



#### **Coaches Quotes**

**Florida State 98, Kennesaw State 79**

**Donald L. Tucker Center**

**Tallahassee, Florida**

**December 22, 2017**

#### **Coach Hamilton's Opening Statement**

"We are a team that is still growing and evolving, we are challenged by the fact that we are playing a larger number of guys than most people. We are trying to develop a system because that's who we are and we can play with a large amount of energy for a long period of time. We are still trying to develop and work on execution and we aren't quite there yet. A lot of teams in the ACC are playing 7-8 guys and they have a little more of a consistent rhythm, and I thought we had some groups out there that played really well offensively and defensively. Kennesaw St. created a different type of challenge for us as they were extremely fast and we didn't make the adjustment of giving too much of a cushion in the first half. In the second half we did a much better job being on the catch and contesting shots, but we have to get these guys into the game. We have to be able to let these inexperienced guys play, but we are a work in progress. This team has a lot of potential to develop into a very good basketball team, but we still have ways to go. I love the effort and energy from our guys and we just need more games under our belt."

#### **On the defensive progression of MJ Walker**

"He is playing extremely hard and playing with reckless abandonment and that's really nice to see. As he gets more playing time under his belt, he will start to settle into a rhythm and be able to understand the officiating at this level a little more. I'm proud of him for selling out on defense and putting a lot of energy into the defensive side of the ball."

#### **On the play of Trent Forrest:**

"Trent is a very cerebral player due to his good decisions and his good defense. He has really long arms and has a really great feel for the game. He's able to get off the ball quickly and he's also able to see things before they happen. He's a very important part of our team and I really like having him and CJ (Walker), the double-head point guards, and they like each other and play well together. And you will see the two of them playing together more often, depending on how the game is being played"

#### **On the performance of Phil Cofer**

"We are trying to challenge Phil to be more of himself, he's an athlete who needs to get more rebounds. He has to be more conscience of where he is on the court, and he's really improved his confidence and his perimeter shot. He wasn't trying to create off the dribble and he was going more straight to the basket, and he played within his abilities, which I'm very proud of. He's also constantly providing instructions to our young and inexperienced players, which helps them make less mistakes."

#### **On Thanksgiving plans and food**

"Today I'm going to fix a couple of family recipes, as I'm going to fix some treys of corn pudding and corn casserole. I'm going to make an unbelievable family tradition of macaroni and cheese, with a lot of different things in it. I put three cheeses, milk, eggs, and a few other things you all aren't accustomed to. I like to call it Southern Cooking. My wife is making the green beans, and cabbage, and we got five or six turkeys, and we are going to give thanks for all the blessings we have received over the years. It's a very important time of year for our team and we want to be grateful for the opportunities we have been afforded."