



Florida State 68, Miami 62  
Wednesday, January 9, 2019  
Donald L. Tucker Center  
Tallahassee, Florida

**Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton**

***Opening Statement***

"Another ACC blowout, they come this way all the time. They say 70 percent of all ACC games are decided by four points or less. Unfortunately for us it was another typical ACC game. I thought our guys did a pretty good job defensively. I don't know if you guys know this but the last five games, they're shooting something like 42 percent from the 3-point line. This is one of the best 3-point shooting teams in the country. We knew we had to at least do a good job of limiting their percentages that they would make from the three, I was very pleased with that. As a result, we gave up once again some drives to the basket. I think we had a 12-point lead and we had four bad possessions. Up to that point I thought we had handled the ball pretty well, our shot selection was good, we were moving the ball and making the extra pass. We weren't making shots, but I thought our execution was good. We had an execution problem doing that period and they came down and made four layups. Thank goodness they weren't making threes and then it was a dog fight. They're a very good basketball team, I thought our kids fought very hard. We did some nice things. Our free throw shooting obviously lacked something to be desired, but I think that'll come back. It was nice to see PJ [Savoy] hit a couple jump shots since he's been in kind of a shooting slump. Hard fought game, it's one of those games we look back at the end of the season and we're glad we won it. I still think we are fortunate to be where we are while we continue to keep trying to improve and get better and hopefully, we continue to keep winning while we develop."

***On Florida State's defensive effort***

"Anytime you can hold a team that's shooting that well to 37 percent and 22 percent from three I think the kids are locked in defensively. I think we'll get in our offensive rhythm. We have a lot of guys who've been missing practice, we've got a lot of moving parts going on. Terance [Mann] practiced yesterday, Trent [Forrest] is dealing with a turf toe that's challenging for him. I like our effort, I like the body language, I thought they connected out there. I'd like to see us play a little better offensively. I thought they mixed their defenses up. They pressed us, they played some 3-2 zone, they played some man to man. I was a little surprised that they slowed the tempo down, this team really likes to play up-tempo and I thought that they just wanted to shorten the possessions and they did a very good job of doing that. I thought we would've extended the lead with some good execution and then we had the four bad possessions. In the ACC packed level of competition, you can't have those types of possessions where you're not playing intelligent basketball. We had four straight possessions and what could have been a comfortable victory was a challenge for us down at the end. We got three good stops and we hit a couple free throws and another ACC blowout."

***On if he's sending guys to the glass later in the game***

"We had to go attack the offensive boards in that possession because they were really doing a very good job of getting back. We told them that if we missed the shot, we had to go get it. Hopefully, in a close game like that, come back and run some more time off the clock. We were very fortunate. I thought the defensive stops and the blocks and the challenges down at the end were huge."

***On David Nichols***

"David, you can tell he plays with a little bit more maturity. He's a youngster that's a senior, started for three years at another program (the University of Albany) so he's a little more comfortable and a little more confident than my other guys in the second unit. I thought RaiQuan Gray played with a little bit more confidence tonight than we've seen. I think as the season moves on, you're going to see some of those other guys play with a little more confidence. David seemed to be excited about getting in the moment. He's talking and communicating and he's very decisive in his own good. He wants to drive, he's really making good plays and I think that's because of his experience."

***On Florida State's Depth***

"That's kind of who we are right now. We don't have anyone playing lights out where we can depend on someone on the team giving us 15-20 points every night. We're winning games by committee, we've got a different group of guys stepping up every night. That's who we are right now. What I like about this team is if we can stay connected and keep getting better, I think you're going to see us get better and better as we go through the year."

***On Miami's success at the free throw line***

"They could've missed them. It was a very aggressive game. They do a very good job of attacking the basket and we intended to push up on them so that they would have to drive and not be able to get the threes that they've been accustomed to. You give up something sometimes to get something and I thought that we did bump them. I thought we had some body contact from all of those guys who went to the basket and they made us pay by stepping up and making their free throws. If you look at their free throw percentage, they have not been a high free throw percentage shooting team. I think they shoot something under 70 percent, but tonight they shot very good free throws and we kept them on the line and that's what ACC teams will do. Just when you think you have them figured out, they'll come up with another game plan for you. I think we were a little over aggressive. They knocked their free throws down. In the first half they only made seven baskets but had 13 points from the free throw line so that's ACC basketball. We've just got to be glad we got the victory and we've got to move on to the next one."

***On the guys not looking ahead to Saturday's game against No. 1 Duke***

"We have not talked very much about the game on Saturday at all. We haven't earned the right to look ahead. We haven't played well enough where we can be overly confident about anything. We realize who we are and we're still clawing and scratching and scratching and clawing. We still have a lot of areas of our game that we need to improve. We're realistic about where we are and we're still learning and growing and connecting ourselves. We like this group and we'll keep moving and making baby steps and moving in the right direction."

***On what he hopes to see from his team leading up to Saturday***

"We have to just be who we are is what I want to see. I want us to be the best FSU team we can be. I want us to execute offensively, play lights out defensively. We're not going to change anything. That's one thing about the ACC. We have the No. 1 team coming in to play us on Saturday so you can say this is a big game, but every night you have an ACC opponent it's going to be a big game. There's going to be a big opponent and you have to redirect that. It's Duke this week, next week it's going to be somebody else who might not be quite as talented as Duke but they're going to be a big game for us."

***On the near sellout crowd***

"From a coaching standpoint, I have to be concentrated on what I can control and as a staff what we control. Not necessarily me, but as a staff what we control is our preparation and going out and preparing for another ACC team. We can't get caught up in anything else other than that. I'm glad that we have a full house, I'm glad that our fans are excited. I hope they're excited about coming to see FSU."