

Coaches Quotes

Florida State 93, Boston College 64

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Donald L. Tucker Center, Tallahassee, Fla.

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement:

“Obviously, I thought this was tremendous way to send our seniors off. I have never seen so many guys cheering for one another and just being happy for the experience. Last night we had our last home team meeting, and the seniors had a chance to address their team and thank people for the experience. There must have been 25-30 people there and everybody was crying. Every player that took the podium was crying, sharing their experience and how much love they have for Florida State. I thought that those emotions were reflective how hard they played and how consistent they were for the full 40 min. We developed a culture that seems to be growing and I think that the unselfish spirit, the intensity, and the effort that these guys have been giving is a result of the brotherhood they have formed and Seminole spirit they have. They won’t forget this night, but what we need to do now is enjoy this moment for another hour and 15 min and then get to bed. Sometimes in life, you don’t have the chance to compete for one championship. Some people have never competed for one championship, checkers, marbles, ping-pong, jumping rope whatever. We have the opportunity to compete for two back-to-back, in the best conference in history of college basketball. We’re excited for this opportunity and we’re going to try to stay focused and be ready to go on Saturday in South Bend.”

On M.J. Walker dishing to Scottie on his senior night:

“That’s what I was saying earlier. There were so many examples of unselfish play by our guys and caring about each other. They’re brothers and enjoying the experience. I tried to put Tanor (Ngom) in the game and he’s begging me to put Quincy (Ballard) back in the game in his place so that he could get a basket. That’s the kind of unselfish spirit that these guys have developed. Their brotherhood is special, the coaching we developed really represents the Seminole brand as well as anything I’ve experienced. It’s been a fun ride for these guys for the past four years.”

On M.J. Walker being able to play tonight:

“I did not know that M.J. Walker was going to play. Scottie (Barnes) has tonsillitis and he got antibiotic yesterday; that helped him be able to play. MJ has not practiced since before the Pittsburgh game. He has been recovering for that long period of time. I knew that Malik (Osborne) was not going to play. I really did not know that Scottie and MJ were going to play until the shoot around at 4 o’clock. Scottie has been really sick, and MJ was still nursing a little bit of tendonitis. They both miraculously came around to deciding they wanted to be a part of tonight with the seniors. That just speaks volumes about them.”

On the final play:

“It was a pick and pop. Harrison (Prieto) shoots that shot all the time and the season could not have ended on a better note. I am so proud of him and the Green Team. I’m not sure people realize the important part they play in what we do. Their voices are just as important as the lead scorer on the team and they exercise it. They’re treated like the lead scorer; everyone is treated the same. That is why tonight was so special.”

On the energy in the building:

“I thought that the players got their energy from the crowd and the crowd got their energy from the players. They had such a festive, fun attitude with effort and unselfish spirit that the crowd got excited about them and they got excited from the crowd.”

On two straight seasons without an at home conference loss:

“I’m not a party pooper but I try to take things one day at a time. I try not to think about those things. It’s very important for our legacy, I just try to worry about the things I can control everyday practice, every possession in practice, every possession in a game. To try and get these guys to buy into the little things and the details that have allowed us to be at this point. We don’t want to put pressure on ourselves to be breaking records, we want to put

pressure on ourselves to give it all we have, with all of our heart, all of our effort and all of our soul on a consistent basis.”