



2019 Florida Basketball Postgame Quotes
Leonard Hamilton, Florida State Head Coach
No.6 Florida 51, Florida State 63
November, 11, 2019

On what went right for them in the second half...

"We stuck with basically the same game plan into our game. I thought we got some stops and were able to turn it into baskets. We get out and be able to push the ball down the court. It's easy baskets. I thought that as a result of that, our execution in the half court was very good. We got some wide-open threes. Went four for eight in the second half, and we were both kind of scoring, and I thought during that period when we got a couple of threes, we got a couple of deflections and steals and turned them into baskets. That gave us a little working margin. I thought that was the difference in the game."

On the defensive effort in the game with new players...

"We don't really change any of our defensive philosophy that much other than this. Sometimes we switch one through four, sometimes we switch one through five. With Blackshear being on the floor, we have to almost treat him like a small forward because he's such a great shooter. And we have not been a real good perimeter shooting team. We have not found some shots this year, but I think we will be a good shooting team. I thought that defensively we were able to get deflections and get some baskets that kind of created a sense of urgency on their part. They were not quite as patient in the second half, and we got some deflections and that was the biggest difference in the game."

On the hot start in the second half and building up confidence...

"No doubt about that. When you just come out in the second half and make a couple of baskets and get a couple of stops, you get a little working margin and it gives you some confidence. For this team, that's important because we have so many new moving parts. I mean we're still trying to find ourselves. Dominik in practice that one day and the last five weeks, we had no idea he was going to be able to play at all. Yesterday was the first day that Evans was able to play. Trenton didn't practice the last few days. He had the flu. And so, we've just had a lot of moving parts, being displaced and moving hotels and moving. It's just been that tight, so for these guys to go through all of that adversity and then stay focused, go on the road and be successful and win against a really, really good University of Florida basketball team, I think it says a lot about the potential of them."

On the Seminoles' sixth win in a row over the Gators...

"Some of those victories could have gone either way. My point is that we had about three or four that were that were one or two possession games, and the last couple years we've been able to take the lead. But that's not something that, that's just the nature of the rivalry. We feel fortunate to come away with a victory against an unbelievable, outstanding, well-coached and talented team, and I'm sure they're going to do well this year."



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FSU Player Quotes

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#24 Devin Vassell, Sophomore Guard

On the Seminoles' sixth straight win over the Gators...

"I mean it's exciting. We knew we were going to come in and we had to battle. They're a great team, a great coach. We've had their number the last couple of years, but every time you play your rival, you get excited, so I'm just thankful and happy that we were able to get this team win."

On wanting to get momentum heading into the second half...

"Oh, of course. We were just talking in the locker room saying we need to get more transition points. I feel like in the second half we did that and [inaudible]. We were able to just get out and run and get dunks and get lay ups, and you know, that's just FSU. Just getting all of those fast break points, so once we were able to do all that, we started getting rolling and find out how many."

#23 M.J. Walker, Junior Guard

On the defensive effort and being successful in that regard...

"Well, we talked. Going into the game, I feel like the last game we kind of learned that we really wasn't talking as much and communicating, especially in things like that, so I think the biggest thing we did tonight was talking and giving that extra effort."

On what Coach Hamilton was telling them during the timeouts as they built a bigger lead...

"Just to stay focused. We were in that same position at Pittsburgh, and he was just saying to lock in and basically keep our composure, stay poised and continue to do what we do best. Driving the ball, I think we was kind of going around the perimeter for a minute, so we continued to stay aggressive, and it came back to us."