

Coaches Quotes
Florida State vs. Florida
November 18, 2022
Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee, Fla.

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"I've got to give the University of Florida credit, I thought they did the best, or the better job than we did with the game plan. With them being down going into half time to come back and make adjustments offensively and defensively, mostly defensively; I thought that their energy in the second half created some turnovers, they made some quick decisions, and they got the momentum -- then they were able to get back in. First half I thought that we played with a lot more energy kind of knowing that we have some rotation guys, some healthy guys that we can utilize. It's a little bit of a challenge for us as well as our players now because we try to integrate guys who have not played at all back into our system. I was very impressed with Chandler Jackson, I thought he managed the game very well. I thought De'Ante (Green) had ACL surgery in January of his high school year, so just getting on the court for him is progress within itself. Obviously now he's not all out there yet because he hadn't totally 100% recovered from his injury but I thought that he was giving pretty good effort. Cam Fletcher, he was challenged a little bit by an upset stomach. You have to give credit to Florida going out and being able to lead us through the second half and putting themselves in the position to win. It's not easy going on the road, to be down seventeen at half and come back and try to figure out a way to win so you have to give them the credit for their focus and their consistency throughout the game."

Coach Golden talked about your team beating the scout he said in the first half and then kind of pivoting to, you mentioned, the defensive pressure. What was about that? I mean it just seemed like he was giving y'all all sorts of problems

"There's a certain demeanor you got to have to face some pressure and there's some fundamentals that we just haven't mastered. Let's call it like it is. I'm going to be honest with you. I thought that we have always been able to fight pressure and tonight I thought we gave into it. Long as you lose two of your point guards and I thought that our guys didn't handle that very well. Least some deflections some steals just, I think they might've poked the ball from us about four times, and I think they might've scored on all four."

Do you think it was Florida coming in the building or getting some guys back that brought that energy in the first half?

"I thought it was probably a little bit of both. We have too many that really respect Florida's program. We just have to adjust how we want to play now with our new addition of some guys who aren't healthy and we got to have more a little more confidence in those guys and not put our guys in situations where they got to play as many minutes as our guys in relation to how we let some people, that's not how our program is built. We've got to play to maybe three or four minutes instead of full halves. We have not been able to do that.

Over the years we've heard you talk a lot about how important it is to ball movement, pass, you know give a number of passes and touches, what do you think is contributing right now to the long stretches of sort of that, long stretches of dribbling?"

"In the past we've always had some veterans. Third- and fourth-year players who have been around. Now we're going and playing guys while we're still trying to teach them, and our system's a little different, and we have not mastered that. We can't make 230 passes a game. I'll be surprised if we made seventy-five

in the second half. The dribbling isn't as much as it is being a good receiver. You've got guys who are not moving enough to make themselves available to make those catches. A lot of guys come from programs where they run a lot of sets, so they don't require you to move as much. We thought we had solved that, we worked on it all summer, but I think we'll get there. It's been a long time since we had to deal with this many losses in a row, especially at home and so we got to teach some pride in how we address that."

Castleton did have nineteen of his twenty-five points in the second half. What was he doing in the second half that had him playing a little bit better?"

"I think we made it easy for him by giving him so many tough-shot baskets after turnovers. If we didn't give up those turnover baskets, he didn't get his points like he normally does and it would've been a different situation, but you can't make those ill-advised turnovers and ill-advised passes. And then, defensively, (inaudible), we don't have anybody on our team to step up like we did."

Which challenge is more is it them learning or is it seeing how they handled this physically?"

It's a little bit of both. Chandler (Jackson) hasn't practiced at all in eight weeks, seven or eight weeks and he was able to get some contact, so I was extremely impressed with him. He's been doing some dribbling on the side, but he's been doing noncontact stuff. He's been able to get in some drills, but he hasn't been able to get in any contact and it's hard to come out there and be totally sharp when you've had in three or four days of contact in eight weeks, so I was pleased with what I saw. De'Ante Green, obviously he's keeping at it he hasn't been able to play since last January. I'm surprised and pleased that he's able to be at 100 percent recovery. I literally thought we'd be redshirting him for the whole year, and he's done such a good job coming and working out, lifting weights and training, and he was completely healed. He wanted to play, his parents wanted him to play, and we needed him, another big body, now we just got to make sure we get him to see like everyone else. (Inaudible name) just got released a couple days ago to practice as well."