



Coaches Quotes

Florida State 88, Pittsburgh 75

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.

Pittsburgh Head Coach Kevin Stallings

Head Coach Kevin Stallings Post Game Quotes:

Opening Statement

"It's very crippling and more than we could overcome, but I can't fault their effort, I can't fault how we tried to play. I thought that they tried to follow the game plan. Of course we had some breakdowns over 40 minutes but we really competed and Florida State has a good team. They're long and athletic and good. In the end that was the difference, they were able to draw fouls and we couldn't guard them effectively enough without fouling them. But I was very pleased with how our team played and how we competed and sorry for them that we couldn't pull it out."

On how frustrating foul issues are:

"I think that it is another sign of inexperience is really what it is. It's when you get two fouls or three fouls, it's learning how to play and not commit a cheap fourth foul, which now puts you in a bad spot. It's another lesson that has to be learned, but I don't know what the numbers say, but I thought we did a good job of taking care of the ball, especially against their pressure. For the most part, I thought we were able to get good shots. Finally, in the second half, we started getting to the foul line and we got to the bonus pretty early, so we kept trying to drive it and get to the foul line. We didn't shoot a great percentage unfortunately, but it's frustrating but my frustration is more about, as I've said all year these guys have been really coachable, really responsive to what we've asked them to do and I just want better for them."

On whether there are other things that is causing this losing streak:

"Yea, we are in a doggone tough league. We've had some good nights and some bad nights and on the good nights unfortunately we haven't been quite good enough. It's not like we are losing to chumps, we are losing to good teams, but I do see progress, I do see improvement in our players. I can go down the list of guys tonight that I thought played very well for us. I am disappointed in losing, but I am not disappointed in my players. I am really proud of them as a matter of fact tonight. I'm disappointed for them, but I thought they really fought this game hard and fought to win."

On differences between the ACC and SEC:

"It's just a tough league. The SEC is a tough league too. Generally speaking, it doesn't look like it that's necessarily this year. The SEC was top heavy most years I was there with Kentucky and Florida and this league is different in that it is also top heavy, but it is top heavy with four, five, six teams. It doesn't do me any good to compare the leagues and I haven't been in that league for two years now so I don't know what is going on in that league but thank you. I've been in the Big 10, I've been in what is now the Big 12, which was the Big 8, I've been in the SEC and I've been in the ACC and to me this feels like the toughest league. It feels like the best league I've ever coached in, but that is just one man's opinion."

On how their scouting report was effected by the Seminole lineup change:

"It didn't change anything because I think that one of the really great things that Leonard has is tremendous depth and their playing style fits their depth. They pick you up full court, they make you play, they deny passes, they overplay you, they push it on makes and misses so they are trying to keep the game going like this by virtue of their

offense and by virtue of their defense both. I don't know why those guys were in the line-up and other guys weren't, but it doesn't feel any different, because they are all good. All 10 or 11 of those guys he plays are really good players. Savoy didn't feel like he missed, but hopefully he did, yea we made him miss twice. They are deep, it doesn't matter, at least I don't think it matters, it didn't feel like it matters to me or us.

On how their offense and defense changed once Marcus Carr left the game:

"There were some things that Malik [Ellison] helped us do that were good. We played them together for a number of minutes too and I thought that helped us some. Having two ball handlers out there I thought that was good. I don't know that the offense changed that much, Malik got to the basket some, but we need Marcus out there, he is a stabilizer for us and I thought that some of his fouls were fouls he shouldn't commit especially when you're in foul trouble. He has to grow from that and learn from that."