



Florida State 73, Virginia Tech  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019  
Donald L. Tucker Center  
Tallahassee, Florida

Virginia Tech Head Coach Buzz Williams

***On What Changed Defensively Between The First And Second Half***

"I thought to start the second half for sure they were able to get it to the paint much more effectively. I think that bled into the second media timeout as well. We were a little discombobulated because of them on both ends of the floor. We didn't get to the paint enough, we allowed them to get to the paint; which ended up in creating rotation for us, which created fouls."

***On How Shooting Assisted In Losing Their 14-Point Lead***

"We shot two percent worse in the second half than we did in the first half. So, I don't know that the sample size is enough to say that, but 2% is 2%. I think that when we are in rotation not only will we tend to foul, I think they were averaging 21 free throws per game, and in the first half I don't know how many they had but for our group currently that's really important. We can't absorb foul trouble and foul trouble for any team is when you get in rotation. I thought we did a good job; we're trying to get them to play later in the clock. We want their volume of shots to be trending toward threes so 36-58, that's a good percentage. That first 7-8 game minutes of the second half we were completely out of sorts and that was because of them."

***On Not Leaving With A Double-Bye In The ACC Tournament***

"I know you know where we were when we got here. I think it's pretty remarkable we would play for the fourth seed on the best league in the country and considering all that has transpired this season, to have play the way we have play over the last nine games, it's scared my heart in a good way. Despite all that happened in the first 7-9 minutes of the game, the fight and the character in which we fight, the togetherness, is as good as I've ever seen. I think getting to that point is probably a little harder. I'm sure you've probably seen it in all your years as a writer. I think getting there is a little harder and finishing there is even harder."

***On Florida State Large Senior Class And Its Effect On The Game***

"I think that helps, I think that you're only as good as your returning player. I think most coaches would agree with that. They're for sure the oldest team in the league, chronologically, and they're also the oldest team in relevance to class. Love their team, they're going to play 10 high-major players. They're very effective defensively, contest every dribble, contest every pass and if you can get past that first line, it's still hard to get a shot off against 21 or 25. I think 14 has really changed his game and I think some of the things they're running now, I wouldn't say that that they're new but they're more frequent. 25 is such a hard guard because can you guard him 1 on 1 without fouling? Do you have to trap the post? When you trap the post, now you're in rotation. I think 3, maybe statistically it's not attractive appealing but he does such a good job of igniting downhill, it's just going downhill. I do think that they're resilient, but I don't know that Coach Ham has ever had a team in 31 years that wouldn't be an adjective to describe his team, that's his program."

*On If Justin Robinson Will Play On Senior Night Against Miami*

"I don't know."

***On Executing Their Defensive Plan In The First Half***

"I think they had 29 possessions in the first half, and I think they got a box touch eight times. They got to the paint 43 percent of their possessions tonight. But I thought we were much better as far our execution defensively and offensively for that matter. Our turnover rate was too high in the second half in my opinion, I know he thinks that is and he's right to say that. But I thought our turnover rate was too high in the second half, we had a low turnover rate in trying to manufacture baskets. The last 25 minutes of the game we had 10, in the first 20 we had four."

***On The Game Plan For Guarding Mifondu Kabengele***

"No, we call a trap in the post 'monster' and depending on where the ball is and depending on who threw the ball, depends on if the monster is on or off. So, it's not specific to 25, but I do think that he's a hard guard because there's a tendency to say 'man we need to get it out of his hands'. I think that they set a lot more ball screens than ever before. So, 25 is different than 21, 21 is always going to roll. But they're doing different things when 25 sets the ball screen because not only can he roll but he can also pop, so their spacing changes based on who's setting the ball screen."

***On Virginia tech's Fatigue During Overtime***

"No, no sir. We've played seven guys for the last nine games. I mean it is the first time we've gone into overtime, but I think it's the accumulation of their pressure, the accumulation of their depth, the accumulation of their length, their resilience, but I don't think that we were tired."