

Postgame Quotes at Florida State

Head Coach Tony Bennett

On cutting it to seven in second half:

“You always point to the offense, and yes we were aggressive, Kihei (Clark) made some plays, we touch the paint. But our defense really stepped up in terms of we were back, and we didn't let them in the lane, we guarded the ball, and we were inspired. If you want a chance to beat a team of this caliber, or that is playing at this level in this setting, you can't be a sometimes really good defensively, you have to be all the time good in the areas that you have control over. We can't control if they can make a big time shot or an acrobatic play, but we can control if our defenses set, if we're active on the ball, if we're in position and not committing some lapse of judgments. I think that was the part that we have to look into and say, 'How good can we be, how good do we want to be.' That to me was the disappointing part, because we were there for a while and then all of a sudden it went away that quickly, whether it was a breakdown or not and, again, said you can't maybe win a game in the first five eight minutes, but you can put yourself in a spot where you can make it dang near impossible to come back and to put ourselves in that kind of hole is frustrating. Hats off to Florida State, they are that good when they are playing like this, and they're inspired.

On commonality in losses to ranked opponents:

“We talked about it, they are physical, aggressive teams and somehow when you play those teams, and they're good, they're not just physical but how do you, it's why they are ranked and all that, how do you hang in there and battle and be tough minded and not, I think it goes to the things you have control over. We've said that before, we're not the most physically imposing team but we have to do, physically imposing things that matter. In those games that you mentioned, Gonzaga and Florida State, boom that separation was there right away and it was almost like cold water. The Virginia Tech game, I thought they, as the game wore on, they sort of imposed their way on us, which we've done the teams in the past. It's just trying to grow from it and learn from it. I did like how we got it back, I didn't realize it was seven I thought it was nine maybe it was seven. Every time we made a breakdown, they would bang a three or they get down the floor (Scottie) Barnes's for real with how quickly he can get to the lane, but we didn't help ourselves and that was the frustrating thing. And (RaiQuan) Gray was really good tonight.

On what learned from losses:

“That's one of our pillars, thankfulness is be thankful for what adversity teaches you and are you wise enough and thankful enough to apply it so. So here we are in every situation, it refocuses you in ways I think that you need it. Again, we've been playing some good basketball, for sure we have. It wasn't tonight, partly due to Florida State, partly due to us, but apply it. I think that was our third or fourth game in a short amount of time. So we take a day off, recharge and then you come back guns a blazing with your tenacity, your approach and your focus. We're getting down to the end, that's the thing. You don't want to leave anything on the table. That's what we got to do moving forward.”

Senior Guard Tomas Woldetensae

On FSU's defense being tough:

"Yeah, we were expecting a lot of pressure. I don't know, maybe not in the scenario switching that often. So that led us to spread the floor and struggle a little bit."

On losses to ranked teams:

"Pressure. We have to get better at handling defensive pressure and running our offense."

On lack of urgency in game:

"We approach every game, the same mentality. It's going to be a fight, today they just won."

On rebounding from games like this:

"It's going to be up to the coaches but, if I can talk for the players, just be ready to fight every game. People have to want it. Also, adjusting to the pressure. Just working on, being ready to handle pressure better, go through our plays better and to attack them, not just be attacked."