

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights
Postgame Media Conference vs. Miami (Fla.)
Dec. 29, 2020

On what he will take away from his team's play in the second half:

"That we won, and we didn't play very well, but sometimes you take a win and keep on moving. We have a lot of film that we can look at. We didn't handle some things very well and when one of those things started rolling downhill and Matt Cross starts slinging them in and one is hanging on the rim and falling in the basket. Wabissa (Bede) tried to bounce an inbounds pass instead of getting it under his chin and we know that Miami is going to foul. These are situations that we haven't found ourselves in. There was a little bit against Clemson and Villanova, but that one was back and forth. We're nine games in and we will learn from it. I love those lessons learned from winning rather than getting beat."

On what he saw from his defense to enable 19 turnovers:

"They don't shoot it very well without Chris Lykes. Of course, they come in here and rip 10 made 3s home and Matt Cross was 4-14 coming in. We did a nice job of shrinking the floor and making it hard on Isiah Wong. I thought we did a really nice job, he only had 3 points at the half. We wanted him looking at six eyes, the primary defender, and the two men defending in the nearest gap and I thought for the most part we did that. There were too many post scores for Miami, they lived in the lane in the second half. I was not pleased with our defense throughout, letting them shoot 53% and out-rebounded us in 6. They made 10 3s, we were fortunate to win. I've played well and lost, but I'd much rather prefer to play poorly and win the game and we did that."

On Keve Aluma and Justyn Mutts and if they are exceeding expectations:

"We're nine games in, Keve Aluma is doing it, night in and night out. Justyn Mutts was really good tonight and had three 3s. Are they exceeding expectations? I don't know. They are good players. We get 41 points and 13 rebounds, they did a better job of handling the ball. We had six assists and one turnover from our front line and that has been an issue for us. Keve had good numbers in that regard, four assists and one turnover. Mutts had three turnovers in the second half. It was a pretty good night from our front line, I'm proud of them."

On Justyn Mutts shooting free throws after the game on the court and if the staff requested he did so:

"Nope, I would not recommend a player come back on the floor after a game. Mutts just played his tail off and he's serious about it. He's a good player and he wants to be a great player and he's doing a nice job for us."

On the ball security in the first half with just two committed turnovers:

“I think slowing down a little bit. There's a nice gear for us around three or four. But when we get up to five, we don't handle that very well. Our decision making isn't very good at that gear. Nahiem [Alleyne] had a terrible turnover in transition to Mutts, he threw the thing at his feet and left us in a 4-on-3. It's just better decision making and I thought we did a better job at that tonight.”

Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

TYRECE RADFORD

On tonight's defensive prowess, forcing 19 turnovers:

“We kept our hands active and moved our feet well, we were at the right place at the right time. Going off of each other's energy was also a big factor.”

On the versatility Justyn Mutts and Keve Aluma have provided so far:

“They add plenty of size and they have added motors to the squad, whether it is scoring the ball or just keeping our players active with their communicating.”

On Coach [Mike] Young's plan for attacking the floor tonight:

“Coach [Mike] Young always seems to emphasize attacking the basket off of the transition, we just have to do it more and get more comfortable doing so. That was always my gameplan in high school, getting the ball in transition and going to the hoop.”

KEVE ALUMA

On second half play:

“After coming off from a super intense and productive first half, our energy was down a little bit and we let them come back into the game. Towards the end, they were going on a run and we as a team were fighting to stay on top.”

On Justyn Mutts practicing free throws right after the final buzzer:

“I didn't even know that he did that, so that's good to hear. That just shows you the dedication this team has to show, we are all trying to get better.”

On your overall offensive and defensive production:

“I was really just trying to be aggressive and stay locked in at at times. Sometimes I tend to lose my head and focus.”

On the officials telling the bench to quiet down:

“I honestly didn't know that they said that, I always enjoy when our bench is engaged. That really is the fuel to our fire when we aren't allowed to have a crowd. Everyone on the court thrives off of that energy, I liked it.”