

**Virginia Tech M Basketball
Mike Young Q&A Highlights
Postgame Press Conference – Gardner-Webb
Dec. 15, 2019**

Opening statement:

“Not the least bit satisfied with how we are guarding the arc. They made two 3s in the first before the first media timeout. They only made one from that point forward. I thought we did a little bit of a better job there. When we play where we’re supposed to play and sprint in the direction of the pass, sometimes the ball falls right in your lap. It did for Hunter [Cattoor] twice in the first half. It did for [Isaiah Wilkins] once. We limited them to 33%, and they missed some open shots, so I’m not bragging on us too much. But I thought our numbers on both sides of the ball were better. We made 13 3s. All in all, a pretty good outing for our bunch.”

On the bench production:

“I thought Isaiah played very well. I was happy to get John [Ojiako] 21 minutes. He’s going to be a very good player. Some of that was due to fouls, some of that in the second half was due to the margin. To get him on the floor for 21 minutes, he just needs to see some more things. He’s a visual learner. To have the opportunity to see yourself play and how we covered this and that. I’ve told you before, he’s got big eyes. He really wants to play well and help you win. He’s going to get there. He’s going to be a really good player.”

On John Ojiako:

“Sometimes that can be hard for me, because I’m with him every day. Kind of like watching your child grow. His hands are getting better. His understanding of the game is improving. The game hasn’t slowed down for him yet. So many little things. He posts a little too much, instead of early in the possession, getting into the screening action and then working himself into the post. He’ll be better a week from now. There will come a time, watch out. He’s going to be a good one. Great athlete, can really run. There’s a lot to be said for guys that want to be really good players and want to get in the gym and want to study film.”

On Tyrece Radford:

“Night in and night out. And quiet. His play isn’t quiet, his aggressiveness and toughness isn’t quiet, but the numbers... I would’ve never guessed he had a double-double. Just the type of year that he’s putting together for us, he’s a very good player.”

On coaching during exams:

“I try not to give them an out. I know we have exams, staying up late at night. Being a college athlete is hard. Basketball, over both major holidays, both semesters, is difficult. I know they have a lot going on, papers due. But when they come down to the building every day for practice, we’ve got a team to put together. They have to step on the gas. They’ve done a nice job of that. We need a great week of

practice. We need a jump in our play in every facet. We have two games between now and Dec. 29. That's a lot of practice opportunities. Goodness knows, we have a lot of improvement to make."

On the energy level:

"A 'B'. Should be an 'A' every time out. They played hard. They want to do the right things. I thought it's been pretty darn good throughout. You have to play your guts out, fight and scrap. I told you last time we were together: becoming a better and better practice team. We still get down on ourselves after a missed shot. Not engaged and fired up as I'd like to see us. We're getting better."

Player Quotes

Landers Nolley II

On shooting better

"Preparation is everything. After a game like that, you just have to go in the gym and get up a lot of shots. The repetition of seeing the ball going in and you have a better game. Ball movement, seeing shots go in early, it all contributes."

On defense:

"I feel like we play good defense every night. Everything is about communication, getting back in transition and finding your match up. Once we do that, we limit teams with our transition and it's hard to score on our half of the court."

On communication:

"We prepare and study plays. We get there by players who watch film constantly, [Wabissa] Bede and P.J. [Horne]. It trickles down and everybody starts doing it and you hear everyone calling out plays so we know what is coming. It makes it hard when you are playing against somebody and they know what you are about to do, it's hard to beat that."

Hunter Cattoor

On missing last week's game:

"It's exciting to get back out there and play with my guys. I missed the last game because of my ankle, but I was excited to get back out there and play. I had a small tweak in practice, it was feeling good but we didn't want to rush it, but I am good now."

On defense:

"We were good defensively and I think that translated into us getting buckets on offense. We played together as a group, talked on defense and got steals in transition."