



Coaches Quotes

Florida State 88, Duke 72

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Donald L. Tucker Center

Tallahassee, Florida

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"I thought Duke was very well prepared. In the first half we had a very difficult time getting an offensive rhythm. It seemed as if each time we tried to do one of our schemes they knew what we were going to do. They took a lot of spots on the floor away from us. I thought our kids played hard. We both defended each other very well. Even into the first part of the second half I thought both teams played each other very well. We had a sprint there and I think we went on an 8-0 run and we were able to extend the lead. At that point I thought our guys got a little more confidence and we played with a lot more energy. We got some deflections and some easy baskets. Duke is very good basketball team and we had to be at our very best. We were slugging it out for a little while and then we got that spurt. I think they had two or three turnovers that we were able to capitalize on."

On the atmosphere

"We have had other games where we have had good atmospheres. I thought it was extremely motivating for our players. You'd like to see this every night. This is a little bit of a dose of what we get when we go and play at every arena in the ACC. This is not unlike what we face. We were fortunate to create that same atmosphere we face here in Tallahassee. Hopefully that can continue to grow."

On the team handling the big moment

"What we have tried to do with this team is stay grounded and be factual. Duke is a pretty good basketball team and regardless of who you play in a conference game it is going to be a team that very easily can be successful if you don't go out there and play very well. There is no doubt that we have a tremendous amount of respect for Duke, but to think that we displayed this type of energy and effort throughout this part of the season, that is what we are focusing on. We try not to get philosophical about where we are because we are 4-0 in the ACC and we don't want to get what we call drunk on success. What we want to do is focus and not allow ourselves to get caught up in anything other than being as prepared for this game as any. Unfortunately for us we enjoyed this victory and on Saturday we have North Carolina. This is a stretch of games that very few people have had the unique and very special opportunity to be involved in. Playing against six teams that are nationally ranked. We are just trying to take it one game at a time and not get ourselves caught up in anything other than what is going on in the moment. That is how we try to approach it and I think our guys have matured with that philosophy."

On Xavier Rathan-Mayes's performance:

"We have been trying to get that type of aggressiveness into our game. I thought X (Xavier Rathan-Mayes) was fresh. I thought we did a very good job executing what we try to do all of the time. This team has struggled somewhat with attacking off of the dribble consistently. The ball is not moving quite as quick as we want it to and we are not cutting quite as hard. During that period in the game when we took the lead I thought we executed the offense very well. I thought we were aggressive and we moved the ball and set good screens that the way you want to see your team play the whole game. That is part of who we are and hopefully we can have more of that as we move through the remainder of the season."