

NO. 9 FLORIDA STATE 67, NO. 8 MARYLAND 65

FLORIDA STATE COACH LEONARD HAMILTON IAN MILLER AARON THOMAS BORIS BOJANOVSKY

COACH HAMILTON: Maryland was a very difficult game for us to prepare for because they've got two powerful guys inside. They have three guys that can really take the ball off the dribble in Wells and Faust and Allen. And then what you normally have is some good perimeter shooters so they test all your defensive principles.

First half they had seven threes and obviously it concerned us. I think they got one the second half. I think it probably made the biggest difference. They had a couple good looks. The ball shots just didn't fall so we were very fortunate.

I thought our guys fought very hard and we did a good job of executing in second half, a lot better than we did in the first half. First part of the game I think we had five unforced turnovers and we gave up, I think, four or five offensive rebounds in the first half, and they had scored on at least three of those offensive rebounds. I thought we did a much better job in the second half. When they missed, we got rebounds, and I thought we did a much better job of executing and being patient. I looked down and saw we had 19 turnovers, but I still thought that we executed very well, especially down the stretch.

Q. Coach, congratulations on the victory. I was wondering if you could take just a second and talk about the final play as far as how it was set up and how it looked to you from your seat?

COACH HAMILTON: Well, what we wanted to do was run a double house screen, and we just didn't want to call a timeout. They didn't have any more timeouts and it allowed them to set the defense to tell them to do what we already told them to do in the first place, so I thought our guys showed a lot of patience. And I thought lan showed a lot of experience being a senior. He was very patient, and we got the double ball screen with just enough time on the clock for us to get one shot up maybe and a rebound. That's what the plan was.

When Ian came off the screen, he saw Okaro in front of the Iane, and it was not a clean catch by Okaro so he bounce passed the ball to Boris and he finished the play, which was a very big play for us.

Q. Boris, can you talk about the emotion? You were obviously fired up getting that in the last second, just what was going through your mind at that point?

BORIS BOJANOVSKY: I mean, it was a great feeling. It was an important game for us, so I was really happy.

- Q. Boris, you're obviously very tall, but there are some guys that they have that are very physical, really strong players. How do you feel like you handled that challenge getting thrown around a little bit?

 BORIS BOJANOVSKY: It is tough, you know, but if I want to play on this level I've got to get used to it.
- Q. Boris, just as important, I guess, as the dunk were the two free throws. Having missed the two previous to that, what were you thinking when you went to the line?

BORIS BOJANOVSKY: I didn't think about the two free throws before. I just know I got to make them, so I was trying to be confident, and I hit both of them.

Q. Coach, could you first address the next match up with Virginia, and then for lan and Aaron, the importance of penetrating against that UVA defense?

COACH HAMILTON: Well, obviously, Virginia was the No. 1 team in our league. To go through our league only losing two games is basically unheard of. That just shows a little bit about the maturity of that team, how well they played together. I thought they might be the most unselfish team in America where they always are playing to each other and creating easy, high percentage shots for each other. It's like they play without an ego but with a tremendous amount of intensity and focus. They're very disciplined, and they tried to take certain spots on the floor



NO. 9 FLORIDA STATE 67, NO. 8 MARYLAND 65

away from you, and they're determined. They're sound. They don't make very many mistakes, and they don't beat themselves. They deserve the season that they had because I felt the team really came together, and I think they've taught a lot of us a lesson.

We all want to try to get our team to that magic level, that mental, emotional level, that allows everybody to be in sync, and that's the kind of team I think Virginia is.

AARON THOMAS: I think the first couple games as a team we didn't do a good job of being able to handle their defense because they play that packed line defense. I think now we understand and learned a lot from those two games. I think we've got to do a better job of penetrating the pitch, because they play that packed line defense.

As long as we go out there, play team ball, make the extra pass, that's what you have to do against Virginia, and I think we should be all right.

IAN MILLER: First and foremost, I think Virginia is a great team and I've got a lot of respect for them. But in the beginning of the season, I think we were very young minded and didn't understand how to be patient against them. You can't really play how we just want to go. You've got to really take your time and really mentally prepare for it rather than just physically go out there and play. We want to just go back tonight and get some treatment and watch some film and get ready to play them.

Q. Coach, in the current state of affairs where it's 24/7 around the clock, are you in, are you out, I know that has to wear on you. My question to you is what message will you tell your kids about the Virginia game versus the big picture?

COACH HAMILTON: To be very honest with you, we don't talk very much about it because we're only worried about those things we can control.

Now, obviously it's in your face every day, but bracketology in and out has become a sport, and we all can play it, and we don't judge. We can be wrong, we can be right, and it makes for great conversation. But most of the people who are talking, they don't have a vote. They're not in the room, so it doesn't really matter when it boils down to it. So we try to not pay a whole lot of attention to it, but try to internalize our emotions and understand that the only way we're going to have some postseason opportunities is to take care of the task at hand, and that's been our approach all year long.

Q. I think you had four guys with two fouls at the half. How important was it to get through that half and still be in the game?

COACH HAMILTON: That was probably my biggest concern of the evening, being able to I've got four guys, and we're not as deep as we've been in the past, and it was a real concern of mine. It might go unnoticed but I thought Ojo gave us some good minutes in there. He didn't have a whole lot of statistics but he had four rebounds in, I think, eight minutes, and Joell Hopkins came in the game and gave us three points at a critical point of the game. And Marquez came in and really did a real good job defensively in the last minute, so we were very fortunate with that many guys in foul trouble to be able to go in only down two at halftime. That was a very important period for us.

Q. For Ian and Aaron, Seth Allen had 32 against you in College Park and had a big first half today. What did you guys do in the second half to frustrate him?

IAN MILLER: Had to man up. He was crucifying us. He's a great guard. We just had to go in at halftime and regroup and play team defense like we usually play. We didn't really change up the way we play defense, we just had to play it a little bit harder and a little bit smarter.

AARON THOMAS: That 32 first game woke us up. I think first half he came out real hot, like lan said, we didn't make no adjustments. I think we came out second half, played aggressive and played hard, and was able to defend him. You know, like I said, first half he had a real good half. I think second half we played team defense and was more aggressive and played hard.

COACH HAMILTON: I also think he was limping around a little bit. I thought he might have turned an ankle or something. But I saw him a couple times grimacing like maybe he had bumped his knee, so he wasn't quite as fluid as



NO. 9 FLORIDA STATE 67, NO. 8 MARYLAND 65

he was the first half. It could have been caused by maybe a slight injury he had.

Q. Coach, being from North Carolina, growing up and thinking about the historical aspect of this game today, finishing off Maryland and the last time we'll probably see them ever again in the ACC Tournament, just some thoughts about the historical aspect of this game.

COACH HAMILTON: To be very honest with you, I didn't have any thought about that at all going into this game. We just wanted to win. It might be historical to some other people, but it meant very little to us. We just wanted to go win. It was a very important game for us in terms of where we are. When you think about it, it might mean something down the road, but for us we only was concerned with trying to win and move on to the next game.

Now, when you look back at it probably as adults, Maryland has been a premier program in the ACC for many, many years. And they've had some of the greatest coaches with Lefty and his personality and what he brought, and Lefty coaching at Davidson for a while and moving up to Maryland, kind of had a little North Carolina flavor in it. And he was always a colorful guy, and I thought he brought a lot to the ACC.

And then Gary with his aggressive style, so Maryland has meant a lot to the legacy of the ACC. But they're moving on, and we're going to wish them well.

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COACH MARK TURGEON: DEZ WELLS

COACH TURGEON: First of all, I'm really proud of my team. I thought we played unbelievably hard. We didn't always play great, but we played hard. We got down at the start, played a great first half. Dez was in foul trouble. We were up two at half. Then we got down 10, I believe, and we really played hard, and I thought we executed better.

We lost to a really good team in Florida State. But it's just hard in the way we lost. I really thought our defense was pretty good. We took Ian Miller out of the game with that play. Charles stayed long, we zoned up, got a hand on the ball, but kind of the way it's been all year, bounced right to their guy and he laid it in.

Give them credit; just another disappointing loss, but I'm not disappointed in the effort and how hard our guys tried today because they really competed. We executed, we just missed some open ones, just didn't happen. Some things just aren't meant to be, and apparently today wasn't.

Q. Evans' back spasms, how long had that been a problem and was there any thought he might be able to go today?

COACH TURGEON: Well, it happened Sunday in the game, he sat out Monday and Tuesday, did a little bit yesterday, but we all assumed he was playing. About 40 minutes before the game, my trainer told me he wasn't playing or didn't want to play, so I met with him, and he said his back was tight, so we didn't play him.

Q. How does this loss compare to some of the other ones you've had this season, and how much did you guys think about the history of the ACC entering this tournament?

DEZ WELLS: Each loss hurts, man, regardless of the tournament that you're in, or at least that's how it is for me. And I know for Coach Turgeon and the rest of our guys, each loss hurts equally as bad.

For the ACC, it was a great ride. There's no other way to put it, it was a great ride. Me watching all the games growing up, all the rivalries and the great games. I think this game will go down in history. I felt like our defense, but it good enough. Fortunately for us, we've been on the other end of those kind of plays where one of our teammates made a good play and it was a game altering play. And we wanted a victory in and of itself, but like I said, it was a great ride. We appreciate everything the ACC has done for us, but I guess new beginnings now for us. And at this point, man, we've just got to pick ourselves up and get ready for the next game.

COACH TURGEON: Well, I've never been we've lost a lot of games by two points, one point. We had a big one Sunday, which was great. I was so happy for the players that they could taste that.

This one was hard because I thought we did everything right defensively, and it kind of bounced their way. You know, at .4, why couldn't it take an extra second and be late.

But they all hurt, and because we were really invested we knew what the ACC meant to our fans, and we just weren't good enough to get the win today. But it wasn't like we weren't trying. We competed. We knew what it meant to our people. We're going to miss it. It's a great league, great coaches. We're going to miss Greensboro. It was a great tournament, well run. We're going to miss that part of it. But the good thing is we're going to another great league, great coaches, great tournament.

Q. I know last year you guys were able to get quite a bit out of that NIT experience. Is this a team that you're hoping can get a chance to continue playing this year?

COACH TURGEON: I'm numb right now, so ask me in a day or two. Right now it's been that was tough. We'll see.

Q. Dez, right after the game ended, obviously you slapped the floor and looked really devastated. Was that the you heard coach say, .4, really? Was that the first time today you thought this team really could lose or did lose? Did you think you were going to win this thing the whole time until that point?

DEZ WELLS: I am never out of any fight, we are never out of any point. Even when we took that last heave



NO. 9 FLORIDA STATE 67, NO. 8 MARYLAND 65

with .4 seconds, I still thought it was going to win the game. So when it didn't go in, my heart dropped. That's the nature of basketball. You can fight as hard as you want to, and sometimes you learn lessons the hard way like we did today.

Like Coach said, our defense was really good, but at times we had breakdowns and they capitalized on the breakdowns we had and vice versa. When it came down to it, today we weren't just good enough. Today, they were better than us.

Q. I don't know if this has been asked, but does the way the game ended sort of sum up the way the season has gone?

COACH TURGEON: Yeah. It's been a tough year. You know, the thing I'm most proud of, though, is a lot of teams would have quit. A lot of teams wouldn't have played spirited basketball the way we did all the way through. We never embarrassed ourselves since the Florida State game at Florida State where they made 16 threes which probably would have embarrassed a lot of teams. We were in every single game. We competed until the end. We had a lot of things to overcome, and that's really what I'm most proud of with this team because a lot of teams would have been so devastated they couldn't bounce back. We continued to practice well. Our guys like each other. So that's what I take from it.

But I mean, come on, .4, the guy gets a dunk? I thought we played pretty good defense and the ball was deflected. It's a tough year. Dez got all the way to the rim and the ball rolls out, could have put us up two. We'll all take that, but we wouldn't have been in that position with him playing the way he played in the second half.

Q. Last year you guys made a pretty deep run here and had a lot of momentum going into the NIT. Do you expect it'll be tough to regroup if you guys have to turn around quick or do you expect a similar intensity heading forward?

COACH TURGEON: Well, I don't know what's going to happen but I imagine we're going to, like we've done all season, hopefully get better, hopefully get healthy.

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