

## **Coaches Quotes**

**Florida State 97, Lipscomb 60**

**Wednesday, December 12**

**Donald L. Tucker Center**

**Tallahassee, Florida**

### **Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton**

#### **Opening Statement**

"Obviously this was a game that gave us an opportunity to get that bad taste out of our mouth after the loss over the weekend. I was pleased with our effort. We shot the ball well tonight. They played a pack-line defense; we got some deflections and steals and got some good looks in transition. A lot of the missed cuts that we had still shows that we are still a work in progress. I see our potential, and I'm anxious to see how we can maintain or develop some consistency as we move into our next game, which will be a real major game against Central Florida."

#### **What did you think about Anthony Polite's career high performance tonight?**

"We encourage Anthony to be a lot more aggressive, and sometimes it's hard for people to understand the transition that is from being a guy who is a contributor to a guy who is now a lead dog. He's been more of a support player to some of the guys we've had in the past, and he's done a very good job with it. When the lead guys got most of the attention, he was able to fill in and really do a good job. Now he's a lead guy, and he's getting a tremendous amount of attention. There are guys who are taking his left hand away, and they're closing out on him really tough. So, we've been encouraging him to be a little more aggressive and because that is the role he has on this team, I thought he made a step in the right direction tonight."

#### **What did you think of the defense tonight?**

"I thought that our defense was on point. This was the same team that went to Dayton and beat them by a large margin, and Dayton is the team that beat Kansas. They are an excellent perimeter shooting team. We were really defending and working hard the first half and every time they got a good look, they knocked it down. Matter of fact, I think at one point they might have been five for five from three; they hadn't missed a three. That's what good teams and division I teams do for you. This team has been very successful the last three or four years and the coaches have done an outstanding job. They challenged us, and they executed the offense with precision. Every time we didn't switch them correctly, they hurt us at the back door. Every time we gave them an open look, they knocked it down. It looked like one of those games we couldn't let up. If we had allowed them back the way we've done sometimes in the second half, they could have very well gotten back in the game. One thing I was most proud of, I thought we maintained intensity way into the second half. We've had a tendency to have these lulls and dips in the second half that have cost us three games after being ahead at halftime."

#### **Can you talk about the opportunity for guys to come in off the bench after putting in the work at practices?**

"We still are concerned about our post play. Tanor (Ngom) went down as our most experienced guy, and we've had a void to fill. We moved Malik (Osborne) from the power forward to the center position, and people are a lot bigger than we are when we go to that type of lineup. We are anxious to get Naheem (McLeod) back. We've seen flashes of what Naheem can give us as a potential shot blocker. He has good hands, power inside the paint, but that's just what he has to adjust to, getting under that basket and playing like a center forward. He has the potential and talent, but he is going through that adjustment of being a first-year player in that system as well. We did get a chance to get a couple of the big guys on the floor because we are going to need them as we move forward through the remainder of the schedule we have to play."

#### **What did you think about the way the team came out during the second half?**

"Obviously, there was a mindset with our players that we did not want to have a dip. We've seen that we always had a dip in the second half, and that shows that they responded and are holding each other accountable for the things that we feel we need to do in order to dig ourselves out of this little ditch we've put ourselves in."

## **Redshirt Senior Anthony Polite**

### **Talk about the victory against a team that can shoot from the perimeter**

“We knew that they have a lot of really good shooters, a couple of guys that are good at creating for others. We stayed in our scouting report and tried to take away those middle drives, and contest those shots as good as we could.”

### **What was the conversation like in the locker room at half, knowing that you guys have played well in the first Half and then gotten slow in the first couple of games?**

“Just keep playing with emotions, keep having fun, keep playing for one another, and get out to a good start just like we had the first time.”

### **What can this career high game do for you going forward?**

“Keep giving me more and more confidence. I have to say thank you to my teammates, they keep telling me to shoot the ball, be more aggressive. Today I came out aggressive from the jump. The ball started going in and that just feeds confidence. I feel like we all feed off each other. One ball started going in and everybody started making shots, that was something that we haven’t been doing. We’ve been playing with a lot of emotions, and I feel like that is something that we’re going to keep doing, and it will make us really good.”