

Coaches Quotes
Florida State vs. Stetson
November 7, 2022
Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee, Florida

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

“You’ve got to give Stetson a lot of credit for sticking to their game plan, and creating opportunities for their teammates. Their change of defenses, I thought, kind of unnerved us a little bit and created some indecision on our part. We had some moments where I thought we showed some life, but I think it was just the fact that – and you don’t ever want to say inexperienced – but this is probably the most inexperienced team we’ve had, and we showed that tonight. I thought we had a lot of game slippage on the offensive end, where we were not that well-oiled machine that we were hoping to be this early in the season. I didn’t see anything that’s not fixable. Hopefully we will learn that every team we play – like Stetson – will be giving us their very, very best. It’s a big adjustment for a lot of my players because we’re kind of standing on some shoulders of guys who have established the style of play, a legacy of a system of executing offensively and defensively that they’re still learning – and growing to learn – to appreciate. We have to be hopeful that [we learned from] the lack of things we executed tonight, and we must be prepared.”

On the defensive end was it the rotations, the effort? Was it communication issues? Guys getting caught flat-footed? Anything you can put your finger on?

“Every once in a while, you run into a guy who can throw it in from the parking lot – and I’ve got to tell you – that was part of the problem. A kid just had one of those exceptional shooting nights, it didn’t matter how far away he was from the basket. He had one of those type of nights that we’ve had guys have occasionally – that’s a bad combination when you’re not really at your best. You have a guy like [Luke Brown] who was just throwing them in from the parking lot and we didn’t do a very good job defending it. Now, that’s been a challenge for us. Most people consistently like to switch our big guy off on their little point guard, and that’s the price you pay sometimes when you switch one to five. But he never drove to the basket, he just had one of those nights where he just backed up a little farther from the basket and he happened to have one of those nights. And we were very ineffective in terms of defending his ability. But I thought we had a lot of breakdown, both offensively and defensively. We had our moments where I thought that we really played the type of ball we’ve been accustomed to, but we like that shot blocking in the interior and defending the rim presence that we’ve had. I thought our two freshmen who played, I thought they gave full [inaudible], but I just think overall, as a team, we show our innocence, and we hope we’ll learn from this game and be much more prepared on Friday night.”

You mentioned before that your most experienced players on this team are in their second year in the program. Do you see signs of where the leadership might come from?

“Well, it has to come from everybody, because we expect second year guys to have the maturity to lead like some of the juniors and seniors we’ve had in the past. You go back to Toney Douglass and [inaudible], those guys had team meetings on top of team meetings on top of team meetings because they we’re always mature and it earned the rightful respect from the guys. Right now, that’s the challenge we have with us, we can overcome it.”