

**Virginia Tech vs. Clemson**  
**Nov. 5, 2019**  
**Postgame news conference**  
**Virginia Tech head coach Mike Young quotes**

*(On getting his 300<sup>th</sup> win in his first game at Tech)*

“We’re just over there trying to stay out of the way. These are good players. It’s guys like Wabissa Bede playing his guts out, getting to the top of his jump and blocking a shot at a critical moment and making a nice delivery to Tyrece Radford for a lay-in. Significant, but don’t give me a whole lot of credit. I’ve got good players, and we’re going to continue to get better.”

*(On whether he was surprised at Nolley’s performance)*

“No. Thirty, that might be a stretch. He’s good. He’s a very good basketball player. He’s big, strong, can take a bigger guy out on the perimeter and blow his doors off and take smaller guys – he did against [Hunter] Tyson, I think in the first half – and get to the front of the rim and score on a little jump shot. An innate sense of how the game’s supposed to be played. Those inbound passes down there late in the game – that’s not as easy as it looks. He’s really good. I’m fortunate to have the opportunity to coach him.”

*(On his team’s defense)*

“We just wanted to crowd the lane. I thought we did a really, really nice job. My team did a really, really nice job on Simms. We were really worried about him, and he’s very good. The post double, I thought it spooked him a little bit. He turned one over, maybe two. I thought we were better connected. I thought we were more dynamic in the driving lanes and made it more difficult for them. Needless to say, neither team shot it great, but I think that’s a byproduct of where we all are at this point in the season.”

*(On Bede’s big plays down the stretch)*

“That’s what you expect from old guys, and he’s an old guy. He’s the one old guy I’ve got. I rely on him. He’s my buddy – ‘Don’t go anywhere, kid.’ The walk down there, my head almost exploded ... But it’s a bit of a frantic pace, and things are a little crazy on the road. Wabissa Bede, that doesn’t even tell the whole story and how that kid played and how he affected winning. He affected the outcome of this game for us.”

*(On building his team going forward)*

“I like making corrections after wins and after getting my ears pinned back – and that’s happened some as well. I looked over there one time, and bless their hearts, I’ve got three freshmen playing in their first college game. I thought, ‘What am I doing with my life?’ that’s where we are right now, and no substitute for seeing plays and being in situations like that. So much to work on, and I’m sure Coach Brownell is saying the same thing. We all are. I mean, c’mon fellas, it’s Nov. 5. We’ve got a long way to go and lots of peaks and valleys, but it’s certainly nice to kick it off with a very nice win on the road.”

*(On what he learned about his team)*

“They’ll fight you. They’ll fight you, and that accounts for something in athletics, certainly basketball. P.J. Horne’s toughness. Wabissa Bede’s toughness. You better have some toughness on that back side, if you’re doing to do this, and they did it – and I’m proud of them.”

*(On winning his 300<sup>th</sup> game)*

“It’s rewarding. It’s great. It means I’ve been around a long time. Terrific, but again, this is my 18<sup>th</sup> year as a head coach. A lot of you guys know the guys I’ve coached. I’ve had a bunch of really, really good ones. I hope there are a lot of really, really good ones coming down the pipe. But pretty cool.”

*(On how much this means to players after hearing about how they would struggle this season)*

“For Wabissa Bede to have every opportunity to walk away, and he hears that stuff and the noise and the social media baloney, which I despise. Landers Nolley, the same thing. To re-up and suck it up, and ‘This is my home and I love Virginia Tech, and we’re going to be back and we’re going to be back soon.’ I’m appreciative of that. I really am.”

*(On when he realized Landers Nolley would be a go-to scorer)*

“About 20 minutes after I got on campus and we worked out. He’s just one of those guys. You watch him play for a little bit, and ‘Whoa!’ He’s a pretty talented guy. He knows how to put the thing in the bottom of the barrel. But yeah, it didn’t take me long. He’s just talented in that regard and in a lot of regards. I want to see him rebound better. I want to see him do a lot of things better, and he will. It’s really important to him.”

*(On playing his first game as the VT coach not far from his previous job at Wofford)*

“Just incredible ironic. To live my adult life in the upstate. I haven’t had a lot of success down here as a head coach. Some of you may recall, so thinking about that, but that’s how it shaped up. I’ve got a lot of really great friends out there that I spent a lot of meaningful time with. I look forward to getting out and seeing them.”