



2009 ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT POST-GAME QUOTES

GAME 9 – No. 1 North Carolina vs. No. 4 Florida State

Florida State Head Coach Leonard Hamilton:

Opening Statement

“Obviously it was a very hard fought game. I thought North Carolina did a very good job of defensively getting us out of rhythm in the first half. They did a great job of overplaying us. We were very fortunate to kind of come back there at the end and make a couple of plays. In the second half, I thought we got good shots, some of them just didn’t fall. What made the difference was that we got the stops during the period of time that we had to get the shots. That’s what has happened so much in the ACC. The games are in doubt down to the last three or four minutes, and the team that normally makes the plays at the end of the game pulls it out. We were very fortunate that we made the plays when the game was on the line that gave us a chance to win.”

On Kitchen knocking the ball away from Hansbrough

“We knew that Hansbrough would really be the go to guy down the stretch. They were going to him, and we were trying to keep the ball out of his hands. We just didn’t do a very good job of it today, because he was roaming free, getting the ball, and getting to the foul line. We had told our guys, if they had a chance to dig it out then go ahead and do so. Kitchen was there and got the big deflection.”

On Toney Douglas

“I think Toney is the poster child for hard work and dedication, and, the old adage that basketball players are made in the summer. When you take as many shots as he did during the summer in the gym by yourself, you have a certain level of confidence that when you get an open look you feel like it is going in. Many times, I had come into the office early in the morning, and Toney would have already gotten 500 shots up, then come back in the afternoon and get 500 more shots up. He has supreme confidence, and we have supreme confidence in him that if we get him into position, then something good is going to happen. That’s why we have so much confidence in him because he has so much confidence in himself.

On beating UNC

“It means an awful lot for my seniors because they’ve been such great leaders this year. They’ve made tremendous sacrifices but they’ve been such great leaders for so many youngsters coming into the this program. They’ve had the team in the palm of their hands. I’m happy for them and I’m happy for our program. We’ve been close so many times and we’ve had injuries but this year has been one of those years where we have the team we started with and I think it’s made a big difference in how well we have progressed. We’ve been able to keep working and improving.”

On Derwin Kitchen

“Derwin has been my whipping boy, or that’s what he says. I told him he and I would be joined at the hips when the season is over, in terms of me talking to him, and he said ‘coach, we’re already joined at the hips.’ He’s a guy who has a lot of potential and tonight his own way he impacted the game. He had eight rebounds at halftime and that’s one of the reasons why we held our own on the boards. He’s still learning and growing and got off to a late start. But his contributions, hitting his free throws and his timely layup at the end of the first half, his rebounds and the way he pushed the ball was huge for us tonight.”

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FLORIDA STATE QUOTES – CONTINUED

Florida State guard Toney Douglas

On the satisfaction of playing for an ACC Championship

“We came a long way since the preseason with six new guys coming in. But I think that we’re still hungry. We never end up being satisfied. So we have to keep taking it one game at a time like we have been doing the whole year, and go from there.”

On closing the scoring gap at the end of the first half

“It gave us momentum. We weren’t playing as well as we were capable of on the offensive end. We really came out in the second half and really executed everything. Once we got momentum on the offensive end we got our defense going and we took over the game from there.”

On playing near hometown

“It’s the best feeling. I can’t even count how many people were here [for me]. My phone is going to be ringing off the hook. I’m so happy, I’m going to enjoy this moment with my teammates. But we’re going to get back to the hotel and focus on who we play next and go from there.”

On playing in the same place where his brother plays football

“During the season once we started basketball I wasn’t able to go his games. I would go to a sports bar or a restaurant to watch his games before practice. It’s a wonderful feeling knowing that we’ve been winning in this Georgia Dome where my brother’s been playing at. They had a successful year, they made it to the playoffs. We’re in the ACC Championship, it’s a wonderful feeling.”

On the team’s defense on the last possession

“I was making sure that Ellington didn’t get a good look at it. I was all over him, I knew if he got off I had to make sure I contested his shot, because he’s capable of making big shots. I think we did a good job as team not letting anyone get good looks.”

Florida State center Solomon Alabi

On leading UNC late in the game at FSU in regular season

“That game gave us much more confidence to play against every other team in the ACC. Since we held them to that point and they hit a buzzer shot to win the game that gave us much more confidence that whoever we play, we have to win the game. We had the opportunity to beat them again. For the seniors we wanted to give them the opportunity to get a win over North Carolina before they graduated.”



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North Carolina Coach Roy Williams:

Opening Statement

“We’re extremely disappointed, but at the same time we congratulate Florida State and Leonard Hamilton. Their team has had a big-time year. I knew they were going to make the (NCAA) Tournament regardless of the outcome today, but you like to win. The tournament next week is the one everybody ends up talking about, but at the same time, we’re here, we’re playing, and we tried our best to win the game. You have to congratulate them. They shoot 67 percent in the second half. Both teams shot 35 in the first half. But when a team shoots 67 percent in the second half, it’s hard to win. We had it in a position where we could have won the game, but a couple of plays go a different direction. I thought Toney (Douglas) had slipped there. I didn’t really see, but the referee called a foul on Ed (Davis), and that’s what you’ve got to go with, because it’s a play. It’s very disappointing to us, but at the same time, you have to congratulate Florida State and move on.”

You’ve had five Final Four teams that didn’t win conference championships. Have you been able to use this as a good teaching tool?

“I realized that last year’s team was the first that we took to the Final Four that did win the conference championship. We’ve always had very tough kids that were very focused and could do away with the distractions around them, and realize that there’s a new start. We realize that we’re one of the teams that does have a chance to get there. I believe this team will be focused that way as well. There’s no tomorrow now. The next time you feel this way at the end of a game, you’re done.”

What is your view about how players’ performances carry over? Danny Green, in three of the last four games, hasn’t looked like himself.

“I think that you make your own momentum once you get in the tournament as a team, and I think you also make your own momentum as an individual. Whatever happened today should not have any effect on tomorrow. You have to be tough enough mentally to handle that. You’ve got to get in the jump and shoot more shots, and watch the ball go in. I have a great deal of confidence in Danny. He’s played very well for us all year long. He’s had a difficult time these last two days, there’s no question about it. But these guys beside me have to do their job and play, and pull Danny along with them.”

On what they did differently to shoot so well in the second half

“Coach Hamilton would probably have a better answer to their execution, but they made shots. We couldn’t stop [Toney] Douglas. We went zone there for a while. [Deividas] Dulkys is shooting 27 percent for the year, but he was 3-for-6 today so they had players step up and make plays. That’s what you have to have. We went zone and tried to get the ball out of Toney’s [Douglas] hands a little bit, but they made some threes so we got out of the zone. We tried to double the screen on the ball and continued that for a little bit but then decided to get out of that.”

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NORTH CAROLINA QUOTES – CONTINUED

On motivating the team and “banding together” with the injury to Ty Lawson

“There’s no question that we did that. I think it’s something that should be done and probably every team does. I was really proud of them yesterday. I was really proud of some things today, but we just didn’t make shots when we had them and couldn’t get over the hump. It would have been good to have the ball with a one-point lead instead of them going to the free line and getting a one-point lead. We did talk about that, but it’s hard to take out a guy who is MVP of the whole league. Everyone who is in a North Carolina uniform has to play on that certain date. Deon [Thompson] sprained his ankle at the end of the game yesterday and I told the guys last night I didn’t know how much he’s be able to go. Yet, he tried to gut it out and played 22 minutes. Whoever we put in there for him had to do a job as well. At this time of year, every team has some big time injuries. I find it hard to believe that anybody has had more players miss games throughout the season than we have. Bottom line is North Carolina has to play.”

On Ty Lawson’s status for the NCAA Tournament and the chemistry of substitution patterns when a key player is out

“Yes there is a difference. Guys are playing different minutes, different roles and there are different expectations for them. I really don’t know the answer to his status going forward. If this has been a Final Four Tournament, there is a good chance Ty [Lawson] would have tried to play and I probably would have tried to play him. I didn’t think it was the right thing to do. The swelling has gone down, but he hasn’t practiced or done anything with live contact since last Sunday when we played Duke in our last home game. It’s hard to tell, but I would hope that will be able to go.”

North Carolina Players:

Tyler Hansbrough

Can you explain what happened to you on that last play?

“I’m not really sure what happened. I’ll just watch it and see. I don’t really have an opinion on it right now. I just don’t really remember.”

On playing North Carolina

“We watched them on film and we’ve played them enough to know their style. I think [Solomon] Alabi presents some problems with his size, but I didn’t really get into the flow of my game until the second half. I didn’t really play that well in the first half.”

On playing Toney Douglas defensively

“I don’t mind it. That was just part of our defensive calls. We were trying to double on the ball screens and get the ball out of his hands. It just happened that apparently I found him.”

Wayne Ellington

On his last shot and whether he got a good look at it

“Not really. They did a pretty good job defending me. I was coming off the screen and couldn’t get a clean look.”



2009 ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT POST-GAME QUICK QUOTES (From Locker Rooms)

GAME 9 – No. 4 Florida State vs. No. 1 North Carolina

Florida State Players:

Chris Singleton

On his making some big three's:

“This wasn't one of my best games so I tried to contribute as much as I could.”

On his defense on Danny Green:

“It was a team effort, the big men helped coming off screens and they were just always there for me.”

Ryan Reid

On today's game:

“We wanted to win this one for the seniors. It has been like 10 in row since we have beaten them and we wanted to go out with a bang.”

On the end of the game:

“I thought it was going to come down to free throws and when there was one minute left, I was like we just got to keep making free throws. We were in the bonus, they were in the bonus, so we just had to keep making free throws. Thank God Toney knocked down two free throws at the end. He is a clutch guy, man, I like that.”

North Carolina Players:

Danny Green

On playing without Ty (Lawson) and any added pressure to step up as a leader

“I feel like it was the same for everybody. Everybody had to raise their game to another level and everyone has to step up their leadership a little bit but I think everyone led the whole year. We have been able to pick each other up all year.”

Bobby Frasor

On today's game

“We didn't play up to our standards. We didn't play the way we want to play. We didn't get contributions from everyone. We can easily play better. We will watch the film and learn from it. The ultimate goal starts next weekend and that's what we have our eye on.”