

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights
Postgame Media Conference vs. No. 24 Clemson
Dec. 15, 2020

Opening statement:

"They are a legitimate top-25 team having beat Mississippi State, Purdue and Alabama. I feel good about our team. We really fought and rebounded. Those are two good ingredients to have going into a big game, a league opener against a really good Clemson team."

On the team's response following the loss to Penn State:

"I was thankful we had a week off. We call it sharpening the saw, I thought we were dull for whatever reason. We had a chance to look at quite a bit of film and were able to study Clemson on Saturday. We had three good days of practice, three as good as we've had. I think all of that led to tonight's win. We had the opportunity to work on Virginia Tech."

On beating two ranked teams so far:

"I think it is premature to say we are "for real", we are better. We out rebounded a good Clemson team by eight, we got to the foul line 31 times and made 25. We limited them to 13 from the line. I am not sure we shot 31 foul shots in four consecutive games last year. Being able to stick it in the post and certainly Tyrece Radford's ability to put his head down, Justin Mutts has helped in that regard. It was a good night for the Hokies, I am really proud of our team we took some legitimate steps forward."

On the change of defense from last game:

"We were so much more connected, so much lighter on our feet. We were tough, we contested, we had dribble handoffs and ball screens. Our rotations were much sounder. I take some responsibility; we couldn't get matched up with Penn State with those four guards. It was more traditional line up tonight, a better style for us defensively. It was similar to Villanova."

On free throws in the PSU game:

"I don't think you have to emphasize making free throws. Making half your fouls is bad and costs you games. We've got a good shooting team, we have kids who shoot fouls well. Defensively we were poor, we were poor at the foul line. Numbers were upside down in turnovers and we are going to get better at that. I didn't have a lot of heartburn from the line because I know what my team is capable of in that category, it is a significant statistic."

On Cartier's absence:

"He has opted out for the time being with regards to COVID. 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 and it was a choice that I supported with everything going on. That is where we are, nothing more nothing less."

On how the game ended:

"We are only six games in, we still have a lot to improve on. We gave up a 16-point lead and they started throwing up three's left and right. We did a great job throughout the first half and early portion of the second half. We fouled too much. We will look at the game in its totality and make corrections."

On defensive guarding:

"I was frustrated and down after Penn State. Again, take nothing away from the Nittany Lions, they came in here and just played us. It was frustrating, our team was frustrated and upset with it. We had a little time to practice and we needed it. To bounce back and scrap and claw and play maybe not a complete game but it certainly did a lot of nice things to get out of here with a significant win."

On Hunter Cattoor:

"He's a basketball player. Kind of a swiss army knife, if you want to plug him in somewhere just plug him in. He can play one through five, he knows all the spots. He is a good basketball player and I am happy that he is in a Hokie uniform."

Clemson Head Coach Brad Brownell Q&A Highlights

Opening statement:

"I give Virginia Tech a lot of credit. They were ready and looked energized. I was nervous about it. That was a hard game with Alabama on Saturday, and we just didn't quite have our usual pace tonight. [Virginia Tech] matched our effort and played just as hard as we did. There were a couple of loose balls that didn't go our way. I'm certainly proud of how our kids responded after they got down big. They made a game of it. We just couldn't quite get over the hump. We didn't have as much juice as we had the previous five games."

On the keys to the game:

"I felt like we got off a lot of good shots. It just looked like we didn't quite have our legs under us. Virginia Tech did a good job of making things hard on us. They outplayed us and executed a little bit better than we did. Al-Amir [Dawes] played well. He had a lot of juice tonight and got off to a good start. Virginia Tech was really ready, though. They had a week to prepare, and they put us on our heels from the start."

Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

TYRECE RADFORD

On beating two ranked opponents this season:

“We’re capable of beating anybody on the schedule. We just have to keep our confidence high and know that we can do that.”

On defensive changes from the Penn State game:

“We followed the scouting report better. It was way more detailed, and we tried to stick to it as much as possible. It got us the dub.”

HUNTER CATTOOR

On Cartier Diarra opting out:

“I haven’t really talked to him much, but I know me and our team and our program fully support him on whatever he does. We’ll stick with that.”