

# VIRGINIA TECH

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Postgame Media Conference at Pitt Quotes

Feb. 3, 2021

### Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights

#### ***On the second half:***

"They played better than we did needless to say. They were more physical, they threw the ball into the post, we had absolutely no answer for Johnson. We did a great job on Champagnie, he has been playing as well as anyone in this league. As good as we have been defensively, to allow 83 points to a Pittsburgh team that has struggled to score at times over the course of the year, they shot 50%. We have been so good defensively but we were not that team tonight and that is disappointing. I credit Coach Capel and the Panthers, they outplayed us tonight."

#### ***On Tech's defense:***

"We got spooked in the first half when nine 3s went down. We had a ball screen coverage and they made a couple then we went away from our principles and got spread out a bit. Now downhill they go with some guys who can really floor it. Odukale was a tough matchup for us getting into the lane and ontop of us for a couple of baskets. In one of the first games this year we did not adhere to the principles that are so dear to us and have served us well. We have learned from that and we will figure it out."

#### ***On Keve Aluma's confidence shooting 3s:***

"To see a couple go down. Early in the season there was a stretch of games where he was 7 for 8 for 3s and what can happen with a person who isn't accustomed to taking that shot and making that shot a lot he lost some confidence and started backing away from a couple that upset me. He continued to shoot well in practice. We had a couple of moments against Virginia when we needed him to knock some down and he did. It is a confidence thing with him as it is with any player. He has had a couple go in and he's got his shoulders back and feels good about taking and making that shot."

#### ***On keeping Pitt out of the lane:***

"We were just a step off. We can cover up a lot of things with Aluma and Mutts, but we were a step off of where we needed to be. Let's be honest, Pittsburgh was the more physical team, they were the tougher team tonight. That has been a category that typically favors our team but it did not tonight. Lesson learned that you better pack that lunch pail every night. They were more hungry. Great work from Coach Capel and his staff, they righted the ship and figured things out; they flat out outplayed us tonight."

## Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

### KEVE ALUMA

***On gaining another career high and how the team has helped him:***

"I am just trying to be as aggressive as I can and help the team win."

***On the 33-12 run in the second half and why it happened:***

"I think they wanted it more than us. We were not as physical and at the end of the day they just wanted it more than us and that's the most simple way to put it."

***On the emotional carry over from the win against No. 8 UVA and how it played into tonight's game:***

"I just think we need to play our brand of basketball and do that so we can win a lot more games."

### JUSTYN MUTTS

***On playing well individually and chemistry with Keve Aluma and partnership in the post:***

"It feels great having a guy down there that I know is a dog, is always going to do whatever he can to win the game, that's going to dominate every single game, but aside from individual performances we lost the game and that's the most important thing and what we need to focus on right now. We have to get back into practice tomorrow and figure a lot of stuff out. "

***On the mindset of going into the next game Saturday:***

"Just to remind us who we are, remind us of our true identity and the program. It's tough to come off an emotional win like that and come here and drop one. You really hate to see it but at the end of the day it's basketball, it's the ACC. If you don't bring your A game every game then anybody can beat anybody."

***On why Pittsburg might have been a more physical team:***

They just threw out our process of scouting as a team. They made sure to let us know that pittsburg identity is to be an extremely physical team. That's how they are able to get a lot of wins. That's how they were able to get it done earlier in the season. Over the past couple of games they hadn't been playing so great, so they probably came out with a chip on their shoulder with the intent to come out here and get a win and i know us having that ranking probably meant a lot to them to just come out and get it done."