

Postgame Quotes vs. Miami

Virginia Head Coach Tony Bennett

On unusual Senior Night:

"This is a shout out to the band. We've worked so hard to establish this atmosphere, they've supported us with their energy. We had a real good record this year at home but oh is it different. It's this way for everyone but this place has become special and special for all of us and I missed that. I so wish Sam Hauser could have experienced that. Senior night is for the fans to show their appreciation for the young men that have been in this program for whether it's two years, five years in Jay's (Huff) case, four years for Austin (Katstra) and all those guys. The (pregame) videos were great. Ronnie (Wideman) and the people, whoever put them together did a great job. That part was good but it's just different. This crowd at times wills us to play harder, which is needed for this group and it just kind of motivates you and it shouldn't always be that way but I'll tell you, they've done that for us, time and time again. That part is missing but especially on senior day so that's my biggest regret of this season. It's just not the same but as the saying goes, it is what it is and so we do it, but for sure on senior night."

On Justin McCoy's play off the bench:

"I love it. I love his heart and his energy it's that way of practice. He started earlier in the year and then he's gone through a patch where he didn't play as much, but his work ethic and his effort has never wavered. He injected offensive rebounding, a couple of buckets and just toughness and effort. That was so lacking, so it was really important. That's what this team needs and he brought that. I like what I saw on him really the last couple games and then some more in practice. I was really happy for Justin and his contributions to this game and hopefully moving forward."

On the Importance of Sam Hauser's role in sparking the offense:

"He got an inside post up, then he hit a three and his versatility really showed. They're guarding him with their best players and they're making him work. I think you can see it on TV if you follow us and watch, but I think you talk about becoming a fan favorite, I think a crowd would appreciate it because this is a knowledgeable fan base. They've grown that way seeing the great players we've had here and they would have seen another one this year and been like wow. To behold some of these things in person, just the steadiness the smart play, his unselfishness and then where he'll make those plays. I think the fans missed out on a cool experience for themselves to watch him. He is a guy that plays the game the right way and he gave us a big lift at different times and he's playing some good basketball heading down the stretch."

On the 20 bench points:

"We needed it. It was very important and as we talked about Justin (McKoy), even "Papi" Francisco (Caffaro) gave us a good lift. (Cordero) go into the line and he gave us four points. It's good to see Tom (Woldetensae) hit his three and Casey (Morsell) he had a big drive for us. Chase Coleman came in and gave us a lift with that layup at the end, but I thought it was important that those guys did that. We've been playing five guys such heavy minutes and

tonight, to be able to go to our bench when that group wasn't as sharp as they needed to be was very important."

On Trey Murphy's assertiveness:

He has to (be assertive). Every team plays you differently so you have to account for that. There was a few more opportunities for him tonight, the way they were playing him. I liked some things he did defensively, I thought that was important. He grabbed some rebounds, he used his length and then he got as aggressive as he could by using the drive a little more. He took some shots from three and stretched it so good looks. I thought he had an important game and he's 3-for-9 but I thought those were, for the most part quality shots. The one he hit at the end was actually needed but he definitely asserted himself more and I think you could see that in his preparation. In his eyes, I look at guy's eyes I look at their body posture right you see things and I sensed that.

On how they defended Jay Huff:

"They got a big defender that guarded Jay (Huff). Jay didn't have a particularly good game nor did Kihei (Clark), quite honestly and that's the reality. Those guys are a big part of this program, but for us to be good they need to be ready and be sharp and so big defender on Jay made them, shoot some tough shots but I didn't feel like those guys were ready. Kihei wasn't a senior so you can't use that as a thing. They got better in the second half but we had to go with what was giving us life. That's just kind of (it) is what it is on that one. We went with those guys, we got the lifts. There was obviously a big block here and there from Jay and a good play here and there from Kihei but obviously I'm always going to push those guys more. More efficient, more effort, more production, which they've done for a lot of this season and tonight it wasn't there. They'll get after it on Wednesday and hopefully get some more."

Virginia Redshirt Senior Forward Sam Hauser

On playing at JPJ without fulling experiencing the venue full of fans:

"Fans are no fans, we got to win tonight. My family was here to see me play. We played well as a team and I couldn't ask for much more. It would be great if the fans could be here in order to get the full experience. It is what it is, we can't control that, but I'm just glad we were able to get on the winning side of things. Hopefully we can take a step here."

On the closeness of the game:

"Miami is a good team and they've played a lot of teams close. They haven't been on the winning side of many games, but they've been really competitive. We knew we had our hands full because they're a good team with a lot of talent. When the game got close I think that's when we really came together and showed some resilience and toughness, which we hadn't in the last few games. I think it was a good stepping stone for our team and hopefully we can just keep getting better going into Saturday."

On the increase of bench scoring and the benefits it brings:

"I think Justin [McKoy] really stepped out tonight and I think Casey [Morsell] played really well and it was great to have Tomas [Woldetensae] back for sure. Those three guys played well

tonight and [Francisco] Caffaro has been giving good minutes the last few games, banging around and doing what he can. I think all those guys have stepped up when we needed them and they all have a lot confidence right now and that's good. Hopefully we can keep that."

Virginia Sophomore Forward Justin McKoy

On how he sees his role on the team:

"My role is bringing energy and effort all the time. Just playing the right way, scoring, rebounding all those things that people like. Energy and effort, I think are the biggest things. I've been through a lot this season and I was unhappy with some of the results I was getting, but at the same time these coaches told me to stay ready, and to stay positive. Believing in them wholeheartedly was a big part of it."

On Sam Hauser:

"Sam is a special player. He is very gifted offensively. It is a challenge to go against him every day in practice for the last two years. I think he's gotten me a lot better and I've been able to learn a lot from him as well. I watch what he does. I try to see what he does and what moves he makes and what reads he makes. Just being able to learn from him personally has been a blessing, but also just having him in our program and having them help us as that offensive scoring threat helps."

On how rewarding it has been to earn more minutes over the last few games:

"I've been very happy. Just trusting the coaches wholeheartedly when they say, 'be patient, your time is coming. Just be ready and stay ready because we're going to need you.' I think it can be easy when you're not playing to be 'whatever, but I believe these guys wholeheartedly and I believe everything that they say. I try to listen to them as much as I can. It's been really rewarding, but you know the job's not finished. We have a lot left to do."