



## Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton Q&A Highlights

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

"In our preparation for this game and watching film, we recognize that Coach [Mike] Young has done an outstanding job putting together a team in a short period of time. They seemed to have surprised a lot of people, but this time of year, there are no really surprises; they're a good basketball team. You can say you're surprised back in October or November, but these guys are really good. He has them playing at a very, very high level and I thought that as a result of the respect we have for them and what we say they were doing. I thought our focus moved up a notch because we realized that if you rely on them getting the 3s that they have been accustomed to getting, then we're going to knock them down. They do such a good job in the half court of executing the offense and creating opportunities for each other. I thought our players did a pretty good job of staying solid and not giving them the easy looks they've been accustomed to getting. I thought it made a really big difference in the game. They're no longer a surprise and I thought the fact that our guys played as well as they did, but as a result of the respect we have for them. You've got to congratulate them. The first half could have gone either way. We came out the second half, got a little separation. I thought our guys kept making plays, got some defensive stops, and we were able to hold on."

### ***On Devin Vassell's performance:***

"Devin is pretty consistent. This game was a sense of urgency for us because we lost last weekend. We felt that Virginia just outplayed us in certain spots. I thought we played well for about 25 minutes, but I thought that Virginia played better than we did for forty minutes. And we felt that this had to be a 40-minute game for us, and I thought Devin's body language, his verbal communication with his teammates, he was just locked in and I thought our players recognized that and they were trying to get him the ball and he stepped up and was extremely productive. I think his energy was infectious and I think it motivated the rest of our players as well. He's a good shooter, but I think he got the ball in a rhythm, he was focused, and Virginia Tech did a very good job of taking away [Anthony] Polite. I think Polite might be shooting 50 percent from 3 in the conference. So, they did a very good job of taking other guys away. We only had one guy in double figures, and that was Devin. What I like is that we had a lot of guys contribute a little bit, and that's kind of who we are; we win games by committing and I thought that really made a difference. We had everybody that went in the game contributing in some kind of way. Devin just happened to be our lead dog of the night and it's been that way all year. It always seems to be someone stepping up and that's who we are as a team."

### ***On defending Landers Nolley:***

"We don't really change our philosophy on how we defend him because we switch one through five. So, it's kind of difficult to have one guy defending him. We had to defend their system and we tried to not give them those easy baskets that they usually get with [Wabissa] Bede penetrating and finding an open man. We did a decent job containing the dribble, which I thought led to the fact that they didn't get as many kick-off jumpers and he's deadly when he gets a rhythm jump shot, no doubt about that. But again, because of what we saw in our evaluation, I thought our guys had a focus of executing our defense because we knew that if they were able to run their system the way they've been running it, we'd have a difficult time containing those 3-pointers."