

**Virginia Tech Women's Basketball
Head Coach Kenny Brooks Q&A Highlights
George Mason Postgame Radio Interview
Nov. 10, 2019**

On the team earning a road victory early in the season:

"I have to give them credit, I don't think we played great, obviously you want to play pretty basketball but I thought we did a really good job of coming out, establishing ourselves in the first and in the third. Even when you don't play "pretty basketball" we still scored 77 points on the road."

On junior guard Aisha Sheppard:

"I gave Aisha Sheppard a sheet of paper and it said 'S.I.B., simple is beautiful' and when she keeps it simple, she's a fantastic player. She had about 70 people here. Playing in front of that many people, your juices can get going but sometimes she kind of clouds her brain a little bit and does a little bit too much. When she keeps it simple she is effective and a fantastic player. She and I have been through a lot, we've been through a lot her first two years. I told her last night at dinner, 'We went through a lot at the beginning to get to this point right now so enjoy it, keep it simple and we're going to have a tremendous year.' She had a really good game but the thing is I'm going to drive her and drive her because I know what her potential is."

On the impact of Lydia Rivers and Taja Cole the game against George Mason:

She [Rivers] was unbelievable today. Taja's stat line won't look like she was playing as well as everybody else, but Taj really controlled the tempo. I feel like I'm a much better coach when I have a player like Taj out there controlling everything. Let's not forget Taj's defense on Nicole Cardano-Hillary, she locked her down and did a fantastic job. Trinity [Baptiste] got into foul trouble early, really through our momentum off with our rotations. Lydia probably played more minutes than she is accustomed to or needs to play but she did a really good job and I was proud of her. That was a monster game, and it wasn't just the 16 points and 15 rebounds, she did a lot of little things for us and I was very proud of her."

On the team's ability to score in multiple ways:

"This team needs to understand, we're a balanced team. Liz as she's shown in the first game can have a 20, 30-point game and this time she was a focal point which left the perimeter open a little bit. They start focusing on the perimeter a little bit and Lydia got going. So many people are capable of stepping up and scoring, it's not one dimensional and we can move the basketball around and score in a lot of different ways. It's really good, I was proud of the kids the way they felt it and let the game come to them and saw what the defense was giving them and they capitalized on it."