

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference vs. VMI Dec. 3, 2020

On what did he like about how his team played the last eight minutes:

"I thought we were quicker on our feet. We had a couple of nice interior passes throughout the game. I thought our team was engaged and our team was energized. Anytime I leave with a win, I'll take it."

On how he would assess Jalen Cone coming back:

"Rusty, it's the reason I didn't want to throw him in the fire during Villanova and South Florida. I wanted to give him some time. He'll round into shape really quick and y'all know that."

On how his guys have handled success in the season even only four games in:

"They've been great. Every day is a blessing, we've had some luck. Our guys want to play and I want to coach. Thankfully, we've had no disruptions at this point."

Virginia Tech Players Q&A Highlights

JUSTYN MUTTS

On poor shooting performance from team:

"Our guys have been in the gym all day today and all day the past couple of weeks, so it was just getting on the court today and the shots not falling. Sometimes you're going to have nights like that where the shots aren't falling and you have to rely on something else. I think we did a good job in attacking the paint, getting the ball inside and doing other things. Not just relying on that 'Live by the three, die by the three.' I think this team is special and we don't just have to shoot threes to be a good basketball team."

On success in last 8 minutes of the game:

"I loved how we stayed together and our unit really came together to get a 'sut,' which is three stops in a row. When it was time- well I think it took us a little time to really turn it on, but when it was time to win a game- when it was winning time, I think our team really stepped up and did what we had to do as a unit. It wasn't just one person taking over the game, it was all five us on the floor and every single person on the bench because without their energy, we're anything as a team, so everyone came together and did what they had to do."

On success on offensive boards:

“That was a really big emphasis from our coaches coming into the game – make sure we’re dominating the glass. We felt as if we had an advantage in terms of height and, you know, athleticism down there, so we’re able to get down there and utilize our advantage and that’s what we’re kind of able to do tonight. Keve [Aluma] was a big guy. We had a freshman, Dave [N’Guessan], come off the bench and really be able to do a lot. I think we had five rebounds today, so we got a lot of guys that can do a lot of really good things, so that is something that is really special about this team.”

TYRECE RADFORD

On success in last 8 minutes of the game:

“At no point in the game did we feel like it was over. It was just playing down to the jersey and we had to lean on each other to keep that energy going. If we did that, it was going to take care of itself, and that’s what we did.”

On how the team was able to get to the free throw line:

“We saw that our shots weren’t falling, so it’s like on to the next thing. Don’t stop playing. Attack the cup, try to get fouls. For a lot of people, probably every hooper, if you make more free throws, that’ll be your starting of the engine. All you have to do is see the ball go in and you get to the line and make the free throws, and that’s what we did.”

On success on offensive boards:

“Emphasizing offensive rebounding, or rebounding in general. Everybody has to crash the boards, no matter if you think it’s going to go in or if it’s a miss. [the] closest man to half-court gets back, if you’re a go-getter, go get. Just playing our roles. If you’re a rebounder and you know you can grab a rebound or two, go get it. We’re not stopping anybody from crashing or anything and that’s what I like about this team and the coaching staff. If you can do it, go do it. Don’t try to get out of your character. You know what you can do. You’re a grown man.”