



Florida State 68, Notre Dame 61
Monday, February 25, 2019
Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee, Florida

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"I thought our players showed a tremendous amount of character tonight. At the beginning of the game I didn't think we played with the type of energy that we have been accustomed to playing with, especially at home. I thought that Notre Dame's strategy of moving the ball, making the extra pass and making us work on defense was the right way to approach us. Obviously four games in nine days is somewhat challenging for any team. The NBA teams very seldom do that, but I thought our guys held up pretty good. It's obvious we were a little leg weary; but I thought that there was a moment in the first half, MJ (Walker) came and ignited with his energy and defense. We got some deflections and steals and kind of got back to plan, the way I thought we had to play in order to be successful against this team. In the second half, we weren't quite as energized as the last few minutes, but we had a point there where I thought we were solid. I thought our guys worked the boards pretty good, moved the ball, had guys make big plays. Obviously (Christ) Koumadje, he gave us a big lift in the first half with 12 points, five rebounds; going 12 minutes. He's locked in, he gave us a tremendous effort. So we're going to come back and get ready to play, but I know it's going to be a very hungry NC State team, these are typical ACC games and they are competitive every night regardless of what their records are."

On Freshman Devin Vassell

"His body is not as run down as some of the other guys because he has not played the minutes of those other guys have been playing, but he's positive. They have a smaller lineup, but they were good shooters, and Devin (Vassell) is long and athletic. I thought he would do a good job contesting, he's very active. He is very calm and relaxed, he plays with the truth and confidence; we thought this was the right matchup for him."

On Florida State's Loss From Saturday Affecting The Seminoles

"I don't think the loss from Saturday had anything to do with this. One, Notre Dame is a good team. I think they went to Virginia and lost by four. This is not a fluke, they have a good basketball team and it was going to take a tremendous effort in order to be successful, but I do think three games in seven days, four games in nine days is challenging. We put some guys that I thought could give us a big lift and I thought those guys stepped up and made some big plays for us. Those two tip dunks that Devin (Vassell) and Terrance (Mann) made were huge plays. Devin's three was huge, but this is the ultimate of winning games on commitment. That's kind of who we are. We didn't have anybody have what you call a lights out game, but we had a lot of guys contributing, and that's kind of who we are."

On Florida State's Defense At The End Of The Game

"I thought that we wrapped it up defensively late in the game. We didn't sustain effort the entire game, but I thought we had the steals and stops, and that's what we have been doing all year. I'm just hoping looking forward where we all start hitting them. Every team is going through injuries right now, so stop the excuses. I was glad to see our guys find a way to win at home against a very good team. A game that we really, really needed."