



**Florida State (88) vs. Wake Forest (66)**

**Coaches Quotes**

**February 13, 2019**

**Donald L. Tucker Center**

**Tallahassee, Florida**

**Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton Quotes**

***Opening Statement***

"I was very pleased with our guys from an effort standpoint tonight. I thought that in the beginning of the game, Wake Forest had a great game plan. The time off from games gave them an opportunity to get in the gym. They shot extremely well from the perimeter; every time we have them an uncontested three in the first half, they knocked it down. I thought that rhythm was somewhat challenging for us because they had not been shooting that well. I thought they executed very well, I thought they changed their defenses up and that kind of threw us off a little bit and it was very difficult. I thought the difference in the game was our rotation guys in the first half that played extremely hard. I thought they played with a lot of aggressiveness. I thought the residual effect over a long period of time gave our starters a little bit of rest and I think those guys were fresher as we got into the second half and I thought that we were able to get a spurt that extended the lead and then they were not as comfortable standing in zone and we could get some separation. I admire Wake Forest because they've had a challenging season, but their effort as you watch the film has always been there. For starting some young players like they did tonight, those guys are growing up and at some point. In time I expect Wake Forest to be one of those teams to step up and bite somebody before the year's up. I thought our guys played with such great effort tonight. I thought we moved the ball around, we made the extra pass, we were locked in. Obviously, Christ [Koumadje] gave us a big night by just hanging around the basket and giving us some tip-ins and put backs and finishing very well. There were a lot of guys that contributed. Our plan was to try to get a few more guys in the game because we have three games now in seven days and we had some guys come in Devin [Vassell], [PJ] Savoy, [Anthony] Polite, I thought they gave us a big lift along the break and we're going to need that so we can stay fresh throughout this little stretch of games."

***On Christ Koumadje's performance***

"If you go back and look at the last four or five games that Christ has played, he's been rebounding at a high clip. He's been contesting shots, blocking shots. Even when he's not blocking shots, he's contesting shots and he's discouraging people from driving in the lane, so he's become much more aggressive. Mfiondu [Kabengele] has been playing very well, so maybe Christ's minutes haven't been up but he's been extremely effective. We have not been getting the ball to him as much as I think we should, or Mfiondu for that matter. In the game the other day, we had 85 possessions and we only threw the ball to the post 14 times, so we're making more of an effort to try and get the ball inside to Mfiondu and Christ. I thought tonight that he took it upon himself to be a little more aggressive under the basket, I think our guys were looking for him a little bit more. We placed a lot of emphasis in that area the past week."

***On the rotation guys' extended minutes***

"We intended to get them in regardless of what was going on. Tonight, they were very effective when they went in. Devin [Vassell] was locked in, [Anthony] Polite I thought played with a lot of energy, [David] Nichols has been consistent, he didn't score a basket, but he brings tremendous leadership on the floor. We're the kind of team that will have different guys step up every night. We're trying to get ourselves to the point where we get everybody playing well at the same time, that's been kind of a moving target with us, but that's what we're working towards. We're trying to get everybody settled down this time of year and start trying to get in sync with each other and hopefully that will give us a chance to finish the latter part of our regular season strong."

***On Florida State's defense in the second half***

"I thought we defended well. They made shots, we'd like to hold everybody to 29%, but we're not going to do that. I thought our effort was good and they hit some threes that we really contested very well. I thought that they did a very good job, they shot 40%, which overall it was 38%, but I thought our effort was good. That team had some schemes that were somewhat challenging for us. We had a hard time with [Chaundee] Brown, we had a hard time with [Brandon] Childress, but I thought we did a very good job of not letting them get in rhythm. Overall, I thought our effort was good and I can live with that."

***On Devin Vassell's growth***

"Devin [Vassell] didn't play in the last two games. It wasn't anything other than we were just shortening our rotation up to try and work with our more experienced players in those last two games. He along with [Anthony] Polite, [RaiQuan] Gray and even Wyatt [Wilkes], those guys have been working very hard in practice. They're showing some promise and I had a feeling that if they got in the game and got a few minutes that they would do well, and they did tonight."

***On the selflessness of Florida State's team***

"Our theme was always been to try to play as hard as you can and play as unselfish as you can. We don't want guys being passive, but tonight I thought that we were locked in, moving the ball, making the extra pass and trying to create for each other. You like to see your team developing that type of chemistry this time of year."

***On the connectedness of the team***

"This team is well connected. They call themselves '18 Strong' and that's the truth. From the walk-ons to whoever is supposed to be the leader of the team, everybody blends in and they have a voice. The green team, they call themselves 'The Vipers,' they do a tremendous job of helping us prepare for every game and it's not like we beat up on them. Those guys are very effective in executing the other team's offense and defense and gives us a realistic view of what we have to prepare for. When guys come out of the game, those guys have the responsibility of watching them and giving them information about what they think they're doing and what they think they can be doing better, how close they're coming to consistently executing the game plan."

***On PJ [Savoy]'s performance***

"That was pleasant. Pleasant, what they say a sight for sore eyes. We need him to be a little more consistent. I thought tonight, he had a little different look, a little bounce in his step, he was extremely confident, he was not hesitant at all. If we can get him back to shooting the ball the way we know he's capable, that's going to make a tremendous difference, especially as we go to these two games on the road that we're facing."