

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights Postgame Media Conference vs. North Carolina Jan. 22, 2020

On response from the last loss at Syracuse:

"I'm not sure if I handled some things better. I caught some breaks. I didn't want to call a timeout on the possession that won the game. I don't like to do that. I've always thought that kids can unintentionally get a little selfish if you let it play out. If you call a timeout, the defense can take the ball out of [Wabissa] Bede's hand, which I don't want. On the play, Landers [Nolley] is driving right at me and I said, 'Play.' It was a high score and the natural instinct for most young people is they get closer to the person they're guarding. They don't want their man to score. Landers made exactly the right play. Unlike Saturday [vs. Syracuse], he knows it and I know it. He didn't make the right play. He's a great player and he learned from his mistake. He drove it as far as he could drive it, gave the ball to Tyrece Radford and he got it into his left hand and got all the way to the rim. He got it home for a nice win. I tip my cap to Coach Williams. They played well. We had no other choice than to guard them the way we guard them. I would be pulling young people out of the student section because they would foul us out so quickly with [Armando] Bacot and Garrison [Brooks]. They scored 26 points in the first half in the paint. We did a much better job with that in the second 20 minutes and the 10-minute overtime."

On second-half adjustments:

"I had an assistant coach, at about the seven-minute mark, tell me to do what we've done all year — double the post. In doing so, as good as Garrison [Brooks] is, there are a lot of post players that don't like that. They're uncomfortable with it. He walked once. He ran right into Wabissa Bede and he traveled with it. Now, you're not as quite aggressive with it. He's catching the ball three or four steps out of the lane-line and out of his sweet spot. Now, we do something different and he has to do something different and take two or three dribbles to get in there. We're managing a lot of things. John [Ojiako] is fouling incessantly, while I'm trying to get P.J. [Horne] off the floor some. Those two foul shots that he made for us, he's been such a valuable member of our team."

On the growth of the team throughout the season:

"I hope they're growing up. Their coach is growing older by the game. They drive me crazy, in a great way. We played a lot of ball now. We're not new to this. Jalen Cone, Nahiem [Alleyne], those guys have played a lot of college basketball and we've seen a number of plays. We will

have an opportunity to go back and look at this. I do think our team is growing in a number of areas, to be frank.”

On the feeling of defeating North Carolina again, this time at Virginia Tech:

“Relief. I feel relieved to have won another ACC game on a night where North Carolina played a good ball game. We had to guard them as good as we guarded them. Of course, Leaky [Black] is banging 3s and Justin Pierce is banging 3s. We couldn’t have guarded it any differently. With our size compared to their size, our team did exactly what we asked them to do. I am proud of their defensive rebounding and sticking to what we’ve done throughout to get to this point.”

North Carolina Head Coach Roy Williams Q&A Highlights

Opening Statement:

“You can be pleased with a great basketball game, but the tough part is that we care so it doesn’t feel good for us right now. We had some opportunities. We had a stretch in the second half where we missed free throws and two bad shots in two straight possessions. We had our chances, Garrison [Brooks] had one about two or three feet in front of the free-throw line, I think we had a one-point lead at that time and it didn’t go in. Andrew [Platek] had a wide open 3 at the left side of the top of the key with a one-point lead and it didn’t go in. It would’ve helped us a great deal if Armando [Bacot] wouldn’t have gotten in foul trouble. It put too much pressure on Jerimiah [Francis], considering how little basketball he has played. We were awfully thin tonight without B Rob [Brandon Robinson], that would’ve helped us. Congratulate Virginia Tech, this is a big-time game for them. We did some good things but we didn’t do enough to win. We had a stretch there where we missed a bunch of free throws, just silly stuff. They made more of the winning plays than we did.”

On VT slowing Garrison down:

“They started doubling him more. One time it ended up in a turnover, they called a walk on Garrison [Brooks]. They should have doubled him, he was our biggest offensive threat in the first half. He had to be more alert and find some open guys. It hurt us a great deal when Armando [Bacot] wasn’t in there because we made seven 7s tonight but Tech made 13. Jalen Cone made two big time threes in a row and we had two defensive errors on both of them. They did a better job on Garrison in the second half.”

On Cole Anthony:

“We would like to have Cole [Anthony] and B Rob [Brandon Robinson] come back too. Somebody said he and Cole made more 3s put together than the whole team this year. He can’t do anything about injuries. Some of the guys are learning things about themselves. We have to be a better shooting team, we had some opportunities that we didn’t make.”

On overtime

“We are pretty thin. If you were to of asked me in August who our top seven players were, we don’t have four of those seven. We are thin but they guys have got to be able to get in there and do some things. When the other teams five-man shoots 3s it’s hard for us to put Huff

[Brandon Huffman] or Walker [Miller] into the game because they can't get out and play on the perimeter defense like that. Justin [Pierce] or Garrison [Brooks] can do a better job of that, but still its North Carolina playing Virginia Tech and Virginia Tech won the game."

On how the loss to Clemson carried into this game

"At the Clemson game, we kept turned it over and turned it over. Tonight we just missed shots, they had to make a shot at the end of the game to send it into overtime. They made plays, it's not just us. It's not a constitution that the University of North Carolina is going to determine whether we win or lose every time."

Virginia Tech Players Q&A Highlights

WABISSA BEDE

On his dish to Nahiem Alleyne:

"I knew I was going downhill pretty fast. So it was my layup with the three and Nahiem [Alleyne] does what he does best and made a big-time 3 and I was proud of him."

On his 3-point shot:

"It was just a rhythm shot, it's just a shot. I shoot one every day after practice and before practice. It's just a shot I'm very comfortable with and happy with."

JALEN CONE

On Tyrece Radford's play down the stretch:

"Boots [Tyrece Radford] coming in, making that play with the game-winning floater, that's what Boots does. He's a dog on both ends of the floor. You see he has games with crazy rebounds and crazy points. He stays ready and when we needed him, he came through."

On the close games going or not going their way:

"It definitely feels great to have one go our way, especially when we're about to have two road games. We're just going to keep this momentum and stay together as a team. Our team just loves to fight. We live for moments like this. We just told each other, 'I've got your back and you've got my back.'"

LANDERS NOLLEY II

On his feelings after a missed shot:

"I missed the shot, but I just had to go out there, I couldn't lose the game or my effort. So I just put my best foot forward and went and got the ball and got an extra possession for my team."

On defending North Carolina's Garrison Brooks:

"He's a great player, well coached. I just stuck to what my coaches and everyone had told me. Just do your job and trust your help, and I feel like it worked."

TYRECE RADFORD

On being down with a short amount of time left on the clock:

“Even though the possessions are switching, just keeping the confidence of the team up. Even if we go down, don’t have your head down. We still have a lot of time. Four seconds is a lot of time, just like two seconds.”

On winning helping the momentum into future games:

“Coming into this, a lot of people didn’t think we could pull it off, but we did. Hard work pays off.”