

Coaches Quotes

Indiana 80, Florida State 64

Assembly Hall, University of Indiana

December 3, 2019

ACC / Big Ten Challenge

Florida State University Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"I thought Coach Miller really had his team ready to play. I thought the fans were ready, I thought the team was ready and I thought the coaches did a great job preparing them. I thought there were times in the first half where we were clawing and scratching and scratching and clawing. I thought they were just executing their game plan a lot better than we were. We got down big and cut the lead down to something reasonable but then (Justin) Smith hit a fall away fade to end the half. That's kind of the way it went for us the first half. Second half, we came back out and I thought that we made some adjustments. We had a period where we missed four point-blank layups and couldn't get to the foul line. The one kid, he just had one of those nights you know you're going to run into one or two of them throughout the course of the year. Unfortunately for us, he had it tonight. Green, I thought he did a great job of just being in the moment. This was a very important game for them and I thought he got himself mentally into that zone that sometimes great shooters will get into. You hate to run into them. You'd like to have a few of them on your team yourself, but tonight was his night and honestly, he had a huge difference in the game."

Coach, you cut it to three, maybe two there in the second half. What happened from that point?

"Well, I thought that even though we cut it to that point, we were still in that period where we had those four point-blank layups that we missed. Then we missed several free-throws and layups and they came down and made us pay for each time we faltered. They started inching us back in the other direction instead of closing. I got a technical because I gave a gesture, I thought it was pretty quick. I'd like to earn my technical. I didn't get my money's worth on that one. At least I need to say something or do something, but I didn't get a chance to earn that one. I thank God he only missed one of the free-throws, so it didn't cost us a point. But on the serious side, I just thought that the Hoosier players, coaches, fans, I thought they showed that Indiana is on its way back. You have to give them credit. I thought the players played with exceptional amount of energy and focus. I thought they were very focused in their game plan. We forced over some turnovers, but we could not make them pay on turnovers because we didn't cash in on those. When you're on the road against a really good team like this, that's what happens. There's no doubt that this is the best team, we've played up till this point. I think they are definitely a top 25 ranked team. I think they are going to be a NCAA tournament team and I think the fans can be very proud and happy that they are showing signs of coming back to the Hoosier style of ball they've been accustomed to over the years. I thought the fans made a tremendous difference in the game, I thought they were really into the game. That's what you've always known about the Hoosier fans. I've been here many times, been an assistant at Kentucky for 12 years and it was just as loud tonight as it was some of those years I use to come here with the University of Kentucky."

When a player like Devonte Green is getting hot and hitting those three pointers, like you said the crowd will get into it. How do you get your guys to calm down in that storm?

"We'll be faced with these same scenarios in the ACC. It's really good that we've had the opportunity to come in and get that type of ACC atmosphere this early in the season. It's somewhat challenging when you have six new players like we have that we're counting on to be part of our rotation and they haven't been in this type of environment. The only way you compete in an environment like this, you execute well, and you keep the crowd out of it by being productive. There was a period I thought in the first half where we were climbing back and got it close and it was an extremely competitive game. Then we had a stretch where we missed four layups and they made us pay on their possession and the game got away from us. Green, seemed like everything he threw up there, especially from three, was going in."