

Coaches Quotes
Florida State 55, at Boston College 71
Monday, February 21, 2022
Conte Forum
Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Boston College Head Coach Earl Grant

Opening Statement

"I think what's interesting is, it's such a thin line between winning and losing, we may have lost two or three games where it was a one possession game, with two minutes to go. So I think not growing weary means you're not too far away from success, that if you just keep swinging, and chopping, and staying the course something good is coming, if you don't give in. They didn't give in, they just stayed the course. It's been one heck of a week. From last Saturday to today, starting with Duke, they've played like four games so, the guys didn't grow weary. They had good energy today, I thought our crowd would give us a boost, they did. We came out of the gates with a lot of intensity, and I am just proud that we were able to find a way to win."

On Boston College's quick start

"We had that start maybe one other time this year [11-0]. I think both times we played Notre Dame, we started like that, but that team is very capable. We knew we were going to be down a couple men like them and it was going to come down to who had the most energy and most willpower. Our guys just had a lot of effort. Hard deflections and steals, they made the right plays, finding each other for shots, but I have to give us credit, we made the shots, sometimes it's a make-miss deal. Eleven 3's is a good night for us."

What is your team focused on?

"We are two weeks away from going to Brooklyn. My whole approach is, I really hadn't focused on, I didn't talk about winning this game, I talked about winning behaviors, like taking charges, rebounding, making the right decisions when we drive it against their shot blockers, it was a big assist game I thought. Our guys did the job. I have been focused more on behavior than I have been result, because I know we are trying to build a program. I know we are in pursuit of trying to be a good team. We have talked about it, we want to be playing our best basketball possibly that we can play, when we get to Brooklyn. The only way you can do that is, you can get better, you don't get weary, you show up everyday, you come in and work at it, so today was a good step, we got a lot more challenges ahead of us, starting with the game on Wednesday in Raleigh. We just got to stay the course, just try to keep moving forward, get better, and hopefully get healthy."

On the play of your guards

"I think with the two guards, it's a blessing. Two good guards like that. I really like playing two point guards. That's just kinda what I learned about myself in the past eight years. We're fortunate to have both of them, we thought that JayZ (Jaeden Zackery) would've been a ten minute backup to Makai at that point, you know that's what we projected going into the season. But with injuries and some different things, he started every game, 35 minutes a game. It's a luxury to have both of them, with Quinten and James, I typically haven't played a ton of two centers, it's mostly like a six-six, seven-four man who can drive it, but we figured with those two, we got to play inside out, we got to try to get the ball inside and it was a very huge advantage for us with their size tonight."

On Making 11 3-Point Shots

"One of the two things that we said we needed to try to focus on was trying to take care of the ball to a level where we don't allow them, the athletes that they have, to run out and transition. So we wanted to take away their transition, their fast break points. They had 11, most of those were in the first half. Then, we wanted to take away second chance points, which they usually hit the glass with their length and they can get 18-20 points on the second chance, but we held them to 10. So those were the two areas we felt that if we could take care of those two, forcing them to play against our half court D, that we could have a good chance to guard them."

On the injury to DeMar Langford, Jr.

"Day-to-day, DeMarr kind of game time decision, probably could have played today, but not super, wasn't one-hundred percent. Watching him shoot around, he's out there, but just felt like we have five games left going into Brooklyn, you want them to get right. If we didn't have this game today, and we are playing on Wednesday, he probably would've played, but this is a makeup game. TJ is a couple days away from getting back in practice. Hopefully by the end of the week, he will get moving around, but sometimes when you have seasons it just happens like that, you got guys out and you still got to go try to win."

Freshman Guard Jaeden Zackery**On the quick start**

"Honestly, we have just been struggling lately, and we realized we had to come out with energy. We had DeMarr out, TJ out, a lot of us are hurt, so I felt like I had to come out and make a statement and start with some energy, and everyone just kind of feeds off of that."

Senior Forward James Karnik**How did you guys answer everything they tried to do in the second half?**

"Part of the game plan was to just be really defensively sound, you could probably find film on it. Coach Grant said if we keep them in the 60s, this is our game. One of the things we knew is that Florida State isn't going to really look to shoot the ball as much, so we just wanted to close in the gaps, and that's what led us to our victory today."

On your play under the basket

"It's interesting. I personally love it. As the big guy, there's usually a lot of attention on you, when I am going for a rebound, I will just be hitting like three bodies and I'm just getting beat up. When there is another big guy there, I swear, my first bucket, it literally just dropped to me, and I was like wow this is easy. I usually don't get those, I usually just have guys hitting me, so there was another dude, Quin was on the floor, kind of bringing attention to and bringing energy, it kind of draws away from me sometimes, especially when he was pretty hot at the start of the game, it definitely took some attention away from me, and so it gave me opportunities there."

Where does this put you guys in the standings? It's put you up there for the ACCs.

"We are going to take any advantage we can get at this point. I think our season doesn't really reflect on how good this team is. I feel like this team is a really good team, we have had our close losses, that preferably I think if we were a team that had been together for two years, three years, they wouldn't be losses, so although our record isn't that well, I don't think it reflects just how good our team is."