

## **Virginia Head Coach Tony Bennett**

### ***On the impact of the crowd:***

“I think when you're hydrated, and you're nourished you can go a little harder and yell a little more. I think that the concession stands opening allowed the sugar rush, the caffeine burst, all that stuff, the crowd was great tonight. It was good to see that. We started a little sluggish, I felt we were a little out of sorts early. We had four turnovers before the media timeout, they got down on the floor, and then from that point on, I thought we established some real quality basketball on both ends. And the guys worked. We knew before, playing against Miami, with teams like that you're going to have to beat them, they're not going to lose. And you could see when we were just off a little bit or made a little breakdown, they could just create their own offense. Whether it was with [Kameron McGusty], [Isaiah] Wong, [Charlie] Moore and others so they tested us but I thought our guys stayed intent on what they needed to do and, yes, the crowd was a very good lift.”

### ***On Armaan Franklin's performance:***

“I thought, as I said, that [Franklin] did a very nice job guarding a very good offensive player, and all three of the perimeter guys did. I was really happy. And to Armaan, I said 'you don't have to worry about being defined if the shots are not going down. You impact the game in as many ways as possible. And that'll come, you'll work at it, you'll bag shots, but don't let a poor shooting night affect your pursuit of how you want to defend or how you want to make plays.' And, like I said, real proud of him and how he just kept cutting hard, kept guarding hard and he's gotten better and better. Of course, this was a very fine performance from him, which I was grateful for.”

### ***On the team's upbeat attitude:***

“I mean, sure when you win, but I think we try to make a conscientious effort to have a spirit, or an atmosphere of, of joy. We talk about that a lot. That's the greatest compliment that I ever get. When people come and watch us practice, they say that you guys are serious, you're intense, and you go about, but there's just a joyfulness about the guys. They enjoy each other and they play with joy. It's challenging when you lose a couple games or when things aren't going well, but that is that effort or you make a decision as a staff and you say, 'No, we're going to we're going to embrace this, win or lose. We're going to love what we're doing and we're going to love these guys and keep pursuing things.' I think that's where the perspective and the pillars of our program come in, through the highs and the lows. So, I'm glad that you noticed that, and of course it's easy when shots are going in and you're getting stops. That makes everyone joyful. But they did play with the freedom that was required. And hopefully we can keep doing that and continuing in that regard.”

## **Virginia Guard Armaan Franklin**

### ***On getting off to a strong start in the first half:***

“I think it was a mix of things. Getting to the rim to start, and then getting to the mid-range pull up which always helps you. It’s also great when your threes are falling as well. Mixing it up and not being predictable helped in the first half for me.”

### ***On the team’s attitude and how it impacted their performance:***

“Tonight, we played how we know we can play. When we play as a unit, I think we’ll be smiling and having fun like that every game, win or lose. But just playing with joy, and with the love of the game, that’s what we want to play for. We’ve been playing this game since we were kids, so having fun with it is important.”

### ***On Virginia’s good guard play:***

“We as a trio we [Kihei Clark, Armaan Franklin, and Reece Beekman] spend a lot of time together, on and off the court. Our chemistry and confidence in each other keeps continuing to grow game by game. As we continue to play with each other more and more, I think it’ll show more on the court.”

## **Virginia Guard Reece Beekman**

### ***On the team hitting their stride:***

“Definitely. I feel like today was a good day for us as a team. We were all on the same page, and we were all really clicking. I feel like when we are all together as one team we are hard to beat and we showed that today.”

### ***On the play from Miami’s guards:***

“We took their skills pretty personally. We know that when our offense breaks down they like to go one-on-one. So, we had people working on slides, and working on team defense to be a pack team. That’s what we showed tonight, and the work paid off.”

### ***On Virginia’s upcoming game against Duke:***

“I’ve been watching them a little bit when I can. I always try to watch ACC games just to see the teams we are playing play. We know we have a tough matchup coming up. They have really good guards and just overall a complete team. But we have tomorrow to prepare and get ready to go to work.”

## **Miami Head Coach Jim Larrañaga**

### **Opening Statement:**

“Teams in the ACC they're all very good basketball teams. When you play in the ACC every team is a very good team and especially at home where teams play very, very well. Virginia played a very good game tonight. They shot the ball extremely well. Not only from two but from three-point range and we didn't. We went two for 12 at halftime, four for 17 from the game against Virginia because they pack it in so much and we're not a post-up team anyway. You got to make threes and at four for 17, It's not very good. If you look overall we shot 54 percent from the field because we made our two-point shots, we just didn't make our threes. We struggled defensively to keep pressure on them. I thought we did a good job early but we clearly were not able to defend them the way we would have needed to force more turnovers. They ended up with 13 turnovers, but we probably needed 17, and we needed to turn the ball over fewer times. We turned it over 13 times as well. It would have been better if we were at you know seven or eight.”

### ***On the defensive struggles:***

“Well I would say Tony Bennett's a hell of a coach. He made some adjustments and was able to carve the scramble defense. Got the ball to the high post, to low post, and they're huge human beings. We had no answer for those big guys inside. [Jayden] Gardner goes six for nine, Francisco Caffaro goes four for four right inside the paint, like laying it in, and then you add [Kadin] Shedrick goes three for three. So, that's 13 for 16 for the field, that's very productive.”

### ***On Virginia forcing turnovers:***

“Yeah, they're a good defensive team. They've got very active hands. There were a couple of times when we tried to throw a pass through an open man and they got their hand on it, but I mean they had had 11 steals, that's probably season high for them. We did not play a great game against a team that played very well at home. I expect they'll keep playing very well at home, they're really finding their rhythm right now. Those guards are really sharing the ball well, I thought Armaan Franklin, he went eight for 16, three for eight from three, and three for three from the foul line. We went zero for zero from the foul line. That kind of is a tell-tale story of we're not attacking the basket and getting to the foul line like we did earlier in league play.”