of the game. I thought we got some deflections, some steals. Obviously, our guys moved the ball and made some pretty good decisions with the ball, forcing 24 turnovers and had some assists, 21 assists and 23 baskets. I was very proud of the fact that our guys maintained their poise, stuck with the game plan and were able to pull out a victory. I call them a full point victory. In my mind, it's an ACC blowout."

On the defense down the stretch that helped Florida State get back in the game

"That's kind of who we are. We rely a lot on our ability to get deflections and steals. They did a very good job of maintaining their poise for the majority of the game, but during that stretch, we were able to turn it up maybe a notch or two and we were able to get some deflections and steals. That really made the difference in the game."

On the play of Devin Vassell over the last few games

"Devin is showing what he capable of doing in relation to how well we execute. I think his teammates are getting him the ball and he is the gym getting a lot of extra shots up. Our entire team is playing with a little bit more confidence in certain periods of the game and I think it's really making a difference. Devin believes in his teammates and his teammates believe in him. They were reversing the ball to him in pretty good situations and then whenever there are people around him, he is taking the ball to the basket and kicking it to other people or finishing at the rim. He's making a big improvement, but I think our team is showing signs of developing a little bit better understanding of how we need to play with this edition of our team and give us a chance to win. We're not the lob-catching, shot-blocking team that you have become accustomed to seeing, so we are kind of reinventing ourselves as we go. We have had a rash of injuries similar to what Jim has had, maybe not quite as much, but one of our 7-foot guys is out with an injury in his back. We all are kind of growing and learning. I just feel fortunate that we are able to win games why we are still trying to figure out who we are."