



#### **Coaches Quotes**

**Florida State 85, Boston College 76**

**March 3, 2018**

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

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

##### **Opening Statement:**

"This was an extremely hard fought game. Both teams played with a sense of urgency. At the end of the day, I thought we had some guys really play with a lot of connection with each other, offensively and defensively. They (Boston College) are such a good offensive team that we had moments where I thought we were playing good defense, and they still found ways to score baskets because they have that ability to make tough shots. Sometimes you have guys who can make high percentage shots, but you have guys who can create off the bounce and off the catch. They are extremely difficult to prepare for because players like (Ky) Bowman and (Jerome) Robinson are capable of scoring regardless of what you do. I thought that a lot of the good things our kids did defensively won't necessarily show up in the statistical column. Like over playing and limiting the number of catches in certain areas, deflections, and steals. A lot of things that won't show up. We wanted them to get lost in the details. Fighting screens, taking away vision, contesting shots, doubling the ball, and getting the ball out of certain guy's hands. What can you say about the defensive job that Trent (Forrest) did for the whole game, and obviously Ike (Obiagu) as a freshman coming in and giving us 12 rebounds and seven blocks. Those things are huge and they show that we are growing and maturing. You don't realize how young we really are and how inexperienced we are. Today I thought that we showed a lot of maturity when the game was on the line. With all of the chaos that was going on, I thought we maintained our composure. We have to give Trent Forrest a lot of credit for that because he kept us composed. We got in and out of our systems flawlessly. We wanted to get as many paint touches as we could the second half I thought our guys really were focused. I was pleased. Now what we have to do is take our mandatory day off tomorrow and come in here and practice on Monday. Hopefully we can take the same spirit and confidence that we get from the consistency knowing that we are capable of doing that for a whole 40 minutes."

##### **On Angola seeing his mom on senior day:**

"Braian had a very emotional couple of days. His two coaches flew in from Idaho and surprised him and he was very happy to see them. His girlfriend flew in from Denmark, she's a professional basketball player. I think that his girlfriend had arranged for his mom to surprise him. It was obvious that it was very emotional for him to have all the people who mean a lot to him being there. There's no doubt that he appreciated the effort of his junior college coaches and his girlfriend, in the middle of their season, coming over here and then obviously to top it off his mother was here. So he was very happy."

##### **On seeing players like Trent Forrest, Ike Obiagu, and Braian Angola develop from the beginning of the season to the end of the regular season:**

"Mfiondu (Kabengle) too. I think he has shown he's growing up. These guys make a lot of mistakes as they go through the process, but I think you saw today that they showed maturity. They are coachable they executed very well and they play with the kind of passion that is necessary to continue to grow. Basically, with the exception of Braian, Brandon, and possibly Phil, we have everybody else coming back. And we have two guys sitting out in terms of Polite and Gray. We think the future is bright but right now we have to stay focused on where we are now and we still have to claw and scratch as we go into this ACC Tournament. We have absolutely no idea where we are going to be placed. There are so many different scenarios. This is unlike what you guys have been accustomed to seeing in the past. I've been saying this for the past two or three years that anything is capable of happening in the ACC. From top to bottom

there are no upsets, there are no easy games, and every game is very hard fought. The teams are loaded with talent, they're well coached, and they play with a tremendous amount of passion. The ACC is a great conference that has gotten greater."

**On Braian Angola continuing to play better:**

"I'm not sure he's all the way back yet but I like the look in his eye. It is challenging for a youngster to come from another country, not being able to even speak English, and go to high school, junior college, and come here and play on a very talented team and have to learn and be a role player for a year. That says a lot about his character and what he is about as a person. He's always been enthusiastic and he's always been a team guy. He is going to get his degree and graduate on time. He represents all of the things that are good about college athletics."

**On Braian Angola getting his shooting confidence back:**

"I try not to get caught up in those philosophical words, like "his confidence is back." These kids are youngsters who are growing and maturing. They are not machines and they are not programmed. They are going to have flaws in the game and they are going to learn and grow and as long as they are giving tremendous effort and they are staying focused I'm happy. Their performances might come and go but they are playing with the kind of passion and teamwork that I think that he's been showing. I'm pleased with where he is and I'm not going to try and predict that his confidence is back I just know that he is giving tremendous effort and I love his attitude. And we'll take whatever happens as a result."

**On their defense in the last five minutes of the game:**

"I think we always try to take away vision and contest every pass. We tightened up a little bit and we adjusted to a little bit of a different defensive style on Robinson. We didn't get very much help off of him and we tried to at least cut the number of touches he got. We weren't trying to deny everything we just wanted to make sure that we made him work for everything. Our sound defensive fundamental kicked in, we contested the passes and the shots and we were solid. I think sometimes when you play good solid fundamental defense it has a way of rewarding you with deflections and steals and I think that is what happened toward the end."

**On the shift that PJ Savoy's 3-point shooting caused:**

"No doubt about that. Terrence got a little winded and we rolled the dice. We try to have the right combination of guys who can defend and guys who can give us some offense. Phil had got his third foul then and we wanted to hold him off as long as we could. It was kind of a balancing act but he (Savoy) shot one real quick and I told him relax and shoot the ball in rhythm. We had confidence in him and he was in there for what he was able to do for us. I also thought that he stressed that side of the floor and opened up the opportunity for us to pass and drive the passing lane. So his presence on the floor was very important."