

Post-Game Quotes
Sunday, February 25, 2018
NC State 92, Florida State 72

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

(On what to do when he sees his team losing composure)

"You try to prepare for that before that moment comes. That's all we talk about. This team has done that for the most part this year. I really have only one senior guy who's been around for a while. My team is made up mostly of first and second-year players. Sometimes, we play like we're a little inexperienced. I'm not using that as an excuse. I just think that it's an advantage when you have a group, more mature guys, who have been in those moments. We had a couple of guys on our team that really were trying hard, and they were giving a good effort. But I thought that a mistake to them compounded itself because of a lack of experience."

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

(On NC State defending the three)

"I thought the defense was solid. We shot 63 percent in the second half, and most of it was going to the basket. We had uncontested, wide open threes that normally go in for us. I think that their guys are a little more confident about who they are. They are emotionally connected to the moment, and I thought that you are more successful when you have your focus on what the game plan is, and they're extremely confident that they're going to make this. Sometimes, with a team like ours, we can lose that confidence quickly, and there lies a 20-point loss to a team on the road. The ACC is very unforgiving now. You can't go on the road in the ACC and play okay and win. That's not good enough. You're going to have to play very well, especially on the road, against any team in our league. I think that North Carolina State's team, they're playing for something. A couple of guys, they won't be here next year. (It's) their last go around. They're connected with their coach. The coach has done a great job relating to them. He's instituted a system that they relate to and they enjoy playing. You can just tell. It's interesting that I don't see any selfishness. I see ball movement and high-percentage shots being taken. That's a compliment to him (Coach Keatts) and his ability to get kids to buy into what he's doing. We normally have four ball handlers on the floor, so we don't normally turn the ball over against full-court pressure. Today, I saw our guys kind of panic a little bit once they got trapped, and I think that the size of the moment emotionally affected them."