

Coaches Quotes

Florida State 83, NC State 81

Saturday, January 2, 2022

PNC Arena

Raleigh, N.C.

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"I'm sure like most of the teams this time of the year that are going through the challenging period of going through the Covid, the pauses and the Christmas break, this was a very satisfying victory under those circumstances. We had a lot of uncertainty going on with our team, but we showed a lot of fight and hustle. I thought they stayed focused and didn't allow themselves to get rattled; This is a very challenging type of game for us because they (NC State) do such a great job with their ability to take you off the dribble and create. Today, they shot exceptionally well from three; obviously they went into the games shooting around 29 percent from three (point range). So, that gave us an exceptional challenge. I thought we made enough plays down the stretch, got some steals and deflections that gave our guys enough breathing room where we could get what I call an ACC blowout by two points."

How nice was it to have Cam'Ron Fletcher play well against NC State?

"He's a long ways away from being what we think he can become down the road. That's where we are without any practices. We've probably had three team practices where we've had everybody – we've had five here, four there. It's been challenging, but it's been challenging for all of the schools this time of the year. I was surprised we were as cohesive as we were under those circumstances. We had some guys – Naheem Mcleod, show that he's improving. Cam – he's been bothered by the injury to his eye and some other little minor injuries. Matthew Cleveland – I thought showed some good play. There were times on the court where I looked up and I had three to four first year players out there who are still trying to figure out what we are doing. So, I was particularly pleased to go on the road and get a victory against an extremely good basketball team that was as hot as a firecracker. This is a big game for us; hopefully it will give us a little confidence and give us an idea of what it's like to play a very challenging opponent on the road."

What can a result like this do for the confidence of the team and players?

"I thought we grinded it (this game) out. We made some plays down the stretch. We were a little bit uncertain about what to expect from each other. When you only have a few days of practice, and you haven't played a game in 17 days – we came out of the shoot somewhat rusty, unsure and not really in great condition. That's what makes this victory important to us because we are far from being a well-oiled machine. I'm not sure the fact that we made some baskets, is an indication of whether or not we are a great shooting team or a bad shooting team, I think that we are a work in progress."

What are your thoughts on how the team battled back while on the road?

"That's what you like to see out of a team who's not real sure what they are doing. We can't be but so sharp with no practices. I thought it showed a little bit about the potential heart and desire that this team has. Hopefully, we can continue to keep growing."

Were any challenges on defense linked to such little practice time?

"It wouldn't have made any difference if we could have practiced 24 hours a day, (Dereon) Seabron does that to everybody. He's an unusual type of skilled athlete who has the ability to get to the basket. He had his day. The name of the game is not about him, it's us trying to figure out a way to come away with a victory. That's what I'm most pleased with. He's a great player and he's going to score that way against, I believe, just about everyone who guards him."

What can you can about the performance of your seniors in today's win over NC State?

"There's no doubt that Wyatt (Wilkes) made a big play; Malik (Osborne) made several big plays; RayQuan Evans gave us good leadership; Anthony Polite didn't score a lot but I thought that hos presence on the court at the end of the first half was excellent."