



#### **Coaches Quotes**

**Florida State 81, Clemson 79 (OT)**

**Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018**

#### **Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton**

##### **Opening Statement**

"After playing Clemson, we know why they're ranked so high in the country, and why they're the number two team in the ACC and a very difficult team to prepare for. They have such good ball handlers and guys who could take you off the dribble, especially when they get to the half court. Obviously, if you leave them open, you've got guys who can shoot the ball extremely well from the perimeter. We turned the ball over 11 times in the first half, they scored 16 points after we turned the ball over in the first half. I thought we took care of the ball a little better in the second half and we were able to be a little bit more disruptive with our defense and got some deflections. We had a period there where I thought we had five stops in the second half and were able to get some deflections and kind of change the tempo of the game. This was a huge game for us cause it's a very good basketball team. This team (Clemson) has all the makings of a team that can be extremely dangerous once they get to the NCAA tournament in March."

##### **On Having The Confidence in coming back to win**

"That's a philosophical statement that you win a game and – but we lost a game, so we had to come back and have some confidence. What I want to do is stay in the moment, realize every game that we're playing in the ACC, you have to be exceptionally focused because regardless of who you're playing, it's a challenge. Obviously, this was an important game; whether it's going to give us some confidence, I don't know. But I know that we've got to continue winning. I'm not sure anyone's going to the NCAA tournament winning seven conference games. We got to enjoy this, look at the things we can take away as positive, and then we got to come back and regroup. Whatever we did positive, grow on it and stay in the moment."

##### **On Coach Ham's 500<sup>th</sup> win**

"We're in the middle of an unbelievable race, and had you not mentioned it, I would've never known it and I wouldn't have really cared a whole lot about it. Most important thing is that the kind of team that we have – we have a good mixture of veterans and young players – you just got to continue to keep getting better. Continue to keep offensively executing, better in the second half defensively, we really connected flying around, getting the deflection and steals, that's what I'm most focused about. I've just been fortunate to have some opportunities to coach a lot for a long time, cause there's some places that need a little help."

##### **On what was said to the players to ensure a second half comeback**

"We really don't change our method that much. We just had to do a better job executing and we were going to have to win the game on the defensive end. We were just going to have to create some offense from our defense and not turn the ball over and give them 16 points on 11 turnovers. Seven of those turnovers resulted cause of their good defense; they really contained not necessarily the pack line but it's very similar. About seven of them, we just turned the ball over because we made poor decisions and so we really emphasized making better decisions. And then we have to turn it up defensively and keep executing offensively."

##### **On patience**

"I think that our challenge for this team has been consistent execution once we get in the half court. The type of offensive system that we run gives them a lot of decisions to make each time the ball moves. We're not quite there

yet. Sometimes we'll bog ourselves down by being too patient and then not aggressive enough. That's something we've been working on; I've been saying it just about every time I've had a press conference. Tonight, I thought that we had the right balance; we drove the ball when we had to; we weren't shooting the ball that well from the perimeter. We did make a couple of shots; we had good looks but I thought tonight we just took what the defense gave us and I thought that we turned it up offensively to create some offense from our defense.

**On Trent Forrest**

"I would like to take a lot of credit but I was saying the same thing at Notre Dame and the same thing at Virginia when we didn't seem to be as focused on taking advantage of what we thought was driving opportunities in our last two games. And we talked about it a lot on the sideline at halftime and I thought Trent just responded very well. He's extremely intelligent; high basketball IQ and extremely competitive and it was amazing how he was tracking that shot and he wanted to make sure that he did everything he could to try to contest it. Unfortunately, a player got hurt on the play."

**On never leading in the first 44 minutes of the game**

"We're in the middle of an ACC race. The most important thing is we came out of this with a victory. 500 wins; I guess I'm just fortunate I'm around the whole time. This was a very hard-fought game against an extremely good basketball team and as I went through the game, we just kept thinking that if we just came more consistent offensively and defensively, we could win the game. That was my total focus. Just trying to make sure that we kept it simple, kept being positive and stay in the moment. I thought our guys really responded well."

**On Phil Cofer**

"There's no question, Phil stepped up big time. He was not going to let us lose. I thought he made some tremendous shots that were difficult shots but it shows how much progress he's made; the confidence his teammates have in him. He really arose to occasion and made some really difficult shots and it really kept him at bay."