

**Coaches Quotes**  
**Florida State 57, Syracuse 96**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**  
**Barclays Center**  
**Brooklyn, N.Y.**

**Syracuse Head Coach Jim Boeheim**

**Opening Statement**

"Our defense was good from the beginning. Our rebounding was better, and we handled the ball full court better than we have. I think that our movement was really good on offense. We got a good shot, a really good shot. We passed up a pretty good shot to get an even better shot. Cole and Joe were really, really on their games today right from the beginning, but I think our defense was good. They missed shots, but we forced them into a lot of those misses. We were playing really good perimeter defense. Then as the game wore on and they hadn't made anything -- you know, they just couldn't make anything. And that happens once in a while. But our movement was good. Our rebounding was good. Our defense was good. We've been playing well. Our offense has been good. We've been bad in end game situations and that cost us two or three games, but our offense has been good all year, and today it was good."

**What you can say about that decision to bring in Cole Swider and just what he's done this season in a big game like this?**

"He's played great. He's been good right from the beginning. He struggled just a little bit early, but he's been really rebounded well all year for us. I think he is getting better at putting on the floor, which he showed today. He's a really good player. Again, I like our group. It's just unfortunate that we didn't keep up with that four-game winning streak. I think that would have made a big difference for our team."

**How much of a confidence boost is it going up against this team, and if you could comment on what's probably your last matchup with Coach K.**

"We're ready. They've handled us both times with no problem. We haven't been in the game with them. They're particularly difficult for us because of the big guy. They throw it over to the top to him. Ben Carroll's really good in the middle, and they've got great shooters. They're a difficult matchup, really difficult matchup for us in our zone. We're going to have to play better offensively than we did in the two games with them to be in the game, but they're a very difficult matchup. It is what it is. We've played everybody in the league tough, either beaten all the other teams in the league or lost by one. They're the one team we haven't been able to play against. So we'll see what happens tomorrow."

**Early in the first half, there appeared to be a play where Buddy caught a Florida State player in the midsection.**

"I saw the play. The kid pushed him twice, and he swung around and hit him. I think it was inadvertent, but that's okay. I just watched the play. No, I don't think he hit him. He just swung around and there was contact. The kid pushed him twice. You can't just let people push you around. It wasn't -- it was like this."

**Coach - I'm watching it right here. It's on ESPN, and it's being shared all over social media. He punched him in his stomach. It wasn't inadvertent. It would have been a flagrant foul.**

"Whatever you say. Whatever you say. Good, you say it. I just gave you my version of what I saw. Okay? Can we disagree? Or do I have to. I don't have to agree with you, right?"

**I know you talked on it a little bit earlier, but specifically with guarding Mark Williams, what did you learn through the first two games that you can use?**

"He's good. He hurts you on defense, and he hurts you on offense because he's right at the basket. We're going to play these other guys, and you have to get up on Ben Carroll in the lane or whoever's in the lane, and he's right there underneath, and you can't get back to get him. They throw the lob pass to him extremely well. He hurts you on both ends."

**Just to come here to the Barclays Center, put up 96 against Florida State, how fun was this for you? It seemed like you guys were genuinely just having a good time out there, especially towards the end.**

“Winning is always fun.”

**Coach, I was just wondering if you had any update on John Bol after his injury in the second half?**

“He didn't look good. It didn't look that good. It's his bad knee, and he had some pain in it.”