

Forrest Has Career Night At The Absolute Perfect Time

By Corey Clark

Warchant

February 14, 2018

It was actually CJ. Walker who suggested to the Florida State coaches that the final possession in regulation (against Clemson Feb. 14) on should go to Trent Forrest.

So in the closing seconds, with the Seminoles down two, the ball found its way to the sophomore guard at the top of the key. He drove right and made a sensational runner in the paint to tie the game at 70.

He then scored six more points in overtime for the Seminoles in their dramatic - and very important - 81-79 victory over the No. 11 Tigers.

"Just attack the rim," Forrest said. "That's what Coach Ham was making the emphasis on us to us in the huddle. And I just did what he told me to."

It worked.

Forrest hit arguably the biggest shot of the season for the Seminoles to send the game to overtime, then hit two critical layups and two free throws in the final 90 seconds to lead the Seminoles to a crucial win over a team that was ranked No. 4 in the RPI.

Forrest finished with a career-high 16 points.

"I really was just playing off my teammates and taking whatever the defense gave me," Forrest said. "That's all it really was."

It was that first layup in overtime, the one where he drove right, spun back left in a flash and somehow ended up on the other side of the basket for a go-ahead layup that was the highlight of the night.

It was a remarkable move and it gave the Seminoles their first lead of the night.

"I knew (the defender) was probably going to try to cut me off," Forrest said. "I knew he was a strip defender, so I had to make a change of direction. Then after that I kind of just found the rim and that was it.

"... I wouldn't say I practice (that move). I just work on finishing around the rim, just knowing my angles on the glass, knowing where to put the ball."

It's not Forrest hasn't hit big buckets before. He was an elite scorer during his high school days in Pensacola. He routinely would score 40-plus points. And he had some nice moments during his freshman season as well.

But Wednesday night was by far the best offensive game of his college career.

"Trent is extremely intelligent," Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton said. "High basketball IQ. Extremely competitive. ... Trent scored 3,000 points in high school. So he's very capable. He's a pass-first guy. He's extremely unselfish. He does the best job of getting inside and finding his teammates. He's not (concerned) with the fact that he's not scoring a lot of points.

"He's a winner. He's trying to do everything he thinks is in the best interest for us to win. For a guy that scored 3,000 points in high school you'd think he want to shoot the ball. But he's such a team guy and he has such an unselfish guy. ... I still think his best basketball is ahead of him."