

## **Coaches Quotes**

**Florida State (59) at North Carolina 77**

**Saturday, February 23, 2019**

**Dean E. Smith Center**

**Chapel Hill, N.C.**

### **North Carolina Head Coach Roy Williams**

#### ***Opening statement***

"We feel very good about the W. We know we can play better, but Florida State, they know they can play better as well. They didn't shoot the ball anything like I've seen them shoot in some of those games they've played. Fantastic club. I can't imagine winning eight in a row in this league and four of them on the road so Leonard [Hamilton] has done his usual fantastic job. I think they're really good. [Mifondu] Kabengele is a load and he didn't have his normal game today like he has been. He's been the leading scorer coming off the bench. He is a bad matchup for any of our guys. I think that Trent Forrest has really been someone we were worried about but he got hurt a little bit and so that was a bad thing for us because they brought in [David] Nichols and he made four threes and we were standing there watching him. I thought we did a much better job offensively in the second half. Late, all we were doing was trying to make four or five passes before we went into a set so we just used some time. I like Luke's [Maye] work on the boards with 11 and Cam's [Johnson] work on board with ten. 47-32 on rebounds. We had ten turnovers, I thought we had 103 so it just depends on how you look at those things, I guess. I feel very fortunate to win the game and did some nice things."

#### ***On success on rebounds***

"Well, we out rebounded them by ten in the second half. We had a five-rebound margin at halftime. In the second half, we had ten more than they did but that is something we emphasize all the time. You should do things better if it is what you emphasize the most and that is what we emphasize more than anything. It is one of the three things I put on the board today, but they don't usually shoot 30 percent and we fortunate we got them today in a game they were missing a bunch of shots. We tried to box them out and keep them off the offensive boards. I think we ended up 15-9 points on offensive rebounds. I would like for it to be a little bit more."

#### ***On three keys on the board***

"I don't think coach [Dean Smith] put three, I put three almost every game probably missed two games in 31 years where I didn't put three up and it's just to try to focus on things that I think come most important."

#### ***On Nassir Little's performance***

"Nassir [Little] was huge for us. He had eight rebounds, which is his high. Nassir and B-Rob [Brandon Robinson] both were big. B-Rob was involved in about three straight plays in the first half and he got wacked the other day and broke his tooth....so he is wearing something in his mouth. Nassir getting to the backboards is something that I think really helps us. He had one drive and dunked it quicker than anybody and that is what he can do."

#### ***On Nassir Little's performance, today vs. his performance at Duke***

"I think he was more engaged, but he was feeling better. He had the sprained ankle in the Virginia game and we held him out and then the Wake game he got hit in the sternum and that was really sore for two-three days so we held him out again. I think that he and I had a conversation yesterday and told him to focus on getting to the back boards and doing those kind of effort things. That was big for us early in the game when he got in. He is like everybody, if you do something and do it well once you start feeling better. I always like for guys first shot to go in or first defensive play to do a good job. I think he was huge for us the entire game."

***On Nassir Little playing consistently down the stretch***

"It makes our team better. That is pretty easy. He is one of our most gifted players. Garrison [Brooks] does a great job for us defensively and comes up with some nice screens, loose balls and rebounds. He was one for two today and played 22 minutes. It was an effective 22 minutes even though he was one for two and two for two from the line so he had four points and three rebounds, but he does a lot of great things for us. Nassir and got in there and his stat line is pretty impressive."

***On what to expect to look for going into the next game***

"When we got back here Wednesday night, before I let them go off the bus I talked to them about we did some good things, we got a W, we got to keep playing or you give it back. We have had a couple of Ls here in the Smith Center this year so you got to protect your home court. I have always never minded going on the road and playing, but that was a good win for us. I think I probably harped on that more this week than I ever have. I don't know that there is a pattern. I remember one day we played and beat one of those number one teams and the next day we were great. They were cocky and I like that. I like confidence probably better than cockiness. I don't think there is any pattern."

***On two games not depending on the three***

"Well, I am depending on the sucker to go in so they need to start making more. I've always said you got to have great balance and I don't know how many points we had in the paint today, 28, I would like more than that. I always rather have great balance trying to get the ball inside and to be able to have shooters shoot the ball from the outside. If you bank one in every now and then that helps you too."