



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

**Georgia Tech Head Coach Josh Pastner**

***Opening Statement***

"First off, give Florida State a lot of credit. Coach Hamilton, one of the great coaches in college basketball. The team is very, very good; this is how good this league is. They've got six of their top eight from last year's elite eight team and they are 14<sup>th</sup> in the national polls in the preseason and seventh in our league preseason. I just think they are long, they're strong, and they're big, so got to give them credit. Our only way of survivability in this league is through defense and we came in today fifth in the country in 3-point percentage defense and 11<sup>th</sup> in the country in defensive efficiency. That's what we've hung our hat on since I've been here, two and half years, we've been very, very good defensively and tonight we were very good defensively again. This afternoon we had struggles offensively and it's just unfortunately been a reoccurring theme. We've gotten great looks today to make in this game and today we missed some. Our game plan was to keep the game in the fifties, to muck it up and muddy it up and we did that. Once again we had 49 points and that just makes it hard to win a game but we executed the game plan we just didn't get a couple shots. Credit to Florida State and we will be ready to go on Wednesday against Clemson, we've got to bounce back and no time for any woe is me syndrome or playing the victim or blame game, we've just got to find a way to get it done and move on to Clemson on Wednesday."

***On The Shot Selection Struggle By His Team***

"I would've liked to punch it more inside but we had some wide open 3's. It's hard to tell a guy not to shoot it, I mean they are just so wide open it's just hard not to shoot it. We are great drivers in there but we're not as athletic as the rest of the teams in the league, we've got to get more athletic. What we can control is our competitive excellence, our toughness, our ability to have a motor, to defend. Those don't take a lot of skill or talent, that just takes who we are. But offense is a lot of skill and athleticism and all those things and we've just got to keep getting better in all that both through development, we've got to keep getting guys better, we are still young, we've got to keep getting guys better, keep increasing as we are recruiting, keep increasing our athleticism but defense is what we hang our hat on, which we can control and that's just playing hard. I've got to get back at the tape, probably some shots we'd like back but there's a couple where your feet are so set and wide open you just, what are you going to do?"

***On Jose Alvarado:***

"I didn't think Jose was real good today, obviously. We need him to be better, he's been a tough young man for us in his year and a half but today he wasn't real productive, so he's got to be better for us and told him that after the game. He wasn't good today. Jose, didn't play well and he knows it."

***On The Close Game Towards The End:***

"We had some opportunities, we missed some point-blank layups, had a couple great looks at 3 and we just couldn't score."

**On Coming Out Slow In The Second Half**

"We struggled to start the second half. We only had four turnovers the second half. In the first half we were up 12-6 about to score again and Michael Devoe got back tapped and they ended up scoring, making it 12-8 and kind of cut the momentum a little bit that we had. But that second half ... that was the difference in the game, was that second half, because they got up I think 41-29 and we fought our way back again and we did our job defensively. It was just once again our Achilles' heel has been on the offensive end. Florida State had averaged 77 and the whole part of the game plan was to muck it up and muddy it up, but we've got to be able to score and make some shots. We've just got to be able to do that. Florida State is a very good basketball team. They are very long; they are going to make another deep run in the NCAA tournament."

**On Getting Transition Baskets**

"We've talked about that. We were struggling in half court so we tried to score as much as we could in transition and we had a couple of opportunities in transition. That was our best offense, in fact, trying to get some things in transition. Our whole focus is trying to get into the paint, punch it in, which we did. We probably need to punch it in even more. I've got to look at the tape and I don't know if we are at a point where I say you're not allowed to shoot 3-pointers; I don't want to do that. We had some great looks. Shot selection is a big thing too, totally in agreement on that. Right now we are just struggling from shooting, it's just bewildering to me."

**On Abdoulaye Gueye and Evan Cole:**

"Abdoulaye Gueye played really well. Evan Cole played really well. James Banks and Jose have to be better. Michael Devoe has to be better. For Jose who is a sophomore and James is junior, those guys have got to be better for us. I know James got in some foul trouble but he's got to be smarter on those early fouls and walling up the proper way."