

# VIRGINIA TECH

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights  
Postgame Media Conference vs. Longwood  
Dec. 21, 2020

***On any halftime adjustments:***

“Didn’t make a lot of adjustments. We tweaked a ball screen coverage at the top of floor. There was not a lot of fire and brimstone in that locker room at halftime. I thought we played pretty well to be honest. We had great shots, shots we typically get down. We didn't shoot it very well. Only shot 38%. I thought we competed and were very responsible defensively. We had some tough breaks. Certainly, some of the credit goes to Longwood. Those kids came in here with a good plan, they really played hard and they competed with us. Big game for them, big game for us. So not a lot of changes just do it better. Do it better and continue to grind on.”

***On how the team competed in the second half:***

“I thought we executed very well. I really was impressed with our passing, more typical of our numbers, our numbers that we have grown accustomed to around here at 18 assists and nine turnovers, maybe eight. Outrebounded them by eight. I think we shot in the 60s in the second half. Justyn Mutts was really good in the second half and we were able to get Keve [Aluma] by himself down there couple of times against smaller defenders and they got the thing in the basket.”

***On if he'll be happy with the 6-1 non-conference record:***

“Yeah I will. I’ll feel good about it.”

***On playing all seven non-conference games:***

“One day at a time. I feel fortunate, I feel incredibly lucky honestly to get to the end and have had the opportunity. I look at different stuff every single night and Wake Forest has played two games, Temple is yet to play. Bizarre year but fortunately for the Hokies we’ve steered clear.”

***On this season's minutes rotation:***

“I think we're going to be better. I feel better about it. I don't lie awake thinking about that as much but that could change a couple of weeks in when you're in the heart of that ACC schedule. I think I can get Wabissa Bede – he’s going to play over 30 [minutes] now and as is Tyrece Radford. They are strong men and they've been around and have seen a lot of ball, took good care of their bodies. They will be able to withstand it. I think we're seeing some guys emerge here. Joe Bamisile, I thought, had a couple of good days. I've got a greater level of trust in him. He's trying and doing a better job for us defensively. We're still eight games and I’m still up in the air about a couple of things but I do think that that part of it is coming into clearer

focus for me.”

***On having a better assist-to-turnover ratio tonight:***

“I've said it, you can't turn the ball over and to be eight games in on the year and we have a negative assist-to-turnover ratio, I'm not sure that I've ever had a team do that. We have good ball handling kids, good passing players. I've been more concerned about turnovers from our frontcourt people. We know the importance of it, we know the significance of it. 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. I think we had 18 [turnovers] against Clemson. You know things of that nature, it can get you.”

***On if there is any Cartier Diarra update:***

“Nope. He's doing fine. I expect to see him maybe tomorrow before I get out of town. He's well, nothing's new, he's opted out. We are continuing to care for him but nothing more than that at this particular moment.”

***On Jalen Cone's three-point shooting and the impact it provides to the team:***

“He scores in bunches so he can really deflate a team's defense with his ability to stop on a dime and rise up and make them. I think this is his fifth game back and I thought for the first time against Coppin State I saw that little rat that I've come to appreciate a long time ago. Flying off of pin downs and other actions that we put him in and catching and getting in the air and getting it down. I thought he looked even more like himself tonight 48 hours after the Coppin game. He's a good basketball player, one that we need as we head into the meat of our ACC schedule.”

***On what he likes about the team and what he wants to see improve during conference play:***

“One thing that I'm encouraged by is they are physical. I've got a physical team. They're not afraid to put the lumber on you. I want to see us take another step defensively. I think we have the makings of a very, very good defensive team. Such a great game, one person in any particular possession falls asleep for a click and something bad happens. You have to have those five guys playing together and engaged. We've been really, really good. We were really good against Villanova. We were really good against South Florida. We were really good against Clemson. Tonight, OK, little spotty, but that would be my response.”

**Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights**

**KEVE ALUMA**

***On the heating up in the second half:***

“The first half was definitely a little frustrating, we just locked in defensively and got energy from our bench. In the second half, we moved on and off the ball better, having confidence in our shooting was definitely a plus.”

***On being 7-1 on the year with minimal fans in the stadium:***

“It has to be the bench, they have been great. Whether or not it’s me on the bench or not, we all try to keep up the energy in the game and keep everyone involved.”

***On the massive spark the bench has provided so far:***

“We definitely have a great team, everyone can play. I don’t have any questions about that. I’m excited to see our players progress and step into their roles as the season moves onward.”

**JALEN CONE**

***On being able to knock down the 3-pointer as of late:***

“Coach [Mike] Young has instilled his confidence in me, he has been telling me to shoot the ball a lot more recently. He wants me to get back in the groove, hearing the man in charge to tell me to shoot has really given me confidence.”

***On the season low for turnovers:***

“Coach Young really emphasizes how crucial turnovers can be in a game in our off days. We have a limit of turnovers that we need to stay under, and tonight we hit that goal.”

***On Wabissa Bede being the main facilitator tonight:***

“Bede had a phenomenal night tonight, he had eight assists, five points, as well as 0 turnovers. He controlled the floor and controlled the offense, he was really the main floor general tonight. He gave a couple no-look passes that really surprised the bench even, when our leading guard has eight assists and 0 turnovers in a game, it is huge for us.”

***On being able to play this many games already compared to other teams so far:***

“It feels great, we are very blessed to have the opportunity to play these games. Really, we have to give props to our athletic trainer Hisham [Ziyout], making sure we are all doing the right things inside and outside of the facility. He is making sure we are taking care of ourselves and others so we can continue to have a season and play the game we love.”