



HOKIES

BASKETBALL





HOKIES

2020-21 Virginia Tech Men's Basketball Game Notes

Game Info

Friday, March 19 | 12:15 p.m. | Game 22
Hinkle Fieldhouse | Indianapolis, Ind.
NCAA Tournament | South Region
First Round

On the Call

Jim Nantz (PxP)
Bill Raftery (Analyst)
Grant Hill (Analyst)
Tracy Wolfson (Reporter)



Schedule

NOVEMBER

25	RADFORD (ACCN)	W, 77-62
28	VS. TEMPLE (ESPNEWS) ¹	CANCELED
28	VS. No. 3/3 VILLANOVA (ESPN) ¹	W, 81-73 (OT)
29	VS. USF (ESPN2) ¹	W, 76-58

DECEMBER

3	VMI (ACCN)	W, 64-57
8	PENN STATE (ESPN) ²	L, 75-55
15	No. 24/RV CLEMSON* (ACCN)	W, 66-60
19	COPPIN STATE (RSN)	W, 97-57
21	LONGWOOD (ACCN)	W, 84-58
29	MIAMI (FLA.)* (ACCN)	W, 80-78

JANUARY

2	AT No. 23/24 VIRGINIA* (ACCN)	CANCELED
6	AT RV/No. 25 LOUISVILLE* (ACCN)	L, 73-71
10	NOTRE DAME* (ACCN)	W, 77-63
12	No. 19/23 DUKE* (ACCN)	W, 74-67
17	AT WAKE FOREST* (ACCN)	W, 64-60
20	BOSTON COLLEGE* (ACCN)	CANCELED
23	AT SYRACUSE* (RSN)	L, 78-60
27	AT NOTRE DAME* (RSN)	W, 62-51
30	No. 8/8 VIRGINIA* (ACCN)	W, 65-51

FEBRUARY

3	AT PITT* (RSN)	L, 83-72
6	AT MIAMI (FLA.)* (RSN)	W, 80-76 (OT)
9	No. 17/19 FLORIDA STATE* (ACCN)	CANCELED
13	[RV/RV] LOUISVILLE* (ACCN)	CANCELED
16	AT [RV/--] NORTH CAROLINA* (ACCN)	CANCELED
20	AT No. 17/19 FLORIDA STATE* (ACCN)	CANCELED
23	GEORGIA TECH* (RSN)	L, 69-53
27	WAKE FOREST* (ACCN)	W, 84-46

MARCH

3	LOUISVILLE* (ESPN2)	CANCELED
6	AT NC STATE* (RSN)	CANCELED
9-13	VS. [--/RV] NORTH CAROLINA (ESPN) ³	L, 81-73
19	VS. FLORIDA (CBS) ⁴	12:15 P.M.

* ACC GAME | AP POLL RANKING/COACHES' POLL RANKING

- 1 - HALL OF FAME SHOOTOUT TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT (UNCASVILLE, CONN.)
- 2 - ACC/B1G CHALLENGE (BLACKSBURG, VA.)
- 3 - ACC TOURNAMENT (GREENSBORO, N.C.)
- 4 - NCAA TOURNAMENT (INDIANAPOLIS, IND.)

VIRGINIA TECH CONTACT INFO

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Assistant Director, Strategic Communications

NUMBER TO KNOW

5

Tech is 5-0 this season when coming off of a loss. It lost its most recent game, an eight-point setback to North Carolina in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament.

INFORMATION

No. 10 Virginia Tech

Hokies



Record	15-6, 9-4 ACC
NCAAT Record	8-11
Head Coach	Mike Young
Record at School (Years)	31-22 (2nd)

No. 7 Florida

Gators



Record	14-9, 9-7 SEC
Series	Tech leads 5-4
Head Coach	Mike White
Record at School (Years)	122-74 (6th)

No. 2 Ohio State

Buckeyes



Record	21-9, 12-8 B1G
Series	Tech leads 4-2
Head Coach	Chris Holtmann
Record at School (Years)	87-43 (4th)

No. 15 Oral Roberts

Golden Eagles



Record	16-10, 10-5 Summit
Series	ORU leads 3-1
Head Coach	Paul Mills
Record at School (Years)	55-66 (4th)

PROJECTED STARTERS (Based off last game)

#	Name	P	R	A	B	S
3	Wabissa Bede (G)	4.1	2.4	3.2	0.4	0.9
4	Nahiem Alleyne (G)	10.3	2.7	1.7	0.1	0.7
22	Keve Aluma (F)	15.6	8.0	2.1	1.3	0.7
23	Tyrece Radford (G)	11.9	6.1	2.0	0.4	0.6
25	Justyn Mutts (F)	9.6	6.5	2.1	0.8	0.6

AT THE RIM

- As a No. 10 seed in the NCAA Tournament, Virginia Tech will take on seventh-seeded Florida to begin Friday's slate of games at 12:15 p.m. ET on CBS at Hinkle Fieldhouse.
- The Hokies and Gators will meet for the first time since 1991, a 79-57 win for Tech in the Red Lobster Classic in Orlando, Florida behind 19 points from John Rivers.
- Tech leads the all-time series 5-4 versus Florida, with five of the nine matchups being on a neutral court.
- Tech coach Mike Young has never faced Florida's Mike White.
- Young will, however, face his former assistant on Friday, as Florida's Darris Nichols was an assistant at Wofford under Young (2013-14).

WHO TO WATCH



- Shooting 10 for 16 from the field, Justyn Mutts turned in a season-high 24 points against UNC at the ACC Tournament.
- The redshirt junior hit three 3-pointers and had three monstrous slam dunks, while grabbing eight rebounds.

- Tyrece Radford racked up his third 20-point outing of the season and sixth of his career last Thursday vs. UNC.
- Going 4 for 4 from the charity stripe and pulling down six boards, Radford drew four fouls with having his way driving to the rim.



LAST TIME OUT

- Tech took a three-point lead into halftime, but would let it slip away for the first time this season, falling to North Carolina 81-73 in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament.
- The game was tied at 49-all with 11 minutes left, but a UNC run proved too much for Tech.

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AP Top 25 Poll - Week 17

March 15 | *Opponents in italics*

#	Team (1st place)	Record	Points
1	Gonzaga (60)	26-0	1500
2	Illinois	23-6	1415
3	Baylor	22-2	1397
4	Michigan	20-4	1280
5	Alabama	24-6	1242
6	Houston	24-3	1145
7	Ohio State	21-9	1138
8	Iowa	21-8	1132
9	Texas	19-7	993
10	Arkansas	22-6	895
11	Oklahoma State	20-8	891
12	Kansas	20-8	803
13	West Virginia	18-9	745
14	Florida State	16-6	651
15	<i>Virginia</i>	<i>18-6</i>	<i>584</i>
16	San Diego State	23-4	521
17	Loyola Chicago	24-4	513
18	<i>Villanova</i>	<i>16-6</i>	<i>490</i>
19	Creighton	20-8	411
20	Purdue	18-9	382
21	Texas Tech	17-10	271
22	Colorado	22-8	243
23	BYU	20-6	125
24	USC	22-7	125
25	Virginia Tech	15-6	118

Receiving Votes: Georgia Tech 103, Tennessee 72, St. Bonaventure 71, UConn 62, LSU 54, Oregon 40, Oklahoma 40, Wisconsin 26, Winthrop 10, Clemson 5, UC Santa Barbara 2, Cleveland State 2, Missouri 2, Georgetown 1

Coaches' Top 25 Poll - Week 16

March 15 | *Opponents in italics*

#	Team (1st place)	Record	Points
1	Gonzaga (32)	26-0	800
2	Illinois	23-6	745
3	Baylor	22-2	737
4	Michigan	20-4	676
5	Alabama	24-6	668
6	Houston	24-3	587
7	Ohio State	21-9	586
8	Iowa	21-8	549
9	Texas	19-7	488
10	Arkansas	22-6	472
11	Kansas	20-8	433
12	Oklahoma State	20-8	402
13	West Virginia	18-9	395
14	Florida State	16-6	391
15	<i>Virginia</i>	<i>18-6</i>	<i>347</i>
16	Loyola Chicago	24-4	312
17	<i>Villanova</i>	<i>16-6</i>	<i>289</i>
18	San Diego State	23-4	273
19	Creighton	20-8	245
20	Purdue	18-9	206
21	Texas Tech	17-10	132
22	Colorado	22-8	127
23	USC	22-7	104
24	Virginia Tech	15-6	101
25	Oregon	20-6	73

Receiving Votes: BYU 55, Oklahoma 42, St. Bonaventure 42, UConn 33, Georgia Tech 18, Wichita State 14, LSU 13, Drake 10, Tennessee 9, Winthrop 8, Missouri 8, North Texas 3, Clemson 3, Georgetown 2, UC Santa Barbara 1, UCLA 1

OUR NAME

When referring to our name, we ask that you use Virginia Tech, Hokies or Tech - and not 'Vah Tech'. Thank you!

GENERAL INFORMATION

University Name	Virginia Tech
Location	Blacksburg, Va.
Founded	1872
Enrollment	36,000
President	Dr. Timothy Sands
Director of Athletics	Whit Babcock
Nickname	Hokies
Mascot	Hokie Bird
Colors	Chicago Maroon and Burnt Orange
Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Atlantic Coast
Home Court	Cassell Coliseum
Capacity	8,925

INFORMATION

2019-20 Record	16-16
Conference Record/Finish	7-13 (T-10th in ACC)
Starters Returning/Lost	3/2
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	6/4
Newcomers	9 (4 freshmen, 3 grad transfers, 2 sit-out transfers now eligible)

STAFF

Head Coach	Mike Young (Emery & Henry, 1986)
Virginia Tech Record/Years	31-22 / Second season
Overall Record/Years	330-266 / Entering 19th
Associate Head Coach	Chester Frazier (Illinois, 2009)
Assistant Coach	Christian Webster (Harvard, 2013)
Assistant Coach	Kevin Giltner (Wofford, 2012)
Chief of Staff	Stephanie Ballein (Virginia Tech, 1990, 1995)
Special Assistant for Recruiting	Matt Olinger (Liberty, 2007)
Director of Player Personnel	Ryan Nadeau (Michigan State, 2016)
Special Assistant to the Head Coach	Ace Custis (Virginia Tech, 1997)
Director, Sports Medicine	Hisham Ziyout (Salisbury, 2015)
Senior Director, Strength & Conditioning	David Jackson (Virginia Tech, 1997, 1999)
Assistant Director, Equipment Services	Bruce Garnes (Virginia Tech, 1994, 1996)
Graduate Assistant	Will Stigall (Wofford, 2019)
Graduate Assistant	Eric Wagenlander (Wofford, 2017)
Administrative Assistant	Isabelle Schneiderman (Virginia Tech, 2019)

ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	High School/Last School
0	Hunter Cattoor	G	6-3	200	So.	Orlando, Fla.	Bishop Moore
1	Joseph "Joe" Bamisile	G	6-4	195	Fr.	Chesterfield, Va.	Monacan
2	Cartier Diarra	G	6-4	185	Gr.	Florence, S.C.	West Florence/Kansas State
3	Wabissa Bede	G	6-1	195	Gr.	North Andover, Mass.	Cushing Academy
4	Nahiem Alleyne	G	6-4	195	So.	Buford, Ga.	Mountain View
5	David N'Guessan	F	6-9	205	Fr.	De Lier, Netherlands	Mt. Zion Prep
10	Grant Yates	F	6-8	205	r-So.	Gainesville, Va.	Battlefield/Christopher Newport
11	Gill Williamson	F	6-8	195	Fr.	Richmond, Va.	St. Christopher's
13	Darius Maddox	G	6-5	185	Fr.	Bowie, Md.	Oak Hill Academy
15	Jalen Cone	G	5-10	165	So.	Walkertown, N.C.	Walkertown
21	John Ojiako	F	6-10	245	So.	Lagos, Nigeria	Admiral Farragut
22	Keve Aluma	F	6-9	235	r-Jr.	Berlin, Md.	Stephen Decatur/Wofford
23	Tyrece Radford	G	6-2	200	r-So.	Baton Rouge, La.	McKinley
25	Justyn Mutts	F	6-7	230	r-Jr.	Millville, N.J.	St. Augustine Prep/Delaware
35	Cordell Pemsil	F	6-9	250	Gr.	Dubuque, Iowa	Wahlert/Iowa

PRONUNCIATIONS

Nahiem Alleyne	na-HEEM ah-LEAN	Cartier Diarra	Car-tee-YAIRE JOTT-ah
Keve Aluma	Kev-aye	David N'Guessan	Guh-SAHN
Joseph "Joe" Bamisile	BAM-uh-sill	John Ojiako	OH-gee-ah-co
Wabissa Bede	wa-BEE-sah BEE-dee	Tyrece Radford	TIE-reese
Hunter Cattoor	cuh-TOUR	Cassell Coliseum	Castle



YEAR BY YEAR AT THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

1967 | No Seed | 23 Teams | Lexington, Ky.¹ & Evanston, Ill.²
 March 11 Quarterfinals¹ Toledo W, 82-76
 March 17 Semifinals² Indiana W, 79-70
 March 18 Regional Finals² Dayton L, 71-66 (OT)
 (Midwest Region)

1976 | No Seed | 32 Teams | South Bend, Ind. | Midwest
 March 13 Quarterfinals Western Mich. L, 77-66 (OT)

1979 | VT #8 Seed | 40 Teams | Lawrence, Kan. | Midwest
 March 9 First Round #9 Jacksonville W, 70-53
 March 11 Second Round #1 Indiana State L, 86-69

1980 | VT #7 Seed | 48 Teams | Bowling Green, Ky. | Midwest
 March 7 First Round #10 WKU W, 89-85 (OT)
 March 9 Second Round #2 Indiana L, 68-59

1985 | VT #9 Seed | 64 Teams | Hartford, Conn. | East
 March 14 First Round #8 Temple W, 60-57

1986 | VT #7 Seed | 64 Teams | Baton Rouge, La. | Southeast
 March 13 First Round #10 Villanova L, 71-62

1996 | VT #9 Seed | 64 Teams | Dallas, Texas | Midwest
 March 14 First Round #8 Green Bay W, 61-48
 March 16 Second Round #1 Kentucky L, 84-60

2007 | VT #15 Seed | 65 Teams | Columbus, Ohio | West
 March 16 First Round #12 Illinois W, 54-52
 March 18 Second Round #4 Southern Illinois L, 84-60

2017 | VT #9 Seed | 68 Teams | Buffalo, N.Y. | East
 March 16 First Round #8 Wisconsin L, 84-74

2018 | VT #8 Seed | 68 Teams | Pittsburgh, Pa. | East
 March 15 First Round #9 Alabama L, 86-83

2019 | VT #4 Seed | 68 Teams | San Jose, Calif.¹ & Washington, D.C.²
 March 22 First Round¹ #13 Saint Louis W, 66-52
 March 24 Second Round¹ #12 Liberty W, 67-58
 March 29 Sweet 16² #1 Duke L, 75-73
 (East Region)

TECH APPEARANCES BY SEED

Seed	No. of Times	W/L
No seed	Twice	2-2
No. 4	Once	2-1
No. 5	Once	1-1
No. 7	Twice	1-2
No. 8	Twice	1-2
No. 9	3x	1-3

TECH VERSUS SEED IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

Seed	W/L
No. 1	0-3
No. 2	0-1
No. 4	0-1
No. 8	0-2
No. 9	2-1
No. 10	1-1
No. 12	2-0
No. 13	1-0

TECH BY REGION IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

Region	W/L
Midwest	3-3
Midwest	2-2
West	1-1
East	2-4
Southeast	0-1

TECH BY STATE IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

State	W/L
California	2-0
Conn.	0-1
D.C.	0-1
Indiana	0-1
Kansas	1-1
Kentucky	3-2
Louisiana	0-1
New York	0-1
Ohio	0-1
Penn.	0-1
Texas	1-1

A WIN WOULD

- Be the second straight NCAA Tournament the Hokies have won their first round game (2019 vs. Saint Louis).
- Make Tech 1-0 as a No. 10 seed in school history and mark its fourth time getting to the second round since the tournament expanded in 1985.
- Give Tech coach Mike Young his first NCAA Tournament win as a Hokie, and mark his second ever in The Dance (2019 at Wofford; vs. Seton Hall).

TOURNEY NOTES

- The Hokies, who made their first NCAA Tournament in 1967, are 8-11 in The Dance and have made the tourney four years in a row, with the 2020 NCAA Tournament being canceled.
- Tech has never faced Florida in the NCAA Tournament or a current member of the SEC either for that matter. However, the Hokies have played in the state of Indiana before and are 0-1, with that setback coming on March 13, 1976 against Western Michigan in South Bend, a 77-66 overtime loss.
- Never being a No. 10 seed, the Hokies are entering the 2021 tourney with never having played a No. 7 seed either. The No. 10 seed is their lowest seeding in school history, with the previous low of No. 9, which has happened three times, with most recently being in 2017.

YOUNG IN TOURNEY MODE

- Tech coach Mike Young enters his sixth NCAA Tournament as a head coach, with the first five appearances coming for him when he was at Wofford (2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2019).
- He owns a 1-5 record in the NCAA Tournament.
- In his most recent outings (2019), his seventh-seeded Terriers defeated 10th-seeded Seton Hall 84-68 and then lost to second-seeded Kentucky 62-56 in the second round. Both games were in Jacksonville, Florida.

SPEEDY

- In previous seasons in Virginia Tech history, the fastest head coach to make the NCAA Tournament was in Year 3. Those Hokies were Howie Shannon, Charlie Moir and Buzz Williams
- Therefore, with Mike Young doing so in Year 2, he becomes the fast Tech coach to make The Dance.

PART OF HISTORY

- Only two Hokies had been able to say they have played in three NCAA Tournaments, with those being Justin Robinson and Ahmed Hill. Both were on the 2017, '18 and '19 NCAA Tournament teams.
- And now, with Tech making it this year, another Hokie joins the prestigious list, as Wabissa Bede, who played with 'Five' and 'Med' for two seasons, is on the list now to make it three Hokies who have accomplished the feat.

NCAA TOURNAMENT TIDBITS

TECH VS. OPPONENTS IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

Alabama	0-1
Dayton	0-1
Duke	0-1
Green Bay	1-0
Illinois	1-0
Indiana	1-1
Indiana State	0-1
Jacksonville	1-0
Kentucky	0-1
Liberty	1-0
Saint Louis	1-0
Southern Illinois	0-1
Temple	0-1
Toledo	1-0
Villanova	0-1
WKU	1-0
Western Michigan	0-1
Wisconsin	0-1
Total	8-11

BEDE HITTING HIS STRIDE

- Coming down the stretch of his fourth season in Blacksburg, point guard Wabissa Bede is hitting his stride and distributing the rock well.
- Over this last six games, the Massachusetts native has had five or more assists in five of the six games, averaging 4.8 assists a contest.
- In his first 15 games of the season, he only had five-plus assists twice.
- In his last outing, he dished out his second-most assists of the season with seven against North Carolina in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament compared to just one turnover on the night.

A NEW WORLD

- To most of the Hokies, this will be their first time playing in the NCAA Tournament.
- The lone players who have had previous experience is starters Wabissa Bede and Keve Aluma.
- The two have combined for six contests in The Dance, with a record of 3-3.

BLACKSBURG TO GAINESVILLE

- Tech has had a few players over the years in recent memory take their talents to Florida, including Dorian Finney-Smith, Jalen Hudson and Kerry Blackshear Jr. all via transfer.

NOT TOO MUCH AS OF LATE

- The Hokies have only be able to play five games since Feb. 1, with that coming to Covid-19 protocols with them or the opponent having to back out, unfortunately.
- Out of the field in the NCAA Tournament, that is the fewest games played by a team.
- So, will the Hokies be well-rested and fresh or will they be rusty the first weekend? Only time will tell.



LAST TIME TEAM...

Tech scored 100 points and won: 103-79, vs. Washington, 11-17-17
 Tech scored 100 points and lost: 100-104 2OT vs. Maryland, 2-27-10
 Tech played in overtime: 81-73, OT, vs. No. 3/3 Villanova, 11-28-20
 Tech played in consecutive overtime games: 82-77 vs. UAB, 11-28-15 & 79-81 vs. Northwestern, 12-1-15
 Tech played 2 OT: 79-77, 2OT, vs. North Carolina, 1-22-20
 Tech played 3 OT: 95-102, 3OT, vs. Miami (Fla.), 1-19-20
 Tech scored 100+ points: 100-64 vs. Delaware State, 11-20-19
 Tech scored 90-99 points: 97-57 vs. Coppin State, 12-29-20
 Tech scored 80-89 points: 84-46 vs. Wake Forest, 2-27-21
 Tech scored 70-79 points: 73-81 vs. North Carolina, 3-11-21
 Tech scored 60-69 points: 65-51 vs. No. 8/8 Virginia, 1-30-21
 Tech scored 50-59 points: 53-69 vs. Georgia Tech, 2-23-21
 Tech scored 40-49 points: 47-24 at NC State, 2-2-19
 Tech scored 30-39 points: 39-65 at No. 19/19 Virginia, 1-4-20
 Tech scored 20-29 points: 27-40 at McGuire Hospital, 2-2-46
 Tech scored 10-19 points: 16-45 at Virginia, 1-30-39
 Tech scored less than 10 points: 9-29 vs. North Carolina, 1-12-35
 Tech allowed 100+ points: 95-102, 3OT, vs. Miami (Fla.), 1-19-20
 Tech allowed 90-99 points: 77-90 vs. BYU, 11-27-19
 Tech allowed 80-89 points: 73-81 vs. North Carolina, 3-11-21
 Tech allowed 70-79 points: 60-78 at Syracuse, 1-23-21
 Tech allowed 60-69 points: 53-69 vs. Georgia Tech, 2-23-21
 Tech allowed 50-59 points: 65-51 vs. No. 8/8 Virginia, 1-30-21
 Tech allowed 40-49 points: 84-46 vs. Wake Forest, 2-27-21
 Tech allowed 30-39 points: 92-37 vs. Maryland Eastern Shore, 12-29-19
 Tech allowed 20-29 points: 47-24 at NC State, 2-2-19
 Tech allowed 10-19 points: 60-19 vs. Lynchburg College, 1-9-46
 Tech allowed less than 10 points: 28-9 vs. Hampden-Sydney, 1-17-23
 Tech scored at least 60 points in a half: 66, 2nd half, vs. The Citadel, 11-12-17
 Largest margin of victory: 83 points vs. Randolph Macon Academy, 87-4, 1-10-1911
 Largest margin of victory in an ACC game: 38 points vs. Wake Forest, 84-46, 2-27-21
 Tech defeated a ranked opponent on the road: 47-24 at No. 23/22 NC State, 2-2-19
 Tech defeated a ranked opponent at home: 65-51 vs. No. 8/8 Virginia, 1-30-21
 Tech defeated a ranked opponent on a neutral court: 81-73, OT, vs. No. 3/3 Villanova, 11-28-20
 Tech defeated a defending national champion: 65-51 vs. No. 8/8 Virginia, 1-30-21
 Tech held opponent without a double-figure scorer: 65-47 vs. Miami, ACC Tournament, 3-12-09
 No Tech player scored in double figures: 41-57 vs. Temple, 2-25-96
 Tech had six players score in double figures: at Boston College, 2-25-17
 Tech had seven players score in double figures: vs. The Citadel, 12-17-16
 Tech did not make a 3-point field goal: at Providence, 2-1-03
 Tech's opponent did not make a 3-point field goal: at NC State, 2-10-10
 Tech did not shoot a free throw in the first half: vs. No. 3/3 Villanova, 11-28-20
 Tech did not shoot a free throw in the second half: vs. Virginia, 12-5-10
 Tech's opponent did not shoot a free throw: vs. VMI, 12-21-19
 Tech held an opponent under 10 points in a half: 9 points, vs. Eastern Michigan, 12-22-11
 Tech held an opponent under 20 points in a half: 12 points, vs. Coppin State, 11-8-19
 Tech had double figures in blocked shots: 10, 84-46, vs. Wake Forest, 2-27-21
 Tech came back from a double-figure deficit to win: 10 points vs. No. 8/8 Virginia, 1-30-21
 Lost a double-digit lead: 12 points vs. Boston College, 2-8-20
 Tech led by 20 or more points at halftime of a game: 27 points vs. Wake Forest, 2-27-21
 Tech had 20-29 assists in a game: 21 vs. Pitt, 2-15-20
 Tech had 30 or more assists: 36 vs. The Citadel, 11-12-17
 Tech held a team under 20 percent from the field: 16.7% at NC State, 2-2-19
 Tech held a team to under three made field goals in a half: 2 FG, Notre Dame, 1-10-21
 Tech won an NCAA Tournament game: 67-58 vs. Liberty (NCAA Tournament), 3-24-19

LAST TIME PLAYER...

A Tech player recorded a double-double: Keve Aluma (12 pts./14 rebs.) vs. Georgia Tech, 2-23-21
 A Tech player recorded a triple-double: Chris Clarke (13 pts./12 rebs./10 ast.) vs. The Citadel, 12-17-16
 Two Tech players recorded double-doubles in a game: Keve Aluma (14 pts./12 rebs.) & Justyn Mutts (14 pts./11 rebs.) at Notre Dame, 1-27-21
 Two Tech players recorded double-doubles in consecutive games: vs. UNC, ACC Tournament, 3-13-09 and vs. Duquesne, NIT, 3-18-09
 Tech player had five or more steals: Nickeil Alexander-Walker (6) vs. Miami (Fla.), 1-30-19
 Tech player had 10 or more assists in a game: Wabissa Bede (10) vs. Delaware State, 11-20-19
 Tech player had 20 or more rebounds in a game: Jeff Allen (21) vs. Longwood, 12-14-08
 Two Tech players had double figures in rebounds: Keve Aluma (12 rebs.) & Justyn Mutts (11 rebs.) at Notre Dame, 1-27-21
 Two Tech players had five or more assists: Wabissa Bede (5) & Keve Aluma (5) at Pitt, 2-3-21
 Three Tech players had five or more assists: Chris Clarke (10) Justin Robinson (6), Seth Allen (6) vs. The Citadel, 12-17-16
 Four Tech players had five or more assists: Kerry Blackshear (8), Devin Wilson (7), Justin Robinson (7), Chris Clarke (5) vs. The Citadel, 11-12-17
 Three Tech players had five or more 3-pointers: Nahiem Alleyne (5), Jalen Cone (5), Isaiah Wilkins (5) vs. Delaware State, 11-20-19
 Eight or more Tech players made a 3-pointer: 8 players vs. Coppin State, 12-19-20
 Two Tech players scored 20 or more points: Keve Aluma (23 points) & Nahiem Alleyne (20 points) vs. No. 3/3 Villanova, 11-28-20
 Three Tech players scored 20 or more points: Nickeil Alexander-Walker (25 points), Ahmed Hill (23 points) and Justin Robinson (23 points) vs. Purdue, 11-18-18
 Same two Tech players scored 20 or more points in consecutive games: Nickeil Alexander-Walker & Kerry Blackshear Jr., 11-10 & 11-12-17
 Tech freshman scored 20 or more points in a game: Tyrece Radford (26 points) & Jalen Cone (20) vs. Miami (Fla.), 2-19-20
 Three Tech freshmen scored in double figures in a game: Hunter Cattoor (14 points), Jalen Cone (11) Landers Nolley (10) vs. North Carolina, 3-10-20
 Four Tech freshmen scored in double figures in a game: Landers Nolley II (21 points), Tyrece Radford (21) Jalen Cone (15) and Nahiem Alleyne (10) at Wake Forest, 1-14-20
 Tech player scored 30-39 points in a game: 30, Keve Aluma at Pitt, 2-3-21
 Tech player scored 40-49 points in a game: 41, Dorenoza Hudson vs. Seton Hall, 1-2-10
 Tech player scored 50+ points in a game: 51, Binbo Coles vs. Southern Miss., 2-6-88
 Tech player had consecutive double-doubles: Keve Aluma, 1-27-21, 1-30-21, 2-3-21
 Tech player had three consecutive double-doubles: Keve Aluma, 1-27-21, 1-30-21, 2-3-21
 Tech freshman had consecutive double-doubles: Kerry Blackshear Jr., 12-13-15 & 12-19-15
 Tech allowed a triple-double: Dennis Smith Jr. (27 pts., 11 rebs., 11 assists), at NC State, 1-4-17
 Tech had a walk-on score in double figures: Christian Beyer, 13 pts., vs. Alabama A&M, 12-14-14

What's a Hokie?



The answer leads all the way back to 1896 when Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College changed its name to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. With the change came the necessity for writing a new cheer and a contest for such a purpose was held by the student body.

Senior O.M. Stull won first prize for his "Hokie" yell which is still used today. Later, when asked if "Hokie" had any special meaning, Stull explained the word was solely the product of his imagination and was used only as an attention-getter for his yell. It soon became a nickname for all Tech teams and for those people loyal to Tech athletics.

The official university school colors - Chicago Maroon and Burnt Orange - also were introduced in 1896. The colors were chosen by a committee because they made a 'unique combination' not worn elsewhere at the time. The official definition of "hokie" is "a loyal Virginia Tech Fan".

WHERE THEY AT

- Tech has 15 players on the squad who represent 10 states and two international countries (Netherlands, Nigeria), making it tied for eighth in the country for most states and countries represented on a roster this season.
- Virginia leads the way with three players – Joseph "Joe" Bamisile, Gill Williamson, Grant Yates – while Maryland has two players – Keve Aluma and Darius Maddox.
- New Mexico, Penn and UT Martin are No. 1 nationally with 15 players from different states and countries, while in the ACC, Boston College (13) is first and Florida State is tied with the Hokies for the second most in the league with 12.
- Of the 23 schools that have 12 or more players from different spots, nine are from high-major conferences, including BC, Kentucky, Butler, FSU, Iowa State, Nebraska, Tennessee, Tulane and the Hokies.

'19 CLASS OF HIGH-MAJOR COACHES

- Out of the seven high-major conferences (ACC, American, BIG EAST, B1G, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC), there were 14 head coaches hired for the 2019-20 season.
- Virginia Tech coach Mike Young was just one of six coaches that were a mid-major coach to jump up to the big leagues, joining Alabama's Nate Oats (Buffalo), Arkansas' Eric Musselman (Nevada), Tulane's Ron Hunter (Georgia State) and Washington State's Kyle Smith (San Francisco).
- Of the 14 new coaches, Young was the longest-tenured coach to leave, following his 17-year stint as the head guy at Wofford.
- The NBA saw three of its coaches jump into the college ranks, with Michigan's Juwon Howard (Miami Heat), Nebraska's Fred Hoiberg (Chicago Bulls) and Vanderbilt's Jerry Stackhouse (Memphis Grizzlies).
- In this cycle, only one assistant coach was promoted from within and that was Temple's Aaron McKie, who served as an assistant under Fran Dunphy for five seasons in Philadelphia.
- Former Hokie coach Buzz Williams, who is at Texas A&M, was one of just two coaches to jump ship and go high-major for high-major, with UCLA's Mick Cronin (Cincinnati) being the other.
- A full breakdown of the 14 coaches in the cycle is below, with the SEC welcoming the most among the seven leagues with four. The Big 12 was the lone conference not make coaching change heading into the 2019-20 season.

School	Name	Previous Team	2019-20 Record
Cincinnati	John Brannen	Northern Kentucky (HC)	20-10
Arkansas	Eric Musselman	Nevada (HC)	20-12
Michigan	Juwon Howard	Miami Heat (NBA Assistant)	19-12
UCLA	Mick Cronin	Cincinnati (HC)	18-12
St. John's	Mike Anderson	Arkansas (HC)	17-15
Texas A&M	Buzz Williams	Virginia Tech (HC)	16-14
Alabama	Nate Oats	Buffalo (HC)	16-15
Virginia Tech	Mike Young	Wofford (HC)	16-16
Washington St.	Kyle Smith	San Francisco (HC)	16-16
Temple	Aaron McKie	Temple (Assistant)	14-17
Cal	Mark Fox	*Georgia (HC)	14-18
Tulane	Ron Hunter	Georgia State (HC)	12-18
Vanderbilt	Jerry Stackhouse	Memphis Grizzlies (NBA Assistant)	11-21
Nebraska	Fred Hoiberg	Chicago Bulls (NBA HC)	7-25

* Coach Mark Fox last coached Georgia in 2017-18.



2020-21 RECORD WHEN...

Leading at the half:	12-1
Trailing at the half:	2-3
Tied at the half:	1-2
Playing Overtime:	1-0
Shooting 50% or better:	5-0
Shooting between 40-49.9%:	9-4
Shooting less than 40%:	1-2
Opponents shoot 50% or better:	1-4
Opponents shoot less than 50%:	14-2
VT outrebounds its opponent:	10-2
Opponent outrebounds VT:	4-4
Teams are tied in rebounds:	1-1
VT shoots 70% FT or better:	8-4
VT shoots less than 70% FT:	7-2
Scoring less than 50 points:	0-0
Scoring 50-59 points:	0-2
Scoring 60-69 points:	5-1
Scoring 70-79 points:	4-3
Scoring 80-89 points:	5-0
Scoring 90 or more points:	1-0
Allowing less than 30 points:	0-0
Allowing 30-39 points:	0-0
Allowing 40-49 points:	1-0
Allowing 50-59 points:	6-0
Allowing 60-69 points:	5-1
Allowing 70-79 points:	3-3
Allowing 80-89 points:	0-2
Allowing 90 or more points:	0-0
Game decided by 1-4 points or OT:	3-1
Game decided by 5-10 points:	4-1
Game decided by 11+ points:	8-4
Playing in the morning:	0-0
Playing at night:	12-5
Playing in the afternoon:	3-1
Playing on Monday:	1-0
Playing on Tuesday:	3-2
Playing on Wednesday:	2-2
Playing on Thursday:	1-1
Playing on Friday:	0-0
Playing on Saturday:	5-1
Playing on Sunday:	3-0
Playing in November:	3-0
Playing in December:	5-1
Playing in January:	5-2
Playing in February:	2-2
Playing in March:	0-1

SCOUTING

SCOUTING FLORIDA

- Florida is coming off a 12-point loss to Tennessee (18-8, 9-7 SEC), which is a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament, last Friday in the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament, 78-66. The Gators never led and were down by as many as 17 points to the Volunteers, but were paced by All-SEC selection Tre Mann and his 30 points.
- White is in his sixth year in Gainesville, following a four-year stint as the head coach at Louisiana Tech. With the Gators, White has racked up over 120 wins and led them to four straight NCAA Tournament berths. He also has earned Coach of the Year honors in three conferences (WAC, C-USA, SEC).
- UF is led by Mann, who is averaging a team-high 16.0 points and team-best 3.4 assists per game, and Colin Castleton, who is second on the team in points (12.0) and is first in rebounds (5.9).
- One of the better rim-protecting teams in the nation, the Gators are fourth nationally in blocks per game, owning 5.4 a contest. They also capitalize once they get to the charity stripe, shooting 75.7 percent from the free-throw line to rank 40th overall and first in the SEC.

SCOUTING OHIO STATE



- Losing a heartbreaker in overtime in the Big Ten Tournament championship game, Ohio State (21-9, 12-8 B1G) fell by just three points to Illinois (23-6, 16-4), a No. 1 seed in The Dance, in Indianapolis, 91-88. The Buckeyes' Duane Washing Jr. went off with 32 points and Justice Sueing was a perfect 9 of 9 from the free-throw line on his way to 22 points.
- Chris Holtmann is in his fourth year in Columbus, after a three-year stint with Butler where he won 20-plus games all three seasons. With the Buckeyes, Holtmann has made it to at least the second round of the NCAA Tournament and, just like his time at Butler, has won 20-plus every season as well.
- Ohio State is paced by third-team All-B1G selection Duane Washington Jr., who has racked up 86 3-pointers (eight-most in the country) on his way to a 16.3 points per game average, and E.J. Liddell, a first-team All-B1G pick after averaging 15.9 points and 6.4 rebounds per game, while racking up 30 blocks and 19 steals.
- Speaking of getting to the line, you won't find a team that's more of a threat of doing so than the Buckeyes. Ohio State ranks first nationally with 493 free throws made and has gotten to the stripe the fourth most in the country (646 attempts).

SCOUTING ORAL ROBERTS

- Oral Roberts got it done when it was on the line last Tuesday, winning by three points in the Summit League title game, 75-73. The Golden Eagles were able to pull out the win due to two players – Max Abmas and Kevin Obanor – scoring 20-plus points apiece.
- Paul Mills is in his fourth season in Tulsa, following his long stint at Baylor where he was in Waco for 15 years as a coordinator of operations and assistant coach. With the Golden Eagles, he is leading them to their first NCAA Tournament under his watch and the school's first appearance since 2008.
- The highest scoring duo in the country belongs to Abmas (24.2 points per game) and Obanor (18.2) of the Golden Eagles. The two combine for 42 points a contest and have racked up over 1,050 points this season.
- ORU is on pace to set the single-season NCAA record for highest free-throw percentage, owning an 82.4 percent clip. It also is electric from deep, averaging 11.3 3-pointers per game, which is the top mark in the nation.



TEAM AVERAGES

- Of the 14 categories below, Tech owns six categories to its name, including a good size separation in assists per game (+2.5) and points allowed per game (-5.0).
- The Gators on the other hand are better at free-throw percentage (+5.4).

		
KenPom Ranking	37	50
Points per game	74.0	72.1
Field-goal percentage	46.4	45.1
3-point percentage	35.7	35.3
Free-throw percentage	75.7	70.3
Rebounds per game	35.2	35.3
Assists per game	11.8	14.3
Blocks per game	5.4	4.1
Steals per game	7.3	4.7
Points allowed per game	69.8	64.8
Defensive field-goal percentage	42.1	41.7
Defensive 3-point percentage	30.5	32.7
Rebound margin	+1.1	+3.8
Assist/turnover ratio	0.8	1.2



TEAM AVERAGES

- Of the 14 categories below, Tech owns seven categories to its name, including a good size separation in rebound margin (+1.3) and points allowed per game (-5.2).
- The Buckeyes on the other hand are better at scoring (+5.2) and free-throw percentage (+6.0).

		
KenPom Ranking	7	50
Points per game	77.3	72.1
Field-goal percentage	46.0	45.1
3-point percentage	36.5	35.3
Free-throw percentage	76.3	70.3
Rebounds per game	36.2	35.3
Assists per game	13.0	14.3
Blocks per game	3.4	4.1
Steals per game	4.6	4.7
Points allowed per game	71.0	64.8
Defensive field-goal percentage	42.4	41.7
Defensive 3-point percentage	34.1	32.7
Rebound margin	+2.5	+3.8
Assist/turnover ratio	1.2	1.2

TEAM AVERAGES

- Of the 14 categories below, Tech owns eight categories to its name, including a good size separation in free-throw percentage (+3.2) and rebounding margin (+7.6).
- The Golden Eagles on the other hand are better at rebounding margin (+6.9).

		
KenPom Ranking	152	50
Points per game	81.8	72.1
Field-goal percentage	45.4	45.1
3-point percentage	39.0	35.3
Free-throw percentage	82.4	70.3
Rebounds per game	35.2	35.3
Assists per game	12.7	14.3
Blocks per game	4.1	4.1
Steals per game	6.4	4.7
Points allowed per game	75.8	64.8
Defensive field-goal percentage	43.2	41.7
Defensive 3-point percentage	34.8	32.7
Rebound margin	-3.8	+3.8
Assist/turnover ratio	1.1	1.2



TEAM GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Date	Score	W	Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds				PF	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
				FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG							
Radford	11/25/2020	77-62	W	29-60	.483	11-26	.423	8-11	.727	8	22	30	30.0	18	18	10	4	4	77	77.0
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	81-73	Wot	27-57	.474	10-20	.500	17-23	.739	10	30	40	35.0	19	14	14	2	2	81	79.0
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020	76-58	W	27-50	.540	5-16	.313	17-21	.810	6	22	28	32.7	19	11	11	2	3	76	78.0
VMI	12/03/2020	64-57	W	21-60	.350	4-27	.148	18-27	.667	15	33	48	36.5	13	11	11	2	3	64	74.5
Penn St.	12/08/2020	55-75	L	20-54	.370	6-22	.273	9-18	.500	15	24	39	37.0	12	8	14	3	1	55	70.6
Clemson	12/15/2020	66-60	W	18-44	.409	5-16	.313	25-31	.806	7	26	33	36.3	17	9	16	4	2	66	69.8
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	97-57	W	30-58	.517	20-37	.541	17-24	.708	12	31	43	37.3	23	20	18	5	5	97	73.7
Longwood	12/21/2020	84-58	W	31-63	.492	10-32	.313	12-19	.632	14	25	39	37.5	11	19	8	4	9	84	75.0
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	80-78	W	29-62	.468	9-23	.391	13-21	.619	8	20	28	36.4	11	14	11	4	12	80	75.6
at Louisville	01/06/2021	71-73	L	23-54	.426	9-30	.300	16-20	.800	6	24	30	35.8	18	10	10	1	7	71	75.1
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	77-63	W	29-64	.453	7-23	.304	12-16	.750	16	25	41	36.3	22	8	10	2	6	77	75.3
Duke	01/12/2021	74-67	W	28-56	.500	6-14	.429	12-19	.632	6	28	34	36.1	16	16	10	5	3	74	75.2
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	64-60	W	22-46	.478	4-18	.222	16-23	.696	7	23	30	35.6	12	10	15	9	5	64	74.3
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	60-78	L	20-61	.328	8-29	.276	12-17	.706	15	20	35	35.6	18	16	10	0	2	60	73.3
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	62-51	W	25-62	.403	7-25	.280	5-12	.417	8	38	46	36.3	17	13	10	7	8	62	72.5
Virginia	01/30/2021	65-51	W	22-44	.500	9-18	.500	12-14	.857	4	26	30	35.9	8	13	12	4	2	65	72.1
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021	72-83	L	25-61	.410	9-30	.300	13-16	.813	10	21	31	35.6	21	19	8	5	2	72	72.1
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021	80-76	Wot	30-63	.476	8-23	.348	12-15	.800	5	26	31	35.3	15	25	10	5	7	80	72.5
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021	53-69	L	19-46	.413	5-14	.357	10-14	.714	12	19	31	35.1	15	12	16	3	1	53	71.5
Wake Forest	02/27/2021	84-46	W	31-58	.534	13-24	.542	9-16	.563	7	32	39	35.3	14	19	9	10	9	84	72.1
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021	73-81	L	28-60	.467	8-18	.444	9-16	.563	7	25	32	35.1	19	17	11	2	7	73	72.1
Total		1515		534-1183	.451	173-485	.357	274-393	.697	198	540	738	35.1	338	302	244	83	100	1515	72.1
Opponents		1376		487-1164	.418	151-458	.330	251-359	.699	173	499	672	32.0	363	227	248	70	123	1376	65.5

OPPONENT GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Date	Score	W	Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds				PF	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
				FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG							
Radford	11/25/2020	77-62	W	21-53	.396	6-17	.353	14-21	.667	10	23	33	33.0	11	10	15	1	6	62	62.0
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	81-73	Wot	26-61	.426	9-25	.360	12-17	.706	7	24	31	32.0	23	11	8	4	2	73	67.5
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020	76-58	W	20-53	.377	3-10	.300	15-20	.750	10	18	28	30.7	23	5	13	0	5	58	64.3
VMI	12/03/2020	64-57	W	21-57	.368	7-24	.292	8-12	.667	6	24	30	30.5	20	9	9	5	4	57	62.5
Penn St.	12/08/2020	55-75	L	30-60	.500	12-23	.522	3-8	.375	8	25	33	31.0	17	15	5	6	6	75	65.0
Clemson	12/15/2020	66-60	W	19-50	.380	10-25	.400	12-14	.857	4	21	25	30.0	24	10	13	6	7	60	64.2
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	97-57	W	20-55	.364	5-26	.192	12-27	.444	11	18	29	29.9	20	10	18	1	11	57	63.1
Longwood	12/21/2020	84-58	W	24-55	.436	4-17	.235	6-9	.667	8	23	31	30.0	16	11	15	2	2	58	62.5
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	80-78	W	30-56	.536	10-25	.400	8-10	.800	5	29	34	30.4	19	20	19	2	7	78	64.2
at Louisville	01/06/2021	71-73	L	26-55	.473	6-16	.375	15-20	.750	9	28	37	31.1	17	8	12	1	7	73	65.1
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	77-63	W	18-48	.375	6-23	.261	21-26	.808	6	18	24	30.5	15	11	12	4	4	63	64.9
Duke	01/12/2021	74-67	W	24-60	.400	8-29	.276	11-15	.733	9	24	33	30.7	20	11	12	5	6	67	65.1
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	64-60	W	22-60	.367	7-23	.304	9-15	.600	16	21	37	31.2	20	8	13	0	10	60	64.7
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	60-78	L	28-55	.509	4-13	.308	18-22	.818	10	27	37	31.6	14	11	8	8	7	78	65.6
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	62-51	W	20-56	.357	3-18	.167	8-14	.571	4	32	36	31.9	15	8	12	7	4	51	64.7
Virginia	01/30/2021	65-51	W	19-52	.365	10-28	.357	3-4	.750	5	19	24	31.4	16	9	9	1	6	51	63.8
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021	72-83	L	26-52	.500	9-23	.391	22-25	.880	5	28	33	31.5	18	13	7	2	6	83	64.9
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021	80-76	Wot	24-58	.414	6-20	.300	22-26	.846	9	28	37	31.8	12	12	12	2	5	76	65.6
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021	53-69	L	26-50	.520	8-20	.400	9-14	.643	7	16	23	31.3	12	14	7	3	9	69	65.7
Wake Forest	02/27/2021	84-46	W	15-55	.273	10-32	.313	6-13	.462	9	25	34	31.5	14	9	18	3	2	46	64.8
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021	73-81	L	28-63	.444	8-21	.381	17-27	.630	15	28	43	32.0	17	12	11	7	7	81	65.5
Total		1376		487-1164	.418	151-458	.330	251-359	.699	173	499	672	32.0	363	227	248	70	123	1376	65.5
Virginia Tech		1515		534-1183	.451	173-485	.357	274-393	.697	198	540	738	35.1	338	302	244	83	100	1515	72.1



DUO THAT CAN SCORE

- Tech had two players score more than 20 points in its last game, a setback to North Carolina in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament last week.
- Justyn Mutts led all scorers with 24 points on 10-of-16 shooting and Tyrece Radford had 20 points on 8-of-13 shooting.
- The last time the Hokies had two players score 20 or more points in the same game was on Nov. 28 against then-No. 3/3 Villanova, meaning they've done it twice this season.
- In that game, two different players accomplished the feat, with Keve Aluma having 23 points and Nahiem Alleyne owning 20 in Bubbleville.

SNAPPED

- Tech was a perfect 12-0 when leading at halftime and that perfect streak on the season came to a close against North Carolina, with the Tar Heels coming back and winning.
- Up by three at halftime, Tech's streak snapped and it is now 25-5 in the Mike Young era when up at half.

QUITE THE TRIO

- Tech's Keve Aluma (8.0 rebounds per game), Justyn Mutts (6.5) and Tyrece Radford (6.1) all average over six rebounds a game.
- That makes the Hokies one of only four high-major schools to boast three or more players to average at least six rebounds a contest, showcasing their balance in rebounding.
- The other four schools are North Carolina, No. 4/4 Michigan and Louisville.

ROLLIN' IN A HURRY

- Jumping out to a hot start, Tech began the game with a 10-3 lead just a couple of minutes into the game, forcing Wake Forest to take a timeout on Feb. 27.
- But the Hokies didn't slow down, finishing with 49 first-half points behind shooting 67.9 percent.
- The 49 first-half points were the most in the Mike Young era and the most for Tech since Dec. 28, 2018, when Tech had 50 versus Maryland Eastern Shore.

NOT CLOSE, LIKE AT ALL

- The Hokies had their A-game and then some versus Wake Forest on Feb. 27, winning by 38 points for their biggest win in an ACC game in school history.
- The previous high was a 29-point win against, ironically, Wake Forest, which took place on Jan. 15, 2011, a 94-65 final.
- With the 38-point conference win, that made the Hokies one of only four high-major schools this season to defeat its conference opponent by 38 or more.

Team	Opponent	Date	Score	Dif.
Baylor	K-State	Dec. 19	W, 107-59	+48
UNC	Louisville	Feb. 20	W, 99-54	+45
Syracuse	BC	Dec. 12	W, 101-63	+38
VT	Wake Forest	Feb. 27	W, 84-46	+38

GAME-BY-GAME HIGHS

Opponent	Date	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks
Radford (W, 77-62)	Nov. 25	19 - Keve Aluma	7 - Joe Bamisile	5 - Tyrece Radford	1 - (4 players)	2 - (2 players)
No. 3/3 Villanova (W, 81-73) OT	Nov. 28	23 - Keve Aluma	13 - Tyrece Radford	5 - Tyrece Radford	2 - Justyn Mutts	2 - Keve Aluma
USF (W, 78-58)	Nov. 29	21 - Tyrece Radford	9 - Justyn Mutts	3 - (2 players)	2 - Wabissa Bede	1 - (2 players)
VMI (W, 64-57)	Dec. 3	17 - Keve Aluma	12 - Keve Aluma	6 - Justyn Mutts	2 - Keve Aluma	1 - (2 players)
Penn State (L, 75-55)	Dec. 8	11 - Jalen Cone	12 - Keve Aluma	3 - Tyrece Radford	1 - Tyrece Radford	1 - (3 players)
No. 24/RV Clemson (W, 66-60)	Dec. 15	15 - Tyrece Radford	6 - Hunter Cattoor	3 - Justyn Mutts	1 - (2 players)	2 - (2 players)
Coppin State (W, 97-57)	Dec. 19	18 - (2 players)	7 - Keve Aluma	5 - (2 players)	1 - (5 players)	3 - Justyn Mutts
Longwood (W, 84-58)	Dec. 21	18 - Jalen Cone	8 - Tyrece Radford	8 - Wabissa Bede	2 - (4 players)	3 - Keve Block
Miami (Fla.) (W, 80-78)	Dec. 29	26 - Keve Aluma	9 - (2 players)	4 - Keve Aluma	3 - Justyn Mutts	3 - Keve Aluma
RV/No. 25 Louisville (L, 73-71)	Jan. 6	23 - Jalen Cone	8 - Justyn Mutts	3 - (2 players)	3 - Nahiem Alleyne	1 - Keve Aluma
Notre Dame (W, 77-63)	Jan. 10	18 - Jalen Cone	12 - Keve Aluma	2 - (3 players)	2 - (2 players)	1 - (2 players)
No. 19/23 Duke (W, 74-67)	Jan. 12	18 - Tyrece Radford	12 - Tyrece Radford	5 - Tyrece Radford	1 - (3 players)	2 - Wabissa Bede
Wake Forest (W, 64-60)	Jan. 17	20 - Tyrece Radford	11 - Keve Aluma	2 - (3 players)	2 - Tyrece Radford	4 - Keve Aluma
Syracuse (L, 78-60)	Jan. 23	20 - Nahiem Alleyne	8 - Justyn Mutts	4 - (2 players)	1 - (2 players)	None
Notre Dame (W, 62-51)	Jan. 27	15 - Nahiem Alleyne	12 - Keve Aluma	5 - Nahiem Alleyne	3 - Hunter Cattoor	3 - (2 players)
No. 8/8 Virginia (W, 65-51)	Jan. 30	29 - Keve Aluma	10 - Keve Aluma	5 - Wabissa Bede	1 - (2 players)	2 - Hunter Cattoor
Pitt (L, 83-72)	Feb. 3	30 - Keve Aluma	10 - Keve Aluma	5 - (2 players)	1 - (2 players)	2 - Keve Aluma
Miami (Fla.) (W, 80-76) OT	Feb. 6	22 - Justyn Mutts	9 - Justyn Mutts	7 - Justyn Mutts	2 - (2 players)	2 - (2 players)
Georgia Tech (L, 69-53)	Feb. 23	12 - (2 players)	14 - Keve Aluma	5 - Keve Aluma	1 - Keve Aluma	1 - (3 players)
Wake Forest (W, 84-46)	Feb. 27	23 - Keve Aluma	8 - Keve Aluma	5 - (2 players)	2 - (3 players)	3 - Hunter Cattoor
North Carolina (L, 81-73)	March 11	24 - Justyn Mutts	8 - (2 players)	7 - Wabissa Bede	2 - (2 players)	1 - (2 players)

POINTS, REBOUNDS & ASSISTS GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Date	Score	0 1 2 3 4 5 10 11 13 15 21 22 23 25 35																
			CATTOOR,HU	BAMISILE,J	DIARRA,CAR	BEDE,WABIS	ALLEYNE,NA	N'GUSSAN,YATES,GRAN	WILLIAMSON	MADDOX,DAR	CONE,JALEN	OJIAKO,JOH	ALUMA,KEVE	RADFORD,TY	MUTTS,JUST	PEMSL,CORD			
Rad	11/25/2020	77-62	W	12-2-0	3-7-0	8-2-3	9-3-2	14-1-2	0-1-0	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	DNP	DNP	19-3-2	9-3-5	2-4-4	1-1-0	
vs VU	11/28/2020	81-73	Wot	5-1-0	0-0-0	5-3-3	8-3-3	20-1-1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	23-8-1	8-13-5	12-6-1	0-1-0	
vs USF	11/29/2020	76-58	W	13-1-2	0-0-0	10-2-3	0-1-3	7-2-1	0-0-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	12-4-0	21-3-0	3-9-2	10-6-0		
VMI	12/03/2020	64-57	W	3-2-0	0-0-0	DNP	11-4-3	4-2-0	1-5-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	3-1-1	DNP	17-12-0	13-6-1	10-9-6	2-3-0	
PSU	12/08/2020	55-75	L	0-1-0	1-1-0	7-3-0	7-0-1	10-0-0	5-4-1	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	11-2-1	DNP	8-12-1	4-5-3	0-3-0	2-5-1	
Clem	12/15/2020	66-60	W	11-6-0	DNP	DNP	5-2-1	13-4-2	0-3-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	0-1-0	DNP	13-4-2	15-2-1	4-2-3	5-5-0	
Coppin	12/19/2020	97-57	W	11-1-5	9-3-0	DNP	2-4-5	18-4-2	4-6-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	9-1-1	18-1-4	DNP	12-7-2	5-4-1	9-6-0	0-1-0	
LWU	12/21/2020	84-58	W	8-3-3	11-2-0	DNP	5-0-8	7-0-1	5-7-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-1	18-1-0	DNP	14-4-1	9-8-3	4-5-1	3-3-1	
Miami	12/29/2020	80-76	W	3-0-1	DNP	DNP	4-1-2	7-1-1	0-0-1	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	12-0-2	DNP	26-6-4	13-9-1	15-9-2	0-1-0	
at LOU	01/06/2021	71-73	L	7-2-1	DNP	DNP	3-3-3	15-1-3	0-3-0	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	23-3-0	0-0-0	11-5-0	2-4-2	10-8-1	DNP	
ND	01/10/2021	77-63	W	15-4-0	DNP	DNP	4-3-2	0-4-1	2-0-1	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	18-0-0	DNP	15-12-2	9-8-0	14-7-2	DNP	
Duke	01/12/2021	74-67	W	5-1-3	DNP	DNP	2-1-1	7-2-2	2-3-0	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	14-1-1	DNP	17-7-1	18-12-5	9-5-3	DNP	
at Wake	01/17/2021	64-60	W	13-0-1	DNP	DNP	4-5-2	5-2-1	13-1-0	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	0-0-1	2-0-0	5-11-2	20-4-2	2-3-1	DNP	
at Syr	01/23/2021	60-78	L	6-2-4	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	20-4-1	10-1-1	DNP	DNP	0-0-1	3-0-1	0-0-0	2-4-4	10-7-1	9-8-3	DNP	
at ND	01/27/2021	62-51	W	13-3-1	0-1-0	DNP	3-3-3	15-9-5	0-4-0	DNP	DNP	0-0-0	3-1-1	0-0-0	14-12-0	DNP	14-11-3	DNP	
UVa	01/30/2021	65-51	W	15-1-1	DNP	DNP	7-4-5	3-4-1	1-1-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	6-2-0	0-0-0	29-10-4	DNP	4-8-2	DNP	
at Pitt	02/03/2021	72-83	L	12-2-2	0-1-0	DNP	0-4-5	4-4-3	0-1-2	DNP	DNP	DNP	9-2-2	DNP	30-10-5	DNP	17-6-0	DNP	
at Miami	02/06/2021	80-76	Wot	14-3-1	11-2-3	DNP	5-4-5	10-2-2	2-2-2	DNP	DNP	0-1-0	DNP	DNP	16-6-5	DNP	22-9-7	DNP	
GeTech	02/23/2021	53-69	L	4-1-2	3-0-0	DNP	2-1-2	12-1-0	0-1-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	12-14-5	11-3-2	9-5-1	0-2-0	
Wake	02/27/2021	84-46	W	0-2-2	7-2-1	DNP	5-1-5	13-5-5	8-5-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	0-1-0	23-8-1	15-6-2	9-5-2	4-1-1	
vs UNC	03/11/2021	73-81	L	6-0-1	0-0-0	DNP	0-3-7	12-4-2	2-0-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	9-8-4	20-6-1	24-8-1	0-1-1	



WHAT WE LIKE TO SEE FROM DT

- The Hokies got back to their ways from downtown, hitting 13 triples against Wake Forest on Feb. 27.
- The 13 3s marked their second most this season and most in an ACC game this year.
- Last year, Tech had six games of making at least 13 shots from the perimeter, but only two of those were versus ACC competition.
- It was a balanced attack against the Deacs on Feb. 27, with six players making a 3, including three players with at least two 3s (Aluma 5, Alleyne 3, Radford 2).

OKAY, BOOTSIE

- Tyrece Radford, otherwise known as Boots, or Bootsie to Coach Young, hit two 3s in a game for the first time this season, as well as his career, on Feb. 27.
- The Louisiana native had never done that before, marking his first out of 48 contests.
- Known more as a slasher, someone who can get to the rim off the dribble as their natural tendency with the rock in their hand, Radford worked on his shot this summer and his confidence shooting from mid-range and from the perimeter has only blossomed.
- Since returning from his suspension, he really hasn't missed, shooting 69.2 percent from the field (9 of 13) in Tech's last two games (GT, WF).

SHARING IS CARING

- Tech racked up 19 assists versus Wake Forest on Senior Day Feb. 27, tying its third most of the season.
- Since Tech coach Mike Young took over, the Hokies have had 12 games of owning 19 or more assists, with being 10-2 in those games.
- The 19 assists versus the Demon Deacons marked the sixth time Young's Hokie teams have had at least that total in an ACC game.

STARTERS GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Date	Guard	Guard	Guard	Forward	Forward	First off the Bench
Radford (W, 77-62)	Nov. 25	Wabissa Bede	Hunter Cattoor	Tyrece Radford	Nahiem Alleyne	Keve Aluma	2 players
No. 3/3 Villanova (W, 81-73) OT	Nov. 28	Wabissa Bede	Hunter Cattoor	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	2 players
USF (W, 76-58)	Nov. 29	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	4 players
VMI (W, 64-57)	Dec. 3	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	3 players
Penn State (L, 75-55)	Dec. 8	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	4 players
No. 24/RV Clemson (W, 66-60)	Dec. 15	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Cordell PemsI
Coppin State (W, 97-57)	Dec. 19	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Hunter Cattoor
Longwood (W, 84-58)	Dec. 21	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	2 players
Miami (Fla.) (W, 80-78)	Dec. 29	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Cordell PemsI
RV/No. 25 Louisville (L, 73-71)	Jan. 6	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	2 players
Notre Dame (W, 77-63)	Jan. 10	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	2 players
No. 19/23 Duke (W, 74-67)	Jan. 12	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	2 players
Wake Forest (W, 64-60)	Jan. 17	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Darius Maddox
Syracuse (L, 78-60)	Jan. 23	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	3 players
Notre Dame (W, 62-51)	Jan. 27	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Jalen Cone	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Hunter Cattoor
No. 8/8 Virginia (W, 65-51)	Jan. 30	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Jalen Cone	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Hunter Cattoor
Pitt (L, 83-72)	Feb. 3	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Jalen Cone	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Hunter Cattoor
Miami (Fla.) (W, 80-76) OT	Feb. 6	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Jalen Cone	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Hunter Cattoor
Georgia Tech (L, 69-53)	Feb. 23	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Hunter Cattoor
Wake Forest (W, 84-46)	Feb. 27	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Cordell PemsI
North Carolina (L, 81-73)	March 11	Wabissa Bede	Nahiem Alleyne	Tyrece Radford	Justyn Mutts	Keve Aluma	Hunter Cattoor

SPECIALTY STATS

Opponent	Date	2nd Chance Points	Points in the Paint	Fastbreak Points	Points off TOs	Bench Points
Radford (W, 77-62)	Nov. 25	7	20	6	16	14
No. 3/3 Villanova (W, 81-73) OT	Nov. 28	9	32	16	5	25
USF (W, 76-58)	Nov. 29	8	42	7	19	33
VMI (W, 64-57)	Dec. 3	20	32	12	13	9
Penn State (L, 75-55)	Dec. 8	6	22	4	4	26
No. 24/RV Clemson (W, 66-60)	Dec. 15	8	24	12	17	16
Coppin State (W, 97-57)	Dec. 19	10	20	15	30	51
Longwood (W, 84-58)	Dec. 21	21	40	13	15	45
Miami (Fla.) (W, 80-78)	Dec. 29	11	32	15	10	15
RV/No. 25 Louisville (L, 73-71)	Jan. 6	5	20	2	13	30
Notre Dame (W, 77-63)	Jan. 10	15	34	2	9	35
No. 19/23 Duke (W, 74-67)	Jan. 12	10	36	15	13	21
Wake Forest (W, 64-60)	Jan. 17	7	26	9	12	28
Syracuse (L, 78-60)	Jan. 23	13	24	1	7	19
Notre Dame (W, 62-51)	Jan. 27	7	24	2	10	13
No. 8/8 Virginia (W, 65-51)	Jan. 30	7	24	4	7	16
Pitt (L, 83-72)	Feb. 3	10	30	0	12	12
Miami (Fla.) (W, 80-76) OT	Feb. 6	6	34	2	15	27
Georgia Tech (L, 69-53)	Feb. 23	10	24	6	8	7
Wake Forest (W, 84-46)	Feb. 27	7	34	8	26	19
North Carolina (L, 81-73)	March 11	10	34	6	9	8



ACC ACCOLADES

- Tech had three Hokies earn an honor from the conference office on March 9, as Mike Young won ACC Coach of the Year, Keve Aluma was named second-team All-ACC and Tyrece Radford was ACC Honorable Mention.
- Young was the second ever Hokie to win ACC Coach of the Year (Seth Greenberg, 2x).
- Tech also had five players make the ACC All-Academic Team, the most in school history.
- The five were Nahiem Alleyne, Wabissa Bede, Justyn Mutts, Hunter Cattoor and Jalen Cone.
- Alleyne and Bede earned it for the second time.

BLOCK PARTY

- Not to be confused with a rager on the streets, the Hokies had their own block party against Wake Forest Feb. 27, swatting 10 of Wake's shots.
- Over the last 10 years for Tech, double-digit blocks has only happened three times out of 317 games (!), dating back to the 2011-12 season.
- And out of those three games, this marked the first time ever getting double digits in blocks versus an ACC opponent since the 2011-12 season.

Date	Opponent	Blocks	Score
Nov. 12, 2013	West Virginia	13	W, 87-82
Nov. 30, 2014	Morgan State	12	W, 83-63
Feb. 27, 2021	Wake Forest	10	W, 84-46

SOMETHING WITH WAKE

- For whatever reason, the Hokies absolutely have the Deacs' number when it comes to timing their shots.
- Tech had a combined 19 blocks against Wake this season in its two games. And, to put that in perspective, if you take away those two games, the Hokies' block total in ACC play is just 40 (in the other 11 games). That means the Wake contests alone account for 32 percent of its ACC block total (19/59).
- And to take it one step further, Tech had all of its nine blocks against Wake the first time the two played in the first the half alone, meaning in just 60 minutes is when they got to that 19 total.

RARE DUDE

- Keve Aluma's stat line against Georgia Tech on Feb. 23 put him in rare company, with being one of only three active high-major players to have 12/14/5 in a game this season. Ironically, all three are in the ACC.

Player	Opponent	P	R	A
J. Champagne (Pitt)	Gardner-W	24	21	5
Keve Aluma (VT)	Georgia Tech	12	14	5
Moses Wright (GT)	Duke	12	14	6

NICE - WELL, NOT ANYMORE

- The Hokies were a perfect 11-0 when allowing 69 points or less this season, until they ran into the buzz saw that was the Yellow Jackets on Feb. 23.
- Tech allowed 69 points to Georgia Tech, marking its first loss of the season of allowing that total or less.
- Last year, the Hokies were 13-5 when allowing 69 points or fewer.

ALL FIVE CAN LET IT RIP

- Tech had five players scored in double figures at Miami (Fla.) on Feb. 6, marking just the second time this season (USF).
- Of the five players, three were starters (Keve Aluma, Justyn Mutts, Nahiem Alleyne) and two were reserves (Hunter Cattoor, Joe Bamisile).
- Since Young's arrival, Tech is 3-0 when five players do so.

SHARING THE LOVE

- Dishing out 25 assists as a team versus Miami (Fla.) on Feb. 6, Tech set the ACC-era record for most assists on the road, as well as that total being tied for the seventh most in the ACC era.
- Ironically enough, it wasn't the guards that got it done distributing the rock, but it was the forwards, as Keve Aluma (5 assists) and Justyn Mutts (7) combined for almost half of Tech's assists.

GETTIN' TO THE CHARITY STRIPE

- Coach Young was not happy with how little the Hokies got to the free-throw line last year, with an average of 13.4 per game, which ranked second-to-last in the ACC and was in the bottom 25 nationally.
- So, now, with not being as dependent on the 3-ball and having more players that can get to the rim, Tech has increased that average to 18.7 this season. That 18.7 average is fourth in the ACC, trailing Pitt (21.9), North Carolina (21.5) and No. 14/14 Florida State (19.4).
- Last year, the Hokies only had eight games (out of 32) of having 20 or more free throw attempts. When doing so, they were 7-1, with the lone loss being against Miami (Fla.) in triple overtime.

REDEMPTION

- When Tech was down two points at Louisville on Jan. 6 with five seconds left, Hunter Cattoor got the ball and dribbled up the court and missed a 30-footer that would've won the game.
- Fast forward a month later (Feb. 6) and the sophomore got a chance again to hit a big-time shot, with the Hokies being down three points at Miami (Fla.) with two seconds left on an out-of-bounds play.
- The Orlando native got his second chance and buried it, tying the game and sending it to OT.
- In between then, he practiced hitting the 30-footer at Louisville multiple times, having managers put 5.1 seconds on the clock and dribbling up the court and shooting in the exact spot after practice.
- He said he needed to know that he could do it and see it go through the hoop. So, when he had a similar opportunity after the fact, he didn't miss.

NBA & G-LEAGUE

NAW IN YEAR 2

- Nickeil Alexander-Walker has left his mark on Virginia Tech and is working on making a name for himself at the next level with the New Orleans Pelicans.
- A first-round draft pick in 2019, the Toronto native played in 47 games for the Pels in the 2019-20 NBA season. On Feb. 26, he was moved down to the Erie Bayhawks, then came back up when the bubble in Orlando started.
- His best game his rookie year came on Nov. 16, 2019, when he scored a then-career-high 27 points against the Miami Heat. So far this season, his top one came on Jan. 13 at the Clippers, owning a career-high 38 points and eight rebounds.
- This season, NAW has played in 30 games for the Pelicans and is averaging 18.1 minutes.



Season	G	P	R	A	B	S	FG%	M
2019-20	47	5.7	1.8	1.9	0.2	0.4	36.8	12.6
2020-21	30	8.5	2.6	2.0	0.3	0.9	41.0	18.1

HANGIN' IN

- It was a little bit of a whirlwind for Tech alums Nickeil Alexander-Walker, Justin Robinson and Ahmed Hill last year, with all three going up and down and all around on their quest to solidifying a roster spot in the NBA.
- Robinson, who signed as an undrafted free agent after the NBA Draft concluded with the Washington Wizards, was waived on Jan. 4.
- Hill signed with the Hornets this summer on a two-way deal, but was released in early November. However, he landed nicely on his feet, with now playing on the NAZ Suns, the G-League affiliate of the Phoenix Suns.
- Justin Bibbs, who plays for the Boston Celtics' affiliate (Maine Red Claws), hit a game-winner on Jan. 19, 2019, finishing with 15 points and six assists.



2020-21 SUPERLATIVES

DOUBLE FIGURES SCORING

Keve Aluma	17
Nahiem Alleyne	12
Tyrece Radford	11
Hunter Cattoor	9
Justyn Mutts	9
Jalen Cone	7
David N'Guessan	2
Joe Bamisile	2
Cartier Diarra	1
Cordell Pems	1
Wabissa Bede	1

20-POINT GAMES

Keve Aluma	5
Tyrece Radford	3
Nahiem Alleyne	2
Justyn Mutts	2
Jalen Cone	1

SCORING LEADER

Keve Aluma	8
Jalen Cone	5
Tyrece Radford	4
Nahiem Alleyne	4
Justyn Mutts	2

REBOUNDING LEADER

Keve Aluma	12
Justyn Mutts	5
Tyrece Radford	4
Joe Bamisile	1
Hunter Cattoor	1

ASSIST LEADER

Wabissa Bede	9
Keve Aluma	7
Tyrece Radford	5
Justyn Mutts	4
Nahiem Alleyne	4
Hunter Cattoor	2
Cartier Diarra	1

BLOCK LEADER

Keve Aluma	11
Justyn Mutts	7
Tyrece Radford	5
Hunter Cattoor	4
Wabissa Bede	3
David N'Guessan	1

STEAL LEADER

Hunter Cattoor	8
Wabissa Bede	8
Nahiem Alleyne	6
Justyn Mutts	6
Keve Aluma	5
Tyrece Radford	4
David N'Guessan	3

30-PLUS MINUTES

Keve Aluma	12
Tyrece Radford	11
Justyn Mutts	8
Nahiem Alleyne	5
Wabissa Bede	5
Hunter Cattoor	2
Naheim Alleyne	1
Jalen Cone	1

MR. VERSATILITY

- Redshirt junior Justyn Mutts was pivotal in Tech's win at Miami (Fla.) on Feb. 6, with coming close to recording his first-ever triple-double.
- Mutts racked up a season-high 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. All three categories were team highs versus the Hurricanes.
- The last time a Hokie had those stats or better was Kerry Blackshear Jr. against The Citadel on Nov. 12, 2017, when he had 22 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists.
- In the ACC era (2004-present) for Tech, only two players have done that in Mutts and Blackshear.
- This season, he is the only active high-major player to have done that stat line in a game.

BIGS THAT CAN SHARE THE ROCK

- Tech has been fortunate that its two new starters at the forward positions this year have had the canny ability to distribute the ball at a high level.
- Forwards Justyn Mutts (45 assists) and Keve Aluma (46) have racked up 91 assists this season, averaging a combined 4.3 assists together.
- That aspect shined bright at Miami (Fla.) on Feb. 6, when the two combined for about half of Tech's assists, racking up 12 of the Hokies' 25.
- The Hurricanes, as a team, had 12 assists, which was just as much as Aluma and Mutts combined.

AN ELITE TRIO

- Over the last three seasons in college basketball, only three high-major players had two or more games of owning at least 29 points, 10 rebounds and four assists.
- Wisconsin's Ethan Happ (3 times), Duke's Zion Williamson (2 times) and the Hokies' Keve Aluma (2 times) are the lone ones to accomplish the feat.
- Both Williamson and Happ, who would go on to be first- and second-team All-Americans, did it in the 2019-20 season.
- However, to put Aluma's in perspective, unlike the other two, he did it in back-to-back games and also did so against a ranked opponent – something the other two players did not.
- Williamson did his against Wake Forest (Jan. 8, 2019) and UCF (March 24, 2019), while Happ put it together against Xavier (Nov. 13, 2018), Marquette (Dec. 8, 2018) and Purdue (Jan. 11, 2019).

THREE STRAIGHT

- For his third straight game, Keve Aluma posted a double-double, becoming the fifth Hokie in the ACC era (2004-present) to do so and first since Kerry Blackshear Jr. (2019).
- Aluma did so against Notre Dame, then-No. 8/8 Virginia and Pitt, with two of those coming on the road.

YOUNG AT TECH RECORD WHEN...

Leading at the half:	25-5
Trailing at the half:	5-14
Tied at the half:	1-2
Playing Overtime:	3-2
Shooting 50% or better:	8-1
Shooting between 40-49.9%:	16-10
Shooting less than 40%:	6-10
Opponents shoot 50% or better:	1-6
Opponents shoot less than 50%:	30-15
VT outrebounds its opponent:	18-2
Opponent outrebounds VT:	11-19
Teams are tied in rebounds:	1-1
VT shoots 70% FT or better:	18-9
VT shoots less than 70% FT:	12-13
Scoring less than 50 points:	0-1
Scoring 50-59 points:	0-7
Scoring 60-69 points:	10-7
Scoring 70-79 points:	11-5
Scoring 80-89 points:	7-0
Scoring 90 or more points:	3-1
Allowing less than 30 points:	0-0
Allowing 30-39 points:	1-0
Allowing 40-49 points:	3-0
Allowing 50-59 points:	13-1
Allowing 60-69 points:	8-5
Allowing 70-79 points:	6-9
Allowing 80-89 points:	0-4
Allowing 90 or more points:	0-2
Game decided by 1-4 points or OT:	5-5
Game decided by 5-10 points:	10-4
Game decided by 11+ points:	16-12
Playing at night:	23-13
Playing in the afternoon:	8-8
Playing on Monday:	2-0
Playing on Tuesday:	6-5
Playing on Wednesday:	7-5
Playing on Thursday:	1-1
Playing on Friday:	1-1
Playing on Saturday:	9-8
Playing on Sunday:	5-1
Playing in November:	9-2
Playing in December:	9-2
Playing in January:	9-6
Playing in February:	3-7
Playing in March:	1-4

AVERAGES IN WINS & LOSSES

- When comparing the two averages in wins and losses for Tech this season, the biggest things that are glaring are points per game (-11.4) and defensive field-goal percentage (+10.0).
- So, if Tech is doing badly in those categories, or when it's opponent raining from 3 (40.5% in Ls), it could be a long day for the Hokies.

Categories	Ws	Ls
Points per game	75.4	64.0
Field-goal percentage	47.1	40.2
3-point percentage	37.4	31.5
Free-throw percentage	70.2	68.3
Rebounds per game	36.0	33.0
Assists per game	14.7	13.7
Blocks per game	4.6	2.3
Steals per game	5.3	3.3
Points allowed per game	61.1	76.5
Defensive field-goal percentage	39.0	49.0
Defensive 3-point percentage	30.4	40.5
Rebound margin	+4.9	-1.3
Assist/turnover ratio	1.3	1.2



JUST ME & YOU

- When Keve Aluma had a 30-point, 10-rebound, 5-assist outing at Pitt on Feb. 3, he became just the second-ever Hokie in the ACC era (2004-present) to accomplish the feat.
- The other Hokie was A.D. Vassallo back in 2009 when he did so against Duquesne in the first round of the NIT and had 33 points, 12 rebounds and five assist on March 18.
- However, that game went into double-overtime, meaning that Aluma is the first-ever to do so in a regulation game.

BACK TO BACK

- Keve Aluma scored 28 or more points in two straight games versus then-No. 8/8 Virginia and Miami (Fla.), marking the first time a Hokie has done so since Erick Green in 2013.
- Green, who would go on to win ACC Player of the Year that season, had 29 points versus Maryland on Feb. 7 and followed it up with 28 against Georgia Tech on Feb. 9.

HE DON'T MISS AFTER AN L

- Young is 5-0 this season after a loss, bouncing back in a big way with beating then-No. 24/RV Clemson, Wake Forest, Miami (Fla.) and, ironically, Notre Dame twice.
- Last season, Young had five wins following a loss.

50 SPOT

- Tech shot over 50 percent in a game for the fifth time this season when it did so against Wake Forest on Feb. 27 and is 5-0 this season when doing so.
- Since Young got to Blacksburg, the Hokies are 9-1 in contests shooting 50 percent or greater, with the lone loss coming to BYU on Nov. 27, 2019 in the fifth-place game of the Maui Jim Maui Invitational.
- Over the last decade (2010-11 season to present), Tech is 80-12 when shooting 50 percent or better.

TWICE IS NICE

- Picking up his second weekly honor from the conference office this past Monday, Keve Aluma become just the fourth player in school history to win two ACC weekly honors in a single season.
- Aluma joins Zabian Dowdell (2007-07), Jeff Allen (2010-11) and Nickeil Alexander-Walker (2018-19).
- The Wofford transfer also earned the Naismith Trophy Player of the Week, becoming just the second Hokie to do so (Justin Robinson, Feb. 12, 2018). The award is in its fourth season.

ADJUSTMENTS THE KEY

- After trailing at halftime against then-No. 8/8 Virginia, coach Mike Young went to work on adjustments and tightened the belt defensively, holding the Cavaliers to just 22 points in the second half.
- With the deficit at halftime, it marked the fifth time that Young and his Hokies would come back to win since his arrival to Tech and marked the second time this season (Notre Dame, Jan. 10).
- The other three instances last season took place against North Carolina (Jan. 22), at Syracuse (Jan. 7) and at Clemson (Nov. 5).
- However, of all of the halftime deficits in those five contests, the eight-point deficit to UVA on Jan. 30 was the biggest.

YOU SEE A TREND?

- The Hokies have six losses on the season, with four of those being blowouts (double-digit Ls).
- Ironically in three of those setbacks that got out of hand, Tech allowed its opponent to shoot better than 50 percent, with Penn State (50.0%), Syracuse (50.9%), Pitt (50.0%) and Georgia Tech (52.0%) doing so, as well as Tech shot under 41 percent in each game.
- In its other loss, a two-point game, 73-71, at then-RV/No. 25 Louisville, Tech let the Cardinals shoot 47.3 percent. But, Tech was able to counter with being over the 40-percent mark (42.6%), and did so against UNC (44.4%) with shooting actually better with 46.7%.
- Since coach Mike Young has gotten to Blacksburg, his teams have allowed seven opponents to shoot greater than 50 percent and he's 1-7 in those games. The lone win was against Miami (Fla.) this past December when it shot 53.6 percent.

RANKED WINS BECOMIN' COMMON

- Tech has four ranked wins this season, with beating its opponent at the time of it being ranked, tying the most-ever in school history (set 2017-18).
- The Hokies will have to wait for another opportunity to see if they can claim the school record.

ON HIS BACK

- Keve Aluma's hype train started its engine on Jan. 30 when then-No. 8/8 Virginia put four bigs on him and none could slow the guy down, getting to the rim at will (8 FTs) and finishing with a career-high 29 points on 10-of-15 shooting.
- Aluma did about anything he wanted, hitting two 3s, a couple mid-range jumpers, hook shots, and-1s and some emphatic dunks.
- After not scoring in double figures the previous week (Wake Forest, Syracuse), he started to get back to his ways at Notre Dame (14 points, 12 rebounds) on Jan. 27, which led to the confidence to let it rip against the Cavaliers three days later.
- The redshirt junior averaged 21.5 points, 11.0 rebounds, 2.0 blocks and 2.0 assists, while shooting 60 percent and 91.7 percent from the free-throw line for the week against the Fighting Irish and Cavaliers.

THE BOARDS

- Last season, Tech was the second-shortest high-major team in the land (Utah) and consistently got outrebounded night in and night out.
- It was such a norm, that in of Tech's 21 games against ACC opponents last year, it only outrebounded them three times.
- Now, with an added presence down low in 6-foot-9 Keve Aluma and 6-foot-7 Justyn Mutts, Tech has been able to win the glass a whole lot more.
- The Hokies have outrebounded their ACC opponent seven times this season, topping last year's total of three.

NOTRE DAME TIDBITS

- Tech held the Fighting Irish on Jan. 27 to zero 3-pointers in the second half and also held them to shooting 35.7 percent for the game, which is a season low for Tech's opponent this season.
- The Hokies owned the boards, getting 46 rebounds, including 38 of those being defensive, which is a season high.

'BOU TIME

- When Tech won at Wake Forest on Jan. 17, it snapped a seven-game losing streak on the road for the Hokies.
- The last time Tech won on the road was at, ironically, Wake Forest on Jan. 14, 2020, an 80-70.
- During that seven-game stretch, Tech's average margin of defeat was 12.0 points per game. It squeaked out a four-point win to end it, 64-60.

NA STAYIN' STEADY

- Sophomore Nahiem Alleyne has been pretty steady this season from downtown.
- The guard had made at least one triple in all but four games this year, with those coming against Pitt, Louisville, Notre Dame and VMI, out of 19 contests.
- If you remember last season, the Georgia native made a 3 in 13 consecutive games, which tied for the fifth-longest of any ACC player last year. And of that group, only him and Syracuse's Buddy Boeheim returned this season.

NOT SO FAST, MY FRIEND

- After scoring 10 or more fastbreak points in four straight games for the first time in the Mike Young era, Tech was held to a then-season-low two fastbreak points at Louisville (Jan. 6) and hasn't really recovered.
- Over its last 11 games, it has only cracked double figures in fastbreak points once (15 vs. Duke), including seven games of only two buckets.

PUTTIN' ON THE CLAMPS

- Tech accomplished something for the first time since it joined the prestigious ACC (2004-05), with holding an opponent to two made field goals in a half versus the Fighting Irish on Jan. 10.
- The feat topped the previous best of holding its foe of three made shots in a half, which came against NC State in 2019, Arkansas Pine Bluff in 2015 and Eastern Michigan in 2011.



SWAT CITY

- Tech had a then-season-high nine blocks at Wake Forest on Jan. 17, marking the most for the Hokies since 2014 (Morgan State). To make it even more impressive, they did it by halftime.

ON THE BLOCK

- Tech racked up 36 points in the paint against then-No. 19/23 Duke, marking the second-highest paint point total in the Mike Young era during a regulation game.
- The high? Ironically, it came against Duke as well, when the Hokies had 40 paint points on Dec. 6 in Blacksburg.
- Including overtime games, Tech had 38 versus Miami (Fla.) at home in triple overtime last year.

STRONGER TOGETHER

- At Louisville, the Hokies had four players score in double figures, showcasing a balanced attack, and still ended up losing.
- That marked just the second time in the Mike Young era in which that happened, with the other instance being Tech's setback to BYU (90-77) in the fifth-place game at the Maui Jim Maui Invitational last season.
- The Hokies are 13-2 under Young when having at least four players score in double digits, and it was only just the second time that Tech had four or more players do so in an ACC game (Wake Forest, Jan. 14, 2020; an 80-70 win). Tech won against Miami (Fla.) when it had five scores have 10-plus points, which is the third time Tech's had four or more scorers in double figures in an ACC game.

CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR

- Tech lost a close one at Louisville, 73-71, coming up short for the fifth time in the Mike Young era in a game decided by four points or less.
- The Hokies are 5-5 in those types of games over the last two seasons, winning their most recent one, a four-point win at Miami (Fla.) on Feb. 6.
- Last year, the Hokies had four contests in league play that were decided by four points or less, with winning at Syracuse by four (67-63), beating UNC in double overtime at home (79-77), losing to Boston College in overtime at home (77-73) and falling to in-state rival Virginia at home (56-53) for a 2-2 clip.

JACK OF ALL TRADES

- Displaying his versatility to close 2020, Keve Aluma put together one of the better games this season by any player nationally.
- Aluma against Miami (Fla.) put together a 26-point, six-rebound, four-assist, three-block outing, making him the lone high-major player to have at least that stat line in a game and just one of four players in all of DI.

CAUSING HAVOC DEFENSIVELY

- Tech forced Miami (Fla.) into committing 19 turnovers on Dec. 29, which was a season high for the 'Canes, as well as a season high forced by Tech.
- Over the last seven seasons, Tech has only done that (forced 19 or more TOs against an ACC team) five times, making it a first in the Mike Young era and for the first time since 2017.

Date	Opponent	TOs	Site
Dec. 29, 2020	Miami (Fla.)	19	VT
Feb. 25, 2017	Boston College	19	BC
Jan. 4, 2017	NC State	20	NCSU
Feb. 28, 2016	Wake Forest	19	WF
Feb. 7, 2015	Florida State	20	VT

80 THE SWEET SPOT

- The Hokies are 11-1 when scoring 80 or more points in the Mike Young era.
- Tech has cracked the 80-point plateau six times this season and is a perfect 6-0.
- The lone loss came against Miami (Fla.) last season in a triple-overtime thriller, 102-95 at home in Blacksburg.

WAS A FUN RIDE

- Tech played all of its December games in the friendly confines of Cassell Coliseum, taking on six foes in total.
- December treated the Hokies well, winning five of those six contests, with its lone loss coming to Penn State in the ACC/B1G Challenge.

DUNK CITY

- The rim was rocking quite a bit in Tech's last game, with the Hokies tallying seven dunks against Longwood on Dec. 21.
- The seven dunks marked the most in the Mike Young era, topping the previous high of five set against Maryland Eastern Shore last year (Dec. 29).
- Keve Aluma had multiple dunks (2x) and then Nahiem Alleyne, David N'Guessan, Hunter Cattoor, Tyrece Radford and Justyn Mutts all had one and joined in on the 'dunk party' as well.
- To put it in perspective of how rare that instance was, Tech had three games this early this year (Coppin St, Villanova, USF) that it didn't get a single dunk.
- Last year, Tech had five games of three dunks, six games of two dunks and 11 games of just one.

DON'T MAKE 'EM LIKE ME ANYMORE

- Keve Aluma has been arguably Tech's best player so far this season, with being the team's leading scorer and rebounder, and put it all together in Tech's against Longwood on Dec. 21.
- Against the Lancers, the redshirt junior put together quite the stat line, registering 14 points, four rebounds, three blocks, two steals and an assist in just 24 minutes of action.
- Because of that outing, he is just one of five ACC players and only 13 high-major guys, including Iowa's Luka Garza, to do that stat line or better.

SOMETHING 'BOUT THOSE TWO

- When you look at the shortest players on the rosters for Virginia Tech and Miami (Fla.), it's not your typical 6-foot walk-on, as Tech's Jalen Cone (5'10") and Miami's Chris Lykes (5'7") are pretty short considering DI averages.
- But, despite their challenges of that, the two have formed a bond with one another and consider each other friends off the court.
- The two text regularly and Lykes has given Cone tips on best practices of overcoming his lack of height in the ACC, with Lykes being a couple of years older than Cone and sharing words of wisdom of what has worked for him over the years.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

- Among high-major conference teams, there are only 35 players that are less than six feet tall, including Tech's Jalen Cone, standing at 5-foot-10.
- Of those 35, 19 of them are walk-ons, while the other 16 are on scholarship.
- In the ACC, Cone is one of eight players shorter than six feet, and is just one of five scholarship players in the league.
- Cone will go against two of the more famous shorter guys in the league, including Miami (Fla.)'s Chris Lykes and UVA's Kihei Clark.

UPTICK IN SHARING THE ROCK

- Sophomore guard Hunter Cattoor has improved his ball handling and decision making from last year, and it really has showed here the last couple of games for the Hokies.
- With Cartier Diarra opting out of the season (since Dec. 15), Cattoor has filled in as the secondary point guard, spelling Wabissa Bede, and did a nice job, as he turned in eight assists in the two games immediately following Diarra's departure.
- That two-game stretch of eight dimes is his best two-game stretch yet as a Hokie, topping his previous high of seven assists last season versus Delaware State on Nov. 20 and then-No. 3 Michigan State on Nov. 25.
- Versus Coppin State on Dec. 19, he dished out a career-high five assists – not bad for a guy who is known as a catch-and-shoot specialist.

20-ASSIST PLATEAU

- Tech has had six games of 20 or more assists in the Young era and is 5-1 in those games, with the lone loss coming to Syracuse at home last year in a close one, 80-78.
- The Hokies had 20 assists against Coppin State for a season high, with three players owning at least four, including Wabissa Bede (5 ast.), Hunter Cattoor (5) and Jalen Cone (4).

STREAKS...

Overall	Lost 1
Unranked teams anywhere	Lost 1
Ranked teams anywhere	Won 4
Home	Won 1
Home ACC	Won 1
Home nonconference	Won 2
Home ranked teams	Won 3
Home unranked teams	Won 1
Road	Won 1
Road ACC	Won 1
Road ranked teams	Lost 4
Road unranked teams	Won 1
Neutral	Lost 1
Neutral ranked teams	Won 2
Neutral unranked teams	Lost 1

CONSECUTIVE STARTS...

Wabissa Bede	59 games
Tyrece Radford	30 games
Keve Aluma	28 games
Justyn Mutts	20 games
Nahiem Alleyne	17 games
Jalen Cone	4 games

CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A 3...

Justyn Mutts	4 games
Nahiem Alleyne	4 games
Hunter Cattoor	1 game
Cartier Diarra	1 game

ACTIVE PROS... (according to Euro Basket)

Nickeil Alexander-Walker	New Orleans Pelicans
Seth Allen	JuveCaserta
Jeff Allen	San Carlos in Dominican Rep. TBS
C.J. Barksdale	Salou in Spanish EBA
Justin Bibbs	Maine Red Claws
Malcolm Delaney	FC Barcelona Lassa
Zabian Dowdell	Pistoia
Jarell Eddie	Universidad Catolica de Murcia CB
Erick Green	Real Betis
Shane Henry	Reales LV in Dominican Rep. LNB
Ahmed Hill	Northern Arizona Suns
Will Johnston	Sydney City Comets
Robert Krabbendam	Rotterdam in Dutch Eredivisie
Zach LeDay	Žalgiris Kaunas - Lithuania
Malik Mueller	Hamburg in German BBL
Ty Outlaw	Lavrio in Greek A1
Cadarian Raines	Beroe in Bulgarian NBL
Justin Robinson	Delaware Blue Coats
Joey van Zegeren	Castello
A.D. Vassallo	Astros in Mexican LNBP
Deron Washington	Trieste

ON THIS DATE... (March 19)

Overall	1-1 (.500)
Neutral	0-0 (.000)
Televised Games	1-1 (.500)
Overtime Games	0-0 (.000)
VT Ranked	0-0 (.000)
Streak	Won 1
Last	W, 94-62 vs. Morgan State, '08
Last Five	1-1

TEAM HIGHS & LOWS

Virginia Tech - Game Highs

POINTS	97	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	84	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	84	Longwood (12/21/2020)
	81	vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
	80	at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
	80	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
FIELD GOALS MADE	31	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	31	Longwood (12/21/2020)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	64	Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	63	at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
	63	Longwood (12/21/2020)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.540 (27-50)	vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
	.534 (31-58)	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
3 PT FG MADE	20	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	13	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	37	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	32	Longwood (12/21/2020)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.542 (13-24)	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	.541 (20-37)	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
FREE THROWS MADE	25	Clemson (12/15/2020)
	18	VMI (12/03/2020)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	31	Clemson (12/15/2020)
	27	VMI (12/03/2020)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.857 (12-14)	Virginia (01/30/2021)
	.813 (13-16)	at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
REBOUNDS	48	VMI (12/03/2020)
	46	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
ASSISTS	25	at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
	20	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
STEALS	12	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	9	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	9	Longwood (12/21/2020)
BLOCKED SHOTS	10	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	9	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
TURNOVERS	18	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	16	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	16	Clemson (12/15/2020)
FOULS	23	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	22	Notre Dame (01/10/2021)

Opponent - Game Highs

POINTS	83	at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	81	vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	78	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	78	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	76	at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
FIELD GOALS MADE	30	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	30	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	63	vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	61	vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.536 (30-56)	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	.520 (26-50)	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
3 PT FG MADE	12	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
	10	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	10	Virginia (01/30/2021)
	10	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	10	Clemson (12/15/2020)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	32	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	29	Duke (01/12/2021)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.522 (12-23)	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
	.400 (10-25)	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	.400 (10-25)	Clemson (12/15/2020)
	.400 (8-20)	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
FREE THROWS MADE	22	at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
	22	at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	27	vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	27	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.880 (22-25)	at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	.857 (12-14)	Clemson (12/15/2020)
REBOUNDS	43	vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	37	at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
	37	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	37	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	37	at Louisville (01/06/2021)
ASSISTS	20	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	15	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
STEALS	11	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	10	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
BLOCKED SHOTS	8	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	7	vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	7	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
TURNOVERS	19	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	18	Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	18	Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
FOULS	24	Clemson (12/15/2020)
	23	vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
	23	vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)

Virginia Tech - Game Lows

POINTS	53	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	55	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
	60	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	62	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	64	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	64	VMI (12/03/2020)
FIELD GOALS MADE	18	Clemson (12/15/2020)
	19	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	44	Virginia (01/30/2021)
	44	Clemson (12/15/2020)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.328 (20-61)	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	.350 (21-60)	VMI (12/03/2020)
3 PT FG MADE	4	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	4	VMI (12/03/2020)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	14	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	14	Duke (01/12/2021)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.148 (4-27)	VMI (12/03/2020)
	.222 (4-18)	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
FREE THROWS MADE	5	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	8	Radford (11/25/2020)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	11	Radford (11/25/2020)
	12	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.417 (5-12)	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	.500 (9-18)	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
REBOUNDS	28	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	28	vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
ASSISTS	8	Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	8	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
STEALS	1	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	1	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
BLOCKED SHOTS	0	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	1	at Louisville (01/06/2021)
TURNOVERS	8	at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	8	Longwood (12/21/2020)
FOULS	8	Virginia (01/30/2021)
	11	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	11	Longwood (12/21/2020)

Opponent - Game Lows

POINTS	53	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	55	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
	60	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	62	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	64	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	64	VMI (12/03/2020)
FIELD GOALS MADE	18	Clemson (12/15/2020)
	19	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	44	Virginia (01/30/2021)
	44	Clemson (12/15/2020)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.328 (20-61)	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	.350 (21-60)	VMI (12/03/2020)
3 PT FG MADE	4	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	4	VMI (12/03/2020)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	14	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	14	Duke (01/12/2021)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.148 (4-27)	VMI (12/03/2020)
	.222 (4-18)	at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
FREE THROWS MADE	5	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	8	Radford (11/25/2020)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	11	Radford (11/25/2020)
	12	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.417 (5-12)	at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	.500 (9-18)	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
REBOUNDS	28	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	28	vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
ASSISTS	8	Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	8	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
STEALS	1	Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	1	Penn St. (12/08/2020)
BLOCKED SHOTS	0	at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	1	at Louisville (01/06/2021)
TURNOVERS	8	at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	8	Longwood (12/21/2020)
FOULS	8	Virginia (01/30/2021)
	11	Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	11	Longwood (12/21/2020)



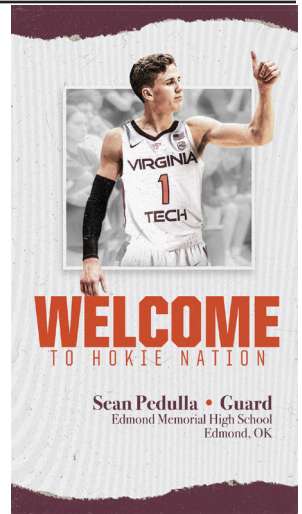
PROGRAM HISTORY	
First Year	1908
All-Time Record	1,499-1,240 (.547)
Conference Record	468-643 (.421)
Televised Games	259-238 (.521)
Overtime Games	71-53 (.573)
VT Ranked	95-46 (.674)
NCAA Tournaments	9 (most recent 2018-19)
NIT Appearances	13 (most recent 2015-16)
Most wins	26 (2018-19)
Highest AP Ranking	No. 8 (1995)

CASSELL COLISEUM	
Capacity	8,925
Seasons in Use	60th season
Tech Record	624-204 (.754)
ACC Record	82-62 (.569)
vs. Nonconference	424-72 (.855)
vs. Ranked Teams	27-54 (.333)

2020-21 RECRUITING CLASS

- Coach Mike Young signed his second recruiting class in Blacksburg in November, bringing in three-star Sean Pedulla, who reigns from Edmond, Oklahoma.
- With assistant coach Kevin Giltner being the lead recruiter, Tech brings in a 6-foot-1 guard who rated as a top-165 prospect, according to 247Sports.
- For more info on Sean, look below:

A four-year letterwinner ... Has guided Edmond Memorial to three state tournaments ... Two-time all-state selection ... COAC Offensive Player of the Year ... Averaged 17.6 points a game last season ... Scored 30 points and hit a game-winner in the McGuinness Classic tournament championship game ... Four-time all-tournament team selection ... Coached by Shane Cowherd at Edmond Memorial ... Rated the 165th-best prospect in the 2021 class on 247Sports ... Tabbed the second-best player in the state of Oklahoma and the 25th-best point guard nationally, according to 247Sports ... Chose the Hokies over Minnesota and Oklahoma State ... Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma ... Son of Dominic and Bernadette Pedulla ... Planning on majoring in general engineering ... Career objective is to play in the NBA.



PLAYER HIGHS & LOWS

Virginia Tech - Individual Game Highs

POINTS	30	Keve Aluma at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	29	Keve Aluma vs Virginia (01/30/2021)
	26	Keve Aluma vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	24	Justyn Mutts vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	23	Keve Aluma vs Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	23	Jalen Cone at Louisville (01/06/2021)
	23	Keve Aluma vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
FIELD GOALS MADE	10	Justyn Mutts vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	10	Keve Aluma at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	10	Keve Aluma vs Virginia (01/30/2021)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	17	Nahiem Alleyne at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	16	Justyn Mutts vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	16	Keve Aluma at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	16	Keve Aluma vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE (min 5 made)	1.000 (5-5)	David N'Guessan at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	.857 (6-7)	Tyrece Radford at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
3 PT FG MADE	6	Jalen Cone at Louisville (01/06/2021)
	6	Jalen Cone vs Longwood (12/21/2020)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	15	Jalen Cone vs Longwood (12/21/2020)
	12	Jalen Cone at Louisville (01/06/2021)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE (min 2 made)	1.000 (5-5)	Keve Aluma vs Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	Darius Maddox vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	1.000 (2-2)	Tyrece Radford vs Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	1.000 (2-2)	Keve Aluma vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	1.000 (2-2)	Justyn Mutts vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
FREE THROWS MADE	9	Keve Aluma vs Clemson (12/15/2020)
	8	Tyrece Radford at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	13	Keve Aluma vs VMI (12/03/2020)
	12	Keve Aluma vs Clemson (12/15/2020)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE (min 3 made)	1.000 (6-6)	Keve Aluma at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	1.000 (5-5)	Nahiem Alleyne at Louisville (01/06/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	Tyrece Radford vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	Keve Aluma at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	Justyn Mutts vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	1.000 (4-4)	Wabissa Bede vs VMI (12/03/2020)
	1.000 (4-4)	Nahiem Alleyne vs Radford (11/25/2020)
	1.000 (3-3)	Tyrece Radford vs Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	Nahiem Alleyne at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	David N'Guessan at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	Jalen Cone vs Duke (01/12/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	Hunter Cattoor at Louisville (01/06/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	Jalen Cone at Louisville (01/06/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	Cordell Pemsil vs Clemson (12/15/2020)
REBOUNDS	14	Keve Aluma vs Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	13	Tyrece Radford vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
ASSISTS	8	Wabissa Bede vs Longwood (12/21/2020)
	7	Wabissa Bede vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	7	Justyn Mutts at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
STEALS	3	Hunter Cattoor at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	3	Nahiem Alleyne at Louisville (01/06/2021)
	3	Justyn Mutts vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
BLOCKED SHOTS	4	Keve Aluma at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	3	Hunter Cattoor vs Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	3	Keve Aluma at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	3	Justyn Mutts at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	3	Keve Aluma vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	3	Keve Aluma vs Longwood (12/21/2020)
	3	Justyn Mutts vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
TURNOVERS	4	Nahiem Alleyne vs Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	4	Justyn Mutts vs Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	4	Hunter Cattoor at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	4	Keve Aluma at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	4	Keve Aluma vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	4	Justyn Mutts vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	4	Wabissa Bede vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	4	Justyn Mutts vs Clemson (12/15/2020)
	4	Cartier Diarra vs Penn St. (12/08/2020)
	4	Keve Aluma vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
	4	Justyn Mutts vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
FOULS	5	Hunter Cattoor at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	5	David N'Guessan vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	5	Justyn Mutts vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
	5	Wabissa Bede vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
	5	Cartier Diarra vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)

Opponent - Individual Game Highs

POINTS	32	Xavier Johnson at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	26	Moses Wright vs Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	25	Collin Gillespie vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
	24	Izaiah Brockington vs Penn St. (12/08/2020)
	22	Prentiss Hubb at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	22	Jeremy Roach vs Duke (01/12/2021)
FIELD GOALS MADE	11	Xavier Johnson at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	10	Izaiah Brockington vs Penn St. (12/08/2020)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	20	Prentiss Hubb at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	17	Xavier Johnson at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE (min 5 made)	1.000 (5-5)	Nysier Brooks vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	.833 (5-6)	Kadary Richmond at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
3 PT FG MADE	5	Al-Amir Dawes vs Clemson (12/15/2020)
	4	RJ Davis vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	4	Jonah Antonio vs Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	4	Xavier Johnson at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	4	Ithiel Horton at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	4	Matthew Hurt vs Duke (01/12/2021)
	4	Matt Cross vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	4	Myreon Jones vs Penn St. (12/08/2020)
	4	Collin Gillespie vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	11	Al-Amir Dawes vs Clemson (12/15/2020)
	9	Jonah Antonio vs Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	9	Ithiel Horton at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	9	Izaiah Wong vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE (min 2 made)	1.000 (3-3)	Jay Huff vs Virginia (01/30/2021)
	1.000 (2-2)	Cole Swider vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)
FREE THROWS MADE	11	Nate Laszewski vs Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	8	Izaiah Wong at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
	8	Marek Dolezal at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	8	Jeremy Roach vs Duke (01/12/2021)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	12	Nate Laszewski vs Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	11	Moses Wright vs Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE (min 3 made)	1.000 (8-8)	Marek Dolezal at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	1.000 (8-8)	Jeremy Roach vs Duke (01/12/2021)
	1.000 (6-6)	Aamir Simms vs Clemson (12/15/2020)
	1.000 (5-5)	Au'Diese Toney at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	Nysier Brooks at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	Justin Champagnie at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	Dane Goodwin vs Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	Carlil Jones at Louisville (01/06/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	jae'Lyn Withers at Louisville (01/06/2021)
	1.000 (4-4)	Jeremiah Robinson-Earl vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	RJ Davis vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	Femi Odukale at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	1.000 (3-3)	Caleb Murphy vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
REBOUNDS	13	Armando Bacot vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
	13	Justin Champagnie at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
ASSISTS	7	Xavier Johnson at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	6	Izaiah Wong at Miami (FL) (02/06/2021)
	6	Jordan Goldwire vs Duke (01/12/2021)
	6	Prentiss Hubb vs Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	6	Harlond Beverly vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	6	Jamari Wheeler vs Penn St. (12/08/2020)
STEALS	5	Jose Alvarado vs Georgia Tech (02/23/2021)
	4	Jordan Goldwire vs Duke (01/12/2021)
	4	Koby Thomas vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	4	Anthony Tarke vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
BLOCKED SHOTS	7	Alan Griffin at Syracuse (01/23/2021)
	4	Armando Bacot vs North Carolina (N) (03/11/2021)
TURNOVERS	5	Carter Whitt vs Wake Forest (02/27/2021)
	5	Nate Laszewski at Notre Dame (01/27/2021)
	5	Carter Whitt at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	5	Prentiss Hubb vs Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	5	Harlond Beverly vs Miami (FL) (12/29/2020)
	5	Kenan Sarvan vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	5	Al-Amir Dawes vs Clemson (12/15/2020)
	5	Caleb Murphy vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
	5	David Collins vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
FOULS	5	Justin Champagnie at Pittsburgh (02/03/2021)
	5	Izaiah Mucius at Wake Forest (01/17/2021)
	5	Nate Laszewski vs Notre Dame (01/10/2021)
	5	Leslie Nkereuwem vs Longwood (12/21/2020)
	5	Koby Thomas vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	5	Kaelon Harkema vs Coppin St. (12/19/2020)
	5	Sean Conway vs VMI (12/03/2020)
	5	Michael Durr vs South Fla. (N) (11/29/2020)
	5	Justin Moore vs Villanova (N) (11/28/2020)

CATEGORY LEADERS

Points				Scoring Average				3-Point FG Percentage				3-Point FG Attempts							
##	Player	G	Pts	Pts/G	##	Player	G	Pts	Pts/G	##	Player	3FG	Att	Pct	##	Player	G	Att	Att/G
22	Aluma, Keve	21	327	15.6	22	Aluma, Keve	21	327	15.6	0	Cattoor, Hunter	36	80	.450	15	Cone, Jalen	15	106	7.1
4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	216	10.3	23	Radford, Tyrece	17	202	11.9	13	Maddox, Darius	3	7	.429	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	93	4.4
23	Radford, Tyrece	17	202	11.9	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	216	10.3	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	38	93	.409	0	Cattoor, Hunter	21	80	3.8
25	Mutts, Justyn	21	202	9.6	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	202	9.6	22	Aluma, Keve	20	57	.351	22	Aluma, Keve	21	57	2.7
0	Cattoor, Hunter	21	176	8.4	15	Cone, Jalen	15	138	9.2	15	Cone, Jalen	37	106	.349	3	Bede, Wabissa	21	49	2.3
15	Cone, Jalen	15	138	9.2	0	Cattoor, Hunter	21	176	8.4	25	Mutts, Justyn	15	44	.341					
3	Bede, Wabissa	21	86	4.1	2	Diarra, Cartier	4	30	7.5	23	Radford, Tyrece	7	22	.318					
5	N'Guessan, David	20	55	2.8	3	Bede, Wabissa	21	86	4.1	1	Bamisile, Joe	4	16	.250					
1	Bamisile, Joe	13	45	3.5	1	Bamisile, Joe	13	45	3.5	3	Bede, Wabissa	12	49	.245					
2	Diarra, Cartier	4	30	7.5	5	N'Guessan, David	20	55	2.8	2	Diarra, Cartier	1	8	.125					
35	Pemsl, Cordell	12	27	2.3	35	Pemsl, Cordell	12	27	2.3										
13	Maddox, Darius	11	9	0.8	13	Maddox, Darius	11	9	0.8										
21	Ojiako, John	6	2	0.3	21	Ojiako, John	6	2	0.3										

Field Goal Percentage				Field Goal Attempts				Field Goals Made				Offensive Rebounds							
##	Player	FG	Att	Pct	##	Player	G	Att	Att/G	##	Player	G	Made	Made/G	##	Player	G	OReb	OReb/G
5	N'Guessan, David	21	36	.583	22	Aluma, Keve	21	235	11.2	22	Aluma, Keve	21	115	5.5	22	Aluma, Keve	21	54	2.6
23	Radford, Tyrece	75	134	.560	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	181	8.6	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	81	3.9	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	35	1.7
35	Pemsl, Cordell	10	18	.556	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	157	7.5	23	Radford, Tyrece	17	75	4.4	23	Radford, Tyrece	17	34	2.0
25	Mutts, Justyn	81	157	.516	23	Radford, Tyrece	17	134	7.9	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	70	3.3	5	N'Guessan, David	20	15	0.8
22	Aluma, Keve	115	235	.489	15	Cone, Jalen	15	126	8.4	0	Cattoor, Hunter	21	53	2.5	1	Bamisile, Joe	13	5	0.4
0	Cattoor, Hunter	53	114	.465															
2	Diarra, Cartier	10	23	.435															
4	Alleyn, Nahiem	70	181	.387															
1	Bamisile, Joe	17	46	.370															
15	Cone, Jalen	45	126	.357															
3	Bede, Wabissa	33	96	.344															
13	Maddox, Darius	3	11	.273															
21	Ojiako, John	1	4	.250															

Defensive Rebounds				Minutes				Turnovers						
##	Player	G	DReb	DReb/G	##	Player	G	Min	Min/G	##	Player	G	TO	TO/G
22	Aluma, Keve	21	113	5.4	22	Aluma, Keve	21	638	30:24	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	48	2.3
25	Mutts, Justyn	21	101	4.8	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	614	29:15	22	Aluma, Keve	21	40	1.9
23	Radford, Tyrece	17	69	4.1	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	586	27:54	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	30	1.4
4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	54	2.6	3	Bede, Wabissa	21	541	25:44	3	Bede, Wabissa	21	28	1.3
3	Bede, Wabissa	21	47	2.2	1	Bamisile, Joe	13	5	0.4	0	Cattoor, Hunter	21	25	1.2

Fouls				Rebounds				Rebounds Average						
##	Player	G	PF	PF/G	##	Player	G	Reb	Reb/G	##	Player	G	Reb	Reb/G
25	Mutts, Justyn	21	57	2.7	22	Aluma, Keve	21	167	8.0	22	Aluma, Keve	21	167	8.0
3	Bede, Wabissa	21	48	2.3	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	136	6.5	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	136	6.5
22	Aluma, Keve	21	47	2.2	23	Radford, Tyrece	17	103	6.1	23	Radford, Tyrece	17	103	6.1
4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	43	2.0	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	57	2.7	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	57	2.7
5	N'Guessan, David	20	32	1.6	2	Diarra, Cartier	4	10	2.5	2	Diarra, Cartier	4	10	2.5

Foul Outs				Assists				Steals					
##	Player	G	FO	##	Player	G	Ast	Ast/G	##	Player	G	Stl	Stl/G
25	Mutts, Justyn	21	1	3	Bede, Wabissa	21	68	3.2	3	Bede, Wabissa	21	18	0.9
0	Cattoor, Hunter	21	1	22	Aluma, Keve	21	46	2.2	0	Cattoor, Hunter	21	17	0.8
2	Diarra, Cartier	4	1	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	45	2.1	22	Aluma, Keve	21	14	0.7
3	Bede, Wabissa	21	1	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	36	1.7	4	Alleyn, Nahiem	21	14	0.7
5	N'Guessan, David	20	1	23	Radford, Tyrece	17	35	2.1	25	Mutts, Justyn	21	13	0.6

Blocked Shots				
##	Player	G	Blk/G	
22	Aluma, Keve	21	28	1.3
25	Mutts, Justyn	21	16	0.8
0	Cattoor, Hunter	21	11	0.5
3	Bede, Wabissa	21	9	0.4
23	Radford, Tyrece	17	7	0.4

DOUBLE-DOUBLE TRACKER

Opponent	Date	Player	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Blocks	Steals
VMI	Dec. 3	Keve Aluma	17	12	0	1	2
Notre Dame	Jan. 10	Keve Aluma	15	12	2	1	0
No. 19/23 Duke	Jan. 12	Tyrece Radford	18	12	5	1	0
Notre Dame	Jan. 27	Keve Aluma	14	12	0	3	1
Notre Dame	Jan. 27	Justyn Mutts	14	11	0	3	0
No. 8/8 Virginia	Jan. 30	Keve Aluma	29	10	4	1	0
Pitt	Feb. 3	Keve Aluma	30	10	5	2	0
Georgia Tech	Feb. 23	Keve Aluma	12	14	5	0	1

ACC TOP 25 POLL TRACKER

	BC	Clemson	Duke	FSU	GT	UofL	Miami	UNC	NC State	ND	Pitt	'Cuse	UVA	VT	WF
Preseason	-/-	-/-	9/8	21/18	-/rv	rv/rv	-/-	16/16	-/-	-/-	-/rv	4/4	-/-	-/-	-/-
Nov. 3	-/-	rv/-	6/-	22/18	-/rv	rv/rv	-/-	14/16	-/-	-/-	-/rv	15/4	16/-	-/-	-/-
Dec. 7	-/-	rv/rv	10/11	20/21	-/-	25/24	-/-	15/14	-/rv	-/-	-/-	18/18	15/15	-/-	-/-
Dec. 14	-/-	24/rv	21/23	15/15	-/-	23/22	-/-	22/21	-/-	-/-	rv/-	17/16	rv/rv	-/-	-/-
Dec. 21	-/-	rv/rv	20/25	21/21	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	17/17	-/-	-/-	-/-	16/15	24/rv	-/-	-/-
Dec. 28	-/-	rv/rv	20/rv	18/19	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	-/-	-/-	23/24	24/rv	-/-	-/-
Jan. 4	-/-	19/18	21/24	25/22	-/-	rv/25	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	rv/-	22/21	19/20	-/-	-/-
Jan. 11	-/-	12/12	19/23	rv/rv	-/-	16/18	-/-	-/=	rv/-	-/-	-/-	18/22	20/20	-/-	-/-
Jan. 18	-/-	20/22	rv/rv	rv/25	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	13/12	6/14	-/-	-/-
Jan. 25	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	16/16	-/-	25/23	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	8/8	20/19	-/-	-/-
Feb. 1	-/-	-/-	-/-	20/19	rv/rv	rv/rv	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	-/-	-/-	14/15	16/16	-/-	-/-
Feb. 8	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	17/19	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	rv/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	9/9	18/17	-/-	-/-
Feb. 15	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	16/16	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	rv/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	7/8	18/17	-/-	-/-
Feb. 22	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	11/9	-/-	-/-	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	-/-	-/-	15/14	16/15	-/-	-/-
March 1	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	11/11	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	-/-	-/-	21/20	22/19	-/-	-/-
March 8	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	15/13	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/rv	-/-	-/-	-/-	16/15	22/21	-/-	-/-
March 15	-/-	rv/rv	-/-	14/14	rv/rv	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	15/15	25/24	-/-	-/-

AP/USA Today Polls (NOTE: there was not a new USA Today poll on Nov. 30)





ACC Standings

#	Team	Overall	ACC	Pct.
1.	No. 15/15 Virginia	18-6	13-4	.750
2.	No. 14/14 Florida State	16-6	11-4	.727
3.	No. 25/24 Virginia Tech	15-6	9-4	.714
4.	[RV/RV] Georgia Tech	17-8	11-6	.680
5.	[RV/RV] Clemson	16-7	10-6	.696
	North Carolina	18-10	10-6	.643
7.	Louisville	13-7	8-5	.650
8.	Syracuse	16-9	9-7	.640
9.	NC State	13-10	9-8	.565
10.	Duke	13-11	9-9	.542
11.	Notre Dame	11-15	7-11	.423
12.	Pitt	10-12	6-10	.455
13.	Miami (Fla.)	10-17	4-15	.370
14.	Wake Forest	6-16	3-15	.273
15.	Boston College	4-16	2-11	.200

ACC Predicted Order of Finish

#	Team (First-place votes)	Points
1.	Virginia (97)	2214
2.	Duke (34)	2146
3.	Florida State (15)	1973
4.	North Carolina (7)	1933
5.	Louisville (2)	1693
6.	Syracuse	1234
7.	Miami (Fla.)	1223
8.	NC State	1149
9.	Georgia Tech	1147
10.	Clemson	1057
11.	Virginia Tech	794
12.	Notre Dame	769
13.	Pitt	635
14.	Boston College	404
15.	Wake Forest	229

Hokie Award Winners on ACC Teams

All-ACC Team

Second Team

Keve Aluma, Virginia Tech

Jose Alvarado, Georgia Tech

Jay Huff, Virginia

M.J. Walker, Florida State

Aamir Simms, Clemson

Honorable Mention

Michael Devoe, Georgia Tech

Kihei Clark, Virginia

Alan Griffin, Syracuse

David Johnson, Louisville

Nate Laszewski, Notre Dame

Jericole Hellems, NC State

Tyrece Radford, Virginia Tech

Coach of the Year

Mike Young, Virginia Tech

TOP ITEMS IN YOUNG ERA

- To give perspective on how well the Hokies were clicking on all cylinders against Coppin State on Dec. 19, here are how some key items that stand out in the Mike Young era.
- Tech's bench exploded for 51 points, which is the most in the Young era, topping the previous high of 49, which was set twice - Delaware State (Nov. 20) and Maryland Eastern Shore (Dec. 29).
- Tech's 20 3s were the second most in school history, as well as the Young era (21 vs. Delaware St).
- The 97 points were the second most in the Young era, topping the triple OT game against Miami (Fla.) last year of 95 points, but being a triple short of the Delaware State game's 100-point outing.
- Also, Tech had eight players make a 3 versus Coppin State, which hasn't happened at Tech since Nov. 21, 2017 against Houston Baptist (8 as well).

NOT GREAT, BOB - OH WAIT

- Tech had not been shooting the ball well from downtown early in the season, making just five 3s versus then-No. 24/RV Clemson, six 3s against Penn State, four triples versus VMI and only five the one before that (USF) for a combined 20-of-81 clip (24.7%).
- In the Mike Young era, that was the fewest 3s made in a four-game stretch.
- So, after hitting just 20 3s its last four games heading into Coppin State, Tech ripped off the exact amount in just one game.

FALLING BUT WINNING THE GLASS

- Tech coach Mike Young is 19-3 at Tech when his Hokie team out-rebounds the opponent, with that happening against Penn State on Dec. 8.
- It marked just the second loss when his group has outrebounded its opponent, with the only other loss coming last season against Boston College on Feb. 8, 2019, with a +1 differential.
- In fact, out of Tech's 20 ACC games last year, it only out-rebounded its league opponent three times, with two of those being versus Clemson.

RARE, LIKE MR. CLEAN WITH HAIR

- Justyn Mutts, who doesn't have a bad hairdo himself, became just the fifth Hokie in the last decade to have a 10-point, nine-rebound, six-assist or better stat line and the first since 2019 (Nickeil Alexander-Walker) when he did so vs. VMI.
- Mutts is just one of two in the ACC players in the ACC to do so this year (Louisville's Carlik Jones).

Player	Date	PTS	REB	AST
Justyn Mutts (vs. VMI)	12/3/20	10	9	6
Nickeil Alexander-Walker (Miami)	3/8/19	21	10	8
Kerry Blackshear Jr. (Citadel)	11/12/17	22	15	8
Chris Clarke (Citadel)	12/17/16	13	12	10
Jeff Allen (Penn St.)	12/12/10	11	13	6

PUTTIN' ON THE CLAMPS

- Tech gave up less than 59 points in back-to-back games against USF and VMI, marking just the third time in the Mike Young era.
- The previous two times were a four-game stretch (Chattanooga, Gardner-Webb, VMI and Maryland Eastern Shore; Dec. 11-29) and a three-game stretch (Coppin State, USC Upstate and Lehigh; Nov. 8-16).

'ROUND THE BLOCK

- With more of an intentionality of scoring inside this season with the added presence down low compared to last year, Tech showcased that vs. USF with 42 points in the paint, which is the Mike Young era.
- The previous high was 40 points against then-No. 10/8 Duke on Dec. 6 in Cassell, a 77-63 lost.

STARTIN' OUT HOT

- The Hokies started the season out on a strong note, with defeating their opponent by 10 or more points twice through five games.
- In Young's final season at Wofford (2018-19), that was a norm, with his Terriers having 22 games of winning by double digits.
- Last season, though, Tech only won by 10 or more 10 times, including just four times against a high-major conference opponent.

MORE ON THE DECK

- Sophomore Hunter Cattoor was a more balanced player in high school he shared recently, with doing a little bit of everything (3s, mid-range, floaters) at all three levels.
- Since his arrival to Blacksburg, he's been more of a catch-and-shoot player and is looking to buck that trend.
- So, against USF, the guard set a career-high eight free-throw attempts and cashed in six of those. Cattoor last year, out of 31 games, only got to the line in eight games for a total of 22 free throw attempts. So expect more times than not he will put it on the deck and attack the rim.

LEVELIN' UP

- The grad transfer from Iowa, Cordell PemsI, stepped up in a big way against USF, subbing in for Keve Aluma when he picked up his second foul early in the first half.
- PemsI came in and made some big plays, playing 12 minutes and recording eight points and four rebounds alone in the first half.
- He would go on to finish with 10 points and six rebounds - not bad for a role player who had 13 minutes, one point and two rebounds combined the first two games.

BENCH MOB HEATIN' UP

- In the USF win, the Hokies had five players score in double figures, which was a first this year and only the third time in the Mike Young era (UMES, Michigan St.; both with five players).
- Of those five players Sunday, two did so coming off the bench, respectively, in Cartier Diarra and Cordell PemsI. Last season, that happened just eight times, with half of those in ACC play.



THAT'S A FIRST

- Tech basketball under the direction of Coach Young is known for being a quality 3-point shooting team, with the Hokies finishing with the most 3s made last year in the ACC with 315.
- So when they are having an off shooting night from downtown, it's tough to overcome it and get a win.
- Last year, Tech had three instances when it made five or less 3s and went 0-3 in those games.
- This year, with not being as reliant on the deep ball, Tech made only five triples versus USF, but still earned a blowout win, a first in the Mike Young era.

DOWNTOWN, A STAPLE

- As you know, 3-point shooting is a staple of the Coach Young offense.
- And to back up his prowess, Young is one of only two coaches whose teams have ranked in the top 80 nationally in 3P% each of the last six years (since 2014-15).
- The only others are Saint Mary's Randy Bennet, Duke's Coach K, Michigan State's Tom Izzo and Gonzaga's Mark Few each with five a piece.

TOP-THREE WINS

- There are only two teams since '10 that have won a game against a top-3 team in their first six games of the season in consecutive years, with it being Tech and Duke ('17, '18).

WITH THE BEST OF THEM

- Over the last five seasons, only Tech, Duke, UNC and Kansas have the most wins against AP top-five teams, with all four squads owning six games apiece since 2016.

UPSET TIDBITS

- Coach Young earned his second ranked win at Tech, following his upset of then-No. 3 Michigan State last November in Maui, and makes him 2-0 at Tech versus the AP's third-ranked team with the win over then-No. 3/3 Villanova in Bubbleville.
- For the third time in Coach Young's last four seasons he's earned a top-five win (No. 5 North Carolina, 2017, when he was at Wofford).
- Tech now has three straight seasons of winning a nonconference tournament game against a ranked opponent (No. 23/22 Purdue, 2018, Charleston Classic).

THE GLASS

- Tech didn't control the glass too much last year in games against ACC teams, with only out-rebounding its ACC opponent three times out of 21 games.
- But what was a weakness, with a good amount of that coming down to size, last year is arguably now a strength, as the Hokies out-rebounding third-ranked Villanova by nine.
- Tyrece Radford tied his career high with 13 boards to lead the charge on the glass for Tech.
- Keve Aluma (8) and Justyn Mutts (6) combined for 14 boards, including three of those being offensive.

BEEN A MINUTE

- Tech scored 81 against then-No. 3/3 Villanova, marking the first time the Hokies have scored 80 or more points since Feb. 19, 2020 against Miami (Fla.) in a triple overtime thriller.
- A total of seven games came in between the Miami and 'Nova games.

COMEBACK KIDS

- Tech put together a 12-point comeback against the third-ranked 'Cats in the win.
- The last time the Hokies were down double digits and came back to win was vs. UNC on Jan. 22, 2020, which was also a game that went into overtime.

EFFICIENT AS THEY COME

- Forward Keve Aluma had quite the debut vs. Radford, netting seven of his 10 shots for a career-high 19 points.
- The redshirt junior likely won't keep a 70 percent field-goal percentage going all season, but it is something to keep an eye on the rest of the way.
- In his final season at Wofford (2018-19), Aluma shot 67 percent from the floor, which ranked 17th among all Division I players (minimum 140 FGA).
- So, expect a high clip from the Maryland native this season.

THE LONE SWEEP

- Last season, Tech swept Clemson with defeating the Tigers once on the road (Nov. 5) and once at home (March 4) for its lone sweep of a team on the year.
- It marked just the second-ever over the Tigers (2017).
- The Hokies had six players hit a 3-pointer, including four players hitting at least two.

SOMETHING ABOUT 4

- Tech, which didn't necessarily have a handful of high-end scorers in Mike Young's first season, looks like it does now, as six players made at least four shots against Radford.
- So there must be something about the No. 4, as Tech also had four steals, with four players getting one swipe apiece.
- Last year, Tech didn't have a single game of six players making four or more field goals (closest was five players twice), marking the Radford game a first in the Mike Young era – a promising sign for the Hokies of a more well-balanced attack offensively.

SHARING IS CARING

- Tech dished out 18 assists versus the Highlanders, which was the third-most by an ACC team in season openers.
- The Hokies had 18 or more assists in seven games last year and went 6-1 on those contests, losing to Syracuse 71-69 at home in the lone setback.

Team	AST	Score
Wake Forest (vs. Delaware St.)	21	W, 111-51
Louisville (vs. Evansville)	19	W, 79-44
Virginia Tech (vs. Radford)	18	W, 77-62

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

- Tech has two players that just started playing basketball recently, with Keve Aluma and John Ojiako all first playing basketball in high school.
- Each began that late for various reasons. Aluma was in love with soccer up until then and Ojiako had someone run into him on the street and told him he should give it a try.

MY TURN

- Coach Young this fall created a non-profit called MY TURN, which is an anti-bullying organization.
- Through this organization, Coach Young hopes to bring attention and awareness to bullying in schools, as well as prevention tactics to the community at Tech and the surrounding areas.
- Growing up in Southwest Virginia, Coach Young spent a lot of time in Cassell Coliseum with his late father, Bob Young, whose service and dedication as an educator and coach impacted many young lives in the new river valley community.
- Following in his father's footsteps, Coach Young's passion for coaching and teaching makes him a great advocate for promoting change and equality.

NOT TOO SHABBY

- Tech ranked highly in a few categories nationally last season and hopes to do the same this season, with those including being fifth in turnovers per game (9.9), fifth in assist-turnover ratio (1.48), 13th in 3-point field goals per game (9.8) and 17th in personal fouls per game (14.8).

FIRST-YEAR WINS

- Tech coach Mike Young tallied 16 wins his first year in Blacksburg, making him tied for the fifth-most wins by a first-year Tech coach in school history.
- The 16 wins were the most by a first-year Tech coach since 1999-00 when Ricky Stokes had 16.

THAT NEW, NEW

- Tech is tied for the 12th-most newcomers in the nation, bringing in nine players this past offseason.
- Two of those guys were already on campus in Keve Aluma and Grant Yates, but had to sit out last year due to NCAA transfer rules.
- Speaking of transfers, Tech welcomed three this past summer in Cartier Diarra (Kansas State), Justyn Mutts (Delaware) and Cordell Pems (Iowa). Mutts has two years of eligibility, while Diarra and Pems each have one season left. However, the NCAA waived the players' eligibility that compete in winter sports, therefore all three could return an additional year.
- Then the other four players are freshmen, with three being on scholarship and one is a walk-on.
- The Hokies have the most newcomers of any team in the ACC.
- Here is how Tech ranks among high-major conferences with bringing in new players:

School	Newcomers
Arkansas (SEC)	12
Arizona (Pac-12)	11
Kentucky (SEC)	10
Kansas State (Big 12)	9
Mississippi State (SEC)	9
Virginia Tech (ACC)	9





Mike YOUNG

- Second season at Virginia Tech
- 19th as a head coach in Division I
- Produced three AP All-America selections at Wofford
- Took Wofford to five NCAA Tournament appearances

The Young File

PERSONAL

BORN: May 1, 1963
 HOMETOWN: Radford, Virginia
 FAMILY: Wife (Margaret), Children (Cooper & Davis)
 COACHING RECORD AT VIRGINIA TECH: 31-22 (2nd year)
 CAREER HEAD COACHING RECORD: 330-266 (.554)

EDUCATION

Emory & Henry (1986)
 JOINED TECH STAFF: April 7, 2019
 YEARS OF COLLEGIATE HEAD COACHING: 19
 YEARS OF COLLEGIATE COACHING: 34

COACHING CAREER

Year	School
1986-88	Assistant Coach, Emory & Henry
1988-89	Assistant Coach, Radford
1989-02	Assistant Coach, Wofford
2002-19	Head Coach, Wofford
2019-present	Head Coach, Virginia Tech

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Five NCAA Tournaments**
2019, 2015, 2014, 2011, 2010
- Five SoCon Tournament Championships**
2019, 2015, 2014, 2011, 2010
- Four SoCon Regular-Season Titles**
2019, 2015, 2011, 2010
- Two-time National Coach of the Year**
2019 (Sporting News), 2010 (Hugh Durham)
- Three AP All-America Selections**
Fletcher Magee (2018-19) Karl Cochran (2014-15) Noah Dahlman (2009-10)
- Four SoCon Player of the Years**
Fletcher Magee (2017-18, 2018-19) Karl Cochran (2014-15) & Noah Dahlman (2009-10)
- All-SoCon**
24 selections (Coaches) 34 selections (media)

Having just three players returning who saw minutes the previous year in 2018-19 on the team, Young had to act quickly when hired on April 7, 2019 and build a roster to compete in the best conference in the nation. Adding a staff and six scholarship players in a hurry, Young's first season in Blacksburg started off with a bang, as the Hokies went down to South Carolina and defeated Clemson in style to give Young his first Hokie and ACC win, as well as his 300th career victory.

Another big-time W came at the prestigious Maui Jim Maui Invitational against then-No. 3 Michigan State. On ESPN2 with Dan Shulman and Jay Bilas on the call, the young Hokies (7 of the 9 rotation players were underclassmen) pulled off one of the bigger upsets of the season with a 71-66 win. With the upset of Sparty, it marked the first time since 1964 that Tech beat a top-five team in nonconference play.

Despite being the shortest and second-youngest squad among high-major conference teams, Young and Co. tallied 16 wins to make it the most victories by a first-year head coach at Tech since 1999-00 and tied for the fifth-most wins ever by a first-year Hokie coach. He also became the first coach to win two of his first three road ACC games in school history.

Leaning on a mix of young and old in his first season, Young developed junior Wabissa Bede into one of the finer point guards in the country, as Bede would go on to finish with the sixth-best assist-to-turnover ratio nationally (3.34) and first in the ACC. And under Young's tutelage, redshirt freshman Tyrece Radford blossomed into one of the better all-around players in the league, with being one of only two players in the ACC to average 10 points, six rebounds and shoot over 60 percent from the field.

Under the direction of Young, the Hokies put together some new records during the 2019-20 season. On Nov. 20 versus Delaware State, Tech racked up 21 3-pointers, marking the most in school history and the most ever by an ACC team. Speaking of 3s, the 315 hit last season were the second-most in school history.

Four freshmen hit 49 or more 3-pointers, which was the most by any program in over the last 25 years. Behind the young bucks, Tech finished 13th nationally in 3-pointers made per game with 9.9 triples a contest, which was the most in school history.

Utilizing its freshmen on the offensive end last year, Tech finished with its freshmen averaging 50.7 points per game, which is the fourth-most in ACC history behind Duke's 2018-19, 2017-18, 1982-83 teams.

Making sure his team played the game the right way by limiting miscues, Young's prowess showed on Dec. 29 when Tech committed only two turnovers against Maryland Eastern Shore to tie a school record. The Hokies would go on to finish fourth in the nation in fewest turnovers committed per game (9.9).

The Radford, Virginia native joined the Hokies after a record-setting 17-year tenure as the head coach at Wofford. The Terriers posted a 30-5 overall record in 2018-19, including a perfect 18-0 mark in Southern Conference play, and registered a convincing 84-68 win over Seton Hall in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament.

The 2019 Sporting News Coach of the Year, Young built the Terriers into one of the Southern Conference's preeminent programs and a perennial NCAA Tournament participant. He guided Wofford to five NCAA Tournament berths over the past 10 seasons and five Southern Conference championships.

YEAR BY YEAR

Year	School	Rec.	Conf.	Postseason
2020-21	Virginia Tech	15-6	9-4	---
2019-20	Virginia Tech	16-16	7-13	---
2018-19	Wofford	30-5	18-0	NCAA Round of 32
2017-18	Wofford	21-13	11-7	CIT
2016-17	Wofford	16-17	10-8	---
2015-16	Wofford	15-17	11-7	---
2014-15	Wofford	28-7	16-2	NCAA First Round
2013-14	Wofford	20-13	11-5	NCAA First Round
2012-13	Wofford	13-19	7-11	---
2011-12	Wofford	19-14	12-6	CBI
2010-11	Wofford	21-13	14-4	NCAA First Round
2009-10	Wofford	26-9	15-3	NCAA First Round
2008-09	Wofford	16-14	12-8	---
2007-08	Wofford	16-16	8-12	---
2006-07	Wofford	10-20	5-13	---
2005-06	Wofford	11-18	6-9	---
2004-05	Wofford	14-14	7-9	---
2003-04	Wofford	9-20	4-12	---
2002-03	Wofford	14-15	8-8	---



BOUNCE BACK TIME

• When Mike Young loses a basketball game, it rarely spills into the next game, with his teams bouncing back with a W, especially this season with him being a perfect 5-0.

Season	G	W	L	Pct.
2002-03	14	7	7	.500
2003-04	19	7	12	.368
2004-05	13	5	8	.385
2005-06	17	8	9	.471
2006-07	19	6	13	.316
2007-08	15	7	8	.467
2008-09	13	8	5	.615
2009-10	8	5	3	.625
2010-11	12	9	3	.750
2011-12	13	8	5	.615
2012-13	18	9	9	.500
2013-14	12	7	5	.583
2014-15	6	5	1	.833
2015-16	16	9	7	.563
2016-17	16	10	6	.625
2017-18	12	9	3	.750
2018-19	4	4	0	1.000
2019-20	15	5	10	.333
2020-21	5	5	0	1.000
Total	247	133	114	.539



WHEN IT COUNTS

• Mike Young brings a polished resume from his time at Wofford and you can see that in the numbers he carries regarding finishing a lead when his teams have had one over his years of coaching.
 • Over the last seven years when Young has had a lead with five minutes to go, he usually holds on to it to preserve the win, especially this year being 14-0.
 • Since his arrival to Tech, the Hokies have carried the trend also, owning a 28-2 record.

Year	G	W	L	Pct.
2014-15	25	23	2	.920
2015-16	17	14	3	.824
2016-17	17	15	2	.882
2017-18	21	19	2	.905
2018-19	27	27	0	1.000
2019-20	16	14	2	.875
2020-21	14	14	0	1.000
Total	137	126	11	.920

Opponent	G	W	L	Pct.
High-Major	23	20	3	.870
Mid-Major	117	109	8	.932
Conference	81	72	9	.889
Nonconference	51	49	2	.961
Postseason	9	7	2	.778

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING



Jeff Borzello ✓
@jeffborzello

FINAL: Virginia Tech 81, No. 3 Villanova 73.

Marks the second year in a row Va Tech knocks off a top-three team in November. Hokies erase a 12-point deficit in the final nine minutes, then overcome a weird ending to regulation. **Mike Young** can coach, man. Keve Aluma was terrific.



Matthew Gutierrez ✓
@MatthewGut21

Already starting to regret placing Virginia Tech in the bottom portion of the ACC. The way they move so well offensively and defend with energy, they'll compete in conference play



Jon Rothstein ✓
@JonRothstein

Today we saw why many NBA folks felt that Mike Young could be an offensive coordinator at the professional level. Guy is a genius offensively.



Bryan Ives
@awaytoworthy

Only Mike Krzyzewski (5) has more wins vs AP Top 5 teams away from home than Mike Young (3) over in the last four seasons.

Young's wins:
 2017 at 5 UNC
 2019 vs 3 MSU (Maui)
 2020 vs 3 VILL (Mohegan Sun)
 **Leonard Hamilton and Chris Beard also have 3 such wins.

11:11 PM · 11/28/20 · Twitter Web App

15 Retweets 4 Quote Tweets 70 Likes



Jeff Goodman ✓
@GoodmanHoops

FINAL: Virginia Tech 81, No. 3 Villanova 73 (OT)
 Hell of a win for the Hokies in a game that was put together less than 48 hours ago.
 Keve Aluma followed Mike Young from Wofford to Blacksburg and just finished with 23 points and 8 rebounds in the win.



Fran Fraschilla ✓
@franfraschilla

The "basketball gods" rewarded @HokiesMBB. They deserved to win this game. @NovaMBB defense inside & out has been a major issue in two of three games. Mike Young, as was ascribed to great Bear Bryant, "can take yours & beat his and take his & beat yours."





HUNTER CATTOOR (cuh-TOUR)

Sophomore | 6-3 | 200
G | Orlando, Fla.

High School
Bishop Moore

Major: Human Development

0

2020-21 ACC Men's Basketball All-Academic Team

AT THE RIM

- Has played in all 21 games, earning two starts.
- Tallied six points and an assist versus North Carolina (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament.
- Made the game-tying 3-pointer to send the Miami (Fla.) (2/6) game into overtime and then hit two clutch free throws the final four seconds in OT to make it a two-possession game and preserve the win, finishing with 14 points and three rebounds.
- Played in 31 games, drawing three starts in 2019-20.
- Originally committed to Wofford, but signed with the Hokies after Virginia Tech's hiring of Mike Young.
- Four-year letterwinner at Bishop Moore High School.
- FHSAA 6A first-team All-State and District Player of the Year.
- Scored 1,420 points in high school. Was a 3-star (247 Sports).
- Also played quarterback on Bishop Moore's football team.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	17 vs UMES 12/29/19
Rebounds	8 vs Coppin St. 11/08/19
Assists	5 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
Steals	3 at Notre Dame 03/07/20, vs Gardner-Webb 12/15/19, at Notre Dame 01/27/21
Blocks	3 vs Wake Forest 02/27/21
FG Made	6 vs UMES 12/29/19
FG Attempts	11 vs North Carolina 03/10/20, at Miami (FL) 02/06/21
3FG Made	5 vs UMES 12/29/19
3FG Attempts	10 vs North Carolina 03/10/20
FT Made	6 vs South Fla. 11/29/20
FT Attempts	8 vs South Fla. 11/29/20

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total FG-FGA	3-Pointers PCT	Free throws FT-FTA	Rebounds DEF/TOT/AVG	PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG							
Radford	11/25/2020	*	25:10	4-6	.667	4-6	.667	0-0	000	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	12	12.0	
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	*	34:12	1-3	.333	1-2	.500	2-2	1000	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	8.5	
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020		20:38	3-5	.600	1-3	.333	6-8	7500	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	13	10.0	
VMI	12/03/2020		17:42	1-5	.200	1-3	.333	0-0	0000	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	3	8.3	
Penn St.	12/08/2020		00:08	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	0000	0	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	6.6	
Clemson	12/15/2020		19:54	3-5	.600	2-4	.500	3-4	7500	0	6	6	2	2	2	0	0	0	11	7.3	
Coppin St.	12/19/2020		18:51	3-4	.750	2-3	.667	3-4	7500	0	1	1	2	0	4	5	0	0	1	11	7.9
Longwood	12/21/2020		23:34	3-7	.429	1-5	.200	1-1	1000	0	3	3	2	1	3	1	0	2	8	7.9	
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020		17:19	1-4	.250	1-2	.500	0-0	0000	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	3	7.3	
at Louisville	01/06/2021		34:47	2-3	.667	0-1	.000	3-3	1000	0	2	2	1	9	0	1	1	0	7	7.3	
Notre Dame	01/10/2021		26:18	5-10	.500	3-5	.600	2-2	1000	1	3	4	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	15	8.0
Duke	01/12/2021		24:34	2-4	.500	1-2	.500	0-0	0000	0	1	1	2	0	1	3	1	0	1	5	7.8
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021		26:09	5-7	.714	3-5	.600	0-0	0000	0	0	0	1	8	2	1	3	2	1	13	8.2
at Syracuse	01/23/2021		28:06	1-5	.200	1-5	.200	3-4	7500	0	2	2	1	9	2	4	4	0	1	6	8.0
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021		24:44	4-9	.444	4-7	.571	1-2	.500	0	3	3	1	9	0	1	1	0	3	13	8.3
Virginia	01/30/2021		30:46	5-7	.714	3-5	.600	2-2	1000	0	1	1	1	9	0	1	0	2	1	15	8.8
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021		23:42	4-10	.400	2-7	.286	2-2	1000	0	2	2	1	9	5	2	1	1	0	12	8.9
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021		35:25	4-11	.364	4-8	.500	2-2	1000	1	2	3	1	9	1	1	2	2	0	14	9.2
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021		24:37	1-2	.500	1-1	1.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	1	9	3	2	3	0	4	8.9	
Wake Forest	02/27/2021		25:54	0-5	.000	0-4	.000	0-0	0000	0	2	2	1	9	1	2	1	3	2	0	8.5
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021		19:56	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	3-5	6000	0	0	0	1	8	3	1	2	0	0	6	8.4
Totals			2 462:28	53-114	.465	36-80	.450	34-43	.791	2	36	38	1.8	31	30	25	11	17	176	8.4	

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
21	22.0	8.4	46.5	45.0	79.1	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.5

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN/AVG	Field Goals FG-FGA	FG%	3-Point 3FG-FGA	3FG%	F-Throws FT-FTA	FT%	Rebounds OFF DEF TOT AVG	PF	PF-FO	AST	BLK	STL	PTS	PTS AVG			
2019-20	Hokies	31-3	628/20.3	69-165	.418	51-127	.402	14-22	.636	4	73	77	2.5	44-0	35	16	4	31	203	6.5
2020-21	Hokies	21-2	462/22.0	53-114	.465	36-80	.450	34-43	.791	2	36	38	1.8	31-1	30	25	11	17	176	8.4
TOTAL		52-5	1090/21.0	122-279	.437	87-207	.420	48-65	.738	6	109	115	2.2	75-1	65	41	15	48	379	7.3



JOSEPH "JOE" BAMISILE (BAM-uh-sill)

Freshman | 6-4 | 195
G | Chesterfield, Va.

High School
Monacan

Major: Public Relations

1

AT THE RIM

- Has played in 12 games.
- Tallied seven points, two rebounds, an assist and a steal against Wake Forest (2/27).
- Hit a 3-pointer from the corner versus Georgia Tech (2/23) to finish with three points.
- Had his best game yet as a Hokie, playing a career-high 24 minutes and finishing with 11 points, to tie his season high and his most scored in an ACC game, two rebounds, three assists and a steal at Miami (Fla.) (2/6).
- Put together his first double figures scoring game, ending up with 11 points in just five minutes versus Longwood (12/21).
- Averaged 28 points, seven rebounds and two assists as a junior at Monacan High School in 2018-19.
- VHSL AAAA first-team all-state.
- Rated 61st overall & the 15th-best shooting guard on Rivals.
- Tabbed 64th overall and 13th-best shooting guard on ESPN.
- Ranked 66th overall & the 12th-best shooting guard on 247S.
- Chose the Hokies over Northwestern and West Virginia.
- Coach Young and his high school coach, R.J. Spelsberg, played together in college at Emory & Henry on the basketball team.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	11 at Miami (FL) 02/06/21, vs Longwood 12/21/20
Rebounds	7 vs Radford 11/25/20
Assists	3 at Miami (FL) 02/06/21
Steals	1 at Miami (FL) 02/06/21, vs Wake Forest 02/27/21
Blocks	1 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
FG Made	5 at Miami (FL) 02/06/21
FG Attempts	10 at Miami (FL) 02/06/21
3FG Made	1 4 times
3FG Attempts	3 vs Wake Forest 02/27/21
FT Made	2 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20, vs Longwood 12/21/20
FT Attempts	2 vs Penn St. 12/08/20, vs Coppin St. 12/19/20, vs Longwood 12/21/20

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total FG-FGA	3-Pointers PCT	Free throws FT-FTA	Rebounds DEF/TOT/AVG	PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG						
Radford	11/25/2020		11:35	1-8	.125	0-2	.000	1-1	1.000	3	4	7	7.0	0	1	0	3	3.0		
vs Villanova	11/28/2020		06:01	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.5	0	0	0	0	1.5		
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020		11:06	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	2.3	0	0	1	0	0	1.0	
VMI	12/03/2020		03:57	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.8	0	0	1	0	0	0.8	
Penn St.	12/08/2020		02:42	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	1.6	0	0	0	0	1	0.8	
Coppin St.	12/19/2020		09:24	3-4	.750	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	1	2	3	1.8	2	0	1	0	9	2.2	
Longwood	12/21/2020		05:17	4-6	.667	1-1	1.000	2-2	1.000	1	1	2	1.9	0	0	0	0	11	3.4	
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021		07:21	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.8	0	1	0	0	0	3.0	
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021		05:42	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.7	0	0	0	0	0	2.7	
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021		24:33	5-10	.500	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	0	2	2	1.7	4	3	0	1	11	3.5	
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021		07:57	1-3	.333	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.5	0	0	2	0	3	3.5	
Wake Forest	02/27/2021		15:32	3-7	.429	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	2	2	1.6	1	1	0	1	7	3.8	
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021		05:04	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	
Totals			0 116:10	17-46	.370	4-16	.250	7-8	.875	5	14	19	1.5	7	4	6	1	2	45	3.5

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
13	8.9	3.5	37.0	25.0	87.5	1.5	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.1

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN/AVG	Field Goals FG-FGA	FG%	3-Point 3FG-FGA	3FG%	F-Throws FT-FTA	FT%	Rebounds OFF DEF TOT AVG	PF	PF-FO	AST	BLK	STL	PTS	PTS AVG			
2020-21	Hokies	13-0	116/8.9	17-46	.370	4-16	.250	7-8	.875	5	14	19	1.5	7-0	4	6	1	2	45	3.5
TOTAL		13-0	116/8.9	17-46	.370	4-16	.250	7-8	.875	5	14	19	1.5	7-0	4	6	1	2	45	3.5



CARTIER DIARRA (Car-tee-YAIRE JOTT-ah)

Graduate student | 6-4 | 185
G | Florence, S.C.

High School/Last School
West Florence/Kansas State

Masters: Consumer studies

2

2020 First-Team Academic All-Big 12

AT THE RIM

- Has played in four games and opted out of the season on Dec. 15.
- Totaled seven points, three rebounds and a block against Penn State (12/8).
- Cracked the double-digit plateau for the first time at Tech, posting 10 points and finished with three assists and two rebounds against USF (11/29).
- Owned five points, three rebounds and three assists versus No. 3/3 Villanova (11/28).
- Played in 95 games, drawing 58 starts at Kansas State.
- Averaged 13.3 points, 3.8 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 1.8 steals per game in 2019-20 and was one of only seven players nationally to average that stat line or better.
- One of only two Big 12 players to rank in the league's top five in assists and steals and top 15 for scoring this past season.
- Led the Wildcats in 20-point games, boasting five in 2019-20.
- Earned Big 12 Player of the Week after scoring a career-high 25 points against Tulsa thanks to a career-best six 3-pointers
- Earned his undergraduate degree at Kansas State in human development and family sciences.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	25 vs Tulsa 12/29/19, vs West Virginia 01/18/20
Rebounds	8 vs Marquette 12/07/19
Assists	10 vs Alabama St. 12/11/19
Steals	5 vs Florida A&M 12/02/19, vs Bradley 11/27/19
Blocks	3 at Iowa St. 02/08/20
FG Made	8 vs North Dakota St. 11/05/19, vs Tulsa 12/29/19, vs West Virginia 01/18/20
FG Attempts	21 vs North Dakota St. 11/05/19
3FG Made	6 vs Tulsa 12/29/19
3FG Attempts	11 at Iowa St. 02/08/20, vs Tulsa 12/29/19
FT Made	8 at Oklahoma St. 03/04/20, vs Mississippi St. 12/14/19
FT Attempts	12 vs Mississippi St. 12/14/19

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG	
Radford	11/25/2020	19:28	4-6	.667	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	2	0	3	2	0	8	8.0	
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	24:18	1-8	.125	0-3	.000	3-4	.750	2	1	3	2.5	5	3	3	0	0	5	6.5
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020	16:00	3-5	.600	0-1	.000	4-5	.800	1	1	2	2.3	0	3	0	0	10	7.7	
Penn St.	12/08/2020	18:32	2-4	.500	1-2	.500	2-4	.500	1	2	3	2.5	3	0	4	1	0	7	7.5
Totals		0	78:18	10-23	.435	1-8	.125	9-13	.692	4	6	10	2.5	10	9	1	0	30	7.5

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
4	19.6	7.5	.435	.125	.692	2.5	2.3	2.3	1.0	0.0	0.3

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN/AVG	Field Goals FG-FGA	FG%	3-Point 3FG-FGA	3FG%	F-Throws FT-FTA	FT%	Rebounds OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	FO	AST	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG	
2017-18	KState	37-22	879/23.8	90-192	.469	34-84	.405	47-65	.723	22	71	93	2.5	89-3	73	69	3	28	261	7.1
2018-19	KState	26-9	662/25.5	55-136	.404	27-74	.365	40-57	.702	19	66	85	3.3	53-1	44	44	8	24	177	6.8
2019-20	KState	32-27	997/31.2	148-359	.412	51-167	.305	79-118	.669	21	101	122	3.8	77-4	134	103	10	58	426	13.3
2020-21	Hokies	4-0	78/19.6	10-23	.435	1-8	.125	9-13	.692	4	6	10	2.5	10-1	9	9	1	0	30	7.5
TOTAL FOR Hokies		4-0	78/19.6	10-23	.435	1-8	.125	9-13	.692	4	6	10	2.5	10-1	9	9	1	0	30	7.5
TOTAL		99-58	2617/26.4	303-710	.427	113-333	.339	175-253	.692	66	244	310	3.1	229-9	260	225	22	110	894	9.0



WABISSA BEDE (wa-BEE-sah BEE-dee)

Graduate student | 6-1 | 195
G | North Andover, Mass.

High School
Cushing Academy

Masters: Agricultural & life sciences with a concentration in leadership

3

2x ACC Men's Basketball All-Academic Team
2020-21 Senior CLASS Award Candidate

AT THE RIM

- Has played in all 21 games, drawing 21 starts.
- Dished out his second-most assists of the season versus North Carolina (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament with seven, while recording two rebounds and two steals.
- Posted five points and five assists against Wake Forest (2/27).
- Tallied two points and two assists versus Georgia Tech (2/23).
- Owned five assists out for the third straight game and had five points, four rebounds and two blocks at Miami (Fla.) (2/6).
- Played in all 32 games, starting each contest in 2019-20.
- Fourth in the ACC in assists per game (5.55) and first in assist-turnover ratio (3.31) last year. Then was fourth in ACC-only games with 5.00 assists p/g and second with a 2.70 A/TO ratio.
- Played in 35 games, starting 28 of those in 2018-19.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	14 vs UMES 12/28/18
Rebounds	9 vs Coppin St. 11/08/19
Assists	10 vs Coppin St. 11/08/19, vs Delaware St. 11/20/19
Steals	4 4 times
Blocks	2 7 times
FG Made	6 vs Duke 12/06/19
FG Attempts	13 vs BYU 11/27/19
3FG Made	4 vs UMES 12/28/18
3FG Attempts	6 at Notre Dame 01/27/21
FT Made	6 vs Houston Baptist 11/21/17
FT Attempts	9 vs Michigan St. 11/25/19

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG		
Radford	11/25/2020	* 21:40	4-8	.500	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	3.0	2	2	2	1	9	9.0		
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	* 22:42	3-8	.375	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	1	2	3	3.0	5	3	1	0	0	8	8.5	
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020	* 25:23	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.3	1	0	1	0	2	0	5.7	
VMI	12/03/2020	* 28:31	3-9	.333	1-5	.200	4-4	1.000	0	4	4	2.8	2	3	1	0	0	11	7.0	
Penn St.	12/08/2020	* 29:15	3-6	.500	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	0	0	2.2	1	2	0	0	2	4	7.0	
Clemson	12/15/2020	* 32:34	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	0	2	2	2.2	1	1	1	0	0	5	6.7	
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	* 19:20	1-3	.333	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	4	4	2.4	1	5	4	0	1	2	6.0	
Longwood	12/21/2020	* 23:29	2-6	.333	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	0	0	2.1	1	8	0	0	2	5	5.9	
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	* 26:11	1-3	.333	1-2	.500	1-3	.333	0	1	1	2.0	3	2	3	0	2	4	5.7	
at Louisville	01/06/2021	* 28:10	1-5	.200	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	3	3	2.1	3	3	1	0	1	3	5.4	
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	* 20:37	2-5	.400	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	2.2	3	2	2	0	2	4	5.3	
Duke	01/12/2021	* 18:21	1-2	.500	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.1	3	1	1	2	0	2	5.0	
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	* 20:31	2-4	.500	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	4	5	2.3	2	2	2	0	1	4	4.9	
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	* 13:39	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	2.1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4.6	
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	* 32:21	1-6	.167	1-6	.167	0-0	.000	0	3	3	2.2	2	3	0	0	2	3	4.5	
Virginia	01/30/2021	* 34:05	2-3	.667	1-1	1.000	2-2	1.000	0	4	4	2.3	4	5	3	1	1	7	4.6	
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021	* 25:36	0-5	.000	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	1	3	4	2.4	3	5	1	1	0	0	4.4	
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021	* 36:50	2-5	.400	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	4	4	2.5	2	5	1	2	1	5	4.4	
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021	* 27:17	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.4	0	2	0	1	0	2	4.3	
Wake Forest	02/27/2021	* 23:05	2-4	.500	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.4	4	5	1	0	0	5	4.3	
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021	* 30:57	0-5	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	2.4	3	7	1	0	2	0	4.1	
Totals		21	540:34	33-96	.344	12-49	.245	8-11	.727	3	47	50	2.4	48	68	28	9	18	86	4.1

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
21	25.7	4.1	.344	.245	.727	2.4	3.2	1.3	2.4	0.9	0.4

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN/AVG	Field Goals FG-FGA	FG%	3-Point 3FG-FGA	3FG%	F-Throws FT-FTA	FT%	Rebounds OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	FO	AST	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG	
2017-18	Hokies	28-0	233/8.3	25-51	.490	9-17	.529	11-18	.611	4	20	24	0.9	27-1	23	9	3	7	70	2.5
2018-19	Hokies	35-26	886/25.3	51-127	.402	23-65	.354	7-13	.538	8	78	86	2.5	58-0	62	37	3	38	132	3.8
2019-20	Hokies	32-32	949/29.6	64-173	.370	14-63	.222	23-46	.500	10	108	118	3.7	60-1	177	53	15	33	165	5.2
2020-21	Hokies	21-21	541/25.7	33-96	.344	12-49	.245	8-11	.727	3	47	50	2.4	48-1	68	28	9	18	86	4.1
TOTAL		116-79	2608/22.5	173-447	.387	58-194	.299	49-88	.557	25	253	278	2.4	193-3	350	127	30	96	453	3.9



NAHIEM ALLEYNE (na-HEEM ah-LEAN)

Sophomore | 6-4 | 195
G | Buford, Ga.

High School
Mountain View

Major: Human Development

4

2x ACC Men's Basketball All-Academic Team

AT THE RIM

- Has played in all 21 games, drawing 20 starts.
- Hit four 3-pointers on his way to 12 points versus North Carolina (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament, while grabbing four boards and dishing out two assists.
- Tallied 13 points against Wake Forest (2/27), with getting five rebounds and tied his career high of five assists.
- Almost had the first double-double of his career, recording a team-high 15 points and nine rebounds at Notre Dame (1/27).
- Tied his season high for points with 20, including having 17 in the first half, and did so thanks to five 3-pointers at 'Cuse (1/17).
- Off the bench, dropped 20 points versus No. 3/3 Villanova (11/28) behind four triples and had a rebound and an assist.
- Played in all 32 games, drawing 27 starts in 2019-20.
- Two-year letterwinner at Mountain View High School.
- GHSA All-State and All-Region, and a 3-star on 247 Sports.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	22 vs Chattanooga 12/11/19
Rebounds	9 at Notre Dame 01/27/21
Assists	5 at Notre Dame 01/27/21, vs Wake Forest 02/27/21
Steals	3 at Louisville 01/06/21
Blocks	2 vs Delaware St. 11/20/19
FG Made	7 4 times
FG Attempts	17 at Syracuse 01/23/21
3FG Made	5 4 times
3FG Attempts	10 vs Boston College 02/08/20, at Syracuse 01/23/21
FT Made	4 4 times
FT Attempts	6 at Clemson 11/05/19, at Wake Forest 01/14/20

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total	3-Pointers	Free throws	Rebounds	PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG							
				FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-3FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG								
Radford	11/25/2020	*	31:46	4-8	500	2-4	500	4-4	1000	0	1	1	10	2	2	2	0	1	14	14.0	
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	*	29:13	7-12	583	4-6	667	2-2	1000	0	1	1	10	2	1	0	0	0	20	17.0	
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020	*	23:55	2-7	286	1-3	333	2-2	1000	0	2	2	13	2	1	0	0	0	7	13.7	
VMI	12/03/2020	*	27:01	2-10	200	0-7	000	0-1	000	0	2	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	4	11.3	
Penn St.	12/08/2020	*	22:14	3-8	375	1-4	250	3-4	750	0	0	0	12	3	0	1	0	0	10	11.0	
Clemson	12/15/2020	*	29:20	4-7	571	3-5	600	2-2	1000	0	4	4	17	2	2	1	0	0	13	11.3	
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	*	27:03	6-11	545	5-9	556	1-2	500	0	4	4	20	1	2	2	0	1	18	12.3	
Longwood	12/21/2020	*	19:56	2-6	333	1-4	250	2-2	1000	0	0	0	18	1	1	0	0	1	7	11.6	
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	*	24:36	2-7	286	1-2	500	2-2	1000	0	1	1	17	1	1	2	2	0	7	11.1	
at Louisville	01/06/2021	*	27:40	5-8	625	0-2	000	5-5	1000	0	1	1	16	3	3	3	0	3	15	11.5	
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	*	20:54	0-6	000	0-2	000	0-0	000	0	4	4	18	4	1	2	0	1	0	10.5	
Duke	01/12/2021	*	25:49	2-7	286	1-2	500	2-2	1000	0	2	2	18	2	2	0	1	0	7	10.2	
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	*	26:32	1-7	143	1-5	200	2-4	500	0	2	2	18	1	1	2	1	1	5	9.8	
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	*	33:55	6-17	353	5-10	500	3-3	1000	1	3	4	20	0	1	0	0	1	20	10.5	
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	*	31:58	7-14	500	1-3	333	0-0	000	0	9	9	25	3	5	3	0	0	15	10.8	
Virginia	01/30/2021	*	29:06	1-4	1250	1-1	1000	0-0	000	0	4	4	26	1	1	3	0	0	3	10.3	
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021	*	33:53	1-8	250	0-2	000	2-3	667	1	3	4	26	4	3	0	0	1	4	9.9	
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021	*	31:45	4-6	667	2-3	667	0-0	000	0	2	2	26	2	2	1	0	2	10	9.9	
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021	*	34:05	3-12	250	2-7	286	4-5	800	0	1	1	25	2	0	4	0	0	12	10.1	
Wake Forest	02/27/2021	*	27:15	4-8	500	3-6	500	2-2	1000	0	5	5	27	3	5	3	0	0	13	10.2	
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021	*	27:58	4-8	500	4-6	667	0-1	000	0	4	4	27	4	2	1	0	0	12	10.3	
Totals			20	585:53	70-181	.387	38-93	.409	38-46	.826	3	54	57	27	43	36	30	2	14	216	10.3

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
21	27.9	10.3	38.7	40.9	82.6	2.7	1.7	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.1

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN/AVG	Field Goals	3-Point	F-Throws	Rebounds	Scoring												
				FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF-FO	AST	T	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
2019-20	Hokies	32-27	832/26.0	92-237	.388	49-126	.389	48-63	.762	6	69	75	2.3	51-1	46	27	6	12	281	8.8
2020-21	Hokies	21-20	586/27.9	70-181	.387	38-93	.409	38-46	.826	3	54	57	2.7	43-0	36	30	2	14	216	10.3
TOTAL		53-47	1418/26.7	162-418	.388	87-219	.397	86-109	.789	9	123	132	2.5	94-1	82	57	8	26	497	9.4



DAVID N'GUESSAN (Guh-SAHN)

Freshman | 6-9 | 205
F | De Lier, Netherlands

High School
Mt. Zion Prep

Major: Sociology

5

AT THE RIM

- Has played in 20 games.
- Posted two points and a steal versus North Carolina (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament.
- Registered eight points, five rebounds, two steals and a block against Wake Forest (2/27).
- Followed up his best outing of the season with another double-digit scoring game, owning 10 points at Syracuse (1/23).
- Turned in his best game yet, recording a career-high 13 points, including three and-1s, at Wake Forest (1/17).
- A consensus three-star by Rivals and 247 Sports.
- Averaged 15 points, seven rebounds and three assists per game at Mt. Zion Prep during the 2019-20 season.
- Led the Warriors to two elite eight appearances in the National Prep School Championship.
- Rated 39th-best power forward and sixth-best player in the state of Maryland on 247 Sports.
- Chose the Hokies over St. Joseph's, VCU and Washington St.
- Born in De Lier, The Netherlands.
- His brother Lucas played basketball at East Tennessee State.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	13 at Wake Forest 01/17/21
Rebounds	7 vs Longwood 12/21/20
Assists	2 at Miami (FL) 02/06/21, at Pittsburgh 02/03/21
Steals	2 vs Wake Forest 02/27/21, vs Longwood 12/21/20
Blocks	1 vs Wake Forest 02/27/21, vs South Fla. 11/29/20
FG Made	5 at Wake Forest 01/17/21
FG Attempts	5 at Syracuse 01/23/21, at Wake Forest 01/17/21, vs Wake Forest 02/27/21
3FG Attempts	1 vs Radford 11/25/20, vs Wake Forest 02/27/21
FT Made	3 at Wake Forest 01/17/21
FT Attempts	5 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20, vs Wake Forest 02/27/21

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total	3-Pointers	Free throws	Rebounds	PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG						
				FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-3FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG							
Radford	11/25/2020		06:36	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020		07:42	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.5	2	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
VMI	12/03/2020		07:57	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	3	5	2.0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
Penn St.	12/08/2020		11:39	2-2	1000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	2	4	2.5	0	1	0	0	0	5	1.5
Clemson	12/15/2020		05:03	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	1	3	2.6	1	0	1	0	0	0	1.2
Coppin St.	12/19/2020		18:06	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	2-5	.400	1	5	6	3.2	5	0	3	0	1	4	1.7
Longwood	12/21/2020		17:16	2-2	1000	0-0	.000	1-4	.250	1	6	7	3.7	2	0	1	0	2	5	2.1
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020		02:10	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1.9
at Louisville	01/06/2021		05:55	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	3.2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.7
Notre Dame	01/10/2021		06:43	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	2.9	2	1	0	0	0	2	1.7
Duke	01/12/2021		10:02	1-1	1000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	2.9	1	0	1	0	0	2	1.7
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021		13:58	5-5	1000	0-0	.000	3-3	1000	0	1	1	2.8	1	0	0	0	0	13	2.7
at Syracuse	01/23/2021		13:46	4-5	800	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	0	1	1	2.6	4	1	0	0	0	10	3.2
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021		15:22	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-4	.000	2	2	4	2.7	4	0	1	0	0	0	3.0
Virginia	01/30/2021		07:21	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	0	1	2.6	0	0	1	0	0	1	2.9
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021		10:22	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.5	2	0	0	0	0	0	2.7
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021		08:50	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.5	1	2	0	0	0	2	2.6
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021		06:29	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	2.4	3	0	0	0	0	0	2.5
Wake Forest	02/27/2021		19:09	3-5	.600	0-1	.000	2-5	.400	1	4	5	2.5	1	0	1	2	1	2	2.8
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021		04:37	1-1	1000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	2.4	0	0	1	0	1	2	2.8
Totals			0																	



GRANT YATES

r-Sophomore | 6-8 | 205
F | Gainesville, Va.

High School/Last School
Battlefield/Christopher Newport

Major: Finance - investment
management

10



GILL WILLIAMSON

Freshman | 6-8 | 195
F | Richmond, Va.

High School
St. Christopher's

Major: Business management

11

AT THE RIM

- Has played in two games.
 - Pulled down his first collegiate board vs. Longwood (12/21).
 - Played his first game as a Hokie against Coppin State (12/19), coming for two minutes off the bench and took a 3-point shot.
 - Sat out 2019-20 due to NCAA transfer rules.
 - Walk-on after transferring from Christopher Newport University.
 - At Christopher Newport, he appeared in 19 games as a freshman in the 2018-19 season.
 - Scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds on the season.
- High School: Played all four years for head coach Randall Bills at Battlefield High School.
- Helped lead team to Northern District championship.
 - Born in Fairfax, Virginia.
 - Son of Brad and Signe Yates.
 - Has one sister, Ella.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Rebounds	1 vs Longwood 12/21/20
FG Attempts	1 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
3FG Attempts	1 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds				PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
				FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-3FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG							
Coppin St.	12/19/2020		02:26	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Longwood	12/21/2020		01:28	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals			0 03:54	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
2	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN	AVG	Field Goals		3-Point		F-Throws		Rebounds				Scoring					
					FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF-FO	AST	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS
2020-21	Hokies	2-0	4/2.0	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	2-0	4/2.0	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	

AT THE RIM

- Has played in two games.
- Gathered an offensive rebound versus Longwood (12/21).
- In his first-ever game as a Hokie, recorded a rebound and a block against Coppin State (12/19) in two minutes of action.
- A three-sport athlete in high school at St. Christopher's, playing basketball, football and lacrosse.
- All-conference basketball player for head coach Hamil Jones, while being an all-state quarterback under head coach Lance Clelland in football and a three-year letterwinner for head coach John Burke in lacrosse.
- Honor roll student and three-time merit list member.
- Chose the Hokies over JMU and Virginia.
- Born in Richmond, Virginia.
- Son of Randy and Karen Williamson.
- Has two sisters, Elise and Madison.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Rebounds	1 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20, vs Longwood 12/21/20
Blocks	1 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
FG Attempts	1 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds				PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
				FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-3FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG							
Coppin St.	12/19/2020		02:26	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Longwood	12/21/2020		01:28	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Totals			0 03:54	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	1.0	1	0	1	0	0	0.0	

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
2	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN	AVG	Field Goals		3-Point		F-Throws		Rebounds				Scoring					
					FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF-FO	AST	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS
2020-21	Hokies	2-0	4/2.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	1.0	1-0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	2-0	4/2.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	1	1	2	1.0	1-0	0	0	1	0	0.0	





DARIUS MADDOX

Freshman | 6-5 | 185
G | Bowie, Md.

High School
Oak Hill Academy

Major: Sports media & analytics

13

AT THE RIM

- Has played in 11 games this season.
- Played one minute at Notre Dame (1/27).
- Dished out an assist at Syracuse (1/23).
- Off the bench, was on the court for two minutes at Wake Forest (1/17) in the first half.
- Blocked his first collegiate shot against Miami (Fla.) (12/29).
- Tallied career highs in points (9), 3-pointers made (3), assists (1), rebounds (1) and minutes (9) against Coppin State (12/19).
- Scored over 350 points last year at St. John's High School.
- Led the Cadets to a 27-12 record and finishing with a top-10 ranking in the state via MaxPreps.
- Rated 92nd overall and the 20th-best shooting guard on Rivals.
- Tabbed 93rd overall and 22nd-best shooting guard on ESPN.
- Ranks 84th overall and the 14th-best shooting guard on 247 Sports.
- Chose the Hokies over Cincinnati, Creighton, Georgetown and Seton Hall.
- Born in Rochester, New York.
- Son of Shawn and Stephanie Maddox.
- Brother of Lauryn, Destiny and Justice.
- Majoring in sports media and analytics.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	9 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
Rebounds	1 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20, vs Longwood 12/21/20
Assists	1 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20, at Syracuse 01/23/21, vs Longwood 12/21/20
Blocks	1 vs Miami (FL) 12/29/20
FG Made	3 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
FG Attempts	4 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
3FG Made	3 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
3FG Attempts	3 vs Coppin St. 12/19/20

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total			3-Pointers			Free throws			Rebounds			PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
				FG	F-GA	PCT	3FG	3F-GA	PCT	FT	F-TA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT							
Radford	11/25/2020	02:09	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
Penn St.	12/08/2020	02:42	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	09:22	3-4	.750	3-3	1.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	0.3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	9	3.0	
Longwood	12/21/2020	03:56	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	0.5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.3	
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	06:00	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.8	
at Louisville	01/06/2021	01:19	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	02:24	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.3	
Duke	01/12/2021	02:25	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.1	
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	02:07	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	02:36	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.9	
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	00:41	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	
Totals			0	.35:41	3-11	.273	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2	0	2	0.2	3	3	1	1	0	9	0.8	

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
11	3.2	0.8	27.3	42.9	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.1

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP	GS	Field Goals			3-Point			F-Throws			Rebounds			Scoring				
				FG	F-GA	FG%	3FG	3F-GA	3FG%	FT	F-TA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	FO	AST	TOT
2020-21	Hokies	11-0	36/3.2	3-11	.273	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2	0	2	0.2	3-0	3	1	1	0	9	0.8
TOTAL		11-0	36/3.2	3-11	.273	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2	0	2	0.2	3-0	3	1	1	0	9	0.8



JALEN CONE

Sophomore | 5-10 | 165
G | Walkertown, N.C.

High School
Walkertown

Major: Human Development

15

2020-21 ACC Men's Basketball All-Academic Team

AT THE RIM

- Has played in 15 games, starting four contests.
- Missed first three games of the season due to coming back from an offseason injury and missed Tech's most recent games (Georgia Tech, Wake Forest) due to an injury.
- Played only five minutes at Miami (Fla.) (2/6) before getting injured and having to leave the game.
- Made three triples, his most since Jan. 12, at Pitt (2/3) and had two rebounds and two assists.
- Poured in a career-high 23 points thanks to tying his career best of six 3-pointers and had three rebounds and a steal at RV/ No. 25 Louisville (1/6).
- Played in all 32 games in 2020-21, drawing three starts.
- Made 2.20 triples per game in ACC play, which is sixth.
- Reclassified from the 2020 class and graduated from high school this past summer a year early.
- Ranked 53rd in the ESPN 100 rankings for the Class of 2020.
- Has a daughter named Ivy Faithe Cone.

Statistic	Value
Points	23 at Louisville 01/06/21
Rebounds	7 vs North Carolina 01/22/20
Assists	4 vs Lehigh 11/16/19, vs Coppin St. 12/19/20
Steals	2 at Notre Dame 03/07/20, at Notre Dame 01/27/21
Blocks	1 vs North Carolina 01/22/20, at Notre Dame 01/27/21
FG Made	7 at Louisville 01/06/21
FG Attempts	15 vs Longwood 12/21/20
3FG Made	6 vs North Carolina 01/22/20, at Louisville 01/06/21, vs Longwood 12/21/20
3FG Attempts	15 vs Longwood 12/21/20
FT Made	7 at Georgia Tech 02/04/20
FT Attempts	7 vs Miami (FL) 02/19/20, at Georgia Tech 02/04/20

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total			3-Pointers			Free throws			Rebounds			PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
				FG	F-GA	PCT	3FG	3F-GA	PCT	FT	F-TA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT							
VMI	12/03/2020	14:07	1-4	.250	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3.0		
Penn St.	12/08/2020	19:24	4-12	.333	3-8	.375	0-0	.000	1	1	2	1.5	0	1	0	0	0	0	11	7.0		
Clemson	12/15/2020	12:23	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4.7		
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	22:20	6-12	.500	5-11	.455	1-1	1.000	0	1	1	1.3	2	4	0	0	0	0	18	8.0		
Longwood	12/21/2020	20:16	6-15	.400	6-15	.400	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	10.0		
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	15:04	5-10	.500	2-7	.286	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.0	0	2	0	0	0	1	12	10.3		
at Louisville	01/06/2021	29:23	7-14	.500	6-12	.500	3-3	1.000	0	3	3	1.3	2	0	1	0	1	1	23	12.1		
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	24:43	5-12	.417	4-10	.400	4-6	.667	0	0	0	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	18	12.9			
Duke	01/12/2021	20:19	4-9	.444	3-5	.600	3-3	1.000	0	1	1	1.1	2	1	2	0	1	14	13.0			
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	17:36	0-4	.000	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	1.0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	11.7		
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	20:37	1-9	.111	1-8	.125	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.9	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	10.9		
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	* 22:55	1-6	.167	1-5	.200	0-0	.000	1	0	1	0.9	2	1	2	1	2	3	10.3			
Virginia	01/30/2021	* 26:03	2-6	.333	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	0	2	2	1.0	1	0	2	0	0	6	9.9			
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021	* 30:43	3-9	.333	3-9	.333	0-0	.000	0	2	2	1.1	2	2	2	0	0	9	9.9			
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021	* 05:03	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.2		
Totals			4	300:57	45-126	.357	37-106	.349	11-13	.846	2	14	1.6	1.5	14	12	1	6	138	9.2		

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
15	20.1	9.2	35.7	34.9	84.6	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.4	0.1

SEASON	TEAM	GP	GS	Field Goals			3-Point			F-Throws			Rebounds			Scoring				
				FG	F-GA	FG%	3FG	3F-GA	3FG%	FT	F-TA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	FO	AST	TOT
2019-20	Hokies	32-3	589/18.4	80-196	.408	64-140	.457	31-35	.886	4	32	36	1.1	47-0	22	30	1	6	255	8.0
2020-21	Hokies	15-4	301/20.1	45-126	.357	37-106	.349	11-13	.846	2	14	16	1.1	15-0	14	12	1	6	138	9.2
TOTAL		47-7	890/18.9	125-322	.388	101-246	.411	42-48	.875	6	46	52	1.1	62-0	36	42	2	12	393	8.4



JOHN OJIAKO (OH-gee-ah-co)

Sophomore | 6-10 | 235
F | Lagos, Nigeria

High School
Admiral Farragut

Major: Human nutrition, foods and exercise

21

AT THE RIM

- Missed the first nine games of the season due to a knee injury and has played in six contests.
- Posted one rebound and two blocks vs. Wake Forest (2/27).
- Played for two minutes against then-No. 8/8 Virginia (1/30).
- Came off the bench for one second right before halftime at Notre Dame (1/27).
- Played three minutes at Syracuse (1/23).
- In just his second game of action, put down a dunk for his first points of the season at Wake Forest (1/17).
- Made his first appearance of the season at RV/No. 25 Louisville (1/6) and logged one minute of action.
- Played in 31 games, drawing two starts in 2019-20.
- Tallied four points, seven rebounds and two blocks vs. North Carolina (3/10) in the first round of the ACC Tournament.
- Earned the first start of his career against [RV/RV] Virginia (2/26), logging two points, three rebounds and a block.
- Played a career-high 23 minutes and swatted a career-best five blocks and had six rebounds & six points vs. Miami (2/19).
- Originally from Nigeria, played his high school basketball first in Kentucky and last year in St. Petersburg, Florida.
- Rated as No. 25 center in the nation and No. 10 player in Florida by ESPN.
- Three-star prospect on 247 Sports and Rivals.com.
- Hopes to become a medical doctor.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	15 vs UMES 12/29/19
Rebounds	9 vs Pittsburgh 02/15/20, vs Gardner-Webb 12/15/19
Assists	1 at Louisville 03/01/20, vs VMI 12/21/19
Steals	2 vs USC Upstate 11/13/19
Blocks	5 vs Miami (FL) 02/19/20
FG Made	5 vs UMES 12/29/19
FG Attempts	10 vs UMES 12/29/19
FT Made	5 vs UMES 12/29/19
FT Attempts	6 vs UMES 12/29/19

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG	
at Louisville	01/06/2021	00:51	0-0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	01:46	1-1	1-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.0
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	03:28	0-0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.7
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	00:00	0-0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5
Virginia	01/30/2021	02:26	0-1	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4
Wake Forest	02/27/2021	07:51	0-2	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0.3
Totals		0	16:23	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0.3

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
6	2.7	0.3	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN	AVG	Field Goals FG-FGA	FG%	3-Point 3FG-FGA	3FG%	F-Throws FT-FTA	FT%	Rebounds OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	FO	AST	T	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG	
2019-20	Hokies	31-2	325	10.5	33-61	.541	0-0	.000	19-28	.679	35	50	85	2.7	47-2	2	17	23	6	85	2.7
2020-21	Hokies	6-0	16	2.7	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	1	1	0.2	4-0	0	1	2	0	2	0.3
TOTAL		37-2	342	9.2	34-65	.523	0-0	.000	19-30	.633	35	51	86	2.3	51-2	2	18	25	6	87	2.4



KEVE ALUMA (Kev-aye)

r-Junior | 6-9 | 235
F | Berlin, Md.

High School/Last School
Stephen Decatur/Wofford

Major: Human Development

22

Second-Team All-ACC

ACC Player of the Week (11/30, 2/1)

AT THE RIM

- Has played in all 21 games, drawing 21 starts.
- Almost had a double-double versus North Carolina (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament, with nine points and eight rebounds, and also had four assists and two steals.
- Had one of his better shooting outings against Wake Forest (2/27), going 9 of 11 from the field and 5 of 5 from downtown to score 23 points, and also recorded eight rebounds, two blocks, an assist and a steal in just 20 minutes of action.
- Played in 68 games, including starting 34 contests his sophomore season at Wofford.
- Averaged seven points and seven rebounds per game in 2018-19.
- In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	30 at Pittsburgh 02/03/21
Rebounds	14 vs Georgia Tech 02/23/21
Assists	5 at Miami (FL) 02/06/21, vs Georgia Tech 02/23/21, at Pittsburgh 02/03/21
Steals	3 vs Samford 01/24/19
Blocks	4 at Wake Forest 01/17/21
FG Made	10 vs Virginia 01/30/21, at Pittsburgh 02/03/21
FG Attempts	16 vs Miami (FL) 12/29/20, at Pittsburgh 02/03/21
3FG Made	5 vs Wake Forest 02/27/21
3FG Attempts	7 at Pittsburgh 02/03/21
FT Made	9 vs Clemson 12/15/20
FT Attempts	13 vs VMI 12/03/20

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total FG-FGA	PCT	3-Pointers 3FG-FGA	PCT	Free throws FT-FTA	PCT	Rebounds OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG			
Radford	11/25/2020	*	24:01	7-10	.700	3-5	.600	2-2	1.000	0	3	3	3	0	2	2	2	0	19	19.0	
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	*	38:55	9-14	.643	3-11	1.000	4-7	.571	2	6	8	5	2	1	3	2	0	23	21.0	
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020	*	24:04	5-8	.625	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	1	3	4	5	0	4	0	4	0	12	18.0	
VMI	12/03/2020	*	28:34	5-11	.455	0-4	.000	7-13	.538	4	8	12	6	2	0	1	1	2	17	17.8	
Penn St.	12/08/2020	*	24:24	4-11	.364	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	7	5	12	7	0	1	3	0	0	8	15.8	
Clemson	12/15/2020	*	25:34	2-4	.500	0-2	.000	9-12	.750	0	4	4	7	3	2	2	0	0	13	15.3	
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	*	26:49	4-10	.400	2-2	1.000	2-2	1.000	4	3	7	7	1	2	4	0	1	12	14.9	
Longwood	12/21/2020	*	24:23	5-8	.625	0-1	.000	4-7	.571	1	3	4	6	2	1	2	3	2	14	14.8	
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	*	31:18	9-16	.563	1-4	.250	7-10	.700	3	3	6	6	7	2	4	1	3	1	26	16.0
at Louisville	01/06/2021	*	34:49	3-10	.300	0-3	.000	5-8	.625	2	3	5	6	3	0	3	1	0	11	15.5	
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	*	34:28	5-9	.556	0-2	.000	5-6	.833	4	8	12	7	0	4	2	2	1	15	15.5	
Duke	01/12/2021	*	34:46	7-15	.467	0-2	.000	3-4	.750	1	6	7	7	0	1	1	0	1	17	15.6	
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	*	31:07	1-6	.167	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	2	9	11	7	3	2	4	4	0	5	14.8	
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	*	23:32	1-10	.100	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	3	1	4	7	1	4	4	1	0	2	13.9	
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	*	30:57	5-10	.500	0-1	.000	4-4	1.000	3	9	12	7	4	0	2	3	1	14	13.9	
Virginia	01/30/2021	*	36:18	10-15	.667	2-3	.667	7-8	.875	2	8	10	7	0	4	0	1	0	29	14.8	
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021	*	32:18	10-16	.625	4-7	.571	6-6	1.000	3	7	10	7	2	5	1	2	0	30	15.7	
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021	*	42:37	5-13	.385	0-5	.000	6-7	.857	1	5	6	7	6	4	5	1	1	16	15.7	
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021	*	34:33	5-15	.333	0-2	.000	2-4	.500	7	7	14	7	2	5	2	0	1	12	15.5	
Wake Forest	02/27/2021	*	20:14	9-11	.818	5-5	1.000	0-0	.000	2	6	8	8	0	1	1	2	2	23	15.9	
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021	*	34:51	4-13	.308	0-3	.000	1-1	1.000	2	6	8	8	0	3	4	1	1	2	9	15.6
Totals		21	638:15	115-235	.489	20-57	.351	77-106	.726	54	113	167	8.0	47	46	40	28	14	327	15.6	

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
21	30.4	15.6	48.9	35.1	72.6	8.0	2.2	1.9	1.2	0.7	1.3

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN	AVG	Field Goals FG-FGA	FG%	3-Point 3FG-FGA	3FG%	F-Throws FT-FTA	FT%	Rebounds OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	FO	AST	T	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG	
2017-18	WOF	33-2	439	13.3	30-53	.566	0-0	.000	24-42	.571	45	68	113	3.4	63-2	18	20	13	6	84	2.5
2018-19	WOF	35-34	930	26.6	94-141	.667	0-1	.000	54-94	.574	92	147	239	6.8	81-3	34	36	31	23	242	6.9
2020-21	Hokies	21-21	638	30.4	115-235	.489	20-57	.351	77-106	.726	54	113	167	8.0	47-0	46	40	28	14	327	15.6
TOTAL FOR Hokies	21-21	638/30.4	115-235	.489	20-57	.351	77-106	.726	54	113	167	8.0	47-0	46	40	28	14	327	15.6		
TOTAL		89-57	2008/22.6	239-429	.557	20-58	.345	155-242	.640	191	328	519	5.8	191-5	98	96	72	43	653	7.3	



TYRECE RADFORD (TIE-reese)

r-Sophomore | 6-2 | 200
G | Baton Rouge, La.

High School
Cushing Academy

Major: Human development

23

ACC Co-Player of the Week (1/17)

AT THE RIM

- Has played in 17 games, drawing 17 starts.
- Turned in his third 20-point game of the season and sixth of his career with 20 points on 8-of-13 shooting versus North Carolina (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament, while grabbing six boards and earning an assist and a steal.
- Posted 15 points, six rebounds, two assists and a steal against Wake Forest (2/27).
- Turned in his second 20-point game of the season, recording 20 points on 6-of-7 shooting at Wake Forest (1/17).
- Played in all 32 games, drawing 29 starts in 2019-20.
- One of two ACC players last year to average more than 10 points, six boards and shoot 60% (NC State's DJ Funderburk).
- Finished ranked 14th in the ACC in offensive rebounds per game with a 2.23 average. He had 70 on the year.
- Redshirted in 2018-19 after being a four-year starter in the state of Louisiana during prep days.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	26 vs Miami (FL) 02/19/20
Rebounds	13 at Wake Forest 01/14/20, vs Villanova 11/28/20
Assists	5 times
Steals	4 at Wake Forest 01/14/20
Blocks	2 vs Coppin St. 11/08/19, vs NC State 01/11/20, vs Clemson 12/15/20
FG Made	10 vs Miami (FL) 02/19/20, at Miami (FL) 01/28/20
FG Attempts	21 vs Miami (FL) 02/19/20
3FG Made	2 vs Wake Forest 02/27/21
3FG Attempts	3 times
FT Made	8 at Wake Forest 01/17/21
FT Attempts	12 at Wake Forest 01/14/20

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total FG-FGA	3FG-3FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	A	T/O	B/LK	STL	PTS	AVG				
Radford	11/25/2020	*	29:44	4-9	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	1	2	3	3.0	1	5	1	0	1	9	9.0		
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	*	44:23	3-6	5-0	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	2	11	13	8.0	1	5	2	0	8	8.5		
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020	*	26:35	9-12	7-50	1-3	.333	2-2	1.000	0	3	3	6.3	1	0	1	1	21	12.7		
VMI	12/03/2020	*	33:54	3-10	3-00	1-3	.333	6-7	.857	4	2	6	6.3	1	1	2	0	11	13.28		
Penn St.	12/08/2020	*	33:26	1-6	.167	0-3	.000	2-4	.500	1	4	5	6.0	3	3	1	1	4	11.0		
Clemson	12/15/2020	*	36:05	5-11	.455	0-0	.000	5-6	.833	0	2	2	5.3	2	1	2	2	15	17.7		
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	*	15:13	1-1	1.000	1-1	1.000	2-4	.500	2	2	4	5.1	3	1	0	0	5	10.7		
Longwood	12/21/2020	*	27:11	4-7	.571	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	4	4	8	5.5	0	3	1	1	0	9	10.5	
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	*	34:00	6-9	.667	0-1	.000	1-1	1.000	1	8	9	5.9	2	1	0	0	13	10.6		
at Louisville	01/06/2021	*	30:42	1-4	.250	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	1	3	4	5.7	1	2	0	0	1	2	9.9	
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	*	29:20	4-7	.571	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	4	4	8	5.9	3	0	1	0	0	9	9.8	
Duke	01/12/2021	*	33:46	7-12	.583	0-0	.000	4-7	.571	4	8	12	6.4	3	5	3	1	0	18	10.5	
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	*	31:43	6-7	.857	0-0	.000	8-9	.889	2	2	4	6.2	0	2	0	2	20	11.2		
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	*	31:05	4-7	.571	1-2	.500	1-2	.500	4	3	7	6.3	2	1	2	0	0	10	11.1	
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021	*	36:33	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	3-3	1.000	0	3	3	6.1	1	2	0	1	0	11	11.1	
Wake Forest	02/27/2021	*	28:14	5-7	.714	2-2	1.000	3-5	.600	3	3	6	6.1	2	2	0	0	1	15	14.4	
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021	*	36:05	8-13	.615	0-0	.000	4-4	1.000	1	5	6	6.1	1	1	1	0	1	20	11.9	
Totals			17	537:58	75-134	.560	7-22	.318	45-60	.750	34	69	103	6.1	27	35	17	7	10	202	11.9

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
17	31.6	11.9	56.0	31.8	75.0	6.1	2.1	1.0	2.1	0.6	0.4

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN/AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF-FO	AST	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG			
2019-20	Hokies	32-29	847/26.5	134-222	.604	1-12	.083	56-81	.691	70	129	199	6.2	47-0	55	25	10	31	325	10.2
2020-21	Hokies	17-17	539/31.6	75-134	.560	7-22	.318	45-60	.750	34	69	103	6.1	27-0	35	17	7	10	202	11.9
TOTAL		49-46	1385/28.3	209-356	.587	8-34	.235	101-141	.716	104	198	102	6.2	74-0	90	42	17	41	527	10.8



JUSTYN MUTTS

r-Junior | 6-7 | 230
F | Millville, N.J.

High School/Last School
St. Augustine Prep/Delaware

Major: Agricultural & life sciences with a concentration in education

25

2020-21 ACC Men's Basketball All-Academic Team

AT THE RIM

- Has played in all 21 games, drawing 20 starts.
- Went off versus North Carolina (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament, tallying a season-high 24 points on 10-of-16 shooting, hitting three 3-pointers, and owning eight rebounds, an assist, one steal and a block.
- Displayed his versatility and then some at Miami (Fla.) (2/6), turning in an almost triple-double with a season-high 22 points, nine rebounds, a career-high six assists and two steals.
- Played in all 33 games at Delaware, starting 32 in 2019-20.
- Averaged 12.2 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.2 assists last year.
- Led Delaware in rebounding (12.2) and second in points (8.4).
- Appeared in 28 games at High Point, making 18 starts his freshman season in 2017-18; Big South All-Freshman Team.
- Chose the Hokies over Mississippi State and Houston.
- Graduated with a psychology degree from Delaware.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	30 at Hofstra 01/23/20
Rebounds	16 vs UMES 11/29/19
Assists	7 at Miami (FL) 02/06/21
Steals	4 vs Villanova 12/14/19, at James Madison 01/09/20
Blocks	4 vs Hofstra 03/09/20
FG Made	14 at Hofstra 01/23/20
FG Attempts	17 at Hofstra 01/23/20
3FG Made	3 vs Miami (FL) 12/29/20, vs North Carolina 03/11/21
3FG Attempts	5 vs Miami (FL) 12/29/20, at Louisville 01/06/21, vs North Carolina 03/11/21
FT Made	8 vs UMES 11/29/19
FT Attempts	8 vs UMES 11/29/19, vs Columbia 12/02/19

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total FG-FGA	3FG-3FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF DEF TOT	AVG	PF	A	T/O	B/LK	STL	PTS	AVG				
Radford	11/25/2020	*	20:46	1-3	.333	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	4	4	4.0	4	1	0	2	2.0			
vs Villanova	11/28/2020	*	38:19	3-3	1.000	2-2	1.000	4-6	.667	1	5	6	5.0	4	1	4	0	2	12.70		
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020	*	25:49	1-5	.200	0-2	.000	1-2	.500	1	8	9	6.3	5	2	1	0	3	5.7		
VMI	12/03/2020	*	28:57	5-9	.556	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	4	5	9	7.0	4	6	3	1	0	10	6.8	
Penn St.	12/08/2020	*	14:11	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	6.2	0	0	3	1	0	0	5.4	
Clemson	12/15/2020	*	24:48	1-6	.167	0-3	.000	2-2	1.000	2	0	2	5.5	3	3	4	2	1	4	5.2	
Coppin St.	12/19/2020	*	24:48	2-4	.500	1-3	.333	4-4	1.000	1	5	6	5.6	1	0	4	3	0	9	7.7	
Longwood	12/21/2020	*	23:19	2-3	.667	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	2	3	5	5.5	1	1	2	0	0	4	5.5	
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020	*	34:40	5-11	.455	3-5	.600	2-5	.400	3	6	9	5.9	2	2	3	0	3	15	6.6	
at Louisville	01/06/2021	*	26:24	4-9	.444	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	3	5	8	6.1	4	1	1	0	1	10	6.9	
Notre Dame	01/10/2021	*	34:33	7-13	.538	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	4	3	7	6.1	3	2	1	0	0	14	7.5	
Duke	01/12/2021	*	29:58	4-5	.800	1-1	1.000	0-3	.000	0	5	5	6.3	3	2	0	0	0	9	7.7	
at Wake Forest	01/17/2021	*	28:31	1-4	.250	0-2	.000	3-4	.750	1	2	3	5.8	3	1	3	2	0	7.2		
at Syracuse	01/23/2021	*	29:16	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	0-3	.750	1	7	8	6.0	3	3	2	0	0	9	7.4	
at Notre Dame	01/27/2021	*	33:40	7-14	.500	0-1	.000	0-2	.000	1	11	11	6.3	3	3	0	3	0	14	7.8	
Virginia	01/30/2021	*	34:12	2-7	.286	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1	7	8	6.4	2	2	2	0	0	4	7.6	
at Pittsburgh	02/03/2021	*	37:44	7-12	.583	0-1	.000	3-5	.600	4	2	6	6.4	3	0	2	1	1	17	8.1	
at Miami (FL)	02/06/2021	*	39:57	9-14	.643	1-2	.500	3-5	.600	2	7	9	6.6	1	7	3	0	2	22	8.9	
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021	*	24:41	4-6	.667	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	2	3	5	6.5	3	1	4	1	0	9	8.9	
Wake Forest	02/27/2021	*	24:08	3-7	.429	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	0	5	5	6.4	1	2	2	1	2	9	8.9	
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021	*	35:29	10-16	.625	3-5	.600	1-5	.200	2	6	8	6.5	4	1	2	1	1	24	9.6	
Totals			20	614:10	81-157	.516	15-44	.341	25-49	.510	35	101	136	6.5	57	45	48	16	13	202	9.6

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
21	29.2	9.6	51.6	34.1	51.0	6.5	2.1	2.3	0.9	0.6	0.8

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	GP-GS	MIN/AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-
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CORDELL PEMSL

Graduate Student | 6-9 | 250
F | Dubuque, Iowa

High School/Last School
Wahlert/Iowa

Masters: Consumer studies

35

AT THE RIM

- Has played in 12 games.
- Missed nine games from Jan. 6-Feb. 6 due to injury.
- Pulled down a board and dished out an assist in five minutes of work versus North Carolina (3/11) in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament.
- Put together his best game yet as a Hokie, recording 10 points, which were his most since Nov. 24, 2019 against Cal Poly when he was at Iowa, and six rebounds in 18 minutes of action against USF (11/29), as all three were season highs.
- Played in 96 games at Iowa, starting 14 of those contests.
- Averaged 2.8 points, 3.2 rebounds and 1.2 assists last year.
- Turned in a 61.7 field-goal percentage in 2016-17, which ranks second all-time in Iowa's record book.
- Played arguably the best game of his college career at Cassell Coliseum, registering six points, a career-high 14 rebounds, including seven offensive, and a block versus Tech in the ACC/B1G Challenge on Nov. 28, 2017.
- Earned his undergrad degree in communications at Iowa.

CAREER HIGHS

Statistic	Value
Points	21 vs Stetson 12/05/16
Rebounds	14 at Virginia Tech 11/28/17
Assists	6 at Virginia Tech 11/28/17
Steals	4 vs South Dakota 03/15/17
Blocks	3 vs Rutgers 01/08/17
FG Made	9 vs Stetson 12/05/16
FG Attempts	12 vs Indiana 03/09/17
3FG Made	1 vs Maryland 01/10/20
3FG Attempts	1 5 times
FT Made	7 vs Wisconsin 01/23/18
FT Attempts	8 vs Alabama St. 11/12/17, vs Wisconsin 01/23/18, vs North Dakota 12/20/16

GAME-BY-GAME STATS

Opponent	Date	GS	MIN	Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds			PF	A	T/O	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG		
				FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-3FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT								AVG	
Radford	11/25/2020		07:05	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-4	.250	0	1	1	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	1.0		
vs Villanova	11/28/2020		06:57	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5		
vs South Fla.	11/29/2020		18:48	4-5	.800	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	3	3	6	2.7	3	0	1	0	10	3.7		
VMI	12/03/2020		09:20	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	2	3.3	
Penn St.	12/08/2020		21:23	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	0	5	5	3.2	1	1	0	0	0	2	3.0	
Clemson	12/15/2020		14:18	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	3-3	1.000	0	5	5	3.5	2	0	2	0	0	5	3.3	
Coppin St.	12/19/2020		03:52	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	3.1	0	0	0	0	0	2.9		
Longwood	12/21/2020		08:27	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1-1	1.000	2	1	3	3.1	2	1	1	0	0	3	2.9	
Miami (FL)	12/29/2020		08:42	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.9	1	0	1	0	0	2.6		
Georgia Tech	02/23/2021		03:48	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	2.8	1	0	0	0	0	2.3		
Wake Forest	02/27/2021		08:38	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.6	0	1	0	1	0	4	2.5	
vs North Carolina	03/11/2021		05:03	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.5	1	1	0	0	0	2.3		
Totals			0	116:21	10-18	.556	0-0	.000	7-11	.636	5	25	30	2.5	13	4	6	1	0	27	2.3

Player Averages

Games Played	Minutes/game	Points/game	FG Pct	3FG Pct	FT Pct	Rebounds/game	Assists/game	Turnovers/game	Assist/Turnover ratio	Steals/game	Blocks/game
12	9.7	2.3	55.6	0.0	63.6	2.5	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.1

CAREER STATS

SEASON	TEAM	Field Goals			3-Point		F-Throws		Rebounds			Scoring									
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF-FO	AST	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
2016-17	Iowa	34-14	655	19.3	116-188	.617	0-1	.000	69-120	.575	61	108	169	5.0	84-0	37	53	24	25	301	8.9
2017-18	Iowa	32-0	525	16.4	65-115	.565	0-0	.000	51-76	.671	37	107	144	4.5	53-0	47	45	10	7	181	5.7
2018-19	Iowa	2-0	29	14.7	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	4-4	1.000	3	5	8	4.0	5-0	2	5	1	0	8	4.0
2019-20	Iowa	28-0	355	12.7	26-53	.491	1-4	.250	26-42	.619	22	67	89	3.2	30-0	34	26	9	8	79	2.8
2020-21	Hokies	12-0	116	9.7	10-18	.556	0-0	.000	7-11	.636	5	25	30	2.5	13-0	4	6	1	0	27	2.3
TOTAL FOR Hokies		12-0	116	9.7	10-18	.556	0-0	.000	7-11	.636	5	25	30	2.5	13-0	4	6	1	0	27	2.3
TOTAL		108-14	1680	15.6	219-377	.581	1-5	.200	157-253	.621	128	312	440	4.1	185-0	124	135	45	40	596	5.5



NCAA STATS

Statistic	National Conference		Value National Leader		Value Conference Leader		
	Rank	Rank	Value	Leader	Value	Leader	
3-pt Field Goal Attempts (340 ranked)	200	11	485	Alabama	912	Notre Dame	642
Assist Turnover Ratio (340 ranked)	53	6	1.24	Iowa	2.01	Virginia	1.48
Assists Per Game (340 ranked)	87	8	14.4	Iowa	19.1	Duke	16.2
Blocked Shots Per Game (340 ranked)	69	7	4.0	Auburn	6.0	Florida St.	5.1
Defensive Rebounds per Game (340 ranked)	151	4	25.71	Wright St.	30.46	North Carolina	27.29
Fewest Fouls (340 ranked)	59	5	338	Howard	89	Virginia	310
Fewest Turnovers (340 ranked)	51	3	244	Howard	72	Virginia	226
Field-Goal Percentage (340 ranked)	104	7	45.1	Gonzaga	55.1	Virginia	48.0
Field-Goal Percentage Defense (340 ranked)	88	4	41.8	Houston	37.0	Florida St.	39.8
Free Throw Attempts (340 ranked)	217	8	393	Illinois	669	North Carolina	614
Free Throws Made (340 ranked)	219	9	274	Ohio St.	493	North Carolina	410
Free-Throw Percentage (340 ranked)	215	12	69.7	Oral Roberts	82.4	Virginia	81.7
Offensive Rebounds Per Game (340 ranked)	198	9	9.43	North Carolina	15.89	North Carolina	15.89
Personal Fouls Per Game (340 ranked)	82	8	16.1	Miami (FL)	12.3	Miami (FL)	12.3
Rebound Margin (340 ranked)	82	5	3.1	North Carolina	10.9	North Carolina	10.9
Scoring Defense (340 ranked)	53	3	65.5	Loyola Chicago	55.5	Virginia	60.5
Scoring Margin (340 ranked)	71	3	6.6	Gonzaga	23.0	Florida St.	8.6
Scoring Offense (340 ranked)	150	8	72.1	Gonzaga	92.1	Florida St.	78.9
Steals Per Game (340 ranked)	313	14	4.8	Eastern Ky.	10.3	Georgia Tech	9.2
Three Pt FG Defense (340 ranked)	137	4	33.0	Colgate	26.1	Louisville	30.5
Three-Point Field Goals Per Game (340 ranked)	83	7	8.2	Oral Roberts	11.3	Notre Dame	9.1
Three-Point Field-Goal Percentage (340 ranked)	81	5	35.7	Baylor	41.8	Florida St.	39.0
Total 3-point FGM (340 ranked)	163	10	173	Alabama	320	Notre Dame	236
Total Assists (340 ranked)	187	12	302	Iowa	555	North Carolina	433
Total Blocks (340 ranked)	116	10	83	Auburn	163	North Carolina	132
Total Rebounds (340 ranked)	250	13	738	Alabama	1,215	North Carolina	1,209
Total Rebounds Per Game (340 ranked)	181	7	35.14	Buffalo	43.96	North Carolina	43.18
Total Steals (340 ranked)	308	14	100	Eastern Ky.	299	Georgia Tech	230
Turnover Margin (340 ranked)	169	6	0.2	Abilene Christian	6.4	Georgia Tech	4.8
Turnovers Forced (340 ranked)	283	12	11.81	Abilene Christian	20.26	Georgia Tech	15.92
Turnovers Per Game (340 ranked)	64	6	11.6	Wisconsin	8.9	Virginia	9.4
Won-Lost Percentage (340 ranked)	48	3	71.4	Gonzaga	100.0	Virginia	75.0

Statistic	Player	National Conference		Value National Leader		Value Conference Leader		
		Rank	Rank	Value	Leader	Value	Leader	
3-pt Field Goal Attempts (339 ranked)					Rashad Williams, Oakland	277	Prentiss Hubb, Notre Dame	190
Assist Turnover Ratio (350 ranked)	Wabissa Bede	36	3	2.43	Jon Williams, Robert Morris	4.00	Jordan Goldwire, Duke	2.82
Assists Per Game (340 ranked)	Wabissa Bede	280	12	3.2	Jalen Moore, Oakland	8.4	Prentiss Hubb, Notre Dame	5.8
Blocked Shots Per Game (349 ranked)	Keve Aluma	106	9	1.33	KC Ndefo, Saint Peter's	3.64	Manny Bates, NC State	2.82
	Justyn Mutts	342	23	0.76				
Defensive Rebounds per Game (350 ranked)	Keve Aluma	132	7	5.38	Fardaws Aimaq, Utah Valley	10.68	Justin Champagnie, Pittsburgh	7.70
	Justyn Mutts	230	14	4.81				
Double Doubles (326 ranked)	Keve Aluma	76	5	6	Terry Taylor, Austin Peay	20	Justin Champagnie, Pittsburgh	14
Field-Goal Percentage (339 ranked)	Keve Aluma	102	8	48.9	Asbjorn Midtgaard, Grand Canyon	70.6	Jay Huff, Virginia	59.7
Free Throw Attempts (349 ranked)	Keve Aluma	162	4	106	Trayce Jackson-Davis, Indiana	229	Isaiah Wong, Miami (FL)	127
Free Throws Made (343 ranked)	Keve Aluma	178	4	77	Cameron Thomas, LSU	176	Isaiah Wong, Miami (FL)	102
Free-Throw Percentage (350 ranked)	Tyrece Radford	268	10	75.0	CJ Walker, Ohio St.	94.9	Jose Alvarado, Georgia Tech	84.6
	Keve Aluma	304	11	72.6				
Minutes Per Game (350 ranked)					Jamir Harris, American	38:56	Carlk Jones, Louisville	37:33
Offensive Rebounds Per Game (346 ranked)	Keve Aluma	99	6	2.57	Terry Taylor, Austin Peay	5.15	Day/Ron Sharpe, North Carolina	3.46
	Tyrece Radford	253	16	2.00				
Points Per Game (350 ranked)	Keve Aluma	211	8	15.6	Max Abmas, Oral Roberts	24.2	Matthew Hurt, Duke	18.3
Rebounds Per Game (349 ranked)	Keve Aluma	89	6	8.0	Fardaws Aimaq, Utah Valley	15.0	Justin Champagnie, Pittsburgh	11.1
	Justyn Mutts	237	16	6.5				
	Tyrece Radford	321	19	6.1				
Steals Per Game (342 ranked)					Jacob Gilyard, Richmond	3.52	Jose Alvarado, Georgia Tech	2.96
Three-Point Field Goals Per Game (349 ranked)	Nahiem Alleyne	323	14	1.81	Jamir Harris, American	3.90	Buddy Boeheim, Syracuse	2.86
Three-Point Field-Goal Percentage (91 ranked)					Chris Shelton, Hampton	48.6	Sam Hauser, Virginia	43.4
Total 3-point FGM (347 ranked)					Spencer Littleton, Toledo	101	Prentiss Hubb, Notre Dame	65
Total Assists (348 ranked)					Jalen Moore, Oakland	252	Prentiss Hubb, Notre Dame	152
Total Blocks (323 ranked)	Keve Aluma	131	9	28	KC Ndefo, Saint Peter's	91	Manny Bates, NC State	62
							Jay Huff, Virginia	62
Total Field Goal Attempts (347 ranked)					Isaiah Miller, UNC Greensboro	494	Isaiah Wong, Miami (FL)	360
Total Field Goals Made (345 ranked)	Keve Aluma	345	17	115	Luka Garza, Iowa	258	Moses Wright, Georgia Tech	175
Total Minutes (350 ranked)					Jalen Moore, Oakland	1134:50	Prentiss Hubb, Notre Dame	962:37
Total Points (347 ranked)	Keve Aluma	321	14	327	Luka Garza, Iowa	687	Isaiah Wong, Miami (FL)	462
Total Rebounds (350 ranked)	Keve Aluma	161	9	167	Fardaws Aimaq, Utah Valley	330	Armando Bacot, North Carolina	223
Total Steals (336 ranked)					Jose Alvarado, Georgia Tech	74	Jose Alvarado, Georgia Tech	74
					Jacob Gilyard, Richmond	74		
Triple Doubles (4 ranked)					Chandler Vaudrin, Winthrop	3		



COMBINED SEASON STATS

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	15-6	10-2	3-3	2-1
CONFERENCE	9-4	6-1	3-3	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	6-2	4-1	0-0	2-1

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	OT	TOT
Virginia Tech	699	793	23	1515
Opponents	623	742	11	1376

Team Box Score

No.	Player				Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds											
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	DQ	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
22	ALUMA, Keve	21-21	638:15	30.4	115-235	.489	20-57	.351	77-106	.726	54	113	167	8.0	47	0	46	40	28	14	327	15.6
23	RADFORD, Tyrece	17-17	537:58	31.6	75-134	.560	7-22	.318	45-60	.750	34	69	103	6.1	27	0	35	17	7	10	202	11.9
4	ALLEYNE, Nahiem	21-20	585:53	27.9	70-181	.387	38-93	.409	38-46	.826	3	54	57	2.7	43	0	36	30	2	14	216	10.3
25	MUTTS, Justyn	21-20	614:10	29.2	81-157	.516	15-44	.341	25-49	.510	35	101	136	6.5	57	1	45	48	16	13	202	9.6
15	CONE, Jalen	15-4	300:57	20.1	45-126	.357	37-106	.349	11-13	.846	2	14	16	1.1	15	0	14	12	1	6	138	9.2
0	CATTOOR, Hunter	21-2	462:28	22.0	53-114	.465	36-80	.450	34-43	.791	2	36	38	1.8	31	1	30	25	11	17	176	8.4
2	DIARRA, Cartier	4-0	78:18	19.6	10-23	.435	1-8	.125	9-13	.692	4	6	10	2.5	10	1	9	9	1	0	30	7.5
3	BEDE, Wabissa	21-21	540:34	25.7	33-96	.344	12-49	.245	8-11	.727	3	47	50	2.4	48	1	68	28	9	18	86	4.1
1	BAMISILE, Joe	13-0	116:10	8.9	17-46	.370	4-16	.250	7-8	.875	5	14	19	1.5	7	0	4	6	1	2	45	3.5
5	N'GUESSAN, David	20-0	199:04	10.0	21-36	.583	0-2	.000	13-31	.419	15	33	48	2.4	32	1	8	9	2	6	55	2.8
35	PEMSL, Cordell	12-0	116:21	9.7	10-18	.556	0-0	.000	7-11	.636	5	25	30	2.5	13	0	4	6	1	0	27	2.3
13	MADDOX, Darius	11-0	35:41	3.2	3-11	.273	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2	0	2	0.2	3	0	3	1	1	0	9	0.8
21	OJIAKO, John	6-0	16:23	2.7	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	1	1	0.2	4	0	0	1	2	0	2	0.3
10	YATES, Grant	2-0	03:54	2.0	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
11	WILLIAMSON, Gill	2-0	03:54	2.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.0
Team											33	25	58				12					
Total		21	4250		534-1183	.451	173-485	.357	274-393	.697	198	540	738	35.1	338	5	302	244	83	100	1515	72.1
Opponents		21	4250		487-1164	.418	151-458	.330	251-359	.699	173	499	672	32.0	363	9	227	248	70	123	1376	65.5

Team Statistics

	HOKIES	OPP
Scoring	1515	1376
Points per game	72.1	65.5
Scoring margin	+6.6	-
Field goals-att	534-1183	487-1164
Field goal pct	.451	.418
3 point fg-att	173-485	151-458
3-point FG pct	.357	.330
3-pt FG made per game	8.2	7.2
Free throws-att	274-393	251-359
Free throw pct	.697	.699
F-Throws made per game	13.0	12.0
Rebounds	738	672
Rebounds per game	35.1	32.0
Rebounding margin	+3.1	-
Assists	302	227
Assists per game	14.4	10.8
Turnovers	244	248
Turnovers per game	11.6	11.8
Turnover margin	+0.2	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.2	0.9
Steals	100	123
Steals per game	4.8	5.9
Blocks	83	70
Blocks per game	4.0	3.3
Winning streak	0	-
Home win streak	1	-
Attendance	3000	3658
Home games-Avg/Game	12-250	6-610
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	3-940

Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
11/25/2020	Radford	W	77-62	250
11/28/2020	vs Villanova	Wot	81-73	0
11/29/2020	vs South Fla.	W	76-58	0
12/03/2020	VMI	W	64-57	250
12/08/2020	Penn St.	L	55-75	250
12/15/2020	Clemson	W	66-60	250
12/19/2020	Coppin St.	W	97-57	250
12/21/2020	Longwood	W	84-58	250
12/29/2020	Miami (FL)	W	80-78	250
01/06/2021	at Louisville	L	71-73	2966
01/10/2021	Notre Dame	W	77-63	250
01/12/2021	Duke	W	74-67	250
01/17/2021	at Wake Forest	W	64-60	89
01/23/2021	at Syracuse	L	60-78	0
01/27/2021	at Notre Dame	W	62-51	103
01/30/2021	Virginia	W	65-51	250
02/03/2021	at Pittsburgh	L	72-83	500
02/06/2021	at Miami (FL)	Wot	80-76	0
02/23/2021	Georgia Tech	L	53-69	250
02/27/2021	Wake Forest	W	84-46	250
03/11/2021	vs North Carolina	L	73-81	2820



CONFERENCE SEASON STATS

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	9-4	6-1	3-3	0-0
CONFERENCE	9-4	6-1	3-3	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	OT	TOT
Virginia Tech	436	466	6	908
Opponents	391	462	2	855

Team Box Score

No.	Player	Total			3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				Other Stats									
		GP-GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	PF	DQ	A	TO	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
22	ALUMA, Keve	13-13	412:14	31.7	72-150	.480	12-37	.324	57-73	.781	33	76	109	8.4	30	0	35	20	19	6	213	16.4
23	RADFORD, Tyrece	9-9	291:27	32.4	42-70	.600	3-8	.375	26-35	.743	19	36	55	6.1	16	0	16	8	4	6	113	12.6
25	MUTTS, Justyn	13-13	402:32	31.0	57-113	.504	9-28	.321	15-32	.469	23	63	86	6.6	34	0	30	29	10	10	138	10.6
4	ALLEYNE, Nahiem	13-13	376:48	29.0	40-111	.360	20-50	.400	24-28	.857	3	40	43	3.3	28	0	27	24	2	11	124	9.5
0	CATTOOR, Hunter	13-0	322:15	24.8	37-82	.451	25-56	.446	19-23	.826	2	25	27	2.1	19	1	19	19	11	13	118	9.1
15	CONE, Jalen	11-4	224:49	20.4	28-83	.337	22-68	.324	10-12	.833	1	10	11	1.0	12	0	8	11	1	6	88	8.0
1	BAMISILE, Joe	5-0	61:05	12.2	9-22	.409	2-6	.333	1-1	1.000	0	6	6	1.2	5	0	4	3	0	2	21	4.2
3	BEDE, Wabissa	13-13	339:18	26.1	17-50	.340	6-29	.207	4-7	.571	2	30	32	2.5	31	0	36	16	7	10	44	3.4
5	N'GUESSAN, David	13-0	125:10	9.6	15-25	.600	0-1	.000	8-18	.444	8	17	25	1.9	21	0	7	4	1	2	38	2.9
35	PEMSL, Cordell	4-0	35:26	8.9	3-5	.600	0-0	.000	3-3	1.000	0	9	9	2.3	4	0	1	3	1	0	9	2.3
21	OJIAKO, John	6-0	16:23	2.7	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	1	1	0.2	4	0	0	1	2	0	2	0.3
13	MADDOX, Darius	7-0	17:32	2.5	0-6	.000	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.0
Team											20	15	35					9				
Total		13	2625		321-721	.445	99-287	.345	167-234	.714	111	328	439	33.8	204	1	184	147	59	66	908	69.8
Opponents		13	2625		297-707	.420	97-295	.329	164-218	.752	98	316	414	31.8	216	3	144	154	44	80	855	65.8

Team Statistics

	HOKIES	OPP
Scoring	908	855
Points per game	69.8	65.8
Scoring margin	+4.1	-
Field goals-att	321-721	297-707
Field goal pct	.445	.420
3 point fg-att	99-287	97-295
3-point FG pct	.345	.329
3-pt FG made per game	7.6	7.5
Free throws-att	167-234	164-218
Free throw pct	.714	.752
F-Throws made per game	12.8	12.6
Rebounds	439	414
Rebounds per game	33.8	31.8
Rebounding margin	+1.9	-
Assists	184	144
Assists per game	14.2	11.1
Turnovers	147	154
Turnovers per game	11.3	11.8
Turnover margin	+0.5	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.3	0.9
Steals	66	80
Steals per game	5.1	6.2
Blocks	59	44
Blocks per game	4.5	3.4
Winning streak	1	-
Home win streak	1	-
Attendance	1750	3658
Home games-Avg/Game	7-250	6-610
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	0-0

Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
12/15/2020	Clemson	W	66-60	250
12/29/2020	Miami (FL)	W	80-78	250
01/06/2021	at Louisville	L	71-73	2966
01/10/2021	Notre Dame	W	77-63	250
01/12/2021	Duke	W	74-67	250
01/17/2021	at Wake Forest	W	64-60	89
01/23/2021	at Syracuse	L	60-78	0
01/27/2021	at Notre Dame	W	62-51	103
01/30/2021	Virginia	W	65-51	250
02/03/2021	at Pittsburgh	L	72-83	500
02/06/2021	at Miami (FL)	Wot	80-76	0
02/23/2021	Georgia Tech	L	53-69	250
02/27/2021	Wake Forest	W	84-46	250





0
Hunter CATTOOR
G | 6-3 | 200 | So.
Orlando, Fla.
(cuh-TOUR)



1
Joseph "Joe" BAMISILE
G | 6-4 | 195 | Fr.
Chesterfield, Va.
(BAM-uh-sill)



2
Cartier DIARRA
G | 6-4 | 185 | Gr.
Florence, S.C.
(Car-tee-YAIRE JOTT-ah)



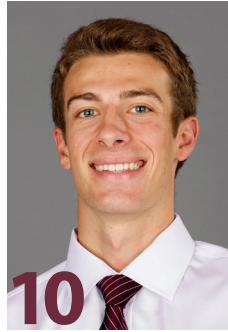
3
Wabissa BEDE
G | 6-0 | 195 | Gr.
North Andover, Mass.
(wa-BEE-sah BEE-dee)



4
Nahiem ALLEYNE
G | 6-4 | 195 | So.
Buford, Ga.
(na-HEEM ah-LEAN)



5
David N'GUESSAN
F | 6-9 | 205 | Fr.
De Lier, Netherlands
(Guh-SAHN)



10
Grant YATES
F | 6-8 | 1205 | r-So.
Gainesville, Va.



11
Gill WILLIAMSON
F | 6-8 | 195 | Fr.
Richmond, Va.



13
Darius MADDOX
G | 6-5 | 185 | Fr.
Bowie, Md.



15
Jalen CONE
G | 5-10 | 165 | So.
Walkertown, N.C.



21
John OJIAKO
F | 6-10 | 245 | So.
Lagos, Nigeria
(OH-gee-ah-co)



22
Keve ALUMA
F | 6-9 | 235 | r-Jr.
Berlin, Md.
(Kev-aye)



23
Tyrece RADFORD
G | 6-2 | 200 | r-So.
Baton Rouge, La.
(TIE-reese)



25
Justyn MUTTS
F | 6-7 | 230 | r-Jr.
Millville, N.J.



35
Cordell PEMSL
F | 6-9 | 250 | Gr.
Dubuque, Iowa



Mike YOUNG
Head Coach
Emory & Henry, 1986
Second season



Chester FRAZIER
Associate Head Coach
Illinois, 2009
Second season



Christian WEBSTER
Assistant Coach
Harvard, 2013
Fifth season



Kevin GILTNER
Assistant Coach
Wofford, 2012
Second season



BOX SCORES



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Virginia Tech at Pittsburgh
 02/03/21 Petersen Events Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 7:00 PM
 Game Duration: 2:00
 Attendance: 500

Officials: Bill Covington, Jr., Pat Driscoll, Jeffrey Anderson

Virginia Tech - 72

Record: 13-4 (7-3)

NO.	Name	Min	FG			FT			Rebounds		Fouls		TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks		+/-
			M-A	3P-M	A-M	OR	DR	OR	DR	PF	FD	BS					BA		
22	Keve Aluma	F	32:19	10-16	4-7	6-6	3	7	10	2	8	30	5	1	0	2	0	7	
25	Justyn Mutts	F	37:44	7-12	0-1	3-5	4	2	6	3	3	17	0	2	1	1	0	-10	
3	Wabissa Bede	G	25:36	0-5	0-4	0-0	0	3	4	0	0	5	1	0	1	0	-4		
4	Nahiem Alleyne	G	33:53	1-8	0-2	2-3	1	3	4	4	4	3	0	1	0	0	-6		
15	Jalen Cone	G	30:43	3-9	3-9	0-0	0	2	2	2	1	9	2	2	0	0	-17		
0	Hunter Cattoor		23:42	4-10	2-7	2-2	0	2	2	5	3	12	2	1	0	1	-3		
5	David N'Guessan		10:22	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	-6		
1	Joe Bamisile		05:42	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2		
Team							1	0	1	0	0	0	1						
Totals				25-61	9-30	13-16	10	21	31	21	18	72	19	8	2	5	2	-11	

Shooting By Period

1st FG%	12-31	38.7%
3PT%	4-14	28.6%
FT%	3-5	100%
2nd FG%	13-30	43.3%
3PT%	5-16	31.3%
FT%	10-13	76.9%
GM FG%	25-61	41.0%
3PT%	9-30	30.0%
FT%	13-16	81.3%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 1, 0

Pittsburgh - 83

Record: 9-5 (5-4)

NO.	Name	Min	FG			FT			Rebounds		Fouls		TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks		+/-
			M-A	3P-M	A-M	OR	DR	OR	DR	PF	FD	BS					BA		
11	Justin Champagne	F	32:49	3-8	0-3	4-4	3	10	13	5	4	10	2	1	0	0	1	9	
12	Abdoul Karim Coulibaly	F	27:27	1-1	0-0	3-4	0	1	1	3	2	5	0	1	1	2	0	6	
2	Femi Odukale	G	16:33	2-5	0-1	3-3	0	4	4	3	3	7	1	1	0	0	-6		
5	AuDiessa Toney	G	36:17	4-7	1-2	5-5	1	5	6	1	4	14	3	1	1	0	0	19	
22	Nike Sibande	G	07:46	0-3	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2		
1	Xavier Johnson		35:36	11-17	4-7	6-7	0	5	5	2	7	32	7	2	2	0	0	8	
0	Ithiel Horton		31:01	5-11	4-9	1-2	0	2	2	1	1	15	0	0	1	0	1	14	
21	Torrell Brown		12:31	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	
Team							2	2	2	0	0	0	0						
Totals				26-52	9-23	22-25	5	28	33	18	21	83	13	7	6	2	5	11	

Shooting By Period

1st FG%	11-26	42.3%
3PT%	4-14	28.6%
FT%	5-6	83.3%
2nd FG%	15-26	57.7%
3PT%	5-9	55.6%
FT%	17-19	89.5%
GM FG%	26-52	50.0%
3PT%	9-23	39.1%
FT%	22-25	88.0%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 3, 0

VT	Pitt	Points from Turnovers	VT	Pitt	Period by Period Scoring		
					1st	2nd	TOT
6 (2 nd 14:42)	15 (2 nd 4:24)	12	10	31	41	72	
8 (2 nd 18:19)	13 (2 nd 4:24)	30	28	31	41	72	
8	8	10	10	31	52	83	
07:05	26:15	12	47	12	47		



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Virginia at Virginia Tech
 01/02/21 Cassell Coliseum Backstage, Va.
 2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 6:00 PM
 Game Duration: 1:44
 Attendance: 250

Officials: Jamie Luckie, Clarence Armstrong, Jerry Heuler

Virginia - 51

Record: 11-3 (7-1)

NO.	Name	Min	FG			FT			Rebounds		Fouls		TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks		+/-
			M-A	3P-M	A-M	OR	DR	OR	DR	PF	FD	BS					BA		
10	Sam Hauser	F	33:53	4-10	2-7	0-0	2	3	5	3	1	10	1	0	1	0	0	-15	
30	Jay Huff	F	22:50	5-7	3-3	0-0	1	3	4	4	0	13	1	2	1	0	0	-12	
0	Kihel Clark	G	34:37	4-13	3-6	0-0	1	1	2	0	2	11	0	2	1	0	0	-13	
2	Reece Beekman	G	32:14	0-5	0-3	1-2	0	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	-11	
25	Trey Murphy III	G	33:59	3-7	2-5	2-2	1	5	6	3	3	10	1	1	1	0	0	-15	
13	Casey Morsell		24:54	2-7	0-4	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	-6	
22	Francisco Caffaro		05:02	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	
53	Tomas Woldensae		08:36	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	
4	Justin McKay		03:55	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-1	
Team							0	1	1	0	0	0	1						
Totals				19-52	10-28	3-4	5	19	24	16	8	51	9	9	6	1	4	-14	

Shooting By Period

1st FG%	11-25	44.0%
3PT%	7-15	46.7%
FT%	0-0	0%
2nd FG%	8-27	29.6%
3PT%	3-13	23.1%
FT%	3-4	75%
GM FG%	19-52	36.5%
3PT%	10-28	35.7%
FT%	3-4	75.0%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 1, 0

Virginia Tech - 65

Record: 13-3 (7-2)

NO.	Name	Min	FG			FT			Rebounds		Fouls		TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks		+/-
			M-A	3P-M	A-M	OR	DR	OR	DR	PF	FD	BS					BA		
22	Keve Aluma	F	36:01	10-15	2-3	7-8	2	8	10	0	9	29	4	0	0	1	1	22	
25	Justyn Mutts	F	34:12	2-7	0-2	0-0	1	7	8	2	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	22	
3	Wabissa Bede	G	26:05	2-3	1-1	2-2	0	4	4	2	4	7	5	3	1	1	0	15	
4	Nahiem Alleyne	G	29:06	1-4	1-1	0-0	0	4	4	1	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	13	
15	Jalen Cone	G	26:03	2-6	2-6	0-0	2	2	1	1	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	-6	
0	Hunter Cattoor		30:46	5-7	3-5	2-2	0	1	1	1	1	16	1	0	1	2	0	20	
5	David N'Guessan		07:21	0-1	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	-12	
21	John Ojako		02:26	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-4	
Team							0	0	0	0	0	0	1						
Totals				22-44	9-18	12-14	4	26	30	8	16	65	13	12	2	4	1	14	

Shooting By Period

1st FG%	8-21	38.1%
3PT%	2-8	25.0%
FT%	3-4	75%
2nd FG%	14-23	60.9%
3PT%	7-10	70.0%
FT%	9-10	90%
GM FG%	22-44	50.0%
3PT%	9-18	50.0%
FT%	12-14	85.7%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 1, 2

VT	Pitt	Points from Turnovers	VT	Pitt	Period by Period Scoring		
					1st	2nd	TOT
10 (2 nd 19:41)	16 (2 nd 2:50)	6	7	24	24	48	
3	3	12	24	3	24	27	
4	4	6	4	4	6	10	
08:05	08:05	6	16	6	16		



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Virginia Tech at Notre Dame
 01/27/21 Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN
 2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 7:00 PM
 Game Duration: 1:51
 Attendance: 103

Officials: Mike Stephens, Pat Adams, Jeff Poon

Virginia Tech - 62

Record: 12-3 (6-2)

NO.	Name	Min	FG			FT			Rebounds		Fouls		TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks		+/-
			M-A	3P-M	A-M	OR	DR	OR	DR	PF	FD	BS					BA		
22	Keve Aluma	F	30:57	5-10	0-1	4-4	3	9	12	3	7	14	0	2	1	3	2	13	
25	Justyn Mutts	F	33:40	7-14	0-1	0-2	0	11	11	3	1	14	3	0	0	3	1	14	
3	Wabissa Bede	G	32:21	1-6	1-6	0-0	0	3	3	2	1	3	3	0	2	0	0	6	
4	Nahiem Alleyne	G	31:58	7-14	1-3	0-0	0	9	9	3	0	15	5	3	0	0	1	10	
15	Jalen Cone	G	22:55	1-6	1-5	0-0	1	0	1	2	0	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	
0	Hunter Cattoor		24:44	4-9	4-7	1-2	0	3	3	0	2	13	1	1	3	0	2	15	
5	David N'Guessan		15:22	0-0	0-0	0-4	2	2											

BOX SCORES



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Virginia Tech at Wake Forest
 01/17/21 LVM Coliseum, Winston-Salem
 2020-21 Wake Forest Men's Basketball

Game Time: 6:00 PM
 Game Duration: 2:01
 Attendance: 89

Officials: Lee Cassell, Roger Ayers, Kipp Kissinger

Virginia Tech - 64																
Record: 11-2 (5-1)																
NO.	Name	Min	FG	3P	FT	Rebounds	Fouls	TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks	+/-			
			M/A	M/A	M/A	OR	DR	PF				BS	BA			
22	Keve Aluma	F	31:07	1-6	0-0	3-4	2	9	11	2	5	2	4	0	1	
25	Justyn Mutts	F	28:31	1-4	0-2	0-3	1	2	3	3	2	1	3	0	-1	
3	Wabissa Bede	G	20:31	2-4	0-1	0-0	1	4	5	2	1	4	2	1	-12	
4	Nahiem Alleyne	G	26:32	1-7	1-5	2-4	0	2	2	1	4	5	1	2	1	
23	Tyrece Radford	G	31:43	6-7	0-0	8-9	2	2	4	0	5	20	2	2	0	
13	Darius Maddox	G	02:07	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-5	
0	Hunter Cattoor	G	26:09	5-7	3-5	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	13	1	3	1	
15	Jalen Cone	G	17:36	0-4	0-4	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	10	
21	John Ojako	G	01:46	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4	
5	David N'Guessan	G	13:58	5-5	0-0	3-3	0	1	1	1	3	13	0	0	2	
Team						1	3	4		0	0					
Totals			22-46	4-18	16-23	7	23	30	12	20	64	10	15	5	9	4

Shooting By Period		
1 st	FG%	11-24 45.8%
	3PT%	2-10 20.0%
	FT%	5-9 55.6%
2 nd	FG%	11-22 50.0%
	3PT%	2-8 25.0%
	FT%	11-14 78.6%
GM	FG%	22-46 47.8%
	3PT%	4-18 22.2%
	FT%	16-23 69.6%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 3, 0

Wake Forest - 60																
Record: 3-5 (0-5)																
NO.	Name	Min	FG	3P	FT	Rebounds	Fouls	TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks	+/-			
			M/A	M/A	M/A	OR	DR	PF				BS	BA			
1	Isiah Mucius	F	28:07	4-9	1-3	1-2	4	2	6	5	2	10	1	2	1	
33	Ody Oguuma	F	20:21	4-6	0-0	1-2	2	0	2	3	1	9	0	1	0	
0	Jahocbi Neath	G	26:27	2-7	1-4	0-0	1	3	4	3	2	5	1	2	0	
4	Daivien Williamson	G	39:11	3-11	1-3	4-6	0	2	2	0	3	11	2	2	3	
20	Jonah Antonio	G	12:22	0-4	0-3	0-0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
30	Emmanuel Okpomo	G	09:04	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	
2	Jalen Johnson	G	10:12	1-3	0-1	1-2	1	1	2	1	1	3	0	1	0	
35	Carter Whit	G	14:22	1-5	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	1	0	
25	Ismael Massoud	G	22:10	4-9	3-6	1-1	3	4	3	2	12	0	1	0	0	
23	Isiah Wilkins	G	17:44	2-5	1-2	1-2	0	5	5	3	1	6	1	0	0	
Team						7	2	9		0	0					
Totals			22-60	7-23	9-15	16	21	37	20	12	60	8	13	10	0	4

Shooting By Period		
1 st	FG%	7-31 22.6%
	3PT%	3-10 30.0%
	FT%	6-10 60.0%
2 nd	FG%	15-29 51.7%
	3PT%	4-13 30.8%
	FT%	3-5 60.0%
GM	FG%	22-60 36.7%
	3PT%	7-23 30.4%
	FT%	9-15 60.0%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 5, 0

Virginia Tech - 74															
Record: 10-2 (4-1)															
NO.	Name	Min	FG	3P	FT	Rebounds	Fouls	TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks	+/-		
			M/A	M/A	M/A	OR	DR	PF				BS	BA		
22	Keve Aluma	F	34:46	7-15	0-2	3-4	1	6	7	1	4	17	1	0	1
25	Justyn Mutts	F	29:58	4-5	1-1	0-3	0	5	3	1	9	3	2	0	0
3	Wabissa Bede	G	18:21	1-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	2	1	0	0
4	Nahiem Alleyne	G	25:49	2-7	1-2	2-2	0	2	2	2	1	7	2	0	1
23	Tyrece Radford	G	33:46	7-12	0-0	4-7	4	8	12	3	9	18	5	3	0
0	Hunter Cattoor	G	24:34	2-4	1-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	2	5	3	1	1
5	David N'Guessan	G	10:02	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	1	0	2	0	1	0
15	Jalen Cone	G	20:19	4-9	3-5	3-3	0	1	2	1	14	1	2	1	0
13	Darius Maddox	G	02:25	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team						1	2			0	0				
Totals			28-56	6-14	12-19	6	28	34	16	18	74	16	10	3	5

Shooting By Period		
1 st	FG%	7-31 22.6%
	3PT%	3-10 30.0%
	FT%	6-10 60.0%
2 nd	FG%	15-29 51.7%
	3PT%	4-13 30.8%
	FT%	3-5 60.0%
GM	FG%	22-60 36.7%
	3PT%	7-23 30.4%
	FT%	9-15 60.0%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 5, 0



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Duke at Virginia Tech
 01/12/21 Cassell Coliseum, Blacksburg, VA
 2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 7:00 PM
 Game Duration: 1:59
 Attendance: 250

Officials: Jeffery Anderson, Tim Cougherty, Tony Henderson

Duke - 67															
Record: 5-3 (3-1)															
NO.	Name	Min	FG	3P	FT	Rebounds	Fouls	TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks	+/-		
			M/A	M/A	M/A	OR	DR	PF				BS	BA		
5	Jaemyn Brakefield	F	27:16	2-4	0-2	0-0	0	3	3	3	1	4	0	1	0
21	Matthew Hurt	F	38:00	8-16	4-8	0-2	0	11	11	3	2	20	0	2	1
2	DJ Steward	G	34:45	5-13	2-8	2-2	1	2	3	2	3	14	2	1	0
3	Jeremy Roach	G	34:04	6-14	2-7	8-8	1	1	2	4	5	22	1	3	0
14	Jordan Goldwire	G	31:00	0-5	0-2	1-2	1	2	3	4	3	1	6	3	4
1	Jalen Johnson	G	04:10	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
0	Wendell Moore Jr.	G	15:04	2-6	0-2	0-1	3	2	5	2	1	4	0	0	0
15	Mark Williams	G	02:04	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Joey Baker	G	13:19	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
51	Mike Bucknire	G	00:18	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team						3	4			0	1				
Totals			24-60	8-29	11-15	9	24	33	20	15	67	11	12	6	5

Shooting By Period		
1 st	FG%	12-26 46.2%
	3PT%	4-11 36.4%
	FT%	6-9 66.7%
2 nd	FG%	12-34 35.3%
	3PT%	4-18 22.2%
	FT%	5-6 83.3%
GM	FG%	24-60 40.0%
	3PT%	8-29 27.6%
	FT%	11-15 73.3%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 3, 2

Virginia Tech - 74															
Record: 10-2 (4-1)															
NO.	Name	Min	FG	3P	FT	Rebounds	Fouls	TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks	+/-		
			M/A	M/A	M/A	OR	DR	PF				BS	BA		
22	Keve Aluma	F	34:46	7-15	0-2	3-4	1	6	7	1	4	17	1	0	1
25	Justyn Mutts	F	29:58	4-5	1-1	0-3	0	5	3	1	9	3	2	0	0
3	Wabissa Bede	G	18:21	1-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	2	1	0	0
4	Nahiem Alleyne	G	25:49	2-7	1-2	2-2	0	2	2	2	1	7	2	0	1
23	Tyrece Radford	G	33:46	7-12	0-0	4-7	4	8	12	3	9	18	5	3	0
0	Hunter Cattoor	G	24:34	2-4	1-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	2	5	3	1	1
5	David N'Guessan	G	10:02	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	1	0	2	0	1	0
15	Jalen Cone	G	20:19	4-9	3-5	3-3	0	1	2	1	14	1	2	1	0
13	Darius Maddox	G	02:25	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team						1	2			0	0				
Totals			28-56	6-14	12-19	6	28	34	16	18	74	16	10	3	5

Shooting By Period		
1 st	FG%	19-30 63.3%
	3PT%	4-7 57.1%
	FT%	4-5 80%
2 nd	FG%	9-25 36.0%
	3PT%	2-7 28.6%
	FT%	6-8 75%
GM	FG%	28-56 50.0%
	3PT%	6-14 42.9%
	FT%	12-19 63.2%

Dead Ball Rebounds: 3, 0

Virginia Tech - 74															
Record: 10-2 (4-1)															
NO.	Name	Min	FG	3P	FT	Rebounds	Fouls	TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks	+/-		
			M/A	M/A	M/A	OR	DR	PF				BS	BA		
22	Keve Aluma	F	34:46	7-15	0-2	3-4	1	6	7	1	4	17	1	0	1
25	Justyn Mutts	F	29:58	4-5	1-1	0-3	0	5	3	1	9	3	2	0	0
3	Wabissa Bede	G	18:21	1-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	3	0				

BOX SCORES



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Miami at Virginia Tech
12/29/20 Cassell Coliseum, Blacksburg, VA
2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 6:00 PM
Game Duration: 2:01
Attendance: 250

Officials: Roger Ayers, Brian Dorsey, Clarence Armstrong

Table with columns: NO. Name, Min, FG, 3P, FT, Rebounds, Fouls, TP, AS, TO, ST, Blocks, +/-

Table with columns: NO. Name, Min, FG, 3P, FT, Rebounds, Fouls, TP, AS, TO, ST, Blocks, +/-

Summary statistics table including Points from Turnovers, Paint, Second Chance, Fast Breaks, Bench, and Hokies.



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Longwood at Virginia Tech
12/21/20 Cassell Coliseum, Blacksburg, VA
2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 8:00 PM
Game Duration: 1:52
Attendance: 250

Officials: Roger Ayers, Tim Cougherty, Jeb Hirtman

Table with columns: NO. Name, Min, FG, 3P, FT, Rebounds, Fouls, TP, AS, TO, ST, Blocks, +/-

Table with columns: NO. Name, Min, FG, 3P, FT, Rebounds, Fouls, TP, AS, TO, ST, Blocks, +/-

Summary statistics table including Points from Turnovers, Paint, Second Chance, Fast Breaks, Bench, and Hokies.



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Coppin State at Virginia Tech
12/19/20 Cassell Coliseum, Blacksburg, VA
2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 5:30 PM
Game Duration: 2:04
Attendance: 250

Officials: Anthony Franklin, Mark Schurz, Jeff Fazio

Table with columns: NO. Name, Min, FG, 3P, FT, Rebounds, Fouls, TP, AS, TO, ST, Blocks, +/-

Table with columns: NO. Name, Min, FG, 3P, FT, Rebounds, Fouls, TP, AS, TO, ST, Blocks, +/-

Summary statistics table including Points from Turnovers, Paint, Second Chance, Fast Breaks, Bench, and Hokies.



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Clemson at Virginia Tech
12/15/20 Cassell Coliseum, Blacksburg, VA
2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 6:30 PM
Game Duration: 2:07
Attendance: 250

Officials: Brett Smith, Tony Henderson, Clarence Armstrong

Table with columns: NO. Name, Min, FG, 3P, FT, Rebounds, Fouls, TP, AS, TO, ST, Blocks, +/-

Table with columns: NO. Name, Min, FG, 3P, FT, Rebounds, Fouls, TP, AS, TO, ST, Blocks, +/-

Summary statistics table including Points from Turnovers, Paint, Second Chance, Fast Breaks, Bench, and Hokies.



BOX SCORES



Official Basketball Box Score - Final
Radford at Virginia Tech
 11/25/20 Cassell Coliseum, Blacksburg, VA
 2020-21 Men's Basketball

Game Time: 12:00 PM
 Game Duration: 2:00
 Attendance: 250

Officials: Ted Valentine, Bill Covington, Tim Comer

Radford - 62		Record: 0-1													Shooting By Period												
NO.	Name	Min	FG		3P		FT		Rebounds		Fouls		TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks		+/-	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	TOT			
			M/A	A	M/A	A	M/A	A	OR	DR	PF	FD					BS	BA							FG%	3PT%	FT%
14	Chryse Walker	F 24:17	2-3	0-0	2-2	2-5	7-7	2-1	6-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	40.0%	25.0%	25.0%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
20	Dravon Mangum	F 33:41	4-10	1-5	3-4	1-3	4-4	2-3	12-11	1-1	0-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	81.8%	81.8%	81.8%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
22	Lewis Djonkam	C 19:31	1-4	0-0	2-6	2-1	3-3	2-4	4-4	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	39.3%	39.3%	39.3%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
0	FahMir Ali	G 31:53	2-12	1-3	5-6	1-3	4-4	0-4	10-5	3-1	0-0	2-7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	44.4%	44.4%	44.4%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
4	Josiah Jeffers	G 29:07	5-11	2-5	0-0	0-2	2-1	1-1	12-11	1-1	3-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	50%	50%	50%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
45	Xavier Lipscomb	20:35	2-3	1-1	0-0	0-1	1-1	0-0	5-11	4-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	39.6%	39.6%	39.6%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
1	Keiston Porter	18:57	2-5	0-2	1-1	0-4	4-4	0-3	5-11	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	35.3%	35.3%	35.3%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
11	Miles Jones	07:15	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-1	1-1	0-0	3-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
13	Shaquan Jules	14:44	2-4	0-0	1-2	0-2	2-2	3-2	5-0	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	50%	50%	50%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Team																											
Totals			21-53	6-17	14-21	10-23	33-11	18-62	10-15	6-1	4-1	-15	Technical Fouls: NONE														

Virginia Tech - 77		Record: 1-0													Shooting By Period												
NO.	Name	Min	FG		3P		FT		Rebounds		Fouls		TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks		+/-	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	TOT			
			M/A	A	M/A	A	M/A	A	OR	DR	PF	FD					BS	BA							FG%	3PT%	FT%
22	Keve Aluma	F 24:01	7-10	3-5	2-2	0-3	3-3	3-3	19-2	2-0	2-0	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	41.2%	28.6%	28.6%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
0	Hunter Cattoor	G 25:10	4-6	4-6	0-0	0-2	2-1	0-12	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	100%	100%	100%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
3	Wabessa Bede	G 21:40	4-8	1-1	0-0	0-3	3-2	0-9	2-2	2-1	2-0	0-16	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	57.7%	57.7%	57.7%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
4	Nahiem Alleyne	G 31:46	4-8	2-4	4-4	0-1	1-2	2-14	2-2	2-1	0-0	0-13	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	58.3%	58.3%	58.3%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
23	Tyrece Radford	G 29:44	4-9	1-3	0-0	1-2	3-1	1-9	5-1	1-0	0-1	0-17	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	50%	50%	50%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
2	Cartier Diarra	19:28	4-6	0-2	0-0	0-2	2-0	8-3	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	48.3%	48.3%	48.3%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
25	Justyn Mutts	20:46	1-3	0-2	0-0	0-4	4-2	2-4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	42.3%	42.3%	42.3%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
1	Joe Bamisile	11:35	1-8	0-2	1-1	3-4	7-0	1-3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	72.7%	72.7%	72.7%	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
5	David N'Guessan	06:36	0-2	0-1	0-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
35	Cordell Pemsil	07:05	0-0	0-0	1-4	0-1	1-2	2-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
13	Darius Maddox	02:09	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Team																											
Totals			29-80	11-26	8-11	8-22	30-18	11-77	18-10	4-4	1-1	15	Technical Fouls: NONE														

RU		Hokies		Points from		Turnovers		Period by Period Scoring		
Biggest lead	5 (1 st 17:52)	RU	Hokies	RU	Hokies	1st	2nd	TOT	RU	Hokies
Best Scoring Run	5 (1 st 17:52)	17 (2 nd 6:22)	18	20	6	7	31	31	62	62
Lead Changes	11	6	5	6	5	6	37	40	77	77
Times Tied	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Time with Lead	12:03	24:19	18	14	18	14	18	14	18	14



NCAA TOURNAMENT TEAM HIGHS

VIRGINIA TECH

POINTS

- 89 vs. Western Kentucky, 1980
- 83 vs. Alabama, 2018
- 82 vs. Toledo, 1967
- 79 vs. Indiana, 1967
- 74 vs. Wisconsin, 2017

FIELD GOALS

- 35 vs. Toledo, 1967
- 32 vs. Western Kentucky, 1980
- 31 vs. Indiana State, 1979
- 30 vs. Alabama, 2018
- 29 vs. Western Michigan, 1976

FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS

- 74 vs. Indiana State, 1979
- 73 vs. Toledo, 1967
- 67 vs. Dayton, 1967
- 67 vs. Western Michigan, 1976
- 64 vs. Indiana, 1967

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

- .582 (32-55) vs. Western Kentucky, 1980
- .556 (30-54) vs. Alabama, 2018
- .551 (27-49) vs. Jacksonville, 1979
- .479 (35-73) vs. Toledo, 1967
- .471 (24-51) vs. Indiana, 1980

3-POINT FIELD GOALS

- 9 vs. Duke, 2019
- 9 vs. Alabama, 2018
- 7 vs. Wisconsin, 2017
- 7 vs. Liberty, 2019
- 6 vs. Illinois, 2007
- 6 vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1996

3-POINT FG ATTEMPTS

- 26 vs. Duke, 2019
- 18 vs. Alabama, 2018
- 17 vs. Kentucky, 1996
- 17 vs. Wisconsin, 2017
- 16 vs. Liberty, 2019
- 16 vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1996

3-POINTS FG PCT. (MIN. 10 ATTEMPTS)

- .500 (9-18) vs. Alabama, 2018
- .438 (7-16) vs. Liberty, 2019
- .429 (6-14) vs. Illinois, 2007
- .412 (7-17) vs. Wisconsin, 2017
- .400 (4-10) vs. Saint Louis, 2019

FREE THROWS

- 25 vs. Indiana, 1967
- 25 vs. Western Kentucky, 1980
- 22 vs. Saint Louis, 2019
- 21 vs. Wisconsin, 2017
- 19 vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1996

FREE THROW ATTEMPTS

- 35 vs. Western Kentucky, 1980
- 33 vs. Indiana, 1967
- 28 vs. Illinois, 2007
- 28 vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1996
- 27 vs. Saint Louis, 2019

FREE THROW PCT. (MIN. 10 ATTEMPTS)

- .815 (22-27) vs. Saint Louis, 2019
- .808 (21-26) vs. Wisconsin, 2017
- .778 (14-18) vs. Duke, 2019
- .769 (10-13) vs. Villanova, 1986
- .758 (25-33) vs. Indiana, 1967

REBOUNDS

- 51 vs. Toledo, 1967
- 50 vs. Indiana, 1967
- 41 vs. Western Michigan, 1976
- 37 vs. Dayton, 1967
- 36 vs. Duke, 2019

ASSISTS

- 19 vs. Duke, 2019
- 16 vs. Kentucky, 1996
- 14 vs. Wisconsin, 2017
- 14 vs. Alabama, 2018
- 13 vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1996

TURNOVERS

- 23 vs. Western Michigan, 1976
- 18 vs. Villanova, 1986
- 15 vs. Jacksonville, 1979
- 15 vs. Indiana, 1980
- 15 vs. Kentucky, 1996
- 15 vs. Western Kentucky, 1980

BLOCKED SHOTS

- 5 vs. Western Michigan, 1976
- 4 vs. Illinois, 2007
- 3 vs. Duke, 2019
- 3 vs. Kentucky, 1996
- 3 vs. Indiana State, 1979

STEALS

- 11 vs. Illinois, 2007
- 10 vs. Liberty, 2019
- 9 vs. Saint Louis, 2019
- 7 vs. Temple, 1985
- 7 vs. Indiana State, 1979
- 7 vs. Alabama, 2018

BENCH POINTS

- 33 vs. Wisconsin, 2017
- 28 vs. Western Michigan, 1976
- 24 vs. Alabama, 2018
- 19 vs. Temple, 1985
- 18 vs. Kentucky, 1996

OPPONENTS

POINTS

- 86, Alabama, 2018
- 86, Indiana State, 1979
- 85, Western Kentucky, 1980
- 84, Kentucky, 1996
- 84, Wisconsin, 2017

FIELD GOALS

- 34, Indiana State, 1979
- 32, Western Kentucky, 1980
- 32, Kentucky, 1996
- 31, Duke, 2019
- 30, Alabama, 2018

FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS

- 84, Indiana, 1967
- 76, Toledo, 1967
- 72, Western Michigan, 1976
- 66, Dayton, 1967
- 63, Indiana State, 1979

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

- .600 (30-50), Alabama, 2018
- .571 (32-56), Western Kentucky, 1980
- .554 (31-56), Duke, 2019
- .540 (27-50), Indiana, 1980
- .540 (34-63), Indiana State, 1979

3-POINT FIELD GOALS

- 13, Wisconsin, 2017
- 12, Southern Illinois, 2007
- 10, Liberty, 2019
- 8, Alabama, 2018
- 6, Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1996

3-POINT FG ATTEMPTS

- 31, Liberty, 2019
- 31, Wisconsin, 2017
- 23, Saint Louis, 2019
- 24, Southern Illinois, 2007
- 20, Duke, 2019

3-POINTS FG PCT. (MIN. 10 ATTEMPTS)

- .571 (12-21), Southern Illinois, 2007
- .500 (5-10), Kentucky, 1996
- .444 (8-18), Alabama, 2018
- .419 (13-31), Wisconsin, 2017
- .400 (6-15), Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1996

FREE THROWS

- 24, Temple, 1985
- 21, Western Kentucky, 1980
- 19, Wisconsin, 2017
- 18, Alabama, 2018
- 18, Indiana State, 1979
- 18, Toledo, 1967

FREE THROW ATTEMPTS

- 39, Temple, 1985
- 32, Western Kentucky, 1980
- 30, Western Michigan, 1976
- 29, Indiana, 1967
- 28, Indiana State, 1979

FREE THROW PCT. (MIN. 10 ATTEMPTS)

- .857, 12-14, Liberty
- .850, 17-20, Dayton
- .789, 15-19, Kentucky
- .760, 19-25, Wisconsin
- .700, 7-10, Duke
- .700, 14-20, Indiana

REBOUNDS

- 50, Indiana, 1967
- 45, Toledo, 1967
- 43, Western Michigan, 1976
- 40, Indiana State, 1979
- 38, Kentucky, 1996

ASSISTS

- 22, Duke, 2019
- 20, Kentucky, 1996
- 19, Alabama, 2018
- 19, Wisconsin, 2017
- 17, Wisconsin-Green Bay, 1996

TURNOVERS

- 21, Illinois, 2007
- 18, Saint Louis, 2019
- 18, Western Kentucky, 1980
- 17, Villanova, 1986
- 17, Alabama, 2018

BLOCKED SHOTS

- 6, Temple, 1985
- 6, Duke, 2019
- 5, Indiana State, 1979
- 4, Villanova, 1986
- 4, Liberty, 2019
- 4, Western Michigan, 1976

STEALS

- 10, Villanova, 1986
- 9, Kentucky, 1996
- 9, Jacksonville, 1979
- 8, Western Michigan, 1976
- 6, Duke, 2019
- 6, Saint Louis, 2019

BENCH POINTS

- 36, Alabama, 2018
- 25, Liberty, 2019
- 24, Western Kentucky, 1980
- 24, Kentucky, 1996
- 22, Jacksonville, 1979



NCAA TOURNAMENT INDIVIDUAL HIGHS

VIRGINIA TECH

POINTS

- 29, Glen Combs vs. Indiana, 3/17/67
- 25, Shawn Good vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, 3/14/96
- 24, Ken Talley vs. Toledo, 3/11/67
- 24, Dale Solomon vs. Jacksonville, 3/9/1979
- 23, Zach Leday vs. Wisconsin, 3/17/17

REBOUNDS

- 19, Ken Talley vs. Toledo, 3/11/67
- 16, Kerry Blackshear Jr. vs. Duke, 3/30/19
- 13, Ron Perry vs. Indiana, 3/17/67
- 13, Wayne Robinson vs. Indiana, 3/9/80
- 12, Bobby Beacher vs. Villanova, 3/13/86

ASSISTS

- 8, Troy Manns vs. Kentucky, 3/16/96
- 7, Jamon Gordon vs. Illinois, 3/16/07
- 7, Justin Robinson vs. Alabama, 3/16/18
- 7, Dave Sensibaugh vs. Western Michigan, 3/13/76
- 6, Seth Allen vs. Wisconsin, 3/17/17
- 6, Justin Robinson vs. Wisconsin, 3/17/17
- 6, Nickeil Alexander-Walker vs. Liberty, 3/24/19

OPPONENTS

POINTS

- 28, Bronson Koenig, Wisconsin, 3/17/17
- 28, Don May, Dayton, 3/18/67
- 25, Collin Sexton, Alabama, 3/16/18
- 25, Jeff Tyson, Western Michigan, 3/13/76
- 23, Zion Williamson, Duke, 3/30/19

REBOUNDS

- 16, Don May, Dayton, 3/18/67
- 15, Paul Griffin, Western Michigan, 3/13/76
- 14, Steve Mix, Toledo, 3/11/67
- 14, Jack Johnson, Indiana, 3/17/67
- 13, Granger Hall, Temple, 3/14/85

ASSISTS

- 11, R.J. Barrett, Duke, 3/30/19
- 9, Kenny Wilson, Villanova, 3/13/86
- 8, Tre Jones, Duke, 3/30/19
- 7, Kevin Olm, Wisconsin-Green Bay, 3/14/96
- 7, Isiah Thomas, Indiana, 3/9/80
- 7, Larry Bird, Indiana State, 3/11/79
- 7, Jim Kurzan, Western Michigan, 3/13/76

NCAA TOURNAMENT DOUBLE-DOUBLES

VIRGINIA TECH

PLAYER	POINTS	REBOUNDS	OPPONENT	DATE
Ken Talley	24	19	Toldeo	1967
Ken Talley	16	11	Indiana	1967
Russell Davis	16	11	Western Michigan	1976
Dale Solomon	22	11	Western Kentucky	1980
Wayne Robinson	16	13	Indiana	1980
Keith Colbert	11	10	Temple	1985
Bobby Beacher	15	12	Villanova	1986
Ty Outlaw	10	11	Liberty	2019
Kerry Blackshear Jr.	18	16	Duke	2019

OPPONENT

PLAYER	POINTS	REBOUNDS	OPPONENT	DATE
Steve Mix	18	14	Toldeo	1967
John Brisker	15	10	Toldeo	1967
Butch Joyner	14	10	Indiana	1967
Jack Johnson	15	14	Indiana	1967
Don May	28	16	Dayton	1967
Tom Cutter	17	11	Western Michigan	1976
Paul Griffin	14	15	Western Michigan	1976
Larry Bird	22	13	Indiana State	1979
Jack Washington	21	11	Western Kentucky	1980
Granger Hall	22	13	Temple	1985
Charles Rayne	12	10	Temple	1985
Harold Pressley	17	10	Villanova	1986
Antoine Walker	21	11	Kentucky	1996
Randal Falker	10	12	Southern Illinois	2007
Nigel Hayes	16	10	Wisconsin	2017
Javon Bess	14	11	Saint Louis	2019

PLAYER	POINTS	ASSISTS	OPPONENT	DATE
R.J. Barrett	18	11	Duke	2019



NCAA TOURNAMENT SINGLE-GAME RECORDS

VIRGINIA TECH INDIVIDUAL

Points: 29, Glen Combs vs. Indiana, March 17, 1967
Field Goals: 11, Glen Combs vs. Indiana, March 17, 1967
Field Goal Attempts: 26, Glen Combs vs. Dayton, March 18, 1967
3-Point Field Goals: 5, Shawn Good vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, March 14, 1996
3-Point Field Goal Attempts: 8, A.D. Vassallo vs. Illinois, March 16, 2007; Nickeil Alexander-Walker vs. Alabama, March 16, 2008
Free Throws: 11, Kerry Blackshear Jr. vs. Saint Louis, March 23, 2019
Free Throw Attempts: 12, Coleman Collins vs. Illinois, March 16, 2007; Kerry Blackshear Jr. vs. Saint Louis, March 23, 2019
Rebounds: 19, Ken Talley vs. Toledo, March 11, 1967
Assists: 8, Troy Manns vs. Kentucky, March 16, 1996
Turnovers: 7, Marshall Alford vs. Indiana State, March 11, 1979; Larry Cooke vs. Western Michigan, March 13, 1976
Blocks: 2, Larry Cooke vs. Western Michigan, March 13, 1979; Deron Washington vs. Illinois, March 16, 2007; Deron Washington vs. Southern Illinois, March 18, 2007; Zach LeDay vs. Wisconsin, March 17, 2017; Kerry Blackshear Jr. vs. Duke, March 30, 2019
Steals: 7, Jamon Gordon vs. Illinois, March 16, 2007
Points Off The Bench: 23, Zach LeDay vs. Wisconsin, March 17, 2017

VIRGINIA TECH TEAM

Points: 89, vs. Western Kentucky, March 7, 1980
Field Goals: 35, vs. Toledo, March 11, 1967
Field Goal Attempts: 74, vs. Indiana State, March 11, 1979
Field Goal Percentage: .582 (32-55), vs. Western Kentucky, March 7, 1980
3-Point Field Goals: 9, vs. Duke, March 30, 2019
3-Point Field Goal Attempts: 26, vs. Duke, March 30, 2019
3-Point Field Goal Percentage (min. 10 attempts): .500 (9-18), vs. Alabama, March 16, 2018
Free Throws: 25, vs. Indiana, March 17, 1967
Free Throw Attempts: 35, vs. Western Kentucky, March 7, 1980
Free Throw Percentage (min. 10 attempts): .815 (22-27), vs. Saint Louis, March 23, 2019
Rebounds: 51, vs. Toledo, March 11, 1967
Assists: 19, vs. Duke, March 30, 2019
Turnovers: 19, vs. Indiana, March 9, 1980
Blocks: 5, vs. Western Michigan, March 13, 1976
Steals: 11, vs. Illinois, March 16, 2007
Points Off The Bench: 33, vs. Wisconsin, March 17, 2017

OPPONENT INDIVIDUAL

Points: 28, Don May, Dayton, March 18, 1967; Bronson Koenig, Wisconsin, March 17, 2017
Field Goals: 11, Zion Williamson, Duke, March 30, 2019;
Field Goal Attempts: 27, Jeff Tyson, Western Michigan, March 13, 1976
3-Point Field Goals: 8, Bronson Koenig, Wisconsin, March 17, 2017
3-Point Field Goal Attempts: 17, Bronson Koenig, Wisconsin, March 17, 2017
Free Throws: 10, Don May, Dayton, March 18, 1967; Larry Bird, Indiana State, March 11, 1079; Collin Sexton, Alabama, March 16, 2018
Free Throw Attempts: 14, Collin Sexton, Alabama, March 16, 2018
Rebounds: 16, Don May, Dayton, March 18, 1967
Assists: 11, RJ Barrett, Duke, March 30, 2019
Turnovers: 5, Paul DeVito, Jacksonville, March 9, 1979; Collin Sexton, Alabama, March 16, 2018; Tramaine Isabell Jr., Saint Louis, March 23, 2019; RJ Barrett, Duke, March 30, 2019
Blocks: 3, Alex Gilbert, Indiana State, March 11, 1979; Randal Falker, Southern Illinois, March 18, 2007; Ethan Happ, Wisconsin, March 17, 2017; Scottie James, Liberty, March 24, 2019; Zion Williamson, Duke, March 30, 2019
Steals: 5, Jimmy Martin, Jacksonville, March 9, 1979
Points Off The Bench: 20, John Petty, Alabama, March 16, 2018

OPPONENT TEAM

Points: 86, Indiana State, March 11, 1979
Field Goals: 34, Indiana State, March 11, 1979
Field Goal Attempts: 84, Indiana, March 17, 1967
Field Goal Percentage: .600 (30-50), Alabama, March 16, 2018
3-Point Field Goals: 13, Wisconsin, March 17, 2017
3-Point Field Goal Attempts: 31, Wisconsin, March 17, 2017; Liberty, March 24, 2019
3-Point Field Goal Percentage (min. 10 attempts): .571 (19-43), Southern Illinois, March 18, 2007
Free Throws: 24, Temple, March 14, 1985
Free Throw Attempts: 39, Temple, March 14, 1985
Free Throw Percentage (min. 10 attempts): .857 (12-14), Liberty, March 24, 2019
Rebounds: 50, Indiana, March 17, 1967
Assists: 22, Duke, March 30, 2019
Turnovers: 23, Western Michigan, March 13, 1976
Blocks: 6, Temple, March 14, 1985; Duke, March 30, 2019
Steals: 10, Villanova, March 13, 1986
Points Off The Bench: 36, Alabama, March 16, 2018

Virginia Tech Men's Basketball 2020-21 In-season Clippings



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BLACKSBURG (Nov. 25, 2020) — The Virginia Tech men's basketball team won the most unusual season opener in its history Wednesday.

With only about 100 fans scattered in the stands because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Hokies beat Radford 77-62 at Cassell Coliseum.

"It was definitely weird, [not] ... to be able to feed off the crowd and use that to help us," said Keve Aluma, who had 19 points in his Tech debut. "We definitely have to make our own energy and try to do a better job of that next time.

"It definitely did feel like a scrimmage."

Under Gov. Ralph Northam's recent guidelines for the commonwealth, a maximum of 250 people are allowed at Cassell games until further notice.

What was it like for Tech's Mike Young to coach in that game?

"It stunk," Young said. "That was different than I anticipated.

"I probably didn't handle that very well."

Each team bench was split into three rows, including two rows on the court and one in the stands. The rows and chairs were spaced out for social distancing reasons. Tech and Radford players and coaches wore masks as they sat on the benches.

Young and Radford coach Mike Jones each wore a mask as he coached the game from in front of his respective bench.

Like Tech, Radford could not play preseason scrimmages or exhibitions against other schools because of the pandemic. So Wednesday provided Jones his first chance to see how his team measured up against an opponent.

"It's great just to get out here and play a game of basketball. We've been practicing against each other since June 29th," said Jones, who had to replace his entire starting lineup from last year's 21-win team.

"We gave them some good looks defensively and offensively. ... It was good to see so many guys contribute.

"We've got some great footage that we can show the guys, both positively and constructively, and hopefully we can shore up some of that stuff as we go into the weekend."

Tech shot just 41.2% from the field in the first half but 57.7% in the second half.

"Our shot selection was not very good at all in the first 10 minutes. I take a lot of responsibility there," Young said. "You got a chance to work through some of that stuff [in past years] when you scrimmage. We'd have scrimmaged Richmond and East Tennessee [State]; for obvious reasons that did not occur.

"We've got to get great shots from guys we want taking it, and I'm not sure we did that in the first half. We had some flying through the air; it looked like an AAU game. And that makes me sick to my stomach. But we got settled down."

Down 27-26, Tech went on a 9-0 run to grab a 35-27 lead with 48 seconds left in the first half. Tech led the rest of the way.

Tech guard Nahiem Alleyne had seven of his 14 points in the run.

"I'm just glad to play again," Alleyne said. "I didn't really feel rusty out there."

Aluma, a post player who sat out last year after transferring from Wofford to Tech, was 7 of 10 from the field in the game.

"It was just good to get back out there," Aluma said. "I just had open shots. My teammates were able to find me."

Aluma averaged 6.9 points for Wofford in the 2018-19 season, when he was 0 of 1 from 3-point range.

But he was 3 of 5 from 3-point territory Wednesday.

"I just worked on it with the coaches and just tried to expand my game," he said of his outside shot.

Hunter Cattoor added 12 points and four 3-pointers for Tech.

Dravon Mangum, who sat out last year after transferring from Charlotte, had 12 points in his Radford debut. Josiah Jeffers also had 12 points.

"Josiah and Dravon were really aggressive out of the gate," Jones said.

Fah'Mir Ali, a freshman who started at point guard, had 10 points in his Radford debut.

Radford High School graduate Quinton Morton-Robertson was expected to start at point guard for the Highlanders, but he did not play Wednesday because of migraines.

Young went with a small starting lineup, with Tyrece Radford playing power forward instead of small forward and Aluma playing center. The other starters were Cattoor, Alleyne and Wabissa Bede.

Young said the small lineup was for matchup reasons.

"Will we see a steady diet of Radford and Keve together [as the post players]? No," Young said. "But boy, that's a tricky lineup to guard."

Tech's John Ojiako did not play because of a knee injury.

Jalen Cone, who had a preseason foot injury, did not play for Tech, either.

"He's ready to go," Young said of Cone. "He was cleared completely Monday [or] Tuesday. ... Out of abundance of caution, I will probably keep him with me [on the bench] ... this weekend."

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Barber

A most unusual opener, as Virginia Tech wins its first basketball game of the pandemic

https://richmond.com/sports/college/a-most-unusual-opener-as-virginia-tech-wins-its-first-basketball-game-of-the-pandemic/article_55d87571-006c-5592-be76-6bdb7ecadec0.html

BLACKSBURG (Nov. 25, 2020) — Even in victory, Virginia Tech basketball coach Mike Young couldn't deny something felt off about Wednesday's season opener.

"It stunk," Young said bluntly of playing at a nearly empty Cassell Coliseum and wearing a mask during his team's 77-62 win over Radford. "Just different. Just really different. Thrilled to have the opportunity to play. We're limited to 250 people. It's not going to be what we're accustomed to."

Wofford transfer Keve Aluma scored a game-high 19 points in his Tech debut and sophomore guard Nahiem Alleyne added 14.

"I'm just glad to play again," Alleyne said.

Tech's win over Radford was one of 120 games on the schedule Wednesday. Another 20 were canceled or postponed because of COVID-19 issues.

Associate athletics director Tom Gabbard has been at Virginia Tech for 22 years. He's seen Cassell Coliseum rock for Bimbo Coles, Malcolm Delaney, Erick Green and Justin Robinson. He's heard it roar behind teams coached by Seth Greenberg, James Johnson, Buzz Williams and now Mike Young.

And he knew going into Wednesday's season opener against Radford, even with the artificial crowd noise the program planned to pump into the arena, things weren't going to be the same.

"Cassell Coliseum, when it's full, is a very, very tough place for the visiting team to play," Gabbard said this week. "We're going to miss that. We're going to lose most of that."

As they did Wednesday, things will look different all season, not just in Blacksburg but in college arenas across the nation.

At Cassell for the Radford game, team benches were limited to 26 seats and — because of the 6-foot spacing requirements — stretched around the baselines and included seating in the first row of the stands.

Everyone on the benches, including players who aren't in the game at the moment, are required to wear masks, per the ACC's medical advisory report.

Young and Alleyne said the team tried to prepare for that with a scrimmage Saturday under the same setup.

The first rows seven rows behind the team benches are covered in advertising tarps, to give distance between fans and the teams and, of course, to make sure the ads are visible on television.

Nearly every aspect of the program's game-day operation has been affected by COVID-19 protocols. Tuesday, the Radford men's and Richmond's women's teams held practices at Cassell in advance of their games there Wednesday.

Neither team was permitted to use the locker room areas and extra time was left between their scheduled workouts to allow Tech staffers to sanitize the court with a fast-drying disinfectant spray.

Teams that choose to have a postgame meal at Cassell this season will eat in a small side gym, down the hall from the game court.

One of the biggest curves Gabbard's team was thrown came earlier this month when the governor's office revised the limit on attendance from 1,000 fans to 250, with 40 of those seats being offered to the visiting team's fans. (That number does not include players and staff necessary to the contest.)

Fans now only enter through Cassell's main front gate and are screened for temperature. Re-entry to games is not permitted. Only two of the arena's concession stands are open during games and fans will only sit in the north, south and west sections. The east stands are being used for television and radio broadcasters and crew.

The private event security company Tech employs at Cassell had its contingent — normally between 30-45 — cut down to about one third of that number.

Emergency medical service personnel, on hand for every intercollegiate sporting event, have moved back from their normal spot on the floor to being stationed up in the stands.

And in the midst of all that, Young's Hokies took the floor Wednesday, won their opening game by pulling away from Radford in the second half, and started their journey in a most unusual season.

Notes: Young said sophomore guard Jalen Cone, who didn't see the court Wednesday, has been cleared to play but will be held out of the team's next two games, in Connecticut. He said Cone could return to action Dec. 3 against VMI in Blacksburg. ... Young said sophomore forward John Ojiako is dealing with a knee "issue" and his status is unclear.

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (Nov. 27, 2020) — The Virginia Tech men's basketball team has a replacement opponent for Saturday night — and it's a doozy.

Virginia Tech announced Friday morning that it will play third-ranked Villanova (2-0) at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Mohegan Sun casino and resort. The game will air on ESPNU.

"It is fly by the seat of your pants," Tech coach Mike Young said Friday afternoon in a phone interview. "You've got to be able to turn on a dime.

"Our team's excited. We came up here to play and challenge our team and improve, and we're going to do that."

Tech (1-0) had been planning to play Temple at the Mohegan Sun at 8 p.m. Saturday on ESPNEWS. But Temple announced Thursday afternoon that its men's basketball team was pausing activities and beginning a 14-day quarantine because one of its players tested positive for COVID-19.

So event organizers began searching for a replacement opponent out of the schools already at the Mohegan Sun for the "Bubbleville" event that began Wednesday.

"Trying desperately to find a replacement. No luck yet," Young told The Roanoke Times early Thursday night in a direct message on Twitter.

But at about 10 p.m. Thursday, event organizers asked Tech if it were interested in playing Villanova on Saturday.

Young agreed.

"We're here. We are trying to get better as a team, as a program," Young said in Friday's phone interview. "We want to play!"

But Villanova was in the middle of a game Thursday night, so Wildcats coach Jay Wright had yet to sign off on the booking.

Villanova beat Arizona State late Thursday night at the Mohegan Sun. Wright signed off on playing Tech in the wee hours of Friday morning.

The Wildcats had already played two games at the Mohegan Sun and did not have another one planned at the resort, but the Wildcats were willing to stick around because they also had a sudden hole to fill on its schedule. The Wildcats had been scheduled to host Temple on Dec. 3, but that game was also called off on Thursday.

On Friday, Wright and Young got a chance to chat when they happened to pass each other in a hallway.

"His point was, 'We better play while we can,'" Young said.

So on short notice, Young must prepare his team to play the third-ranked team in the country.

Of course, Villanova has to play the game on short notice, too.

"There's no competitive advantage, disadvantage," Young said.

The Villanova game will be the first of two games that Tech will play at the Mohegan Sun. The Hokies will face South Florida at 8 p.m. Sunday in a game that will air on ESPN2.

The Hokies were tested for COVID-19 upon arriving at the Mohegan Sun on Wednesday night and were tested again Friday.

The Mohegan Sun "Bubbleville" is "as safe as an environment as I can possibly imagine," said Young.

"Everything here is by the book in terms of transportation, meals, testing protocols," Young said.

Teams have "very, very little contact" with each other at the hotel or arena, said Young.

Army and Tech have been on the same hotel floor but are "completely separated," said Young.

"We have our own meeting room. We eat in our meeting room, we watch film in our meeting room," Young said.

The Wildcats have already played one ACC team at the Mohegan Sun, having beaten Boston College 76-67 in the first round of the 2K Empire Classic on Wednesday.

Villanova then beat No. 18 Arizona State 83-74 on Thursday night in the 2K Empire Classic title game.

Sophomore forward Jeremiah Robinson-Earl scored 28 points for the Wildcats on Thursday, while Justin Moore added 16 points and 12 rebounds. Caleb Daniels, who sat out last season after transferring from Tulane, had 14 points for the Wildcats.

Villanova also shined defensively Thursday, holding Arizona State star Remy Martin to five points.

The Wildcats were 10th in the final Associated Press poll last season. Robinson-Earl and Moore are among four starters back from a 24-7 team that tied for the Big East regular-season title with a 13-5 league mark. The star of that team, Saddiq Bey, was chosen in the first round of the NBA draft.

Villanova will be playing another ACC team next month. Villanova and Virginia will square off at Madison Square Garden on Dec. 19.

Tech has not played Villanova since February 2004, back when the two schools were Big East rivals. Tech is 1-9 all-time in the series.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

Virginia Tech upsets No. 3 Villanova in OT for 'huge win'

https://roanoke.com/sports/local/virginia-tech-upsets-no-3-villanova-in-ot-for-huge-win/article_783cc5a8-31dc-11eb-9258-a702aa4bf4e3.html#tracking-source=home-top-story

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (Nov. 28, 2020) — Virginia Tech men's basketball coach Mike Young rolled the dice on playing third-ranked Villanova on short notice at the Mohegan Sun casino and resort.

The gamble paid off.

The Hokies erased a 12-point second-half deficit and upset Villanova 81-73 in overtime Saturday night in the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic.

"We came in here with a plan, but it's up to them to believe and fight and hang in there and find a way," Young said. "Huge win for us."

Tech (2-0) was originally scheduled to play Temple on Saturday at the Mohegan Sun, but Temple announced Thursday its team was going into a 14-day quarantine because a player tested positive for COVID-19.

Young signed off late Thursday night on playing Villanova (2-1) instead.

"What if if we wake up Friday morning and social media or whatever these guys are looking at all the time [says], 'Virginia Tech had an opportunity to play Villanova and Mike Young said no,'" Young said. "That's not going to go over very well with my team, nor should it. We are here to play. We are here to challenge ourselves. We're here to improve.

"Was I thrilled that we were matched with Villanova? No, not this early in the season. ... But, you know, let's go. It's a different year, needless to say. So we're going to challenge ourselves and we're going to go lay it on the line. And they did exactly that."

Villanova coach Jay Wright signed off on the pairing in the wee hours Friday morning, after his team beat No. 18 Arizona State at the Mohegan Sun late Thursday night.

"You know you're going to play a really good team, a well-coached team. So do you want to do that?" Wright said. "We decided we did.

"We knew it was going to be tough to prepare, but that's what we want to do at this time of the season. ... This will help us. I think they could be an NCAA Tournament team, and these are the kind of teams you're going to play in the NCAA Tournament.

"You can't take anything for granted this year. Any opportunity you get to play big-time games, you've got to take it."

How did Tech prepare for Villanova on such short notice?

"I wouldn't recommend it to those of you watching at home," Young said. "I caught myself in my preparation of watching it as a fan. I was admiring their stuff, how they play unselfishly.

"We got [the game plan] to our team, as much as we could get to them over a short period of time. And then your instincts take over. I've got good basketball players."

The Hokies upset the No. 3 team in the nation for the second straight November. Tech knocked off then-No. 3 Michigan State in the Maul Invitational during Thanksgiving week last year.

"I really like their team. They're really tough, really physical, well-coached," Wright said.

"You've got to give them credit because of some of the things they did offensively, like just posting up really strong, better than we defended in the post. Defensively being really physical in their pick-and-roll defense and us not being physical attacking it."

Tech center Keve Aluma, who sat out last season after transferring from Wofford, had a career-high 23 points. He also grabbed eight rebounds.

"Very impressed with him," Wright said.

Down 52-40 with 8:45 left, Tech went on a 14-4 run to cut the deficit to 56-54 with 4:01 to go. Reserve guard Nahiem Alleyne (20 points) made two of his four 3-pointers in the run, while Aluma scored five points in the run.

Tech's Cartier Diarra later made two free throws to cut the lead to 62-61 with 12.3 seconds left.

After Villanova's Justin Moore missed the front end of a one-and-one with 10 seconds left, Tech's Tyrece Radford (13 rebounds) snared the defensive rebound.

Diarra drove from the top of the key to the basket and dished to Aluma, who scored inside with 1.3 seconds left to give Tech a 63-62 lead — the team's first lead since early in the second half. He was fouled on the play.

Young wanted Aluma to miss the free throw. But Aluma accidentally banked the free throw in. Tech's lead grew to 64-62, but now Villanova had possession.

"The coaches told me to miss it, so I tried to put more on it and I put a lot on it," Aluma said. "It was probably the perfect bank."

Before Villanova inbounded the ball, Moore drew a charge on Tech's Justyn Mutts. Mutts was moving to guard the player inbounded the ball and ran into Moore, who was setting a screen on the baseline.

"I take full responsibility for the end of regulation," Young said. "Yes, we wanted to miss [the Aluma free throw]. No, I didn't expect him to bank it in. He did. And I failed. I failed to coach my player on one of the oldest tricks in the book and it almost cost us."

The officials first said the foul was committed by Moore but then said the foul was committed by Mutts.

"He called the foul on No. 25, who was playing for Virginia Tech. We didn't have a No. 25," Wright said. "He didn't reverse it, he called it on 25. He just got confused with who was on offense, who was on defense."

"It infuriated me," Young said of the reversal. "Rightfully so, I had a bit of an outburst there. He called it on [No.] 5 white [Moore]. But ... I think he got it right. ... That was on me. I did not coach that. I just expected Keve to miss it; he tried. He banked the darn thing in."

Moore then made his two free throws to tie the score at 64 with 1.3 seconds left and send the game to overtime.

"Now you're down in the dumps and your shoulders are droopy," Young said. "You've got the game won and you've got to go overtime and play five more minutes. Right back they come."

"We just had to stay calm," Alleyne said.

Mutts (12 points) made a 3-pointer to give the Hokies a 67-64 lead early in overtime. He later made two free throws for a 69-64 lead with 3:35 left in OT. Tech led the rest of the way.

Tech shot 47.4% from the field to Villanova's 42.6%.

"We guarded so very well," Young said.

Tech not only sank 10 3-pointers but also had 32 points in the paint to Villanova's 22 points. Tech outrebounded the Wildcats 40-31.

CBS Sports

Matt Norlander

No. 3 Villanova knocked off by Virginia Tech as 'Bubbleville' proves to be a village ripe for big upsets

<https://www.cbssports.com/college-basketball/news/no-3-villanova-knocked-off-by-virginia-tech-as-bubbleville-proves-to-be-a-village-ripe-for-big-upsets/>

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (Nov. 28, 2020) — In Jay Wright's defense, there are millions of people who have made regrettable decisions after 1 a.m. in a casino.

Less than 48 hours after agreeing to extend Villanova's stay at Mohegan Sun and pivot into a game against Virginia Tech, Wright's third-ranked Villanova Wildcats were upended in overtime 81-73 by the Hokies. Virginia Tech coach Mike Young let it be known on Thursday night when he went to bed that he would be willing to play Villanova if Jay Wright's feeling was mutual. He woke up early on Friday morning to learn he had himself a game against the two-time championship-winning coach of the third-ranked team in college basketball.

And then, for the second straight November, Young's unranked program knocked off the No. 3 team in the country. Virginia Tech also pulled off the feat against Michigan State in the Maui Invitational last year.

"Bubbleville," as it's been dubbed, is proving to be ripe territory for shockers. The sport's two biggest upsets through the season's first four days have come at Mohegan Sun Arena. On Friday No. 4 Virginia was stunned by San Francisco. Saturday evening was witness to Virginia Tech overcoming an 11-point second half deficit. The Hokies could have won in regulation after Keve Aluma's and-one with 1.3 seconds left made it 64-62. Instead, a classic blind-spot trap play on the inbounds gave Villanova a bailout: Justin Moore planted his feet and the Virginia Tech defender didn't turn his head, leading to a foul after the collision. Moore coolly sank both foul shots and got the game to the bonus session.

Young admitted he was nervous once Villanova wormed its way to overtime after the Hokies steadily mounted a comeback and writhed away the lead with less than two seconds remaining.

"I was worried about it," Young said. "That was an unfortunate occurrence. That's the game. Funky things happen. I didn't like our response in the huddle. We had some long faces and shoulders down."

But the Hokies kept the same pace on offense, continued to contest shots and won more 50-50 balls on the boards. The Hokies, plainly, outplayed the Wildcats. And Aluma outplayed Jeremiah Robinson-Earl, who was only 5-of-15 from the field and had 14 hard-earned points, but fell short of his All-American-level displays in Nova's first two wins here in Connecticut.

Young said Boston College and Arizona State did enough in each of their games vs. Villanova earlier this week to give them enough to scheme and implement a decent game plan given the circumstances. Wright told me he happened to be in his hotel room and caught Virginia Tech's 77-62 win over Radford on Wednesday night in real time, so he was taking in what kind of team his guys would be playing -- before knowing he would be facing them in a few days.

Did Wright regret opting into this game?

"No -- hell no," he said. "This is exactly what the preseason's all about. We're not afraid to lose. We don't want to, but we want to play good people. They're really tough. They played really well and we made a lot of mistakes that you have to give them credit for."

For decades at Wofford, Young developed a reputation for having 3-point-happy offenses and teams with great movement and style that could sniper out occasionally superior opponents. What gets lost in that, though, is how all that scoring doesn't sacrifice on a ruggedness that's made playing Young's teams irritating for a long time.

"They were really physical," Wright said. "Good defensively. Solid. That took us out of our offense, the crispness of our offense. I don't think it's we didn't come ready

to play or we were tired. I really think their physicality took us out of it. ... I think they could be an NCAA Tournament team."

This marks the third time in four seasons that Young's defeated a top-five team away from home. A memorable takedown of No. 5 North Carolina in the Dean Dome in December of 2017 helped Young in part eventually leave Wofford to get this Virginia Tech gig. So what is it about his teams and pulling off such huge victories in the early part of the season?

"I want you to be free, I want you to play the game, I want you to have fun," Young said. "I'm going to demand that you fight your ass off defensively and on the glass, but I don't want you to be looking over your shoulder at me: good shot? Bad shot? There's no smoke-and-mirrors."

Young said his philosophy is, "The misses are on me." To have his teams play without reservation -- and with unending encouragement, not with a yellow or red light -- puts his guys in a good spot mentally right away. What's also helped is that Virginia Tech has been fortunate to not have a COVID-19 positive in his program since August, so the team has not missed a practice. When good luck means opportunity, great things materialize.

We saw it in a casino in Connecticut on Saturday night. Virginia Tech doubled down in overtime and Villanova crapped out. The Hokies turn around immediately to face South Florida on Sunday night.

AP

Pat Eaton-Robb

No. 3 Villanova stunned by Virginia Tech in overtime

<https://apnews.com/article/naheim-alleyne-virginia-tech-hokies-mens-basketball-collin-gillespie-caleb-daniels-cartier-diarra-29712dd3f01a93ceb70e12b34f3cf681>

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (Nov. 28, 2020) — Virginia Tech overcame some late-game adversity to dominate overtime and upset No. 3 Villanova just a day after learning they would be playing the Wildcats.

Keve Aluma scored 22 points, Nahiem Alleyne had 20 and Tyrece Radford added eight points and 13 rebounds for Tech (2-0), which won 81-73 Saturday night, outscoring the Wildcats 17-9 in the extra frame.

"I thought we guarded so very well throughout and we did it again over a five-minute period in the overtime and found a way to win," Coach Mike Young said. "A huge win for us."

Collin Gillespie scored 18 of his 25 points in the first half for Villanova (2-1). Caleb Daniels added 17 points and Jeremiah Robinson-Earl finished with 14 for the Wildcats.

The teams were tied at 29 after 20 minutes and deadlocked at 38 five minutes into the second half.

The Wildcats appeared to take control of the game from there, going on an 11-0 run and holding the Hokies scoreless for five minutes.

"You learn when you have a lead and you're playing against a good team, you've got to play every possession until the end," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "So, we're definitely going to learn that the hard way."

Virginia Tech chipped away and led 64-62 lead with 1.3 seconds remaining on an odd three-point play by Aluma, who scored on a beautiful assist from Cartier Diarra in the lane, and then unintentionally banked in a free throw he was trying to miss.

Villanova's Justin Moore then drew a charge on Justyn Mutts on the inbounds play and Moore's two foul shots sent the game into overtime tied at 64.

Mutts made up for that mistake by scoring the first five points in extra time and the Hokies never relinquished the lead.

"That was a key, just keeping our cool and feeding off our bench's energy, that helped us through the game," Aluma said.

The game was an unexpected third in four days for Villanova in "Bubbleville," the 11-day gathering of college basketball teams at the Mohegan Sun resort casino for early season nonconference play.

The Hokies were supposed to face Temple on Saturday, but the Owls were forced to pause team activities for two weeks on Thanksgiving after a positive coronavirus test in the program. That meant canceling not only Saturday's game, but a contest that had been scheduled for Dec. 3 at Villanova.

That left both the Hokies and the Wildcats at the Mohegan Sun looking for a game.

WILD ENDING

Young took the blame for his team failing to close the game out in regulation, admitting his didn't prepare his team for the possibility that Aluma would accidentally make his foul shot.

Villanova then baited Mutts into a charge on the baseline, a call that originally went against Villanova but was reversed.

"I failed to coach my player on one of the oldest tricks in the book and it almost cost us," Young said. "So, nobody's fault but mine."

BIG PICTURE

Virginia Tech: Neither team has anyone over 6-foot-9 on the roster, but the Hokies outscored Villanova 32-22 in the paint and outrebounded the Wildcats 40-31.

"I'm not sure we've ever outrebounded anyone," Young said. "I'm not sure we ever outscored another team, certainly not in the Atlantic Coast Conference in the paint. That's what I'm comfortable with. That's how I've always wanted to play."

Villanova: The Wildcats' bench scored just eight points against the Hokies, who got 25 points from their reserves.

This is the second straight year the Hokies have upset the No. 3 team in the country in an early season nonconference game. The Hokies upset Michigan State last November in Maui.

UP NEXT

Virginia Tech: The Hokies stay in "Bubbleville" for a Sunday night game against South Florida.

Villanova: The Wildcats head home to play Saint Joseph's, a game that was moved from Monday to Wednesday as part of the schedule reshuffling resulting from Temple's virus issues.

Daily Press

Norm Wood

Hokies pull off another shocking November upset, get past No. 3 Villanova in overtime

<https://www.dailypress.com/sports/college/virginia-tech/vp-sp-hokies-villanova-mens-basketball-breakdown-20201129-ww7yhcfwt5dbleywejet-vt26ua-story.html>

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (Nov. 28, 2020) — Mike Young couldn't believe what he was watching Saturday night.

In a game that didn't exist on Virginia Tech's schedule less than 48 hours earlier, Young's chance to lead his team to a potentially defining win in "Bubbleville" against a marquee opponent was slipping through his fingers, and he wanted to kick himself for it.

First, he was shocked when he watched Keve Aluma's free throw bank off the glass and into the basket with 1.3 seconds left, foiling what was supposed to be an intentional miss. Moments later, Young's stomach turned as he witnessed Virginia Tech's Justyn Mutts plow into Villanova's Justin Moore along the baseline, resulting in a dead-ball foul being called on Mutts after officials conferred and reversed their original call.

Young's fears would eventually be replaced with euphoria in overtime as Tech went on to take down No. 3 Villanova 81-73, but on the night of one of his best coaching jobs, Young was momentarily left wondering if he hadn't prepared his players well enough.

"I take full responsibility for the end of regulation," said Young, who has now led Tech to wins against No. 3-ranked teams in November in each of his first two seasons as the Hokies' coach, including against Michigan State last season in the Maui Invitational. "Yes, we wanted to miss it. No, I didn't want him to bank it in. He did, and I failed to coach my player on one of the oldest tricks in the book and it almost cost us. Nobody's fault but mine."

Moore went on to make two free throws to send the game to overtime, where Tech (2-0) jumped out to a five-point lead in the first minute, 15 seconds on the strength of a 3-pointer and a pair of free throws from Mutts and never trailed again in Uncasville, Connecticut. Aluma scored a career-high 23 points, while guard Nahiem Alleyne added 20 points off the bench for Tech, which plays South Florida (1-1) on Sunday in Bubbleville.

Aluma and Mutts, both of whom are veteran frontcourt players and transfer additions to Tech's rotation this season, combined with guards Hunter Cattoor and Alleyne to keep Tech afloat in overtime after the Hokies lost floor leader Wabissa Bede when he fouled out with 30 seconds left in regulation.

"Keeping our cool and feeding off of our bench's energy," Aluma said regarding how Tech persevered after the foul call on Mutts near the end of regulation. "That helped us seal the game."

On Thursday, Tech's game scheduled for Saturday night against Temple was canceled because the Owls were dealing with issues related to the coronavirus. Villanova (2-1), which defeated No. 18 Arizona State on Thursday night in Bubbleville, wanted another game in the Uncasville venue before heading home.

Since Tech was suddenly available, a deal was brokered late Thursday night (and into the wee hours of Friday morning) for Tech to play Saturday evening against Villanova. As he deliberated briefly on whether to take the game, Young pondered what would've happened had he not accepted it.

"What if - and I think the probability is quite good - what if we wake up Friday morning and social media or whatever these guys are looking at all the time [says], 'Virginia Tech had the opportunity to play Villanova and Mike Young said no'" Young said. "That's not going to go over well with my team, nor should it. We are here to play. We are here to challenge ourselves. We are here to improve. Was I thrilled that we were matched with Villanova? No, not this early in the season. ...but I thought, 'Let's go.' It's a different year, needless to say, so we're going to challenge ourselves and go lay it on the line."

*Young is going to explore the foul near the end of regulation a little more. After the game, he was still trying to figure out exactly what happened on a foul that was originally called on Moore, but was changed to a foul against Mutts (12 points).

"It infuriated me," Young said. "Lee Cassell is a good official. He came over and he said, 'Mike, my (fellow official) has given me information - I got tangled up and I got it wrong.' Now, rightfully so, I think I had a bit of an outburst there. He called it on '5 white' [Moore, who wears No. 5]. I'll go back and look at it, but not (Saturday night), but sometime soon. I think he got it right. Again, that was on me. I did not coach that."

*Tech, which also got eight points, 13 rebounds and five assists from Tyrece Radford, has won four of its last six games against opponents in the top 3 of the Associated Press rankings.

ALUMA...THE SCORER?

Aluma's start to the season is surprising, to say the least.

In his first two seasons at Wofford playing for Young, Aluma averaged 4.8 points per game - reaching double figures scoring just eight times in 68 games - and developed a reputation as a capable rebounding presence. He's had 19 and 23 points in his first two games for Tech.

"I'm not sure if he scored 23 points in the first half of his freshman year," Young said. "He is a great person and he worked his tail off."

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (Nov. 29, 2020) — Virginia Tech men's basketball coach Mike Young might want to stop at a slot machine on his way out of the Mohegan Sun casino and resort and try to make himself an even bigger winner here.

The Hokies finished 2-0 during their stay in the Mohegan Sun's "Bubbleville," beating South Florida 76-58 on Sunday night in the Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic.

Tech is now 3-0, including Saturday night's 81-73 overtime victory over third-ranked Villanova.

"Thanks for having us," Young told Gazelle Group president Rick Giles, one of the event organizers, after talking to the media on a postgame video conference. "What a great experience. Two great nights of Bubbleville. Nice to win a couple of games."

What did the weekend tell the Hokies about their team?

"It just told me that this is easy," said point guard Cartier Diarra, who had 10 points off the bench Sunday. "We know what we're capable of. We know we're a really good team."

Last November, the Hokies upset third-ranked Michigan State but did not finish the season with a winning record.

Is this year's team set up better to build upon the win over Villanova and sustain its early success?

"Yeah. I think so," Young said.

Tech added graduate transfers Diarra, Justyn Mutts and Cordell PemsI in the offseason. Keve Aluma, who sat out last year after transferring from Wofford, has also made an impact.

"We're better [than last year]," said Young, whose team was 16-16 overall and 7-13 in ACC play last season. "Aluma's certainly helped tremendously.

"[The team is] a year older and a year stronger. Mutts has contributed a lot. I thought Cordell PemsI helped our team win tonight; I was very impressed with his play."

Does returning starter Tyrece Radford also feel the team is set up better this year to build upon its November marquee win?

"We have more pieces, and our guys [are] willing to work together and uplift each other," said Radford, who had 21 points Sunday. "So I would say yes."

After making a national splash with the upset win over Villanova, Tech made sure not to follow up its big victory with a deflating loss.

"We had to keep the same intensity," Radford said.

The Hokies led South Florida (1-2) the entire second half.

"Coming off of that thing [Saturday] night, ... certainly concerned about coming back and dialing it up again and playing South Florida," Young said. "We weren't great, ... but pretty darn good. Proud of those guys and their quick turnaround and their preparation.

"A level of maturity that is fun to see. I think Wabissa Bede helps in that regard. All of them have an understanding of what it takes and the preparation that goes into it."

Tech was picked just 11th in the ACC's preseason media poll.

"In the last 24 hours, I think Virginia Tech has taken a big step in terms of their team, obviously, with the great win [Saturday]," Bulls coach Brian Gregory said. "They're good defensively and obviously very versatile on offense, can get points from a lot of different spots."

The Hokies were just 5 of 16 from 3-point range Sunday, but this year's team can also hurt foes with inside scoring.

Tech, which shot 54% from the field, had 42 points in the paint to USF's 24 points.

The Hokies had also outscored Villanova in the paint.

Was Young encouraged by the inside scoring in the two games?

"I'm really encouraged by that," Young said. "I was more encouraged by [Saturday] night.

"We talk about it — 'Don't settle for 3, don't settle for 3.' We want to drive the ball and get fouled more this year.

"I'm excited about that."

As was the case in games last year, the 6-foot-2 Radford hurt the Bulls with layup after layup. He was 9 of 12 from the field.

"I love him as a player," Gregory said. "Don't take this the wrong way — he can't shoot ... and he knows it. He's getting better; he went 1 for 3 [from 3-point range]."

"He plays to his strength. ... He plays completely within himself. He knows who he is.

"He's not out there trying to prove that he's someone different than he is. In this day and age, to have a guy comfortable with who they are is refreshing to see."

Aluma had 12 points, while Mutts had a game-high nine rebounds.

Tech got 33 points from its bench, including 13 from Hunter Cattoor and 10 apiece from Diarra and PemsI.

"PemsI really hurt us, just with his physicality around the basket," Gregory said.

Bede had no points, but Gregory was impressed with the senior point guard nevertheless.

"He was in complete control of the game," Gregory said. "His ability to disrupt our offensive flow with just his consistent ball pressure kind of gets everybody else going."

Tech scored 19 points off South Florida's 13 turnovers.

South Florida shot just 37.7% from the field.

"We did a great job of getting our defense set," Young said.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

David Teel

Hokies enjoying early hoops success, but promise not to get 'fat and happy'

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-hokies-enjoying-early-hoops-success-but-promise-not-to-get-fat-and-happy/article_7dfe3619-27dc-5811-9dc7-295597dd00ff.html

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (Nov. 29, 2020) — Upon arriving in Connecticut for last weekend's Air Force Reserve Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament, Virginia Tech learned that its opening game against Temple was canceled. You know the culprit: COVID-19.

But at about 10 p.m., Thanksgiving night, event officials interrupted Mike Young's tryptophan haze with a proposal: Would his Hokies like to play third-ranked Villanova on Saturday instead?

This being 2020, where coaches and players cherish any opportunity to compete, Young accepted. In the wee hours of Friday morning, after his team's late victory over Arizona State, Villanova coach Jay Wright followed suit.

Young never considered declining the offer.

That wouldn't "go over very well with my team, and nor should it," he said. "We are here to play; we are here to challenge ourselves; we are here to improve."

Tech did all that, and more, in upsetting Villanova and, 24 hours later, dismissing South Florida.

The Hokies (3-0) showed that the size and experience they added during the offseason make them deeper, stronger and tougher, particularly on defense and the backboards. Moreover, they displayed the maturity needed to overcome a sketchy late whistle against Villanova and to avoid satisfaction versus USF, either of which could have derailed them.

"We weren't great," Young said after Sunday's 76-58 victory over the Bulls, "not by any stretch. But [we were] pretty darn good, and [I'm] proud of those guys and their quick turnaround, the preparation and coming over today and executing our stuff pretty well."

Unlike Villanova, USF is neither ranked nor a recent national champion, which made Sunday's contest an invitation to exhale. But with Tyrece Radford's 21 points leading five double-figure scorers, the Hokies resisted the temptation.

They shot 54%, hounded USF into 34.7% accuracy and essentially owned the game from start to finish. They led for the final 34 minutes and by at least 10 points throughout the second half.

Saturday was far more taxing and memorable.

In Temple, Virginia Tech was scheduled to face a Philadelphia team picked 10th among 11 teams in the American Athletic Conference preseason poll. In Villanova, Tech encountered a Philadelphia squad favored to win the Big East.

The Wildcats had already defeated Boston College and Arizona State in the controlled environment officials christened Bubbleville. The Hokies had opened at home against Radford, and with less than nine minutes remaining they confronted their season's first in-game crisis: a 52-40 deficit against a program less than three years removed from its most recent national title.

Narrowing the deficit gradually, Tech reclaimed the lead at 63-62 with 1.3 seconds remaining, Keve Aluma scoring inside off a clever Cartier Diarra assist. Collin Gillespie fouled Aluma on the shot, and Young instructed Aluma to miss the free throw, the better to put Villanova in scramble mode with no timeouts left.

But Aluma's intentional miss accidentally banked in, setting up a bizarre sequence that would have deflated and/or rattled most teams.

As Villanova's Eric Dixon ran the baseline to inbound the ball, Tech's Justyn Mutts shadowed him. But Mutts collided with Villanova's Justin Moore, who was attempting to draw a charging foul, a gambit Young called "the oldest trick in the book."

Officials usually ignore such contact, but Lee Cassell called a foul and pointed in the Hokies' direction, a signal the foul was against Moore. Wright erupted, and Cassell then huddled with his two colleagues.

Without viewing replay, the crew then assessed the foul to Mutts, and Moore's two free throws forced overtime. There, karma prevailed as Mutts scored the next five points and Tech pulled away to win 81-73.

A 6-foot-9 transfer from Wofford, Aluma scored a career-high 23 points and added eight rebounds, his interior presence the ideal complement to Nahiem Alleyne's 4-of-6 shooting from beyond the arc. Alleyne contributed 20 points, and Radford played 44 of 45 minutes, scoring eight points and collaring a game-high 13 rebounds.

The Hokies outrebounded the Wildcats 40-31 and outscored them in the paint 32-22, a stark contrast to last season, when Tech outrebounded ACC opponents three times in 21 games and prevailed in the paint seven times.

"That's what I'm comfortable with," Young said of the inside-out approach. "That's how I've always wanted to play. ... Give me a two-feet-in-the-paint, post-up, catch-and-score any day of the week."

Tech battered USF inside, too, outscoring the Bulls 42-24 in the paint, and Aluma and fellow transfers Mutts (Delaware) and Cordell Pemsil (Iowa) combined for 19 rebounds, an impressive sequel to Saturday's upset of Villanova.

To date, the Hokies have been efficient on offense and defense, and they figure to improve when Jalen Cone, their best 3-point shooter, returns. He missed the first three games with a foot injury and is expected back soon.

"I really like their team," Wright said. "They're really tough, really physical, well-coached. They were just a better team tonight. We did a lot of little things wrong, but I think it was because of the little things they did right. ... We weren't great, but they were really good. ..."

"This is a good game for us. Because Virginia Tech did so many things well, execution wise, it exposed us. I look at this as a positive. ... We don't ever want to lose, but we're not afraid to. This will help us. I think they can be an NCAA tournament team. These are the kind of teams you're going to see in the NCAA tournament"

We're a long ways and heaven knows how many pandemic interruptions away from postseason, but Monday the Hokies entered the Associated Press top 25 at No. 16, not bad for a squad picked to finish 11th in the ACC.

After his team's victory Sunday, I asked Young about the prospect of being ranked.

"I'd be happy about that," he said, "but goodness gracious, with everything going on, three games in, don't get too fat and happy, [or] you'll get a baseball bat across the kneecaps. ... You better keep your head down and keep chopping wood, and that's what we intend to do."

Roanoke Times
Aaron McFarling

Welcome to Aluma Nation

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/mcfarling-welcome-to-aluma-nation/article_1f0b5452-34d1-11eb-980f-97a83b67142c.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 3, 2020) — Well, that was quick.

Just three games into his Virginia Tech basketball career, Keve Aluma already has been the key figure in knocking off a top-five team, earned ACC Player of the Week honors and helped the Hokies rocket up to No. 16 in the AP poll.

Not bad for a guy who preferred soccer for most of his life and, even when he took up basketball, didn't look like he'd become much of a scorer.

"[It's] probably a good lesson: Keep your mouth shut and let a kid grow and become his own guy," Tech coach Mike Young said in a video conference call with reporters on Wednesday. "It's a real story."

It is. And it's just now getting to the best parts.

Aluma, who sat out last season after transferring in from Wofford, has been a revelation during the Hokies' 3-0 start. The 6-foot-9 forward shot 65.6% from the field (including 6 of 9 from 3-point range) while averaging 18 points and five rebounds in wins over Radford, No. 3 Villanova and South Florida.

He scored 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds when the Hokies stunned the Wildcats in overtime Saturday for one of the biggest upsets of the young season.

"He was the best player on the floor in the Villanova game that day," Young said. "That day. I don't think we can argue that a whole lot."

That's amazing to consider, given that Aluma didn't start playing basketball seriously until high school. Hailing from the small town of Berlin, Maryland — an Eastern Shore outpost with a population of less than 5,000 — Aluma played soccer until the basketball coach convinced him to try the hardwood.

One of Young's assistant coaches at Wofford, Tim Johnson, spearheaded the recruiting efforts for Aluma.

"I remember a raw and heavy, kind of fluffy kid," Young said. "But you watch him play, and he could run. You see those hands. I loved his family."

Aluma became a solid player for Young at Wofford, averaging 6.9 points and 6.8 rebounds as a sophomore in 2018-19. But he only attempted four field goals per game.

"He was a rebounder and a defender — and a damn good one — for me at Wofford," Young said. "He didn't have to score, really didn't even look [to]. I can't tell you how many times he'd grab an offensive rebound and he immediately looks to the perimeter to pitch it back out there for a made 3."

After transferring to Tech — the player initiated the move with an "out-of-the-blue" phone call, Young said — Aluma made the most of the time he couldn't play. He got thicker and stronger while working on his offensive skills.

"He saw himself getting better," Young said. "You whet your appetite and then you want to keep going, and he's done that. He's in the gym more and working on other things. He's a delightful guy to coach. He's awesome."

The Hokies will be heavy favorites when they host VMI on Thursday night. For now, Young is taking a pump-the-brakes approach on the early accolades for his team, which was picked to finish 11th in the preseason ACC poll and now has only 15 teams ranked ahead of it nationally.

But when it comes to Aluma, Young allows the worthy praise to flow.

The Tech coach remembers one play in the Villanova game, when Wildcats star Jeremiah Robinson-Earl had a step on Aluma near the baseline and a seemingly easy path to the basket. Aluma took the perfect angle to cut him off, relying on his soccer instincts and acquired basketball knowledge to force Robinson-Earl back to the middle of the floor.

"Just little things like that — I'm not teaching that," Young said. "That's just a mobile, strong, smart person. I see it time and time again, I really do.

"He's good. He is a good player. I love that kid. I love him."

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

No. 16 Virginia Tech comes through in 'winning time' to beat VMI

https://roanoke.com/sports/local/no-16-virginia-tech-comes-through-in-winning-time-to-beat-vmi/article_60619ade-35cf-11eb-adf3-7363662fa1e2.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 3, 2020) — With eight minutes to go, the VMI basketball team led nationally ranked Virginia Tech.

But the Hokies won the game.

No. 16 Virginia Tech overcame a woeful shooting night to beat the Keydets 64-57 on Thursday at Cassell Coliseum.

"This game will pay dividends for us," Tech men's basketball coach Mike Young said. "VMI fought and scrapped and they had me turned inside out, as they did a year ago [in Tech's 64-55 win].

"We got great shot after great shot and again couldn't get anything down. ... It affected our defense a little bit in the second half.

"But hey, listen, last time I checked it's about winning the game. We did that. ... A lot to build upon.

"I've been doing it a long time. There's going to be one or two of these nights that you don't play your best basketball. And anytime I have one of these and I'll leave the building with a win, sign me up."

Tech forward Justyn Mutts said he loved how the Hokies (4-0) came together down the stretch.

"When it was winning time, I think our team really stepped up and did what we had to do as a unit," Mutts said.

The Hokies won despite shooting just 35% from the field.

"We were fighting and scrapping and really defending pretty well for the most part," VMI coach Dan Earl said.

The Hokies shot only 14.8% (4 of 27) from 3-point range against VMI's matchup zone defense.

"I was scared as hell," Young said. "Doggone, it was like we were shooting at a dime up there instead of a rim."

Tech center Keve Aluma had 17 points and 12 rebounds, while Mutts had 10 points and nine rebounds.

"With Keve [and] Mutts' work around the basket, we've just got a better opportunity offensively to put it different places and pick on you in other ways [than with 3-pointers this year]," Young said.

The taller Hokies outrebounded VMI 48-30. Tech had 32 points in the paint and 20 second-chance points.

"Sometimes you're going to have nights like that where shots really aren't falling, and you've just got to rely on something else," Mutts said. "We did a good job attacking the paint, getting the ball inside and doing other things.

"This team is special and we don't have to just shoot 3s to be a good basketball team."

Tech was 18 of 27 from the free-throw line to VMI's 8 of 12.

"That was a huge difference," Earl said. "Their size wore us down and they were able to get to the line too many times."

Jake Stephens of VMI (2-2) made a free throw to extend his team's lead to 45-41 with 8:20 go to.

But the Hokies went on a 9-0 run to grab a 50-45 lead with 5:50 left. Tech led the rest of the way.

"They figured out how to win down the stretch," Earl said. "The game got down to maybe the last five, six minutes, and that's winning time. And they kind of turned it up a notch.

"We felt like we were right there and we've got to be able to be pull these games off. So if you're a competitor, that's the feeling you have to have. And yet at the same time, if we fight like we did tonight and scrap and claw and continue to get better, ... I think we took a step in the right direction tonight."

Tech's Tyrece Radford had five points in the 9-0 run, including three free throws.

Radford finished with 13 points. He was just 3 of 10 from the field but was 6 of 7 from the free-throw line.

"We saw that our shots [weren't] falling, so it's on to the next thing," Radford said. "Attack the cup, try to get fouls."

Wabissa Bede (11 points) and Mutts also scored for Tech in the 9-0 run.

Myles Lewis had 13 points and 12 rebounds for VMI, which lost to Tech for the ninth straight time. Greg Parham added 12 points and Stephens had 11 points.

Earl, in his sixth season at VMI, fell to 0-11 against Young. Nine of those losses came when Young was the coach at Wofford, which is one of VMI's Southern Conference rivals.

"I'm always rooting for him when we're not playing him," Earl said. "I'm tired of losing games to him and have him say something nice afterwards."

"I hope we can figure out how to get over the hump and pull one of these games out."

VMI shot just 36.8% from the field and 29.2% (7 of 24) from 3-point range.

"They played some of our shooters tight," Earl said. "They also switched a decent amount of screens and were physical with us."

Tech played without backup point guard Cartier Diarra. Young said Diarra overslept and missed his COVID-19 test Wednesday morning, so he was not allowed to play under Tech policy.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

Virginia Tech coach Mike Young says Penn State 'flattened our nose'

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/virginia-tech-coach-mike-young-says-penn-state-flattened-our-nose/article_6291a152-39c4-11eb-986c-cf5eb54fc55f.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 9, 2020) — The Virginia Tech men's basketball team's first loss of the season came in lopsided fashion.

Penn State cruised past the 15th-ranked Hokies 75-55 in the Big Ten-ACC Challenge on Tuesday night at Cassell Coliseum.

"Penn State came in here and flattened our nose. And did it so early," Tech coach Mike Young said. "Surprised. Disappointed in our response."

Tech (4-1) suffered its most lopsided home defeat since a 78-52 loss to Virginia in January 2018, when Buzz Williams was the Hokies' coach.

The Nittany Lions (3-1) jumped to a 17-3 lead and led the rest of the way.

"They got us back on our heels ... on both ends," Young said. "Banging shots left and right. Our shot contestment wasn't good."

"We find ourselves reeling and [Penn State's] 1-2-2 [pressure defense] slowed us down offensively. We had a hard time getting into a rhythm there."

"They popped us right in the mouth and we didn't respond very well."

The loss snapped Tech's 35-game home winning streak against nonleague foes. It was Tech's first nonconference home defeat since Williams' Hokies suffered a December 2015 loss to West Virginia.

"Today's game was about trying to wear these guys out," Penn State interim coach Jim Ferry said.

"We're known for playing fast, and people talk about that on offense all the time. ... I felt we needed to play fast defensively today. ... We used our speed and athleticism to really guard them all over the floor tonight, and I thought that was the biggest key to the game."

In an overtime loss to Seton Hall on Sunday night, Penn State blew a 19-point first-half lead.

The Nittany Lions kept their lead this time.

The Hokies trailed by 19 points at halftime and by as many as 29 points in the second half.

"We talked about it. ... If this game is an AAU game, up and down, and quick shots, poor ball-handling, that is not going to bode well for our team," Young said. "This has got to be longer possessions, hitting one and two sides of the floor each time, playing through Keve [Aluma] in the post. We didn't have that."

"Everything they throw in the air seems like it's going in the hole. But that's not the basketball gods. That's Virginia Tech's defense. We weren't nearly as good on that end as I've come to expect."

Junior guard Izaiah Brockington had a career-high 24 points for Penn State, which shot 50% from the field.

The Nittany Lions were 12 of 23 from 3-point range (52.2%).

"We were letting them shoot right in our face," Tech point guard Wabissa Bede said. "A lot of those 3s weren't contested."

Tech shot 37% from the field. The Hokies were 6 of 22 from 3-point range (27.3%).

"They crawled right up under us," Young said of the Penn State defense. "Our shot selection was not very good at all. I'm shocked."

"We fell into the old trap; we wanted to get it all back in one shot. And that's not the way it plays out."

"Their pressure and their tenacity on the defensive end contributed to some of that."

The Hokies struggled offensively for the second straight game.

Tech was coming off a 64-57 win over VMI last Thursday in which it shot just 35% from the field and only 14.8% (4 of 27) from 3-point range.

The Hokies committed 14 turnovers to Penn State's five.

"Our numbers are all out of whack — eight assists and 14 turnovers," Young said.

In the first half, Tech had 10 turnovers and Penn State none.

"We chart deflections. We chart contested passes. And we weren't good enough," Young said of his defense not forcing turnovers.

Penn State won even though its leading scorer this season, Seth Lundy, had no points. He entered the game averaging 22.3 points. Lundy played just nine minutes in the first half because of foul trouble.

Down 3-0, the Nittany Lions scored 17 straight points to build a 17-3 lead with 13:21 left in the first half.

Virginia Tech was shooting just 12.5% from the field and was 1 of 6 from 3-point range at that point. Tech had five turnovers at that point.

Bede said Penn State's fast pace was the problem.

"We were trying to tell ourselves not to play like that — play our style," Bede said. "I blame myself as the leader of the team.

"We're not good that way. We're great at our style and our pace. When we try to play like them, you can see in the first six minutes, it didn't go well for us.

"I need to control the pace a lot better.

"We weren't spreading them out, moving the ball side to side."

Penn State led 42-23 at halftime. The Hokies had more turnovers (10) than baskets (nine) in the first half.

Reserve guard Jalen Cone had 11 points off the bench for Tech, which fell to 0-4 against Penn State in the Big Ten-ACC Challenge.

Tech reserve Hunter Cattoor, who has been dealing with strep throat, played less than a minute.

Daily News

Norm Wood

Hokies go cold shooting from perimeter again, commit turnovers and struggle to keep up with efficient Penn State

<https://www.dailypress.com/sports/college/virginia-tech/vp-sp-penn-state-hokies-mens-basketball-20201209-jklyjvcuijhxhbxznq7n7vcko4-story.html>

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 9, 2020) — Through the first two weeks of the season, Virginia Tech coach Mike Young has learned the most about his team playing against programs from the Keystone State, but the lessons from Tuesday night's 75-55 loss to Penn State weren't terribly encouraging.

After defeating then-No. 3 Villanova just 10 days earlier, No. 15 Virginia Tech came into its ACC-Big Ten Challenge matchup against Penn State with confidence that it could play with anybody, but Tech showed shooting deficiencies last Thursday in a close win against Virginia Military Institute that carried over to Tuesday night.

Combine those shooting woes with a significant turnover problem and suspect defensive effort, and the recipe for disaster emerged against Penn State (3-1). Tech (4-1), which saw its 35-game home winning streak against non-conference opponents snapped, finished with 14 turnovers, compared to just five for Penn State — the fourth-fewest ever by a Tech opponent in Cassell Coliseum.

"That's a microcosm of where we were defensively on our heels," Young said regarding how Penn State valued possessions. "We chart deflections, we chart contested passes and we just simply weren't good enough in that category and a number of categories."

The discrepancy in giveaways led to a 22-4 advantage in points off turnovers for Penn State, which didn't have a first-half turnover, and didn't commit its first turnover until there was 16:53 left.

After missing 23 of 27 shots from 3-point range against VMI, Tech failed to convert 16 of its 22 3-point attempts against Penn State while shooting just 37% from the floor overall.

Jalen Cone led Tech with 11 points off the bench, while Nahiem Alleyne was Tech's only other double-figure scorer with 10 points. Keve Aluma had eight points and 12 rebounds.

Penn State, which was led by guard Izaiah Brockington's 24 points, responded by making 12 of 23 shots from beyond the 3-point line and 50% of its field goal attempts overall.

"We let them shoot right in our face," said guard Wabissa Bede, who made a 3-pointer on Tech's opening possession as the shot clock expired — before Penn State went on a 17-0 run. "They were all great shooters."

Three things we saw

*Penn State's lead grew to as many as 29 points in the second half, as Brockington and guards Myreon Jones (14 points), Myles Dread (11 points), Sam Sessoms (10 points) and Jamari Wheeler (six assists) consistently had open looks or were able to penetrate past defenders.

"Everything they throw in the air seems like it's going in the hole," Young said. "That's not the basketball gods. That's the Virginia Tech defense. We weren't nearly as good on that end as I have grown to expect us to be."

*Tech guard Hunter Cattoor was averaging 6.6 points in 19 minutes per game coming into Tuesday night, but he played less than a minute against Penn State because he had strep throat.

Young said Cattoor's most recent coronavirus test was negative. He was cleared to play and was shooting well in a pregame warm-up in Tech's practice facility, but he didn't feel great during the game.

*With a week off before Tech's ACC opener at home against Clemson, Young indicated shooting will be a point of emphasis, but he's confident his team will bounce back.

"I don't think we're shooting it particularly well right now," Young said. "That is not a big concern. I don't think it is any deeper than Penn State came in here and flattened our nose. They did so early. So, (I'm) surprised and disappointed in our response, but I've got good people back there. We've got a week to work at it."

Never could've seen it coming

Despite its dominant overall effort, Penn State didn't get a single point from forward Seth Lundy, who came in leading the Nittany Lions with an average of 22.3 points per game. Lundy picked up two fouls early and only played nine minutes in the first half before going on to miss all four of his shots from the floor.

"Not in a million years," said Young when asked if he could've imagined his team losing by 20 points if it held Lundy scoreless. "One of those inexplicable occurrences that can happen in this thing."

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Barber

No. 15 Virginia Tech falters in blowout home loss to Penn State

https://richmond.com/sports/college/no-15-virginia-tech-falters-in-blowout-home-loss-to-penn-state/article_bf73334a-6b33-54b2-97e7-7f2585f9b7e2.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 9, 2020) — Early-season basketball losses, even 20-point blowouts that snap 35-game home nonconference win streaks, often prove to be more outliers than indications of what's to come.

But alarming in No. 15 Virginia Tech's 75-55 loss to Penn State on Tuesday night in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge, was the lack of a response when the Nittany Lions took command of the game one minute into the contest.

"They popped us right in the mouth and we didn't respond very well," Tech coach Mike Young said. "That's a concern."

After an opening 3-pointer by senior Wabissa Bede, the Hokies went cold, missing their next eight shots and committing five turnovers. Penn State took full advantage, going on a 17-0 run to lead 17-3 just 6:39 into the night.

Bede said PSU controlled the game's pace, drawing the Hokies into an up-and-down style they were hoping to avoid.

"I blame myself, being the leader of the team, going for the bait, playing in that style," Bede said. "We're not good that way. We're great at our style and our pace. ... When we tried to play like them, you could see in the first six minutes, it didn't go well for us."

Sophomore guard Jalen Cone came in off the bench and got Tech going briefly, scoring 8 points and making an assist in his first 3:09, helping trim PSU's lead to 21-13 midway through the first half.

But behind 15 first-half points from Izaiah Brockington, the Nittany Lions went to the locker room up 42-23.

"They got us back on our heels, I think, on both ends," Young said. "We found ourselves reeling."

In upsetting then-No. 3 Villanova two weeks ago, Tech may have played its best game under Young. Tuesday, the Hokies may have turned in their worst.

Brockington finished with 24 points and Myreon Jones added 14, hitting four of the Nittany Lions' 12 makes from 3-point range, as PSU handed Young his most lopsided home loss in his two seasons with the Hokies.

Tech (4-1) committed 14 turnovers, shot just 37 percent from the floor and went 6 for 20 from 3-point range in suffering its first loss of the season.

Cone's 11 points off the bench led the Hokies, who lost at home in a nonconference game for the first time since 2015 (West Virginia), snapping a 35-game home nonconference win streak.

Tech fell behind almost immediately in a dismal first half when it committed more turnovers (10) than it made shots (9). Penn State shot 51.4 percent in the first half and didn't commit a turnover.

Tech's leading scorer, Wofford transfer Keve Aluma, was held without a point before the break. He finished with 8 points and 12 rebounds.

Young said he still feels good about his team as it prepares to open ACC play against Clemson next week.

"I don't think it's any deeper than, Penn State came in here and flattened our nose," Young said. "And did so early. Surprised. Disappointed in our response.

"But I've got good people back there. We've got a week to work at it and need it to open league play against Clemson. We'll be better and I look forward to it."

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 15, 2020) — The Virginia Tech men's basketball team knocked off another nationally ranked foe Tuesday night.

The Hokies fended off No. 24 Clemson 66-60 at Cassell Coliseum in the ACC opener for both teams.

"I feel good about our team. We really fought. We really defended, and we rebounded," Tech coach Mike Young said.

Virginia Tech (5-1, 1-0), which upset then-No. 3 Villanova at the Mohegan Sun last month, improved to 2-0 against ranked opponents this season.

"We are capable to beat anybody that's on the schedule," said Tech's Tyrece Radford, whose 15-point outing included two baskets in the final minute. "Just got to keep our confidence high, and know that we can do that."

Does a second win over a ranked foe mean Tech is for real?

"It's premature if we're for real. We're better," Young said.

The Hokies bounced back from last week's 75-55 home loss to Penn State.

"I'm really proud of our team. I thought we took some legitimate steps forward, and we needed to after getting our tails fanned against the Nittany Lions," Young said.

"We just emphasized defense [after the loss]," Radford said.

Tech had been idle since the Dec. 8 defeat.

"I was thankful we had a week off," Young said. "We call it sharpening the saw. I thought we were dull, for whatever reason, and we had a chance to shore some things up, look at quite a bit of film.

"We had some time to get better."

Virginia Tech fell out of the Associated Press Top 25 on Monday. But thanks to Tuesday's win, Tech is now a safe bet to return to the Top 25 next Monday as long as it takes care of Coppin State on Saturday.

Tech played without reserve point guard Cartier Diarra, who is averaging 7.5 points.

The Kansas State graduate transfer has "opted out for the time being" because of the coronavirus pandemic, said Young.

"That was a choice I supported," Young said. "He can opt back in whenever he chooses."

Diarra, who does not have COVID-19, informed Young of his decision Monday and did not attend Tuesday's game.

Clemson (5-1, 0-1) had cracked the Top 25 on Monday after beating Maryland and Alabama last week.

But Tech led the entire second half Tuesday, although the Tigers whittled a 16-point second-half deficit down to two points.

"That run they went on, I'm probably going to watch that on film tonight over and over and over and over," Radford said.

Penn State shot 50% from the field in last week's game.

But the Tigers shot only 38% from the field.

"So much more connected [on defense Tuesday], just so much lighter on our feet and tough, and contested dribble handoffs and ball screens," Young said.

"We couldn't get matched up with Penn State with those four guards. [Clemson had] a more traditional lineup, ... a better style for us defensively — more like Villanova."

Clemson entered the game ranked fourth nationally in scoring defense (51.4 ppg).

The Hokies shot just 40.9% from the field and were only 5 of 16 (31.3%) from 3-point range. It was the third straight game they shot worse than 41% from the field and the fourth straight game they sank six or fewer 3-pointers.

But Tech was 25 of 31 from the free-throw line Tuesday.

Keve Aluma (13 points) was 9 of 12 from the free-throw line and Radford was 5 of 6 from the line. Nahiem Alleyne (13 points) sealed the win with two free throws with 10.7 seconds to go.

Tech shot 80.6% from the line after making just 9 of 18 free throws against Penn State.

"Making half your fouls is bad and costs you games," Young said. "[But] we've got a good shooting team, ... so I didn't have a lot of heartburn from the line [after the loss]."

Virginia Tech outrebounded the Tigers 33-25.

Leading 34-29 early in the second half, the Hokies went on a 11-0 run to build a 45-29 cushion with 12:36 to go.

Tech reserve Hunter Cattoor, who played less than a minute against Penn State because of strep throat, had five of his 11 points in the run.

"I felt a lot better [Tuesday]," Cattoor said.

Down 57-46, the Tigers went on a 9-0 run to cut the lead to 57-55 with 2:00 to go.

Aluma made one of two free throws to extend the lead to 58-55.

Radford made a layup to extend the lead to 60-55 with 58.7 seconds left. After a Nick Honor 3-pointer, Radford made another layup to extend the lead to 61-58.

Aamir Simms made a layup to cut the lead to 62-60 with 25.9 seconds left. But Alleyne made two free throws with 10.7 seconds to go to give Tech a 64-60 cushion.

Richmond Times Dispatch

Mike Barber

Virginia Tech's Cartier Diarra opts out of basketball season, for now

https://richmond.com/sports/college/virginia-techs-cartier-diarra-opts-out-of-basketball-season-for-now/article_596a0ba1-5923-5ccb-a410-6ce-9aee228ff.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 16, 2020) — The Highly-touted Kansas State transfer guard Cartier Diarra has opted out of playing for Virginia Tech basketball, at least for the moment, due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19.

Coach Mike Young announced Diarra's decision Tuesday night after the Hokies beat No. 24 Clemson 66-60 in a game Diarra did not attend. Young said it's possible Diarra could still rejoin the team this season.

"He's opted out for the time being, with regards to COVID," said Young after his team's second win over a Top 25 opponent already this season. "Now, that doesn't mean anything more than that. He could be back tomorrow. He could be back sometime in the near future. That was his choice. It was a choice that I supported, with everything going on."

Young said he met with Diarra on Monday and the two had a quick conversation, but the coach said he was not going to try to talk a player out of opting out, considering the severity of the pandemic.

"That was his choice and we don't fight that, not in this environment that we're living in," said Young, in his second season with the Hokies after 17 seasons leading Wofford. "He can opt back in whenever he chooses. We will have some conversations going into that, but he has my complete support."

Diarra played in the first five games this season for Tech (5-1), coming off the bench to average 19.8 minutes, 7.5 points, 2.3 assists and 2.5 rebounds per game. His addition had meant junior point guard Wabissa Bede wouldn't have to play the massive number of minutes he logged last season.

After averaging 29.7 minutes per game last season, Bede had played 25.2 through the first five contests of this season. Tuesday night, Bede played 33 in the win over Clemson.

The 6-foot-4, 185-pound scoring point guard transferred to Tech after graduating from Kansas State, where he played in 95 games in four years, missing his first season with knee surgery and becoming a full-time starter by his final year, when he averaged 13.3 points, 4.2 assists and 3.8 rebounds per game.

A New York native who played his high school basketball in South Carolina, Diarra transferred to Tech – in large part – because of his relationship with former Kansas State assistant Chester Frazier, now a Hokies assistant.

Reached Wednesday morning, Diarra's mother – Danyelle Dieng – said she was unaware of her son's decision.

Diarra's Tech teammates offered their support for him after Tuesday's victory.

"It was just his decision to opt out. Our whole staff and organization support it," said sophomore guard Tyrece Radford, who led Tech with 15 points against the Tigers. "We're going to keep going, keep going. Wish him the best."

Said sophomore guard Hunter Cattoor, who scored 11 points off the bench, "Here, me and our team fully support him in whatever he does."

The Hokies host Coppin State on Saturday, then Longwood on Monday. They end the calendar year hosting Miami on Dec. 29 for the team's second ACC game of the season, and open the new year Jan. 2 at No. 18 Virginia.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

Virginia Tech sinks 20 3-pointers in men's basketball rout of Coppin State

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/virginia-tech-sinks-20-3-pointers-in-mens-basketball-rout-of-coppin-state/article_475534b2-4248-11eb-818c-b33194bbb274.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 19, 2020) — The Virginia Tech men's basketball team certainly recaptured its outside shooting touch Saturday night.

The Hokies sank a season-high 20 3-pointers in a 97-57 rout of Coppin State at Cassell Coliseum.

Virginia Tech (6-1) had not made more than six 3-pointers in any of its previous four games. But Tech had eight 3-pointers by halftime Saturday.

“Our team needed to see some things go in the basket,” Virginia Tech coach Mike Young said. “Some opportunities that we hadn’t had here in the last couple weeks. Good to see the skies open and some shots going home.

“It’s like a hitter in baseball. It’s like a drop-back quarterback in football. You get a couple in there and your shoulders get back and the basket looks a little bit bigger. Confidence is a big thing in any athletic endeavor.”

Virginia Tech finished one 3-pointer shy of tying the school record of 21, set last season against Delaware State.

“Everyone got into a rhythm tonight, just knocking down shots,” said Virginia Tech reserve Jalen Cone, who had 18 points and five 3-pointers. “Once more guys knocked down shots, it kind of domino affected the others.

“The bench had good energy. We were all just excited for each other.”

Coppin State (1-6), like Delaware State, belongs to the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Young noted that the Eagles “weren’t as stingy an opponent” as the Hokies’ recent foes, such as Penn State and Clemson.

“We thought we could get a number of better looks than we’ve had,” Young said.

Nahiem Alleyne scored 18 points and was 5 of 9 from 3-point range for Virginia Tech. He drained four 3-pointers in the first half.

Cone was 5 of 11 from 3-point range. He buried four 3-pointers in the second half.

“First half, I took some shots, they weren’t falling, but they felt great,” Cone said. “I came out the second half with just more energy, more confidence.”

“Really needed to get Jalen Cone going and happy that we were able to do so,” Young said.

Eight Hokies made at least one 3-pointer.

Virginia Tech shot a season-high 54.1% (20 of 37) from 3-point range, including 66.7% (12 of 18) in the second half. Virginia Tech had not shot better than 31.3% from that distance in any of the past four games.

The Hokies entered Saturday averaging just 6.8 3-pointers, down from last season’s average of 9.8. They entered the game shooting just 32.3% from 3-point range this season.

Virginia Tech has a better inside attack than it had last year and has also been going to the free-throw line more than it did last year. But Young said it was still very important that the Hokies got their 3-point game going again.

“We realized they haven’t been falling,” Cone said of the 3-point shots. “We just knew that we have a lot of guys who can shoot it and eventually those would start falling again.”

Virginia Tech reached double digits in 3-pointers for just the third time this year. The Hokies made 11 in the opener against Radford and 10 in the upset win over Villanova in the second game of the season.

The Hokies shot 51.7% from the field, including 60.7% in the second half. Only 10 of Virginia Tech’s 30 baskets in the game came from 2-point territory.

Virginia Tech had 20 assists on those 30 baskets, although the team also turned the ball over 18 times.

Keve Aluma had 12 points and seven rebounds for Virginia Tech, while reserve Hunter Cattoor added 11 points and five assists. Aluma and Cattoor made two 3-pointers.

Justyn Mutts had nine points for Virginia Tech, as did freshmen reserves Darius Maddox and Joe Bamisile. Maddox was 3 of 3 from 3-point range.

The Eagles shot 36.4% from the field.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

Despite ‘bizarre year,’ Virginia Tech makes it through nonleague schedule

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/despite-bizarre-year-virginia-tech-makes-it-through-nonleague-schedule/article_b5132ca6-43f7-11eb-9ed7-27e1ef50550a.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 21, 2020) — The Virginia Tech men’s basketball team managed to play another nonconference game — and chalk up another nonconference win — Monday night.

Tech wrapped up the nonleague portion of its schedule with an 84-58 rout of Longwood at Cassell Coliseum.

The 24th-ranked Hokies finished 6-1 in nonconference play. They are 7-1 overall, including last week’s ACC win over Clemson.

“I’m excited, but I’m also looking forward to the rest of the games in ACC play,” said Tech center Keve Aluma, who had 14 points. “We’re playing confident. We’ve still got a long way to go, obviously, but I’m just liking how things are coming together.”

The fact that Tech simply played seven nonleague games was a triumph in itself.

While some teams have either had to go on a COVID-19 pause or have had games called off because of foes’ COVID-19 issues, Virginia Tech played all the nonconference games it was entitled to play in this abbreviated season.

"I feel fortunate, feel incredibly lucky to get to the end," Tech coach Mike Young said. "I look at different stuff every single night. Wake Forest has played two games. Temple has [played one]."

"What a bizarre year. But fortunately for the Hokies, we've steered clear."

The only hitch for Tech came last month, when a game with Temple at the Mohegan Sun was scrapped on just two days' notice because of Temple's COVID-19 issues. But the Hokies were instead able to play nationally ranked Villanova on the night they were scheduled to face Temple — and then upset the Wildcats.

Virginia Tech has played more games (eight) than any other ACC team this season.

"I'm excited that things have been able to go this smooth," Aluma said. "I was a little nervous and hesitant to how they would go, but things are going well."

"We're blessed to have these opportunities to play ... [this] amount of games," guard Jalen Cone said. "Our athletic trainer, Hisham [Ziyout], he's been doing a phenomenal job, making sure we're all doing the right things."

Longwood (1-7) trailed just 34-30 at halftime, but Tech shot a sizzling 59.4% from the field in the second half.

"There was not a lot of fire and brimstone in that locker room at halftime. ... Not a lot of changes; just 'Do it better,'" Young said. "We executed very well [in the second half]. I really was impressed with our passing."

Virginia Tech had seven dunks — the most for the team in Young's two seasons at the helm — and 10 3-pointers.

Cone had 18 points and six 3-pointers off the bench Monday. He had 18 points and five 3-pointers in last weekend's win over Coppin State.

"Coach Young has had unlimited confidence in me," Cone said. "He's been telling me to shoot the ball."

"He can really deflate a team's defense with his ability to stop on a dime and rise up and make them," Young said. "This is his fifth game back [from a foot injury], and I thought for the first time against Coppin State I saw that little rat that I had come to appreciate. ... He looked even more like himself tonight."

Tech entered Monday with more turnovers (94) than assists (91) this season.

But the Hokies had 19 assists and just eight turnovers Monday. It was the first time all season they had fewer than 10 turnovers in a game.

"More typical of ... numbers that we have grown accustomed to around here," Young said. "You can't turn the ball over. And to be eight games in and overall on the year we have a negative assist-turnover ratio, I'm not sure that I've ever had a team do that."

"We have good ball-handling kids. ... Been more concerned about turnovers from our frontcourt people."

"Tonight was a step in a positive direction. But that's a non-negotiable. Football, can't turn it over. Base on balls in baseball. Those things bite you in the tail. You're playing with fire if you're kicking that thing around."

Tech point guard Wabissa Bede had five points, eight assists and no turnovers.

"He had a phenomenal game," Cone said.

The Hokies opened the second half on a 9-0 run to build a 43-30 cushion with 16:16 to go.

Leading 45-40, the Hokies went on a 24-7 run to build a 69-47 cushion with 5:56 left.

Freshman reserve Joe Bamisile had 11 points for Tech. He had scored nine points in last weekend's game.

"Bamisile, I thought, has had a couple of good days. I've got a greater level of trust in him," Young said.

Tech's Tyrece Radford had nine points and eight rebounds.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

(Almost) silent nights: Virginia Tech players, fans coping with quiet Cassell Coliseum

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/almost-silent-nights-virginia-tech-players-fans-coping-with-quiet-cassell-coliseum/article_5700c5e6-44ac-11eb-a82e-e354c04beee6.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 25, 2020) — Men's basketball games at Cassell Coliseum this season don't look — or sound — like they used to.

Under Gov. Ralph Northam's restrictions in response to the coronavirus pandemic, a maximum of 250 fans are allowed at games at Cassell.

Tech has not even reached that maximum so far this season. With spectators required to be on a pass list, the crowds at 9,275-seat Cassell Coliseum have ranged from about 100 fans to about 200 fans at the six home games the Tech men's basketball team has played so far this season.

That makes for a quiet experience for players and fans alike.

"Very, very strange. It was very eerie," Tech fan Mandi Martinez of Christiansburg said before Monday's home win over Longwood as she reflected upon the Dec. 15 home win over Clemson she had attended. "It's hard to jump and do anything that you normally would do at a Hokies game. The guys, whenever they were defending on our end of the court, they were down there screaming, 'Defense!' so you could kind of join in with them a little. But that's about it."

"It's completely different. Quiet, unfortunately," Tech fan Andrew Petersen of Blacksburg said Monday as he recalled the Dec. 8 home loss to Penn State he had attended. "We tried to be as loud as we could."

The 24th-ranked Hokies are 7-1 this year, including 5-1 at subdued Cassell.

"The motto this year has been BYOE — Bring Your Own Energy," reserve guard Jalen Cone said. "That's how we're going to win games, really. We don't have the support physically in the stands. . . . We've got to bring it on the bench so the guys on the court can feed off it."

"It's different. You notice it during warmups, just looking around and not really seeing anyone," teammate Hunter Cattoor said. "We just have to bring our own energy. That's one of our sayings we say throughout pregame warmups."

But coach Mike Young said he was "really, really concerned" earlier in the season about his team's failure to create its own energy.

"Our first three home games, we weren't very good at all," Young said Tuesday in a phone interview. "I didn't think we were very good at all against Radford. I thought we were terrible against VMI. And the score was indicative of how poor we were [in a 75-55 loss] against Penn State. Just a lack of energy and a lack of enthusiasm [on the team], and I certainly take that personally. That's part of our role as a head coach."

"But we come back against Clemson and we were fired up and energized. You have to create your own energy. There's nobody else. I say it all the time, 'In this locker room is all we've got.'"

"There's [a limit of] 250 people in there, and they're way away from the floor. It's different. It's hard."

Tech has won three straight home games since losing to Penn State. Young said the players have listened to the coaches and have made more of a conscious effort to be enthusiastic on the bench.

"This isn't show up and play and expect 10,000 Hokie fans and the student section to give you an added shot of enthusiasm. That's not going to be with us this year," Young said. "So it's incumbent upon us to create that and be enthusiastic. Our team certainly has been for the last couple weeks."

Fans cannot be as close to the action as they used to be. The ACC is requiring fans to be at least 15 feet away from the court this season.

To keep spectators (who must wear masks and who are given temperature checks upon entering Cassell) away from the players and coaches, the first seven rows in the east stands behind the Tech bench, the scorers' table and the visitors' bench are roped off.

Advertising tarps have been placed over three of those rows. Cardboard cutouts of fans take up a few rows, too.

And the first two rows are now part of the expanded bench areas. Each team bench now encompasses four rows of socially distanced chairs, including two rows on the floor.

Fans are not permitted to sit in the west stands this year. The west stands are reserved for the telecast's camera operators, who cannot be on the floor this year; video-board camera operators; and for tables for the television and radio announcers, who are not allowed to sit on the floor at courtside tables this year.

Donors are not allowed to sit at the courtside tables this year, either.

The general public cannot buy tickets to Tech home games this season. Fans have to be put on a pass list by a player, a member of the Tech men's basketball staff, certain members of the Tech athletic department or by the visiting team.

Martinez and her family, for example, were at Monday's game because they know Cone.

Petersen and his family got on the list because they are friends with a few members of the Tech coaching staff.

Cattoor put his parents on the list. Rodney and Kathy Cattoor made the trip up from Florida to watch their son play last weekend against Coppin State and Monday against Longwood.

"It's just not the same. I don't know how these guys bring the energy. I feel sad for the kids," Rodney Cattoor said. "They're making the best of a bad situation."

Rusty and Tracy McCoy of Christiansburg attended the Coppin St. and Longwood games because a friend who is related to one of the coaches got them on the list.

"It was fun to be here [last weekend], but it was kind of sad," Tracy McCoy said as she arrived at Monday's game. "You didn't have the crowd and the enthusiasm — no real home-court advantage."

"You've got to watch what you say," her husband said. "Sometimes you'll be watching on TV and you can hear people in the crowd. Sometimes I get vocal, especially when everything doesn't go all right. So I had to tone it down a lot this year."

It is so quiet at games that fans can hear what the players and coaches are saying.

"It was fun because you could hear the coaches talking," Darius Machingo, 16, of Christiansburg said Monday as he recalled attending the opener against Radford.

"We can hear players talking to each other, getting each other excited," Petersen said. "We can actually hear what's going on on the court. I think that's pretty cool."

Young has warned his team about that fact.

"For a young person to hear a player or me use bad language, we're not going to do that," Young said.

The opposing coaches can hear Young, too.

"We disguise our play calls as best we can," he said.

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 26, 2020) — The Virginia Tech men's basketball team lost one of its most experienced players when reserve point guard Cartier Diarra opted out of the season.

But so far, the Hokies' bench remains a strong suit.

Thanks in part to the reserves, Tech is 3-0 since Diarra opted out the day before a Dec. 15 win over then-No. 24 Clemson.

"They've done well. They've all had their moments," Tech coach Mike Young said of his backups in a phone interview Tuesday.

Diarra, a Kansas State graduate transfer, ranked fourth on the Hokies in scoring (7.5 ppg) and sixth in minutes (19.6 mpg) when he opted out because of the coronavirus pandemic. He averaged 13.3 points for Kansas State last year.

"Everybody [on the bench] definitely knew that we're down a man now and we have a little bit more responsibility to take care of," sophomore reserve guard Jalen Cone said.

Young, who would welcome Diarra back this season if Diarra changes his mind, said Diarra had two reasons for leaving the team.

"He absolutely detests the PCR tests that we do," Young said. "We test three times a week and two of them are ... the [PCR] one in the nostril.

"I hate that test. I absolutely hate it. But I want to coach the Virginia Tech Hokie basketball team, and that is the only way I have that opportunity, is to test and be found negative.

"He continues to work through that thing."

Diarra's second reason was also related to the pandemic.

"Serious concerns, family concerns, about [him getting] the virus," Young said.

Diarra had played in four of Tech's first five games before opting out. He did not play in the win over VMI because he overslept the day before that game and missed a COVID-19 test.

After Diarra opted out, Young chose sophomore reserve off-guard Hunter Cattoor over Cone to be the point guard whenever starter Wabissa Bede is out of the game. He wanted to keep Cone at off-guard.

"Cone is better off the ball — but certainly a capable secondary ball-handler and can grab a long rebound, loose ball and bring it [up the court] and make proper decisions moving at full speed," Young said.

The lineup of Cattoor, Cone, reserve post player Cordell Pemsil, reserve post player David N'Guessan and starting small forward Tyrece Radford was responsible for a 10-0 run in the first half of Monday's win over Longwood.

"The ball moved, players moved. Hunter's going to be A-OK as long as he's back there in that [point guard] role," Young said. "He'll play with Bede a lot as well. So I don't have a lot of heartburn going forward with Hunter Cattoor at the point. The only heartburn I would have is taking him off of the shooting guard spot, where he's best."

Cattoor had 11 points and six rebounds off the bench in the 66-60 marquee win over Clemson on Dec. 15.

Pemsil, an Iowa graduate transfer, added five points and five rebounds.

"Pemsil has helped our team," Young said.

The No. 24 Hokies (7-1, 1-0 ACC) also got a boost from the bench the past two games, although those foes were not as formidable as Clemson.

Cone had 18 points, five 3-pointers and four assists in last weekend's 97-57 rout of Coppin State, while Cattoor had 11 points and five assists. Freshman reserve guards Joe Bamisile and Darius Maddox each added nine points. N'Guessan, also a freshman, had four points and six rebounds.

Cone had 18 points and six 3-pointers in Monday's 84-58 rout of Longwood, while Bamisile added 11 points. Cattoor added eight points and three assists. N'Guessan had five points and seven rebounds.

"N'Guessan has played good basketball," Young said. "He's got to get bigger and stronger."

Young currently has six scholarship reserves at his disposal. He had hoped to gain a seventh when the Hokies return to action Tuesday against visiting Miami, but that might not happen.

Sophomore center John Ojiako has yet to play this season because of knee surgery to repair a meniscus injury.

"We'll get John back soon. ... Miami may be a bit premature," Young said. "That's our target date, but we worked him out [Tuesday] ... and he wasn't as far along as we had thought."

Tech players (other than Ojiako, a Nigerian) headed home for a Christmas break Tuesday and were set to return to campus Friday.

"I thought it was important for them to get home and see their families," Young said. "They've been incredibly responsible and accountable for themselves and one another."

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

'Fortunate' Virginia Tech fends off Miami

https://roanoke.com/sports/local/fortunate-virginia-tech-fends-off-miami/article_d4d9f354-4a22-11eb-898c-8bd58ae17336.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 29, 2020) — When the Miami men's basketball team visited Cassell Coliseum last season, the Hurricanes won a triple-overtime thriller.

There was tension in Miami's return to Cassell on Tuesday. But this time, the Hurricanes left the arena in defeat.

No. 24 Virginia Tech fended off Miami 80-78 Tuesday night for its fourth straight win.

The Hokies (8-1, 2-0 ACC) led the entire second half, but their 17-point second-half lead shrunk to two points.

"We won and didn't play very well," Tech coach Mike Young said. "Sometimes you take a win and you keep on moving. We've got a lot of film we can look at. We didn't handle some things very well.

"There [were] some situations that we haven't found ourselves in — a little bit against Clemson, a little bit against Villanova.

"We will learn from it. I love those lessons learned after winning.

"Fortunate to win, but again, sometimes I've played well and lost. I'd much prefer to play poorly and win the game, and we did that."

Tech led 58-41 with 15:12 left, but Miami climbed back in the game and had the chance to grab the lead in the waning seconds.

With Tech clinging to an 80-78 lead, Miami's Isaiah Wong (16 points) missed a 3-pointer from the top of the key with five seconds to go.

"We've got to keep up the aggressiveness and close out games better," said Tech's Tyrece Radford, who had 13 points and nine rebounds.

"We let them get back into it," Tech center Keve Aluma said. "Our energy was down [after building the lead]."

Aluma scored 26 points, including 19 points in the first half.

"Just trying to be aggressive," Aluma said. "They didn't [double-team], so I was kind of able to do whatever I wanted."

Justyn Mutts added 15 points, nine rebounds and three steals. Jalen Cone scored 12 points off the bench for Tech.

Miami shot 53.6% from the field, including 55.2% in the second half.

"Too many post scores for Miami," Young said. "They lived in the lane in the second half. Just not pleased with our defense throughout."

But Miami turned the ball over 19 times to Tech's 11. The Hokies had 12 steals.

The injury-plagued Hurricanes (4-3, 0-2 ACC) lost for the third time in their last four games.

Miami standout Chris Lykes, a preseason All-ACC pick, missed his fifth straight game with an ankle injury. Fellow guard Kameron McGusty (10.5 ppg) missed his third straight game with a hamstring injury.

The Hurricanes also played without center Rodney Miller, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in the team's Dec. 19 win over Jacksonville, and forward Sam Waardenburg, who suffered a season-ending foot injury in the preseason.

Up 42-33 at halftime, the Hokies opened the second half on a 14-6 run to build a 56-39 lead with 16:04 remaining.

Down 66-53, Miami went on an 8-0 run to cut the lead to 66-61 with 5:43 to go.

Miami later cut the lead to 71-66, but Mutts made two free throws and Radford made a layup to extend the lead to 75-66 with 2:15 left.

Nysier Brooks later scored to cut the lead to 77-70 with 1:01 left.

After Wong stole the ball from Wabissa Bede, Matt Cross (16 points) made a 3-pointer to trim the lead to 77-73 with 49.1 seconds left. Miami made eight of its 10 3-pointers in the second half.

After Bede missed the front end of a one-and-one, Wong made two free throws to cut the lead to 77-75 with 38.5 seconds left.

Nahiem Alleyne made two free throws to extend the lead to 79-75 with 37.9 seconds left.

After Harlond Beverly sank a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 79-78, Bede made one of two free throws for an 80-78 lead with 26.3 seconds left.

After Wong missed the 3-pointer from the top of the key with five seconds left, Mutts got the rebound.

Mutts was fouled but missed both free throws with 2.4 seconds left.

Brooks snared the rebound, but Bede stole the ball from him to seal the win.

The Hokies went on a 12-0 run to build a 42-30 cushion with 1:12 to go in the first half. Cone and Aluma each had five points in the run.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

David Teel

Winning when they should, No. 24 Hokies survive Miami

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-winning-when-they-should-no-24-hokies-survive-miami/article_35f86da2-4cb6-57d2-ae28-67a9334c2186.html

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 29, 2020) — Nothing about pandemic life is routine, and Virginia Tech's late carelessness assured Tuesday's basketball game against Miami wouldn't defy the times.

Closing a six-game homestand, the 24th-ranked Hokies butchered virtually all of a 17-point lead before surviving 80-78 at Cassell Coliseum.

"Sometimes," Tech coach Mike Young said, "you take a win and you keep on moving."

All that said, this was a should-win game for Tech (8-1, 2-0 ACC). Its roster isn't far superior to Miami's, but it's certainly better than what the Hurricanes had available.

Two returning Miami starters, 7-footer Rodney Miller (knee) and 6-10 Sam Waardenburg (foot) are out for the season. Senior point guard Chris Lykes, the Hurricanes' leading scorer as a sophomore and junior, missed his fifth consecutive game with an ankle injury, backcourt mate Kameron McGusty (hamstring) his third straight outing.

That foursome last season combined to average 41 points and 17 rebounds.

And for much of the evening, Tuesday bordered on routine, like the Hokies' recent nonconference routs of Coppin State and Longwood. Tech showcased balanced scoring led by Keve Aluma's career-high 26 points, fouled infrequently and forced 19 turnovers in leading for the final 23 minutes.

Then Isaiah Wong, the ACC's No. 2 scorer at 19 points per game, heated up, causing the Hokies flashbacks to last February, when his 27 points lifted Miami to a 102-95 triple-overtime victory in Blacksburg.

"It was most definitely on my mind," Tech guard Tyrece Radford said with a smile.

Radford could smile because he had just contested a step-back Wong 3-pointer in the final minute that would have given the Hurricanes (4-3, 0-2) the lead. The shot went in and out.

"I was just trying not to pick up a foul," Radford said, "a dumb foul."

Young second-guessed himself for not running a second defender, the 6-9 Aluma, at Wong.

"Hold your breath," Young said. "You know what's coming. Thought Tyrece did a nice job. He got it contested without fouling, and I exhaled so violently I thought I was going to collapse there. ... Caught a break. Sometimes you need to catch a break."

While Radford grinned during his postgame Zoom, Young looked as though he had a Grade-A migraine.

The Hokies rushed shots late and committed nine of their 11 turnovers after intermission. They missed eight free throws, including two each by Wabissa Bede and Justyn Mutts in the waning moments, Mutts' misses with 2.4 seconds remaining.

Only when Bede then stole the ball from Nysier Brooks in the final seconds were Young and the Hokies able to exhale.

Each ACC victory should be relished, and none should be dismissed, even in a season such as 2020-21, when the league to date has underperformed.

A Tuesday morning glance at Ken Pomeroy's predictive metrics showed how muddled the conference is. Projecting the ACC race, KenPom's algorithm had nine of the 15 teams bunched at the top with league records ranging from 13-6 to 11-8, the number of games reflecting COVID postponements not expected to be rescheduled.

The pandemic almost certainly will dictate even fewer games, but were that projection to play out, it would be the second-worst winning percentage atop the standings in the ACC's 68 seasons. The lowest was in 1985, when Georgia Tech, North Carolina and N.C. State tied for first at 9-5.

Virginia Tech is among the teams KenPom anticipates challenging for first place, quite the statement for a program that finished 7-13 in the league last season and was picked 11th by the media in 2020-21.

But when Aluma (six rebounds, four assists and three blocked shots to complement his scoring) is a post force, and Radford and Mutts (28 points and 18 rebounds combined) are slashing, and Jalen Cone and Nahiem Alleyne are scoring from the perimeter, and Bede is orchestrating it all, this is a quality team.

And quality teams win games that they should, such as Tuesday's.

Now the Hokies prepare for their first road tests, at Virginia on Saturday and at Louisville on Jan. 6. They do so riding a four-game wave since their lone setback, to Penn State, and with plenty to address during the interim.

"I love those lessons learned," Young said, "when winning."

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 29, 2020) — When Mike Young added transfer forwards Keve Aluma and Justyn Mutts to his Virginia Tech basketball roster, it wasn't clear what kind of pieces he had picked up.

Aluma and Mutts were productive at their previous colleges, but those were mid-major programs. Would their play translate to the ACC? Could they take another step in their development, even against stiffer competition?

Two games into conference play, Young has to feel good about the answer to those questions.

Aluma, a transfer from Wofford, scored 26 points, and Mutts, who played last season at Delaware, added 15 as the No. 24 Hokies moved to 2-0 in ACC play, holding off Miami 80-78 on Tuesday night at Cassell Coliseum.

"We're nine games in and Aluma's doing it night in and night out," said Young. "Mutts was really good tonight. Are they exceeding expectations? I don't know. They're good players."

That pair led four Tech players in double figures. Sophomore guard Tyrece Radford scored 13 and sophomore guard Jalen Cone added 12, as the Hokies (8-1, 2-0 ACC) won their fourth straight. It's the program's first 2-0 start to ACC play since joining the league.

"I wasn't really sure how it would all go down, but I just wanted to be aggressive and try to help the team win," said Aluma. "That's what me and Justyn both want."

The short-handed Hurricanes (4-3, 0-2) played without Chris Lykes, Kameron McGusty, Sam Waardenburg and Rodney Miller, the latter two lost for the year to injuries.

Still, they made it a one-point game with 26.7 seconds to play on a 3-pointer by Harlond Beverly, and nearly took the lead before Isaiah Wong's step-back 3 with three seconds left rimmed out and was rebounded by Mutts.

"Sometimes you take a win and you keep on moving," said Young. "We've got a lot of film that we can look at. We didn't handle some things very well."

Mutts proved capable both inside and out against the Hurricanes, leading Tech with nine rebounds, tied with Radford, and hitting a trio of 3-pointers.

Wong and Matt Cross led Miami with 16 points apiece.

Aluma helped key a 12-0 spurt late in the first half that helped send the Hokies to the locker room up 42-33, an impressive margin considering the contest was deadlocked 30-30 with 3:15 to go before the break.

Tech led by as many as 17 but struggled with its late-game execution, letting Miami back into the game in the final minute of play. The Hokies went up 77-68 on a basket by Aluma with 1:31 to go.

But from there, Miami outscored them 8-3, aided by four missed free throws, two each from Wabissa Bede and Mutts.

The 6-7 Mutts started his career at High Point, earning Big South All-Freshman team honors in 2017-18. He transferred to Delaware, sat out one season and then became a starter, averaging 12.2 points and 8.4 rebounds per game last season. He joined Tech as a graduate transfer after completing his degree at Delaware.

Aluma followed Young before last season to Tech after playing for him for two seasons at Wofford. Aluma played in 68 games, starting 36 of them for the Terriers. As a sophomore, he averaged 6.9 points and 6.8 rebounds per game.

"Keve Aluma, he was a stud," said Miami coach Jim Larranaga. "He made so many big shots."

He sat out last season under NCAA transfer rules, practicing with the team but sitting out games.

"We got more people with motors, that can also get the team going," said Radford.

Interestingly, the duo has been more productive than the pair of Power Five transfers Young added this offseason. Former Kansas State point guard Cartier Diarra was averaging 7.5 points through the first four games before opting out due to COVID-19 concerns.

Former Iowa forward Cordell Pemsal was averaging 2.9 points and 3.1 rebounds per game going into Tuesday night. He did not score and had one rebound in nine minutes against Miami.

The Hokies play at No. 23 Virginia on Saturday. The Cavaliers (4-2) play at Notre Dame on Wednesday.

BLACKSBURG (Dec. 29, 2020) — Virginia Tech is a better team than it was last season. Of that, there can be no doubt.

But until recently, there was one statistical area where Tech wasn't showing improvement. The 2019-20 Hokies almost always took better care of the basketball than their opponents. They ranked fifth in the nation in fewest turnovers committed, making just 9.9 miscues per game.

That area has been choppy so far this season. That's one of the reasons Tuesday night was encouraging.

The 24th-ranked Hokies beat Miami 80-78 to improve to 2-0 in the ACC for just the fourth time since joining the conference in 2004-05. They did it with another huge game from Keve Aluma and efficient performances from Tyrece Radford, Justyn Mutts and Jalen Cone. They did it with some big free throws by Nahiem Alleyne once things got squirrely in the final minute.

But they also did it with some pretty good ball security.

Tech finished with 11 turnovers. That's not a remarkably low figure by coach Mike Young's standards, but it's getting closer. Most importantly, the Hokies committed just two of those in the first half. That's when they built the nine-point advantage that they ultimately rode to victory.

Miami was picked seventh in the ACC preseason poll (four spots ahead of the Hokies), but the Hurricanes don't have the personnel they envisioned when those projections came out. They were missing four veteran players in this game because of injuries. That included a pair of big men who, on paper, helped form the nation's 10th-tallest roster by average height.

So the Hurricanes were vulnerable, and the betting line reflected it. Tech was installed as a 6-point favorite. The best way to lose a matchup like that is to give the ball away.

The Hokies didn't. At least not in the first half, when some of their high-percentage shots weren't falling. They missed a lot of layups but valued possessions, making smart passes and avoiding clumsy forays into traffic. And that made their 12-3 run just before the break that much more damaging to Miami.

"It's a big deal to us," Young said of avoiding turnovers. "It's a big deal to our team. They understand that, and I'm certain that that's going to continue to get better. Those numbers are going to continue to improve."

The Hokies have had single-digit turnovers just once so far this season, committing eight in their blowout win over Longwood on Dec. 21. That's closer to Young's ideal — not the 18 they had against Coppin State two days earlier or the 16 they had in their home win against Clemson the week before.

"I think maybe slowing down a little bit [helps]," Young said. "There's a nice gear for us, and I think that gear is at 3 and 4. When we get up to 5, we don't handle that very well yet. Our decision-making isn't very good ... I thought we did a better job of that tonight."

Particularly on their front line. Aluma, who was tied for the team lead with 21 turnovers coming into this game, committed just one on Tuesday while contributing 26 points, six rebounds, four assists and three blocks.

Point guard Wabissa Bede had three turnovers Tuesday but has proven to be a reliable triggerman for the offense.

"I've got some concerns; that's not one of them," Young said. "Bede is sturdy with it back there. For him to have two assists and three turnovers tonight is atypical. He's just so comfortable with the ball in his hands and getting us into stuff."

"Eleven's not bad. I think our team should be around eight, nine, night in, night out."

And if they can get there? Well, a team that's already obviously better than last year's will be an even tougher out.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

David Teel

Another night of ACC tension for Hokies in loss at Louisville

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-another-night-of-acc-tension-for-hokies-in-loss-at-louisville/article_98f642ac-84c0-5aff-acee-3bcbd6e4f019.html

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Jan. 6, 2021) — This is the way it's going to be, my friends. Darn near every night of this college basketball season is going to be a coin-flip grind in the ACC.

Exhibit A is Virginia Tech.

The Hokies' three league games have been decided by 10 points combined, the latest drama Wednesday night in a 73-71 setback at Louisville, their first road test of the season.

Trailing by as many as 14 points during the second half No. 19 Tech hustled its way back into the contest, diving for loose balls and making clutch shots, only to be denied when Hunter Cattoor's long, open 3-pointer at the horn was just long.

The Hokies (8-2, 2-1 ACC) and Cardinals (8-1, 3-0) have been two of the ACC's most impressive squads to date, so a quality, taut game was hardly a surprise. But no matter the teams of late, tension has been the rule in the ACC.

Tuesday's games, Clemson's home victory over North Carolina State and North Carolina's last-second win at Miami, were determined by a combined five points. In the first of Wednesday's four conference games, Pitt rallied from 18 down to win 63-60 at Syracuse.

Miami is winless in four ACC games, but the last three defeats were by five points total, including an 80-78 setback at Virginia Tech. The conference thus far lacks a its usual allotment of top-10 teams, but good luck evaluating the 15-school collective.

"So many of them are just hard," Hokies coach Mike Young said of the conference games. "I watched North Carolina and Miami last night. ... Buckle up for safety. Get rest when you can. Nothing is easy."

Little was easy for Tech and Louisville on Wednesday, even after the Hokies made their first four shots and bolted to an 11-0 lead. The Cardinals top the ACC in field goal percentage defense, and after the early Tech bing, they bared their defensive teeth, forcing ill-advised 3-pointers.

Enter Jalen Cone, the Hokies' best and most fearless shooter. Coming off the bench, he scored a career-high 23 points and made 6 of 12 from beyond the arc.

Nahiem Alleyne scored 13 of his 15 points after intermission to fuel Tech's comeback, but forward Keve Aluma, fresh off a career-high 26 against Miami, missed 7 of 10 shots and finished with 11 points.

"I just didn't think he had his best stuff," Young said. "He wasn't as explosive in the paint."

Cattoor scored all 7 of his points in the waning minutes, and off a missed free throw by Louisville's David Johnson with 5.5 seconds remaining, he got an open look.

"I would take that [shot] from him, Cone or Nahiem," Young said.

No doubt, especially in a scramble situation with no timeouts left.

As they have throughout the season, Johnson and Radford transfer Carlik Jones led Louisville, scoring 17 points each. The wild card was forward Jae'Lyn Withers' 16 points and game-high 12 rebounds.

Jones isn't just Louisville's top scorer. He leads the ACC in assists, has a sterling assist-turnover ratio of 2.12-to-1, averages nearly 37 minutes a game, second-most in the league, and is the Cardinals' No. 2 rebounder. In addition to his scoring, he contributed three rebounds, three assists and three steals in 38 minutes.

College sports' timeless roster churn can render the history of rivalries irrelevant. For example, current Hokies weren't even born when Virginia Tech and Louisville were Metro Conference adversaries from 1979-95.

But the Hokies have not defeated the Cardinals since 1991, a stretch of 17 consecutive losses. They are 0-8 against Louisville since its 2014 entry into the ACC.

Tech returns home for a Sunday game against Notre Dame (3-6, 0-3). The Fighting Irish lead the ACC in 3-point accuracy at 38.9%, and 6-10 junior Nate Laszewski is making 59% of his attempts from beyond the arc, second nationally to Brigham Young's Alex Barcello among players with at least 20 made 3-pointers.

Notre Dame also understands the pain of what-if defeat. The Irish lost their most recent outing, at North Carolina, 66-65 when Juwan Durham's final shot rimmed out.

So Virginia Tech had best be ready.

"I really like my team," Young said, "and I really like the direction of my team, and we're going to play better on Sunday I am certain."

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

Louisville beats No. 19 Virginia Tech for 17th straight time

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/louisville-beats-no-19-virginia-tech-for-17th-straight-time/article_ec5a1ee2-5075-11eb-92a4-4b24d-de6d01b.html

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Jan. 6, 2021) — Make that 17 in a row.

The Louisville men's basketball team beat 19th-ranked Virginia Tech for the 17th consecutive time Wednesday, fending off the Hokies 73-71 at the KFC Yum Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Virginia Tech has not beaten the Cardinals since a win in February 1991, back when the teams were Metro Conference rivals.

The Hokies trailed by 14 points in the second half but rallied to cut the lead to 72-71.

"I was proud ... of our toughness," Tech coach Mike Young said. "Proud of them for hanging in there and doing everything but winning the basketball game.

"We've all played better. But great faith and trust in the kids in that locker room. We will respond."

After David Johnson made one of two free throws to extend the lead to 73-71 with 5.5 seconds left, Keve Aluma got the defensive rebound.

But Hunter Cattoor missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"I would take that [shot] from him, [Jalen] Cone or Nahiem [Alleyne]," Young said. "A little tricky — out of timeouts."

"Hunter took a great shot," Cone said. "I'm sure if you give him that shot five more times, he'll make the next four."

Cone said Tech "started to fight" in its second-half comeback.

"We started getting stops," Cone said. "As we were getting stops, we were able to get some shots down on the other end. I think us really just fighting and coming together ... helped us get back into it."

The Hokies (8-2, 2-1), who trailed the entire second half, saw their four-game winning streak come to an end. It was Tech's first game of the season in an opponent's arena.

Tech now has a two-point ACC loss to go along with its six-point ACC win over Clemson and its two-point ACC win over Miami.

"Buckle up for safety," Young said. "Nothing easy. ... But I really like my team. I really like the direction of my team. We're going to play better on Sunday [against Notre Dame]."

Cone had 23 points off the bench. He was 6 of 12 from 3-point range.

"He was pretty special tonight," Young said.

Louisville (8-1, 3-0) won its fourth straight game.

Radford graduate transfer Carlik Jones, who was named to the Wooden Award midseason Top 25 watch list earlier in the day, had 17 points for the Cardinals.

"Carlik Jones is pretty good," Young said.

Johnson also had 17 points.

Redshirt freshman forward Jae'Lyn Withers had 16 points and 12 rebounds off the bench for Louisville.

"He was a little bit better than we anticipated," Young said. "Part of that is how we felt like we had to guard Jones and Johnson."

Leading 36-31 at halftime, Louisville scored the first seven points of the second half to build a 43-31 cushion with 17:32 remaining.

The lead grew to 47-33 with 15:38 to go. Virginia Tech was 1 of 11 from the field in the second half at that point, including 0 of 6 from 3-point range.

Justyn Mutts later made a layup to trim the lead to 61-55, but Johnson and Jones each made two free throws for a 65-55 cushion with 5:47 left.

Cone later made a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 67-62, but Jones answered with a jumper.

Alleyne made a jumper to cut the deficit to 69-64 with 3:03 to go, but Jones made two free throws to extend the lead to 71-64.

After Cattoor made a layup with 1:57 left, Quinn Slazinski made one of two free throws for a 72-66 lead.

Cattoor made a jumper and free throw to cut the lead to 72-69 with 1:07 left.

Alleyne stole the ball from Jones with 26 seconds left. Aluma made two free throws to cut the lead to 72-71 with 6.6 seconds to go.

Alleyne scored 15 points.

Aluma had 11 points — five below his season average. He was just 3 of 10 from the field.

"I just didn't think he had his best stuff," Young said. "He wasn't as explosive in the paint."

Thanks in part to three 3-pointers, the Hokies jumped to an 11-0 lead with 17:36 left in the first half. Virginia Tech was 4 of 4 from the field at that point.

But the Cardinals answered with a 23-6 run to grab a 23-17 lead with 7:16 to go in the first half. They led the rest of the game.

"We had a bad start," Young said. "They popped us in the nose and took off on us."

After Cone made a 3-pointer with 12:36 left in the first half, Virginia Tech did not get another basket until Cone sank a 3-pointer with 4:18 to go in the half.

Virginia Tech turned the ball over six times in the first half.

Tech reserve John Ojiako, who had yet to play this season because of knee surgery, made his season debut Wednesday.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

Defense helps No. 19 Virginia Tech defeat Notre Dame

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/defense-helps-no-19-virginia-tech-defeat-notre-dame/article_37739492-5393-11eb-9173-93c350a0f27b.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 10, 2021) — A stingy second half helped the Virginia Tech men's basketball team bounce back with a win Sunday night.

No. 19 Virginia Tech shined on defense and on the boards in a 77-63 victory at Cassell Coliseum.

The Hokies (9-2, 3-1 ACC) trailed 42-35 at halftime.

Notre Dame (3-7, 0-4) shot a sizzling 55.2% from the field in the first half but a woeful 10.5% in the second half.

"We guarded in the second half the way we wanted to guard in the first half," Tech coach Mike Young said. "We communicated much better. We were able to keep a body on a body. We had a couple textbook possessions. Notre Dame, who's really good offensively, had a hard time getting a shot."

The Fighting Irish were only 2 of 19 from the field in the second half.

"Just trying to lock in and be as tenacious as possible," Tech center Keve Aluma said of his team's defense in the second half. "We wanted them to put it on the floor because they can all shoot, so that's what we tried to do. ... Sometimes we tend to get lackadaisical, so just tried to be locked in at all times."

Notre Dame was 1 of 10 from 3-point range in the second half.

"[It was a matter of] closing to their body, making sure of being there on the catch," Tech guard Jalen Cone said. "The first half, they were catching it and shooting it where they were catching it; we didn't force them to put it on the floor or force them to take tough shots. That second half, I think we were there on the catch and made them take tough shots and got a lot of good stops."

Notre Dame entered the game as the ACC leader in 3-point field-goal percentage (38.9%) but shot 26.1% (6 of 23) on Sunday.

"We wanted to limit Notre Dame to less than eight [3-pointers]," Young said. "When our assistant coach that had the scout said that, I kind of took a step backwards like, 'Holy cow! Good luck with that one.'"

The Hokies bounced back from Wednesday's loss at Louisville.

"We played a pretty good ballgame [Sunday]. Proud of them," Young said. "I just didn't like how we played [at Louisville]."

"I didn't think we were very good the first half here, but we got some things together. That was as good of a half as we've had in quite some time."

Tech was outrebounded by Miami and Louisville in its past two games. But Virginia Tech outrebounded the Fighting Irish 41-24, including 22-10 in the second half.

"[The coaches have] been telling us to pick that up," Aluma said of the team's rebounding. "The past two games we hadn't been giving our best effort there, so we just tried to do that."

The Hokies snared 16 offensive rebounds in the game.

Aluma had 15 points and 12 rebounds, while power forward Justyn Mutts had 14 points and seven rebounds. Small forward Tyrece Radford had nine points and eight rebounds.

Cone had 18 points and four 3-pointers off the bench.

"Just playing my game and having that confidence from Coach Young to give me a green light," Cone said.

"He's so hard to guard," Young said.

Reserve guard Hunter Cattoor had 15 points and three 3-pointers for Tech. He also did well on defense.

"He played, really, a good ballgame," Young said. "He was active and engaged [defensively] and really moved his feet well."

"His overall play in 26 minutes was pretty special, went a long way in helping us win."

The Hokies opened the second half on a 14-3 run to grab a 49-45 lead with 14:19 to go. Virginia Tech scored the first eight points of the half.

Down 50-49 with 12:11 left, the Hokies went on an 11-3 run to take a 60-53 lead with 9:07 to go. Virginia Tech led the rest of the way.

Notre Dame later cut the lead to 68-62 with 4:17 remaining, but Aluma made a jumper and Cattoor sank a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 73-62 with 2:26 to go.

Forward Nate Laszewski had 17 points for the visitors. He was 11 of 12 from the free-throw line but just 3 of 6 from the field, including 0 of 1 from 3-point range. He entered the game as the ACC leader in field-goal percentage and 3-point field-goal percentage.

Notre Dame guard Prentiss Hubb was held to nine points. He was 3 of 14 from the field.

The Hokies scored six straight points to grab a 29-26 lead with 5:46 left in the first half, but Notre Dame answered with an 8-1 run to take a 34-30 lead with 2:58 left in the half. Notre Dame led the rest of the half.

Tech backup post player Cordell Pemsil missed the game with a back injury. Young does not expect him to play in Tuesday's home game against No. 21 Duke.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Barber

No. 19 Virginia Tech dominates Notre Dame on the glass in 77-63 win

https://richmond.com/sports/college/no-19-virginia-tech-dominates-notre-dame-on-the-glass-in-77-63-win/article_b14a67d3-f994-56f3-9a79-af-6c8d288234.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 10, 2021) — Going into this basketball season, Mike Young expected his Virginia Tech team to be far more competitive rebounding than it was a year ago. The Hokies had assembled a far bigger and deeper frontcourt than Young navigated his first season with.

This group, Young thought, wouldn't get dominated on the glass night in and night out. Sunday night, in fact, No. 19 Virginia Tech did the dominating, controlling the rebounds and holding off Notre Dame for a 77-63 win.

"That was a big focus," said guard Jalen Cone, who led Tech with 18 points. "I don't think we walk out this game with a win without our frontcourt playing the way they played and getting all the rebounds they did."

Forward Keve Aluma posted his first ACC double-double, scoring 15 points and grabbing 12 rebounds, helping Tech to a 41-24 rebounding edge. The Hokies finished with 16 offensive rebounds, the most in ACC play in Young's two seasons at Tech.

Outrebounded 71-58 in the previous two games, a win over Miami and Wednesday's loss at Louisville, Tech emphasized that Sunday night. In addition to Aluma's work, the Hokies got eight rebounds from Tyrece Radford and seven from Justyn Mutts.

"I just hated just getting mauled on the glass night in, night out, a year ago," said Young. "I knew that that part of it would be better with this team but it's gotta be every time out."

Guard Hunter Cattoor scored 15 points for Tech and played a strong defensive game, taking a pair of charges. Cattoor hit two 3-pointers in the final 10:25 of the game, including the finisher with 2:33 to play that put Tech up by 11.

“He got two big shots down,” said Young. “That boy, he played, really, a good ballgame. I thought his overall play in 26 minutes was pretty special and went a long way to helping us win.”

Tech’s defense clamped down in the second half, holding Notre Dame to 2 for 19 shooting from the floor, including a 1 for 10 showing from 3-point range.

“We didn’t adjust a darn thing,” said Young. “We guarded in the second half the way we wanted to guard in the first half. We communicated much better. We were able to keep a body on a body. We had a couple of text-book possessions.”

Wednesday night in Louisville, Virginia Tech (9-2, 3-1 ACC) found itself trying to surge back at the end of a basketball game, only to come up short.

Sunday night at home, the basketball shoe was on the other foot for the Hokies, trying to desperately to hold off visiting Notre Dame (3-7, 0-4).

The Hokies led by seven, up 60-53 with 9:10 to go, and never let Notre Dame get any closer, holding on to pick up an important ACC win heading into Tuesday night’s game against No. 21 Duke.

Cattoor’s straight-away, step-back 3 as the shot-clock wound down, helped seal a game that was close for most of the night.

Notre Dame jumped out to a 12-6 lead as Tech committed three turnovers in the first five minutes of play. The Hokies tied the game 21-21 with 10:46 to go in the half after back-to-back 3-pointers by Cone and Cattoor.

While Cone canned his first shot from 3-point range, overall the Hokies went just 1 for 5 to open from beyond the arc.

Cone finished the half 4 for 7 on 3-pointers, but his teammates went just 1 for 7 in the opening 20 minutes.

The Fighting Irish led 42-35 at the half after shooting 55.2% before the break.

But Tech opened the second half on an 8-0 run going up 43-42 on a layup by Radford with 16:26 to play, positioning itself for its fifth straight home win and fifth win in its last six outings overall.

It didn’t take long after the win for the players to shift their focus to Duke.

“We start thinking about them tonight,” Aluma said.

Roanoke Times

Aaron McFarling

Hokies keep building credibility on the boards

https://roanoke.com/sports/basketball/mcfarling-hokies-keep-building-credibility-on-the-boards/article_0d8371c8-539a-11eb-ac6c-33bdc134a976.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 10, 2021) — Virginia Tech football coach Justin Fuente was among the spectators on hand Sunday night to see the Hokies take on Notre Dame at Cassell Coliseum.

He no doubt appreciated the grit out of the hosts.

The Hokies overcame a poor defensive first half to dominate the final 20 minutes, pulling away for a 77-63 victory that moved them to 3-1 in the ACC.

To understand that scoreboard, check out the boards score. Rebounding is where the Hokies really stood out in this one, and their vast improvement in that department is one of the major reasons they’re a much better team than they were a season ago.

Tech outrebounded the Fighting Irish 41-24. That included 16 offensive rebounds — the most by the Hokies against an ACC opponent in the Mike Young era.

“That’ll win a lot of ballgames for you,” said Young, whose team had been outrebounded in its previous two games against Miami and Louisville. “Just a point of emphasis. Just put your head down and get to the rim and compete. I thought Miami and Louisville were a little bit tougher than we were in that part of it. That is such a critical part of any game.”

For a sampling of how this looked, consider a couple of plays — one in each half.

With the Hokies trailing 16-11 early, Jalen Cone missed a 3-point attempt. Tyrece Radford, giving up 4 inches of height inside against Notre Dame’s Dane Goodwin, extended his long right arm to snag the rebound. He switched the ball to his left hand, used the rim as a screen and scored off the glass.
Today in history: Jan. 10

With Tech leading 64-58 with about five minutes to play, Hunter Cattoor drove into the lane and missed a layup. Teammate Justyn Mutts soared into the paint and tipped the ball in.

These are the types of things Tech couldn’t do on a consistent basis last season. The Hokies were outrebounded by an average of 3.3 per game in 2019-20, which ranked 305th in the country. They entered Sunday having outrebounded their opponents by 4.7 per game — 82nd in the nation.

“I just hated getting mauled on the glass night in and night out a year ago,” Young said. “I knew that that part of it would be better with this team, but it’s got to be every time out. It’ll be enormous on Tuesday against Duke, so work still to do.”

The main reason it’s better is different personnel. Tech’s top two rebounders this season, the 6-foot-7 Mutts and 6-9 Keve Aluma, are transfers who did not play for the Hokies last season. They’ve given Tech some much-needed size and length to go with the tenacity of Radford, who at 6-2 was the team’s top rebounder a season ago and is among the leaders again.

So can this new blend of Hokies hang with anyone on the boards?

"I think we can," Young said. "Mutts is an even better rebounder than I thought he was. And I thought that the Louisville game was a real tipping point for him.

"He'd been a little too outside of who he really is as a ballplayer. He is a big, long, strong young man, and the second half of the Louisville game, he was really good. Boy, was he good tonight. What a shot in the arm that is."

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

No. 20 Virginia Tech beats No. 19 Duke

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/no-20-virginia-tech-beats-no-19-duke/article_7202871a-552f-11eb-9639-0bce3393732f.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 12, 2021) — For the fourth time in its last five visits to Virginia Tech, the Duke men's basketball team left Cassell Coliseum in defeat Tuesday.

No. 20 Virginia Tech sizzled offensively in the first half and held on for a 74-67 win over No. 19 Duke.

Virginia Tech (10-2, 4-1 ACC) improved to 3-0 this season against teams ranked in the Associated Press Top 25, including a November win over Villanova and a December victory over Clemson.

"I've got a pretty good team," Tech coach Mike Young said. "Let's not beat around the bush. We've got a pretty good team. I think we've got a chance to really good. We're not really good right now."

The Blue Devils (5-3, 3-1) saw a three-game winning streak come to an end. They fell to 0-3 this season against ranked foes.

Virginia Tech led 46-34 at halftime. The Hokies shot 63.3% from the field in the first half.

"The ball really moved," Young said of the first half. "It didn't stick. We had a nice level of inside-outside. [Jalen] Cone got two big 3s down. We got a couple second shots. I thought we moved really, really well in transition.

"Shot selection was good. Duke basketball's hung their hat on that defensive end for quite some time and that was certainly a pleasure to watch."

Duke cut the deficit to one point in the second half but never took the lead.

Tyrece Radford had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Hokies, who led from the opening basket.

Keve Aluma had 17 points and seven rebounds for Tech, while Jalen Cone had 14 points and three 3-pointers.

Tech won for the sixth time in its last seven games.

The Hokies snapped a three-game losing streak in the series, including two defeats last season and a loss in the 2019 NCAA Tournament.

Tech regained its mastery over Duke at Cassell.

The Hokies had beaten Duke at Cassell in each of Buzz Williams' final three seasons as Tech's coach. Duke had won at Cassell last season, which was Young's first year as Tech's coach.

Tech shot 50% from the field in the game to Duke's 40%.

Down 46-34 at halftime, the Blue Devils cut the lead to 56-55 with 13:08 to go.

But Aluma made a jumper to extend the lead. Aluma later made a basket and free throw to extend the lead to 61-55 with 11:28 to go.

Duke freshman DJ Steward (14 points) later scored to cut the lead to 64-59, but Aluma made two baskets to extend the lead to 68-59 with 6:07 left.

The visitors later cut the lead to 68-64 with 2:34 to go, but Aluma sank two free throws for a 70-64 lead with 2:08 left.

Radford made one of two free throws for a 71-64 lead.

After Aluma snared a defensive rebound, Justyn Mutts scored to extend the lead to 73-64 with 1:02 remaining.

Radford made one of two free throws for a 74-64 lead with 50.7 seconds to go.

The Hokies outrebounded Duke 34-33.

Duke had 12 turnovers, two more than Tech.

Blue Devils freshman Jeremy Roach had 22 points, while ACC scoring leader Matthew Hurt had 20 points.

Duke freshman Jalen Johnson, an NBA prospect who made the preseason All-ACC first team, played four minutes off the bench Tuesday. The forward had not played since the team's Dec. 8 loss to Illinois because of a foot injury.

Thanks in part to two Cone 3-pointers, the Hokies jumped to a 17-7 lead with 14:16 left in the first half.

Tech went on a 12-0 run to extend the lead to 29-12 with 9:16 left in the half. Tech was shooting 75% from the field (12 of 16) at that point, including 3 of 4 from 3-point range. Duke had seven turnovers at that point.

The Hokies led 33-16 with 7:32 left in the half. Tech was shooting 77.8% (14 of 18) from the field at that point.

Tech had 24 points in the paint in the half. Tech outrebounded Duke 14-11 in the half. Tech scored 13 points off Duke's nine turnovers in the half.

Radford had 14 points and eight rebounds in 16 first-half minutes for Tech, including the Hokies' final 10 points of the half.

Note: Tech announced Tuesday that the time for the Hokies' Jan. 20 home game with Boston College has been moved up from 7 p.m. to 5 p.m. The game will still air on the ACC Network. The new time will enable the ACC Network to also air Virginia's 7 p.m. game against North Carolina State that night.

Roanoke Times

Aaron McFarling

Hokies take another huge leap forward

https://roanoke.com/sports/basketball/mcfarling-hokies-take-another-huge-leap-forward/article_882d596c-5533-11eb-b0d2-636eadbc33fd.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 12, 2021) — On one of the final plays of consequence Tuesday night, Duke guard Jeremy Roach tried to drive the lane.

Virginia Tech's Keve Aluma met him there. Aluma didn't just block the shot; he smothered it, ripping the ball away with both hands.

Yes, the Hokies are for real.

This is more than just a good start. After beating Duke 74-67 at Cassell Coliseum, the Hokies are 3-0 against ranked teams and playing like a team that could finish in the top third of the ACC.

Even without the sellout crowd that normally would be cheering every big play, Tech built an 18-point lead with unconscious first half offense, then beat back a spirited Duke rally in the second half.

The Hokies, a team of Lilliputians just one year ago, outrebounded Duke 34-33. And against a team that entered the day ninth in the country in steals per game, Tech turned it over only 10 times.

The fact that this was a battle between two ranked teams in the middle of January was a cause for celebration in itself. What Mike Young has done in his two years on the job is extraordinary.

Don't forget what he inherited last season. The Hokies had only one player taller than 6-foot-7 on their roster in an inexperienced John Ojiako. So much of the talent that Buzz Williams had taken to the Sweet 16 in 2018-19 — Nickeil Alexander-Walker, Ahmed Hill, Justin Robinson, Chris Clarke, Kerry Blackshear Jr. — was gone.

After a hot start, the final record reflected the rebuild. Tech dropped 11 of its final 13 games to finish 16-16 overall and 7-13 in the ACC.

"Things are in place," Young said after the Hokies bowed out in the first round of the ACC Tournament. "The foundation is in place."

He wasn't kidding.

Returners such as Wabissa Bede, Jalen Cone, Tyrece Radford, Naheim Alleyne and Hunter Cattoor formed a solid nucleus that takes care of the ball and can shoot 3-pointers. And the additions of post players Aluma and Justyn Mutts addressed the team's most glaring needs for size and rebounding help.

Most of all, Young's Hokies play like a team. That was evident last season even when the wins weren't coming in bunches. November victories at Clemson and against No. 3 Michigan State in Hawaii provided hope that Tech would be a tough out even with one of the nation's smallest rosters.

Even still, the Hokies were never supposed to be ranked and on even terms with Duke just one year later. Not this early.

Tech looked like much more than just a team that could hang around on Tuesday. The Hokies made a staggering 16 of their first 21 shots — and they came from all over the lineup. Radford layups. Cone and Alleyne 3-pointers. Aluma putbacks. Mutts muscle-moves inside. A Bede pull-up jumper.

The smart pass seemed to get made every time. During one sequence, Mutts passed out of a double-team to a streaking Radford, who scored with ease to make it 38-21 Hokies.

The Blue Devils, ranked No. 9 in the preseason, have yet to beat an upper-echelon opponent this season. They're 0-3 against ranked teams.

But they're still the Blue Devils. Beating them any time is special, whether it's in front of a packed house or an intimate crowd of 250, as was the case Tuesday.

This won't be the last big win Tech gets this season. Of that, you can be certain.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

David Teel

Hokies smarter, tougher, more confident in victory over Duke

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-hokies-smarter-tougher-more-confident-in-victory-over-duke/article_50b5f07b-ca16-5cce-b4b7-91ca16f9d7fa.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 12, 2021) — The process of unearthing ACC basketball's premier team began in earnest Tuesday at Cassell Coliseum. The search will be lengthy and meandering and could prove fruitless — parity is that rampant — but at least we're on the scent.

Virginia Tech's 74-67 victory over Duke on Tuesday was the onset because the game marked the season's first matchup of ACC teams ranked among the Associated Press' top 25 at tipoff.

The second half was tense and replete with telling sequences, but make no mistake, the Hokies were the better team, their age and maturity XL assets against an

opponent that lacks both.

Tech (10-2, 4-1 ACC) never trailed and led by as many as 18 points. Duke (5-3, 3-1) trimmed the margin to 56-55 in the second half, but Keve Aluma, continuing his all-conference-caliber play, countered with a paint bucket and 3-point play.

When the No. 19 Blue Devils drew within 68-64 inside of three minutes, the No. 20 Hokies scored six consecutive points to pull away. Led by Tyrece Radford, Aluma and Jalen Cone's combined 49 points, they were smarter, tougher and more confident, traits they'll need in even larger supply if they're to contend throughout the league season.

Four Tech possessions caught my eye for their variety, hustle and savvy.

First, Aluma declined a tempting 3-point attempt and instead drove the lane on Matthew Hurt for a much better shot, which he made.

Second, Radford, the most dogged 6-foot-2 rebounder you'll find in the college game, snared an Aluma miss in traffic and found Nahiem Alleyne for an open 3-pointer and a 36-18 lead. Radford's 18 points and 12 rebounds were his first double-double of the season.

"The kid Radford was the best player on the court," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Third, with Tech nursing a 61-57 lead, the 5-foot-10 Cone elevated over 6-8 Jaemyn Brakefield for a 3-pointer. That's 10 inches Cone was giving up, but when you've made 26 from beyond the arc in the last six games, why not experiment with a heat check?

Here's how dialed in is Cone these days: Even as officials whistled him for stepping on the sideline as he caught a first-half pass in front of Duke's bench, he elevated for a deep 3-pointer that swished.

Finally, when Duke double-teamed Justyn Mutts in the low post, he calmly found Aluma for a layup and 66-59 edge.

"I saw a level of poise," Hokies coach Mike Young said. "I didn't want to call timeout when Duke took off on us in the second half. ... I wanted to see us figure it out."

That they did.

A top-25 ACC clash could have transpired Jan. 2 between Virginia Tech and Virginia in Charlottesville. COVID-19 said otherwise.

Another such clash could have unfolded the same day between Duke and Florida State in Tallahassee, Fla. The virus dictated otherwise.

Louisville was just outside the AP top 25 — the Cardinals were No. 25 in the coaches poll — entering last week's home victory over Virginia Tech. The Hokies were unranked when they defeated then-No. 24 Clemson in mid-December.

The No. 12 Tigers lead five top-25 ACC clubs this week, followed by Louisville, UVA, Duke and Virginia Tech. Florida State, which I suspect has the ACC's most gifted squad, is third among others receiving votes.

COVID permitting, the remainder of January will showcase games such as Virginia at Clemson, FSU at Louisville and UVA at Virginia Tech, the latter scheduled for Jan. 30.

Duke arrived in Blacksburg atop the ACC standings, tied with Louisville and Virginia. But how to judge the Blue Devils?

Mirroring UVA, Duke had beaten Notre Dame, Wake Forest and Boston College, teams that are a combined 1-12 in league play. Moreover, the Devils' lone non-conference victories came against Coppin State and Bellarmine, countered by setbacks to Illinois and Michigan State.

Was Duke worthy of its No. 19 ranking Monday morning? Based solely on its resume, no. Given the obvious talent on the roster, perhaps.

The Devils' most acclaimed freshman, 6-foot-9 Jalen Johnson, returned Tuesday after missing three games with a foot injury. But he was a non-factor, leaving Duke to rely on freshman Jeremy Roach (22 points) and Hurt (20 points) to fuel its comeback.

But Tech was unfazed.

"I do think that's a mark of a team that's been there [and] done it," Young said. "... I've got a pretty good team. Let's not beat around the bush."

How good? Well, the Hokies boast three victories over ranked opponents: Villanova, Clemson and Duke. The ACC's other 14 teams have four such wins combined.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Barber

Aluma, Radford help No. 20 Virginia Tech hold off No. 19 Duke for 74-67 win

https://richmond.com/sports/college/aluma-radford-help-no-20-virginia-tech-hold-off-no-19-duke-for-74-67/article_fe633e70-dd4b-59c7-9d64-f6eb48555254.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 12, 2021) — Going into Tuesday night's Top 25 matchup, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski praised Virginia Tech for playing "as one." The Hokies went into the game stressing sound team basketball to overcome Duke's individual talent edge.

But when the game got tight, Tech's individual talent showed up just fine.

Tyrece Radford, Keve Aluma and Jalen Cone each took turns holding off the No. 19 Blue Devils as the No. 20 Hokies held on for a 74-67 win, Tech's third over a ranked foe this season.

"I'll take nothing away from my guys. I've got good players also that have played a lot of basketball around here now," coach Mike Young said. "I like my team and the things each individual brings to the unit."

Radford scored 14 of his 18 points in the first half, helping Tech jump out to an early lead. Aluma got 13 of his 17 in the second half, helping to hold off a Duke surge, and potentially sealing the win with a blocked shot on Jeremy Roach with 1:25 to go.

And Cone, as he has in the past three games, couldn't be guarded at times on the perimeter, finishing 3 for 5 from 3-point range and contributing 14 points.

"I've got a pretty good team," Young said. "Let's not beat around the bush. We've got a pretty good team. I think we have a chance to be really good."

Roach led Duke with a game-high 22 points and forward Matthew Hurt added 20.

Tech (10-2, 4-1 ACC) led by as many as 18 in the first half, but the Blue Devils drew to 68-64 after a pair of free throws by Roach with 2:34 to play.

For the first time this season, Cassell Coliseum hosted a Top 25 matchup, with both Tech and Duke (5-3, 3-1) in the national rankings this week. Tech drew its largest home crowd this year, using almost all of its 250 capacity limit of family and friends of players and staff.

Virginia Tech came out aggressively on both ends of the floor, forcing five turnovers in the first nine minutes and shooting well. The Hokies hit six of their first eight shots, including all three of their 3-point attempts, to jump out to a 17-7 lead.

A 12-0 run, fueled by Cone and Aluma, pushed Tech's advantage to 29-12 midway through the first half.

Duke outscored the Hokies 18-10 during the half's final seven minutes, but Radford made sure the home team kept the lead during that time, scoring all 10 of Tech's points.

The Blue Devils trailed 46-34 at halftime.

They opened the second half with a vengeance, using a 6-0 run to pull to 46-40 early in the period.

Duke's leading scorer, Hurt, held in check for the first half, scored 8 straight — hitting two 3-pointers and a 12-foot fadeaway jumper, to trim Tech's edge to 56-55 with 13:21 left.

But on the other side, the Hokies' leading scorer — Aluma — was going to work as well. He scored 7 in a row to help Tech keep the lead.

After outrebounding Notre Dame 41-24 in a win Sunday, Young noted the importance that statistic would have Tuesday night against the Blue Devils. And his players heeded his call, remaining competitive on the glass throughout the game. Tech outrebounded Duke 34-33.

Former Episcopal star Henry Coleman, a freshman at Duke, didn't make the trip with the Blue Devils. Coleman is ill, though he has tested negative for COVID-19.

The Hokies play at Wake Forest on Sunday night.

Daily News

Norm Wood

Virginia Tech jumps out to early lead, staves off Duke to find more home success against Blue Devils

<https://www.dailypress.com/sports/college/virginia-tech/vp-sp-duke-hokies-mens-basketball-breakdown-20210113-pfruczqofncobol4kdjj2gnste-story.html>

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 12, 2021) — Less than midway through the second half Tuesday night, Virginia Tech's lead against Duke had become as tremulous as it had been since the opening minutes of the game. Somebody in a Hokies uniform had to take charge.

The essential boost arrived from Keve Aluma, who came to life offensively to help No. 20 Virginia Tech finish off a 74-67 win against No. 19 Duke. It was Tech's fourth win in its last five games at home against Duke, and the Hokies' third win this season in as many games against teams ranked in the Associated Press Top 25.

Tech (10-2, 4-1 ACC), which was paced by guard Tyrece Radford's 18 points, 12 rebounds and five assists, led by as many as 18 points in the first half, but it was clinging to a 54-52 lead after Duke's Matthew Hurt hit a jumper with 13:49 remaining.

Aluma proceeded to score 11 points in the next seven minutes, 39 seconds, serving as the catalyst for the Hokies as they extended their advantage to 68-59. Duke (5-3, 3-1) cut into Tech's lead again down the stretch, reducing the Hokies' edge to 68-64 with 2:34 left on a pair of free throws by Jeremy Roach, who led the Blue Devils with 22 points.

Aluma, who finished with 17 points and seven rebounds, once again came up big in the closing minutes. Tech was up 71-64 when Roach got to the basket with 1:25 remaining, but Aluma swatted away his layup attempt and Aluma grabbed the rebound.

Duke, which got 20 points and 11 rebounds from Hurt, never threatened again.

Tech shot 50% from the floor, while Duke made only 40%.

Washington Post

Gene Wang

Virginia Tech storms to a big early lead and then gets the job done late to dump Duke

https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/colleges/virginia-tech-duke-basketball/2021/01/12/6cca3132-5505-11eb-a08b-f1381ef3d207_story.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 12, 2021) — The 20th-ranked Virginia Tech men's basketball team stormed to a double-digit halftime lead against No. 19 Duke and then withstood a rally down the stretch before completing a 74-67 win Tuesday night at Cassell Coliseum in Blacksburg, Va.

The Hokies beat a ranked opponent for the third time this season and won for the sixth time in seven games overall to remain a game back in the loss column of first place in the ACC. They also ended a three-game skid against shorthanded Duke, which had its three-game winning streak snapped.

"We didn't have our best start, but I knew we would figure it out," Virginia Tech Coach Mike Young said. "I was pleased with their patience, their poise and togetherness. They continued to share, and I do think that is the mark of a team that's been there and done it and knows what it takes to get out games like this with a win."

Tyrece Radford led Virginia Tech (10-2, 4-1) with 18 points on 7-for-12 shooting and added a game-high 12 rebounds for his first double-double this season. He also had five assists.

Keve Aluma added 17 points and seven rebounds for the Hokies; he contributed a highlight-reel defensive play in the closing minutes that helped seal the victory. The forward leaped to block a shot by Duke's Jeremy Roach (Paul VI) while keeping the ball inbounds at the baseline.

Moments later, Justyn Mutts dunked to give Virginia Tech a 73-64 lead with 1:02 to play. The emphatic basket was part of a 6-0 run after the Blue Devils had drawn within 68-64 with 2:34 remaining.

Duke also had closed within 56-55 with 13:12 remaining, but the Hokies countered with Aluma — a transfer from Wofford, where Young coached before arriving in Blacksburg last season — scoring the next five points in a row.

"I saw a level of poise," Young said. "I didn't want to call timeout when Duke (5-3, 3-1) took off on us in the second half. Part of that was by design. I wanted to see us figure it out and fight through it. I didn't want to burn a timeout there. I thought our shot selection was good. I thought that Duke made some difficult shots."

Matthew Hurt, the leading scorer in the ACC, had 20 points, making 4 of 8 tries from three-point range, and Roach finished with a game-high 22 for Duke, which was saddled with its first conference loss while playing with a diminished roster and without an assistant coach because of an illness not related to the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic nonetheless has affected Duke significantly, with the Blue Devils having played just seven games entering Tuesday. They have had five games canceled or postponed because of virus-related issues in the opponent's locker room.

Mike Krzyzewski was coaching in his second game since exiting quarantine Saturday after having had close contact with a family member who tested positive. He missed one game last week, an 83-82 win Wednesday against Boston College.

Still, the Blue Devils were compromised for another game, this time without two reserves. Graduate center Patrick Tapé missed a third consecutive game with a sore back, and freshman forward Henry Coleman III did not travel because of an illness unrelated to the virus.

Duke forward Jalen Johnson also was forecast to miss a fourth straight game with an ailing foot, but the Blue Devils' third-leading scorer played briefly in the first half, when Virginia Tech forged a lead that reached as many as 18 points at 36-18.

The Hokies continued to apply pressure during the final minutes of the half behind Radford, who sank a jumper, collected an offensive rebound and scored and added a three-point play that bumped the margin to 15 before Hurt's three-pointer drew Duke within 46-34 at halftime.

Eight players scored for Virginia Tech, underscoring the offensive balance throughout the roster. Reserve Jalen Cone had 14 points as Virginia Tech held a 21-6 advantage in bench points.

Virginia Tech also limited the Blue Devils to 8-for-29 shooting from behind the three-point line. Duke entered ranked fourth in the ACC in three-point field goal percentage (35.2).

"We've got the potential to make a run for it," Radford said of winning the ACC championship. "We've just to stay level-minded, levelheaded, not to get a big head or anything. We've just got to stay humble."

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

No. 20 Virginia Tech beats Wake Forest to improve to 5-1 in ACC

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/no-20-virginia-tech-beats-wake-forest-to-improve-to-5-1-in-acc/article_91f7077c-5920-11eb-add0-93fd04268857.html

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (Jan. 17, 2021) — Keve Aluma and Jalen Cone, who are the top two scorers on the Virginia Tech men's basketball team this season, had one basket combined Sunday.

But the 20th-ranked Hokies won anyway.

Tyrece Radford scored 20 points and reserves David N'Guessan and Hunter Cattoor combined for 26 points to help Tech beat Wake Forest 64-60 at Lawrence Joel Coliseum in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

"It just shows you that everything doesn't rely on [those] ... two, even though they're big pieces," Radford said. "We've got other guys on the team that can step up in any situation.

"We've got backups that can come in and contribute, too."

N'Guessan, a freshman forward, had a career-high 13 points in 14 minutes off the bench. Cattoor also had 13 points.

"That's just one of those games you've got to dig down and [do] everything you can muster and find a way to get out of a place such as this," Tech coach Mike Young said. "We did that.

"It is a true team. It is a team. They don't care who gets the credit, and that's a fun group to be a part of.

"Aluma and Cone combine for one basket and we win this thing? Sign me up, man."

Tech (11-2, 5-1 ACC) won for the third straight game and for the seventh time in its last eight games. Tech trails first-place Virginia by half a game in the standings.

This is only the second time in school history that Tech has won five of its first six ACC games. The first time was in the 2006-07 season, when Seth Greenberg's Hokies started 6-1 in ACC play en route to an NCAA Tournament appearance.

"It's big," Radford said of the 5-1 league mark. "We've just got to keep going and keep our head on our shoulders."

Has Young, whose team was picked 11th in the ACC's preseason media poll, surprised himself with Tech's 5-1 start to league play?

"No," Young said. "I'm 57 years old. I'm not easily surprised. I'm proud of my team."

Radford was 6 of 7 from the field and 8 of 9 from the free-throw line.

"In the first half, [shots] 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," Radford said.

"Tyrece was terrific yet again," Young said.

Cattoor was 5 of 7 from the field.

"Cattoor's doing it night in and night out," Young said.

N'Guessan was 5 of 5 from the field and 3 of 3 from the free-throw line.

"I didn't see 13 points from N'Guessan [coming], I can tell you that," Young said. "He is a really good practice player. He's got a nose for the ball."

N'Guessan had not scored more than five points in a game this season until Sunday.

"I did feel like I was progressing well," N'Guessan said. "I was just being patient, waiting for the right moment, and tonight I was able to help out."

Aluma, who entered the game averaging a team-high 15.6 points, had just five points Sunday. He was 1 of 6 from the field. He did have 11 rebounds and four blocks.

Cone, who entered the game ranked second on the team with an average of 13 points, was scoreless. He was 0 of 4 from the field.

"They weren't good tonight," Young said. "I credit the Demon Deacons. They were chasing Jalen as hard as he's been chased."

Wake Forest (3-5, 0-5) lost its fifth straight game.

The Hokies, who won in an opponent's arena for the first time this season, beat Wake for the fifth straight time.

"We didn't play great basketball tonight and we won," Young said. "Last time I checked, that's the only thing that matters."

The Demon Deacons shot 22.6% from the field in the first half but 51.7% in the second half. Tech had a season-high nine blocked shots, all in the first half.

Down 42-32, the Demon Deacons went on a 12-2 run to tie the game at 44 with 8:07 left.

N'Guessan made a jumper to give Tech a 46-44 lead.

After Wake's Isaiah Mucius scored, Radford made a jumper to give Tech the lead for good at 48-46 with 6:38 left.

Wake's Ody Oguama made one of two free throws, but Radford then made one of two free throws. Wabissa Bede scored to extend the lead to 51-47.

Mucius scored to cut the lead to 51-49, but Cattoor answered with a 3-pointer for a 54-49 cushion.

Aluma made one of two free throws to extend the lead to 55-49 with 3:11 left.

After Ismael Massoud made a 3-pointer, Cattoor made a jumper to extend the lead to 57-52 with 2:04 remaining.

Daivien Williamson made a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 57-55 with 1:13 left, but Radford made his next six free throws for a 63-55 cushion with 11 seconds to go.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Barber

For Virginia Tech, Tyrece Radford is both dependable and dynamic

https://richmond.com/sports/college/for-virginia-tech-tyrece-radford-is-both-dependable-and-dynamic/article_654d44b7-526a-5948-a5e7-d5d298c65b0f.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 22, 2021) — As Virginia Tech fought to pull out a close road win at Wake Forest last weekend, Tyrece Radford found himself at the free-throw line six times in the final 45 seconds.

With the sophomore guard preparing for the crucial shots that could determine the outcome, Hokies coach Mike Young offered the simplest of directions.

"Get em down, Boots," Radford said Young told him, using his nickname. "Get em down, Boots."

Radford hit all six, helping Tech win on a night when two of its top scorers combined for a single made shot from the floor.

"Had you told me that we would go (to Wake Forest) and Keve Aluma and Jalen Cone would combine for one made field goal, and we won, that's not gonna happen," said Young. "But I think also the mark of a good team is others step to the plate and swing. Radford was phenomenal."

Virginia Tech (11-2, 5-1 ACC) has been a very good team so far this season, currently ranked 16th in the nation and in second place in the conference, and Radford has been a big reason why.

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound Louisiana native is third on the Hokies averaging 11.2 points and second in rebounding grabbing 6.2 boards per game going into Saturday's game at Syracuse (8-4, 2-3).

"(He's) such a worker on both glasses," said Young. "He comes up with balls, you scratch your head. It's like, how in the world did he get that ball?"

Last season, Radford finished as the Hokies second leading scorer (10.2 ppg) and its top rebounder (6.2 rpg).

Radford's rebounding was a necessity for a Tech team that lacked frontcourt size. This season, bolstered by the addition of Aluma, a transfer from Wofford, and Justyn Mutts, a Delaware transfer, the Hokies have outrebounded opponents by 4½ boards per game, the fifth best mark in the league.

Those additions have also made Radford more effective as a scorer. Unlike a year ago, when Young relied on Radford's versatility to help counter opposing teams' lineups, this season, Young can deploy Radford in ways that dictate matchups and give Tech advantages.

"He's just a hard guy to guard," said Boston College coach Jim Christian, whose team was scheduled to visit Tech on Wednesday until a positive test in the Eagles' program forced that game to be postponed. "He can take the ball to the basket, get you in foul trouble. He can shoot the ball from 3. He's unbelievably good in transition. I always think that guys who are hard guards like that, they're really good when you have good players around them because now you've only got so much things you can take away."

In the 64-60 win over Wake Forest, with Aluma and Cone having off nights, Radford scored 20 points in 32 minutes, both team highs. He went 6 for 6 at the line over the final 45 seconds, a clutch performance to lift a team that only shoots 70.3% on free throws, ninth in the league.

That's a number Tech will need to improve. Young's team has been one of the best in the ACC at drawing fouls and has taken 273 free throws, second to only North Carolina. Its 81 misses are the fourth most in the league.

Radford entered the contest converting just 70.2% of his free throws, but said he's confident at the line, especially late in games. To prepare himself for the challenge of shooting free throws in the finals minutes, when fatigue from playing the game is a major factor, Radford cools down after weight lifting by practicing those shots.

Still, the stress of taking six free throws in less than a minute with the game on the line is as much mental as it is physical.

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

Boots had to just knock em down. He did, and it's likely Tech will need him to do that more than once this season.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

Shooting woes plague No. 16 Virginia Tech in loss at Syracuse

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/shooting-woes-plague-no-16-virginia-tech-in-loss-at-syracuse/article_f0f367ae-5dab-11eb-b472-93d064884261.html

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (Jan. 23, 2021) — Last weekend, the Virginia Tech men's basketball team managed to win a game even though Keve Aluma and Jalen Cone combined for just one basket.

Aluma and Cone combined for only two baskets Saturday. And this time, the result was a Virginia Tech loss.

Syracuse led the entire second half en route to a 78-60 win over the No. 16 Hokies at the Carrier Dome.

Aluma and Cone were 2 of 19 from the field combined in the defeat.

"We do need for them to play well," Tech coach Mike Young said of the duo. "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."

The Hokies (11-3, 5-2 ACC) saw their three-game winning streak come to an end.

Tech was coming off a 64-60 win at Wake Forest on Sunday. Aluma, the center who leads the Hokies in scoring this season, was 1 of 6 from the field in that game. Cone, the team's top 3-point ace, was 0 of 4 from the field.

The duo's shooting woes continued at Syracuse (9-4, 3-3).

Aluma, who played only 24 minutes Saturday because of foul trouble, was 1 of 10 from the field.

"Keve looks hesitant," Young said. "As they adjusted through the game, they're going to play him one-on-one and he just didn't score. ... He took good shots and he didn't get them home."

Cone was 1 of 9 from the field, including 1 of 8 from 3-point territory.

"Jalen had great shots," Young said. "He didn't make them, but I would take those same shots from him Wednesday [at Notre Dame]."

The Hokies shot just 32.8% from the field and 27.6% from 3-point range (8 of 29) against Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim's 2-3 zone defense.

"We got the ball where we wanted. We missed two dunks at the rim in the first half," Young said. "He adjusted.

"Their zone was good today. It bothered us."

Virginia Tech was held to its second-lowest points total of the season.

Tech sank six 3-pointers in the first half and trailed by just six points at halftime. But the Hokies shot only 16.7% (2 of 12) from that distance in the second half.

Hokies guard Nahiem Alleyne scored 20 points, including 17 in the first half. Four of Alleyne's five 3-pointers came in the first half.

"They were keying on me the second half," Alleyne said. "Once we got into the middle, they would spread out to shooters like me, so I really couldn't get in rhythm."

The Hokies, who were outrebounded 37-35, were held to 24 points in the paint and 13 second-chance points in the game.

"We got it into the middle and couldn't really finish our layups," Alleyne said.

Tech power forward Justyn Mutts said Syracuse's length was a problem.

"They did a really good job of getting the rebound after the [Tech] shot went up," said Mutts, who had nine points and eight rebounds. "We've got a lot of things to work on — definitely blocking out, getting rebounds."

Tech had to go to a small lineup after Aluma and backup David N'Guessan got in foul trouble. Backup center Cordell PemsI has not played since Dec. 29 because of a back injury.

"They did a really good job of getting us in foul trouble," Mutts said. "They've got some really big guys down there, so when it becomes kind of a smaller lineup it can be really difficult to one, get back in transition and then two, find appropriate matchups."

The game tied last month's 80-78 win over Miami as the Hokies' most porous outing of the season.

Syracuse shot 50.9% from the field, including 56% in the second half.

Mutts said Tech's players need to do a better job of helping each other on defense.

"It's hard to guard guys one-on-one," Mutts said. "College defense is really about being able to help each other."

The Orange had 46 points in the paint and went 18 of 22 from the free-throw line.

"We didn't do the best job of standing our ground down there," Mutts said.

Leading just 47-44 with 13:48 left, Syracuse went on a 20-4 run to build a 67-48 cushion with 7:16 to go.

Tech point guard Wabissa Bede, who was scoreless, played only 20 minutes in the game.

"They've got a pretty good zone, and ... we wanted ... as many guys on the floor that can shoot it as possible," Young said. "Now, we lose maybe our best perimeter defender [by doing that]."

Quincy Guerrier had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Orange, while Marek Dolezaj tallied 18 points. Alan Griffin added 15 points, 10 rebounds and seven of Syracuse's eight blocks.

Tyrece Radford and N'Guessan had 10 points apiece for Tech.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

David Teel

Hokies punished inside in loss at Syracuse

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-hokies-punished-inside-in-loss-at-syracuse/article_8040aa1c-0f7d-54a2-b0c9-10ae759bba87.html

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (Jan. 23, 2021) — Managing non-existent offense from your two leading scorers against a last-place team is feasible. Surviving a similar quandary versus a rugged, experienced high-scoring opponent? Not so much.

Case in point: Virginia Tech's 78-60 defeat Saturday at Syracuse.

The No. 16 Hokies shot a season-low 32.8% from the field, in large measure because their best players, forward Keve Aluma and guard Jalen Cone, combined to miss 17 of 19 attempts. This on the heels of a collective 1 for 10 Sunday in a victory at ACC bottom feeder Wake Forest.

"I've got a lot of things sifting through my head right now," Tech coach Mike Young said. "How I'm going to get those guys going is not one of them. ... They'll be better against Notre Dame (on Wednesday) I feel certain. ... They'll be fine. They're good players."

No doubt. Aluma is the interior threat the Hokies so sorely lacked last season, Young's first in Blacksburg, and Cone is shooting 42.2% from beyond the 3-point arc for his Tech career, even with his current funk.

Indeed, Cone made 9 of 15 from deep in two games against Syracuse last season.

"I wouldn't call it a funk at all," forward Justyn Mutts said. "... He's like a microwave. He can get hot in a split second, and when he does get hot it's scary for anybody

we're playing against."

Cone missed seven of his eight 3-point attempts against Syracuse's renowned 2-3 zone defense, but none appeared forced. Likewise, Aluma's shots in the paint, though contested, were ones he often makes.

Nahiem Alleyne kept Tech (11-3, 5-2 ACC) close with 17 first-half points, 12 from long range. But after making five of their first 10 from beyond the arc, the Hokies missed 16 of their final 19.

Credit Hall of Fame coach Jim Boeheim for adjusting the Orange zone to better challenge Alleyne, whose only second-half points came on a meaningless 3-pointer in the final minute.

Tech's most efficient offense came from freshman reserve David N'Guessan, who scored 10 points in 14 minutes. He's 9 of 10 from the floor with 23 points in the last two contests combined, quite the emergence considering his 19 total points in the season's first 13 games.

What surely gave Young flashbacks to last season, when Tech was undersized in most every game, was how Syracuse punished his team in the paint.

The Orange outscored the Hokies 46-24 inside, and its 78 points matches the most scored against Tech this season. Moreover, Syracuse (50.9%) became only the second opponent to make more than half its shots against Tech.

The Hokies' problem was foul trouble for Aluma and N'Guessan. Both are 6-foot-9, and both committed four fouls, forcing Young in stretches to play a smaller lineup that Syracuse attacked relentlessly.

Quincy Guerrier, Marek Dolezaj, Alan Griffin and Kadary Richmond, all 6-5 or taller, combined for 66 points. The 6-7 Guerrier led Syracuse with 20 points, nine straight during a second-half stretch that he capped with an easy bucket over the 5-10 Cone.

"I thought they did a really good job of getting us in foul trouble," Mutts said. "With Coach Young having to manage that, it becomes kind of tough. They've got some really big guys down there, so when it becomes kind of a smaller lineup it can be really difficult to, one, get back in transition, and then, two, find appropriate matchups for everybody."

Syracuse (9-4, 3-3) is only .500 in the ACC, but as Saturday and previous conference victories over Miami (83-57) and Boston College (101-63) demonstrate, it is capable of scoring binges that bury opponents. The Orange began the day second among the league's 15 teams in scoring at 79.5 points per game and was arguably the sternest test for the Hokies' defense since Villanova in the season's second game, two days after Thanksgiving.

Syracuse now prepares for an intriguing test Monday at Virginia, the ACC's premier defensive squad. Meanwhile, Wednesday's game at Notre Dame will be Virginia Tech's third straight on the road.

The Hokies sounded unfazed Saturday afternoon, and given their season to date, that's certainly the right approach.

"I don't feel as though we're in a bad spot," Mutts said. "So we can definitely bounce back."

Daily Press

Norm Wood

Keve Aluma, Jalen Cone can't find shooting touch again, leads to No. 16 Virginia Tech's struggles against Syracuse's zone

<https://www.dailypress.com/sports/college/virginia-tech/vp-sp-hokies-syracuse-mens-basketball-breakdown-20210123-rdoencoganhbraun4dbvll-wlui-story.html>

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (Jan. 23, 2021) — As unsettling as it has to be to see the two players who came into Saturday as No. 16 Virginia Tech's leading scorers go ice cold shooting for a second straight game, Hokies coach Mike Young is staying patient.

Granted, he doesn't much choice. The only way Keve Aluma and Jalen Cone are going to snap out of a slump where they combined to miss 17 of 19 shots in Virginia Tech's 78-60 loss at Syracuse and has seen them miss 26 of 29 shots in the Hokies' last two games is to keep heaving the ball at the rim.

Regardless, Young knows the reality of the situation.

"We do need for them to play well," said Young, whose team was confounded by Syracuse's trademark zone and shot a season-low 32.8% from the floor. "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 (Wednesday night) against the Notre Dame. I feel certain."

In truth, Aluma and Cone can't be much worse against Notre Dame, but there's ample reason to think both players could indeed bounce back against the Fighting Irish, who came into the weekend 10th best in the ACC in field-goal percentage defense (45.2) and worst in the conference in 3-point field goal percentage defense (38).

Aluma, who leads Tech with averages of 13.9 points and 7.1 rebounds per game, was 1 of 10 shooting from the floor at Syracuse. Cone, who is now third on the team in scoring (10.9 points per game), made 1 of 9 field goal attempts, including 1 of 8 from 3-point range. Tech was 8 of 29 (27.6%) on 3s.

Tech (11-3, 5-2 ACC), which fell to 1-2 on the road this season and is just 4-9 on the road in Young's two seasons as the Hokies' coach, missed 11 of its first 14 shots, but guard Nahiem Alleyne kept the Hokies close by making four of his first six shots from 3-point range. Alleyne scored 17 of his team-high 20 points in the first half.

Trailing just 47-44 with under 13 minutes left, Tech couldn't get any closer, as Syracuse (9-4, 3-3) went on a 20-4 run in the next 6 1/2 minutes. Syracuse shot 50.9% from the floor and was led by forwards Quincy Guerrier (20 points and nine rebounds), Marek Dolezaj (18 points) and Alan Griffin (15 points, 10 rebounds and seven blocks).

"They were keying on me in the second half," Alleyne said. "Once we got it into the middle, they would spread out to shooters, like me. So, I couldn't really get back into rhythm."

What we saw

*Guerrier, Dolezaj and Griffin keyed a 46-24 cushion in points in the paint for Syracuse, which took advantage of Aluma, Mutts, David N'Guessan (10 points off the bench) and Tyrece Radford (10 points and seven rebounds) all picking up two fouls in the first half.

Tech was forced to go with a smaller lineup for stretches in the opening half. Syracuse finished the game with a 34-26 edge in rebounding.

*Despite Tech's inability to shoot over Syracuse's zone or consistently get the ball in the post for easy opportunities, the Hokies had 16 assists on their 20 made field goals.

*Tech hasn't played against the kind of shot-altering presence Griffin offered since Feb. 9, 2019, when Clemson's Elijah Thomas also had seven blocks in the Tigers' 59-51 win against the Hokies.

Where was Wabissa?

Tech starting point guard Wabissa Bede played a season-low 14 minutes and he failed to score. His lack of playing time was a strategic decision by Young, but he knew it might have a give-and-take influence on the team.

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

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

No. 20 Virginia Tech wins at Notre Dame

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/no-20-virginia-tech-wins-at-notre-dame/article_76c201c6-60fc-11eb-a783-174e7495f710.html

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (Jan. 27, 2021) — The absence of Tyrece Radford did not keep the Virginia Tech men's basketball team from earning a road victory Wednesday night.

The 20th-ranked Hokies turned in their stingiest effort of the season, cruising to a 62-51 win over Notre Dame at the Joyce Center in South Bend, Indiana.

Tech (12-3, 6-2 ACC) beat Notre Dame (5-9, 2-6) for the second time this month.

Good defense and rebounding helped Tech beat Notre Dame 77-63 in Blacksburg on Jan. 10, and that was the formula again Wednesday.

"We played really well defensively and rebounded again," Tech coach Mike Young said. "I thought that was the difference in the game at our place, and same thing here.

"If we defend and rebound, we'll have a shot night in, night out."

It was Virginia Tech's first game since Radford, the team's second-leading scorer and rebounder this season, was indefinitely suspended from the team Monday. Radford, who was arrested by Blacksburg police Sunday, has been charged with one misdemeanor count of first-offense driving under the influence and one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon.

Radford averages 11.1 points, 6.3 rebounds and a team-high 31.0 minutes.

But even without Radford, Tech still had four players score in double figures Wednesday

And even without Radford, Tech still outrebounded Notre Dame 46-36.

Good signs for the Hokies?

"A positive," Young said.

Virginia Tech, which led the entire second half, bounced back from last weekend's 78-60 loss at Syracuse.

Two of Notre Dame's three lowest outputs of the season have come against Tech, including Wednesday's season-low 51 points.

The Fighting Irish shot 35.7% from the field Wednesday, including 16.7% from 3-point range (3 of 18).

Note Dame's Nate Laszewski, who entered Wednesday averaging a team-high 16.6 points, had just seven points Wednesday. The 6-foot-10 forward took just four shots and made three of them. He had 27 3-pointers entering the game but did not attempt a 3-pointer Wednesday.

"Laszewski is a really good shooter and if you don't switch when he sets ball screens, and he sets a bunch of them, he's going to spread out away from the ball and they'll throw it back to him and he's going to make it," Young said. "They need for him to ring the bell, and he has a harder time doing that when you can keep a body on a body.

"Laszewski did not attempt a 3, so great job from our team."

Fighting Irish point guard Prentiss Hubb, who was guarded by Tech's Wabissa Bede, had 22 points but was just 8 of 20 from the field.

"Wabissa Bede's kind of the unsung hero, I think, walking out of the arena here tonight with his work on Hubb," Young said. "He made life difficult for him."

Nahiem Alleyne scored 15 points and dished out five assists for the Hokies.

Tech center Keve Aluma had 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Aluma, who was just 2 of 16 from the field in the previous two games combined, was 5 of 10 from the field Wednesday.

"Keve is missing some opportunities around the basket that should be automatic for him," Young said.

Tech power forward Justyn Mutts had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

"He's an aggressive guy," Young said. "He's a tough dude. They all are."

Hunter Cattoor had 13 points and four 3-pointers off the bench for the Hokies.

"Cattoor was really good in the first half," Young said.

The Hokies shot 40.3% from the field.

Tech scored fewer than 65 points for the third straight game, although Tech has still won two of those games.

"We're not playing very well offensively," Young said. "We're not shooting great."

"We've got a really good offensive team. We're just stuck in a gear here, and we'll figure that part of it out."

Tech guard Jalen Cone, who was just 1 of 13 from the field the previous two games combined, was 1 of 6 from the field Wednesday. Cone, who started in place of Radford on Wednesday, was 1 of 5 from 3-point range.

Tech won for the third time in its last four visits to South Bend.

The Hokies jumped to a 15-5 lead with 11:16 left in the first half. They led the rest of the way.

Blue Ribbon Basketball

Mike Ashley

Virginia Tech is Back: The Young and the Relentless

<https://blueribbon.substack.com/p/blue-ribbon-report-vol-25-virginia?token=eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjoiYTY5ODYyMzY5ODZlZm9pZCI6MzE5NzY1MjY1LWVzZzV6Ow7bDGGbBcCt-zQw5yD7vjM>

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 28, 2021) — There was a time Virginia Tech was considered a "basketball school" before Frank Beamer, and a generation of bad basketball, changed that perception.

Mike Young remembers that earlier time fondly, when Allan Bristow and Dale Solomon, and Dell Curry were the big heroes in Blacksburg in the 1970s into the mid-'80s. Young was, well, young and in the stands, watching with his father, Bob, and already thinking about going into the family business—coaching. And maybe someday doing it in Blacksburg. Make no mistake, this is not a stepping Hokie Stone job for this guy.

"I think of all the big games I've seen through the years," says Young of Tech's venerable Cassell Coliseum. "So help me, goodness, I have felt this building shake."

Now the 57-year-old Young is shaking things up in "The Cassell." He has even shaken up the ACC standings. The Hokies are ranked 20th this week, 11-4 overall and 5-2 in the ACC. Already this year, Virginia Tech—picked 11th in the conference's preseason poll—has victories over then-third ranked Villanova, No. 24 Clemson, No. 19 Duke, and a big showdown with 8th-ranked Virginia coming Saturday in Cassell.

In his second season in Blacksburg, Young has assembled a lot of the pieces he needs to put a big-time winner on the floor, something even many hardcore Hokie fans seemed skeptical about when he was hired away from Wofford in 2019. But the homegrown, homespun coach has no problem selling a school he grew up rooting for and promoting the region in which he was raised. Moreover, Young has major coaching props, hard-earned on a long trip up the ladder that never changed who he was and what he was about, only reinforced it.

His skills on the chalkboard have also drawn raves from the right places.

"They are really good," Mike Krzyzewski said after Tech's 74-67 win over Duke. "Mike's team knows who they are. Their substitution patterns were great. [Young] knows who his team is, in the first half they really hit us hard. They played great defense, really strong, physical, and tough. It knocked us back, we have not played in an ACC game like that."

Young's reputation as a coach grew quickly because of what he was drawing up to turn Wofford into a Southern Conference powerhouse over his 17 years, winning 30 games in 2018-19 and ousting Seton Hall in the NCAA tournament. He brought some good players to Spartanburg, South Carolina, but mostly he created a system in which many talented and modestly gifted players flourished. Now he has more talent competing in the ACC. The stakes are higher. But so are the rewards.

Young's basketball roots are old school. He played for legendary Division III coach Bob Johnson at Emory & Henry, which is tucked away toward the southwest tip of Virginia. He was a point guard in a pure five-man motion offense like Bobby Knight once ran long before the 3-point shot. Young has taken those concepts and expanded on them in a way that's turning heads and turning defenders around.

Young's team take a lot of threes (13th in the nation with a school-record 9.9 made per game last season), initiating off elbow-catches and clever motion that breaks a defense down to create drives and cuts, putting the ball and the responsibility for making good reads in his players' hands.

"He trusts us and offensively he gives us a lot of freedom," says 6-9 junior Keve Aluma, who is so good inside Tech's 3-point numbers have ticked down a bit. "We all want to have his trust, just play as confidently and as hard as we can."

Aluma followed Young from Wofford, where he had averaged 6.9 points and 6.8 rebounds as a sophomore starter. He's chipping in 13.9 and 7.1 this year and is

among the ACC leaders in free-throw attempts and makes, a testament to the difference he has made down low. He was a key in the announcing-their-presence-with-authority victory over Villanova with 23 points and eight rebounds.

By transfer rule, Aluma had to sit and watch last season as the Hokies struggled inside many nights, 13th in the ACC in rebound margin (-3.3), 11th in blocked shots (2.97), and with no consistent offensive presence inside. Aluma was the answer all along.

"He's an elite defender. And I covet a player that you can throw the ball to in the post and expect something positive," Young says. "He's going to get doubled and stick it back on the perimeter. He's going to get fouled... You're able to put that thing down there to that big rascal and let him do his thing. Keve Aluma... is a whale of a ballplayer."

Aluma put in the work last year in practice and the weight room to go from a so-so SoCon player to an ACC force. His familiarity with Young's system allowed him to plug right in, and he has run with the opportunity. Just the kind of thing Young is looking for in his players.

Who are these guys?

These aren't necessarily the Hurryin' Hokies of Don DeVoe and Charlie Moir that Young grew up watching, but they're constantly pushing and getting the ball out quickly to pressure defenses. Part of the success is a strong disdain for bad shots and bad turnovers. The typical Young player is tough, smart, and can shoot. That's how you spread a defense at one end and how you clamp down defensively at the other.

"Sharing, being a great teammate, and not turning the ball over," Young says in describing the traits he seeks. "Our teams traditionally rank nationally in the top 25, the top 50 in assist-to-turnovers. I just don't think you can expect to win if you're kicking the ball around 15-16 times a game."

And that brings us to two points (though Young would rather have three): One, the Hokies are seventh in the ACC at a 1.10 assist-to-turnover ratio and out of the top 100 nationally in that statistic. There's still room for massive improvement, including the 73.5 points Tech tallies though recent circumstances are working against the Hokies.

Two, Wabissa Bede, the team's lone senior, was a big key in Tech's surprisingly solid 16-16 finish year when Young inherited an NCAA Tournament team minus all but three players and painfully post-height challenged. Bede was fourth in the ACC with 5.5 assists per game and led the league in assist-to-turnover ratio (3.31). Not a virtuoso marksman, Bede has had some offensive moments though his calling card remains in-your-face defense.

"Playing as one is what matters," Bede says. "We don't care who dominates that night [scoring]. We play our game, making the right reads, and [Young] has a lot of confidence in us. He gives us that every day and has a plan to get us ready to execute."

Bede's return and the experience others got last year around him made Young think he had something headed into the uncertain waters of 2020-21. "We were pretty good defensively and we've got an opportunity to take a significant jump at that end of the floor as anything," he said in August. "I think this is a really smart team, so many guys had good years for us that are just better players now."

That group included sophomore guards Tyrece Radford, Jalen Cone, Hunter Cattoor, and Nahiem Alleyne. Radford may be lost for this season after he was indefinitely suspended, Virginia Tech announced Monday. He faces local charges for driving while intoxicated and for carrying a concealed weapon, according to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. The second-leading scorer on the team, his absence will be a blow.

Coach K called Radford the best player on the court when he delivered 18 points, 12 rebounds, and five assists in the win over the Blue Devils, praising him for how hard he played. Here's an indication—at 6-2, Radford was also second on the team with his average of 6.3 rebounds per game and is particularly effective on the offensive glass (2.1), perhaps where his loss is even more significant than as a scorer.

"He's one of the best offensive rebounders I've been around," Young says.

Radford is the kind of organic scorer that makes an offense hum. The baskets seem to come naturally for "Boots," so-called because of his toughness. He can create his own shot when needed, something in short supply for the Hokies.

Young's track record indicates he will figure something out to keep the offensive engine purring. "We've got enough players in this building to continue to win," Young says. "We'll figure it out."

Cone and Cattoor have been coming off the bench and always seem to "pick up our wag," as Young calls it. At 5-10, Cone is perpetual motion, as good as anyone in the country off the ball with his movement and ability to find openings off screens. "He's quick as a cat," says his coach. "He elevates on his shot, flying off screens. He has elusiveness and catches and squares up better than anyone."

Cone draws a lot of attention, but his shooting (1 of 13) has been off the last two games, and a recent offensive slump by Aluma has also been troubling. It caught up with the Hokies in a surprising 78-60 loss at Syracuse Saturday.

While opponents have to perk up defensively when the Cone drill starts (10.9 ppg), the 6-3 Cattoor has taken over backup point duties since offense-minded Kansas State grad transfer Cartier Diarra opted out earlier this year. A Wofford recruit that followed Young to Blacksburg, Cattoor is shooting 46 percent from 3 and fits the Young mold—tough, smart, and can shoot—to a tee. His growth at the defensive end has been vital for him and the Hokies. Cattoor took nine charges through the first 12 games.

The 6-4 Alleyne gets sort of lost in all this specification of skills among the other wings. He does a little of everything, including defend, and that's why he has started all but six games since he arrived. He's a glue guy but another Hokie capable of a big scoring night, particularly beyond the arc, a trait that has made Tech tough to guard all year. Alleyne scored 20 points against Villanova, 15 at Louisville, and 20 at Syracuse though on an inefficient 6-of-17 shooting.

Adding well-traveled transfer Justyn Mutts was another key. The 6-7 junior who began his career at High Point and then transferred to Delaware has played a lot of college basketball. He has helped on the boards and is another scorer capable of throwing in 15 or so any night. As an added bonus, Mutts, like Aluma, is a gifted and willing passer.

Diarra was considered a key cog offensively before the season but opted to sit amidst the pandemic protocols after just four games. Young recalibrated his club, and the Hokies hurried to the fast start that saw them rocket to as high as No. 14 in the coaches' poll last week.

"I look down the roster [and] Aluma, Mutts, Bede are playing good basketball for us," Young says. "It's like Alleyne, Cone or Cattoor—somebody is going to have a 17-, 18-, 19-point game and really make it hard for you. There are going to be several nights when two of them ring the bell like that."

Virginia Tech gutted out a 64-60 win at Wake Forest on Jan. 17, when Aluma netted just five points and Cone was scoreless in 18 minutes. Not much bell ringing, just hard-nosed defense (four blocked shots by Aluma and nine total for Tech) and some timely 3s (three by Cattoor). Radford contributed 20 points to cap his ACC Player of the Week (including Duke game) performance. Cattoor got 13 on 5-of-7 shooting and a mystery guest—6-9 freshman David N'Guessan—netted a career-high 13 points in 14 minutes, hitting all five of his shots.

"I've seen him coming," Young says. "I see him coming daily... He defends. He's smart."

Smart, tough, and a good shooter.

Young knows how to win those tough, hard-nosed games in addition to the shootouts. His basketball offense is a superhighway, but his persona is pure backroads. A 1986 Emory & Henry grad, Young learned the game from Johnson, a U.S. Army Ranger and an Airborne Infantry platoon leader in Vietnam. Basketball practices were like boot camps and toughness was the trait "Coach J" coveted most.

In 27 years, Johnson won 374 games, went to five NCAA Tournaments, and reached the Division III Sweet 16 twice. The court at E&H is named for him, as is the Old Dominion Athletic Conference coach of the year award.

Johnson passed away in 2009 after a long, brave fight with cancer. His legacy lives on in many ways, not the least in the five current Division I head coaches from his tree planted in Division III—Young, Jamion Christian at George Washington, Nathan Davis at Bucknell, Jimmy Allen at Army, and Jon Coffman at Purdue Fort Wayne.

There are others, of course, including Robert Lineburg, the athletics director at Radford University who coached for 15 years at SMU, UNC Greensboro, James Madison, and, like the others, Emory & Henry.

"I see Coach J on the defensive end in Mike's team," Lineburg says. "Really tenacious. Offensively, Mike's a mad scientist, and that's why he's so successful. You have to be able to defend, but you'll never be successful in basketball if you can't coach offense. Mike can coach offense."

Every summer Johnson sent his assistant down Interstate 81 and up I-40 in Tennessee to Lipscomb University to spend a week with another coaching legend, Don Meyer "to see what [Meyer] was up to," especially on offense.

Basketball staples that Johnson and Meyer both championed—not turning the ball over, getting good shots for good shooters, and everyone fundamentally going to triple threat position to shoot, pass or dribble—are stamped all over Young's teams.

"I learned so many things from him," Young says. "I love him. He was in my wedding. He gave me my first job in 1986. I am forever in his debt. I wouldn't trade my track for anything. It hasn't been the easiest. This old boy wasn't born on third base and thinking he hit a triple. I went station-to-station. That started at the Division III level and up and down [Interstate] 81 and 64 [in Virginia], eating a baloney sandwich and a pack of Nabs. That was living for me."

Not so much has changed. Now, Young has a hard time if he can't grab his pregame bag of popcorn, amble around the court and talk to coaches and others around the game he knows and enjoys seeing. Such amiable contact is a part of day-to-day life in southwest Virginia, and a characteristic Hokie fans saw in Hall of Famer Beamer when he famously fanned football fortunes after growing up in nearby Hillsville.

Aluma took note when he first met Young in Spartanburg, a similar, small, close-knit community Young might never have left had his dream job not come calling. "He was just such a good guy," Aluma says. "We'd go places, and everyone seemed to know him, and he knew everybody. He's talking to everyone and it was just obvious he was a good person."

Among the many people Young knows, he took unlikely advice from what many Hokies would consider an unlikely source when he arrived in Blacksburg. "As soon as you can, and it's hard, but you have to have kids you can lose with, someone else in our state said," Young says. "[Virginia coach Tony] Bennett said that to me. "The foundation is in place. I firmly believe that, but I have a group of men I can get my tail whipped and I can come back the next day and feel good about it. I've got character people. I've got guys that love Virginia Tech, and I can't believe what a thrill it is to go downstairs in Hahn-Hurst [Tech's basketball facility] and practice with this team."

Hokie fans don't like to see their heroes get their "tail whipped," but they understand the sentiment. They now know, like Beamer once did, Young brings that southwest Virginia sensibility to their program. He's one of them.

Young wouldn't, probably couldn't, have it any other way. It's the way he learned from coach J, albeit Johnson's language was much saltier, owing to that military background. "I've always said my language is a lot better," says Young, who usually refers to his players as "rascals."

Young's personal style is much more in line with his father, who coached several sports in high school and was a popular, life-long educator, administrator, and sports fan before passing away last year after getting to see his son come home to coach Virginia Tech.

Mike Young's uncle Norm Lineburg was also a major influence. Lineburg had dominant football teams at Radford High School throughout the '70s, '80s, '90s and into the early '00s, winning more than 300 games in 36 years.

Young has started an anti-bullying nonprofit, MYTURN, to honor his father's principles and increase awareness of bullying among school kids. Meanwhile, he has made sure none of the ACC bluebloods [Carolina or royal blue] bully the Hokies on the hardwoods anymore.

Oh, and as for Beamer, he coached at Radford High School under Norm Lineburg, Robert's father, and Mike Young's uncle. Maybe everyone does know everyone in southwest Virginia, Keve Aluma.

All four of coach Lineburg's sons would go into coaching and nephew Mike, would, too, though he and Robert Lineburg, rascals that they were, chose basketball.

Good thing for the hardwood Hokies, who seem to have their wag back.

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 30, 2021) — Chalk up another marquee win for the Virginia Tech men's basketball team — this time, against the squad's biggest rival.

The 20th-ranked Hokies rallied from a 10-point second-half deficit to upset eighth-ranked Virginia 65-51 on Saturday night at Cassell Coliseum.

"It's a big win for us," Tech guard Hunter Cattoor said.

The Hokies (13-3, 7-2 ACC), who went on an eye-popping 34-8 run in the second half, beat a ranked foe for the fourth time this season.

"It's significant now, but let's hit the brake," Tech coach Mike Young said. "It's late January. They're not putting the crown on anybody's head in January.

"Great win for us. We played a good ballgame against a really, really good Virginia team. But let's hang on. We've got a lot more to look forward to, we hope.

"I've been doing this a long time. Great win. Great win. Take nothing away from what our team has accomplished. But we've got a lot more mountains to climb."

Cattoor said the Hokies "haven't accomplished anything."

Come again?

"It's exciting getting wins like this, but that's not the goal this season," Cattoor said.

What is the goal?

"National championship," said Cattoor, whose team was picked 11th in the ACC's preseason media poll. "We all thought it was a realistic goal at the beginning of the season. ... We're just going to keep working towards it."

The Hokies tied the 2017-18 team for the most wins over ranked opponents in a season in Tech history.

"We try and play hard every game, no matter who it is, but you see that [foe's ranked] number, it always excites everyone," center Keve Aluma said.

It was Tech's second win over a top-10 foe this season.

"These guys ... don't care who you are. They are going to fight," Young said. "They're going to guard you.

"I'm having the best time coaching this team. Not because we're winning a lot. They're just great people."

It was a surprising win, considering UVa (11-3, 7-1) entered Saturday on a seven-game winning streak. And Tech was without suspended starter Tyrece Radford.

Nevertheless, Tech snapped a four-game losing streak in the series with UVa. It was Tech's first win in the series since an overtime win at UVa in February 2018.

"No one really felt we were going to win this game," Aluma said. "I like it when it's like that. I like when people don't think we're going to win."

This was Tech's most lopsided win in the series since an 84-57 victory over UVa in February 2007.

"There is a connectedness to this team. There is a camaraderie. They're like little ducklings that are together all the time," Young said.

The 7-2 league mark is Tech's best ACC start after nine games in school history, eclipsing the team's 6-3 ACC start in the 2006-07 season.

Tech won just seven ACC games all of last season.

Aluma had 29 points and 10 rebounds. After going 7 of 26 from the field the previous three games combined (with all those games on the road), he was 10 of 15 from the field Saturday.

"Just trying to get my touch back," Aluma said. "I'd been missing little bunnies. Just trying to finish those. ... I was trying to be aggressive and [go] downhill."

"There's something to Cassell. There's something [to] getting back home," Young said. "He had a nice pop to his step."

Cattoor had 15 points off the bench.

"He can really shoot the ball," Young said.

The Hokies are 2-0 since Radford was indefinitely suspended from the team Monday in the wake of his arrest Sunday by Blacksburg police.

"Coach had told us, 'Next man up,'" Aluma said. "Everyone on this team can play."

"It's a great team," Cattoor said. "When people go down, people are going to step up."

Radford was the team's second-leading scorer and second-leading rebounder at the time of his suspension.

"I care for him," Young said. "We're moving in a good direction there."

“For this team to come back after a tough occurrence, to go to Notre Dame and win and to beat Virginia in here tonight, is a real feather in their cap.”

UVa had a 39-29 cushion with 15:28 to go, but Tech went on a 34-8 run to grab a 63-47 lead with 2:50 to go.

“The ball was moving a little bit better. I thought we screened a little bit better,” Young said of the run. “We did a nice job on the glass.”

Virginia Tech had five 3-pointers in the run.

Cattoor had 13 points in the run, and Aluma had 11 points in the run.

Tech capped the 34-8 run with 19 straight points.

The Hokies shot just 38.1% from the field in the first half but a sizzling 60.9% in the second half.

Tech was 7 of 10 from 3-point range in the second half.

UVa shot just 36.5% from the field, including 29.6% in the second half.

Virginia entered Saturday having scored at least 80 points in three of its previous four games. But the Hokies held UVa to its lowest output of the season.

“I’ve got a really good defensive team,” Young said. “We had a really good night on that end this evening against a terrific Virginia team.

“This team of mine, they’ll fight you tooth and nail night in, night out.

“They’re hard on one another. Somebody makes a mistake, somebody doesn’t communicate something and you’re going to hear it.

“That performance defensively was needless to say, exceptional. But it’s not a surprise.”

The 51 points were the fewest UVa has scored in the series since beating the Hokies 50-47 in January 2015.

The Cavaliers led 29-21 at halftime but scored just 22 points in the second half. UVa was 7 of 15 from 3-point range in the first half but 3 of 13 from that distance in the second half.

“UVa, they have a great defense. ... But also we knew we have a great defense, too,” Cattoor said. “In the second half, we really just locked down, tried to get stops.

“We really locked in this week, watching film and knowing personnel. ... We knew their key players and what they liked to do.”

Young has now beaten coaching icons Tom Izzo, Jim Boeheim, Roy Williams, Jay Wright, Mike Krzyzewski and Tony Bennett in his two seasons at Tech.

Washington Post

Gene Wang

No. 20 Virginia Tech rallies for ‘great win’ over No. 8 UVa

https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/colleges/virginia-virginia-tech-basketball/2021/01/30/3e753dc2-628e-11eb-9061-07abcc1f9229_story.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 30, 2021) — Virginia Tech’s Keve Aluma was having his way offensively during the first half Saturday night against rival Virginia, dominating so thoroughly that Cavaliers Coach Tony Bennett wound up rotating five players in an attempt to slow down the Hokies forward.

But Aluma continued to get virtually any shot he wanted, finishing with a career-high 29 points to spark the No. 20 Hokies to a 65-51 win over the No. 8 Cavaliers in the first leg of the Commonwealth Clash at Cassell Coliseum in Blacksburg.

“We see it every day in practice,” Virginia Tech guard Hunter Cattoor said. “It’s nothing new to us. We weren’t surprised. It’s just fun to see him going at every guy they tried to put in front of him, and none of them could still guard him.”

The junior, a transfer from Wofford, made 10 of 15 shots and added a game-high 10 rebounds with four assists to send Virginia to its first ACC loss in nearly a year, snapping the Cavaliers’ 15-game conference winning streak.

Virginia Tech Coach Mike Young and his team got the better of Virginia on Saturday night.

Virginia Tech (13-3, 7-2) posted its fourth win against a ranked opponent to move within a half-game of the Cavaliers (11-3, 7-1) for first place in the ACC. Saturday’s win secured the Hokies’ best eight-game start in conference history and gave them the inside track on the tiebreaker for the top seed in the ACC tournament.

“There is connectiveness to this team,” Coach Mike Young said. “There is a camaraderie. They’re like little ducklings that are together all the time. You see them on campus. They enjoy one another’s company. To see the energy on our bench when a kid makes a good play, a hustle play, a great defensive play, it’s heartwarming. It’s what team sports are supposed to be about.”

Back in action at last, Georgetown holds off Providence to snap its five-game skid

Cattoor added 15 points for the Hokies, who used a 19-0 run late in the second half to forge a 63-47 lead with 2:50 to play. The surge included Wabissa Bede making a pair of free throws to put the Hokies in front to stay at 49-47 with 7:08 left after drawing a fourth personal foul against Virginia’s Jay Huff.

It was Virginia Tech’s first lead since the first half, and the Hokies continued to apply pressure defensively, holding Virginia without a point for more than seven minutes. The Hokies had tied the score at 47 on consecutive three-pointers from Naheim Alleyne, Bede and Cattoor.

The Cavaliers put four players in double figures, including Huff’s team-high 13 points on 5-for-7 shooting, but shot just 36.5 percent.

"You just can't have big gaps where you're not getting stops or being assertive enough," Bennett said. "It was too easy for them to just post up, do things and then make some plays. We just weren't right, and let that be a lesson. You can't survive like that."

Virginia had an eight-point halftime lead but saw it slip away in the 152nd meeting between the rivals but only the fifth when both were ranked.

Kylin Hill fought to change the Mississippi flag. Next up: The NFL.

Virginia Tech was coming off its most complete defensive performance of the season, a 62-51 win at Notre Dame on Wednesday. That was the fewest points the Hokies have surrendered this season, and they did so despite being without starting guard Tyrece Radford for the first time. The Hokies' second-leading scorer (11.1) and rebounder (6.3) was suspended indefinitely following an arrest Sunday on misdemeanor charges of driving while intoxicated and carrying a concealed weapon.

The third-year sophomore and two-year starter is scheduled for arraignment Feb. 9 in Montgomery (Va.) General District Court. Radford faces up to 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500 for each of the Class 1 misdemeanor counts.

"I care for that guy," Young said of Radford. "We're moving in a good direction, but for this team to come back after a tough occurrence, to go to Notre Dame and win and to beat Virginia here tonight, it's a real feather in their cap."

John Chaney, eternally fiery and relentlessly competitive, was the definition of toughness

Aluma contributed significantly in Radford's place against the Fighting Irish and carried that stellar play into the first half Saturday, scoring from behind the arc as well as on dunks in a matchup with Huff, who struggled to stay in front of Aluma early. Late in the half, Bennett took Huff out of the game and tabbed 6-foot-9 guard Trey Murphy III, a quicker player, to cover Aluma. The move kept Aluma in check for a bit, and the Cavaliers did not allow a point for more than six minutes on the way to opening a 29-21 halftime lead.

"We knew that they were a great team and that we would have to bring our 'A' game," Aluma said. "So obviously excited to get the 'W.'"

Richmond Times-Dispatch

David Teel

Aluma and Hokies 'exceptional' in win over UVA

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-aluma-and-hokies-exceptional-in-win-over-uva/article_30c7f89a-ab7c-5101-a8ed-b1d49f142985.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 30, 2021) — The Associated Press debuted its national basketball poll in January 1949. This marks the second season in which Virginia Tech has defeated four ranked opponents.

The Hokies joined the ACC in 2004. Never have they started a conference season this well.

Those are the historical benchmarks framing No. 20 Tech's 65-51 victory over No. 8 Virginia on Saturday. But the micro is even more impressive than the macro.

The Cavaliers (11-3, 7-1 ACC) strolled into Cassell Coliseum on a 15-game ACC winning streak, the final eight last year and the first seven this season. That was the longest run in the league since Duke won 17 straight in 2005 and '06.

Moreover, the Hokies (13-3, 7-2) were without suspended guard Tyrece Radford for the second consecutive game. But Tech was unfazed, attacking UVA relentlessly on both ends of the floor during a dominant second half (44-22 scoring margin).

"It's significant, now," Hokies coach Mike Young said. "But let's hit the brake. It's late January. They're not putting a crown on anyone's head in January."

No crown, indeed. But doubling up the ACC's first place team in the second half, without your No. 2 scorer and rebounder no less, is a large deal.

What's new in fast food: A new Chick-fil-A sandwich, Starbucks cold drink and Pizza Hut pizza

Tech did it with a late 19-0 binge during which it scored on eight consecutive possessions and UVA went empty on 10 straight. The Hokies suffocated the ACC's most efficient offense and exposed the conference's most efficient defense.

The linchpin was 6-foot-9 forward Keve Aluma, who scored a career-high 29 points and grabbed a game-best 10 rebounds. Aluma made two shots beyond the 3-point arc but otherwise owned the interior, even as the Cavaliers tried five defenders against him.

Coach Tony Bennett started with Jay Huff on Aluma and then used Sam Hauser, Trey Murphy, Francisco Caffaro and Justin McKoy. The Cavaliers guarded Aluma one-on-one; when that backfired, they double-teamed him in the post.

Nothing worked.

"Keve's got great feet," Young said, "and he can really move downhill. ... We could have done a lot with him. He was that good tonight."

Aluma attacked Huff from the start in an effort to get the 7-1 senior in foul trouble, and by halftime Huff had three.

A transfer from Wofford, where he played two seasons for Young, Aluma scored 16 of the Hokies' 21 first-half points, and a key was his making those two 3s, forcing Huff to honor him on the perimeter and making Huff vulnerable to dribble penetration.

"Just trying to get my touch back," said Aluma, who was a combined 7 of 26 from the floor in Tech's three most recent games. "I'd been missing little bunnies."

Not Saturday. Aluma was 10 of 15, and in the second half, he finally got some scoring help. Hunter Cattoor scored 13 of his 15 points after intermission, Wabissa Bede all 7 of his.

Conversely, the contested 3s that UVA's Murphy, Hauser and Kihei Clark were making deep into the shot clock no longer fell.

"They really bottled up the lane and defended," Bennett said, "and then they were pretty quick to the 3s, and sometimes we had to take them. Certainly, wasn't one of our better efforts, but partly due to they're good taking the lane away and then challenging, leaving us with some late 3s, which is what you want to do when guarding the right way."

"I've got a really good defensive team," Young said.

He sure does, and to their credit, players such as Nahiem Alleyne and Justyn Mutts defended fiercely despite sub-par shooting nights.

With victories over Villanova, Clemson, Duke and Virginia, Tech has defeated four teams that were ranked at tip-off, matching the program record set in 2017-18. More opportunities likely await, especially with two upcoming games against Florida State.

How Radford, who faces driving under the influence and concealed weapon charges, figures into the remainder of the season is unclear. But if he returns, the Hokies become even more formidable.

"I care for that guy," Young said. "We're moving in a good direction there."

And so are the Hokies, who beat Notre Dame without Radford on Wednesday. But Notre Dame is not UVA.

"That performance [tonight] was, needless to say, exceptional," Young said.

Daily Press

Norm Wood

Hokies pull away in second half while Cavaliers endure deep shooting slump

<https://www.pilotonline.com/sports/college/university-virginia/vp-sp-uva-hokies-breakdown-mens-basketball-20210131-goumq4bbyrabzknyzzqet-73awy-story.html>

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 30, 2021) — Ever humble minutes after Virginia Tech's biggest win in 18 years against Virginia, Keve Aluma provided as honest a reaction as he could possibly muster in response to what it was like having U.Va. try to slow him down with five different players. It was uncharted territory for Aluma.

Scoring a career-high 29 points Saturday night in No. 20 Virginia Tech's 65-51 win against No. 8 U.Va. had to seem like an out-of-body experience for a guy who never attempted more than nine shots and never scored more than 14 points in a game in his two seasons at Wofford before transferring to Tech.

"I don't really know if I shot enough at Wofford for them to worry about that," said Aluma, who also had 10 rebounds in a win that represented Tech's largest margin of victory against U.Va. since Jan. 2003, when the Hokies defeated the Cavaliers 73-55 in Cassell Coliseum.

"I don't know if I'm really that worried about it. I'm just trying to win games."

Aluma's performance propelled Tech (12-3, 7-2 ACC) to its fourth win of the season against an opponent ranked in the Associated Press Top 25, matching the most wins it's ever had in a season against top 25-ranked foes (the 2017-18 team also had four). Tech is off to its best in the ACC through nine games since joining the conference before the 2004-2005 season.

Seemingly ego-less, Aluma is the ideal "star" for a team coach Mike Young portrays as a collection of unassuming scrappers.

Behind a 19-0 run over the course of 4½ minutes - a run led by eight points from Hunter Cattoor (15 points for the game) and seven from Aluma - Tech fought back and went ahead 63-47 with 2:50 remaining.

After falling behind by 10 points with just over 15 minutes left, Tech's recovery was particularly stunning, but U.Va. missing 11 straight shots from the floor after it went up 47-44 on a layup by Jay Huff, who led U.Va. with 13 points, contributed to the Cavaliers' collapse. U.Va.'s winning streaks of seven games coming into the weekend and 15 games in the ACC were doomed after the lengthy shooting drought.

"Those guys don't care," said Young, whose program limited U.Va. to a season-low points total and a season-worst 36.5% shooting from the floor. "They don't care who you are. They are going to fight. ... I'm having the best time coaching this team."

What we saw

While Aluma got off to a hot start, making six of eight shots from the floor in the first half and finishing the game 10 of 15, his teammates didn't have the same early shooting success. Other than Aluma, Tech was 2 of 19 shooting in the opening half, while U.Va. made 7 of 15 shots from 3-point range to go up 29-21 at the half.

"We're in good shape" said Young regarding what he told his team at the break. "We need a couple of you guys to step to the plate and get some of them down. I thought we had some really good shots from guys that were taking them in the first half. We just didn't get them down."

Making 60.9% of its shot attempts in the second half, Tech ended up shooting 50% for the game.

U.Va. coach Tony Bennett wasn't fooled by his team's perimeter shooting in the first half. Many of the shots were simply the best options they had as the shot clock got under five seconds.

"A little bit of fool's gold," said Bennett, whose team will try to bounce back Wednesday night at North Carolina State. "We made some at the end of the shot clock (so) it looks good. We maybe separated the lead a little bit, but we almost had to bail ourselves out with some of those at the end with certain guys and we probably we took too many."

Foul trouble plagued U.Va., which saw Huff pick up his fourth foul with 7:08 left. After going into the bonus with 11:17 remaining, Tech made all of its final eight free throw attempts.

Bouncing back without Radford

A week that started with Young mentioning how his team had “no choice” but to “figure it out” after guard Tyrece Radford, Tech’s second-leading scorer and third-leading rebounder, was indefinitely suspended as a result of being charged with DUI and a concealed weapons violation ended with a win at Notre Dame and a pivotal win against a top-10 ranked rival.

Satisfying?

“I don’t know how crucial it was for me,” said Young, whose team will look to continue building momentum Wednesday at Pittsburgh. “I care for that guy [Radford]. We’re moving in a good direction there, but for this team to come back...go to Notre Dame and win and beat Virginia here (Saturday) was a real feather in their cap.”

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Barber

Behind Keve Aluma, No. 20 Virginia Tech surges past No. 8 UVA

https://richmond.com/sports/college/behind-keve-aluma-no-20-virginia-tech-surges-past-no-8-uva/article_194faa1c-eb93-5469-be94-c0bd55cca887.html

BLACKSBURG (Jan. 30, 2021) — Keve Aluma said he went into Saturday night’s game against rival Virginia aiming to be aggressive. After the contest, UVA coach Tony Bennett said he thought his team played soft.

That combination fueled a career night for Aluma and a dominating second half for No. 20 Virginia Tech as it powered past the No. 8 Cavaliers for a 65-51 win at Cassell Coliseum, the Hokies’ largest margin of victory in the series since 2003.

“You could feel it, how badly they wanted it,” UVA coach Tony Bennett said. “I didn’t feel we answered that.”

In the first half, with Virginia draining 3-pointers, Aluma kept Tech (13-3, 7-2 ACC) in the game. In the second half, he helped the Hokies take it over.

Aluma scored a career-high 29 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as Tech used a 19-0 run in the second half to knock off its fourth ranked opponent of the season.

“I think we had all seen that nobody thought we would win this game,” Aluma said. “That just fuels us more.”

Virginia got 13 points from senior forward Jay Huff and 11 from junior guard Kihei Clark. But after sinking seven shots from 3-point range in the first half, UVA managed just three 3s after the break.

The Cavaliers couldn’t slow down Aluma, especially with Huff in foul trouble.

This is what winter was like in the US the year you were born

“There were a lot of things we didn’t do right,” Huff said. “A lot of it was on defense. I take a lot of responsibility for that. ... We just didn’t show up tonight.”

Aluma, a Wofford transfer, helped fuel Tech’s second-half takeover as the Hokies snapped a four-game losing streak against Virginia and ended the Cavaliers’ 15-game ACC win streak.

“Just better basketball from our team and couldn’t come at a better time,” said Tech coach Mike Young of his team’s surge after halftime.

Bennett didn’t think his club matched its rival’s intensity, aggressiveness or physicality.

“Finesse does not work in this league,” he said. “And we looked very finesse-y today.”

Tech played its second game without suspended Tyrece Radford, the team’s second leading scorer and rebounder. But Aluma more than covered for that absence.

Virginia’s hot 3-point shooting threatened to turn Saturday night’s rivalry contest into a no-contest. But Aluma’s big night and a big Hokies run in the second half made sure it was another memorable installment in the series.

Five of Virginia’s first six made shots were 3-pointers as it built a 17-13 lead on Sam Hauser’s well-defended, shot clock-beating 3 with 11:16 to play in the half. In all, UVA (11-3, 7-1) hit seven first-half 3-pointers, with three coming against tight defense as the shot clock expired.

A monster first half from Aluma kept things tight. He drove down the lane for a two-handed dunk that tied the game 21-21 with 6:10 left before the break. Aluma scored 16 points before halftime.

But UVA ended the half on an 8-0 run, taking a 29-21 lead to the locker room despite coming up empty on its final five possessions.

Tech got a spark early in the second half from Jalen Cone. The sophomore guard came in mired in a shooting slump. He had gone just 2 for 17 from 3-point range the last three games and missed his first two on Saturday. But Cone knocked down a pair of shots beyond the arc in the first four minutes of the second half, giving the Hokies’ offense an added — and much needed — dimension.

Tech closed to 39-34 after Aluma scored against a Huff-and-Hauser double team with 14:23 to play. But with Huff on the bench, Hauser answered with a 3 from the wing that put UVA back in control.

A 3-pointer by Nahiem Alleyne made it a one-shot game, cutting Virginia’s lead to 43-41 with 9:32 to play, and Wabissa Bede followed with a 3 that made it 45-44 Cavaliers with 8:57 to go.

A 3-pointer by sophomore guard Hunter Cattoor tied the game 47-47. And Tech wasn’t done. It scored the next 16 points — with seven coming from Aluma — to go up 63-47 with 2:40 to play.

“They just ran away with it,” Bennett said.

Tech handed Virginia its first conference loss of the season and pulled the Hokies within a half-game of first place in the ACC standings behind the Cavaliers.

"It's significant now, but let's hit the brake. It's late January," Young said. "They're not putting a crown on anybody's head in January."

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Norm Wood

Wabissa Bede is Hokies' most important player

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-wabissa-bede-is-hokies-most-important-player/article_f2e22901-b026-5749-ad38-7666de39c66c.html

BLACKSBURG (Feb. 2, 2021) — Thirty-five seconds into Virginia's basketball game at Virginia Tech on Saturday, Kihei Clark made a 3-pointer from the right wing. Moments later, with the shot clock about to expire, the Cavaliers' point guard buried a deep 3.

'Twas enough to give Hokies faithful, not to mention head coach Mike Young, flashbacks.

Last February at Cassell Coliseum, Clark's 3-pointer with two seconds remaining lifted UVA to a 56-53 victory. In the teams' first encounter of last season, Clark scored a game-high 18 points in a 65-39 demolition of the Hokies. Moreover, he recorded a combined 12 assists last year versus Tech.

Wabissa Bede made sure there wasn't a recurrence.

Oh, Clark scored 11 points, a tick above his average. But he missed 9 of 13 shots and, most notably, did not have an assist in the Hokies' 65-51 upset.

Saturday marked the 75th UVA game in which Clark played at least 20 minutes, the first in which he had no assists. Credit Bede, who shadowed Clark for most of the evening.

"Watch Bede play," Young said, "watch him defensively, and how physical he is, just how perceptive he is. He's got an incredible basketball IQ defensively. ... I thought we did a really good job of just gumming things up, clogging driving [lanes]. ... We know what kind of player Clark is. He's just terrific. But I thought Wabissa's work ... was a significant part of the game."

A 6-foot-1 senior, Bede is shooting only 39.3% for his career. But his assist-turnover ratio is an exceptional 2.65-to-1, and his defense is unrivaled among the Hokies.

Bede excels not only as an on-the-ball defender, but also in help situations. Indeed, Young said Bede was essential to how Tech defended Virginia forwards Jay Huff and Sam Hauser, and he's likely to play a similar role Wednesday night when the No. 16 Hokies play Pittsburgh and Justin Champagnie, the ACC's leading scorer and rebounder.

Combine Bede's defense with his maturity and leadership, and it's little wonder Young considers him the most important player of his two seasons as the Hokies' coach.

"He is awesome," Young said. "It's his team."

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Craig Meyer

Virginia Tech offered Mike Young a homecoming. Now, he's building it into a winner

<https://www.post-gazette.com/sports/Pitt/2021/02/03/virginia-tech-hokies-mike-young-pitt-panthers-basketball-acc-wofford/stories/202102030081>

BLACKSBURG (Feb. 3, 2021) — Even 22 months later, there are still times where it all doesn't feel entirely real to Mike Young, as if his life as Virginia Tech's men's basketball coach is part of some elaborate hallucination.

From the window of his office on the school's campus, he can see Cassell Coliseum, the Hokies' 59-year-old home arena where he saw his first college basketball game in the early 1970s. It's a place he returned to many times, making the 15-mile drive with his family to satiate a budding obsession with a sport that became a calling for him.

Nearly a half-century later, he now presides over that kingdom, tucked away in the mountains of southwest Virginia.

"Those are memories, things that I don't take for granted, that I'm appreciative of," Young said. "To be able to be here is awesome."

In his second season at the school, Young has Virginia Tech rolling, with a 13-3 record and a place in the top 20 of the national polls heading into its game Wednesday at Pitt. While not a culmination, it's a high point in a lengthy career for the 57-year-old coach, who spent his entire basketball life at the mid-major level before being hired by the Hokies in 2019.

A native of nearby Radford, Va., Young has arrived in more ways than one. The small-college coach not only made it to the most prestigious conference in the sport, but once he got there, he has been excelling against some of the most decorated, revered figures in the game.

"Certainly, you want to challenge yourself," Young said. "Can we do there what we've done here with the same guiding principles that we had in place down there? We're still working at it, but to have the opportunity to come to the Atlantic Coast Conference, to come to Virginia Tech at this stage in my career was exhilarating."

That road home was ultimately a long one.

For 30 years, Young was at Wofford, a liberal arts college in Spartanburg, S.C. with fewer than 1,800 students. When he was promoted to head coach in 2002, the Terriers had been a Division I member for just seven seasons and never finished better than 14-16.

By the end of his tenure, Wofford had become a consistent winner. In Young's final 10 years at the school, the Terriers made the NCAA tournament five times and in his final year, they went 30-5 and narrowly lost to Kentucky in the tournament's second round. Success came with spoils and recognition. Young was named the national coach of the year by the Sporting News in 2019. Wofford became a program that punched far above its weight, regularly beating major-conference opponents, including a 2017 road upset of then-No. 5 North Carolina. It even received a couple of unofficial visits from a hometown recruit named Zion Williamson.

While he was from Virginia, he made a life for himself at Wofford, transforming from an eager young assistant into a sage veteran. Near the end of his run with the Terriers, he envisioned staying the next 10 or 15 years at the school before hanging up his whistle. He was following the advice he had been given long ago — be where your feet are.

"I had internalized that," Young said. "I was completely at peace with that. I loved that place. I still do."

For all he achieved at Wofford, Young was caught in a quandary. Loyalty and personal contentment had kept him with the Terriers, but even as the wins piled up, he accrued the profile of a coach who often remains at that level.

At the end of the 2018-19 season, he was 55 years old, with coaching stops at Wofford, Radford and Division II Emory & Henry, his alma mater. From 1998-2018, only 20 major-conference coaching hires of a possible 204 were 55 years or older. Unlike Young, each of those 20 hires had experience of some sort coaching in one of those six leagues, even as an assistant.

He loved Wofford, but in the back of his mind, he was open to the right fit, should it present itself.

"This opportunity at the highest level, in the mecca of college basketball — the ACC — and it just so happened to be kind of in his hometown, it just all made sense," said Kevin Giltner, a Virginia Tech assistant coach who played for Young at Wofford and coached under him there for six years. "But you better believe he wanted to come here and prove he can do it at this level and he wanted to prove that he could do it at a different situation. Like, 'Hey, I can do it at Wofford. I can do it someplace else.' I think that was a part of it. He would probably never admit that just because he's so humble and doesn't like to talk about himself, but I do think that was a part of it."

Such an opportunity, perhaps even the perfect one, eventually emerged.

Virginia Tech wasn't just any opening. He had grown up a relatively short drive from the school's Blacksburg campus and spent part of his upbringing going to Hokies football and basketball games. To this day, he can vividly recall sitting in his grandparents' home in Marion, Va., in 1973 watching Virginia Tech beat Notre Dame in the NIT championship on a Bobby Stevens buzzer-beater.

When he was introduced as the Hokies' new coach in April 2019, he described it as his dream job. What's normally empty, hyperbolic rhetoric for coaches looking to woo an eager fan base was anything but for Young.

"I don't think anybody said 'Yes' any quicker," he said about being offered the job. "I didn't have to talk to my wife. I didn't have to talk to anybody. I was in."

On paper, he inherited an ascendant program at Virginia Tech, which had made three consecutive NCAA tournaments for the first time in school history, including a Sweet 16 run in 2019.

The task that awaited Young, however, was more complicated and daunting. The Hokies lost their top five scorers from the 2018-19 team. The four recruits who had signed with the program under previous coach Buzz Williams had asked for releases, which they were granted. Even for those who hadn't left, Young had to sell them on him and his vision.

"I don't ever want to experience it again," Young said of his early days at Virginia Tech. "I cherished it. Here's another opportunity and you want to do it the right way. Get it right. I remember sitting here April 9, 2019. I'm in the office, where I was sitting at that particular moment. It was midnight and the glitter has faded and everybody is gone and I'm here by myself. I've got no staff. We had four players."

There was doubt surrounding Virginia Tech, which had only eight NCAA tournament appearances in the 106 years before Williams' arrival and was now having to start from scratch. Young did fairly well in his first season, going 16-16, but heading into this season, some uncertainty remained, as the Hokies were picked 11th in the 15-team ACC in the league's preseason poll.

More than halfway through the season, they've exceeded expectations, sitting a half-game out of first place in the conference standings and owning wins against No. 3 Villanova and No. 14 Virginia. They've thrived with the freedom and trust offered by Young's motion offense and have one of the ACC's best players in forward Keve Aluma, who played for Young for two seasons at Wofford before following him to Virginia Tech.

"To think that kid was at Wofford ... it's the reason why Mike's teams were winning 30-plus games a year there," Pitt coach Jeff Capel said.

Young is flourishing in a comfortable environment. His family still lives in the region. Before his death last March, his father was able to attend a few games at Cassell Coliseum, getting to watch his son pace the sidelines of the arena where he once took him as a child. As he learns seemingly every day, Young's roots go even deeper than he once thought.

"It's incredible the amount of people he knows and people that know him. 'Hey, I had class with your dad,' or, 'I know your mom,' or, 'Your cousin and me are best friends.' It's incredible," Giltner said. "We talk about it all the time. We can't go anywhere outside of the office with him because it's going to be a long trip because he's stopping and talking with somebody who knows him and he knows them and they're telling old stories for 45 minutes. It's funny because we're like, 'Man, he is so made for this job. He is so made for this area.' He's a rock star."

As those close to him like Giltner will tell you, though, Young has only changed so much, if at all. It is seen in things like his pregame ritual, something he has been doing for so long, he can't remember exactly when it started. Before every game, Young sits courtside with a bag of popcorn from the arena's concession stand. While snacking, he'll watch warmups, and talk with other coaches and even opposing players, some of whom he once recruited. It began as a way to calm pregame nerves and collect his thoughts. He preferred the openness of the gym over the loneliness of the locker room, where many head coaches spend their time until the final minutes before a game.

It's unconventional, but it's who Young is. His feet are where they were meant to be.

PITTSBURGH (Feb. 3, 2021) — Last week, the Virginia Tech men's basketball team held Notre Dame to 51 points — the fewest points Tech had allowed all season.

Last weekend, the Hokies also held Virginia to 51 points.

On Wednesday, the Hokies gave up 52 points to Pittsburgh in the second half.

The Panthers knocked off the No. 16 Hokies 83-72 on Wednesday at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh.

"They were more physical," Tech coach Mike Young said. "As good as we've been defensively, to allow 83 points to a Pittsburgh team that has struggled to score at times.

"We've been so good defensively. We were not that team tonight, and that's disappointing."

The Hokies (13-4, 7-3 ACC) had beaten Pitt five straight times.

Pitt (9-5, 5-4) saw its three-game losing streak come to an end.

Tech was coming off back-to-back wins, but Pitt scored the most points any team has rung up against Tech this season.

"We were just a step off of where we needed to be," Young said.

"They were the tougher team tonight and that's been a category that typically favors the Hokies.

"Lesson learned that you better pack that lunch pail every night. They were hungrier. They were more desperate."

The Panthers shot 50% from the field, including 57.5% in the second half.

"We went away from our principles and we got spread out a little bit. And now downhill they go with some guys that can really floor it," Young said. "In one of the few instances this year, ... we did not adhere to those principles that are so dear to us and have served us quite well."

Pitt also made nine 3-pointers and was 22 of 25 from the free-throw line.

Pittsburgh junior guard Xavier Johnson scored a career-high 32 points — the most points any opposing player has scored in Young's two seasons at the helm of the Hokies.

"We had absolutely no answer for Johnson," Young said.

Johnson was 11 of 17 from the field, including 4 of 7 from 3-point range.

Johnson, who entered the game averaging 13.2 points, had 14 in the first half. He came off the bench for the first time this season.

Ithiel Horton added 15 points and four 3-pointers. Au'Diese Toney had 14 points.

Pitt's Justin Champagnie, who entered the game averaging a league-high 20.1 points and a league-high 12.1 rebounds, was held to 10 points on 3-of-8 shooting from the field Wednesday. He grabbed 13 rebounds.

The Panthers outrebounded Tech 33-31.

Keve Aluma, who scored 29 points in the win over UVa, had a career-high 30 points for the Hokies. He made four 3-pointers and also snared 10 rebounds.

Justyn Mutts had 17 points, while Hunter Cattoor had 12 points off the bench.

Tech's Jalen Cone had all nine of his points in the first half.

The Hokies shot 41% from the field and 30% (9 of 30) from 3-point range.

Cattoor scored to give Tech a 45-43 lead with 11:54 left, but Johnson scored five straight points to enable Pitt to grab a 48-45 lead with 11:09 to go. Pitt led the rest of the way.

Aluma made a layup, but Femi Odukale answered with a jumper and free throw for a 51-47 lead.

After Cattoor made a 3-pointer, Pitt scored four straight points to extend the lead to 55-50.

Aluma sank a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 55-53, but Johnson made two free throws.

After Mutts made a layup to cut the deficit to 57-55 with 7:30 left, Pitt went on a 13-0 run.

Horton drained a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 60-55. After Mutts turned the ball over, Johnson sank a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 63-55.

Toney made a basket and a 3-pointer to give Pitt a 68-55 cushion. Champagnie made two free throws for a 70-55 cushion with 4:23 to go.

Pitt had lost eight straight games to ranked foes.

The game was tied at 31 at halftime.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

After 'humongous shot' forces OT, No. 16 Virginia Tech wins at Miami

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/after-humongous-shot-forces-ot-no-16-virginia-tech-wins-at-miami/article_4e7f5818-68a3-11eb-aa0e-ef10007bf1d2.html

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (Feb. 6, 2021) — It looked like the Virginia Tech men's basketball team was going to lose to an unranked foe on the road for the second time in four days.

But it did not happen.

The 16th-ranked Hokies bounced back from Wednesday's loss at Pittsburgh by beating Miami 80-76 in overtime Saturday at the Watsco Center.

Isaiah Wong sank a 3-pointer to give Miami a 74-71 lead with 2.1 seconds left in regulation, but Tech sophomore reserve Hunter Cattoor made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to force overtime.

"Great poise from Hunter," Tech coach Mike Young said. "A humongous shot, and thank goodness. Saved our bacon."

After Wong made his 3-pointer, Tech took a timeout. Wabissa Bede inbounded the ball at half-court to Cattoor, who made the tying 3-pointer in front of the Tech bench.

"Hunter Cattoor, that's all I've got to say. Hunter Cattoor," Tech forward Justyn Mutts said. "I was just like, 'Wow!'"

"We've seen him make that shot so many times."

Cattoor, who scored 14 points, also helped Tech (14-4, 8-3 ACC) with his defense.

Nahiem Alleyne (10 points) made a jumper in the lane to give Tech a 78-76 lead with 24.7 seconds left in OT.

Miami's Elijah Olaniyi (19 points) drove to the basket, but Cattoor drew a charge with 6.6 seconds left in OT. The offensive foul on Olaniyi gave Tech the ball.

Cattoor made two free throws to extend the lead to 80-76 with 4.4 seconds left. Mutts then stole the ball.

After scoring a season-high 17 points at Pittsburgh, Mutts topped himself Saturday. The Delaware graduate transfer had 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

"The coaches and all my teammates have been telling me to be a lot more aggressive," Mutts said.

Young said Mutts had "a better look about him" in the two games.

"More adherence to who he really is as a player — he is a hard-nosed offensive rebounder, really good defender," Young said. "How he's playing right now is what I had hoped for all along."

Keve Aluma had 16 points for the Hokies.

Tech guard Jalen Cone left the game early in the first half with an ankle injury. His foot was placed in a protective boot, and he did not play the rest of the game.

But Tech freshman reserve guard Joe Bamisile tied his season high with 11 points. He played a season-high 25 minutes.

"I had an opportunity to go in and help the team," Bamisile said. "[It was a matter of] getting the chance to get comfortable within the offense. And then on top of that, just having trust on defense from Coach Young really helped me to be able to play well on that end."

"I have gotten a lot better in the last month, so I think that's helped."

Bamisile had not scored any points against ACC competition until Saturday.

"Bamisile went a long way in helping our team win," Young said. "Great effort from Joe Bamisile, who is going to be a very good player for the Hokies for years to come."

Virginia Tech led 59-48 with 8:03 to go in regulation. But the injury-plagued Hurricanes (7-11, 3-10) rallied.

The Hokies twice fouled a 3-point shooter during the final eight minutes of regulation, resulting in six Miami points off free throws.

"Such bad basketball," Young said. "But to their credit, hung in there and found a way to win. And to do that on the road is a big deal."

Miami went on a 10-0 run to cut the Tech lead to 59-58 with 6:12 left in regulation.

After Wong (19 points) sank a 3-pointer to tie the game at 66, Nysier Brooks dunked to give Miami its first lead of the second half at 68-66 with 3:34 left.

Aluma later made two free throws to cut the Miami lead to 71-70 with 57.4 seconds left.

Mutts made one of two free throws to tie the game at 71 with 11.9 seconds left in regulation, setting the stage for the 3-pointers by Wong and Cattoor.

It was Tech's fourth straight game without standout Tyrece Radford. He traveled with the team to Miami but remained suspended and did not suit up for the game.

But he apparently might return to action for the Hokies' next game, which will be next Saturday against Louisville.

"There is a path for Tyrece to return to competition this week if he upholds the expectations necessary. We will continue to evaluate his situation," Young said in a statement issued by Tech on Saturday morning.

A Tech spokesman confirmed Saturday morning that "this week" in the statement meant this coming week, as in the week of the Louisville game.

But after Saturday's win, Young was asked if he was saying that the Louisville game could be Radford's first game back if certain things happen.

"No, I didn't say that. I didn't say that," Young said.

Radford was indefinitely suspended from the Hokies on Jan. 25 after being arrested by Blacksburg police a day earlier.

He was found guilty Wednesday in Montgomery County General District Court of first-offense driving under the influence.

Radford also pleaded no contest Wednesday to carrying a concealed weapon. Judge Randal Duncan took that case under advisement for a year and could dismiss that charge at the end of that period.

"Along with our athletics administration, we take this matter seriously. We do believe that Tyrece has demonstrated his remorse for his actions and has learned from this situation," Young said in Saturday morning's statement. "We support Tyrece's efforts and will continue to assist him in getting the help he needs along the way."

Richmond Times-Dispatch
Mike Barber

Freshman Joe Bamisile proving ready to contribute at Virginia Tech

https://richmond.com/sports/college/freshman-joe-bamisile-proving-ready-to-contribute-at-virginia-tech/article_b9c8997b-7a82-5d47-aa93-687200ac2bf7.html

BLACKSBURG (Feb. 9, 2021) — Joe Bamisile tries to take a one-day-at-a-time approach to his freshman year at Virginia Tech. So when the former Monacan High School star didn't get much playing time early in this basketball season, he didn't fret. He focused.

Bamisile focused on two goals — improving each day and playing as hard as he could in practice.

"As long as I could check those two things off the list, it didn't really matter what was going to happen tomorrow or the next day," Bamisile said.

The 6-foot-4, 195-pound guard averaged slightly more than 7 minutes going into Saturday's overtime win over Miami. But with sophomore guard Tyrece Radford suspended and sophomore guard Jalen Cone going down with a left ankle injury early in that contest, Bamisile was pressed into duty for the No. 18 Hokies (14-4, 8-3 ACC).

He played 25 minutes, scoring 11 points, grabbing two rebounds and recording three assists.

"I applaud him," Tech coach Mike Young said. "It's a great lesson to be learned. I don't spend a lot of time lifting their spirits and patting them on the head. The message is always stay ready. Stay ready because you never know."

Bamisile took 10 shots and was aggressive on offense. That didn't surprise Young. Bamisile averaged 28 points as a junior at Monacan before missing his senior year with an injury.

Where Bamisile may have exceeded expectations on Saturday was with his ball security and defense. He didn't commit a turnover and played sharp man-to-man defense on Miami's Harlond Beverly and Elijah Olaniyi.

Bamisile had such a strong mastery of the game plan and scouting report, he consistently knew which players to give space and which ones to press, proving to his coach that he had been locked in during practices and meetings leading up to the game.

"You don't get ready the day of the game," Young said. "You don't prepare yourself to win and compete and play good basketball when your number is called. That preparation is done on Thursday and Friday. That preparation is done in your shoot-around the day of game. And he was ready. He was ready to go."

Bamisile's Tech teammates weren't surprised by his effectiveness against the Hurricanes. Though he averaged 2.7 points and 1.7 rebounds in his first nine games, not seeing action in seven of the Hokies' contests, they'd seen his ability in practice.

"People don't understand just how good Joe really is," forward Justyn Mutts said. "As a freshman, you come in and you're just trying to figure out the system. As time goes on you really come into playing your own game. Today was just a glimpse."

It won't be the last look the ACC gets at Bamisile.

Monday, Young said Cone was day to day with his ankle injury, leaving his status for Saturday's game against Louisville unclear. Radford remains suspended from competition following an arrest for DWI and carrying a concealed weapon, both misdemeanors. He pled guilty to the DWI and the judge suspended the weapons charge.

"That situation is ongoing and nothing has been determined at this point," Young said.

What has been determined is that Bamisile will play plenty more minutes as the Hokies head down the stretch of the season, starting with Saturday's scheduled home game against Louisville, which is currently on a COVID-19 pause.

"The light comes on at different times for different people," Young said. "Has the light come on for Joe? Time will tell. He has earned his way into our rotation."

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

No. 16 Virginia Tech falls to Georgia Tech in return to court

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/no-16-virginia-tech-falls-to-georgia-tech-in-return-to-court/article_f31175d0-7633-11eb-8fee-f39c05e-16c1f.html

BLACKSBURG (Feb. 23, 2021) — Many men's basketball teams have had a hard time winning their first game back after a long layoff that resulted from COVID-19 issues.

Virginia Tech was no exception Tuesday.

After going 16 straight days without playing a game, Virginia Tech returned to the court with a 69-53 loss to Georgia Tech at Cassell Coliseum.

"For the first time in recent memory, ... we lost our edge a little bit. We got hit in the stomach and we stepped away from it," Hokies coach Mike Young said.

"Win, lose or draw, we had to get ... back on the floor. We had to play. We had to compete. With limited practices.

"No excuse, ... but I got a number of guys over there in that hotel [quarantining] for 10 days and ... now we're going to play an ACC league game. Good luck to you. But they did it and they fought."

The No. 16 Hokies (14-5, 8-4 ACC) played for the first time since Feb. 6.

"I've referenced playing with our teeth sharp. I was concerned that we would lose some of that. And I saw that," Young said. "Just not that same toughness, that same connectedness that has come to define this team.

"We had to get this one behind us, win, lose or draw."

Virginia Tech turned the ball over 16 times, including 11 times in the first half.

"Eleven turnovers in the first half was sickening," Young said. "They disrupted us and they had us back on our heels."

The Yellow Jackets (12-8, 8-6) scored 19 points off the Hokies' 16 turnovers. They recorded nine steals.

The Hokies shot just 41.3% from the field and made only five 3-pointers against the visitors' 1-3-1 zone defense.

The 53 points were the fewest the Hokies have scored this season.

Georgia Tech center Moses Wright had 26 points and 10 rebounds.

"He's really good," Young said.

The visitors shot 52% from the field, including 61.5% in the second half.

"We weren't ourselves," Young said.

The Hokies' games against Florida State and Louisville two weeks ago were postponed because of foes' COVID-19 issues.

But Virginia Tech ultimately wound up with COVID-19 issues of its own that week. So Virginia Tech had to postpone last week's games against North Carolina and FSU.

Young said last week that two non-players in the program tested positive and "too many" players were quarantined and unable to practice because of contact tracing.

Keve Aluma had 12 points and 14 rebounds for the Hokies, who remained in third place in the ACC standings. Nahiem Alleyne also scored 12 points.

The Hokies' starting lineup Tuesday included Tyrece Radford, who had missed the Hokies' past four games. Radford was suspended Jan. 25 after being arrested by Blacksburg police a day earlier.

Radford was found guilty on Feb. 3 in Montgomery County General District Court of first-offense driving under the influence. Radford also pleaded no contest on Feb. 3 to carrying a concealed weapon. Judge Randal Duncan took the gun case under advisement for a year.

Radford scored 11 points in his return Tuesday.

"We followed the process and procedures of the department," Young said. "He was a champion throughout, did exactly what he was supposed to do, and here he is. Proud of him with how he's handled himself over the last three weeks."

The Hokies played without guard Jalen Cone, who suffered an ankle injury in the Hokies' Feb. 6 win at Miami.

"It's too early to give you a definitive answer [on his return]," Young said. "It's going to be a bit more down the road than I had anticipated."

The game was tied at 24 at halftime, but the visitors scored the first five points of the second half and led the rest of the way.

The Hokies cut the lead to 29-28, but the Yellow Jackets went on a 12-0 run to build a 41-28 cushion with 13:31 to go.

Wright had three dunks in the 12-0 run.

Virginia Tech backup center Cordell Pemsil, who had not played since late December because of a back injury, played Tuesday.

Roanoke Times

Aaron McFarling

Hokies chewed up by the jaws of the pause

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/mcfarling-hokies-chewed-up-by-the-jaws-of-the-pause/article_032ac328-7647-11eb-a205-935640a283fd.html

BLACKSBURG (Feb. 23, 2021) — The pause put its paws all over this one.

The dastardly, 2020-21 version of basketball load management — a rash of coronavirus-related postponements — has turned several solid teams into junk in their return to the court this season. No. 16 Virginia Tech became the latest to fall victim to it, putting in an ugly performance in a 69-53 loss to Georgia Tech on Tuesday night at Cassell Coliseum.

A break of more than two weeks had obvious effects on the Virginia Tech offense. The Hokies average 72.5 points per game but managed just 24 in the first half.

You could see the rust on their first four possessions: turnover, miss, miss, turnover. Everything a touch off. And you could assume it wasn't going to get much better, because rhythm isn't the only aspect that suffers when a team halts full-squad practices for multiple days. General basketball fitness does too, and that gets worse as the game goes on.

A fine example of that came with a little less than 16 minutes to play.

Georgia Tech's Michael Devoe missed a three-pointer. Simple enough. But Moses Wright got the offensive rebound with ease.

Khalid Moore clanked a 3-pointer for Georgia Tech — and corralled his own rebound.

Georgia Tech whipped it around a bit to find an open Devoe, who missed from deep again. Jose Alvarado got the rebound. He, we should mention, is a point guard.

Devoe missed another (!) 3-pointer. This time, clearly fed up with watching his team miss perimeter shots, Wright grabbed the ball in traffic and threw down on emphatic dunk.

For the Hokies, that was the most disheartening sequence in a 12-0 Georgia Tech run that provided the first significant cushion of the game for either team. Virginia Tech is a good rebounding team this season, but certainly not then. And you can bet the pause had something to do with it.

But the signs of trouble arrived much earlier than that. The Hokies turned it over 11 times in the first half. They've played nine entire games this season in which they didn't commit that many miscues.

The turnovers were the kind of things this team simply doesn't do often — chucking the ball to a teammate who isn't there, telegraphing passes for easy interceptions. They were the kinds of things that can happen after you've been practicing with only a handful of players.

The Hokies stayed in it early with their defense, as surely they knew they would have to. They held Georgia Tech scoreless for more than three minutes to open the game. Wabissa Bede made Alvarado — the fourth-leading scorer in the conference — work for everything in the first half.

Keve Aluma compensated for his early offensive misfires by grabbing 11 first-half rebounds, helping Tech own a 19-8 advantage on the boards in the period.

Coach Mike Young did not ease Tyrece Radford back into action. In his first game back since his suspension was announced Jan. 25, Radford played 18 minutes in the first half and led all Virginia Tech players with 37 minutes overall.

A game that promised to be tight and often sloppy called for his gritty style of play. But his production — 11 points, three rebounds, two assists — was muted until late in the game, after Georgia Tech had surged ahead by double digits.

The best news for Virginia Tech is that the pause is over. The Hokies will take Wednesday off, practice the rest of this week, then host a Wake Forest team in the bottom third of the league Saturday.

They get a mulligan here. They won't get a second — and they don't want one.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

David Teel

Hokies lose their 'edge' in loss to Georgia Tech

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-hokies-lose-their-edge-in-loss-to-georgia-tech/article_dd300a03-95fb-5e2e-8a1b-7164cfb6b37d.html

BLACKSBURG (Feb. 23, 2021) — A canceled game against Temple and hastily arranged date with Villanova gave Virginia Tech an early dose of COVID-19 basketball drama this season. But while scores of programs, including most of their ACC brethren, endured prolonged stoppages, the Hokies were spared — until early February.

Tuesday marked their return, their first contest in 17 days, and the longer the game went, the more the layoff showed, their trademark defense a step slow.

Desperate for a signature victory to improve its faint NCAA tournament hopes, Georgia Tech took full advantage. The Yellow Jackets shot 61.5% after intermission and cruised, 69-53 at Cassell Coliseum.

"I thought for the first time in recent memory ... we lost our edge a little bit," Virginia Tech coach Mike Young said. "I thought we got hit in the stomach and we stepped away from it, and that is unlike our team."

The Hokies began the night No. 37 nationally in defensive efficiency, and for a half they played to that standard. But they had no second-half answers, particularly for Moses Wright, who punished Keve Aluma inside for 26 points on 9-of-11 shooting.

Aluma countered with 12 points, five assists and a career-high 14 rebounds, but he could not check the mobile, athletic Wright.

Virginia Tech could not withstand point guard Jose Alvarado either. The conference's premier defender, he continued his late drive for first-team all-ACC with 13 points and five steals in 39 minutes.

The No. 16 Hokies (14-5, 8-4 ACC) were without Jalen Cone, their best 3-point shooter, who is out indefinitely with an ankle injury sustained Feb. 6 at Miami. His absence certainly limited Virginia Tech's offense, but it's unlikely his presence would have solved the defensive breakdowns.

Only time and a return to game conditioning will accomplish that.

Georgia Tech (12-8, 8-6) knows the drill. The Yellow Jackets went more than two weeks between January games and returned with a signature victory, an 83-65 thumping of then-No. 20 Clemson, which also was recovering from COVID issues.

The Yellow Jackets have not made the NCAA field since 2010, and after last season's 11-9 ACC finish, they are seeking their first back-to-back winning league records since, gulp, 1989 and '90, the conference's longest such drought.

Before dismissing its 2021 competitiveness as a pandemic anomaly, understand that Georgia Tech is the only team this season to play ACC front-runners Florida State and Virginia twice each.

Tuesday also marked the return of Hokies guard Tyrece Radford.

Radford was found guilty early this month of first-offense driving under the influence and pleaded no contest to carrying a concealed weapon. Young suspended Radford indefinitely Jan. 25, one day after Radford's arrest.

The Hokies were 3-1 without Radford, their No. 2 scorer and rebounder, and Young's affection for Radford, beyond the athlete, was evident before and after Radford's serious lapse in judgment. How that affected the duration of Radford's suspension is unknown, but Radford's appearance on the bench at Miami, albeit in street clothes, foreshadowed his return this season.

"We followed the process and procedures of the department," Young said, "and he was a champion throughout, did exactly what he was supposed to do. ... Proud of him and how he's handled himself over the last three weeks, month. Good to have him back on the floor. He makes us a better basketball team, needless to say. I thought he was really good tonight."

Radford contributed 11 points and three rebounds.

Radford is "an amazing player," said forward Justyn Mutts, Radford's roommate. "He's Mr. Everything. There's nothing on the court he can't do. So having him back out there is awesome."

Fans of varying stripes will assess Young's discipline of Radford differently, but Young is as old school and grounded as coaches get and unlikely to risk the program's long-term reputation on a player whom he doesn't trust to understand the gravity of his mistake.

"I [couldn't] care less," Young said of others' reaction to Radford's reinstatement. "I'm going to do what I think is best in concert with the people I work for here and thankful for their support. ... I love that kid."

Young also loves this team and knows it will be better.

"We weren't ourselves," he said. "... Just not that same toughness ... that has come to define this team for me and those of us who see it every day."

Indeed, the Hokies' 53 points were a season-low, and their 16 turnovers matched their worst against an ACC opponent this year. Moreover, Georgia Tech's 52% shooting for the night was the second-best versus Virginia Tech.

The Hokies will exhale Wednesday before returning to practice Thursday in preparation for Saturday's home game against Wake Forest.

"We had to get this one behind us, win lose or draw, and learn from it," Young said. "We're gonna be a heck of a lot better on Saturday."

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

No. 16 Virginia Tech sizzles in rout of Wake Forest

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/no-16-virginia-tech-sizzles-in-rout-of-wake-forest/article_a92b85ea-7940-11eb-87aa-ff8397599e54.html

BLACKSBURG (Feb. 27, 2021) — The Virginia Tech men's basketball team's first game back from a long layoff was not pretty.

But Tech's second game back was a much different story.

The 16th-ranked Hokies sizzled in an 84-46 rout of Wake Forest on Saturday at Cassell Coliseum.

The 38-point margin of victory was Tech's most lopsided ACC win ever, eclipsing a 94-65 rout of Wake in January 2011.

"We haven't really beat anyone super badly ... so we just wanted to try to put our foot on their necks as soon as possible," said Tech center Keve Aluma, who had 23 points and eight rebounds.

The Hokies bounced back from Tuesday's 69-53 loss to Georgia Tech.

"Defensively, we talked and communicated everything better," Aluma said.

"We were more aggressive," point guard Wabissa Bede said.

Tuesday's loss was the first time the Hokies had played since Feb. 6 because of COVID-19 issues. The layoff took a toll on the Hokies, who turned the ball over 22 times and shot just 41.3% from the field in that defeat. The 53-point outing was Tech's lowest output of the season.

"We didn't play very well [Tuesday]," Tech coach Mike Young said. "The people in that locker room ... were disappointed in themselves. They were disappointed with one another and bound and determined to bounce back on Thursday [in practice] ... and make it right, get better. They did."

The Hokies, who led from the opening basket, were much sharper on Saturday.

"We had really good ball movement, player movement," Young said. "Nineteen assists on 31 makes; only nine turnovers.

"We really, really needed to have that kind of game defensively, where we were dynamic. Everything was contested. They felt our team."

Virginia Tech (15-5, 9-4) remained in third place in the ACC. Tech, which has two regular-season games left, remains on track to earn a double bye in the ACC Tournament.

"We've got a lot on the line," Young said.

The Hokies scored 49 points in the first half — their best first-half output since they rang up 50 against Maryland-Eastern Shore in December 2018.

Tech shot 67.9% from the field in the first half.

"Body language was so good, just a crispness to our passing and our cutting," Young said.

Aluma was 9 of 11 from the field in the game, including 5 of 5 from 3-point range.

Tyrece Radford had 15 points for Tech, while Nahiem Alleyne added 13 points.

Tech shot 53.4% from the field — its best field-goal percentage in an ACC game in four years. Tech was 13 of 24 (54.2%) from 3-point range.

Wake (6-13, 3-13) lost to Tech for the second time this season and for the sixth straight time in the series.

The Demon Deacons shot just 27.8% from the field.

"[The Hokies] did a whale of a job at guarding some actions that we had prepared for," Young said. "Their responsibility with regards to who they were guarding and that person's game were as spot on as it's been in awhile."

Virginia Tech blocked 10 shots.

Tech jumped to a 19-6 lead with 10:47 left in the first half. Aluma had 10 of those 19 points.

The lead grew to 35-17 with 6:05 left in the half. Tech was shooting an eye-popping 83.3% from the field (15 of 18) at that point.

Virginia Tech led 49-22 at halftime.

Jalen Cone missed his second straight game with an ankle injury. Young hopes Cone will be back for the ACC Tournament.

Tech reserve Cordell PemsI played in his second straight game after having been out since late December with a back injury.

"I feel a lot better now," PemsI said. "I had a slight herniation in my back. ... It was debilitating in almost all aspects. I couldn't tie my shoes."

Bede and PemsI were honored in a pregame Senior Day ceremony Saturday, although Tech still has one home game left.

The NCAA has granted all Division I winter-sports athletes in this school year an extra year of eligibility. PemsI, an Iowa graduate transfer, has not yet decided whether to return to college next season or not.

Bede has not decided, either.

"After the last game, I'm going to sit down with my mom and my AAU coaches ... and see what's the best decision," Bede said.

"We talked about it last night. Time will tell," Young said of Bede. "I would like to give him his start in coaching, whenever that time comes, as a graduate assistant. But his role next year, it'll all be on him. ... Whatever he chooses, I'm in."

Looking much sharper Saturday than it did in its first outing after 17-day break, Tech cruises against Wake Forest

<https://www.dailypress.com/sports/college/virginia-tech/vp-sp-wake-forest-hokies-mens-basketball-breakdown-20210227-bf3eeagoknrgxdg5qerzsjsebm-story.html>

BLACKSBURG (Feb. 27, 2021) — Tny lingering questions about No. 16 Virginia Tech's mindset and conditioning coming out of Tuesday night's loss against Georgia Tech after a lengthy coronavirus break at least started to get answered Saturday in the Hokies' 84-46 win against Wake Forest.

Virginia Tech (15-5, 9-4 ACC) maintained third place in the conference standings, keeping alive its chances to finish in the top four and seal a double bye in the ACC tournament heading into the final week of regular-season play. Virginia Tech's win represented its largest margin of victory against an ACC opponent, topping its 29-point win Jan. 15, 2011 against Wake Forest.

"I know the people in that locker room," Virginia Tech coach Mike Young said. "I know they were disappointed in themselves (after Tuesday night's 69-53 loss to Georgia Tech). I know they were disappointed in one another and bound and determined to bounce back on Thursday (in practice), not (Saturday), but bounce back on Thursday and make it right, get better. They did. We had two good days of practice and we were good (Saturday)."

Virginia Tech continued a trend of playing well after losses. It hasn't had a losing streak all season, improving its record to 5-0 after losses.

It was a convincing reaction after a demoralizing loss for a team that needed to build momentum going into Wednesday's home game against Louisville, which has beaten Virginia Tech 17 consecutive times dating back to Feb. 1991.

Yet, there's still room for improvement in the eyes of Virginia Tech senior guard Wabissa Bede, who had five points, five assists and just one turnover against Wake Forest. Despite the 38-point pummeling Virginia Tech and Young laid on Wake Forest and coach Steve Forbes, Young's friend and old Southern Conference rival from the days when Young coached Wofford and Forbes led East Tennessee State, Bede believes the Hokies can show more.

"Not all of the questions were answered," Bede said. "We could've done a lot better. We just need to capitalize, because Louisville is going to make the shots that Wake missed."

After connecting on 67.9% of its field-goal attempts in the first half Saturday, Virginia Tech went on to shoot a team conference season-high 53.4% for game and made 13 of its 24 attempts from 3-point range, including a career-best five 3-pointers on five attempts from Keve Aluma. Wake Forest (6-13, 3-13), which trailed by as many as 43 points, shot 27.8% from the floor - a season-low for a Virginia Tech opponent.

Aluma led Virginia Tech, which lost Tuesday to Georgia Tech after the Hokies were away from the court for 17 days because of coronavirus issues within and outside their program, with 23 points, eight rebounds and two of the Hokies' season-best 10 blocks against the Demon Deacons.

Tyrece Radford added 15 points for Virginia Tech, which will be without injured guard Jalen Cone (ankle) next week, according to Young, who is hopeful Cone can get back for the ACC tournament. Nahiem Alleyne chipped in with 13 points and five assists.

Wake Forest was led by Jonah Antonio's 12 points. He was the only player to score in double figures for the Demon Deacons, who saw their starters combine to miss 23 of 32 shots attempted.

What we saw

*Though he came into the afternoon shooting 30.6% from 3-point range, Aluma looked more comfortable getting open looks from beyond the perimeter than he has all season. He said he felt good shooting from deep before the game even started.

"Definitely, pregame, I was just trying to get my shot feeling as good as possible, but there was a stretch (this season) where I was only shooting like one (3-pointer) a game and I would miss it and not try to shoot anymore," said Aluma, who scored at least 23 points in a game for the fifth time this season. "I'm pretty much wide open every shot (from 3-point range). They don't really guard me, so I'm just trying to pick and choose and knock them down."

*Committing 18 turnovers compared to just nine for Virginia Tech, Wake Forest struggled to keep the Hokies from capitalizing on all the miscues. Virginia Tech finished the game with a 26-3 advantage in points off turnovers, and a 34-8 edge on points in the paint.

*Not exactly a memorable return to Blacksburg for former Virginia Tech guard Isaiah Wilkins, who transferred to Wake Forest after last season. Wilkins played one minute and didn't shoot, nor did he log any other traditional statistics.

All week, Young and Virginia Tech's coaching staff managed to keep a secret from Bede. Working with Virginia Tech's compliance office, the coaching staff was able to arrange to have Bede's mom, Emma Lougbo, come to Blacksburg from Massachusetts for the game and to celebrate with Bede on Senior Day.

Bede didn't find out she was coming until Friday evening while he was at the Outback Steakhouse in Christiansburg.

"I took him over to his favorite eating establishment," said Young, who on multiple occasions has lauded Bede as the most important player in his program. "Someone else picked up Emma from Roanoke and we met at the restaurant. I just asked him if he'd spoken to his mom lately, and he said, 'Yeah, I talked to her (Thursday) night for a long time. ...I just wish she could be here.' About that time, she came around the corner."

Bede couldn't believe his eyes.

"We talk everyday or every other day, so it was weird I was planning on calling her later in the day, and then she was just there," Bede said. "I was just happy seeing her."

GREENSBORO, N.C. (March 11, 2021) — For the second time in as many months, the Virginia Tech men's basketball team returned to the court Thursday night after a long layoff.

And once again, the Hokies' first game back from the layoff ended in defeat.

Sixth-seeded North Carolina beat third-seeded and 22nd-ranked Virginia Tech 81-73 in an ACC quarterfinal at the Greensboro Coliseum.

The Hokies (15-6) led 35-32 at halftime, but the Tar Heels took the lead for good with 10:50 to go.

When the Hokies took the court Thursday, they had not played a game in the previous 11 days because of COVID-19 concerns.

"The pause is not the reason we lost, [but] your conditioning is affected by the pause," Tech coach Mike Young said after the game. "It's hard to simulate in practice; you don't want to get anybody banged up in practice.

"You combine some conditioning issues and then you're banging with it's like they've got seven big people, that's hard."

The taller Tar Heels dominated Tech on the boards in the second half.

"We didn't have enough left [in the second half] to get that defensive stop, three defensive stops in a row, three defensive rebounds in a row," Young said.

Thursday marked Tech's first game since Feb. 27.

"North Carolina won the game. Let's make that very clear. ... But ... this is a hard game, man. This is fast and it's big and physical," Young said. "Lose a bit of sharpness when you go that kind of period [without playing].

"Those guys gave me everything in their tank."

The Hokies also had a COVID-19 pause last month.

After going 16 straight days without playing a game, the Hokies returned to the court with a 69-53 loss to Georgia Tech on Feb. 23. It was their first game since Feb. 6.

Young said the first pause also affected the team's conditioning.

"I saw the same look in the Georgia Tech game," Young said.

Virginia Tech had to cancel its final two regular-season games last week because of COVID-19 contact-tracing issues and quarantining. Although no players tested positive, Young has said some players came in close contact with someone that tested positive, setting of a contact-tracing review in the program.

The Hokies were able to practice during this latest pause, but Young said he was still worried about the team's conditioning.

"It's just so hard to replicate playing a game in this league," Young said. "It's so hard to replicate playing a game in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament against the North Carolina Tar Heels.

"I'm not one to pound on them ever for three hours a day and run them and conditioning. ... [It's] that game pace and that game physicality that you miss."

Tech had to cancel its lone regular-season meeting with the Tar Heels last month because of its first COVID-19 pause.

"Those guys were enormous, and we hadn't seen them in the regular season," Young said.

"It's kind of hard to do scout defense [in practice]," Tech point guard Wabissa Bede. "We can't mimic UNC's size."

The Tar Heels (18-9) outrebounded Tech just 16-15 in the first half but outrebounded Tech 27-17 in the second half.

"I think they got bigger, if that's possible at the half," Young cracked.

UNC snared only two offensive rebounds in the first half but 13 in the second half.

"That was probably one of our more physical games of the year," said Tech power forward Justyn Mutts, who had 24 points. "For about ... 30-35 minutes of the game, we were able to match their aggressiveness. But towards the end, I think fatigue might have set in.

"They've got some really, really huge bigs. ... They're able to sub in so many guys, it just kind of wears you down."

UNC had just two second-chance points in the first half but scored 17 second-chance points in the second half.

"We were physical on the glass in the first half but gosh, they gobbled up ... every carom in the second half," Young said.

"We just didn't box out and limit them to one shot," Bede said. "We were doing that at first, but we got a little bit tired."

All-ACC second-team pick Keve Aluma of Tech made only his second basket of the game to tie the score at 49 with 11:00 to go.

But UNC answered with seven straight points to build a 56-49 lead with 9:46 to go. The Tar Heels led the rest of the way.

"When they went on that run, we got a little bit tired," Bede said.

Tar Heels guard RJ Davis had six of his 19 points in that 7-0 run, as well as a steal.

The lead grew to 64-54 with 6:26 to go.

All-ACC third-team pick Armando Bacot, a 6-foot-10, 240-pound sophomore, had 17 points and 13 rebounds for UNC.

Tyrece Radford tallied 20 points for Tech. Nahiem Alleyne had 12 points and four 3-pointers.

But Aluma had just nine points, seven below his average. Five of his points came in the final 40 seconds.

The 6-9 Aluma was just 4 of 13 from the field as he dealt with taller defenders.

"He looked a little spooked," Young said. "He's played against so many really good front-line defenders in our league.

"He had some looks at [the basket] that he's had all year, and he looked a little hesitant. ... He had good looks from 3."

Bede was 0 of 5 from the field and scored no points.

Tech will now wait for Selection Sunday to learn its NCAA Tournament seeding and foe.

"Our sadness will be replaced with sheer joy," Young said.

Tech's Jalen Cone, wearing a protective boot on his injured left foot, missed his third straight game.

Roanoke Times

Aaron McFarling

Ouster of Hokies was 1 tall tale

https://roanoke.com/sports/amateur/mcfarling-ouster-of-hokies-was-1-tall-tale/article_8022e2d6-82cf-11eb-a7af-074856da40cc.html

GREENSBORO, N.C. (March 11, 2021) — Growth.

It's a term we've used a lot lately around this Virginia Tech basketball team. The speed with which the Hokies have returned to the upper echelon of the ACC under Mike Young has been remarkable.

But the only solution on Thursday night might have been literal growth. In other words, every one of Tech's players needed to sprout another 2 or 3 inches of height.

The Tar Heels bullied Tech in the second half on the way to an 81-73 victory in the ACC Tournament quarterfinals. There's really no shame in that. UNC has manhandled a lot of teams this season on its way the greatest rebounding margin in the nation.

"Goodness gracious," Tech coach Mike Young said. "The guys are enormous."

They are. UNC utilized four players who stand 6-foot-10 or taller. The Hokies only have one player that tall on their roster – sophomore forward John Ojiako, at 6-10 – and he didn't play on Thursday.

So it was a minor miracle that the Hokies held UNC without an offensive rebound for the first 11:52 of the game. They did it with the kind of determination that's epitomized this team during its run to a third-place finish in the ACC – their smaller post players boxing out, their guards scrambling to corral long caroms.

But physiology took over in the second half. UNC grabbed 13 offensive rebounds after intermission, each one more demoralizing than the last. That led to 17 second half points and a whole lot of extra effort on defense for Tech.

"Yeah, it's a little bit draining," Tech post player Justyn Mutts said. "You play defense for 20, 25 seconds and they get an offensive rebound and ... another 20 seconds back on the shot clock. But you can't be too upset for too long. You've got to be able to move on quickly, because they're coming right back at you."

The two tallest teams in the ACC are squads that made the semifinals here in Greensboro: UNC and Florida State. The Hokies played neither in the regular season. That's an anomalous byproduct of a COVID-ravaged campaign.

A popular theory is that those games getting canceled helped Tech earn its double-bye in the tournament. That's probably true.

But once the Hokies got to the tournament, the lack of experience against size like this hurt them. It's an impossible thing to replicate on the practice floor.

"I think they got bigger, if that's possible, at the half," Young said of the Tar Heels. "You have to hope that you get favorable caroms. Boy, we were physical on the glass in the first half. But gosh sakes, they essentially gobbled up what appeared to be every carom in the second half."

UNC's excellence on the glass overshadowed magnificent performances from Mutts and teammate Tyrece Radford, who combined for 44 points on 18-of-29 shooting. Those two were fast and assertive and crafty and productive. They were great, helping the Hokies take a 35-32 halftime lead.

And then the Tar Heels went through their metaphorical growth spurt in the locker room, finding a finishing gear that is part of their formula for winning.

"What I hope it is that we're just going to keep coming and keep coming and keep coming," UNC coach Roy Williams said. "And hopefully, through the course of a 40-minute game, it'll be big for us."

Oh, it was.

The Hokies won't discard this game completely. In fact, Young said he planned to watch the video of it Thursday night and start gleaning what he can for the challenges that await them in Indianapolis.

He'll take note of the good things his players did -- and there were quite a few. Then he'll look for technical adjustments the Hokies can make should they get matched up with a big team in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Like everything else, it's an opportunity for growth.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

David Teel

Hokies finally wilt to UNC's size, depth in ACC tournament setback

https://richmond.com/sports/college/teel-hokies-finally-wilt-to-uncs-size-depth-in-acc-tournament-setback/article_16c7e973-9cf2-5678-a05c-55ddfe9ef2f8.html

GREENSBORO, N.C. (March 11, 2021) — This pandemic season's first Virginia Tech-North Carolina clash was worth the wait.

Those invested in either program surely hung on each scrum — yes, the action was that physical — but for neutral parties, the first ACC tournament contest in more than a half-century to match teams that did not meet during the regular season was two-plus hours of Friday night entertainment.

Oh, the game at Greensboro Coliseum wasn't much on aesthetics. But it teemed with the toughness in which the undersized Hokies revel.

Yet with the Tar Heels equally tenacious, their size and depth prevailed.

"Goodness gracious," Tech coach Mike Young said after UNC's 81-73 victory, "those guys are enormous."

Notre Dame seconds that emotion.

The Tar Heels' 101-59 second-round demolition of the Fighting Irish on Wednesday highlighted the Hokies' challenge. The 42-point margin was the second-largest in event history — Virginia humbled Duke by 43 in 1981 — and UNC punished Notre Dame on the glass.

The Tar Heels lead the nation in offensive rebounding percentage at 40.1, but even by those standards, this was over the top. They rebounded 25 of their 38 misses, a frightening 65.8% rate.

Keep in mind this was with 6-foot-10 starting forward Garrison Brooks, the team's third-leading rebounder, sidelined by an ankle injury. But 6-10 Armando Bacot, 6-11 Day'Ron Sharpe and 7-1 Walker Kessler, a sophomore and two freshmen, all had double-doubles, teaming for 50 points and 35 rebounds.

What made Thursday night's matchup so enticing is that Virginia Tech allows opponents offensive rebounds at a 23.5% rate, 26th best nationally, and any doubts about the Hokies' resolve following their second COVID-19 pause were erased early.

"I haven't had much chance to look at the stat sheet," UNC coach Roy Williams said, "but it's pretty evident in the first half their sense of urgency was much greater than ours. They played harder than we did. They drove us to the basket. Their reactions were quicker, more aggressive, more focused."

Led by 6-7 Justyn Mutts and 6-2 Tyrece Radford — yes, just 6-2 — Tech traded haymakers throughout. Even with Brooks back, the Tar Heels didn't have an offensive rebound for the first 11-plus minutes, and Mutts and Radford drove fearlessly to the basket, combining for 44 points.

But Bacot's 17 points and 13 rebounds, complemented by 19 points from freshman reserve guard RJ Davis, fueled decisive advantages in second-chance points (17-10), fast-break points (20-6) and bench scoring (36-8).

North Carolina eased ahead for good with an 11-2 run that broke a 49-all tie, Tech's lone score in that stretch an emphatic, one-handed Mutts dunk over Sharpe. Thirteen of the Tar Heels' offensive rebounds and 15 of their second-chance points came during the second half.

"I think they got bigger, if that's possible, at the half," Young said.

"Virginia Tech is really good defensively," Williams said, "and they do a nice job of boxing out. At halftime we talked about we had to make an extra effort to get off the box-out and had to make an extra effort to get to the offensive board. And I think Armando did that better than anybody."

Still, UNC's offensive rebounding percentage Thursday of 42.9 was about average.

Not to be overlooked in all the merited chatter about their size, the Tar Heels lead the ACC in defensive efficiency, and their frontcourt hounded Keve Aluma, the Hokies' all-conference forward, into 4-of-13 shooting.

Tech's Feb. 16 date at UNC was canceled during the Hokies' first COVID pause, making Thursday only the second ACC tournament game between teams that did not play one another during the regular season. The other was Duke-South Carolina in 1967, their two games erased by a feud over a Gamecocks recruit's academic credentials.

An earlier glimpse of the Tar Heels' size and pace — they play the ACC's fastest tempo — would have helped Thursday, especially with the Hokies not having played since Feb. 27 due to a second COVID pause.

"Yeah, it's a little bit draining," Mutts said of UNC's relentless pressure. "You play defense for 20, 25 seconds and they get an offensive rebound and ... another 20 seconds back on the shot clock. But you can't be too upset for too long. You've got to be able to move on quickly because they're coming right back at you."

The Hokies (15-6) move on now to their fourth NCAA tournament in the last five years, their first under Young. They should learn from, and be inspired by, Thursday's effort.

"These guys gave me everything in their tank," Young said. "We came up against a North Carolina team that's playing pretty well at the right time."

Daily Press

Norm Wood

UNC's rebounding in second half wears down Virginia Tech in ACC tournament quarterfinals

<https://www.dailypress.com/sports/college/virginia-tech/vp-sp-hokies-acc-tournament-quarterfinals-20210312-wwahigbxfvhydf7qrg6gwo24ya-story.html>

GREENSBORO, N.C. (March 11, 2021) — Standing at the scorer's table Thursday night with 55 seconds left, hands on knees, mouth agape as he prepared to check in for the last time, Keve Aluma's face revealed all that had gone wrong for Virginia Tech against North Carolina.

Expressionless, almost shell-shocked. Understandable given what he'd witnessed in the second half.

Despite failing to produce the kinds of numbers in the ACC tournament quarterfinal matchup that made him a second team all-conference selection during the regular season, Aluma had seen No. 3 seed Virginia Tech (15-6) hold its own coming off an 11-day quarantine break in the first half against the ACC's best rebounding team.

It didn't last. UNC (18-9) got its mojo back on the boards in the second half, using its size advantage to collect 13 of its 15 offensive rebounds in the final 20 minutes and wear down the Hokies.

"I think they got bigger, if that's possible, at the half," Tech coach Mike Young said. "You can say what you want about a (coronavirus quarantine) pause. A pause is not the reason we lost. ...North Carolina outplayed us and won the game. You combine some conditioning issues and then you're banging with - it's like they've got seven big people. That's hard. My guys did everything they could. We just didn't have quite enough to win it."

While Justyn Mutts had 24 points and eight rebounds, and Tyrece Radford chipped in with 20 points and six rebounds, Tech couldn't get consistent efforts on the offensive end from anybody else. Aluma was 4 of 13 shooting from the floor and finished with nine points and eight rebounds.

Appearing to show no ill effects early on from playing just its third game since Feb. 7 because of coronavirus issues within and outside the program that resulted in cancellations of games, Tech jumped out to an 11-3 lead before UNC chipped away. Still, the Hokies maintained a lead until almost midway through the second half.

After Aluma hit a jump hook with 11 minutes left to tie the game 49-49, UNC responded with an 11-2 run in a little over three minutes to take control. Tech, which appears to be a near-lock to make the NCAA tournament and will now wait until Sunday to learn its seeding in the tournament, was unable to trim UNC's lead under five points in the final nine minutes, 46 seconds.

In the second half, UNC's RJ Davis scored 14 of his 19 points for the game off the bench, and Richmond native Armando Bacot had 13 of his 17 points for the game and nine of his 13 rebounds.

What we saw

*Young couldn't put his finger on exactly why Aluma seemed out of sorts against UNC. Aluma passed up some open shots from 3-point range and seldom looked comfortable when Tech was in its half-court offense.

"Looked a little spooked, and he's played against so many really good front-line defenders in our league," said Young, whose team shot 47% from the floor, while UNC shot 44%. "He had some looks at it that he's had all year, and he looked a little hesitant. I'm not sure what to attribute that to. He had good looks from three. I really don't know how to answer, but...he was a little hesitant."

*While Aluma struggled, Mutts and Radford were effective on drives to the basket. Mutts made 10 of 16 field goal attempts (3 of 5 on 3s), Radford connected on 8 of 13 and Nahiem Alleyne found his shooting touch behind the 3-point line (4 of 6), but the rest of the team was a combined 6 of 23 shooting.

*UNC's second-half effort on the offensive boards led to a 17-10 edge in second-chance points for the game. Davis fueled the Tar Heels' massive 36-8 cushion in points off the bench.

Getting a preview before the quarterfinal loss

A game at UNC was among the five contests Tech had canceled in the final three weeks of the regular season, so the Hokies didn't experience the Tar Heels' front-court firsthand until Thursday, which concluded with UNC up 43-32 overall in the rebounding category.

In UNC's 101-59 second-round win Wednesday night against Notre Dame, the Tar Heels had 25 offensive rebounds, which was an eye-opener for Mutts.

"Pretty sure I'd say it was one of our more physical games of the year, but coming into the game, we knew what it was going to be, especially after seeing what happened (Wednesday)," Mutts said "They're crashing every time. They've got a couple five-star big men down there, and they're able to just bring those guys in at any point in time, so you've got to stay ready."

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Barber

Virginia Tech's ACC tournament is over but not its season

https://richmond.com/sports/college/virginia-techs-acc-tournament-is-over-but-not-its-season/article_bb5b829b-4997-5efe-a8e9-1b97ddd5f37c.html

BLACKSBURG (March 12, 2021) — A year ago, after his debut season as Virginia Tech's basketball coach ended with the program's most lopsided ACC tournament defeat ever, a 22-point first round loss to North Carolina, Mike Young summed up the season as "pretty damn good."

And while he was quick to note that the team's final 16-16 record was not "good enough," Young spoke optimistically about the foundation he been able to build in his first season in Blacksburg.

Thursday night, back in the same Greensboro Coliseum building, following a more competitive but still less-than-satisfying 81-73 loss to the same UNC opponent, Young again turned his sights to the future.

But this time, it was a much more immediate future.

"Our sadness will be replaced with sheer joy here real soon when I find out what we're doing on Sunday," said Young.

Unlike a year ago, when Young addressed the assembled media while seated on a dais in an auditorium, the coach's postgame comments came over Zoom, part of the tournament's COVID-19 safety protocols. And unlike a year ago, Young and the Hokies aren't done playing just because they're done playing in Greensboro.

At 15-6 and after finishing third in the conference — a placement that earned Tech the double-bye into Thursday's quarterfinals — Young's team appears to be a virtual lock for an NCAA tournament bid.

Young will be the seventh coach to lead Tech to the NCAAs and he'll do it faster than any of his predecessors. Howie Shannon, Charlie Moir and Buzz Williams — the man Young followed when Young left Wofford to take the Tech job in 2019 — all reached the Big Dance in their third seasons with the Hokies.

It took Seth Greenberg four years to get the Hokies into the NCAA field — Don Devoe and Bill Foster needed five.

A scan of assorted bracketologist projections had Tech as anywhere from a 7-9 seed for this year's tournament, which will be held entirely in the Indianapolis area starting March 19. The actual bracket will be revealed Sunday night.

Senior point guard Wabissa Bede is the only Hokies player on the roster with NCAA experience, playing in all three of Tech's 2018 games when they reached the Sweet 16 under Williams. For Bede, this will be his third time appearing in the NCAA tournament in his college career.

"Last year didn't count, COVID happened," Bede joked Thursday. "Let's just say we're on a three-year streak of going to the tournament."

Young's rapid rebuilding job — the roster he took over was the league's youngest and, in Year 1, his four top scorers were all freshmen — deservedly earned him ACC coach of the year honors earlier this month.

It was built off that foundation from his first season, with players like Tyrece Radford, Nahiem Alleyne, Jalen Cone and Hunter Cattoor gaining valuable experience. It was accelerated by the addition of transfers Keve Aluma, Justyn Mutts and Cordell Pems, three veteran frontcourt players who instantly transformed Young's bunch from undersized and inexperienced into an ACC title contender.

Tech has also ratcheted up its defense in its second season under Young, with Bede's tight-and-tough on-ball work leading an aggressive frontline and Aluma's savvy help skills and rim-protecting ability holding down a solid backline.

None of that was enough Thursday against the resurgent Tar Heels. Roy Williams' team boasts one of the ACC's two most beast-like frontcourts, led by senior Garrison Brooks and sophomore Armando Bacot, a Richmond native.

Tech didn't face UNC or Florida State — the league's other monstrous, physical frontcourt — during the regular season because of COVID issues.

The experience Thursday left the Hokies bruised and battered, as North Carolina pounded inside for 30 points in the paint, held a 43-32 edge on the glass, grabbed 15 offensive rebounds and scored 17 second-chance points.

Mutts said the team expected the game to be one of its most physical of the season, and it delivered. And while he said ice baths are "too cold" for him, "I'm definitely going to go get a couple ice bags on my body."

After all, the Hokies need to recover. This year, they have more basketball to play.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

Virginia Tech seeded 10th, to face Florida in NCAAs

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/virginia-tech-seeded-10th-to-face-florida-in-ncaas/article_5f5af634-8512-11eb-828c-6753ca6e595d.html

BLACKSBURG (March 14, 2021) — Despite being nationally ranked the past 12 weeks, the Virginia Tech men's basketball team was relegated to a No. 10 seed for the NCAA Tournament on Sunday.

The Hokies (15-6) will face seventh-seeded Florida (14-9) in the first round Friday.

The NCAA Tournament field was announced Sunday night in a show that aired on CBS. As expected, Tech received an at-large bid. The Hokies could be seen on the selection show standing and cheering when the school's bid was announced.

This is Tech's 12th NCAA Tournament appearance, but its first time as a double-digit seed.

The Hokies were ranked No. 22 in last week's Associated Press Top 25 poll. But they have played only three games since Feb. 6, losing two of them. Tech entered Sunday ranked only No. 48 in the NCAA's NET rankings.

Florida has lost three of its last four games.

Florida, which went 9-7 in Southeastern Conference play in the regular season, was the No. 5 seed in the SEC tournament. The Gators beat Vanderbilt 69-63 in the second round before falling to Tennessee 78-66 in the quarterfinals.

If the Hokies win Friday, they will face second-seeded Ohio State (21-9) or 15th-seeded Oral Roberts (16-10) in Sunday's second round.

Tech is in the South Region, although the entire tournament will be held in the Indianapolis area this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This is the fourth straight NCAA Tournament that includes the Hokies, who advanced to the Sweet 16 two years ago in their most recent NCAA appearance. Tech was only 16-16 last year, but the NAAs were canceled because of the pandemic and no bids were handed out.

Virginia Tech, Florida and Virginia are among 11 teams that have made all four NCAA Tournaments since 2017.

This is Tech's first NCAA Tournament appearance under second-year coach Mike Young. The Hokies finished in third place in the ACC with a 9-4 record but lost to North Carolina in the ACC quarterfinals last week.

One of Florida coach Mike White's assistants is Darris Nichols, who was one of Young's assistants at Wofford. Both Nichols and Young are Radford High School graduates.

The Gators' resume includes wins over LSU, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Florida's Tre Mann (16.0 ppg) made the All-SEC first team, while Colin Castleton (12.0 ppg) made the second team.

The Gators' best player, Keyontae Johnson, has been sidelined since collapsing on the court in December.

The NCAA tournament selection committee named Tech the No. 37 overall seed, meaning it deemed the Hokies the best No. 10 seed in the field.

When the Hokies won at Miami on Feb. 6, they improved to 14-4 overall and 8-3 in the ACC. Two days later, they were ranked No. 18 in the AP Top 25 poll. They had beaten Villanova in November, Clemson in December and both Duke and Virginia in January.

But the Hokies have played just three games since beating Miami on Feb. 6, enduring two long layoffs because of COVID-19 concerns.

After going 16 straight days without playing a game, Tech lost 69-53 to Georgia Tech on Feb. 23. Four days later, the Hokies squashed Wake Forest. Then came another COVID-19 pause.

After going 11 straight days without playing a game, Tech lost 81-73 to UNC in the ACC Tournament last Thursday.

The Hokies have not played Florida since December 1991. They have not met Ohio State since November 2005.

Ohio State, which was the No. 5 seed in the Big Ten tournament, lost to Illinois in overtime in the Big Ten title game Sunday. The Buckeyes entered that tournament on a four-game losing streak but beat Minnesota, Purdue and Michigan to reach the final.

Ohio State played Saturday and Sunday without starter Kyle Young, who was injured against Purdue.

The Buckeyes, who were ranked No. 9 in last week's AP poll, went 12-8 in the daunting Big Ten in the regular season. Their regular-season resume includes wins over UCLA, Rutgers, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan State, Iowa and Maryland.

Virginia Tech and UVa were among seven ACC teams to make this year's field, along with Florida State, Georgia Tech, Clemson, North Carolina and Syracuse.

In addition to the Hokies and Cavaliers, the field also includes three other teams from the commonwealth — VCU, Liberty and Norfolk State.

Tech did not make Young nor his players available to the media Sunday night.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

NCAA committee chairman Mitch Barnhart on Virginia Tech being a No. 10 seed

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/ncaa-committee-chairman-mitch-barnhart-on-virginia-tech-being-a-no-10-seed/article_8935ca52-852f-11eb-927e-4ff17ff71802.html

BLACKSBURG (March 14, 2021) — I asked NCAA tournament selection committee chairman Mitch Barnhart (the Kentucky athletic director) why Virginia Tech was only a No. 10 seed for the NCAA Tournament.

After all, the Hokies (15-6) were ranked No. 22 in the Associated Press Top 25 poll last week and finished third in the ACC standings.

"They had a couple of pauses, but they were able to complete 21 games. Their strength of record was really good at 39," Barnhart said on an NCAA teleconference Sunday night. "They had a couple of wins in Quad 1; one of those was early on in the season against Villanova.

"Down the stretch, they had a hard time getting games in, especially late. And that was difficult for them, I'm sure.

"But at the end of the day, we felt like they were worthy of being in the field. And when you match them up and you scrub them against the other people in the tournament, it was sort of where they landed.

"They had three wins against teams in the tournament (Virginia, Villanova and Clemson), and that was one of the things that helped get them into the tournament. And then obviously we used some of the predictives to find a place to seed them."

Tech endured two long layoffs because of COVID-19 concerns. Tech has played only three games since Feb. 6, losing two of them.

So did the pauses affect Tech in being only a No. 10 seed?

"It didn't give them as many opportunities, so we had to evaluate what we had in front of us," Barnhart said.

"You had three losses in the second quad (No. 34 Georgia Tech at home, No. 34 Penn State at home, and at No. 100 Pitt).

They did fine with the opportunities that they had. I'm sure they wish they'd had more of them. But I think the committee fairly evaluated that they were a worthy tournament team."

Tech was only No. 48 in the NCAA's final NET rankings (including Sunday's games). Tech went 2-3 against Quad 1 foes, per the NET rankings, and 3-3 against Quad 2 foes.

The Hokies finished only No. 50 in Ken Pomeroy's efficiency rankings.

In the overall seed list emailed by the NCAA to the media earlier tonight, Tech was listed as the No. 37 overall seed. But that was an incorrect version of the list. Tech was actually the No. 38 overall seed, it was announced on the conference call and in a revised list that was emailed to the media later in the night.

Roanoke Times

Mark Berman

CBS and Turner analysts discuss Virginia Tech and Virginia

https://roanoke.com/sports/college/va_tech/cbs-and-turner-analysts-discuss-virginia-tech-and-virginia/article_bb29f9d2-85c2-11eb-9154-dbd0ee2d-3ca.html

BLACKSBURG (March 15, 2021) — Grant Hill is waiting to see what type of Virginia Tech team takes the court for the NCAA Tournament.

Hill and the rest of the tournament's No. 1 announcing team have been assigned to the Hokies' first-round game against Florida.

Jim Nantz will handle the play-by-play and Hill and Bill Raftery will be the analysts when the 10th-seeded Hokies and seventh-seeded Gators meet at 12:15 p.m. Friday on CBS (including WDBJ-7).

The Hokies (15-6) have endured two long layoffs because of COVID-19 concerns. They have played only three games since Feb. 6, losing two of them — including an ACC quarterfinal loss to North Carolina last week.

"Virginia Tech has not played a whole lot of basketball here as of late," Hill said Monday on a CBS/Turner Sports video conference. "Will that work to their advantage in that maybe they're fresh? ... They haven't just gone through a very tough conference tournament week.

"Or will they be rusty? Will they be a little bit out of sorts with the timing and whatnot? So that'll be fascinating.

"It's hard to say with Virginia Tech. You don't know for sure, in my opinion, what team you're getting because they've missed so much time and played so ... few games in the last month."

The Hokies feature All-ACC second-team pick Keve Aluma.

"Aluma is a tough, tough out and big-time player," Raftery said.

CBS and Turner Sports are once again teaming up to televise the NCAA men's basketball tournament on four networks (CBS, TNT, TBS and truTV). The Virginia Tech-Florida duel will be the opening game of the entire round of 64 (after the First Four games air on Thursday).

The entire tournament will take place in the Indianapolis area because of the coronavirus pandemic. Virginia Tech's game Friday will be held at Butler's historic Hinkle Fieldhouse, which was made famous by the movie "Hoosiers."

"The fact that we have Hinkle with the first game of the tournament on Friday — and we'll do three games from Hinkle on Friday — that is a thrill," Nantz said. "I've never been there for a game, and to be able to call some NCAA Tournament action at Hinkle Fieldhouse, I'm into it big-time."

Hill lives in Florida, so he knows all about Florida coach Mike White and the seventh-seeded Gators (14-9).

"Mike White has done a fantastic job with that program," said Hill, a former Duke standout. "They have athletes that can finish at the rim. Certainly a good matchup, for sure. I'm excited to see that."

The Gators' best player, Keyontae Johnson, has been sidelined since collapsing on the court in December.

"Without Keyontae Johnson, which is a terrible story — Thank God he's healthy [and now helping the team as a student coach] — and yet this team has been able to sustain it," Raftery said. "This is a fun team to watch, Florida, and they can score. ... Scottie Lewis is going to be a big-time player playing in the [NBA] ... at some point.

"It'll be an interesting matchup. I'm looking forward to it because I think it's different styles, different outlooks, different philosophies."

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Barber

UVA, Tech will meet unfamiliar opponents in NCAA tournament

https://richmond.com/sports/college/uva-tech-will-meet-unfamiliar-opponents-in-ncaa-tournament/article_c3ae8d16-1a92-56c4-9504-ccb1e9818c4.html

BLACKSBURG (March 14, 2021) — Virginia and Virginia Tech are headed to Indianapolis to take on opponents they haven't faced in decades, all while the COVID-19 pandemic looms over the entire event.

"Young people are so resilient," said Virginia coach Tony Bennett on Sunday night. "You see that in a lot of ways. They want that opportunity. Friday, you could see

the look in their eyes. So I think this breathed life into them. They're certainly hungry, certainly looking forward to that chance in Indy."

UVA, the ACC regular-season champion, earned a No. 4 seed in the West region and will open play Saturday against 13-seed Ohio. The Hokies, who finished third in the conference, are the 10 seed in the South region and face Florida in their first game Friday.

The Cavaliers (18-6) have not played Ohio since 2003, while Tech (15-6) hasn't met the Gators since 1991.

All of this year's games are being played in the Indianapolis area due to COVID-19 concerns. Last year's tournament was canceled because of the spread of the virus.

If UVA – still the defending national champions after winning the 2019 title – advances, it would face the winner of fifth-seeded Creighton and 12-seed UC Santa Barbara on Monday. A possible Sweet 16 rematch with undefeated and overall top seed Gonzaga looms beyond that.

The Bulldogs ripped Virginia 98-75 on Dec. 26 in Fort Worth, Texas, a game the Cavaliers added to the schedule after having to cancel dates with Villanova and Michigan State due to COVID.

The Hokies' second-round matchup would be against the winner of second-seed Ohio State and 15-seed Oral Roberts.

"This is an opportunity for us in March to come out and make some noise," said Virginia Tech forward Cordell Pems, a transfer from Iowa. "Everyone knows at this point that anything can happen. If we play hard and leave it all on the table, we will be able to go down and get some wins."

Both UVA and Tech had essentially locked up a bid with strong regular seasons. Virginia won the ACC regular-season championship and the Hokies finished third, earning both squads double byes into the quarterfinals of last week's ACC tournament in Greensboro, N.C.

Tech lost its first game to North Carolina, while Virginia nipped Syracuse on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by freshman Reece Beekman.

But the Cavaliers left Greensboro without playing their semifinal game against Georgia Tech, dropping out of the event after a positive COVID-19 test that left their NCAA future uncertain. A Saturday night deadline to notify the NCAA if they would be medically unavailable for the tournament came and went, signaling UVA could be included in the 68-team field.

Sunday night, Bennett said the "majority" of the team is in quarantine due to contact tracing and that it won't be able to practice until Thursday at the earliest and isn't likely to fly to Indianapolis until Friday, the day before its game.

"Not ideal," Bennett said.

Greensboro served up a bumpy end for teams that had endured plenty of adversity over the regular season.

Virginia's year was twice disrupted because of the virus, leading to the cancellation of games against Villanova, Michigan State and one of two matchups with the Hokies.

Tech hadn't played since Feb. 27 before its loss to North Carolina. The Hokies ended the season on a COVID pause and, over the course of the year, they missed games against UVA, Florida State twice, North Carolina, Louisville, North Carolina State and Boston College.

Tech also dealt with other issues, including Kansas State transfer guard Cartier Diarra's December decision to opt of the season, sophomore guard Tyrece Radford's January suspension for a DWI and concealed weapon arrest, and sophomore guard Jalen Cone's ankle injury.

"This has been one most enjoyable groups I've had in my 30-plus years as a coach," said Tech coach Mike Young. "These guys have always been about the team and they have improved over the long haul of the season. They have weathered every storm thrown at them and I expect them to continue to do the same as we get to Indianapolis."

In all, seven ACC teams made the tournament field. Florida State, the runner up in the regular season and the conference tournament, is a 4 seed. Tournament champion Georgia Tech earned a 9 seed.

Clemson is a 7 seed, North Carolina is an 8 seed and Syracuse is an 11.

Louisville was one of the last four teams left out of the field, missing a spot when Georgetown won the Big East tournament and Oregon State took the Pac-12 title, taking up two bids as teams that would not have received at-large invites.

The Cardinals are the top replacement team, if any teams from a multi-bid conference have to drop out by Tuesday due to COVID-19 issues.

Duke had its streak of 24 straight NCAA tournament appearances snapped.

Five teams from the Commonwealth made the tournament field with 10th-seeded VCU, 13th-seeded Liberty and 16th-seeded Norfolk State joining the two ACC programs. Norfolk State, the MEAC champion, plays Thursday against Appalachian State in a First Four game.

With the Ivy League opting out of this year's tournament there were 31 automatic bids and 37 at-large spots.

NOTES: Virginia Tech's game against Florida on Friday will tip off at 12:15 p.m. from Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse and be televised on CBS. ... Virginia's game Saturday against Ohio will tip at 7:15 p.m. from Indiana's Assembly Hall in Bloomington and air on TruTV.