

Coaches Quotes

Florida State 51, Pitt 56

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Donald L. Tucker Center

Tallahassee, Fla.

Pitt Head Coach Jeff Capel

Opening Statement

"I'm really proud of our guys. To finish out this road trip, our third game in five days, fighting like we did against this team on their court. A big-time salute to our staff and our guys for getting prepared for this game after Monday's loss, traveling here, and getting here late after two long days here. I thought we had good preparation and we did some really good and really tough things throughout the game. JB (Jamarius Burton) made some huge plays down the stretch. Ithiel (Horton) was outstanding all game. Our guys found him and he delivered making shots. We took Jerry's advice and gave him more minutes. The rest of our guys played very well. Will (Jeffress) had six rebounds in the first half. He played really strong. Mouhamaou (Gueye) had eight blocks. It's interesting looking at the stat sheet that Femi (Odukale) was 0-8 and 3-7 from the free-throw line because I thought it was one of his best games from the floor. I thought he controlled the game for us. He made good decisions and got the switches and attacked. He made good passes and had seven rebounds while playing good defense. This was a big time win for us."

How did you see them respond on defense even when the offense was struggling?

"I thought we were terrific defensively. We executed the things we talked about and our game plan. We tried to plug the gaps. We knew that Florida State had not been a good three-point shooting team percentage wise. We wanted to try to make them a half-court team and keep them out of our paint. We did a good job plugging those gaps and being there."

What did you like from your team tonight?

"One of the things we talked about coming in was that we have to have poise in the midst of chaos. Any time you play Florida State, the game could be chaotic. The way they defend is very different from everyone else. They go up, they switch everything, they take everything away. We tried to simplify what we wanted to do offensively and try to take advantage of their switches. We had poise. Guys stepped up and made big plays."

What earned Ithiel Horton a start tonight?

"We haven't been able to practice much these past few days because of our schedule. After last game and talking with my staff, I thought it was time. It was our best line up. I also knew how Florida State would pressure the basketball. I wanted to have a ball handler off the bench. It was a gut feeling and it was time. Fortunately, he was able to make some shots and plays and have a great game."