

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Postgame Media Conference at Miami (Fla.) Quotes

Feb. 6, 2021

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights

On Joe Bamisle playing abilities:

“Such a defined game, the ball skills, his missed season. A real tribute to him for staying in the gym and staying a good teammate. You know when his number was called, we tell them all the time you just never know when your opportunity is going to come. You can’t get ready when the opportunity presents itself, you get ready in practice, you get ready in the lead up and preparation for days like today and Joe Bamisle went a long way in helping our team win today. Good game for him in terms of the style and how we play things. He was one of the first ones we mentioned when we got in the locker room. Great effort by Joe Bamilse who is going to be a very good player for the hokies for years to come. Today was only the start for him.”

On what the Hokies plan to do on their upcoming off week:

“I already told them I’m giving them Sunday and Monday off. I really like doing that this time of year, late in the year, in February I think it's good for them physically and I think it’s good for them mentally. This has been a pretty good fall for us, I think five in six on the road. We’ve got Louisville at home and back out two more. Probably, I hope it's our last opportunity to do something like that. We’ve got Tuesday and Wednesday to work on Virginia Tech and make strides to get better. Needless to say Thursday and Friday will be heavy Louisville and that preparation.”

On how the players bounce back from loses:

“Maybe they are too young to understand what's going on. Good teams don’t lose two games in a row. Good teams find ways to hang in there and continue to keep their shoulders back and get on the practice floor and improve. I think it speaks to their character. Like I've said, these are great dudes. I have got the best guys that care. Competing is a big deal to them. You know we came back thursday and got our tails handed to us, they outplayed us. They are able to keep their heads high and wipe the slate clean and move ahead and not look behind. I think they are doing a nice job at that after wins. Could we point to the internal leadership of Bede and Aluma? It's something and it's a great quality to have within the unit.”

On Tech's offense:

"We had 12 made field goals in the first half. 11 of those were assisted. I don't like five turnovers. I hate five turnovers in the first half. We turned it over 10 for the game. 25 in 10 will help you win a lot of games, but we have to address this rebounding number. We got outrebounded five today, not a good number. They took more foul shots than we made. Our team played well enough to win on the road, but we are going to have to play better basketball down the stretch. That stretch is pretty bumpy looking from my vantage point."

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights

Opening statement:

"I thought we had it; [with 2.1] seconds left, we're up three. Someone just told me that the guy who made the shot stepped out of bounds. I don't know if that's true or not, but I know there were several very close calls at the end. Sometimes you got to really catch a break to win a game like that, but both teams deserve a lot of credit. I thought our guys did a great job."

On the shooter potentially being out of bounds and what he told the team after being so close and coming up short:

"Well, I told them they should not put their heads down. It's very deflating losing a game like that. A strange ending to a game if, in fact, the guy that made the game-tying shot was out of bounds. I'll be very disappointed if I find out that was a violation."

On the defensive plan on Virginia Tech's game-tying 3-pointer:

"Well, I'll have to go back and watch the video because I was really watching the man out of bounds. Deng Gak went in. He's very tall, he makes it very hard for a guy to throw it. Sometimes teams like to throw it cross-court and get a back-screen for a shooter or something. This one they went [a different way] and Elijah, who's a terrific defender, as well, [was there]. They were on the play. So, I'll watch it and see if we could've done a better job. We had a foul to give. We told our guys if someone breaks free to [foul him, but] ... what I'm saying is I'd have to look at it over and over again to see the quality of our defense in that last moment."

On the two fouls called against Elijah Olaniyi:

"The offensive foul that was called against him, I think was probably the right call. It's very, very hard when you're sitting or standing on the sideline watching the action because from an official's standpoint, depending on what your angle is—if your angle is behind him, if you're in front of him—you've got to see the whole play. So, I don't know. From where I stood, on Elijah's block of the layup, I thought that was a clean block myself, but the official who called it was almost at midcourt. So, he certainly had a different angle."

Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

JUSTYN MUTTS

On his mentality this week:

“The coaches and all my teammates have been telling me to be a lot more aggressive so I’m just trying to do whatever it takes to get the wins and get the job done. At the end of the day, that’s the only thing that really matters.”

On his matchup against Miami’s defense:

“I feel like at one point they started to double-team me, Keve [Aluma] as well. I thought we both did a pretty good job of passing out of it and trying to find open teammates and those guys did their job and knocked the ball down.”

On winning despite blowing 11-point lead:

“Just being able to fight back - this is a game of runs. There’s always going to be a team that can put points on the board. Coach Young was telling us the whole game that if it gets into a fast-paced game like that, it doesn’t favor us. We just had to buckle down and get stops. Hunter Cattoor, that’s all I got to say. Hunter Cattoor, the guy.”

JOE BAMISILE

On his offensive game today:

“I had an opportunity to go in and help the team when we needed it and I just went in and tried my best to help offensively and defensively and we came away with the win.”

On if he played differently today than before or if it was because he played more:

“I think it’s a mix of both. Getting the chance to get comfortable within the offense and on top of that, having the trust on defense from Coach Young really helped me to be able to play well on that end.”

On how his high school injury has affected him:

“I honestly couldn’t answer that question. I just think waiting for the right opportunity to do well and take advantage of that was the biggest thing. I don’t really think about my injury ever so that’s why it’s really hard to answer the question right now.”