

Coaches Quotes

Florida State vs. Purdue

ACC / Big Ten Challenge

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Donald L. Tucker Center

Tallahassee, Fla.

Purdue Head Coach Matt Painter

Your team had to weather a little bit of a start there, was that the travel legs or was that Florida State's energy?

"I thought Florida State played well. Obviously, (Darin) Green got away from us in that first half and he end up with 23, but he had 16 of that 23 in the first half. We got some pretty good looks that didn't go down, but then we still had four or five turnovers in the first five-minute segment, so you have to give them credit. Obviously, we've played them a lot, so we have learned some hard lessons against them. They are very athletic and very good on defense, and they cause problems. I thought when we simplified some things in the second half, it was much better for us. We run a lot of different things and you just kind of have to keep it simple and we made better decisions. We know we have to guard better, start a game better, and just keep working. We have to get Trey Kaufman-Renn more minutes, he is a very good player, but it is hard because Zach (Edey) causes so many match-up issues for them that it is hard to keep him out of the game. He pulls so many people in, even when he doesn't score, he gives people more space to play because they have to give that kind of attention to him."

When you talk about simplifying things, you mean running less stuff offensively?

"Running less stuff and we just played through a simple high ball screen with Braden (Smith) and then we reused it a couple times. Our decision making across the board wasn't great, especially in the first half. When we would put the ball in Fletcher's (Loyer) hands in the second half, I thought we made better decisions."

Can this game provide more value in a way compared to what happened last week because of the adversity you had to go through?

"You're playing a real road game. It's harder to play a road game than it is at a neutral-site and the style of play is a real adjustment for anybody. That's why Coach Ham has been so successful, he's got good players that play hard and play a great style. They have found their niche and really causes people problems."

Are you going to see more games like this probably in the Big 10, right?

"Our style is different than that style, but no, anytime you go on the road no matter what it is, it is always very, very difficult. I think we can learn some things. We didn't talk about our travel. We didn't talk about getting back from Oregon at 5:00 am on Monday. We didn't talk about arriving here, today, at 2:30 in the morning because the plane got stuck in Des Moines. We didn't talk about any of those things, they're just excuses. We just play a basketball game, they're not going to play all day, just a couple of hours. We go out there and play and get it done."

Braden Smith seems to have this knack for right around the 10-minute mark, to take command of things. Why is that?

"I don't know. I'm glad he has that knack. I don't know, you can ask his parents. He is a tough dude, he knows how to play, and he has a good change of direction. He has to get to where he feels confident shooting because he can make those three's and he can make those pull-ups. If they are just going to give it to him, he's got to keep working on that and knock those down because that really puts people in binds."

Caleb (Furst), once again off the bench in that second half...

"He was great. I was going to go back with him, but in the way they went small and did stuff. But, heck, he has done a good job of guarding. I should have gone back to him, he should have played more. He has been really good for us, but you can see from the plus minus from when he was in there, we were better. He deserved more minutes there at the end, I just got comfortable with it and stayed with it, and I shouldn't have. He has been great, his ability to rebound against Duke and then tonight, making that cut, making some plays, and just being active. He didn't rebound tonight like normal, but heck, he didn't play as much. I am happy with him, happy with what he's working. He's putting in extra time just like the rest of them, but he's really come together."

Your first six shots from three, kind of like the Gonzaga game, was there a challenge to gain the ball to get Zach involved there early?

"It's a challenge to get him the ball all the time. That is what the defense is trying to do, they're going to gauge the temperature of your team. There is a reason why we're open, we're open because they are given more time and energy to him (Zach). They know that's what we're trying to do, now you make two or three of those, you really start to loosen some things up, if don't then why should they adjust."

What do you like about what is happening rebounding wise in these last three games for you?

"We've done a good job. Obviously, they're not as skilled as they've been so we were able to load up and try to keep the ball out of the paint. We wanted to stay with (Darin) Green and we didn't do that great of a job. If you can stay out of rotations and keep the basketball in front of you, it keeps great rebound balance. We have great rebounders, obviously Zach is a great rebounder. Braden did a great job tonight rebounding going for the ball. Brandon Newman is doing a good job for us as well. Caleb (Furst) had a great rebounding game against Duke. Mason (Gillis) got some rebounds tonight. Just have to stay with it and as I have always said, no matter what, I don't care if you outrebound somebody by 15, it doesn't mean that you're going to outrebound the next opponent by 15. You have to keep working at it and putting in the work when it comes to rebounding and take care of the basketball. If you can win the possession more and your talent is pretty equal, you normally win the game."