



Coaches' Quotes

Florida State 89, Chattanooga 53

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Florida

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"We went into this game somewhat anxious because we were down two of our more experienced players. I was uncertain of what I was going to get from my team, this early in the season. I don't think we have had all of our players practice together since October 3rd or October 4th, which has stunted our development and forced us to have a lack of a consistent practice schedule. I thought our guys responded well, we challenged them, to execute, and to focus on doing a better job of executing. The other night when we played against Western Carolina, I thought we were extremely aggressive and anxious, I thought that we had very poor ball movement and ball reversal. We challenged them (our players) to move the ball, we had two hundred and twenty-seven passes, therefore we moved the ball well, we moved the defense, and we had high percentage shots, this allowed our big guys to have more room for offensive boards inside. I thought that this made it tremendously challenging for Chattanooga to defend, because the ball moved so well, and our guys stepped up and knocked down some shots. Defensively, I thought we were a little more focused, this team shoots the ball well from the perimeter, they hit two threes in the first couple minutes of the game, our focus was to contest those shots and keep our hand in the passing lane. We gave up some buckets inside that I was concerned about, but overall it was a good defensive outing for our guys. We take into consideration that we are still trying to grow and learn; you guys find out things that we are capable of doing the same time I am. We are learning about this team at the same time. This team has potential, but I think that we have a long way to go, but I thought tonight was a step in the right direction."

On the play of Balsa Koprivica

"Balsa has gone from extremely anxious and nervous in the beginning of the year, to playing with a lot more confidence, you can see his body language and facial expressions are more relaxed, and he has become a more instinctive player. He is learning and getting the reps in and doing the things that we are asking him to do. I think he is making progress; he is still learning and there's no doubt about that, but I was pleased to see him play with the level of confidence that he did tonight."

On the play of Dominik Olejniczak

"Dominik has still not practiced; he did not practice this week at all. He walked through some things with our staff and did some drills, but we felt that the fact that we were down two players that we needed to get some minutes out of him, and I thought he responded very well. He is probably about 85-90 percent back to being completely healthy. He has one of those unusual type of injury, that you can't hurt it that it takes time to heal, he was anxious to get some minutes, we were anxious to play him, and I thought that he responded very well. To have two big guys give those type of minutes is something that we have not had as of late, and hopefully we can continue to keep growing in those areas."

On Patrick Williams, his natural maturation and outlook for the future

"I think he played twenty minutes, he asked to come out of the game several times, which means that he is giving tremendous effort. He is learning and growing as well, I very well could have started him, but I see something special in him. I don't want to put him in situation where he feels a whole lot of pressure, I want him to have a natural maturation. I think if he continues to keep growing, his minutes will continue to increase, but he did not

have any wasted minutes. I thought that his effort was good offensively, and defensively, he had a couple lapses when he was defending the post but that is only natural, he didn't get to the front and they got a wraparound pass, but I believe that we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg of what he capable of doing."

On having RayQuan Evans available, the impact of his minutes

"He looked relaxed out there, he has been very anxious as well, he tore his hamstring on October 4th. He has only been back at practice for about five or six days. He has been watching and learning, and I thought that he looked very comfortable out there, obviously he is not in any playing shape, he was fatigued, but I thought that he showed glimpses of what he is capable of doing. I said all along he is important part to this team, he is talented enough and knowledgeable enough that he can give Trent Forrest rest, and we will not lose much production."

On Trent Forrest's game, the impact of his minutes

"We just want Trent to be Trent. He is a very capable scorer, he scored over three thousand points in high school, which shows that he is capable of going to get a basket when he needs to. I think that he plays the game the right way. He will have games where he gets twenty points, and he will have games where he gets eight points, but he will always do the things to help the team win the game. He is taking over a new role, this is an adjustment period for him. We are all adjusting, I don't know how many more games it will take for the team to get in-sync. I think that down the road if we keep playing with the focus that we did tonight, I think we be able to get there, but we are a long way away from showing what this team is capable of doing."