

Postgame Quotes vs. UNC

Virginia Head Coach Tony Bennett

On this being his sort of game:

“Well yeah, we thought we did a good job with transition defense. We took solid care of the basketball with only six turnovers. You can see how big and physical Carolina is and they got a few offensive rebounds, but we tried to be attentive to really trying to block out and do the things that we thought were so important in this. Trap when we could and then made enough. Plays. I thought a number of guys were solid. I thought Jay [Huff] was really good tonight on the glass and with his length. Look at Reese's stat line. One point, but eight rebounds and seven assists. In games like this, you need your guards to really come back and rebound and I thought he did a good job with that. We stretched them with our threes, because they're big and we had to move them and do what we needed to do.”

On physicality:

“Well you don't have a choice... well you do have a choice actually against Carolina. They kind of demand you to stand in there and be physical if you want to have any kind of success against them. and so long. That's why I liked what Jay [Huff] and Sam [Hauser] did. I thought they were physical. And then there were the guys that didn't play a lot that came in they moved hard, they work hard, and we were locked in. Carolina missed some bunnies, some close ones and they didn't have a very good shooting game from three, so all that stuff plays into it. It's always a battle of kind of imposing your will or systems against them, so I liked how we had a level of patience and movement offensively, that helped us and then we didn't give up too many easy breakdowns. A couple at the rim but not too many.”

On Jay Huff being ready for the task against these UNC bigs:

“I thought offensively he could move and separate out the three. You saw some of that early. It's not like we were pounded inside and going to work in the post but my thought, offensively we did what we needed to do. His length was good. He was in position and he and Sam were really trying to block out. I thought, Jay really had a nice game for us.”

On if he believes the defense is trending in the right direction:

“Well I think our Georgia Tech defense was good and I thought today was solid. When they struggled to make outside, shots hopefully we had something to do with it. That's always the goal, just to make that opponent earn a quality shot like it's got to be contested and the majority of them were. We won the majority of the possessions. And so, it looks better the last two games. Now we'll have a great opportunity to test it against obviously an excellent team on Monday night.”

Virginia Freshman Guard Reece Beekman

On transition to UVA:

"I would say the transition is, it's big. Coming from a high school, where you are the man and you can anything. It's a big transition coming to a team like this, playing your role and doing what the team needs so it's definitely a change. I would say the pace of the game and just coming with it with every night because the ACC is a tough conference so it's no nights off. I would just say that coming with it every night game after game would be the biggest transition."

Comfort level as time goes on:

"Just getting to know everybody, getting the feel of the team We're getting towards the end of the season so I feel like our chemistry is getting better and better. I feel like I have (become more comfortable)."

On the recent defensive performances:

"It's just hard work and preparation for the game. We spend a lot of time (on) scout and focusing on what we need to do. We're getting better every game. That's what I can see, so I feel like we just keep working on what we do, we'll be good."

Evaluating his performance:

"I felt like I play good, offense and defense, staying in front of my man, helping with the post traps and all that. On offense just getting into the paint making plays. I know I'm surrounded by all great players that can make plays so I know I'm getting an assist but they're making a shot. With them around, it's easy."

On Virginia's 21-2 run:

"I definitely say it started on the defense end. When we're playing great defense, I feel like our offense is much better. Coming from defense and that leading to the offense, that's what helped us. When a couple of shots go in, we get more energy and that leads to defense too. It all comes back to the defensive department."

Virginia Redshirt Senior Forward Jay Huff

On recent success against UNC:

"A lot of it was just our transition defense that's something we worked on a lot in practice, and that's kind of their thing and they do a really good job of it. We always have to prepare a little extra for a team like that. Props to them for the way they play. Luckily we were able to stop that for the most part."

Teaching Sam Hauser the post-trap defense:

"Sam picked it up pretty quickly. I don't know what they did at Marquette or even if he was ever in that position but a lot of it's just talking to your partner that's coming to post trap. I think that he picked that up pretty quick just in terms of talking in general. It wasn't necessarily any one thing like a post trap or like a ball screen it's just talking, communication."

Getting just one foul in the physical matchup:

“I was definitely proud of the one foul especially when I overheard my dad send me stuff, he's all over Twitter, it hilarious actually, but he sent me something where UNC's plan was to get me in foul trouble. Which is understandable because I've had some games this year where that's been a problem. Luckily, we were able to avoid that and then in second half, I was able to go block a couple more shots that I might have tried not to foul on in the first half.”

Matchup problem him and Sam Hauser are hitting outside shots:

“Sam is always a lights out shooter. I feel like I've been shooting it well recently. It's hard to guard, they know our mover-blocker offense that we run. It makes it difficult when anyone that's running back can shoot. Trey (Murphy) sometimes is the one setting screens and he'll separate, (When) Sam (Hauser) is running on that, it's hard to stop and he either shoot it or he'll shot fake, drive you to one of those mid-range jump shots that are super annoying when he's on the other team but you got to love when he's on your team.”