

**Coaches Quotes**  
**Florida State 79, Pittsburgh 72**  
**Peterson Events Center**  
**February 20, 2021**

**Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton**

**Opening Statement:**

"Anytime you can go on the road and come away with a victory in the ACC, you have to be pleased with it. This team, I thought, played with a lot of aggressiveness, they had an unbelievable game plan where they intended to spread the floor and drive us, take us off the bounce. They did a very good job of getting in a paint. There were times I thought they did a very good job of containing dribble. That's been the strength of their team. We tried to play good solid defense without fouling but it's very challenging because that's the strength of this team, the ability to drive and kick outs. I was pleased that we did all the little things with the game on the line. It gave us a chance to win. Our bench was phenomenal; we had 30 points off the bench. I thought we had a lot of guys contribute. M.J. Walker, he didn't get a chance to practice this week. He was dealing with some of the light injuries that didn't keep him out from playing but kind of got him out of rhythm a little bit. I can tell that Anthony Polite is still trying to take the rust off of this layoff, as is Balsa [Koprivica]. So with all that going on, going on the road and come away with the victory, I'm very pleased."

**On if he liked the way they attacked the basket:**

"I think that we did a very good job of getting in the paint to get kicked out threes. They did a very good job defensively of being physical inside and we must have missed probably seven point-blank layups that we probably could have gotten but they were so physical that we didn't handle that very well. You got to take your hat off to them, I thought they were very well prepared. I thought they never allowed us to get a whole lot of separation. And they were extremely patient ball. At the end of the day, I thought we got the stops we had to win the games on the line. I thought our guys executed and made big plays. Got some second shots off the board that kind of secured the victory for us."

**On what it says to get a win without M.J. Walker scoring a point:**

"Even though he didn't score a point, I thought his contribution defensively and his leadership on the bench was unbelievable. I mean, M.J. didn't practice for two days. He might practice maybe 30 minutes this last game. Quite naturally, you wouldn't expect him to totally be on top of the game, but he gave us great leadership. I thought his defense was excellent. We were able to win the game by committee. Now, look at the quality of our depth, getting 33 points off our bench really represents who we are as a basketball team. We continue to keep winning games by committee."

**On how challenging of a game it was against a hungry Pitt team:**

"They were extremely determined because this is a very big game for them. I mean, if they had an opportunity to win this game, it would probably put them back in the NCAA Tournament picture, being that we are ranked in the top teams in the ACC. We got their best shot, no doubt about that. They were very deliberate, they were very calculating on exactly who they were on, they just dribbled the ball around and they really wanted to take us off the dribble. We probably could play more zone. You have to give them credit. It was a hard fought game for us. That's why I feel so good about the game because they did a lot of things well. They were extremely determined to try to get this victory in that we never could get in separation and that shows how determined we were."