

Coaches Quotes

Florida State 74, Notre Dame 70

Wednesday March 2, 2022

Donald L. Tucker Center

Tallahassee, Florida

Notre Dame Head Coach Mike Brey

How much did their length bother you in the second half?

"You can't run any assemblance of your ball reversal or ball control offense against this switching. You just have to ball screen and drive and make some plays. I thought we did that a lot especially in the first half. You have to give them credit, they shot it better than I expected and they got out of the gate great... a couple lose ball rebounds, which have bit us at times where we haven't been able to control the ball. The crowd was great. We've had no luck in this building and it was a great atmosphere. They responded and they played well here."

How difficult does that make your job where you can't get that one loose ball defensively?

"It's frustrating. You look at it at the end and you go 'you really don't deserve to win if you can't control it.' That was something that bothered us at times in the past. We've been better at that other nights, but not enough tonight. We had a couple fouls at the end of shot clocks. Those are tough, too. (Anthony) Polite's three across from their bench was a big shot, that's a hard shot. That's a little like some of the shots (Prentiss) Hubb has hit. They earned it."

How quickly do you flush this and look towards Saturday?

"We talked about our seniors and what we've done as we've moved on. Being able to control the defensive boards, we didn't do it enough tonight. But we've done it enough this year to put us in position. I just talked a little bit about our seniors and what they have meant this year for our program. Saturday is going to be a great day for us. We are going to move on."

On pushing the tempo...

"I thought we would have to get down the floor and not play against all that length. For the most part, we were able to get the first miss, especially in the first half. We really got out and down the floor, and just to get it in quick. You plan fast. You're taking the first good shot and it's a pretty good shot. You can't really say 'lets slow it down', because then you have to play against their length in the half court. You better take what you can get. I thought we did that a bunch tonight."

On making shots with a different line up...

"It's a night where, and I've been on both sides of this, here it is at the end of the year, they were a really good team in January when they had all their bodies. Now it's a little bit like tonight, we have nothing to lose, we're just going to fire. You could feel it coming when they made the first two and I'm thinking like alright, here we go, we're going to have to absorb this. But, they kept making big ones. We look at them, they had made 12, we made five. It's probably not good math for us. It's usually been the other way around most nights for us."

Mike you guys have shared the ball so well lately, especially as you've racked up all these wins. Just the 10 assists tonight, was it FSU defense or what do you think that was?

"I think they sped us up. We had eight at half. I thought we were moving the ball. A lot of it was in transition. I think we could have done a better job when we got to the lane of kicking out and driving again. We went in and out of that. We tried to finish some plays on the first drive. And even though you have your guy beat, as we saw, their length recovers and blocks stuff and changes stuff and that bothered us and of course, you know Dane has those two, that's the guy we want taking them. And then when those don't go in, I'm thinking it could be a long night for us. That's not good. That's not that good karma."

You guys have had so much to play for here down the stretch, and there's still a lot on the line, you get another double-double from Paul, Blake keeps playing well, I mean, how potent do you believe this team can be for whatever is left in the season?

"I told him the other day, on Tuesday, before we left yesterday, I think I've talked to him about, hey man, it's our time, and we've got a chance. We can dream big dreams in the postseason because I think they are realistic. We have to set the tone for Brooklyn, disappointed but we flushed it quick. I love the position we're in again, we gave ourselves a chance. And Florida State made some big time plays here."

Mike, this is probably for games going forward. But you have a really impactful first half from Nate Laszewski solid from Dane Goodwin; two unselfish guys off the ball. How do you kind of get them to stay involved when you really need that in the final 10-15 minutes?

"I think when we're able to move a little bit in our halfcourt motion. He really didn't get that in the second half day and had a couple drives. Dane had a couple of drives, but he missed a couple. He missed a couple layups when no one was around again. But you do that because this guy is looking around and we don't really run stuff for people, we kind of play and read. We want to continue to do that sometimes, an out of bounds situation, to get a guy jumpstarted, but you raise a good question. For us to play in March for a while those guys will have to be key for us."