

# VIRGINIA TECH

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

**Postgame Media Conference vs. Wake Forest Quotes**  
**Feb. 27, 2021**

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

#### ***On bouncing back after the loss Tuesday:***

"A short memory. Winning is the same thing now, we wipe the slate clean. Tomorrow is a new day, we have not lost two in a row. I think that is the mark of a good team. Just so thankful, that we were able to get Tuesday night 's performance (I take nothing away from Georgia Tech, I saw them play some today and they were really good again today) but we didn't play very well, but they had that bounce back in our step and we connected defensively and we played with a sense of urgency that i've come to expect around here from this team. It was certainly encouraging to watch."

#### ***On Tuesday night's promise to be better:***

"I can't say that in my private moments on the way home I thought that I could completely follow through on that. That was wishful thinking as much as anything. I know our team and I know the people in that locker room and I know they were disappointed with themselves and disappointed with one another and determined to bounce back on Thursday (not today), bounce back on Thursday and make it right, get better. We had two good days of practice and we were good today, we played a good ball game."

#### ***On being sharper compared to Tuesday:***

"I think across the board, we had really good ball movement, player movement. Of course Aluma (Keve) making five 3s opens up a number of things. I thought Tyrece Radford was good. Virginia Tech numbers: 19 assists on 31 makes. Only nine turnovers (five in the first half, four in the second half) where we substituted liberally. We really needed to have that game defensively where we were dynamic. Everything was contested, they felt our team and we talk about that a lot. They've got to feel us and Wake Forest certainly felt us today and I felt really good about it."

#### ***On first half dominance:***

"Just body language was so good, just a crispness to our passing and our cutting. Everything's better when the ball goes in the whole, the game is better, you feel better about you play and we got a bunch of them in the basket."

#### ***On Impact of Wabissa Bede and Cordell Pems:***

"I've said and I mean this, this is not fluff. I think Wabissa is the most important person that I've had in my brief period. I had recruiting, there was no guarantee he was going to stay, he didn't owe me anything. We hung in there and we went up and saw his beautiful mom and it worked out. He is an unbelievable teammate, he loves Virginia Tech. He is an easy person to play with, an easy person to coach, he is a lot of really good things. His ability in the backcourt as a point guard, to get us into our

stuff and not turn it over, he's gonna get the ball stopped. He is a really good defender 1 on 1, he does a lot for us. Cordell is what you hope to get from a graduate transfer, he was a part of a winning program at Iowa, he's a good basketball player. He got nicked up, had a bad back for an extended period, but hung in there, he feels good. I told him during the timeout he was bouncing around like a 17 year old and he helped us win today, he's going to help us win as we move along and I'm happy he's here.

### **Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights**

#### **CORDELL PEMSL**

##### ***On the Senior Night celebration and his time with Virginia Tech:***

"I was really eager to get here once I finally did commit. When I did get here in August, I knew I had a lot of work to put in to get to the point to be able to help this program move in the right direction. I felt like I took those necessary steps and did everything that I possibly could to help this team and lead this team. I've been through a lot in my time in the Big Ten and at the University of Iowa, I was just grateful that Coach Young, Coach Webster and Coach Giltner - everybody gave me the opportunity to be a Hokie to lead some of these young guys and see what kind of noise we can make come March."

##### ***On winning on Senior Night:***

"Getting a win on a night like this and the way we did it was definitely special."

##### ***On how his back is feeling:***

"I feel a lot better now than I did at the end of December and beginning of January. I had a slight herniation in my back that was just causing me a lot of flare ups, a lot of problems. It got pretty bad there beginning of January. It was debilitating in almost all aspects. I couldn't tie my shoes, put my socks on - things were getting really difficult for me. Just getting rehab and training and getting back with our trainers, just to get me back as soon as possible - I knew it was going to take a little time but to get the opportunity to be back here before the season was over and getting into the ACC Tournament, I was glad I was given that opportunity."

#### **KEVE ALUMA**

##### ***On the improvements from Tuesday's loss:***

"I just think we definitely locked in in practice and we just wanted to come out here and make a stand right away. We haven't really beat anyone super badly, they've all been close games so we just wanted to put our foot on their necks as soon as possible."

##### ***On gauging the improvements:***

"Defensively, I think we talked and communicated a lot better and trying to be as fluid on offense as possible."

##### ***On if he expected this season for himself:***

“I did not. I think somebody asked me before the season what I saw myself averaging and I said ‘10 and 10, I’d be happy with that.’ But I did not really expect it, I’m just trying to help this team win.”

## **WABISSA BEDE**

### ***On being surprised by his mom:***

“She just came over and surprised me, I wasn’t eating or anything but it was pretty cool seeing her. 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. I was just happy seeing her. I was telling the guys I just wish she was there and I know she had things to do but it was great seeing her.”

### ***On the team answering any questions after the Tuesday loss and leading into Louisville:***

“Not all of the questions were answered, we could’ve done a lot better. We just need to capitalize because Louisville is going to make the shots that Wake missed today. We have to be able to be on top of our game and knowing the scouting and know what player we’re guarding and know their plays. We just have to be a little bit better. Today was alright, but we can always be better.”

### ***On how the team feels against Louisville after almost beating them earlier in the year:***

“We were kind of upset at ourselves, we didn’t play our best ball up there. Wednesday is a new day and hopefully we get the W in that one and end the streak.”