

Virginia Tech Basketball
Virginia Tech Head Coach Mike Young
Q&A Highlights – NC State
Jan. 11, 2020

On the adjustments made early after getting down early:

“Of all the starts I had conjured up in mind in the lead-up, that was not it. I thought we were moving pretty well, but I just saw a little hitch in our step and called timeout. It's not typical of me; I don't like doing it. We just shot around this morning at nine and went through everything again and I don't know exactly what I'll tell them. I thought we needed to recalibrate some things and hit the reset button. Then I think we rattled off 13 points. I think it was 13-11 and kind of got ship righted. We were in pretty good shape from that point on. I don't have an answer for you other than we were terrible, but they got it together, not a minute too soon against an explosive team such as NC State.”

On Tyrece Radford's career-high 18 point:

“He's just so aggressive. He's such a strange matchup. That better be a man that's guarding him because he's going to lower his head and he's going to get places that quite a few people can't get to. He has nice touch around the basket. He does a nice job of getting fouled for us. He's quickly becoming, and has here for a couple of weeks now, one of those guys that affects winning. It's hard to take him off the floor. I think he played 30 [minutes] today. He's a very responsible defender and he's going to rebound on both ends. He's not just an elite offensive rebounder, he helps our team on the defensive end every bit as much.”

On going down 10 points to start the game and how the team responded afterward:

“I don't know, there's no rhyme or reason for that happening. I thought NC State had a great look about them and they were ready to play. I thought we looked like were about to walk into the fight and it doesn't work that way – not at this level or any level. But I was thankful that we got a couple of shots down to cut it back from 11 to six really quickly. Then we kind of locked our teeth defensively and got some timely stops. We also had some breaks, Jalen [Cone] hit one from NC State's bench that was a prayer and then he maybe had another one of those. But you're going to need a break every now and then. I'll take them any time I can get them. But I don't have a logical or intelligent response to your question. It's just the game, it's athletics. You respond and pick up the pieces and keep fighting and hope it's not too late and it wasn't today.”

Virginia Tech Basketball
NC State Head Coach Kevin Keatts
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On what did Tech do to make it a tough shooting night:

“I thought we had had some really open shots. It was a moment in the beginning in the second half where I thought we played tremendous defense. I think Virginia Tech started the second half missing their first 10 or 11 shots and I didn’t think we took advantage of it. We came out through that four-minute segment after the first half. I thought we had a lead, meaning we won the second half. The unfortunate thing was they weren’t playing well and we didn’t make shots. Some of it was because some of the wrong guys got the shots and we didn’t finish well. I thought it was a great game back and forth. Then when you look at it, I thought we missed some shots down the stretch and then obviously they were able to close break the game open.”

On what went right in the opening minutes of the second half and what changed:

“We made shots. When you look at us, it’s going to be hard for us to beat anybody when we’re 6-of-30. We typically don’t take 30 3-pointers and we didn’t make them tonight. Even our shooters, the guys who are normally making 3-point shots, didn’t make many of them. Pat [Andree] was 2-of-6. When you look at Braxton Beverley, he was 1-of-6 and Markell Johnson was 1-of-7. If we’re making six 3-pointers and we’re taking 30, that’s not a god formula for us to be successful.”

On was Tech’s defense the reason they took so many 3-point shots:

“It was definitely their defense. We came in the game, because they do a really good job of protecting the paint. They play a similar defense as pack line. When you drive, everybody converges and you’re going to get those shots. We didn’t make them, we just didn’t. I thought we had some good looks and some great looks, they just didn’t go down for us.”

LANDERS NOLLEY II

On what he thought about the run Tech made in the second half

“I just like how our guys stick to the script. We just compete as brothers no matter how slow we start. We always finish strong.”

On what he liked about how the Hokies executed offensively today:

“I just like the ball movement. When the ball movement is sticking, it’s a beautiful thing and it’s textbook. We just listen to coach when he says move the ball, good things happen.”

On if the Wolfpack did anything defensively to make it tougher in the second half:

“I wasn’t really worried about the defense and I knew if we kept setting screens, slipping screens and moving without the ball, the ball will find you - whether that's getting into the lane, finishing layups and things like that. When you are attacking hard and your guys have your back, that's how you win.”

TYRECE RADFORD

On what was the message after falling behind early:

“We started off very slow and they came out with energy. Coach Young is not going to like starting like that. We had to match their intensity and their energy.”

On his mentality tonight:

“My mentality tonight was basically keep going until someone stops you. I was just going to go until someone stopped me and I looked for my shot, but they did not stop me from going to the goal.”

WABISSA BEDE

On what he liked about how Tech played defense today:

“At first, terrible. We were mad and frustrated, but we came back. We started getting steals and making it hard for Markell Johnson, who is like the head of the snake. Once Johnson gets going with bobbing and weaving, he is very crafty. He is a great player and we were just trying to make his job difficult today, and I feel like we did that. As a team, we did a great job.”

On what he thought Tech did well offensively today:

“Moving the ball and we realized when we just stand there, we aren't good at all. We knew they were going to switch everything, so we knew if we started cutting everything, they would start to break down.”