

Coaches Quotes

Florida State (59) at North Carolina 77

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Dean E. Smith Center

Chapel Hill, N.C.

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement:

"You have to give Roy's [Williams] team a lot of credit. I thought they had more pop. I thought they had more energy. They were livelier. I thought they had, what our players say, a little more juice than our players did. Sometimes, when you play three games on the road in seven days, it was my worst fear realized. I thought that today, we got beat by a better team that has more energy and executed their system better. You have to give them credit where credit is due. I'm not sure had we not played three games on the road in seven days, even if we had been at our best... Carolina is playing at a very high level. They executed extremely well. Defensively, they boxed us up. We had some really good looks in the second half. We have had three or four games this year where it seems like the ball just isn't going to go in the basket. A lot of their defensive schemes took us out of things that we normally do to get around the basket for our big guys. I thought we just weren't on point today. We have to have a quick recovery. We have four games left. Thank goodness it equals itself out and we are at home and hopefully we can recover. We just got beat by a team that was a lot better than us today and executed a lot better. You have to give them credit for being on point. They seem to be playing at a very high level toward the end of the year. One thing that I can take away, I have a feeling that we are close to reaching our potential. Hopefully that is a good thing and we can get back and regroup and finish very strong."

On North Carolina's Nassir Little

"When I was at the University of Kentucky, North Carolina was my game preparation and I was there for 12 years. We played Carolina about every year. That is a long time ago. They've always been good. They've always had players like little. He is more of the same. He falls right into the category with some of the great players and potential guys that come in as freshmen. He is showing more and more now towards the end of the year why people thought he was one of the top players in the country coming out of high school. I wasn't surprised at all that he played as well as he is capable of playing. We kind of expected that, to be honest with you. He is an outstanding kid. I know him very well. He has high character and is loaded with talent. He is playing with a lot of maturity for a freshman. He is going to be an added boost for them once they get into the NCAA Tournament. He is athletic and strong and right now he is playing with a lot of poise. Tonight, he was extremely aggressive especially in the first half. Even though the game was back and forth, he gave them opportunity. He made some really athletic plays that only a guy with his physical skills could do."

On the Player from Carolina that Presents the Biggest Mismatch

"They have a system. Because they execute their system, depending on who they are playing, other guys are going to have an opportunity to have a more positive input on that particular night. That is the good thing about Roy's team, they execute very well. They move the ball- the Carolina way. When you execute and move the ball, the offense finds you... When you have talented players that are bought into a system, that presents challenges to the visiting team."

On North Carolina's Cameron Johnson

"The thing about Cam [Johnson] is that he is who he is. He is a tremendous shooter. He's 6' 9" and it is a challenge for anyone to guard him because he is mobile, plays inside outside, is smart in the head, makes good decisions and has a high IQ. He fits into their system pretty well because if you leave him and give him a little bit of room he will knock down the jump shot and he is athletic enough to drive to the basket. They are a good basketball team with a chance to win the whole thing."

On Florida State Being out-rebounded By North Carolina

"What you have to do is give Carolina a lot of credit. They have always been one of the top leading rebounding teams in the nation. This is not anything new. Just because we are taller does not mean we are better rebounders. You have to give them credit. They outplayed us tonight. They have outplayed a lot of teams over the years. Very few teams have come in here and won very many games. That is a credit to their program, their tradition, the coaching that they have produced here."