

## Coaches Quotes

Florida State 78, Rutgers, 73

November 28, 2017

Rutgers Athletic Center

Piscataway, N.J.

### **Rutgers Head Coach Steve Pikiell Opening Statement**

"Thanks for coming. The RAC was awesome tonight. I want to thank our fans for coming out. The student section was great. I think Florida State, I watched all the tapes, that's an NCAA tournament team. Obviously, well coached and have a lot of weapons. I thought we fought. I thought we played hard. I'll coach that team any day of the week. Left it on the floor. Came up a little short. We'll learn from it and we'll move on."

### **On Where The Game Against Florida State Got Away**

"They're good. A little separation at the end. We fought through every obstacle today. Everybody is in foul trouble. Guys cramping up. Couple calls. We fought through a lot of different things. They just got us by a few. Obviously, they had a guy who hasn't made threes come in and have a career high for threes. Goes two for seven for the year and gets four against us on the road. Signs of a good team. They have some veteran guys. They have guys that have been around. We out rebounded them. They switched to zone. They haven't played one possession of zone all year. One of the best defensive teams in the country. So, we had to make a couple more shots. I thought we made free throws. Turned the ball over at a couple of crucial times. We played really hard against a good team."

### **On The Performance Of Eugene Omoruyi...**

"Eugene has been awesome. He's the most improved guy in our program. I've been saying that. Brings it every night. He'll get better and better. I'm excited about his progress."

### **On Deshawn Freeman's Injury**

"Cramps, he had a little bit of everything. He was a warrior tonight."

### **On Eugene Omoruyi Playing in the Middle of FSU's Zone**

"Especially when their shot blocker was out. They also are one of the best shot blocking teams in the country. Eugene took it right to the rim in that zone. I like when he plays aggressive like that. He's a matchup problem and will be a matchup problem the rest of the year too as we keep moving forward. I'm going to keep moving him around the board a little bit."

### **On Corey Sanders' Performance**

"It's hard to simulate that. Geo (Baker) getting in foul trouble early, that was one of the keys before the game. Geo and Corey were going to have to log a lot of minutes. I was hopeful to have Geo spell him and he brings it up. Corey sometimes brings it up for each other. Didn't work out that way. Had two fouls at the 16-minute mark. So, we had to change our game plan there a little bit. But, they're very good defensively and they play a lot of players. They have a lot of players. So, keep coming at you in waves. I thought Corey did a great job. They don't allow you to run your stuff. We were able to score 73 points. They haven't given that up in a while. So, our point production was fine. These guys did a good job with short prep time too for a team very different than what we have faced."

**On the Team's Takeaways From This Game Going into Big Ten Play**

"We play hard and we're going to be ready for the Big Ten schedule. I think we obviously have as tough a schedule as any team in the league right out of the gate. We have to battle. We have to really get after Minnesota then we have Michigan State after that. Some tough games but we'll continue to get better. We're still finding ourselves. We have two freshmen in the starting lineup. We've got to keep tweaking this thing and get better at areas we haven't been great in. I liked our free throw shooting today. We got to the line and made free throws. That was a big help for us. We'll keep practicing and we'll keep getting better."