

Coaches Quotes
Florida State 55, Boston College 71
February 21, 2022
Conte Forum
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"We are in a period where we have to find a way to overcome the challenges we are facing. We were off to a poor start, turning the ball over. We have to be a lot more efficient. This team shot 29% for the year from the three, and were raining threes from the parking lot tonight. But we have faced that quite a bit this year. A lot of that has been because our defense has been good over the years, and teams are going against us executing very well, moving the ball and making the extra pass. And tonight with 19 turnovers on the road, playing extended minutes the way we have been, was a little too challenging for us. We have been accustomed to rotating our guys every four-and-a-half or five minutes. Now, we extended their minutes. We have to figure how to rotate a little better with who we have available. It is late in the season and is challenging to change the way you have been playing. You want to continue to play with what has worked for you and not feel that we can't live up to what we've always done on a consistent basis. Tonight was one of those nights where we did not execute very well. The adjustments we made defensively were not good enough for us to avoid another road loss."

Do you feel like your team got stuck on the score more than the game itself?

"I think the last seven or eight minutes, our guys gave tremendous effort. I think fatigue has a tendency to set in when you're not rotating like you have been accustomed to. With less rotation, it is more challenging. Tonight, I told them they had to be as close to their best to win the game. I thought Boston College shot the ball well and we shot ourselves in the foot with those turnovers. We dug a hole for ourselves that we didn't get out of. There were times when I thought we played extremely hard, but there were times where we were not consistent with our execution, offensively and defensively. In the ACC, and on the road, you have to expect a team to be at their best. I thought they were at their best, better than I have seen them in a while. Our youthful inexperience showed at times, but that is who we are. We have to find a way to overcome where we are. It is going to take a gallant effort and execution for us to be connected and win the last three games that we have on our schedule."

What does switching rotations look like in the future?

"We could have a set rotation, and every four minutes, keeping the ones that we have fresh and using timeouts before they're tired. It's not easy. We are going to have to figure out here down the stretch how we are going to be able to overcome that lack of depth."

What was the difference today that led to turnovers?

"The first part of the game, they did a good job of over playing us and we did a poor job of moving without the ball to get open. In the beginning of the game, the cutters and receivers were not moving quick enough to receive the ball. When a team is playing you with that amount of pressure, the rule of thumb is to reverse the ball, move it side to side and break down the pressure. Instead of moving the ball side to side, we turned it over in the beginning of the game that gave them a big run. When we missed a shot, they came down in transition and hit a three."

Do you think Matthew (Cleveland), Cam'Ron (Fletcher), and Jalen (Warley) getting these big minutes will help later on?

"No doubt. This is valuable experience that these guys are getting. They are learning what it's like to play at this level, and they are learning what it's like to have guys coming at you. There are no weak systems in this league. And if you are not at your very best every night, something can happen. They have been forced to play more minutes and longer stretches. They are experiencing inconsistencies. There is no doubt that they are going to be better as a result of going through this. Right now, this is extremely painful for all of us. But this is who we are and the hand we have been dealt. You can't feel sorry for yourself. We have to keep grinding."