

**Virginia vs. Towson**  
**November 25, 2020**  
**Postgame Quotes**

**Head Coach Tony Bennett**

***On new players impact on today's game:***

"They played well, they've showed that in practice. You know we found out last night, or yesterday before a practice that Trey [Murphy III] received his waiver to play so we were so thankful for that and excited. Sam's [Hauser] been patient and sat out last year and made the most of his redshirt year and his maturity showed on the floor. Obviously, we shot the ball well and did some good things but great having them, you could see our depth and it was, you know, a nice outing. I was so happy. This is my 12th year at Virginia and, and whenever you see guys the first time, they're wearing the Virginia uniform and they get to play in a game, that's really special. So I appreciate that no matter if it's a walk-on or anybody so I really enjoyed that part of it."

***On Justin McKoy getting the start:***

"I think we have versatility, as you can see, and we can go a lot of different ways. First, Justin's very competitive and he plays real hard and he's practice well. He's improved, very good offensive rebounder, plays continuous. I just liked that bigger, more physical lineup I think to start. Could have gone a number of ways, but I liked what he has brought and again he's had a good fall and early, early part of the preseason."

***On three-point shooting today:***

"Yeah when we have at times, five guys on the floor that can scratch it, it opens up the court, hopefully gives us some driving opportunities, you know, and Jay, you've seen him progress over the years he certainly can stretch it, and he can drive and just um, you know, again, it was nice to see it doesn't always happen like that. Five guys open the floor, and we've been working hard on our guys. Always work hard, everybody likes to shoot the three, but as long as the ball moves and it's a good-time shot. We'll take it so that is a strength at times of ours for sure."

***On getting to this point to play the game and changing opponents:***

"I tell our guys all the time, just remain grateful and thankful that it's beaten the alternative. Yeah, the fans weren't there. Yes, we've had for a while to practice with masks on, and they haven't been able to have the interaction and the contact as normal, but a blessing to be able to practice, to be there and then start this journey. So that's sort of the attitude and just be as good as we can with what's given to us. I think our guys have embraced that and, again, when you have experience like Sam and Trey, being in his third year and then obviously Kihei [Clark] and Jay [Huff], you rely on that experience and you expect some professionalism and a workman like mentality, and I think that's what we've done. Tried to celebrate the things together, that we can, and just prepare. We were very hopeful for this day and will remain hopeful that these days will continue."

***On learning about the rotation of players from today's game:***

"As I mentioned, we have depth. Our depth, I talked to the guys before last night, our depth can really be good, and I think in practice it's made it competitive. We've got to keep figuring things out, different guys at different times so we can't let our depth become a distraction. So, the hardest thing for me in coaching, I've set it often, is not being able to play guys because they work so hard and they want to play. But opportunities will present themselves. To play all those different matchups today and rotations was really good. So, thankful that the guys got in that some of our, we call them our green gang, our walk-ons that just work so hard and help prepare us. Again, you take a look at things and we'll have a real good, quality opponent on Friday with San Francisco. If it plays out that way."

### **Junior Guard Trey Murphy III**

#### ***On getting back on the court:***

“It was just really exciting to play. We're playing against each other for so long. We had been going at it for about four months or so. And it was just fun to play against other guys and play with my teammates. So that was the main thing.

#### ***On reaction to being available and reaction following performance today:***

“Coach [Bennett] told me outside of the group. When he told me I just started smiling from ear to ear, and you couldn't really see exam a mask on. But me and coach Bennett, we had a nice, nice time as well. Then I walked back into the room, and I feel like the team had a little bit of an idea, because they saw coach Bennett smile and they saw me smiling through my mask and I was really happy. Then, after the game, I was happy but, just excited that my guy's, that we got to play and all that good stuff.”

#### ***On waiver process:***

“Well the waiver process it just goes through different outlets and different ways that you can try to get the other school to agree to having you play for that other team. Then finding different reasons for why you should play. Once we submitted those reasons, really was just up to the NCAA. I can't get mad at whatever decision the NCAA had because it's out of my control. So, I was just patient, kept working and I was just hoping for the best.”

#### ***On chemistry of team coming together amid COVID:***

Me being new and a transfer is a little tough, like the first few days, because like you don't really know these guys but they were super welcoming, and we became so close as a team. It is definitely one of the closer teams I've ever been on. I think COVID was a reason why because, you can't really hang out with anybody else. So, you're almost forced to hang out with your teammates, and I appreciate all of it I think it shows on the court with our chemistry.”

### **Redshirt Senior Guard Sam Hauser**

#### ***On getting back on the court:***

“I mean all of last year I was chomping at the bit to get back on the court and play with these guys and it's just, it's a relief to be back out there playing with my new teammates. There was a lot of emotions running through my head yesterday and this morning before the game, but I'm just excited that we're able to play and I hope everything works out so we can play Friday again.”

#### ***On how the team performed defensively:***

“Overall I think we played pretty well on that end of the floor. We had a really good talk, having no fans, and the talk and you have to bring your own energy. I think coach hit it on the head, our first four or five minutes of second half we were kind of loose and we got to pick that up for the games coming up to set ourselves up for a W.”

#### ***On chemistry of team coming together amid COVID:***

“Our team was pretty much, I mean we were on campus mid-July until now. I think we were one of the only teams on campus at the time. So we really were only able to hang out with each other and I think it kind of grew us closer because there's a lot of new faces. We lost a couple of really good pieces from last year, so I think just building that chemistry early was big for us and it showed today. I hope it can show the rest of the year.”