



**Postgame Press Conference
Cincinnati 81, Virginia Tech 72
March 15, 2023**

Wes Miller Opening Statement

"We have had a chance to visit on the road the last couple of summers since I have gotten here and he [Mike Young] has gotten to Virginia Tech. He was at Wofford for such a long time and built this incredible sustainable program, and we were the new kids on the block at one point, and they were just kicking our butt at one point. Trying to figure out how to get our program to the level of that program made us such a better program and me such a better coach and then we kicked his butt for a while and then came back his last year and had a top-25 team and kicked our butt again.

We were not on speaking terms there for a long time, there was no love lost between the coaching staff, the players, and the two programs, but when I saw them on the road after I got here and he had been at Virginia Tech, we kind of embraced because I think we both realized the competition made us both better. So I have tremendous respect for him as a coach and for what he is doing at Virginia Tech. They won the ACC tournament a year ago; that is one heck of an accomplishment. I have tremendous respect for him and know we have become friends again.

We have been a team that goes as David [DeJulius] goes. We wanted to be in the NCAA Tournament, but we have had a heck of a year. We have overcome things, we have improved, we have grown as a program and when David plays with that kind of energy, motion and passion, which he has done all year long, the team follows suit. In the second half and starts picking up defenders at 94 feet, that energy, that fire, it was incredible how it affected everyone on the court. I thought our team responded and played really hard. Who we were in the second half is Bearcat basketball, and it is neat to see these guys figuring out how to do that more consistently."

Miller on the fans at tonight's games

"What a crowd. We are one of the unique places. it's the NIT, and this is a program that goes to a lot of NCAA Tournaments and people come out and not just come out, come out in droves for the NIT. Not many places do that for the NIT, even in the places that they [fans] come out, they don't always do that for the NIT. They came out in droves; they were loud and they lifted us tonight. I hate that we can't be back in here, but I want to thank everyone that came out and lifted our team tonight and supported us."

David DeJulius on shifting the defensive energy in the second half.

"We know they were a great offensive team and had some great sets. At half-time, I wanted to turn the game into a rock fight. They were doing a great job and I felt they were very comfortable running their action. I wanted to make our conditioning and athleticism a factor and I thought we did a great job of that in the second half."

Mika Adam-Woods on hitting the first three in the second half

"That's the good thing about Fifth Third Arena and playing for Cincinnati. The crowd gives us a lift every time and I want to say thank you to all of you for this year for coming out and supporting us every game, but I definitely felt a spark after hitting the first one."

Virginia Tech guard Justyn Mutts Opening Statement on the game

"I thought they came out a little bit more ready to go than we were. They made some really big shots. I think that 24 [Jeremiah Davenport] had like three threes in the second half. Landers Nolley II got going a little and they ran some good offensive sets. I thought that they did a good job and were well prepared."

Head coach Mike Young

"It is another battle in the series. I am telling you that we had blood baths. I told him there in the line at the end of the game and Wes knows that I have tremendous respect for what he does and how he does it. We are different in some regards, but I do think our teams play the right way. It was a little frosty for a long time, but the respect and admiration was always present when we played his teams. To have the opportunity to play at Virginia Tech and at Cincinnati, we see the same things to have the opportunity to do that again was a lot of fun. Thank you to Mike Roberts and all his outstanding assistants, Chad Dollar, Andre Morgan. I am a big fan of them and they do a great job."

Young on his second half offense

"That is the game. You are running a particular action because you like a matchup where you think you can get to something and we got the looks, but you have to make the shot. We had the right guys taking the shot. We got at least three good looks towards the end of the game from players that we want shooting the ball and on the road, I don't care where you are, you have to get some of those to go down and we didn't tonight."

Young on what changed in the second half to get Hunter Cattoor going

"He had great shots in the first half. He hit his first shot off a slingshot action that he is automatic on, but even the great ones, the players that you want shooting the ball miss shots. I did not plan on stop going to him on offense."