



Coaches Quotes

Florida State 81, North Carolina 80
Wednesday, January 3, 2018
Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee, Fla

North Carolina Head Coach Roy Williams

Opening Statement

"It was a good game if you like basketball, but I'm not so sure it was pretty. The two teams fought pretty darn hard. In the first half, we could not do anything with their 3-point shots. We weren't getting up to their shooters. Part of it was we didn't guard the dribble and they fixed out and a couple of times they just took us out of the dribble, backed us out and just shot it. They made nine 3's in the first half. Another thing I thought was crucial in the game was they attacked the basket so much more effectively than we did. They shot 22 free throws and we shot nine. It doesn't have anything to do with the officials, they just protected the basket and did a better job. I liked our kids making a comeback. We had some good shots early in the half. Kane missed a wide-open three and Luke missed two shots and two free throws. I kept telling them, we are still going to be the better team if we just keep playing. We got ourselves into position. I think twice we had the ball and a lead but we never got it to more than one possession. Then they make a run at that point and I still think that the biggest thing for us in the second half was the inability to stop the drive. We didn't do a good job at that. For us, we need to play better, play smarter, not dig ourselves into a big hole like we had in the first half."

Only seven guys played double digit minutes. Is that because of the grind of the ACC and the pace you like to play in? Is depth a concern?

"No. Guys would have played more if they played better. I'm not going to keep someone in there just to look good. I didn't like a couple things that some guys did and I liked some others things the other guys did. If you look at Syracuse, they have some guys playing 40 minutes. I gave everyone one of our guys a break at some point in every half, including Joel Berry and Luke (Maye)."

FSU made nine 3-pointers in the first half. What was the defensive change that you guys did to stop that in the second half?

"Well we tried. I don't know if we did anything or if they just missed shots. We tried to do a better job at guarding the dribble so we didn't have to run in there and help and open it up. The other thing, we tried to do a better job on the ball because I think two, maybe three times, they just dribbled at us, stopped and shot it."

What did you think of Joel Berry's second half?

"He was awfully tough. At the end, if he told me he was going to miss it, I would have told him to give it to Cam in the corner because Cam was open but he is such a competitor. He was just trying to make a play and I have no problem with that. He was our offense for a long time in the second half; almost the whole second half."

So he (Joel Berry) did both good and bad?

"Both good and bad yes. We need some other guys to step up. The other thing is, if he is going to be able to do that and make shots, then everybody else has got to make sure that they help him on the defensive end because he is working awfully hard on both ends. I've never minded a guy that is making a lot of points as long as he is getting some help. We need to give him more balance."