

**Never Forget Tribute Classic 2018**  
**Saturday, December 8 2018**  
**Leonard Hamilton**  
**Florida State Seminoles**

**Florida State - 79, Connecticut – 71**

**Opening Statement:**

"I thought Coach Hurley really had his team ready to play. I thought they executed the game plan perfectly at the beginning of the game. They took us out of just about anything we really wanted to run. They overplayed, and I thought they did a really good job of making us feel uncomfortable, especially initially in the first part of the game. We're the kind of team that wins the game by using all our parts. I thought our rotation players, our guys came off the bench, and gave us a big lift and kind of stabilized us a little bit. We were very fortunate to get a little separation there at halftime. I think Coach (Hurley) has done such a great job with this team, that they're definitely an NCAA Tournament team. They're going to do very well in their conference. He needs to be congratulated for that. This was a very hard-fought game for us. Obviously, it's a very aggressive game, a lot of fouls. That's what happens when you have two teams that are hungry and aggressive and determined to go out and fight for a victory. We were just fortunate enough to get a little separation from there at the end and was able to make a couple plays and get a couple of free throws down the stretch that gave us a chance to come out with the win. This is a very good team."

**Could you talk about the importance of the runs late in the first half and then again in the second?**

"No doubt about that. To be honest with you, we kind of ditched what we normally like to do because their defense was so good. And we just spread the floor and used ball screens to try to attack the basket and tried to play off of each other because they had us well scouted. They executed their defensive plan and overplayed very much and basically created a situation where we felt it was best to keep the floor open and try to attack off the dribble, off the ball screen. We were able to -- that was different than what we normally do, and we just made that adjustment and gave us enough of a change in there to give us some baskets."

**How effective were your big men Christ Koumadje and Mfiondu Kabengele?**

"We're a team that's still evolving. We're not totally where I think we will be later on. We have five new guys that are trying to get acclimated to our system. Mfiondu is a talented guy that is still trying to find his way. Koumadje got in early foul trouble. We just thought the way the game was going we needed a more mobile guy, and Mfiondu gave us that. They're capable. They're a good working unit. They're different. One is a low post guy, and Mfiondu is a little more versatile, and I think they both, the combination it gives us a good solid position in the post."

**On David Nichols**

"David is an extremely bright, intelligent youngster. He graduated from University of Albany in three years with a 3.9 grade point average. He needs to be congratulated. That tells you the intellectual level of him. But the point guard positioning is very challenging. You've got to learn the system. You've got to learn the players. So he's just growing into being more and more comfortable. He realized that we needed a lift offensively. He's very capable. I thought his defense was solid. I thought that offensively he took -- the confidence that a guy who's played, being a fourth-year player, I thought it was obvious today he seized the moment and gave us a big lift. We've been waiting on him to be able to do that. If he continues to keep improving, it gives us, once again, a two-headed point guard system that we can keep the guys fresh and be able to make a major contribution. So I was very pleased with what he gave us, especially in the first half. I thought it was second half he was very solid."

**What happened to Terance Mann's jersey?**

"It was a very aggressive game, and I don't know how it got torn. I would like for him to have stayed in the game. I thought it was unusual. The referee said it could be a hazard because a player could get it stuck in the hole. That was his story, and I guess he stuck with it. But it was unusual. It was a different thing that I haven't had to be exposed to."

**How pleased were you with Terrence's play tonight? He had 20 points, 8 rebounds, 6 turnovers.**

“How many turnovers did he have. Six? I got to be honest. They forced us into turnovers with their aggressiveness. I like the style they played. That's the way we like to play. They showed us a little more how to play the game that we like to play. But Terance, I thought, was exceptional. He made a lot of big plays down the stretch. I thought his experience showed. We needed him to step up, and he made plays.”