



COACHES QUOTES

FLORIDA STATE 93, VIRGINIA TECH 78

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

DONALD L. TUCKER CENTER

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FLORIDA STATE HEAD COACH LEONARD HAMILTON

Opening Statement:

“Obviously you are always happy when you are fortunate enough to win a basketball game. That was a very hard fought basketball game. Virginia Tech was without one of their better players and I thought they came out very well prepared. They gave us a lot of different looks early. We had a lot of adjustments that we had to make defensively. From an offensive standpoint they rattled us a couple of times and trapped us, created some indecision on our part, and I thought we got tremendous help off our bench. We had some guys come in and gave us some hustle points. We got some deflections some steals and some easy baskets. We feel very fortunate in this game. I feel like we still have a lot of room for improvement. Virginia Tech is an awfully good basketball team. Them coming in and playing as well as they did without one of their better players says a lot about the job that they are doing and the type of team that they have. This is a new ACC; every game you play you can expect it to be a very competitive game regardless of who you are playing. This night, I thought we had to claw and scratch every minute. I didn’t feel comfortable until the horn sounded. I was very pleased to see our guys step up and make big free throws when the game was on the line. I thought Terrance [Mann] gave us a lot of hustle baskets and rebounds and deflections. Dwayne [Bacon] once again was very steady for us. PJ Savoy amazes me when he comes off the bench and isn’t playing very much and be as consistent a perimeter shooter as he was tonight. His teammates are looking for him and hopefully that will be a weapon that we can use moving through the remainder of the season. I thought Jarquez [Smith] gave us good play. Obviously, the idea for them was to shoot the three. They shoot it very well close to 40 percent from three. They take it to the basket very well. We tried to challenge the perimeter threes but we were not very effective around the basket. That says a lot about the quality of the athletes and the talent that they have on the team.”

On the performance of the Seminoles’ bench players

“Well I think it is very important that they are going to sustain the level of energy that we have to play with in order to be competitive within the ACC. It is important that we have guys that can go in and get those guys some rest. The past couple of years we have been playing guys 35 and 36 minutes, which is tremendously challenging. You are always trying now to find a spot or two to get a breather. Having the ability to come off the bench with confidence and play with a tremendous amount of energy on the defensive end and getting you some offense to keep the flow of the game going, it has been tremendous for us. I am hopeful that it will continue to improve.”

On maintaining a lead throughout the second half

“I think it says, from a coaching standpoint, I think our guys are trying to do what we are asking them to do defensively and we are trying to be sound. We still trying to move the ball and get the highest percentage shots. I thought our guys played tremendously unselfish. I thought they moved the ball and showed that they are trying to execute our gameplay. We were not always on point. The most encouraging thing was we had quick recoveries. We made a mistake they corrected them and their body language was positive.”

On moving forward in the ACC

"I try to keep this in perspective. In order for these three wins to mean something you have to keep winning. No one is going to the NCAA tournament with three conference wins. I realize that we still have a lot of work to do and I am focused on the fact that we still have a lot of improving to do. I don't think our offense is as smooth as it should be and we are not getting as many post touches as I think we should be getting. I think our guys are working hard to finish inside. Sometimes we don't move the ball well enough to create help situations, so the most comforting thing is we have a lot of room for improvement and we can't let ourselves lose sight of what we are facing. Not very many programs have ever played six straight games against opponents who are nationally ranked. I am not ready to take any bows right now I just want to get through this press conference and get back to the office and work for the next game."