

2021 Florida Basketball Postgame Quotes

Leonard Hamilton, Florida State Head Coach

Florida 71, No. 20 Florida State 55

November 14, 2021

On Florida's performance...

"I thought Florida definitely did a great job, especially with their game plan. They took a lot of things away from us that we've been accustomed to getting. I thought they were very well prepared. It's obvious that they're a lot farther along with their execution than we are. Even when we went in at halftime up two, I thought they had outplayed us. I thought that we had made enough plays at the end of the first half to be ahead by two, but I thought that they were doing an excellent job. I wasn't very comfortable, even though we were up two with 10 minutes to go. I thought that was when the game changed. I thought that they turned it up a notch and I don't think we matched their execution and their intensity at that point. I thought they played with a lot more connectivity than us. Even from the beginning of the game, I could just tell that our youth and inexperience were showing - just in terms of reversing the ball and doing the little things that we have become accustomed to doing on a consistent basis. I think the fact that they have older and more experienced guys... at least a lot their transfers have played college ball. They were accustomed to a little bit more than we were. One time I had looked up in the first half and I have five first year players out there. A lot of them, three or four of them, were freshmen. That's not making any excuses, I just think they did a great job with being who they are better than we did at being who we are. I thought that they out Florida State'd, Florida State. I thought they did the things to us that we've been accustomed to doing to other people and you have to give them credit for that. I thought they executed their game plan, and they were consistent. They were willing passers and they created for each other. They were extremely aggressive on the ball. The thing they probably did better than anybody who's played us is they contained the dribble, so much better than any team we've played in a long time, and you've got to give them credit for that."

On what this experience can do for the team...

"This kind of reminds me a lot of what we faced when we went up to Indiana a few years ago. The atmosphere was outstanding for them, the team had a level - we call it juice - they had a lot more juice than we did, in everything they did. And that's kind of what it was here at Florida. You could tell that this game meant an awful lot to them, and Coach White really had them ready, mentally and emotionally. I thought they played with a tremendous amount of togetherness, and they were on point with everything that they did. Even during those periods where we were making baskets, I thought that they still had that determined look in their eyes. I don't want to use the word desperation, but they played with a lot more focus than I thought we did, for the entire game. I thought that our guys were trying to adjust to what they were doing, and I thought that they really knew what they were going to do and they were bringing it on every possession. That's a credit to Coach White and keeping his team together, focused and executing their game plan."

On timeouts versus learning...

"They had a period there - I think it was 48 seconds to go to the timeout. You're thinking that's two possessions, if you can just maintain you don't have to waste one of

your timeouts. Well during that period, we turned the ball over twice and they scored. Probably, you look back at it - woulda, coulda, shoulda - I should have called timeout. But we've been there before. We've been in close games like this, and I think our inexperience did show quite a bit today. We had some veterans that didn't have great games. I think Florida had a lot to do with that because they did a great job defending us. I thought that our young guys are still growing and making adjustments. From a coaching standpoint, I thought this to be a tremendous learning experience for us as we move through the remainder of the season."

On Tanor Ngom getting back...

"I have absolutely no idea when Tanor's going to be back. You know, those types of things, you've got to let it run its course and let's just see what happens. We're not going to rush him, we have no idea, and I'm not going to use

him not playing as an excuse. I'm not real sure he would have made that much of a difference today. Florida just outplayed us in a lot of ways."