

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Postgame Media Conference vs. Virginia Quotes

Jan. 30, 2021

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights

What were you doing better during that stretch the way you took control of the game:

"I think it was an 8 point Virginia lead at the under 12. I thought we were close, I thought we were on a couple of actions. Aluma (Keve) was playing really well as he did throughout. I thought the ball was moving a little bit better and I thought we screened a little bit better from that point on. On the other end, we continued to contest and I thought we did a nice job on the glass. They had four offensive rebounds in the second half, that surprises me a little bit. It was just better basketball from our team and it couldn't have come at a better time. A good win for the Hokies."

What does this win say about this team that you were able to pull off this victory over UVA:

"It's significant now, but let's hit the brakes. It's late January they're not putting a crown on anyone's head in January. We have a bunch more of these head-knockers to go and Pittsburgh on Wednesday. Great win for us, we played a good ball game against a really good Virginia team, but let's hang on we got a lot more to look forward to we hope."

What was different about Keve Aluma today:

"He wasn't very good against Wake Forest, he wasn't very good in the next one (Syracuse), he was better on Wednesday at Notre Dame. I think there's something to the Cassell, I think something about getting him back home. We had three straight (on the road), the friendly confines of Cassell Coliseum and he had a nice pop to his step and getting that first three down was a big deal. Now, Jay (Huff) has got to come to the perimeter and guard him a little bit. He made another one, which really gives you heartburn, there's little things that go on that affect how you want to handle things and that happens to me often."

Did you notice something different about your defense on that stretch:

"I felt a little more awareness, we had done such a great job through big portions. This is not just tonight, this happens every time I watch Virginia play. That team is so deflating, you guard your tail off and Hauser (Sam), Kihei (Clark), Jay (Huff), one of those guys are banging a three with three seconds left on the shot clock and they had four of those in the first half. I thought we were picture perfect, I thought we were right there and we were doing a nice job, just a bit more toughness and resolve throughout the shot clock and you better be against that bunch or they'll burn you."

Virginia Head Coach Tony Bennett Q&A Highlights

On Aluma being a factor tonight:

“He is good, you could see he could get us in foul trouble. He has great footwork as well as fakes, and then then he hit a couple of 3’s which he is capable of, but hasn’t made any in ACC play. I was hoping Caffaro’s [Francisco] physicality could at least stand him up a little bit and that didn’t happen. We tried to trap them at times, a couple times we did well and they made some plays out of it. They [Hokies] can really move with some of those shooters coming off screens. They are missing a really good player and I get that, what happens with that is that it opens up a little more space for Aluma to go to work. They adjusted well, it doesn’t mean they don’t miss him, credit to them. They defended hard, they ran their offence purposely and hard. I thought we were good in stretches but we lacked assertiveness offensively with our cuts, defensively we kind of laid down and that’s not going to get it done.”

On the shots not falling in the 2nd half:

“It was a little bit of fools gold Mike [Barber], we made some at the end of the shot clock, it looks good, we may have seperated the lead a little. We almost had to bail ourselves with some of those shots at the end with certain guys. We took too many, we were having a hard time getting post ups or getting to the free throw line through drawing fouls or driving it to the rim. They [Hokies] really bottled up the lane and defended well, they were pretty quick to the 3’s and sometimes we had to take them. This game certainly wasn’t one of our better efforts, but partly due to their good defence and taking the lane away, leaving us with some late 3s which is what you wanna do when you are guarding the correct way.”

On not being able to play through Jay [Huff] that well tonight:

“I thought he looked like a first year or a freshman out there tonight, I believe he lost some assertiveness. When his shot wasn’t going, it kind of put him into a divided mind. I thought some of his looks were good, I shouldn’t speak too surly until I watch it back. I didn’t think we had enough variation on the floor tonight, they [Hokies] were strong at the rim and when we got some open looks we were unable to make them. I’m not saying we scored enough points, but you can’t guard like that at the end and expect to beat a good team like Virginia Tech.”

Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

KEVE ALUMA

On being down early and then going on a big run in the second half:

“We didn't change our style too much, Coach [Young] just told us to be aggressive on offense and defense.”

On beating four ranked teams and if they played harder against them:

“Definitely, we try to play hard no matter who we are playing, but you see that number and it always excites everyone.”

On if he has a goal of what this team is going to do this year:

“We just want to win as many games as possible.”

On how the team is going to manage all the praise of potentially being the highest ranked team in the conference:

“I think just focusing on ourselves and being better every day.”

HUNTER CATTOOR

On the four ranked wins:

“It's a big win for us, coming in we had a great scout from our coaches and we executed it. We played well as a team, I thought it was a great team win and a great win to keep moving forward in ACC play.”

On what it means to know the team has a win over UVA:

“It's exciting, just talking to people around you and seeing things on social media and twitter. Everyone is talking about beat UVA. it feels good to be a part of that.”

On it being the best start ever in school history and how the team has grown since last year:

“The biggest thing is maturity, we had a really young team last year and it was the first year for a lot of guys playing in the ACC. I think having a year under our belt and those experiences have really helped us.”