

Virginia Postgame Quotes at NC State

Head Coach Tony Bennett

On what learned about team after NC State came back to take lead:

“The message, I talked about trying not to yield. I thought we yielded a bit too much and at key times against Virginia Tech and I didn't sense that tonight. Even in the first half, there was a couple possessions, but the stats that stood out to me, were we only allowed three offensive rebounds when we allowed eight in the first half. That was a bit of resiliency. Trey (Murphy III) had a big offensive rebound and then we handled the ball because they started turning up the gas on the press, you could feel that. We have one takeaway, Casey (Morsell) threw one and they went and laid it in. A couple breakdowns, and then I thought we made it hard for them. We made some plays and got to the free throw line through drives and even the threes we missed for the most part were good shots. They showed some, the idea of not yielding. I kept saying that the timeout ‘don't yield, don't yield’ and I was glad to see that we hung tough and came away with a good road victory.

On toughness of interior defense:

“We trapped, we got a couple key turnovers and then we were getting, it's on, it's off. I told Jay (Huff), Jay did some really good things offensively, I said ‘but you can't let him duck you in and we talk about not letting the ball get fed from the top.’ I thought, Jay's had some good games, but I wanted him to be harder to score against on the interior and use his length. Now those are good, big guys and they got nice jump hooks, but I wish it wasn't quite as much of a bucket and a couple times where they got one. We need to keep working. Again, the trap is always there but they flank it was shooters so that was an on off thing and that's got to get better.”

On shooting 22 free throws:

“We didn't have as many, and I think because they pressured you, you have to put it on the floor and drive, and we got some good backdoor plays, guys executed stuff. It's just, partly because they are maybe more pressure oriented and we got him into the bonus early, and we tried to open the floor and attack. Different, as we talked about, different defenses, teams you play against, they make you do different things. Virginia Tech was really good jamming the lane, physical and taking away the lane. This team pressures trying to get turnovers, but sometimes the lane was a touch more open, so you had to make some hard drives and the right decisions off of it.”

On Trey's part in the offense:

“I thought they were guarding him. He got those nice back cuts because he's such a threat. I thought he took the right shots. He spaces the floor so Kihei (Clark) and Reece (Beekman) can get some drives, or Jay even in our, we call it our three-game mix. But he's got to take the shot that is presented. If it's a good shot I want him to take it. As far as him creating, I actually like the one he missed. He got to the lane, he played off two, trying to get him to be balanced when he drives. Just finding his niche and the outside shot with some drives and cuts I think is a good balance, but different games will present more shots, some less. He's got to take what the defense gives him and keep an assertiveness offensively.”

Sophomore Guard Trey Murphy III

On playing well in home state:

“Being back in the home state is lovely, seeing a lot of familiar places. Growing up playing State in different team camps and all that was really fun, and it just brought back a lot of memories. I see it was a pretty good showing I would say.”

On coach Bennett calling team soft after Virginia Tech:

“Really, I know for me I just took it personal. And I was like, ‘I’m going to make sure that he can’t, I can’t give him a reason to call me soft.’ We all just took it personal and losing Virginia Tech, that hurts a lot. We just learned, it humbled us a little bit because we’re on a roll, and we just knew we had to come out and really fight this game.”

On mindset offensively:

“Really, just with the way they play defense, we’re just taking what they give us, and when they’re overplaying like that, I can get backdoor cuts and get a lot of dunks. Then I was just being strong with the ball, and a lot of the fouls, they were just like bonus fouls, so I’ll take them for sure.”

Redshirt Senior Guard Sam Hauser

On difference in tonight’s game and the one at Virginia Tech:

“I think we learned from that game. We were kind of in the same position, up eight or nine points with about 10 minutes to go. They had their run and instead of folding and giving in we responded with our own run and that was the difference than the Blacksburg game. Definitely did a great job in that aspect in the second half.”

On how team took being called soft:

“You never want your coach to call you soft, so you take that pretty personally. We responded pretty well tonight. We were physical. Obviously, some things to clean up and work on still but we were physical, we were tough minded and that’s why we came out on top tonight.”

On getting to the free throw line being a point of emphasis:

“I guess it goes back to the point being to finesse. We didn’t settle as much tonight. I think we were attacking, and our guards really did a great job in the second half of being aggressive and getting downhill and forcing the action. Obviously, it led to some free throws. When you can make a lot of free throws, it helps build a lead and it helped us tonight and to help us seal the win.”