

Virginia Postgame Quotes vs. Notre Dame Head Coach Tony Bennett

On if was a complete effort by team:

“We drifted into some old habits defensively, that, you know, aren't going to cut it. And that was disappointing. But yes, there was some good, solid defense in the first half, good ball movement. I was really excited to see Casey (Morsell) come back. I said to him, ‘Practice? Practice is overrated.’ I said, ‘You get another 10 day break.’ He was, I thought really good. A couple missed assignments, a lot of guys had defensively in that stretch. Poppy, Francisco (Caffaro) gave us a nice lift to with his physicality and some passing out of the post. So that was good. And then you know, obviously you saw early on Sam (Hauser) and Jay (Huff) – and then Kihei (Clark) did some things down the stretch – but early on those guys were effective that I thought was enough. But again, that part, that you said that other part, always concerns you but certainly we'll take it.”

On having five different players score in double figures:

“I think that's important. You have to obviously be able to stretch it and you know I think guys with Casey doing that, guys found their niche. We just keep looking for ways. Notre Dame's been closed they just haven't been able to get one. And so, now you go against a Clemson team that'll be fresh and ready. I think they practiced today. They're athletic and strong and a good team and we'll have to just be ready. The balance is always good on the offensive end.”

On Casey Morsell's improvement from last season:

“You know, he's not a first year anymore. He had I thought a nice game after our Gonzaga game where we all struggled, I thought, Casey had a nice outing against Notre Dame and then had to be on the contact tracing time away and then he stepped back up. I think we have him in a spot that's been pretty good. I always am wanting to be a bulldog on the ball defensively and keep using his strength and ability to slide because. That's so important for our defense. If we can keep the ball in front, it makes our defense that much better. Then offensively, I think he's simplified, and you saw that today. I didn't expect him to be kind of in that sort of rhythm to go three-for-three from three. That's really good. So, good for him because he has put the work in. There's no question. You know he learned a lot. He had some good moments last year. He struggled at times. I think he really put that information and that wisdom to use.”

On Notre Dame's three-point shooting today:

“They can shoot one through five. When (Nate) Laszewski plays the five that's a problem. I think they missed a lot of open looks in the first half, and then you saw him get on a little mini run in that second half where, if you're a little delayed or low with your hands or not there in the catch, they'll stick it pretty quick. They are a dangerous team with how they move the ball and space the floor. Coach (Mike) Brey has been very good at that offensively with their motion.

“We tried to make adjustments to protect the rim more. But in the second half we didn't do the job. We fouled and they got to the rim. When they're making shots, obviously you can see what they can do against teams.”

On facing Clemson on Saturday:

"I'll start, you know, getting a workout watching Clemson but what I know about them, they're athletic and they're real tough and physical. I've always been impressed. I think Brad (Brownell) does a great job. They play hard defensively. They're on the glass. He's just a good coach and you got to be ready. They make you earn what you get and you better, lace them up tight because that's just the way he's developed them and again they're playing good basketball."

On Sam Hauser's creativity:

"I think he's always been solid. As I've mentioned before, he's been well coached wherever he's been, and it's just sometimes, can you get to certain spots? Obviously he can shoot three, he can drive, he can score in the mid post. So, all that stuff is good. I think even with Jay (Huff), you saw him shoot some threes, get some post ups and drives. So using the versatility and good footwork and good moves. Those things don't come unless you've done those things, you know, you've been well schooled. I think being taught that in junior high and in high school and beyond. I think he's, he's got a good base to work with. He knows how to use space, footwork, and balance fakes. That's good stuff."

On what Jay Huff's three-point shooting do for the offense:

"It stretches the offense, It's like Laszewski for Notre Dame. They play the five and anytime you do that you have to come out. So, it opens the floor for other post ups or drives. We're a different team this year, so we're trying to utilize different guy's strengths. You know Sam can stretch it, and certainly Jay, but that was nice. There's real nice ball movement and rhythm threes. That obviously is a something that he can do so. I think it sets up the rest of his game. We say to have balance in your game, and I think that's what he's learning to do."

Redshirt Senior Forward Jay Huff

On shooting the three-point shot at the top of the key:

"I would probably say that around that area is my favorite spot. I took a bunch of those [shots] back in my high school days. That is just where they kind of show up in the offense [today] that we've been running. So I think that all played a roll."

On knocking down two threes and taking a charge:

"What was going through my mind when I took the charge especially was, this is more charges than I've ever taken in my life in the past few games. I never intentionally took charges in high school, college – none of them have been intentional but it's kind of worked out where I've gotten a couple and I've gotten kind of lucky."

On team scoring balance:

"That is the way it's always been in my time here. We've had numerous guys that can have great games - I might score, like today I scored 18, the next game I may score four. But as long as we have that balance, then it's not a problem. Different guys step up in different roles and different games and that's part of the beauty of our team."

Sophomore Guard Casey Morsell

On getting individual work in while out:

"I kind of had to figure out the team's practice schedule. Basically, I would come in for every and the most I could stay there was about 45 minutes each day. I would get a lift in just about three or four times [a week], but for the most part my access to the gym was limited. For the amount of time that I had in the gym I had to take full advantage of it. I spent most of my time just running, staying in shape, and just you using the quarantines to my advantage."

On frustrations of being in quarantine:

"It was tough. I had to watch the game, just like everyone else. I had to watch on TV, watch on the ACC Network. You see that you see things differently, especially with through to television. You see things could have gone differently in different situations. So basically the things I saw from the TV I just wanted to apply that to the game today."

On moving past last season and getting back to his high school groove:

"I am approaching this year, definitely. I am using 2021 as a new start, a new beginning. I am just learning from all my mistakes last year and I am working on overcoming difficulties that I have faced already this year."