

Coaches Quotes
Florida State 69, Clemson 75
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Littlejohn Coliseum
Clemson, S.C.

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton

Opening Statement

"Obviously the game didn't turn out the way we wanted it to turn. I thought the first half, defensively, we didn't, defend nearly as well in as I thought we did second half. Were a little shorthanded, Naheem (McLeod) broke his finger. He's probably out for six to eight weeks, I'm sure. That kind of hurt our rotation a little bit. I thought that we played fairly even there, to the last two minutes of the first half, and they went on a nine-point run. Second half, I thought our defense stepped up a little bit. We were able to do a much better job. I thought that today, that Clemson got the stops they needed, it seemed as though they got the big baskets, and they got to the free throw line a little more consistent than we did. That allows a six-point loss."

Clemson had a couple of their starters go out, without trouble in the first half. Their bench guys come in and hit a bunch of threes and kind of carried them, their bench carried them. Have you seen that from them previously?

"One of their better shooters coming off the bench, one of their better drivers comes off the bench. This is an older team than some of the teams he's (Coach Brad Brownell) had in the past; transfers, and graduate students. I thought they played with a lot of maturity. They're a lot more mature and experienced than we are. I thought that that made a big difference. I thought our young kids, the second half, turned it up a notch and put ourselves in a position where if we've had a few plays here and there probably could have overcome the deficit that we built for ourselves in the first half."

After struggling defensively, early on, you guys' held them scoreless for a few minutes before they ended up going on that run with a couple minutes left. What changed for you guys defensively? Did you guys do anything different that put them in that dry spell?

"Over the years, we've always been one of the better defensive teams in the past. That's really been our staple. It's always been. This year, we're not. I think our inexperience shows off a lot, in how we're defended. And that's part of who we are. That's the challenge that we have to overcome. We're not nearly as far along defensively as we had hoped. That's why they shot such an opposite first half. And we just got to get better, and you know, there's not any excuses we can make. We haven't forgotten to teach defense. We are not the same team that we've been in the past, obviously. It's not making any excuses, but you know, Malik (Osborne) has been one of our better defenders, gives us an opportunity to switch one through five. And we don't quite have the ability to do that now with the team that we have, but we've got to figure out how to wait, you know, that's why we play a little zone defense. I thought it did change the rhythm, that rhythm a little bit. It gave us a chance to create some indecision on their part. It didn't stop them, but I thought they gave us an opportunity. It got them out of rhythm enough and gave us a chance to close the gap. Then we went back man to man, I thought we were a lot better, although we accepted that toward the end, when we put them on the foul line. They closed out with six free throws, up at the end of the game."

The rebounding options are obviously very difficult with the injuries that you have.

"I think that a lot has to do with losing your two big guys, but we got to find a way, you know, we were loose short-handed and that means someone has to step up and rebound better. Those guys are not coming back this year. Losing seven-four guys, six-nine guys, whose been a fifth-year senior, it's a little more challenging, and we have to get better and rebound. I mean that's part of the game. You guys have been around a while, we want to rebound the teams around but right now, that was the problem. I thought the first half, I think we only got two offensive rebounds in the first, and that was a little challenging for me because I didn't think that we did a very good job of going to the offensive boards and we didn't shoot that high in the vicinity. That's part of growing up and learning and we need guys to be a little more conscious and focused in those areas."