

VIRGINIA TECH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young Q&A Highlights
Postgame Media Conference vs. Coppin State
Dec. 19, 2020

On success shooting the 3-pointer tonight:

“They [Coppin St.] weren’t as stingy an opponent. People ask why you play a game like this. I saw Coppin play Duke in the first game of the year and it was a six-point game with five [minutes] to play. Coach Dixon is doing a good job with them. Park can play a lot of places. We thought we could get a number of better looks than we have had. Really needed to get Jalen Cone going and I’m happy we were able to do so. Our team needed to see some things go in the basket. I don’t think it’s anything deep seeded with what we’re doing offensively. Clemson is pretty darn good on that end, as is Penn State. Just some opportunities that we haven’t had in the last couple of weeks and it’s good to see some of the shots go in the hole.”

On mitigating turnovers:

“My teams, or teams that I have coached, over the last 19 years are typically ranked in the top-25 nationally, or that may not be completely accurate. If someone watches you practice, they should be able to tell you within 15 or 20 minutes what is important to you, and that [reducing turnovers] is really important to me. I don’t think you can turn the ball over and expect to be really successful. It’s an emphasis. We’re aware of it. My team is aware of it. We’re going to do a better job. I thought we had six at the half tonight – ten assists and six turnovers at the half. A little choppy in the second half. A little bit of that is the game. They’re flying through passing lanes and we had some mishaps. We’ll get it ironed out. I feel very confident.”

On the ball movement:

“I thought it was pretty good. I’m always encourage when we had 30 made field goals and 20 of those were preceded by an assist – an unselfish play. That’s encouraging. We would have had 21, but Jalen [Cone] wanted to give the ball to Mutts on that layup, but Mutts told him to keep it and dunk it. I ripped Jalen’s tale, but those two shared with me what happened. That’s the game. Unselfish people willing to make the right play, and this team certainly exhibits that day in and day out.”

On road games being on the horizon:

“We haven’t had a true road game and that’s one of those quirks. We didn’t know if we were going to go on the road in the Big Ten-ACC matchup. Time will tell. That’s a good question. We were terrific in Uncasville on a neutral floor, or pretty good, we were pretty good up there with Villanova and South Florida. Actually, before the Clemson game, I was nervous about it. I felt bad. We had played VMI, Radford, and Penn St., and we were terrible in all three. I thought we

were energized and played a solid ball game on Tuesday against the Tigers. I thought our energy and preparation was good in here. They're all the same. Every facility we walk into. Cameron Indoor Stadium – can you imagine walking into Cameron Indoor Stadium and there's not one fan to be found. That's a trick for all of us to find enthusiasm and juice. It sounds easy, but it's not all the time. Much better from our unit in the last two. Going on the road, I think we'll be fine, but time will tell."

Virginia Tech Player Q&A Highlights

JALEN CONE

On making 20 3-pointers tonight as a team compared to the previous three games with no more than six made 3s:

"Everyone got into their rhythm tonight, our guys were knocking down their shots, which created a domino effect for the rest of the team. Nahiem Alleyne started the game on fire, this carried on to the rest of the team. It wasn't just the starters making an impact, we had guys coming off of the bench, like Darius Maddox going 3-for-3."

On the team starting to develop depth:

"In practice, guys have been competing hard and have really been stepping up to another level each day. Guys like Darius Maddox and Joe Bamisile have been improving in their weaknesses and it has been showing, especially tonight."

JUSTYN MUTTS

On the defensive scheme tonight:

"I thought our defensive plan going into the game was really good, our coaches did a great job of scouting Coppin State. We had a good idea of what they wanted to do, from the jump we had good energy."

On playing in an empty Cassell:

"At the end of the day, basketball is basketball. The game isn't too affected by who is going to be in the crowd, I wouldn't say the number of fans in crowd changes too much about the game. The further we go into the season the more used to it we are getting as well. It would be nice to have Cassell filled, that just isn't the case right now."