



Florida State 59, Georgia Tech 49  
Saturday, February 2, 2019  
Donald L. Tucker Center  
Tallahassee, Florida

**Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton**

***Opening Statement***

"To prepare for this game I had the opportunity to watch quite a few of Georgia Tech's games they played. I talked to Coach (Dennis) Gates and kept saying to him "Why do people have so many problems scoring against them?". "What is it that they do that takes away certain things that makes it very challenging for teams?" I've seen a team that holds everybody in our league to 28 percent 3-point field percentage on defense, that just doesn't happen. Those are schemes, systems, fundamental defensive schemes that they (Georgia Tech) are consistent with. I guess I found out once the game started. I was asking the same thing during the course of the game. They have a very good defensive scheme that really takes certain 3's away from you, especially the wing 3. There's certain things that they give you, that's where we faltered. I think we took advantage of what the defense gave us because we were so accustomed to getting certain things, that their defense made it challenging for us. Have to give Georgia Tech a lot of credit, we had them in foul trouble, we got into their bench, and it was very difficult for us. There was a five, six, seven-minute period where I didn't think we executed very well. I thought we had them on the ropes, they just kept chipping away and chipping away. Their philosophy I thought was working very well. This is the kind of game that we'll go back and learn a lot from watching film, we'll get the chance to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of how we approached this game because this would prepare us for the next game we're playing against Syracuse, who uses another type of zone defense philosophy. This would've been three straight teams, counting Syracuse, that we played against who use different zone defense philosophies. We'll be well versed on how to protect these things. I just hope we keep figuring out a way to be ahead by half a point at the end of the game. Hopefully we can learn while we win."

***On Georgia Tech mucking up their defense in order to have a chance and what they have to do?***

"Very seldom will people use a center in this type of scheme, to cover the base line from corner to corner. They have an athletic shot blocker back there who does a good job corner to corner. They really take away the wing jump shots by doubling up and crowding that area. And most people play out of the wings, they can do a really great job taking those away from you. What they give you is a short corner and they give you a post pass. You saw, we tried to throw the ball to the post, but I thought we tried to initiate the offense too far out on the floor, I think guys were getting pushed out. Phil is my best baseline shooter, and he played a couple minutes in the first half and then had to sit for foul trouble, but I believe we're capable, I believe we understood and had a great game plan. But going through the game plan and executing are different when you go against a team who "mucks it up," And you have certain things you're hoping on. If we move the ball as quick as we need to and do a great job, I think we will be a lot better than next time we play against them because they do a really good job. They're leading, either one or two, in defensive categories in the ACC, and a few other defensive categories they're third in. This is real, they do a very good job."

***Against teams that are able to take away so much offensively, how important is it to get those frequent trips to the free throw line and making the most of it?***

"There's no doubt that getting to the free throw line is important when we're playing against a team, to use his term, "mucking the game up." They are patient offense and they do a very good job on making you work on defense. They execute, they reverse the ball, and we had to work. In the second half, I thought we did a very good job taking their perimeter shots away and they start throwing the ball inside, and I thought that's where they were effective. Looking at the stat sheet, they outscored in the paint almost double."

***On how Terance Mann's leadership and play has helped influence the team and recover from the 1-4 start?***

"I think the 1-4 start was because we played some pretty good teams, and we didn't play as well. In the ACC, if you don't play well every night out, something bad is going to happen. Terance is a senior, and takes a lot of pride in the roles he's been given. We have two captains, him and Phil (Cofer), and they spend a lot of time talking with each other and work with the team. He's playing a complete game of basketball. He's making good decisions with the basketball, communication with his coaches and players, he's studying the scout report and holding his teammates accountable, making sure they go into this game prepared and understand what our game plan is. I couldn't be happier with him. On the court he's giving physical effort and off the court effort by being a great leader."

***You mentioned Georgia Tech is such a good team beyond the arch, but the fact that you were able to get those timely baskets, was it nice to get those 3's when you needed them.***

"There's no doubt we continue to win games by committee. We have a lot of guys contributing. He (Josh Pastner) had a system and wants to "muck the game up." We feel like we have to keep a lot of fresh bodies on the floor and have a lot of guys hitting on all cylinders, and we aren't quite there yet. It's a little less challenging when you're only playing seven or eight guys, but when you try to develop a team that utilizes full players, it's a little more challenging and takes a little longer to develop that cohesiveness and chemistry that is needed. Because everyone wants to play every night, sometimes you go into the game and find guys who are playing more consistently. We're still working and developing, I think this team had potential to keep improving, who knows what might happen at the end of the year."

***Are you happy with the way your defense played?***

"I thought our defense played solid, I really do. We had a good working knowledge of what to expect from them, and from their execution. I thought where they hurt us, they got the ball inside and I didn't think we did a very good job on covering down. We let a guy take three dribbles at the post, and when you do that they get their rhythm and they made us pay inside. But overall, we did a pretty solid job defensively. It's going to take that kind of effort on a more consistent basis. And we were playing pretty good defense last week actually, I think we've been inconsistent with our perimeter shooting. We shot the ball well against Clemson and Miami, we didn't shoot the ball well against a couple other teams. So during that period we didn't become worse and we didn't become better. But we have to find a way to smooth it out and become consistent with how we go out and perform every night. That has been the movement talk for us."

***On being encouraged by Terance Mann and Trent Forrest after last week?***

"We've had games where we didn't have three starters practice during the week and just kind of played the game. We've had some of that during this little period that we've been going through, but most teams go through difficult periods, hopefully we are going through ours now and won't have to deal with it later on. It's part of the process, I'm just glad we're back 4-4 and we can hopefully keep moving in the right direction."