



Coaches Quotes

Florida State 82, Louisville 67

Monday, February 24, 2020

Donald L. Tucker Center

Tallahassee, Florida

Louisville Head Coach Chris Mack

Opening Statement:

"I give Florida state a lot of credit. They have a terrific team. For us it was a tale of two halves obviously, we battled, we wanted to keep our turnovers low. I thought their pressure, although it might not have turned us over a ton it kept us on our heels like it does with most teams. We handled it for the first twenty minutes or so but I thought we came out of half time and set the tone the wrong way the offensive end with a couple bobbled balls. I don't even know if they converted; I thought they coughed it back up. It just sort of set the tone the wrong way. And then we got driven way, way too much in the second half, rather we were in zone or we were in man. They are a really good team; we don't apologize for anything when it comes to playing a team of this caliber. For us, playing shorthanded, we won't make excuses but it's a little difficult, it wasn't difficult in the first half we just couldn't keep up in the second half and again I give Florida State a lot of credit."

You've played Florida State twice now, both tough games, speak how talented of a team this FSU team is?

"Really talented. I think the most impressive thing isn't their talent level, it's how hard they play, I said that to Leonard (Hamilton) before the game. I have such a respect for how hard he gets his kids to play; the buy in that they have. They are obviously led by a guy who I think is an amazing point guard (Trent Forrest), who has been through the league wars and he just plays like a vet. He's a big challenge for us because we have a freshman point guard that we hope will get to that level one day. He is just really good, and he gets his guys to the right spots. They are a really good team, they are hard to guard, they play extremely hard on defense, but we knew that coming in."

With the season winding down, just a few more games, how can you assess which team has the best chance to win the league this year, is it a four team race or a three team race?

"I only worry about our race. Obviously we aren't in the driver's seat anymore, we've got two games left other teams have three or four, we have to worry about we can control and that is. We have to be at our best on Sunday against Virginia Tech, we finally have a chance to get a little rest, we have been going twice a week since December. This (Florida State) is one of the better teams in our league no doubt about it."

Why do you think the offense was being slowed down so much in the second half?

"They (Florida State) turned up the pressure, their intensity level. I thought we missed some layups near the rim that we made in the first half. I think we missed we open threes from guys that I want shooting threes and had those gone in you know you probably wouldn't be talking about offensive struggles. It's not as if we had 20 turnovers which can happen to many teams. I'll take Jordan Nowra (shooting) open threes; we had some stagger action and got open threes for Ryan (McMahon) and they didn't go in. We have to find a way to get offensive rebounds. They (Florida State) are big and athletic, they have a plan, they switch, and they tried to get in the lane like we did in the first half, spray out, make shots and get to the foul line like we did in the first half, we couldn't get to the foul line, couldn't get a whistle even when we initiated the contact. It is what it is. In this league when you're playing a team that deep, or with so much energy, when they come out in the second half like that how hard is it to come back."

On defense did you feel like you were missing Malik Williams for the inside presence or did you feel like there was another factor?

“On the defensive end we are always going to miss Malik no matter who we play; he’s our best defensive player. He defends the rim, very vocal, he sees the game. But it’s still going to be a challenge on offense, not because he doesn’t bring anything to the table it’s just they switch, you know you’re post game a lot of times can get negated because they have big guards and they switch, you try and take advantage of one your two mismatches. The big guy on the little guy in the post or the guard on the perimeter ... I’ve watched so many games and nobody runs their offensive against Florida State and it’s a credit to how they play.”