

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Postgame Media Conference vs. Wake Forest Quotes

Jan. 17, 2021

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights

On ability to overcome struggles of Keve Aluma and Jalen Cone:

"I haven't really seen either one of them have a tough night. I credit Oguama, and I credit the Demon Deacons. They were chasing Jalen [Cone] as hard as he'd been chased and he couldn't get unglued and going. They would be the first to admit and share that the only thing that matters is the Hokies leaving Winston-Salem tonight with another league win.

On if he saw a great performance from N'Guessan coming:

"I've seen him coming. I see him coming daily. He had six points and I think he had two 'and-ones' in the first half. He had nice minutes in the second half and nice contributions. He defends. He's smart. Tyrece [Radford] was terrific, yet again. Hunter Cattoor really picked up our wagon [when] we were up two with the ball and he hit a big shot off a play that Naheim [Alleyne] gave him with a great screen from Keve [Aluma]. It is a true team, Mark [Berman]. They don't care who gets the credit and that is a fun group to be a part of."

On confidence in Tyrece Radford at the line late in game:

"Very much so. We haven't been that great foul shooters and we haven't had the right ones up there. Justyn Mutts was like 76 [percent] last year at Delaware and he's struggling a little bit. Keve [Aluma] has been much better here over the last four or five games. I've got a really good foul shooting team. We will make an emphasis. You've got to make those things. Sixteen-of-twenty-three, we need to shoot it better than that. We're capable of much better than that. That will get better, but I agree with your point."

On if you have to throw out records ahead of games against ACC opponents:

"Absolutely. This is the Atlantic Coast Conference, man. Steve Forbes is a whale of a coach. It was hard because they had such a pause with the virus. They really and truly had Georgia Tech— Georgia Tech plays all zone, so you can't get much about that. You had UVA, you had at Duke... They fought in all those games. They were up 12 at UVA. They were up 12 or 13 at Cameron [Indoor Stadium]. There's nothing easy in any league... It's hard. You've got to play good basketball. We didn't play great basketball tonight. We won, and the last time I checked, that's the only thing that matters. I'm proud of them."

Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

DAVID N'GUESSAN

On what enabled him to be so effective today:

"I came in the game looking to help the team and make the right plays; and that's what I did. My teammates found me, and got me the ball in the right spot."

On what was different about tonight for his career-high game:

"I don't think I did anything different today. I had the same mentality, just lock in and do my job and I was able to do well today."

On what has Tyrece Radford been like as a teammate:

"He's been great, from the day I got here he's been helping me and giving me trust and tips. He's been there every step of the way, just helping me anyway he can."

TYRECE RADFORD

Keve (Aluma) and Jalen (Cone) only combined for one basket tonight, what does it say about this team to have that kind of production from other guys and still win the game:

"It just shows you that everything doesn't rely on those two, even though they are big pieces and we have other guys on the team that can step up. In the situation, David (N'Guessan) came in and played big minutes and did some big things for us. He got us actually going tonight, we just have backups that can come in and contribute too."

On what helped him be so effective tonight:

"Just continue to do what I do. Like I said, the first half from my other teammates shots weren't going that normally go and I just had to pick up what I was doing and bring the team along."

On how confident he is in the final minutes hitting big (free-throw) shots like that:

"I'm very confident knowing that the work I've put in, everyday after practice and during the summer pays off. Even after lifting weights, I'd go shoot off the weights with free throws. Not three's, not mid-ranges, I shoot off the weights with free throws, so it's going to continue to pay off."

On if it is a different animal to shoot free throws at the end:

"It's definitely a different animal, of course all of the pressure is on you, but you just have to step up to the line, forget about being tired because these free throws can change the game. Yes, you have to be a different animal."