

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Postgame Media Conference at Syracuse Quotes
Jan. 23, 2021

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights

On how to get Keve Aluma and Jalen Cone back on track:

"We do need for them to play well. You need for your better players to play well. I've got a lot of things sifting through my head right now. How I'm going to get those two guys going, is not one of them. It's important to them. They are serious basketball players. They'll be better against the Notre Dame. I feel certain. Keve looks hesitant and Jalen you know he had great shots and he didn't make them but I would take the same shots from him on Wednesday in South Bend that I had tonight and would feel very, very good about that. They'll be fine, they're good players."

On Syracuse's zone:

"We got the ball where we wanted, we missed two dunks at the rim in the first half. They adjusted, they do a really nice job with it. Go back and look at our spacing over the course of the game, it's got to be a constant and it wasn't. You have to put the thing in the basket there's no great secrets. I don't care what kind of defense you're playing against. We didn't do enough of that today nor did we guard at the level that we're accustomed to guarding at."

On Aluma's comfort level against Syracuse's defense:

"We want to catch this thing in there and it's kind of like a progression like a quarterback in football. Here, there and back here. He does as good a job of that as we have. As they adjusted through the game, they're going to play him one-on-one and he just didn't score the ball. I thought he did very well other than he went one for 10. He took good shots and he didn't get them home. Again, he's having a heck of a year. He's had a couple of tough ones on the road. He'll bounce back on Wednesday."

On Wabissa Bede's playing time:

"They got a pretty good zone and we wanted as many guys on the floor that can shoot it as possible. Now we lose maybe our best perimeter defender so that's another thing that I will go back and look at."

Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

JUSTYN MUTTS

On Keve Aluma not having his A-game for the second game in a row:

“Again, it’s next man up. Keve is a great player. I know he will get back to the lab, probably even tonight. He’s a really good player, but the ball wasn’t going in the rim. That’s going to happen sometimes.”

On if he said anything to Jalen Cone, who wasn’t shooting that well either and is in a funk:

“I mean, I wouldn’t call it a funk at all. Throughout the whole game I was telling him to keep shooting. That’s his game. He’s a microwave. He can get hot. And in a split second, he can get hot. And when he does, it’s scary for whoever we’re playing against.”

NAHIEM ALLEYNE

On how Syracuse defended him in the second half:

“They were keying on me in the second half. Once we got it into the middle, they would spread out to shooters, like me. So, I couldn’t really get back into rhythm - credit to those guys [Cuse] for that.”

On what about the Syracuse zone that made it tough for the whole team:

“To be honest, I felt like we had great looks. We just weren’t making our normal shots today. But, that happens. So, we just need to be better the next time.”